

# Amethyst Hairstreak (*Jalmenus icilius*)



Amethyst Hairstreak, *Jalmenus icilius*, showing upper side, left, and lower, right. Harcourt, 2022.

Photos: Mez Woodward.

**Other Common Names:** Icilius Blue

**Family of Butterflies:** *Lycaenidae* (Blues and Coppers)

**Size:** Wingspan 26mm males, 29mm females.

**Local observations:** This species has been recorded from near Harcourt in 2022. There are no local records on Atlas of Living Australia or iNaturalist.

**Tony Morton's records of Amethyst Hairstreak from the local area (between 2000 to 2013):** six

Date	Location	Notes
7-Nov-2011	Axe Creek, Dragonfire Castle	a few larvae
20-Nov-2009	Axe Creek	1.30 p.m. 38°C pupa
11-Nov-2009	Axe Creek	1.30 p.m. 34°C Larva
5-Dec-2004	nr. Sutton Grange	On small <i>Acacia dealbata</i> & <i>A. mearnsii</i> on road from Axe Ck picnic ground by vineyard towards Pilcher's Bridge with leafhoppers LPI P emerge until 18 Dec
17 & 30 Nov 2002	Black Eagle picnic ground, junc. Sutton Grange to Bendigo and Axe Ck. roads (Road to Pilchers Bridge)	Very few on one only <i>A. mearnsii</i> . one adult seen flying briefly, 2 pupae one pupating larva taken. One large larva seen and left.
17-Nov-2002	Sutton Grange	2 pupae and a few larvae found on <i>A. mearnsii</i> at Axe Creek reserve

**Distribution outside our region:** There are scattered records from around greater Melbourne and in the vicinity of the Grampians. Outside Victoria this species has been recorded from all mainland states with the greatest concentration of records around Canberra.

**Larval Host Plants:** Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), Blackwood (*A. melanoxylon*) and Silver Cassia (*Senna artemisioides*, *A. dealbata*, *A. mearnsii*).

**Larval association with ants:** *Iridomyrmex* spp.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** Most observations in Victoria between November to January, but with some from September to March.



Caterpillar with attendant ants.  
*Photo: Mez Woodward.*

**Conservation Status:**

[The Action plan for Australian Butterflies:](#) Vulnerable in Australia

[Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999:](#) Not listed

[Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List:](#) Endangered



Eggs. *Photo Euan Moore.*



Caterpillar and caterpillar forming a pupa. *Photos: Mez Woodward.*



**Other Notes:** Probably rare and restricted in the Mount Alexander Shire. The local area is at the edge of the Amethyst Hairstreak's distribution.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia – [Jalmenus icilius](#), Amethyst Hairstreak.

iNaturalist - [Jalmenus icilius](#), Amethyst Hairstreak.