

Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida* subsp. *calybe*)



Meadow Argus, *Junonia villida*, upper, left, under, right. Photos: Euan Moore



Museum specimens. Photo: Tony Morton.

Note 1: Both photos are of the upper side of individuals. Males and females are similar.

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

Other Common Names: None

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

Size: Wingspan: 40mm male, 43mm female.

Local observations: This is a common species with numerous local records on both iNaturalist and Atlas of Living Australia.

Tony Morton's documented records of Meadow Argus from the local area (between 2000 to 2013): Six

Date	Location	Notes
10-Jan-2013	Vaughan garden	a few fresh males
5-Apr-2012	Vaughan garden	
10-Mar-2012	Agitation Hill, C'maine	on tarmac, Anglican Church, fresh
5-Sep-2005	Vaughan walk	fresh
22-Apr-2000	Vaughan	
29-Feb-2000	Vaughan walk	

Distribution outside our region: This is a widespread species found across most of Victoria but is less common in the drier areas of the north west of the state. It is found in all Australian states with most records being in the east and across the northern tropics. Outside Australia there are records from Indonesia, New Zealand and the south-west Pacific.

Larval Host Plants: Plants from a range of families including Acanthaceae, Convolvulaceae, Asteraceae, and others. Introduced Plantains (ribworts) are commonly used as host plants.

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Adults have been recorded throughout most of the year in Victoria (August to May), but most commonly observed between December to March. 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: Adults fly fast and close to the ground, gliding between fast wing beats. Often seen either landing on ground, feeding on flowers or basking in the sun. Abundant in urban areas. Likely to be moderately common in Mount Alexander Shire.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Junonia villida](#), Meadow Argus.

iNaturalist – [Junonia villida](#), Meadow Argus.