

# Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak

(*Strymon acis bartrami*)



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**Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak** (*Strymon acis bartrami*) is a small federally endangered butterfly endemic to extreme South Florida. While primarily unmarked dark gray on the wings above, adults have broad white bands that intersect a large orange patch and two distinctive white spots on the underside of the hindwing adjacent to two delicate hair-like tails. Like other hairstreaks, the hindwing tails resemble antennae and presumably help deflect the attack of predators away from the insect's vulnerable body. The butterfly is closely associated with its sole larval host plant, Pineland Croton (*Croton linearis*), which is dependent on periodic fire or other disturbance to maintain suitable growing conditions. Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak shares its host and habitat preference with another federally endangered butterfly, the Florida Leafwing.

Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak once occurred in pine rockland habitat throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Over time their populations have declined significantly, primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Today, the butterfly is extremely limited in distribution. It occurs in the greatest numbers within the National Key Deer Refuge in the Lower Florida Keys and Everglades National Park on the southern Florida mainland.

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Cover photo by: Bill Bouton

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