

Common Grass-blue (*Zizina otis* subsp. *labradus*)



Common Grass-blue, *Zizina otis* ssp *labradus*, showing some of the variation exhibited by this species. Photos: Euan Moore



Museum specimens. Photo: Tony Morton

Note 1: The upper side of the butterfly wings are shown on the left and the underside side of the butterfly wings are shown on the right. Males and females are similar, although females have broader brown margins on wings.

Note 2: The plant name on the bottom right refers to the plants upon which the butterfly larvae (caterpillars) feed.

Note 3: Revisions to the taxonomy have seen the scientific name for this species changed from *Zizina labradus* to *Zizina otis ssp. labradus*.

Other Common Names: Clover Blue, Common Blue

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

Size: Wingspan 20-23mm

Local Records: There are a few local records for this species on [Atlas of Living Australia](#) and numerous records on [iNaturalist](#). It is a common species that is under-reported in the fauna databases.

Tony Morton's documented records of Common Grass-blue from the local area (between 2000 to 2013): Seventeen

Date	Location	Notes
10-Jan-2013	Vaughan garden	
24-Nov-2012	JML's garden Fryerstown	
21-Nov-2012	Vaughan garden	
30-Oct-2012	JML's garden Fryerstown	
11-Sep-2012	Kalimna Park	
5-Dec-2009	Vaughan walk	11.30 - 1.30p.m.
11-Nov-2009	Kalimna Park	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 34°C
7-Nov-2009	Vaughan walk	
Between Jan 2005 to Oct 2006	Kalimna Park	
4/12/2003	Irishtown Track, Irishtown	
17-Oct-2003	Vaughan	
19-Sep-2003	Vaughan walk	
25-Sep-2001	Vaughan	
9-Dec-2000	The Monk, Chewton	
8-Oct-2000	Vaughan	
22-Apr-2000	Vaughan	
29-Feb-2000	Vaughan walk	

Distribution outside our region: Outside our area this species is found across most of Victoria however there are fewer records from the north-west of the state. Outside of Victoria the range extends across much of Australia, the New Zealand north of approximately 43° south and islands of the South-west Pacific.

Larval Host Plants: Native and introduced legumes, including medics, clovers, garden peas and beans.

Larval association with ants: Larvae are sometimes attended by ants from the genera *Iridomyrmex*, *Rhytidoponera* or *Tapinoma*.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Adults have been recorded throughout the year in Victoria, although mostly from October to April when the host plants are flowering. There can be several generations completed each year.

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:](#) Not Listed

Other Notes: This is one of the most widespread and common butterflies in the region occurring in urban gardens and agricultural areas. There is quite a bit of variation in the intensity of the markings on the underwings and the amount and intensity of blue on the upperwings.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Zizina otis ssp. labradus](#) Common Grass-blue

iNaturalist - [Zizina otis ssp. labradus](#) Common Grass-blue