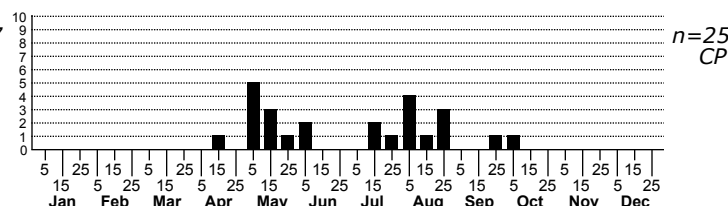
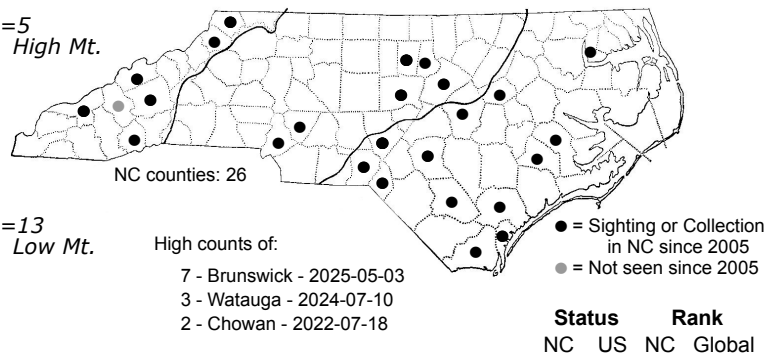
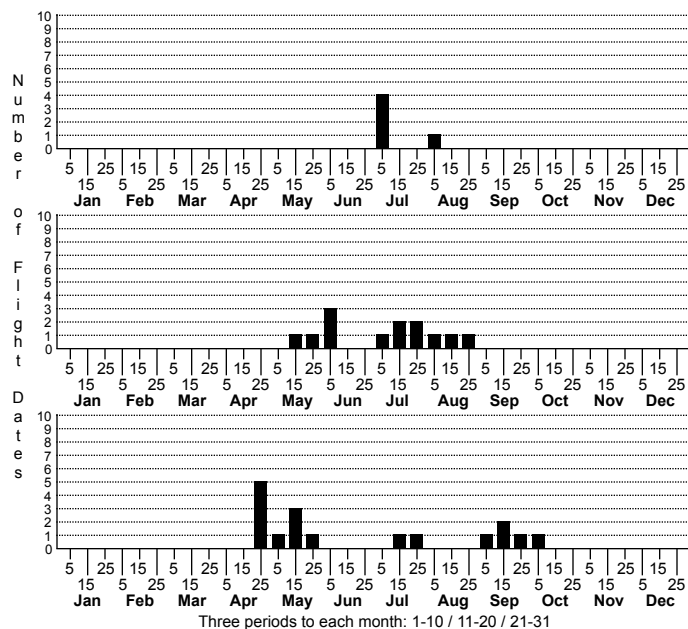


Microcrambus minor Minor Grass-veneer



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1920)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part by the descriptions by Forbes (1920) and Klots (1968). The palps are whitish above, while the head and thorax are whitish and dusted with dull brown scales. The ground color of the forewing is whitish, and shaded or dusted with dull-brown to blackish scales. The most conspicuous marks are two blackish, diffuse, and often crescent-shaped patches along the inner margin that curve obliquely outward and terminate before reaching the center of the wing. The first is at around one-fourth the distance from the wing base and the second at one-half. The latter is larger and often produces a horseshoe-shaped pattern when an individual is resting with the wings closed. The costa has two short, outwardly oblique dark bars at two-thirds and three-fourths the wing length that cut through the otherwise whitish costa. Both the median and subterminal lines are obscure. The latter is double-lined with a whitish center, but almost always appears as a single, diffuse, dark line because of the filling of the central white region with dark scales (compare with *M. elegans*). The apical area beyond the subterminal line has a diffuse dark patch and the terminal line is represented as a line of seven black dots. The fringe is dull brown or browning-gray, while the hindwing is light grayish-brown to pale-brown with a whitish fringe.

Microcrambus elegans is often confused with *M. minor* and is best distinguished by having a costa that is white beyond the subterminal line, along with a well-defined subterminal line that is bordered with an adjoining white line. In *M. minor*, the costa has a diffuse, dark-brown, apical patch that extends across the subterminal line, and a subterminal line that is diffuse and rather obscure. *Microcrambus kimballi* also closely resembles *M. minor* and is best distinguished by the wavy or scalloped subterminal line versus the diffuse and poorly developed line on *M. minor*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Microcrambus minor* is found in the eastern U.S. and adjoining areas of Canada. In the U.S., the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to eastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma, then northward to Minnesota and northeastern Nebraska. It occurs in adjoining areas of Canada in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from February through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically occurring in June and July in the northernmost populations. As of 2023, our records extend from late-April through early-October. Populations in North Carolina appear to have two or three generations per year.

HABITAT: We have records for a variety of habitats that include xeric habitats in the Sandhills, mesic forests, and several sites near wetlands.

FOOD: Heppner (2007) listed 'grass' but did not supply any specific information to verify this. As far as we are aware, the host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread and probably secure, but we need more information on its preferred habitats and host plants before we can accurately assess its conservation status in the state.