

Icilius



Amethyst Hairstreak showing the bright blue on the upper side of its wings

Amethyst hairstreak

Jalmenus icilius

The Amethyst Hairstreak is not coastal butterfly, but it is common, though very local, west of the Divide. The butterfly occurs in colonies like other members of the genus, and caterpillars, pupae and butterflies through a few small acacias during the summer. Again, like others of the genus, the caterpillars and pupae are swarmed all over by small black ants. It has shorter tails than the more common Imperial Hairstreak or the Stencilled Hairstreak



Amethyst Hairstreak, upper.



Amethyst hairstreak on Acacia



Male and female Amethyst Hairstreak, underside.



Amethyst hairstreak larvae. The ants are about 3 mm long