

Hesperiidae family

Golden-haired Sedge-skipper

*Hesperilla chrysotricha cyclospila***Also known as:** Chrysotricha Sedge-skipper**Abundance in Adelaide area:** Rare**Flight:** Mid Nov – early Jan**Wingspan:** m 33 mm; f 36 mm**Mature larva length:** 35–40 mm

This Skipper has become rare in the Mount Lofty Ranges, so wherever possible its habitats should be conserved and rehabilitated. It would be beneficial to this species if the tall Gahnias were grown in Adelaide Hills gardens, on farms, regeneration areas and wetlands, especially those close to presently-occurring caterpillar food plant areas.

Caterpillar food plants: Saw-sedges. The caterpillars eat the leaves and prefer plants growing in full sun.

Adelaide native species: Red-fruit Cutting-grass (*Gahnia sieberiana*), Cutting Grass (*Gahnia trifida*), Thatching Grass (*Gahnia filum*).

One of the rarer butterflies in the Adelaide Hills, the Golden-haired Sedge-skipper is now confined to a few swampy areas in the southern Fleurieu Peninsula. The survival of this butterfly in these few last refuges will largely be determined by the preservation of these habitats. It may possibly be assisted by the creation of artificial wetlands in areas south of the city.

The upper surfaces of the hind wings are dark brown with a central golden-orange patch. The fringe on the outer edge of both wings is grey.



The background colour of the underside of both wings is pale brown, sometimes tending to red-brown and sometimes to grey. The hind wing has a series of black rimmed, silvery-white spots, one positioned centrally on the wing, a little closer to the body than the outer edge and a further series of spots about one third of the way from the outer edge of the wing.

If you live in swampy areas from Mt. Compass to the Deep Creek Conservation Park, then growing the tall *Gahnia* species, *G. sieberiana* and in particular *G. trifida* in these wetland environments may assist this species to colonise your land.

