

Halyzia



25 mm

A male Eastern Iris-skipper resting on a leaf. The perspective shortens the fore-wing, so it looks to be the size of the hind-wing. In fact the hind-wings are flat and the fore-wings, which are 50% longer, are raised about 45°.

Eastern Iris-skipper

Mesodina halyzia

This is a heath-land butterfly, whose caterpillars feed on the native Iris, also known as Purple Flags (*Patersonia*). On the upper side the male only has the two yellow markings, as are visible on the forewings of the butterfly at the left. The female has an extra group of spots toward the point of the fore-wing. Beneath, it is a paler brown with an indistinct spot pattern. If it is sitting on the ground it is very hard to see.



Side view of an Eastern Iris-skipper , showing the dappled hind-wing.
This one is resting with both wings raised.