

## Varied Dusky-blue (*Candalides hyacinthinus*)



There are two sub-species of *C. hyacinthinus*, both of which occur in the Mount Alexander area. On the left is *C. h. simplex* from St Arnaud while on the right is a worn example of *C. h. hyacinthinus* from Porcupine Ridge.



The two large and several small black marks near the trailing edge on the underside of the forewing are characteristic of both sub-species. This is *C. h. hyacinthinus* from The Monk.

*Photos: Euan Moore*

**Other Common Names:** Common Dusky-blue, Dusky Blue

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

**Size:** Wingspan 28mm

**Local observations:** There are three 2021 records to the south of Castlemaine at Fryers Ridge, Porcupine Ridge and The Monk.

### Tony Morton's records of Varied Dusky-blue from the local area (between 2000 to 2013:

Date	Location	Notes
30-Oct-2012	The Monk, Chewton	
15-Nov-2011	The Monk, Chewton	
18-Oct-2011	Vaughan walk	
2-Sep-2011	Vaughan walk	several on dodder
24-Aug-2011	The Monk, Chewton	Fresh
1-Nov-2006	The Monk, Chewton	
4-Oct-2006	Vaughan Walk	Males
19-Sep-2003	Vaughan walk	
15-Dec-2002	The Monk, Chewton	
23-Feb-2001	The Monk, Chewton	
6-Jan-2001	The Monk, Chewton	Fresh
14-Nov-2000	The Monk, Chewton	
8-Nov-2000	The Monk, Chewton	
12-Oct-2000	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	
6-Oct-2000	Track, 2k. E. Vaughan	
22-Sep-2000	Porcupine Ridge, Vaughan	Fresh, brown-grey verso

**Distribution Across Victoria:** There are records from across Victoria, wherever Dodder Laurel occurs. Outside Victoria the species has been reported mainly from the eastern seaboard of the continent and south-east South Australia

**Larval Host Plants:** Dodder Laurel (*Cassytha pubescens* and *Cassytha melantha*)

**Larval association with ants:** Not usually attended by ants.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** Adults occur in warmer months – mostly October to January, but have been seen in Victoria from September to March. In some areas, two generations may be completed in a year.

**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:** Two subspecies are known to occur in Victoria. *Candalides hyacinthinus simplex* occurs in north-west of the state, and *C. h. hyacinthinus* occurs across the remainder of the state. The Mount Alexander shire occurs at or near the boundary of these two subspecies, and both subspecies have been recorded in the local area.

The species is probably common in the Mount Alexander Shire. It is uncertain which subspecies is more prevalent.

Adults generally seen flying in and around Dodder Laurel, although the species is also known to hill-top.

On iNaturalist this species is listed as *Erina hyacinthinus*. This name change may be accepted on other databases in the future.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia – [Candalides hyacinthinus](#), Varied Dusky-blue

iNaturalist - [Candalides hyacinthinus](#), Varied Dusky-blue.