

Palatka Skipper

Palatka Skippers are residents of brackish marshes in the coastal region of Alabama. How common they are is not known since few people frequent these areas. There is a spring and fall brood. Palatkas are typically found near their sole host, Swamp Sawgrass, although they may wander in search of nectar. Favorite flowers include *bidens* sp. and *liatris* sp. Clusters of Palatkas may sometimes be found at these blossoms. Males often perch on Sawgrass blades to search for females.

- A big skipper! The largest of the grass skippers.
- Sexes are similar ventrally although males are slightly smaller. Dorsally, males have a short but prominent stigma near the body. Females are blacker near the body, have broader borders, dark veining, and a large oblong patch near the apex of dorsal forewing.
- May be confused with Palmetto and Dion Skippers. Palatka ventral wings are a dull brown-orange and often have an orange infusion near the body; Palmettos are typically bright orange. Palatkas have dark wing fringe; Palmetto's is white. Dorsally, Palatka males have brown heads and shoulders; Palmetto males' are orange. Palatka females lack the creamy forewing chevrons that are present on Palmettos. Palatka Skippers lack the pale ray that occurs on Dion Skipper ventral hindwings.



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Palatka Skipper

Dorsal Male



Short, prominent stigma

Orange forewing with dark borders

Orange/dusky orange field with
dark veins and wide, dark border

Palatka Skipper *Euphyes pilatka*

© Steve Walter

* Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches (4.5 - 5.4 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Palatka Skipper

Dorsal Female



Large oblong dark patch

Wide, dark border

Row of golden orange chevrons

Orange/dusky orange field with
dark veins and wide, dark border

Palatka Skipper *Euphyes pilatka*

© Sara Bright

* Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: 1¾ - 2¼ inches (4.5 - 5.4 cm)

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Palatka Skipper

Ventral View



Large, triangular forewing

Orange near base; cinnamon brown on margins

Various shades of warm brown; sometimes orange infused near base

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Dorsal Similar Species

Palmetto Skipper male



© Edward Perry IV

Palatka Skipper male



© SaraBright

Palmetto Skipper female



© Steve Krotzer

Palatka Skipper female



© Sara Bright

Ventral Similar Species

Palatka Skipper



© Sara Bright

Palmetto Skipper



© Sara Bright

Dion Skipper



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