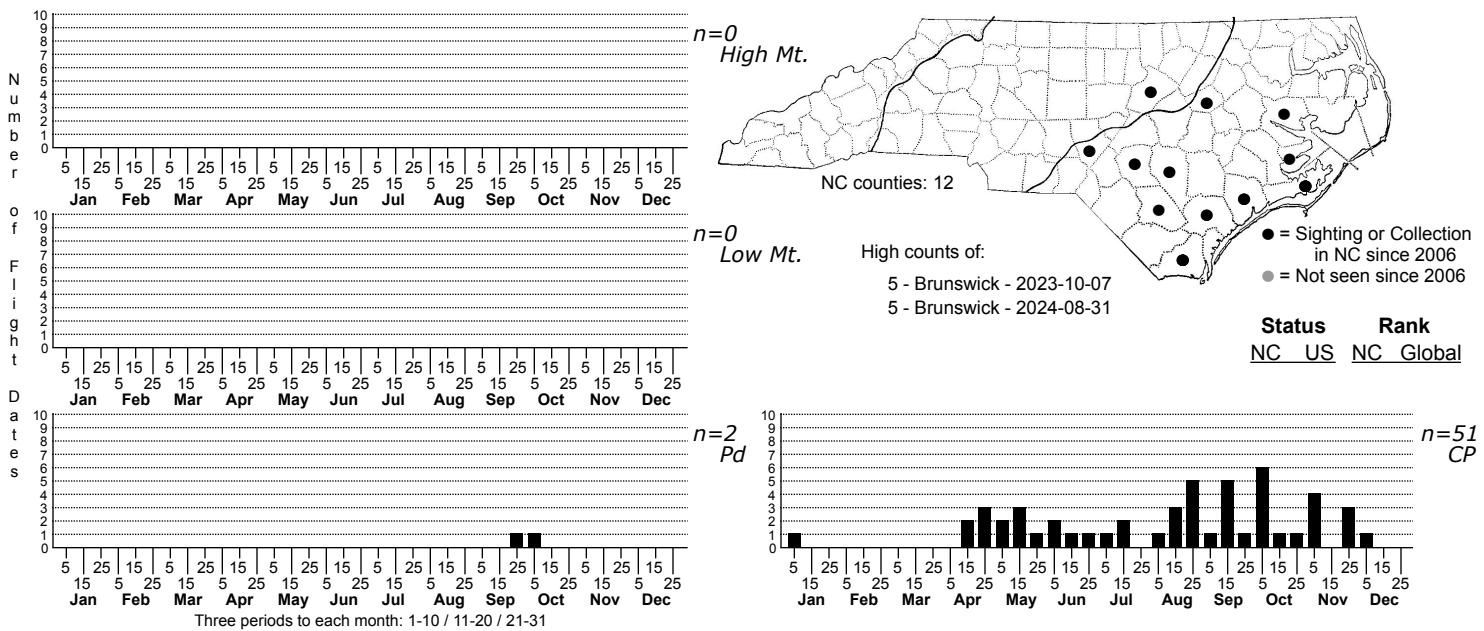


# *Fissicrambus profanellus* Profane Grass-veneer



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

**ID COMMENTS:** In this species the palps are brownish-yellow with a dusting of darker brown scales. The ground color of the forewing varies from golden-brown to medium-brown, and the costal and subcostal regions are typically darker than the remaining ground. The ground is overlain with variable numbers of dark brown to blackish diffuse spots and streaks and darker dusting. The most diagnostic mark is a white longitudinal stripe that begins at the wing base just below the costa and runs along the costal third of the wing. It begins to smear and fade at around one-third the wing length, and often continues as a narrow line along the center of the wing before completely fading at around two-thirds the wing length. In some specimens the line may continue all the way to the outer margin. A small, black, discal spot is present just dorsal to the line, and the veins on the distal half of the wing are dull white and contrast with the darker ground color, particularly on the costal half of the wing. The terminal line is represented as a line of fine black dots, and the fringe is concolorous with the adjoining ground color. The hindwing varies from light gray to grayish-brown and has a slightly paler fringe. *Fissicrambus mutabilis* is generally similar, but lacks the white longitudinal stripe that fades apically.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Fissicrambus profanellus* has southern affinities and is found in the U.S. from North Carolina southward to southern Florida, then westward across the Gulf Coast states to Texas and southern Oklahoma. Bleszynski (1963) also identified specimens from Jamaica, Cuba, Guatemala and the Yucatan. As of 2023, all of our records are from the central and southern Coastal Plain, except for one eastern Piedmont record.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults fly year-round or nearly so in Florida, Alabama and Texas, and mostly from March through October elsewhere. This species is bivoltine in North Carolina, with first flight from mid-April through late-June and the second from mid-August to early December.

**HABITAT:** Our records are from residential neighborhoods and dry habits such as xeric Sandhills communities, maritime dune and scrub communities, and coastal pine communities.

**FOOD:** The hosts are apparently undocumented. Heppner (2007) lists grasses, but does not provide details.

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults are attracted to UV and building lights.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** GNR [S3-S4]

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

**COMMENTS:** Populations appear to be relatively secure in North Carolina where this species reaches the northern limit of its range.