

Tailed Emperor (*Charaxes sempronius* subsp. *sempronius*)

Other Common Names: Four-tail.

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

Size: Wingspan 75mm male, 85mm female.

Local observations: There is a 2012 record from near the summit of Mt Alexander. There are no other records on either iNaturalist or Atlas of Living Australia for this species.

Around the same time Tony Morton recorded this species in or near Kalimna Park and at Vaughan. During the 2022/23 summer there were reported sightings from Castlemaine (Kalimna Park), Newstead, Mt Alexander and Drummond.



Tailed Emperor, *Charaxes sempronius*, feeding on tree sap, Mt Alexander. Photo: Linda Rogan

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

Sixteen

Date	Location	Notes
20-Apr-2012	Kalimna Point	as for 27 March
13-Apr-2012	Kalimna Point	as for 27 March
27-Mar-2012	Kalimna Point	on sap oozing from Small Sugar Gum(?)
9-Mar-2012	63 Hunter St, C'maine	female investigating <i>A. dealbata</i>
7-Mar-2012	Vaughan garden	1 seen round <i>A. mearnsii</i>

Distribution outside our region: There are scattered observations from across Victoria, though few in south-east or south-west. This species ranges across the north of Australia and down the eastern seaboard.

Larval Host Plants: Legumes (Mimosaceae and Casealpiniaceae), particularly wattles.

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Adults have been recorded from November to May, and most commonly from February to April. Little is known of their breeding habits in Victoria.

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 only occasional visitors to the Mount Alexander Shire. Most specimens recorded from Victoria are adults migrating/wandering down from more northerly breeding areas. It has been regularly recorded in Victoria since 1974, but no permanent population appears to have established in the state.

Known to hilltop. This species is a strong flier, and will perch on tree trunks several meters above the ground. Adults are often attracted to rotting fruit and sap from trees.

At Kalimna Park in January 2023 several individuals along with other species were observed feeding on sap from Sugar Gums, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, that was seeping from damage to the bark caused by Krefft's glider.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Charaxes sempronius](#), Tailed Emperor.

iNaturalist – [Charaxes sempronius](#), Tailed Emperor.