



[Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)

Occurrence maps, species accounts, checklists, and photographs



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Announcement

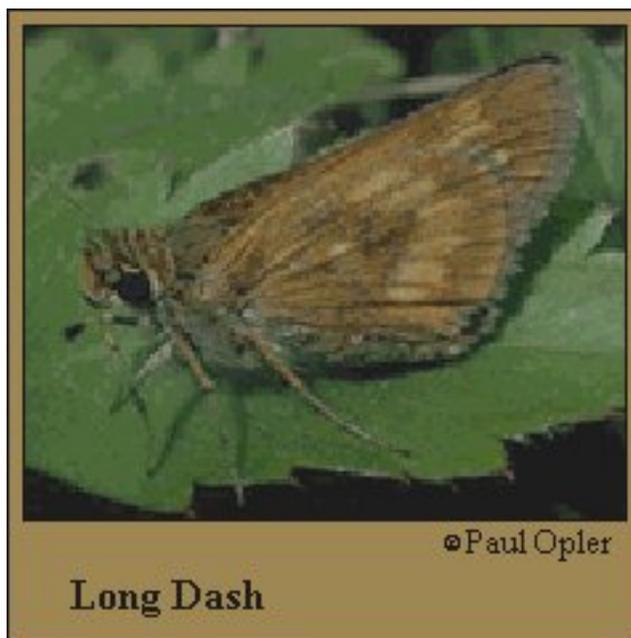
We are seeking skilled lepidopterists to serve as state coordinators.
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Species Detail

Long Dash

Polites mystic (W.H. Edwards, 1863)



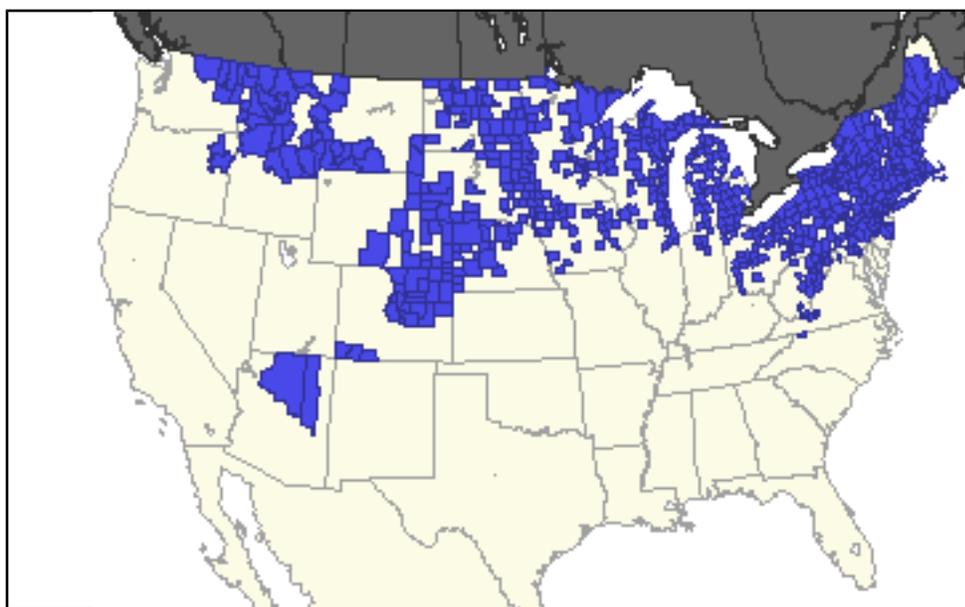
Attributes of *Polites mystic*

Family: [Skippers](#) (*Hesperiidae*)

Subfamily: [Grass Skippers](#)
(*Hesperiinae*)

Identification: Upperside is dark brown with reddish to yellowish orange markings. [Forewing](#) of female has a broad black patch at the base; male [forewing](#) has a long, slightly curved stigma which may be connected to the dash near the apex (creating a "long dash"). Underside of [hindwing](#) is

Documented Records for *Polites mystic*



orange-brown with a curved band of equal-sized yellow spots.

Life history: Males perch in low grassy spots, streambeds, or swales during most of the day; courtship occurs in mid- to late afternoon. Females deposit eggs singly on or near the host plant. Caterpillars feed on leaves and live in shelters of tied leaves. Fourth-stage caterpillars hibernate.

Flight: One brood from late May to early August.

Wing span: 1 1/8 - 1 1/2 inches (2.9 - 3.8 cm).

Caterpillar hosts: Bluegrasses (Poa species).

Adult food: Nectar from flowers including common milkweed, selfheal, mountain laurel, and tick trefoil.

Habitat: Open, moist areas including meadows, marshes, streamsides, wood edges, and prairie swales.

Range: Southern British Columbia east to Nova Scotia; south to Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, northern Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, and New Jersey.

Conservation: Not usually required.



Display alternate map range:

NatureServe Global Status:

G5 - Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

Management needs: None reported.



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