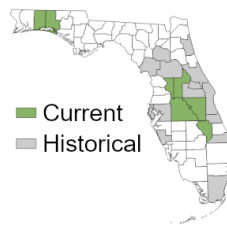


## AROGOS SKIPPER

*Atrytone arogos arogos*

**Order:** Lepidoptera  
**Family:** Hesperiidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G2G3T1T2/S2  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** none



**Description:** Medium-sized (27-32 mm) skipper. Ventral surface of the wings virtually patternless golden yellow to yellowish-tan. Upper surface of the forewings orange with broad, dark brown border. Males generally have more orange on the upper surface than females. Caterpillar body pale blue-green, head light tan with red stripes.

**Similar Species:** Skippers are notoriously challenging to identify. Delaware skipper (*Anatrytone logan*) is larger, more orange, has a more "bug-eyed" appearance (vs. "beady-eyed" in arogos skipper), and the upper wing surface has a pale border and black veins in the orange section. Tawny-edged skipper (*Polites themistocles*) has apical spots on the forewings. Swarthy skipper (*Nastra ilhermenier*) is more brown and lacks the orange on the upper wing surface. Byssus skipper (*Problema byssus*) has a more heavily patterned upper wing surface.

**Habitat:** Sandhill, mesic flatwoods, seepage slope, and dry prairie, typically with lopsided Indian grass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) or toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*).

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Adults are active March-November. Larvae are present through fall and winter.

**Florida Distribution:** There are two disjunct ranges in Florida. One in the western panhandle and one in the central peninsula.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Formerly relatively widespread along the eastern U.S. from New York south and west to Texas. Only populations in New Jersey and Florida are known to remain extant.

**Conservation Status:** Relatively stable in Florida, but has faced over 90% decline rangewide. All occurrences in the state are on conservation lands.

**Protection and Management:** Given current knowledge, the best chance for long-term survival of this subspecies may be to set aside a large area of suitable habitat with frequent patchy fires. The current pattern of winter/spring prescribed burns over large areas every two to three years may

## Arogos Skipper

*Atrytone arogos arogos*

be responsible for this subspecies' extirpation throughout most of its range (Dean Jue, pers. comm. 2022).

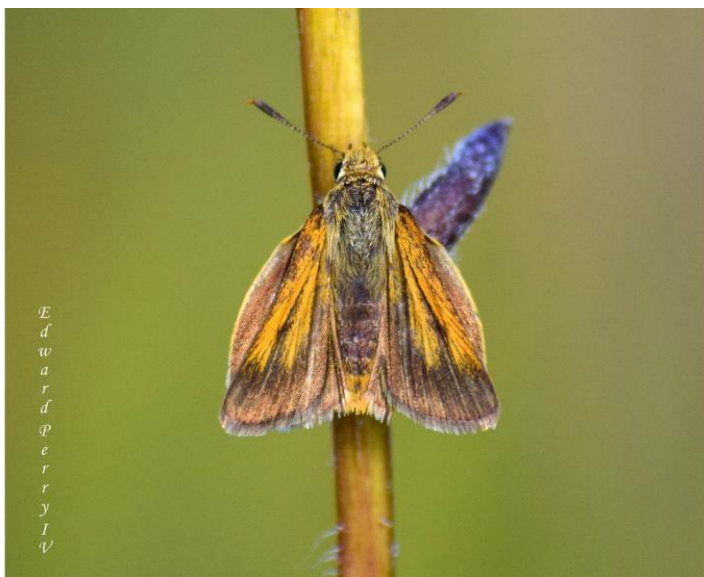
**References:** Minno 2006, Schweitzer et al. 2018



View of underwing. © Clint Gibson



Two worn females. © Clint Gibson



Female upper wing surface. © Edward Perry IV



Male upper wing surface. © Edward Perry IV