

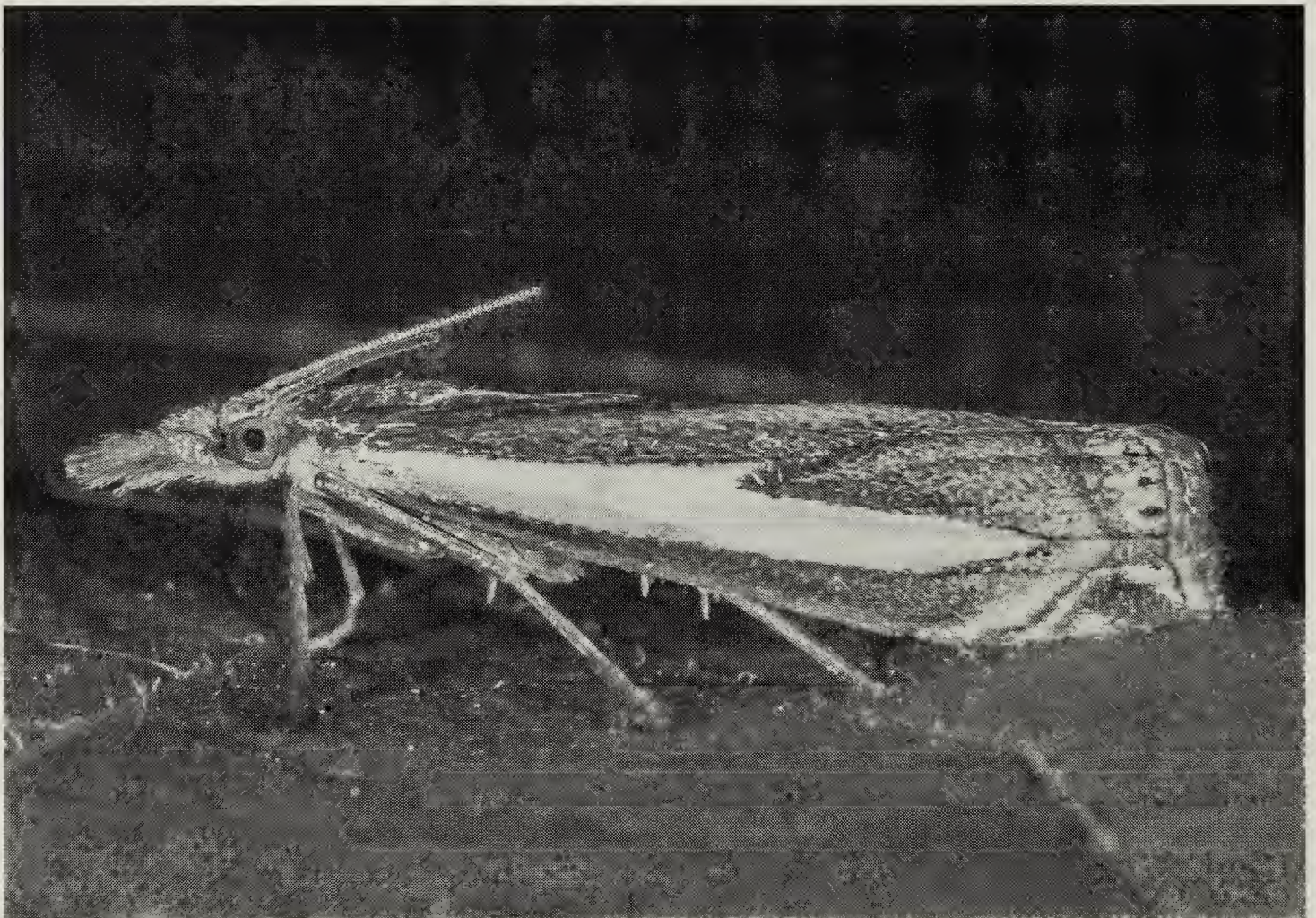
99% Population Crash in Grass Moths (*Crambus* sp.) at The Pas, Manitoba.

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Anyone who mows grass knows the small white moths that fly 2 meters ahead of the mower. They rise and settle again, and some years they occur in swarms. They were absent this year. This was the first year in my memory that all *Crambus* had completely vanished – none flew ahead of the mower. I watched particularly if a later flight occurred – none did. There are several species that fly together over our lawns. Apparently all the species crashed. A few specimens

came to lights on the red brick walls of the Margaret Barber Collegiate Institute. Some are pinned for future reference.

Would the larvae provide food for young birds just out of their nests? How wide spread, geographically, was the *Crambus* crash? If observers would watch in 2014 to see if the *Crambus* would return, it would be a neat bit of data.



Crambus moth (colour image on back cover)

-Harvey Schmidt