

Bright Copper (*Paralucia aurifer*)



Bright Copper, *Paralucia aurifera*. Upper.
Photo: Brian Bainbridge



Bright Copper, *Paralucia aurifera*. underside.
Photo: Brian Bainbridge

Other Common Names: Dark Copper

Family of Butterflies: Lycaenidae

Size: Wingspan 24mm.

Local Records: There is a single record on [iNaturalist](#) from Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve although there are private records from Tipperary Springs since 2018¹. There are no records from our area in Atlas of Living Australia.

Distribution outside our region: In Victoria iNaturalist records extend east from near Ballarat to the Snowy River. There are also records from the cooler forests of the Otway Coast and Ranges and from south Gippsland. Atlas of Living Australia does not contain any records for Victoria. Outside Victoria there are records of this species in both databases in the cooler forests from the Gold Coast hinterland south along the ranges to the Victorian border and on into eastern Tasmania.

Larval Host Plants: Sweet Bursaria, *Bursaria spinosa*

Larval association with ants (Field 2013): Small black ants. *Anonychomyrma* sp.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria (from Field 2013): August to April with peak activity from November to January

Conservation Status:

[National Butterfly Action Plan \(2002\)](#): No conservation significance

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

[Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act – Threatened List](#): Not listed

¹ Brian Bainbridge, pers. comm.

Other Notes: This species is very similar to the Eltham Copper Butterfly however it is generally found in moister habitats than the Eltham Copper. The black edge to the hind wings is wider than that of the Eltham Copper and there is often a row of white dots along the margin of the hind wing. Other differences include the species of ant involved in the symbiotic relationship.

Males may form leks where several males establish a territory away from the main breeding areas and compete for females.

References:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Paralucia aurifer](#), Bright Copper.

iNaturalist Australia – [Paralucia aurifer](#), Bright Copper.