

Montane Ochre (*Trapezites phigaloides*)



Montane Ochre, *Trapezites phigaloides*, at Barkers Ck and Fryers Ridge, Nov 2021.

Photos: Mez Woodward (upper) and Euan Moore (underside). Note the diagnostic arrangement of the three small sub-terminal yellow spots visible on the upper wing.



Museum specimens. Photo: Tony Morton

Note 1: The butterflies shown are both male. The upper side of the butterfly wings is shown on the left and the underside side of the butterfly wings is shown on the right.

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

Other Common Names: Phigaloides Skipper

Family of Butterflies: *Hesperiidae* (skippers)

Size: wingspan 30mm

Local Records: There are few local records for this species in [Atlas of Living Australia](#) or on [iNaturalist](#). Those records that are present are in higher areas to the south of Castlemaine such as Fryers Ridge (Nov. 2021) and near Glenlyon (Dec 2018, Dec. 2020). There are quite a few records for the Macedon Ranges. Tony Morton recorded this species in the Castlemaine area on a number of occasions.

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

Date	Location	Notes
24-Nov-2012	Garden, Fryerstown	
30-Oct-2012	The Monk, Chewton	
15-Nov-2011	The Monk, Chewton	
1-Nov-2006	The Monk, Chewton	
16-Nov-2004	Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, Vic.	
15-Dec-2002	The Monk, Chewton	
9-Dec-2000	The Monk, Chewton	
4-Dec-2000	Irishtown Track, Irishtown	Possibly near the 2021 record on Fryers Ridge. See iNaturalist
25-Nov-2000	Rotunda, Kalimna Park	
21-Nov-2000	Track, 2k. E. Vaughan	
14-Nov-2000	The Monk, Chewton	

Distribution outside our region: There are records for this species across much of central and eastern Victoria, particularly in higher and moister areas such as the Dandenong and Macedon Ranges and slopes of the great Dividing Range. There are also records from the Otways and Grampians.

Larval Host Plants: Wattle Mat Rush (*Lomandra filiformis*)

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Peak in November and December, but with adults observed in Victoria from October to February.

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 Montane Ochre's distribution.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Trapezites phigaloides](#), Montane Ochre

iNaturalist Australia – [Trapezites phigaloides](#), Montane Ochre