



Polvillo Dorado (Spanish common name)

Sloperia proto (Ochsenheimer, 1808)

DESCRIPTION

Wingspan: From 2 to 3 cm. **Open wings:** There are three aligned spots close to the apex on the forewings, which have checked margins with *fimbriae*. The hindwings have spots in the centre of the wings. **Closed wings:** They are brown or creamy white; and the hindwings have no spots on the margins, but do have a distinctive central spot with an inner angle.

KEY FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

Three perfectly aligned white spots



Bright spots

Checked margins

Brown or creamy white background



No white spots on the margin

No white spots on the margin

SIMILAR SPECIES

Red-underwing Skipper: There are four spots close to the front apex on their open wings. Closed wings are reddish or chestnut and some large spots can be found at the margins of the hindwings, as well as a spot with an outer angle in the middle of them.

Rosy Grizzled Skipper: There are four spots on the apex on the open wings. The last spot is close to the margin. In the centre of the closed wings, a spot with an inner angle can be seen.



Sertorio

Red-underwing Skipper



Ajedrezada bigornia

Rosy Grizzled Skipper

BIOLOGY & HABITAT

Only one generation can be seen from March to November and it takes a long time to emerge. They are most active in May, Jun and July. These butterflies live in all kinds of habitats with their foodplants such as the following labiates: *Phlomis purpurea*, *P. lychnitis*, *P. crinita* and *P. herba-venti*. These are frequently part of undergrowth, wide scrubland or they are isolated in places which were degraded by humans.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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DISTRIBUTION

The species can be found on most stages, except on those that entirely go through urban areas and get close to the beach (1st and 30th), as well as on the 35th. It is less common on the coast and in the north of the province.

