

Shouldered Brown (*Heteronympha penelope* subsp. *penelope*)



Shouldered Brown, *Heteronympha penelope*. showing the 'shoulders' on the upper side of the fore-wing.

Photo: *Brian Bainbridge*



Shouldered Brown, *Heteronympha penelope*. underside.

Photo: *Brian Bainbridge*

Other Common Names: None

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

Size: Wingspan 55mm

Local observations: There are a few local records on iNaturalist and Atlas of Living Australia. All are in the cooler, damper areas to the south of Castlemaine, such as Glenlyon, Porcupine ridge and near Trentham.

Tony Morton's documented records of Shouldered Brown from the local area (between 2000 to 2013):

Date	Location	Notes
27-Feb-2006	in woodland on Vaughan Walk	2 fresh males seen. I'm almost certain it is this sp.
28-Feb-2001	Fryer's Forest	

Distribution outside our region: In Victoria this species is found mainly on and south of the Great Dividing Range. It is also found in south-east NSW with a few records as far north as the Queensland border, around Mount Gambia in South Australia and in Tasmania.

Larval Host Plants: Wallaby grasses (*Austrodanthonia penicillata* and *A. pilosa*) and Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*).

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Adults have been recorded from December to April, and most commonly from February to March. One generation per year. Males emerge a small number of weeks before females.

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: Mount Alexander Shire is near the northern/inland distribution of this species.

Adult are strong fliers and perch in sunlit areas in the canopy, but also often fly down to open areas to rest.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Heteronympha penelope](#), Shouldered Brown

iNaturalist – [Heteronympha penelope](#), Shouldered Brown