

Striated Sun Moth

Synemon collecta



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

An **Identification Guide** to an Endangered Species of Victoria's North East

Sun Moth - Identification tips

- Medium-sized moth with whitish markings on the dark brown upper sides of the forewings.
- Wingspan is up to approx **3.9 cm** in males and **4.1 cm** in females.
- Adult moths fly from late December to mid-January and are most active on warm, sunny, still days from **10am to 3pm**.
- They usually fly smoothly and rapidly, within a metre of the ground and keep their wings in motion continuously, unlike some butterflies which flutter and then glide.
- When sun moths rest they often raise and lower their wings rhythmically, showing their brightly coloured hind wings. However, hind wings can be concealed by darker forewings that blend well with their surroundings.
- Sun Moths appear to be dependant on open grassy areas with good cover of native grasses, in particular Wallaby Grasses (*Austrodanthonia* species), which are pictured above right.

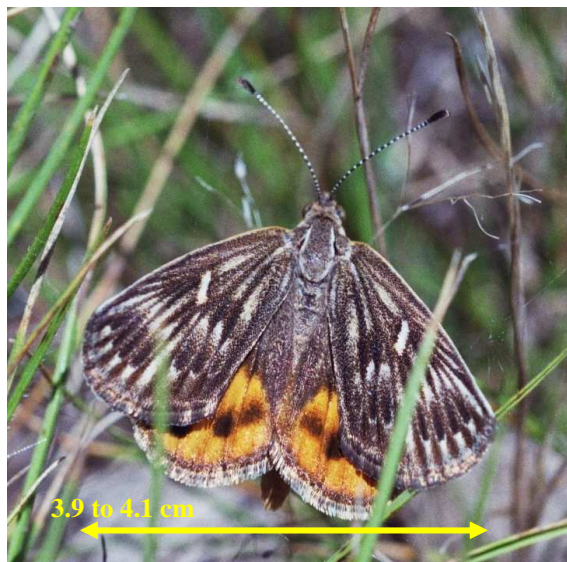


Image: Striated Sun Moth – pulsing its wings to show its golden hind wings emerging from below its darker forewings

Source of Page 1 Images: DELWP

Conservation – You Can Help

Keep and eye out for Striated Sun Moths! If you own or visit patches of native grassland in the Upper Murray have a look for Sun Moths on sunny days during late December and early January. If you happen to see them please contact one officers listed below.



Images: A typical field of native Wallaby Grass – *Austrodanthonia* sp. (above); Bristly seed head of Wallaby Grass (top right) and an individual Wallaby Grass seed (bottom right)



Image: A pair of Sun Moths mating

Look-alike species sometimes mistaken for Sun Moths



Source of Page 2 Images: OzAnimals.com

For Further Information and to Report Sightings, please contact:

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Key differences of the **Common Brown**:

- has a **6 cm** wing span (up to double the size of Sun Moths)
- flutters and glides through the air – whereas the Sun Moth flaps continuously and flies more rapidly
- have colour on both sets of wings and distinctive dots at each wing tip

Key differences of the **Painted Apple Moth**:

- has a **2 cm** wing span (smaller than the size of Sun Moths)
- body and wings are very hairy
- has broad, hairy, comb-like antennae

Key differences of the **Greenish Grass Dart**:

- has a **2 cm** wing span (smaller than the size of Sun Moths)
- has bright orange spots on the forewings and hind wings

Key differences of the **Grapevine Moth**:

- has a **4 to 5 cm** wing span (similar to slightly larger than the size of Sun Moths)
- has very contrasting black and white colouration – and lacks the golden orange colours on its hind wings that is characteristic of Sun Moths