

Sachem

Sachems are widespread and common in Alabama. They are multi-brooded, flying late spring, summer, and fall. Open, sunny, often weedy areas provide habitat. This includes yards and gardens. Males perch on low vegetation or on bare ground. Both sexes nectar from a wide variety of flowers.

- Sexually dimorphic. Males have a very prominent stigma. They are brighter in general but ventral markings are not as strong as females. Females are browner and typically have a strong chevron pattern on ventral hindwings.
- Sachems, particularly females, are extremely variable in base color and markings. Some are very brown while others are golden; some are highly patterned while others are plainer.
- May be confused with Fiery Skippers and Whirlabouts. Dorsally, male Sachems have a stand-alone prominent, squared stigma. Female Sachems have two glassy spots on forewing with a dark patch attached to the base of the larger one. Ventrally, males and females lack small dark dots (Fiery) and large dark spots (Whirlabout). Also, look for brownish patch at center of the hindwing trailing margin.





Sachem

Dorsal Male

Very prominent dark stigma*

Tawny orange wing color with brown along the wing margins

Tawny orange with dark branching veins*

Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*

© Vitaly Charny

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5-3.5 cm)



Sachem

Dorsal Female

Dark patch at the base of the largest glassy white spot*

Several glassy white spots; two near center are prominent

Tawny orange with dark branching veins

Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*

© Vitaly Charny

** Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5-3.5 cm)



Sachem

Ventral Male

Darkened forewing tip

Faint chevron pattern

Dusky yellow wing color

Brown patch*

Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*

© Vitaly Charny

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5-3.5 cm)



Sachem

Ventral Female

Yellow brown wing color

Chevron pattern formed by light spots (very variable)

Brown patch

Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*

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* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5-3.5 cm)



Sachem

Male/Female Comparison Dorsal

MALE: Wings more pointed
Prominent stigma

FEMALE: Wings more rounded
Glassy spots on forewing

Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*

© Jerry Green

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5-3.5 cm)



Sachem

Male/Female Comparison
Ventral

FEMALE: Slightly larger

Golden brown

Chevron pattern on hindwing
(variable)

MALE: Slightly smaller

Golden

Faint chevron pattern on hindwing
(variable)

Sachem *Atalopedes campestris*

© Vitaly Charny

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5-3.5 cm)

Similar Species

Sachem



© Vitaly Charny

Fiery Skipper



© Lewis Scharf

Whirlabout



© Vitaly Charny

Species Similar to male dorsal Sachem

Sachem



© Vitaly Charny

Fiery Skipper



© Vitaly Charny

Whirlabout



© Vitaly Charny

Species Similar to female dorsal Sachem

Sachem



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Fiery Skipper



© Sara Bright

Whirlabout



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