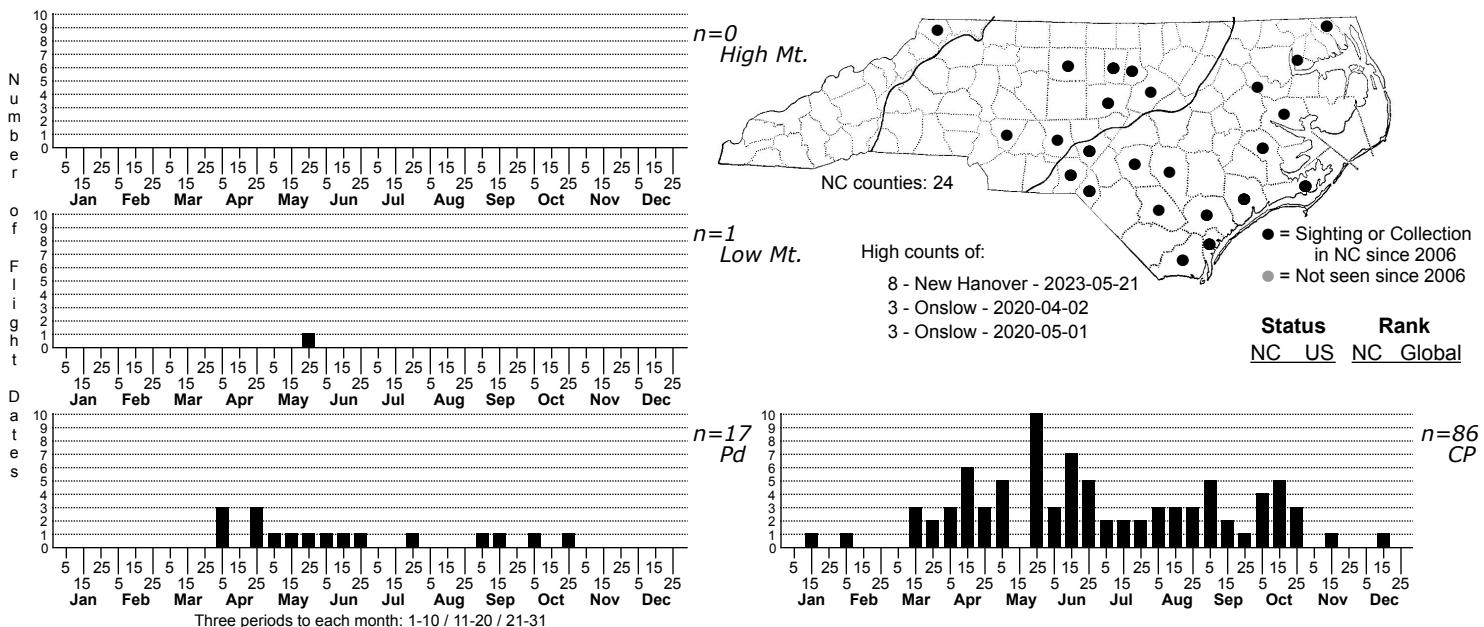


# *Raphiptera argillaceellus* Diminutive Grass-veneer



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the palps, head, thorax and ground color of the forewings are concolorous and vary from light-brown to mouse gray. The largest mark is a slender white stripe that extends from the wing base to about five-sixths the wing length where it comes to a point. The stripe has a dark tooth-like mark along the dorsal edge about two-thirds from the base, and is followed by a broad whitish to whitish-gray chevron over its apex. A triangular white patch runs from the tip of the chevron to the tip of the wing and is margined with black on both sides. The outer edge of the chevron is bound by a dark outwardly angulate subterminal line. The line extends from the costa obliquely towards the outer margin for about a fourth of its length, then angles back to run roughly parallel to the outer margin to the inner margin. The terminal line is dark brown to blackish and runs from the apex before terminating just before reaching the tornus. Three or four back dashes extend from the line near the center of the wing. The fringe is lead-colored, and the hindwing is brown to brownish-gray with a concolorous fringe. The outer margin of the forewing of this species is falcate near the apex, which results in a sharply pointed tip when the moth is resting - a helpful character for distinguishing it from other striped crambids.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Raphiptera argillaceellus</i> is found in eastern North America and throughout portions of southern Canada, including Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. In the U.S., the range extends from Maine and other New England states westward through the Great Lakes region to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Nebraska, and southward from Maine along the Atlantic Seaboard to southern Florida, then westward to Louisiana, Arkansas and central Texas. As of 2023, we have numerous records from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont, with one isolated record from the northern Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed year-round in Florida and during all but the coldest winter months in other southern states. In the northern part of the range the flight season is typically from May through September. In North Carolina the adults can be found nearly year-round in the Coastal Plain and from early April through late October elsewhere. Local populations in the Coastal Plain are multivoltine, and probably so in the eastern Piedmont as well.

HABITAT: Many of our records are from sandy, xeric habitats in the Sandhills and in coastal communities, but also from bottomland sites and residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The hosts are apparently undocumented. Heppner (2007) listed 'grass' as a host, but provided no specific information that confirms this.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This species is common in many areas of the state and appears to be secure.  
March 2026

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft