

## Small Grass Yellow (*Eurema smilax*)



The upper side of the wings (not shown) is plain yellow with a broad black terminal band on the forewing and small black markings at the end of the veins on the hindwing. The underside of the wings of the wet season (summer) form is almost completely yellow with a few small brown spots. Tarilta Gorge, Glenlyon. *Photo: Euan Moore.*



The underside of the wings of the dry season form has larger brown spots and patches. The large brown patch near the tip of the forewing indicates this is a female. Males are peppered with small spots. The upper wing is the same as the wet season form. *Photo: Euan Moore.*

**Other Common Names:** Bordered Sulphur, Australian Yellow Butterfly.

**Family of Butterflies:** Pieridae (Whites and Yellows)

**Wingspan:** 30mm – 33mm.

**Local Records:** This butterfly was seen and photographed in Tarilta Gorge, Glenlyon, in January 2022. There are no other local records in Atlas of Living Australia or iNaturalist.

**Distribution:** The [Australian distribution](#) is shown by records in the Atlas of Living Australia where you can zoom in on the map to see Victorian and local distributions.

**Larval Host Plants:** These are members of the genus *Senna* which occur most commonly in drier areas of inland and northern Australia where most breeding occurs. Some *Senna spp.* occur in the drier regions of North-west Victoria so it is possible that this species may breed in that region.

**Larval association with ants:** None

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** This species is most frequently seen in Victoria during October and March/April. Across Australia, flight times peak late September through to November with a minor peak of activity from March through April. Ref: [iNaturalist](#).

**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 Listed

**Other Notes:** This is a migratory species that is seen in Victoria most years. The Small Grass Yellow has a wet and a dry season form corresponding to the seasons in northern Australia. Both forms may be seen in Victoria although the wet season form with fewer brown markings on the underwing is more common ([iNaturalist](#) sightings).

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia [Eurema smilax](#), Small Grass Yellow

iNaturalist Australia [Eurema smilax](#), Small Grass Yellow