

Varied Sedge-Skipper (*Hesperilla donnysa* subsp. *donnysa*)



Museum specimens. *Photo: Tony Morton*

Note 1: The male is shown on the top row and the female on the bottom row. The upper side of the butterfly wings is shown on the left and the underside on the right.

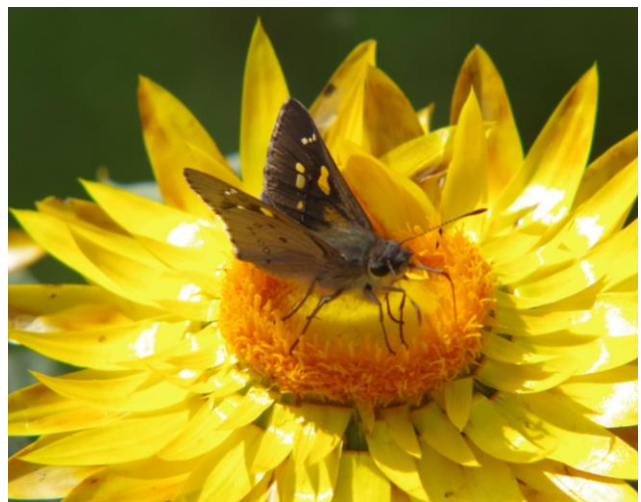
Note 2: The plant name (bottom right) refers to the plants upon which the butterfly larvae (caterpillars) feed.

Other Common Names: Donnysa Skipper

Family of Butterflies: *Hesperiidae* (skippers)

Wingspan: 31mm – 36mm

Local Records: There are few records of this species in the Mount Alexander Region in the various fauna databases. iNaturalist has a record from Lyonville in 2017, while Atlas of Living Australia has additional records from Bendigo and near Fryerstown. This latter record is based on an undated specimen in the Northern Territory Museum. Tony Morton recorded this species on a number of occasions in the Chewton– Fryerstown – Glenluce area.



Male feeding on *Xerochrysum* flower

Photo: Euan Moore

Tony Morton's records of Varied Sedge-Skipper from the local area (between 2000 to 2013):

Date	Location	Notes
1-Nov-2011	Green Gully Rd Glenluce	Larvae
28-Oct-2008	Chewton area	PL Wattle Gully mine Swordgrass gully. Pupa emerged 5 Nov.
17-Oct-2005	Swordgrass gully, Chewton	Pupa
15-Dec-2002	Green Gully Road, Glenluce	All stages
23-Feb-2001	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	Worn
9-Dec-2000	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	Males worn, females quite fresh
28-Nov-2000	300m. off Glenluce Rd. down Green Gully Rd.	Mainly males
14-Nov-2000	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	-
12-Oct-2000	Gully, Chewton/Fryerstown Road	Larvae

Distribution outside our region: Most Victorian records are from the south of the state, particularly east of Melbourne and the Anglesea area with a scattering of records along the Great Dividing Range west to the Grampians. This species is also recorded from Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, eastern NSW and Queensland to as far north as Brisbane. Field 2013, [Atlas of Living Australia](#).

Larval Host Plants: Thatch Saw-sedge (*Gahnia radula*), and some other Saw-sedge (*Gahnia*) species.

Larval association with ants: None

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Mostly November and December, but documented observations from October to March. [iNaturalist](#). Field 2013

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: Maybe be moderately common in Mount Alexander Shire, particularly along creeks and gullies where Saw-sedge occurs. Mount Alexander Shire is near the northern edge of its distribution.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia - [Hesperilla donnysa](#), Varied Sedge-Skipper.

iNaturalist - [Hesperilla donnysa](#), Varied Sedge-Skipper