

Least Skipper

Least Skippers probably occur in every county in Alabama. They are multi-brooded, flying spring, summer, and fall. These tiny skippers are common in damp, grassy habitats, including wet ditches. Their flight is low, weak, and fluttery as they wind through wetland grasses. Unlike most skippers, males patrol rather than perch to search for females. Least Skippers nectar from a variety of small, low-growing flowers.

- Noticeably very small
- Ventrally, males and females are similar. Dorsally, female forewings may be all dark or nearly so; males have orange and black forewings with no stigma. Male abdomen is noticeably longer. Females are slightly larger.
- Orange and black coloration is visible in flight.
- Wings are rounded.
- May be confused with Southern Skipperlings. However, Least Skippers are larger and fly more slowly. Their wings are more rounded. Their orange and black color pattern also sets them apart.



© Karen Chiasson



Least Skipper

Dorsal View



Checkered antennae with no hook

Hindwing is orange with wide black border

Abdomen is slender. Upper surface is orange with dark marking along top.

Forewing is orange and black with varying amounts of orange.

Least Skipper *Ancyloxypha numitor*

© David Dodd

*Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch (1.9-2.5 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Least Skipper

Ventral Male



Forewing black with wide orange border. (Most of forewing covered by hindwing when wings are closed).

Bright orange hindwing

Veins highlighted

Underparts whitish. White extends to legs and above the eye.

Abdomen long and slender; extends well beyond wings.

Least Skipper *Ancyloxypha numitor*

© Jerry Green

*Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch (1.9-2.5 cm)

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Least Skipper

Ventral Female



Forewing black with wide orange border. (Most of forewing covered by hindwing when wings are closed).

Bright orange hindwing

Veins highlighted

Underparts whitish. White extends to legs and above the eye.

Abdomen short; does not extend beyond wings.

Least Skipper *Ancyloxypha numitor*

© Vitaly Charny

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Least Skipper

Male/Female Ventral Comparison



Male slightly smaller than female

Female slightly larger than male

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© Steve Krotzer

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Similar Species

Least Skipper



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Southern Skipperling



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