

# Fringed Heath-blue (*Neolucia agricola subsp agricola*)



Fringed Heath-blue, *Neolucia agricola*, on Common Wedge-pea, Porcupine Ridge.  
 Photos: Euan Moore



Museum specimens. The plant name refers to the plant family upon which the butterfly larvae (caterpillars) feed. Photo: Tony Morton

**Other Common Names:** Fringed Blue

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

**Size:** Wingspan 20mm

**Local Observations:** Atlas of Living Australia has an early (undated) museum record from Castlemaine. On iNaturalist there are recent records from Kalimna Park, Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, Muckleford Conservation Reserve, Porcupine Ridge and Glen Lyon.

**Tony Morton's records of Fringed Heath-blue from the local area (between 2000 to 2013):** Thirteen

Date	Location	Notes
31-Oct-2012	Kalimna Point	
18-Nov-2011	Kalimna Point	
15-Nov-2011	The Monk, Chewton	

Date	Location	Notes
14-Oct-2011	Kalimna ridge	
11-Nov-2009	Kalimna Park	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 34°C
28-Oct-2008	Jacob's Track	
1-Nov-2006	The Monk, Chewton	
1-Nov-2006	Kalimna Point	
11-Oct-2006	Kalimna ridge	
16-Nov-2004	Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, Vic.	
7-Nov-2003	Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, Vic.	
28-Nov-2002	Castlemaine	Kalimna Point
21-Nov-2002	Castlemaine	Kalimna ridge

**Distribution outside our region:** Atlas of Living Australia has records from most of Victoria, south-east South Australia, eastern NSW and south-east Queensland. Other sub-species occur in Tasmania and WA.

**Larval Host Plants:** Variety of native peas from the family Fabaceae, including *Bossiaea* spp., Gorse Bitter-pea *Daviesia ulicifolia*, Showy Parrot-pea *D. sericea*, Twiggy Bush-pea *Pultenaea largiflorens* and Narrow-leaf Bush-pea *P. tenuifolia*.

**Larval association with ants:** Larvae often associated with small ants from the *Iridomyrmex* genus.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** One generation is completed each year, with most adults observed in Victoria between October to December (but some seen through until March).

**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 moderately common in heathy woodland and forest habitats in the Mount Alexander region.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia – [Neolucia agricola agricola](#), Fringed Heath-blue

iNaturalist – [Neolucia agricola](#), Fringed Heath-blue