

# **Quick Guide to Common Florida Grasshoppers**

This guide is designed to assist in the identification of common grasshoppers in Florida. The guide will allow you to quickly eliminate most species from consideration, allowing you to focus on the most probable identifications. It does not contain most of the uncommon short-winged *Melanoplus* species, but all other species are represented. The *Melanoplus* species are best identified by examination of terminal abdominal structures of males; diagrams of these are provided in the species descriptions. To obtain accurate identifications, the guide should be used in conjunction with the descriptions, diagrams, and photographs. This guide will be less reliable in nearby states where other species occur that are not found in Florida.

## **WINGS LACKING, or apparently no wings**

Size small (12–22 mm in length), color gold or brown

*Gymnoscirtetes morsei, G. pusillus*

Size medium (15–33 mm), color green

*Aptenopedes apterae, A. sphenariooides*

## **WING LENGTH SHORT; wings distinct but less than, or equal to, length of pronotum**

Body form exceptionally long and narrow

*Achurum carinatum*

Body with a bold white stripe dorsally on prothorax and abdomen

*Hesperotettix osceola, Eritettix obscurus*

Body color uniformly bright green with, at most, a weak red stripe dorsally on prothorax

*Hesperotettix floridensis*

Body color iridescent yellowish, gold, or brown

*Eotettix* species

Body color indistinct brownish, reddish, or grayish, and with black stripe on side of pronotum

Male with distinct conical structure (pallium) pointing upward near tip of abdomen

*Melanoplus rotundipennis, M. withlacocheensis*

Male without distinct conical structure

Several short-winged *Melanoplus* species, usually uncommon

## **WING LENGTH INTERMEDIATE; wings appreciably longer than prothorax but not attaining tip of abdomen**

Size small (16–28 mm), color usually grass-green

Dorsal stripe absent from pronotum

*Dichromorpha elegans, D. viridis*

Dorsal stripe present on pronotum

*Hesperotettix viridis*

Size medium (22–40 mm), color usually olive-green or brownish

*Melanoplus querneus*

Size large (43–70 mm), forewing color some combination of black, yellow, and reddish

*Romalea microptera*

## **WING LENGTH LONG; wings nearly attaining tip of abdomen or extending beyond tip**

Hind wings distinctly pigmented, usually brightly colored with transverse black band

Hind wing orangish or pinkish

Transverse black band wide, about 1/3 the width of the wing, and crossing near the center of the wing

*Psidinia fenestralis, Spharagemon marmorata*

Transverse black band not wide, about 1/4 the width of the wing or less, and not located centrally

*Hippiscus ocelote, Pardalophora phoenicoptera*

Hind wing yellow

Hind wing lemon yellow basally, wing tip usually cloudy

*Arphia species, Spharagemon marmorata*

Hind wing pale yellow basally, wing tip usually transparent

*Hippiscus ocelote, Spharagemon bolli, S. crepitans, S. cristatum, Trimerotropis maritima*

Hind wing black, with margin yellowish

*Dissosteira carolina*

Hind wing largely transparent, with diffuse blackish area centrally

*Chortophaga australior*

Hind wings not distinctly pigmented, usually transparent except for wing veins

Face strongly slanted; spine present or absent between front legs

Tips of forewings sharply pointed; spine present between front legs

*Leptysma marginicollis, Stenacris vitreipennis*

Tips of forewings flattened, but forming sharp angle; spine absent between front legs

*Metalepta brevicornis*

Tips of forewings rounded; spine absent between front legs

Antennae markedly flattened and sword-shaped

*Mermiria species*

Antennae not markedly flattened and sword-shaped

Lateral edge of dorsal surface of pronotum well marked with white lines

*Orphulella pelidna, Syrbula admirabilis*

Lateral edge of dorsal surface of pronotum not marked with white line

*Amblytropidia mysteca, Dichromorpha elegans, D. viridis*

Face not strongly slanted; spine present between front legs

Cerci of males broad, flat, with tip wider than base

*Melanoplus keeleri, M. punctulatus, M. symmetricus*

Cerci of males with tip width narrower than base width

Cerci spoon-shaped at tip

*Paroxya species, Melanoplus impudicus*

Cerci with blunt or rounded tip, but not spoon-shaped

*Hesperotettix viridis, Melanoplus propinquus, M. sanguinipes*

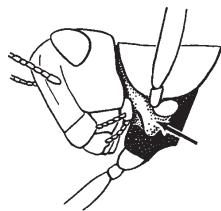
Cerci of males with tip width about same as base width

Cerci spoon-shaped at tip

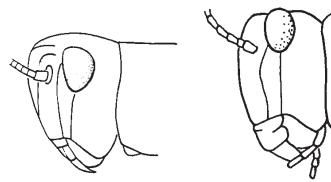
*Paroxya species, Melanoplus bispinosus*

Cerci about equal in width throughout and flattened at tip

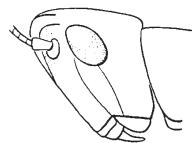
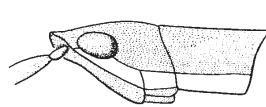
*Schistocerca species*



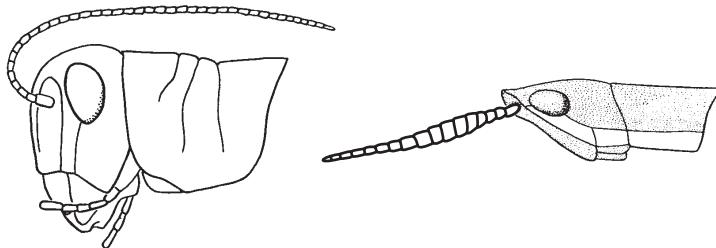
**Ventral view of grasshopper  
showing spine between  
base of front legs**



**Examples of grasshoppers  
with face not strongly slanted**



**Examples of grasshoppers  
with a strongly slanted face**



**Examples of threadlike antenna (left)  
and sword-shaped antenna (right)**