

Lycaenidae family

Two-spotted Line-blue

Nacaduba biocellata biocellata

Also known as: Double-spotted Line-blue or Blue-spotted Line-blue

Abundance in Adelaide area: Common

Flight: Throughout the year

Wingspan: m 17 mm; f 17 mm

Mature larva length: 8 mm

This widespread species is seen from time to time in suburban Adelaide. It is attracted to the buds of Wattle trees, its favoured caterpillar food. The Two-spotted Line-blue can be encouraged into your garden by growing local South Australian acacias.

Caterpillar food plants: Wattles. The caterpillars eat mature yellow flower buds.

Adelaide native species: Any Wattle is suitable. Some Adelaide Wattle species include Gold-dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*), Wallowa (*A. calamifolia*), Thorn Wattle (*A. continua*), Sticky Wattle (*A. dodonaeifolia*), Ploughshare Wattle (*A. gunnii*), Umbrella Bush or Sandhill Wattle (*A. ligulata*), Blackwood (*A. melanoxylon*), Golden Wattle (*A. pycnantha*), Wirilda (*A. retinodes*), Rock Wattle (*A. rupicola*), Elegant Wattle (*A. victoriae* ssp. *victoriae*).

Other South Australia species:

Silver Mulga (*A. argyrophylla*), Grey Mulga (*A. brachybotrya*), Coastal Umbrella-bush (*A. cupularis*), Mealy Wattle (*A. farinosa*), Needle Wattle (*A. rigens*), Native Willow (*A. salicina*), Hard-leaf Wattle (*A. sclerophylla*), *A. simmonsiana*.

While small, this butterfly is one of those that impresses when seen in magnified photographs. It is common throughout the state, especially in the northern areas.



In the Adelaide area it can be found during summer, flying around its caterpillar food plant, flowering Wattles.

The male is an intense violet-blue on the upper surface of the wings, while the female is more variable. Generally she will have a central blue patch on the wings with a broad brown marginal area; however, it is not unusual for some to have reduced blue areas, with the blue area being sometimes reduced to a few, scattered, blue scales.

On the underside of the wings, both sexes are similar. The top wing tends to be a soft orange-brown and the hind wing a pale brown. Both wings are patterned with transverse areas outlined in deeper brown and white margins. At the base of the hind wing, at the angle between the outside and lower margin (the tornus) there is two small black dots. These black dots have a few bright, shining green scales in their centres, and are surrounded by a bright orange ring.

