

Moonlight Jewel (*Hypochrysops delicia* subsp. *delicia*)

Other Common Names: Blue Jewel, Moonlight Blue.

Family of Butterflies: *Lycaenidae* (Blues and Coppers)

Size: 32mm male, 35mm female.

Local records: There are no local records on Atlas of Living Australia or iNaturalist.

Tony Morton's records of Moonlight Jewel from the local area (between 2000 to 2013):

Date	Location	Notes
11/12/2005	Kalimna Park	c.1pm. goodish male on red Grevillea (Hakea?) at amaryllis spot

Distribution outside our region: This is a relatively uncommon species across its range. Most Victorian records are from the Melbourne area and ranges to the east. Outside Victoria this species has been recorded from eastern NSW and South-eastern Queensland.

Larval Host Plants: Many wattles, including Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Black Wattle (*A. mearnsii*) and Blackwood (*A. melanoxylon*).

Larval association with ants: *Crematogaster* spp.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: In Victoria, there is a peak in observations around November and January, but adults have been recorded from October to April.

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 are strong hilltoppers, and typically fly in the afternoon below canopy height (Field 2013). Eggs are laid in borer holes of older wattle trees, which are occupied by *Crematogaster* ants.

Based on the maps provided by Field (2013), the single record of this species from Kalimna Park in Castlemaine represents a slight range extension. Local area is at the edge of its distribution. Probably has a restricted occurrence in the local area, and most likely around wattles that have been left to mature and senesce.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Hypochrysops delica](#), Moolight Jewel.

iNaturalist – [Hypochrysops delica](#), Moolight Jewel.