

Palmetto Skipper

Palmetto Skippers occur along Alabama's coast in pine savannas that support Saw Palmettos, however the habitat is much more common than the skippers. They are local and uncommon. There are two flights; spring and fall. Flight is fast, skittish, and often difficult to follow. Palmettos are avid nectarers and are typically encountered while they are visiting flowers.



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- A large skipper!
- Sexes are similar ventrally. Females are larger. Males have a thin black stigma on dorsal forewings. Females are mostly dark on dorsal wings with a transverse row of pale spots on the forewing.
- Worn individuals may have little or no white wing fringe.
- May be confused with Palatka and Byssus Skippers. Palmetto ventral wings are typically bright orange; Palatkas are a duller brown-orange and often have an orange infusion near the body. Palmettos have white wing fringe; Palatka's is darker. Dorsally, Palmetto males have orange head and shoulders; Palatka males' are brown. Palmetto females have creamy forewing chevrons that Palatkas lack. Palmettos are larger and lack the pale veins and pale spots that are present on Byssus Skipper ventral wings.



Palmetto Skipper

Dorsal Male



Head and “shoulders” golden or reddish-orange

Dark patch toward apex

Long, narrow black stigma

White fringe

Golden or reddish-orange area with wide dark border

Palmetto Skipper *Euphyes arpa*

© Edward Perry IV

* Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 inches (3.9 - 4.9 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Palmetto Skipper

Dorsal Female



Head and “shoulders” golden or reddish-orange

Dark ground color

Transverse band of pale spots

White fringe, especially when fresh

Palmetto Skipper *Euphyes arpa*

© Steve Krotzer

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Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 inches (3.9 - 4.9 cm)

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Palmetto Skipper

Ventral View



Orange antennal clubs

Golden orange head and
“shoulders”

Bright golden orange

Large, pointed forewing

White fringe

© Sara Bright

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Wingspan: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 inches (3.9 - 4.9 cm)

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Dorsal Similar Species

Palmetto Skipper male



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Palatka Skipper male



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Palmetto Skipper female



© Steve Krotzer

Palatka Skipper female



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Ventral Similar Species

Palmetto Skipper



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Palatka Skipper



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Byssus Skipper



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