

Grassland Copper (*Lucia limbaria*)



Grassland Copper showing upper wing, left, and underside, right. Moonlight Flat, Castlemaine.

Photos: Euan Moore



Museum specimens. Photo: Tony Morton

Note 1: The male occurs on the top row and the female on the bottom row.

Note 2: The plant name refer to the primary plant upon which the butterfly larvae (caterpillars) feed.

Other Common Names: Chequered Copper, Small Copper, Common Copper

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

Size: 23mm male, 25mm female.

Local records: There are two recent records (2020/2021) from Moonlight Flat, Castlemaine as well as two museum records from Castlemaine and a third from Maldon.

Tony Morton's records of Grassland Copper from the local area (between 2000 to 2013): Eight

Date	Location	Notes
6-Mar-2011	Vaughan walk	1 fresh female
1-Mar-2007	Forest Creek	solitary
23-Oct-2006	Vaughan Walk	one male
14-Nov-2005	Vaughan walk	still fresh
1-Nov-2005	Vaughan walk	plentiful outside side gate in truck tracks on prostrate yellow flowering ? <i>Oxalis</i> . Also along walk
17-Oct-2005	Vaughan walk	
19-Nov-2003	nature strip Vaughan	on everlastings
28-Feb-2001	Fryer's Forest, Village Green	

Distribution outside our region: Most documented Victorian observations of this species are from the Melbourne area and the northern plains. Outside Victoria this species occurs in eastern NSW, south-eastern Queensland and the Adelaide area of South Australia.

Larval Host Plants: Yellow Wood-sorrels (*Oxalis perennans* and *O. exilis*)

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: It is likely that there are two generations each year, with one in spring and a more numerous one in late summer. Peak in Victoria records from January to March, but some observations from September to April.

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: Probably moderately common in the Mount Alexander region. The larvae are attended by small black ants from *Iridomyrmex* genus (Field 2013).

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Lucia limbaria](#), Grassland Copper

iNaturalist – [Lucia limbaria](#), Grassland Copper