

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.



© Karen Chiasson

- 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.





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: 1¾ - 2¼ inches (4.5 - 5.4 cm)



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)

Palatka Skipper

Ventral View



Large, triangular forewing

Orange near base; cinnamon brown on margins

Various shades of warm brown; sometimes orange infused near base

Palatka Skipper *Euphyes pilatka*

© Karen Chiasson

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

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

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



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Dion Skipper



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