

Carolina Satyr

Hermeuptychia sosybius

UF



UF NATL
Natural Area
Training Laboratory

Little Wood-Satyr

Megisto cymela

Biology

What has been known as the **Carolina Satyr** has recently been shown to be a complex of several species that are very similar. All are small butterflies (~ 1.5 inches in wingspan). The **Carolina Satyr** in the strict sense is distributed in the United States, from New Jersey southward to Florida and west to Texas and Mexico. It can be found in grassy fields and uplands. Eggs are white and are laid singly on host plant leaves. Larvae and pupae are green but the latter have dark markings. In Florida, the **Carolina Satyr** undergoes several reproductive cycles per year.



Host Plants

Woodsgrass

Opismenus hirtellus (=setarius)

St. Augustine Grass

Stenotaphrum secundatum

Fun Fact:

In Gainesville, the **Carolina Satyr** flies together with the recently described Intricate Satyr (*Hermeuptychia intricata*). The two species can be distinguished by several characters, such as male genitalia, and DNA.

For access to the online version, visit <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/index.php>

Biology

The **Little Wood-Satyr** is distributed from Nebraska and Colorado to Texas and Florida. It is a small butterfly (~ 1.8 inches in wingspan). The **Little Wood-Satyr** can be distinguished from the **Carolina Satyr** by its larger eyespots located both on the upper and underside of the wings. Adults fly in the understory or forest edge, where they feed on rotten fruit, sap, and nectar. Eggs are white or pale yellow and are laid on blades of grass. Larvae are brown with a dark band along the dorsal surface. In Florida, the **Little Wood-Satyr** undergoes two to three reproductive cycles per year.



Host Plants

Centipedegrass
Eremochloa ophiuroides

Bermudagrass
Cynodon dactylon

Fun Fact:

Most butterfly species hibernate as an egg, a pupa or, sometimes as adults. The **Little Wood-Satyr** hibernates as a fourth-instar larva.