

**Lycaenidae family**

# Broad-margined Azure

*Ogyris olane***Also known as:**

Olane Azure or Dull Purple Azure

**Abundance in Adelaide area:** Common**Flight:** Oct–May**Wingspan:** m 34 mm; f 36 mm**Mature larva length:** 20–24 mm

This species is present on quite a high proportion of mistletoe-bearing trees, but usually in small numbers. Its main caterpillar food plant is the Box Mistletoe (*Amyema miquelii*). The adults may best be observed by waiting and watching the area around mistletoe clumps from below the host trees.

If you notice large-scale clearance of mistletoes from trees in your area, ask your local council if the impact of these activities on rare butterfly species has been considered.

**Caterpillar food plants:** Mistletoes (*Amyema* spp.) The caterpillars eat the flowers and leaves.

**Adelaide native species:** Box Mistletoe (*Amyema miquelii*) on Eucalyptus species, Drooping Mistletoe (*Amyema pendula* ssp. *pendula*) on Stringybark Eucalypts and Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*).

A beautiful butterfly, the Broad-margined Azure is purple on the upper side of the males and blue-purple on the upper side of the females. Both sexes have broad brown margins.

The underside is patterned with black and brown wavy lines. As the butterfly settles with its wings tightly closed, this provides excellent camouflage.



This species tends to be associated with ants, including the orange and black Sugar-ant (*Camponotus consobrinus*) and may occur together with the caterpillars of the Genoveva Azure. The caterpillars are more solitary than those of some other Azure butterflies and generally only two or three will be found on any one tree; however, occasionally up to ten may be found together.

The mature caterpillars have a typical flattened shape and are grey-brown to pink-brown with irregular dark brown markings down the back.

The caterpillars pupate under the bark of the Eucalypt mistletoe host trees, generally in low forks or near the base of the trees. The pupa is brown with darker mottling and of an ovoid shape.

