

## Marbled Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*)



Marbled Xenica, *Geitoneura klugii*, showing upper, left, and lower, right. The dark patch in the center of the underside of the hindwing is a useful diagnostic feature. *Photo: Euan Moore*



Museum specimens. *Photo: Tony Morton*

Note 1: Both are female. The upper side of the butterfly wings are shown on the left and the underside of the butterfly wings are shown on the right. Males and females are similar, but females are paler above.

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

**Other Common Names:** Klug's Xenica

**Family of Butterflies:** *Nymphalidae* (Browns and Nymphs)

**Size:** Wingspan - 39mm males, 42mm females.

**Local observations:** Most records in the Mount Alexander region are to the south of Castlemaine which is at the northern edge of the species range in central Victoria. Both iNaturalist and Atlas of Living Australia have many records from near Lyonville.

**Tony Morton's documented records of Marbled Xenica from the local area (between 2000 to 2013)**

Date	Location	Notes
1-Jan-2013	Kalimna Park	fresh, several
15-Jan-2011	Bot Gardens, off Froomes Road, C'maine	
19-Dec-2005	Kalimna Park	
16-Jan-2001	Green Gully Rd. walk	
10-Jan-2001	Rotunda & Ridge, Kalimna Park	
29-Feb-2000	Vaughan walk	

**Distribution outside our region:** In Victoria this species is found in all areas except the northern plains and the north-west mallee country. This widespread species occurs across southern Australia and Tasmania from north of Perth to Brisbane. Most records are within 200km of the coast.

**Larval Host Plants:** Native grasses such as Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and some tussock grasses (*Poa* spp.). Introduced grasses such as Annual Veldt Grass (*Erhardta longiflora*) and Fescue (*Vulpia* spp.).

**Larval association with ants:** None.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** Adults have been recorded from October to April, and most commonly from December to February. One generation per 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 2021:](#) Not List

**Other Notes:** This species is known to hilltop. Males will defend their areas against other males. It occurs in a variety of woodland and forest habitats where there is an adequate grassy understorey.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia – [Geitooneura klugii](#), Klug's Xenica.

iNaturalist – [Geitooneura klugii](#), Klug's Xenica