

## Heath Ochre (*Trapezites phigalia*)



Museum specimens. Photo: Tony Morton

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

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

**Other Common Names:** Phigalia Skipper

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

**Size:** wingspan 30mm.

**Local Records:** Tony Morton recorded this species at a number of locations close to Castlemaine. Most of his records were in the wetter years, 2011-2012 (see below). There are two recent records of this species from Campbells Creek and Taradale on [iNaturalist](#). [Atlas of Living Australia](#) shows two additional local records for the area. These are both undated museum specimens.



Heath Ochre, *Trapezites phigalia*.

Photo: Euan Moore

**Tony Morton's records of Heath Ochre from the local area (between 2000 to 2013):**

Date	Location	Notes
25-Nov-2012	Tower, Tunnel Hill Tk., Elphinstone	
21-Nov-2012	Vaughan garden	a pair
31-Oct-2012	Kalimna Point	11 - 12 am 28C
30-Oct-2012	The Monk, Chewton	
18-Nov-2011	Kalimna Point	
15-Nov-2011	The Monk, Chewton	
12-Nov-2011	Tower, Tunnel Hill Tk., Elphinstone	Common
14-Oct-2011	Kalimna ridge	
6-Nov-2009	Fryer's Ridge Road	4 p.m. 26°C
1-Nov-2006	The Monk, Chewton	
26-Nov-2003	Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, Vic.	
14-Nov-2000	The Monk, Chewton	288m
8-Nov-2000	Ridge, Kalimna Park	

**Distribution outside our region:** The majority of records for Victoria are from the Melbourne area and the Latrobe Valley with scattering of other records from across the state. Outside Victoria this species has been recorded from eastern NSW, south-eastern Queensland and the Adelaide area.

**Larval Host Plants:** Mat Rushes (*Lomandra* sp.), particularly Wattle Mat-rush (*L. filiformis*).

**Larval association with ants:** None.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** Peak in October and November, with some records also in December and January.

**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 uncommon in the Mount Alexander Shire. The local area near the edge of the Heath Ochre's distribution. This species is very similar to the Montane Ochre, *T. phigalioides*, which also occurs in this area.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia – [Trapezites phigalia](#), Heath ochre

iNaturalist Australia – [Trapezites phigalia](#), Heath Ochre