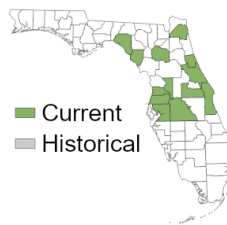


CALHOUN'S SKIPPER

Euphyes dukesi calhouni



Order: Lepidoptera
Family: HesperIIDae
FNAI Ranks: G3G4T2T3/S2S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none

Description: Large orange-brown to sooty-brown grass skipper with rounded wings, a light ray through the center of the ventral hindwing, dark forewing disc, and no subapical spots. It is larger than the typical subspecies (*E. dukesi dukesi*) and does not have any orange above (Shuey 1996).

Similar Species: Dukes' skipper is similar in appearance to Dion skipper. However, Dukes' skipper has a ventral hindwing ray that extends the entire length of the wing and is sooty brown without markings on the dorsal side.

Habitat: Sedge patches within swamps, which may be cypress, gum, red maple or mixed canopy.

Seasonal Occurrence: Most common in September.

Florida Distribution: This subspecies has been documented in North Florida and the central peninsula.

Range-wide Distribution: The subspecies is endemic to Florida.

Conservation Status: This subspecies is under review for Endangered Species Act protection by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Protection and Management: Since there is often a lack of blooming plants in swamp and hammock habitat and Dukes' skippers will often forage for nectar, land managers should avoid mowing along roads where nectar sources occur in the spring and fall. Prescribed fire along the periphery of the swamps will reduce woody encroachment and allow flowering resources to proliferate. Selective tree thinning may also be an option for opening the understory. Additionally, any impacts that will directly affect hydrology should be avoided. Due to the recent 2023 EPA rollback of wetland protections, private lands with unprotected wetlands should consider conservation easements or other protection on their properties that may harbor this butterfly.

References: Calhoun 1995, Deyrup and Franz 1994, Glassberg et al. 2000, Shuey 1996



Euphyes dukesi calhouni on *Bidens mitis* (photo by Clint Gibson).