

Cuprea



15 mm

Copper Ant-blue

Acrodipsas cuprea

It is a pity that this pretty little butterfly is almost impossible to see! It either flies around the branches of trees on hill tops out of reach, or rests, almost invisible, on a twig. It is only one of a few butterfly species whose caterpillar actually lives in an ant nest, eating ant larvae. The butterflies are around from late Spring until Autumn.

Although its hindwing is badly damaged, the coppery colour of the upperside is visible in the male butterfly on the left. The specimen below left shows the underside and a flash of blue at the end of the hindwing above. The hindwing of the specimen below right was in part shadow and has been computer modified.

