

# Dion Skipper

Dion Skippers are widespread in Alabama, but are sporadic and only locally common. There are two flights; a partial third may also occur. They favor sunny, freshwater marshes and swamps where their host plants grow; brackish marshes may also be chosen, but individuals should be checked carefully to determine if they could be the very similar Bay Skipper. Dions fly sluggishly as they weave through wetland grasses. They are often encountered nectaring on flowers that are close to, but not necessarily in, the wetland.

- Large grass skipper
- Sexes are similar ventrally. Dorsally, males have a prominent stigma and broad dark borders. Females are primarily dark brown with a yellow-orange spot band. Females are slightly larger.
- The stigma typically hooks upward.
- Dion Skippers may be confused with Aaron's Skippers, which have not yet been documented in Alabama but occur in nearby Florida. Dions are brighter than Aaron's Skipper; Dion's top ray does not extend to edge of wing as in Aaron's.
- May be confused with Delaware Skippers, Broad-winged Skippers, Bay Skippers, and Berry's Skippers. Dions are larger than Delaware Skippers and have ventral rays that Delawares lack. Dion Skipper ventral rays are not surrounded by spots or placed to form a cross as in Broad-winged Skipper; Dion wings are pointed, Broad-winged's are rounded. Dion and Bay Skippers are very similar. Dorsally, male Dions have less orange and are darker. Dions are found in freshwater habitats; Bays favor brackish areas. Dions have reduced orange dorsally; male stigmas are thicker. Male Dion Skipper stigma hooks toward forewing apex; Berry's Skipper male stigma is straight. On Dion Skipper females, the yellow spot nearest the body is clearly separated from the adjacent spot. On Berry's, the spots nearly touch with no distinct gap.



© Joyce Balch





## Dion Skipper

Dorsal Male

Brown edges

Pale orange markings in the wing's mid-section

Black stigma that hooks upward

Elongated orange patch on hindwing

Dion Skipper *Euphyes dion*

© Vitaly Charny

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1½ - 1¾ inches (3.6 - 4.5 cm)





## Dion Skipper

Dorsal Female

Dark brown

Curved band of light yellow spots

Elongated orange patch on hindwing

Dion Skipper *Euphyes dion*

© Vitaly Charny

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1½ - 1¾ inches (3.6 - 4.5 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | [alabama.butterflyatlas.org](http://alabama.butterflyatlas.org)



# Dion Skipper

Ventral View

Pointed forewing

Bright orange to reddish-orange

Two distinct pale yellow-orange rays; the upper ray does not extend to the end of the wing\*



Dion Skipper *Euphyes dion*

© Vitaly Charny

\* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1½ - 1¾ inches (3.6 - 4.5 cm)



# Similar Species

Dion Skipper



© Sara Bright

Broad-winged Skipper



© Jerry Green

Bay Skipper



© Dave Patton

Berry's Skipper



© M. J. Krotzer

Delaware Skipper



© Vitaly Charny

Aaron's Skipper



© Jeff Phippen

# Similar Species

Dion Skipper



© Vitaly Charny

Bay skipper



© Dave Patton