

Fiery Skipper

Fiery Skippers are very common throughout Alabama and probably occur in every county. They are multi-brooded, flying spring, summer, and fall. Virtually any sunny, grassy, and flower-rich habitat is home to Fiery Skippers, including suburban lawns. They seek nectar from a variety of flowers, including those in gardens.



- Ventral wings, particularly hindwings, contain many small dots. Some say the spots resemble measles, others compare them to a sprinkling of pepper. These small dots are diagnostic.
- Male dorsal wings have dark, zigzagged edges that look like flames—an easy way to remember that they belong to Fiery Skippers.
- Females show a great deal of variation of base color and intensity of markings. Generally, they are not as bright as males.
- May be confused with Whirlabout and Sachem. Ventrally, Fiery Skipper's spots are smaller than Whirlabout's. Sachem lacks spots.





Fiery Skipper

Dorsal Male

Short, curved antennae

Bright orange wing color

Dark patch between stigma and wingtip

Prominent stigma

Zigzagged dark borders on hindwing and forewing*

Fiery Skipper *Hylephila phyleus*

© Vitaly Charny

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1 ¼ inches (2.6 - 3.2 cm)

Alabama Butterfly Atlas | alabama.butterflyatlas.org



Fiery Skipper

Dorsal Female

Short, curved antennae

Dark brown wing color.
Markings are tawny.

Forewing has jagged dark
border

Hindwing has downward-
pointing tawny “arrow”*

Fiery Skipper *Hylephila phyleus*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1 ¼ inches (2.6 - 3.2 cm)



Fiery Skipper

Ventral Male

Bright orange base color

Small dark spots of varying sizes on forewing and hindwing*

Fiery Skipper *Hylephila phyleus*

© Lewis Scharpf

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1 - 1 ¼ inches (2.6 - 3.2 cm)



Fiery Skipper

Ventral Female

Dull orange base color overlaid with olive-brown scales

Many small dark dots at the ends of pale pattern elements

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Fiery Skipper

Ventral Male/Female Comparison

Many small dark dots at the ends of pale pattern elements

Dull orange base color overlaid with olive-brown scales

Small dark spots of varying sizes on forewing and hindwing*

Bright orange base color

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Similar Species

Fiery Skipper



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Whirlabout



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Sachem



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