

Silver-banded Hairstreak

(Chlorostrymon simaethis)



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The **Silver-banded Hairstreak** (*Chlorostymon simaethis*) is a small, flashy butterfly limited to the extreme southern portion of the Florida mainland and the northern Florida Keys. The wings above are brownish in females with males having some purple iridescence. The wings below are bright lime green with a prominent silvery-white band through the center for which the butterfly is named. Adults have a quick, erratic flight but frequently pause to nectar at available flowers or perch on low vegetation. Generally uncommon, the Silver-banded Hairstreak inhabits hardwood hammocks and their associated margins and openings. They are typically found in close proximity to Balloonvine (*Cardiospermum sp.*), their sole larval host in Florida.

The Silver-banded Hairstreak has a somewhat unique life history. Female butterflies lay eggs on young fruit. The resulting larvae then chew through the vine's distinctive inflated balloon-like capsules, and feed on the developing seeds inside where their presence often goes unnoticed.

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Cover photo by: Holly Salvato

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