

Swarthy Skipper

Swarthy Skippers occur throughout Alabama and fly spring, summer, and fall. Their populations grow as the warm season progresses. These are small skippers, and they seldom fly far above the ground. Swarthy Skipper habitat is varied but generally includes Little Bluestem grasses. They nectar from a variety of small flowers.



- Very small and nondescript.
- Plain on both surfaces—there are generally no markings. Occasionally a pair of faint spots may be visible on the dorsal forewing.
- Ventral hindwing veins are noticeably lighter than the wing's base color. However, this becomes less apparent with age and wear.
- Males do not have a stigma on dorsal wings.
- Males and females are similar.
- May be confused with Tawny-edged Skipper



Swarthy Skipper

Dorsal View



Plain dark brown

No stigma

Swarthy Skipper *Nastra Iherminier*

© Vitaly Charny

* Reliable diagnostic markers

Wingspan: $\frac{7}{8}$ - 1 inch (2.2-2.5 cm)



Swarthy Skipper

Ventral View

Antennae is light below with black and white striped rings.

Forewing very triangular

Both wings drab and unmarked*

Pale hindwing vein color is distinct*

Swarthy Skipper *Nastra lherminier*

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Swarthy Skipper

Male/Female Ventral Comparison

Male and female very similar

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Swarthy Skipper

Fresh vs. Worn Ventral View

Worn individuals: Veins no longer distinct due to loss of contrasting scales

Yellow overscaling and much of base color is absent

Fresh Individuals: Hindwing veins prominent

Yellow overscaling occurs on forewing and hindwing

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Similar Species

Swarthy Skipper



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Tawny-edged Skipper



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