

# Greenish Grass-dart (*Ocybadistes walkeri* subsp. *sothis*)



These are small, broad-bodied butterflies that usually hold their fore-wings raised and hind-wings flat (left) when resting. Sexes are similar. *Photos: Euan Moore*

**Other Common Names:** Green Grass-dart, Yellow-banded Dart, Southern Dart

**Family of Butterflies:** *Hesperiidae* (skippers)

**Wingspan:** 20mm

**Local Records:** There are a number of recent records (2020-2021) from Castlemaine, Guildford, Harcourt and Malmsbury on [Atlas of Living Australia](#).

**Tony Morton's records of Greenish Grass-dart from the local area (between 2000 to 2013)**

Date	Location	Notes
23-Feb-2001	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	-
9-Dec-2000	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	1 fresh male

**Distribution outside our region:** This species was first recorded in Victoria in 1963 (Field 2013) and has since spread across much of the state although most Victorian records are from around Melbourne and south Gippsland. Nationally, its range extends east from Adelaide across the south, including Tasmania, and as far north as Cooktown.

**Larval Host Plants:** Locally, could use native Couch Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) or introduced Brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.) and Veldt grasses (*Ehrharta* spp.).

**Larval association with ants:** None.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** There are two generations each year. The two peaks in observations of adults occur during November to December, and from February to April when most observations have been recorded on [iNaturalist](#).

**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:** Its expansion into and across Victoria is believed to be due to its adaptation to introduced grasses (Brome and Veldt), and possibly due to the instant turf industry (Field 2013). Tony Morton regarded this species as relatively uncommon in the Mount Alexander Shire in 2015, however there have been a number of sightings each year since 2019.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia – [Ocybadistes walkeri](#), Green Grass-dart.

iNaturalist – [Ocybadistes walkeri](#), Yellow-banded Dart.