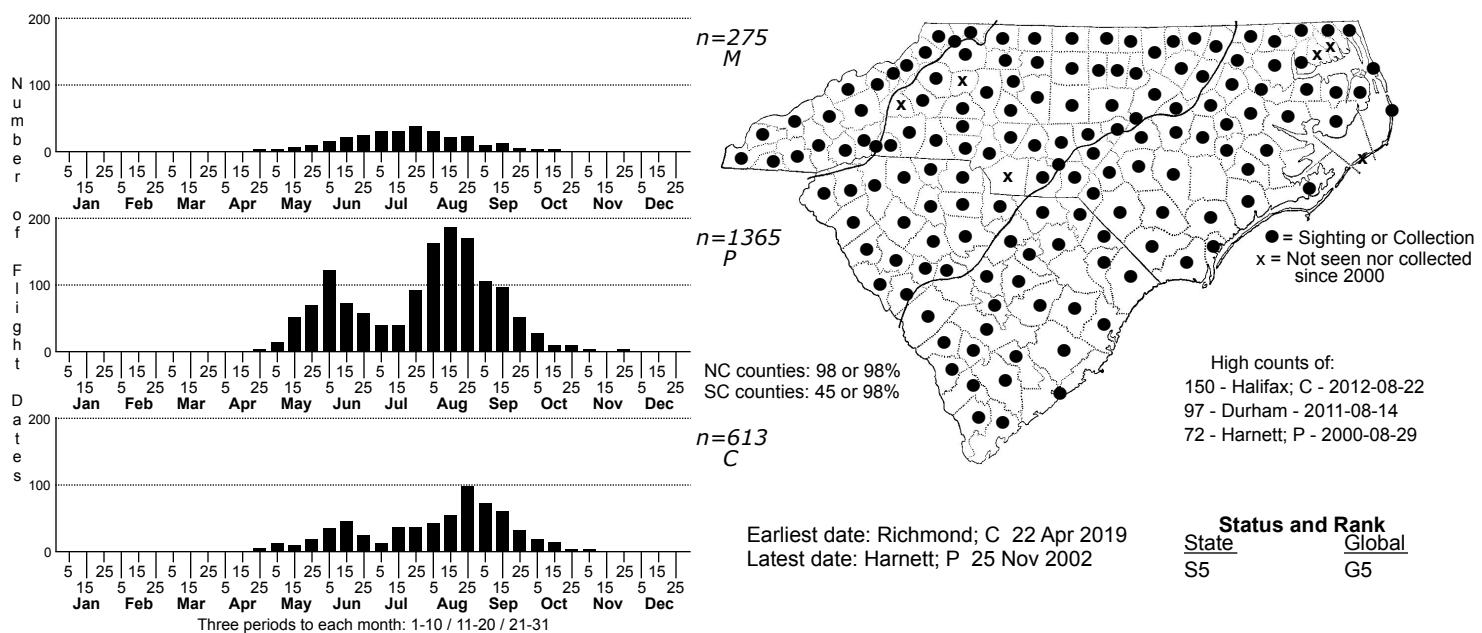


## Dun Skipper *Euphyes vestris*



**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide; found in all three provinces and undoubtedly occurs in all 100 counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Fairly common and widespread over most of the state, with abundance levels not overly different among the provinces. In fact, for a *Euphyes* skipper, it is quite "common" and one of the more frequently encountered small brown skippers, though seldom more than one or two at any given locale. This is a common and widespread species to our north, but it is somewhat less numerous in NC than in states to our north.

**FLIGHT PERIOD:** Two broods, which are quite extended in time relative to other *Euphyes* skippers. Downstate, early or mid-May to early or mid-July, and mid-July to mid-October, very rarely to early November. Though there are certainly two broods in the Mountains, there is no dip in the records in the middle of the flight chart and thus it is impossible to be sure when the first brood ends and the second begins. At any rate, the skipper is on the wing in the Mountains from mid-May to late September, rarely into October.

**HABITAT:** This is a species of a very wide range of habitats, but as with other *Euphyes*, it favors wetlands. It is found along moist woodland borders, ditches, roads and trails through damp woods, and powerline clearings, especially where damp. However, it also ranges into upland brushy areas such as weedy fields and even in gardens. Surprisingly, it is scarce in savannas and slightly brackish marshes; near the coast it is most often found in ditches and edges of moist woods.

**FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS:** Various sedges, not only *Carex* species but also *Scirpus* species, are used by caterpillars. Adults nectar on many flowers, with no species predominating. However, males commonly take minerals and moisture from dirt roads.

**COMMENTS:** The Dun Skipper can be easily confused with the Little Glassywing and the Northern Broken-dash, if not also with Swarthy Skipper and others. I usually see no more one to three Dun Skippers in a day of searching, but I see it on many to most days afield at the appropriate season and in the appropriate habitats. Taxonomists still keep this species in the genus *Euphyes*, but its appearance (dark brown as opposed to various shades of orange to brown), frequent mud-sipping behavior by males, and wide range of habitats speak against it being placed there instead of another genus.