**Stenoporpia polygrammariar**

State Status: Threatened
Federal Status: None

**DESCRIPTION:** The Faded Gray (*Stenoporpia polygrammariar*) is a geometrid moth with a wingspan of 30-40 mm (Forbes 1948, McGuffin 1977). Both the forewing and the hind wing have a pale, whitish-gray ground color, peppered with dark gray and brownish-gray scales. The outer margin of the forewing is scalloped with a black to brownish-black terminal line. The forewing subterminal line is white and scalloped, sometimes obscure; shading between the postmedial and subterminal lines is typically more pale than distal to the subterminal line. The postmedial, median, and antemedial lines of the forewing are relatively smoothly curved, black to brownish-black in color. The postmedial and median lines are widely spaced at the costal margin, curving outward and then sharply inward in the vicinity of the radial veins, becoming relatively straight and closely parallel and extending to the inner margin; the two lines are typically connected by a concolorous patch of scales at the intersection of veins Cu₁ and M₃ at the outer edge of the discal cell. The postmedial line is bordered distally with a narrow band of brown scales, especially toward the inner margin. The antemedial line is double, and like the postmedial and median lines, widely spaced at the costal margin, curving outward and then inward to become closely parallel, extending to the inner margin and outlining an oval area in the basal portion of the wing. Like the forewing, the outer margin of the hind wing is scalloped with a black to brownish-black terminal line. Also like the forewing, the hind wing has a white, scalloped, sometimes obscure subterminal line, with shading between the postmedial and subterminal lines typically more pale than distal to the subterminal line. The hind wing has black to brownish-black, shallowly-curved postmedial and median lines, the former bordered distally with a narrow band of brown scales. A discal spot is present, concolorous with the postmedial and median lines. The wing fringes are white. The head, thorax, and abdomen match the pale, whitish-gray ground color of the wings, and are similarly peppered with dark gray and brownish-gray scales; additionally, the abdomen has black to brownish-black bands. Superficially, the Faded Gray resembles the Common Gray (*Anavitrinella pampinaria*), but the latter is on average smaller and darker; details of
HABITAT: In Massachusetts, the Faded Gray inhabits pitch pine-scrub oak barrens and scrub oak thickets, occasionally also open oak woodland.

LIFE HISTORY: In Massachusetts, adult Faded Gray moths fly from early of June through the beginning of July. Larvae feed on oaks (*Quercus* spp.), becoming fully grown by August or early September. The pupa overwinters.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE: The Faded Gray ranges from Maine south to Georgia, and west to Saskatchewan and Arkansas (Forbes 1948, McGuffin 1977, Wagner et al. 2001). It is rare and locally distributed throughout much of its range. In Massachusetts, this species is only known to occur on the Island of Martha’s Vineyard.

STATUS AND THREATS: The Faded Gray is threatened by habitat loss and fire suppression. Other potential threats include introduced generalist parasitoids, aerial insecticide spraying, non-target herbiciding, off-road vehicles, and light pollution.

Literature Cited