

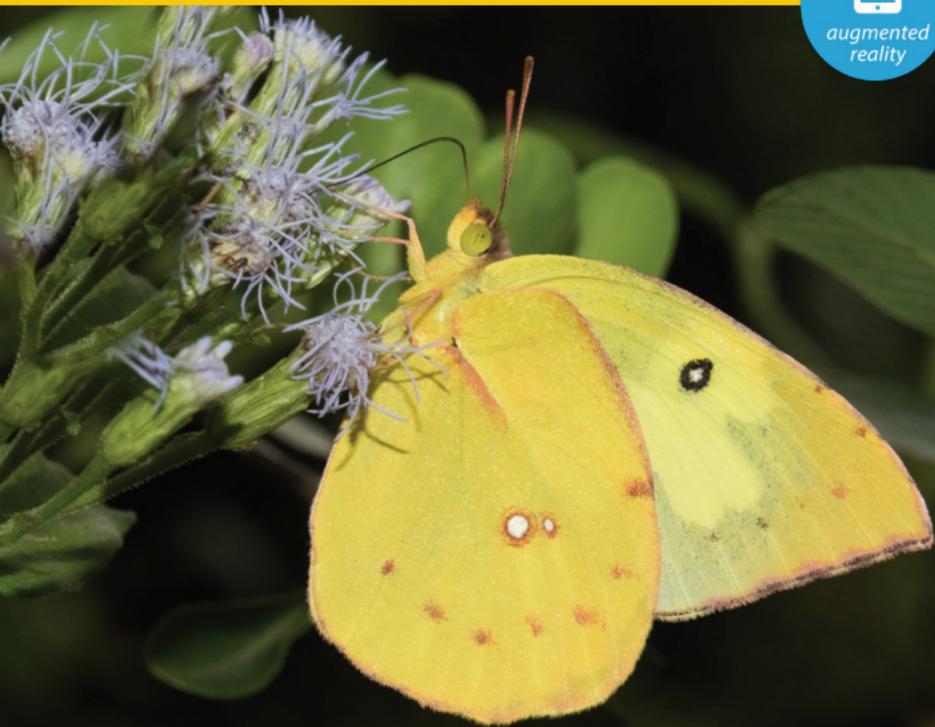
Southern Dogface

Zerene cesonia

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Florida Museum

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The **Southern Dogface** (*Zerene cesonia*) is a medium-sized yellow butterfly found throughout Florida. It is named for the distinctive black pattern on the upper side of the forewings which resembles the head of a dog in profile. Unfortunately, the butterfly rests and feeds with its wings firmly closed making its namesake markings only visible when in flight. The yellow wings below are seasonally variable; they are heavily infused with pink in winter-form adults. Luckily, identification is relatively easy as the Southern Dogface is the only Sulphur in Florida with pointed forewings.

While at home in pinelands and other somewhat open, dry sites, the Southern Dogface it is not a frequent garden visitor. Adults have a strong, rapid flight and are often a challenge to follow. Females lay small, spindle-shaped white eggs on the leaves of various Pea family plants including Summer Farewell (*Dalea pinnata*) and Bastard False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*). Several generations are produced each year with adults overwintering until the following spring.

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Cover photo by: Kathy Malone

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