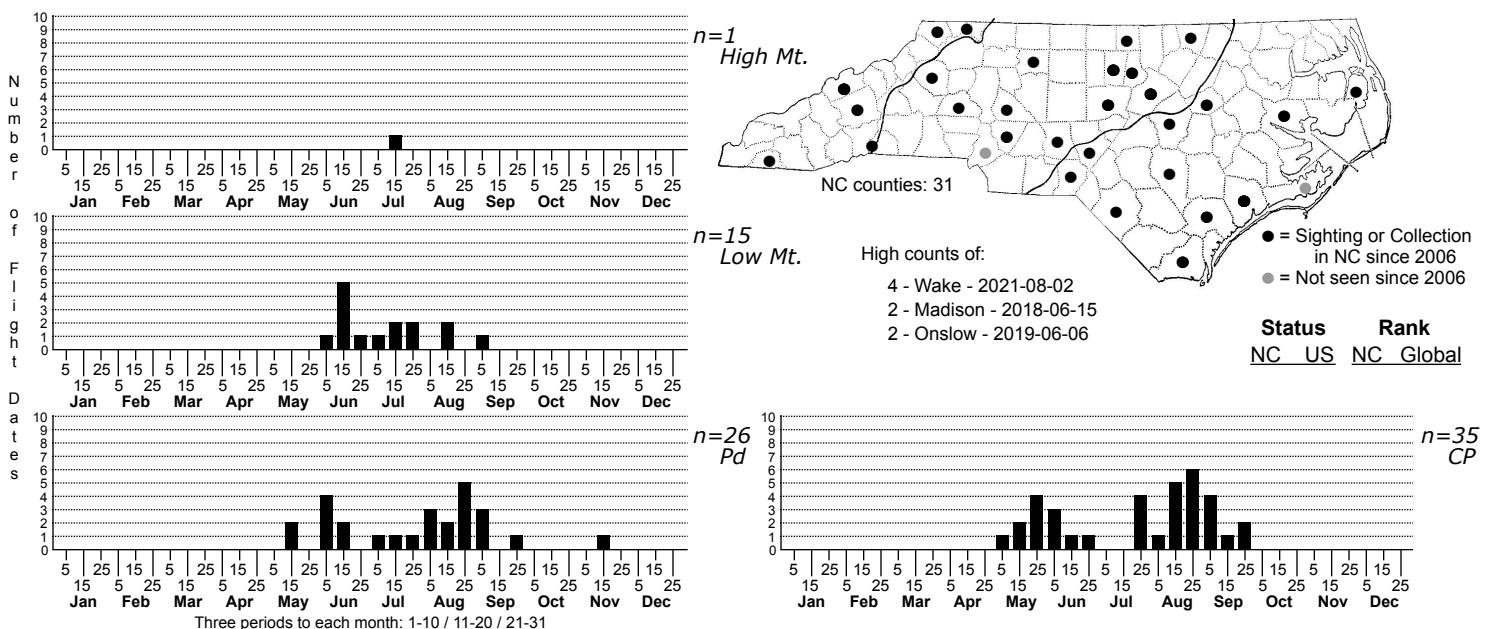


***Parapediasia decorellus* Graceful Grass-veneer**



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

FIELD GUIDE TO ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on those of Fernald (1896) and Forbes (1923). The palps, head, thorax and abdomen are very pale yellowish-brown to dull white above, and the palps have a light brown stripe on the side that contrast with the lighter top. The forewing has prominent light clay-colored or light yellowish-brown veins that contrast with an ashy-gray to brown shade that fills most of the area between the veins. On some specimens a diffuse longitudinal stripe runs along the inner margin that is unshaded and slightly duller than the coloration on the head and thorax. The irregular median line varies from orangish-brown to orangish-yellow and often has blackish scales near the center of the wing. It extends obliquely outward from the costa for about one-third its length then angles backward and runs to the inner margin. A second, but smaller, outward angle is present at around one-third its length from the inner margin. The subterminal line is double and concolorous with the median line, but lacks the dark scaling. It runs from the inner margin roughly parallel to the outer margin for most of its length, but bows outward and run away from the outer margin just before the costa. The subterminal space between the outer margin and the subterminal line is orangish-brown to orangish-yellow, and is often sufficiently broad on the dorsal half of the wing to cover the dorsal half of the outer of the two subterminal lines. The outer margin has a row of six black dots, and the fringe is metallic, somewhat darker at the base, and iridescent gold outwardly. The hindwing varies from whitish to light brown or brownish-gray, with a paler fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *< i>Parapediasia decorellus</i>* is found in the eastern U.S. from Maine southward to Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Arkansas, central Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and during all but the coldest winter months in the southernmost areas of the range. Adults in northern populations primarily fly from May through September. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-May through late-September, with one late season record from mid-November. Most local populations in North Carolina appear to be bivoltine.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from fragmented and disturbed landscapes with a mixture of forest, fields and developments, with the great majority from residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented. Heppner (2007) listed 'grass' but presumably because many members of the Crambini use grasses as hosts. We are unaware of any specific documentation of the larvae using a particular host species in the wild. However, Ainslie (1924) noted that the larvae fed readily on Kentucky Bluegrass, corn, Timothy, Orchard Grass, and rye in captivity.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can be found resting on vegetation during the day.

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 North Carolina and appears to be secure.