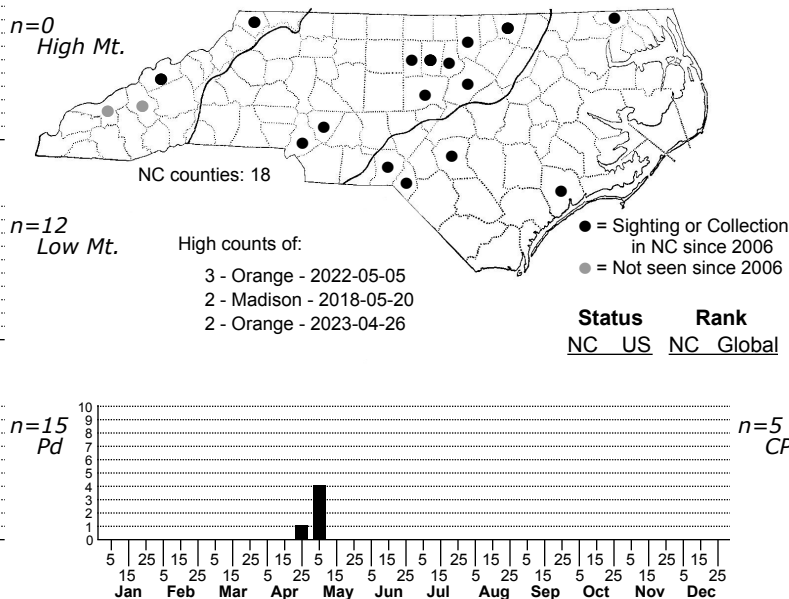
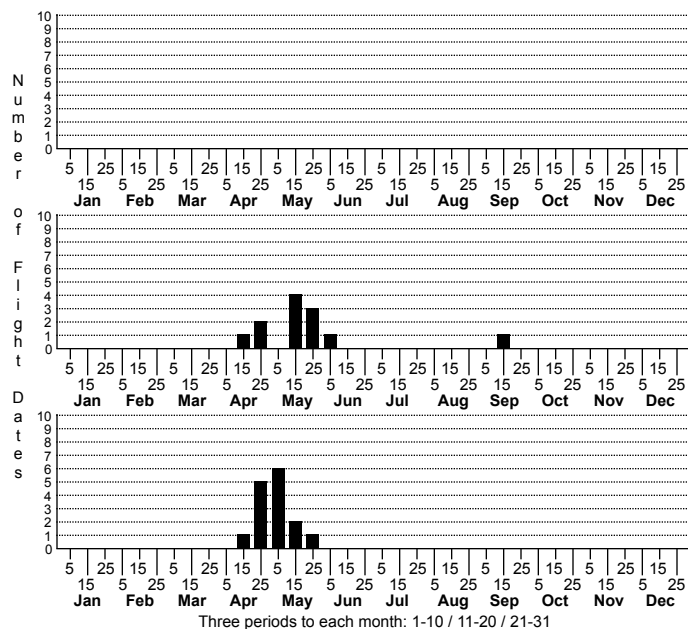


# *Crambus laqueatellus* Eastern Grass-veneer



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Crambus* includes around 155 species that are distributed globally. Some of the species are significant pests that can cause damage to agricultural crops, lawns and rangelands. This is one of 41 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl and Nanz, 2023), and one of fifteen species that occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Fernald (1896); Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Fernald (1896)

ID COMMENTS: The following is in part based on the description by Fernald (1896). The thorax, head and palps are brown, with the latter whitish beneath. The forewing is yellowish-brown with two silvery-white streaks that taper to a point, and are separated by a dark brown streak except at the wing base. The outer silvery streak is margined along the costa with dark brown and is followed by a short, white, costal streak that is thinly margined with blackish-brown on both sides. The longer inner white streak is narrowly edged along the fold with dark brown, while the dorsal half of the wing before the subterminal line is pale yellowish-brown with narrow, silvery-brown lines.

The subterminal line is silvery brown and outwardly curves from the subapical region of the costa towards the outer margin. At about a third of its length it abruptly curves inward and runs roughly parallel to the outer margin to the sub-tornal region of the inner margin. The apex has a triangular white dash that is margined basally with a black line and distally with the black terminal line. The terminal line extends about a third of the way dorsally before being replaced with a series of four black dots, each of which is connected to a black line that extends to the subterminal line. The lines pass through a gray patch that is finely stippled with darker scales, with the patch being separated from the apical region by a rectangular white mark. The fringe is lustrous yellowish brown, while the hindwing varies from pale brown to brown and has a white fringe.

*Crambus laqueatellus* is similar to *C. multilinelus*, but the latter is lighter colored overall and has a series of black dots on the outer margin without connected lines that extend to the subterminal line. In addition, the streak that splits the two longitudinal white stripes is lined with black scales on both sides (the black scales are lacking on *C. laqueatellus*).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations in North Carolina and in many other areas of the range are univoltine, with the adults often flying for about five weeks each year at any given site (Ainslie, 1922).

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in grassy habitats such as parks, permanent pastures and meadows. Ainslie (1922) reported that populations are commonly found on rolling, well-drained, and sometimes rather damp land in Tennessee, but not on drier hillsides. They often are very localized at a given site, which may reflect their reliance on mosses as a food source.

FOOD: The host plants are poorly documented. Fernald (1896) reported that the larvae feed on grass, but did not provide any specifics. Ainslie (1922) noted that several of the claims that this species causes significant economic damage to pastures and small grain fields are not supported by hard data. Ainslie (1922) attempted to grow hatchlings on a variety of host plants, including bluegrass, red and white clover, alfalfa, soy bean, cow pea, wheat, rye, corn, timothy, orchard grass, *Muhlenbergia schreberi*, *Plantago lanceolata* and *Rumex crispus*, but all of the food plants were consistently refused and the larvae starved to death. When they were offered several species of mosses they showed more interest. One species (*Thuidium delicatulum*) was readily accepted and adults were reared from a moss-only diet. Other larvae that has passed the first instar on moss fed to a greater or less extent on bluegrass, corn, cow peas and crabgrass, but also continue to consume moss throughout the larval period. Later instar larvae did better when fed a mixture of grass and moss versus only grass. Ainslie (1922) concluded that mosses are essential for larvae to successfully complete the larval stage, which may explain why local populations are often restricted to localized areas in the fields that they studied.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can be flushed from grassy areas during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: