

Southern Broken-Dash

Southern Broken-Dashes occur throughout Alabama. They are probably more common than sighting records indicate, perhaps under-reported because of identification issues. Flight begins in spring and continues through fall. These skippers are found in open, grassy areas including fields, roadsides, and gardens. Males perch. Both sexes are avid nectarers.



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- Male has a two-part, black stigma on dorsal forewing accompanied by a variable number of pale orange spots. One is prominent and appears attached to the stigma. Female has a diagonal series of pale orange spots on dorsal forewing. The largest (near the center) tend to be rectangular.
- Antennal clubs are bi-colored: black above, light or bright below.
- A small, pale center spot is sometimes present on ventral hindwing
- May be confused with Northern Broken-Dashes. Southern B-D's are typically brighter and slightly smaller. Their basic ventral wing color is more orange or rusty-hued than Northern B-D's. Southern B-D wing fringe is bi-colored: gray on forewings; light orange on hindwings. Northern B-D wing fringe is uniform in color.





Southern Broken-Dash

Dorsal Male

Tawny or red-orange leading edge

Prominent spot at end of stigma

Divided (two-part) black stigma

Gray forewing fringe; buffy hindwing fringe

Bi-colored antennae

Southern Broken-Dash *Wallengrenia otho*

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* Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5 - 3.5 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org

Southern Broken-Dash

Dorsal Female



Tawny or red-orange leading edge; brown ground color

Pale yellow-orange spots; largest tend to be rectangular

Gray forewing fringe; buffy hindwing fringe

Southern Broken-Dash *Wallengrenia otho*

Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5 - 3.5 cm)

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Southern Broken-Dash

Ventral View



Rusty-red to rusty-orange ground color

Gray forewing fringe; orange hindwing fringe

Band of pale spots that curves inward, resembling a “3”

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Wingspan: 1 - 1½ inches (2.5 - 3.5 cm)

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Similar Species

Southern Broken-Dash



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Northern Broken-Dash



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