

Ictinus



Stencilled Hairstreak

Jalmenus ictinus

The Stencilled Hairstreak is one of three butterflies in this genus that is common in eastern NSW. Like the Imperial and Amethyst Hairstreaks, the Stencilled Hairstreak is found in small colonies around small to medium-sized Acacias. It flies in mid-summer, and during January and February, butterflies, pupae and larvae are all together. Large meat ants swarm over this species, which is an easy way to distinguish it from the very similar Imperial Hairstreak, which is attended by small black ants. Another distinction is the darker purple-blue of the upper side, compared with the paler blue of the Imperial. Both species have iridescent scales, more prominent when viewed head-on.



This photo of a Stencilled Hairstreak and the one above show how the iridescent wing scales appear in different views



Stencilled Hairstreak underside