

AMETHYST HAIRSTREAK

Chlorostrymon maesites

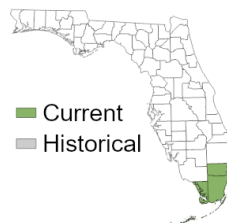
Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Lycaenidae

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1S2

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none



Description: Small (20-30 mm). Upper sides of wings are metallic purplish-blue in males or duller blue in females. Underside of wings are yellow-green with a reddish patch on the hindwings, which is visible at rest.

Similar Species: The larger silver-banded hairstreak (*Chlorostrymon simaethis*) has a silvery line on the underside of the hindwings (Schweitzer et al. 2018).

Habitat: Found in tropical hammocks. Often seen at the tops of Jamaica dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*) and buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*).

Seasonal Occurrence: Can be found every month of the year but most commonly observed April - June and October - early December.

Florida Distribution: Found in tropical hammocks in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, and the Florida Keys (Schweitzer et al. 2018).

Range-wide Distribution: Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and extreme southeastern Florida (Schweitzer et al. 2018)

Conservation Status: Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Florida. Sightings have increased in the last decade but is still quite rare.

Protection and Management: Avoid the use of mosquito adulticides where colonies are known or in suitable habitat. Manage habitat for diversity, including habitat edges that promote nectar-producing plants.

References: Schweitzer et al. 2018, Williams et al. 2017.

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