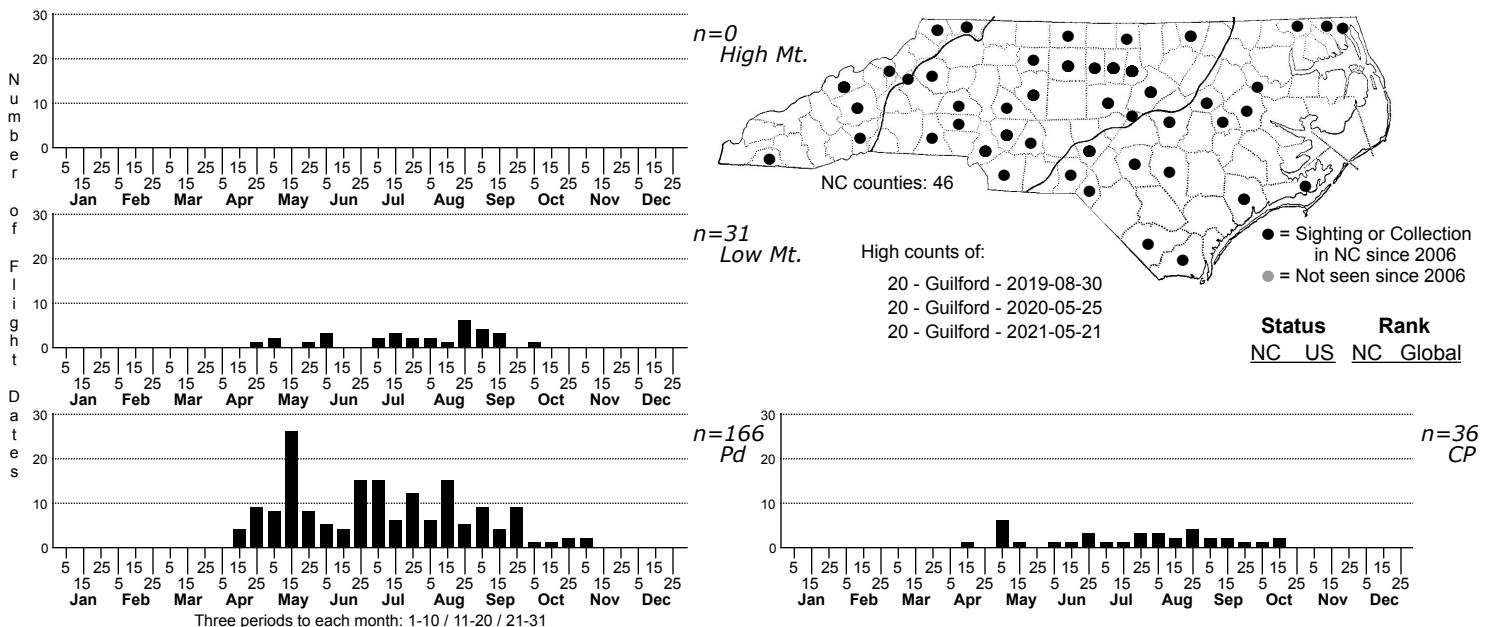


Parapediasia teterrellus Bluegrass Webworm Moth



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ainslie (1930)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Ainslie (1930)

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Ainslie (1930). The palps and head are whitish above, while the lower sides of the palps, the thorax, and the abdomen vary from pale ashy-gray to light brown. The forewing typically has an overall ashy-gray to yellowish-brown color, with the dorsal half before the median line having a darker wash, particularly near the center of the wing. The median line is orangish and often obscure. It runs obliquely outward from just beyond the middle of the costa for about one-third of its length, then angles back and runs to the inner margin. The subterminal line is orange and is edged outwardly with a grayish-white line of equal width. It also has an outward angle at about one-third of its length and continues on to the inner margin. The region between the median and subterminal lines are more or less marked between the lighter veins with orange scales that are weakly edged with black. The terminal line is represented by seven black dots, and the space between it and the subterminal line is covered with white scales tipped with black, which produces a grainy appearance that is very characteristic of this species. The fringe is cinereus with a golden tinge, and the hindwing is uniformly pale ashy gray with a white fringe.

This species is not conspicuously marked and the general color can vary from a light fawn to a dark earthy brown. However, the grainy pattern of the subterminal area is characteristic of this species. *Parapediasia decorellus* is similar, but is more boldly patterned, has a double subterminal line, and has the subterminal region filled with yellowish-orange coloration.

DISTRIBUTION: *Parapediasia teterrellus* is a wide-ranging species that has been found in every state of the conterminous U.S. except for Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. It is most common in the eastern U.S. and has also been documented in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Alaska. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, except in the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and Texas, and mostly from June through September in the northernmost areas of the range. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-April through early-November. Local population in North Carolina appear to have two or three overlapping generations per year.

HABITAT: The adults are typically found in suburban landscapes, as well as meadows, pastures, roadways, utility corridors and other early successional or disturbed habitats.

FOOD: Ainslie (1930) noted that the larvae often injure grasses in pastures, meadows and lawns, particularly during droughts in limestone regions in Kentucky and Tennessee where Kentucky Bluegrass is common. He successfully reared the larvae and adults wholly or in part on Orchard Grass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Hairy Crabgrass (<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>), Common Timothy (<i>Phleum pratense</i>) Kentucky Bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>), Yellow Bristlegrass (<i>Setaria pumila</i>) and Johnson Grass (<i>Sorghum halepense</i>), as well as wheat, rye, and both the leaves and fresh silk of corn. Among these, Kentucky Bluegrass was the most preferred food, and was also widely used in the wild. Both mosses and Cowpea leaves (<i>Vigna</i> sp.) were rejected, which suggest that this species is a true grass specialist. Gao et al. (2013) also reported that this species has become a major pest on Bermuda Grass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>) in lawns in East Asia where it is an invasive species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults come to both building and UV lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S5

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

COMMENTS: This is a widespread and common species that is secure in North Carolina.