

Dukes' Skipper

Dukes' Skippers are rare in Alabama, known from only a few locations. Sightings have occurred in late summer/early fall, but Dukes' Skippers are multi-brooded, flying spring through fall. Habitat is in shaded swampy areas, typically inland. Males patrol in their search for females. They are relatively slow fliers. Both sexes nectar—white and blue flowers are reportedly preferred.



© Bob Harden

- Sexes are similar ventrally. Males: Dorsal wings are sooty black with a tawny shoulder fringe and dark stigma on forewing. Females: Dorsal wings are similar to male's but a row of small, pale spots occurs on forewing. More orange is visible on hindwing. Females are larger.
- When fresh, ventral ground color is a rich, tawny orange. Fades to brownish-beige with wear.
- May be confused with Dion Skippers. Duke's males are darker, showing much less tan on dorsal wings than Dion. Forewing shape is wider and less pointed Duke's females lack the tan-colored bar against a dark background on dorsal hindwing that Dions have.



Dukes' Skipper

Dorsal Male



Tawny "shoulder"

Sooty black

Dark stigma virtually invisible against black

Dukes' Skipper *Euphyes dukesii*

© Dave Patton

* Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: 1½ - 1¾ inches (3.8 – 4.5 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Dukes' Skipper

Dorsal Female



Tawny on upper wing

Dark base color

Short row of small pale dots

Dukes' Skipper *Euphyes dukesii*

© Eamon Corbett

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Dukes' Skipper

Ventral View



Tawny orange ground color

Central patch on forewing (often hidden by wing as it is here)

Two pale rays; upper ray usually best defined

Dukes' Skipper *Euphyes dukes*

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Dukes' Skipper

Male/Female Ventral Comparison

MALE: Smaller

FEMALE: Larger

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Similar Species

Duke's Skipper



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Dion Skipper



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Similar Species

Duke's Skipper female dorsal



© Eamon Corbett

Dion Skipper female dorsal



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