

Celastrina argiolus Linnaeus, 1758

Blaveta de l'heura (ca.), Náyade (cas.), Holly blue (en.)

Distribution. North Africa, Europe, Turkey as far as central Asia, Japan, North America. Widespread throughout the Mediterranean Islands.

Description. Adult. 30 mm wingspan. Sexual dimorphism. The back of the males' wings is of a brilliant blue colour. The hindwing is white sprinkled with tiny black spots. The females are similar to the males but have a broad black border on the back of the forewings. This border becomes bigger in the end-of-season generations and gives it a darker appearance. **Caterpillar.** 12-13 mm. Thick, thinner towards the edges. Colour yellowy green, with a lenthwaysl line of white blotches on either side. On the back there are triangular pink blotches. Head is black. **Chrysalis.** 9 mm. Smooth, brownny-green colour with black dots. The thoracic area is less thick than the abdominal area. They attach themselves to their foodplants by means of a thoracic silk thread. The first generation hatch after three weeks. The second generation hibernate as a chrysalis.

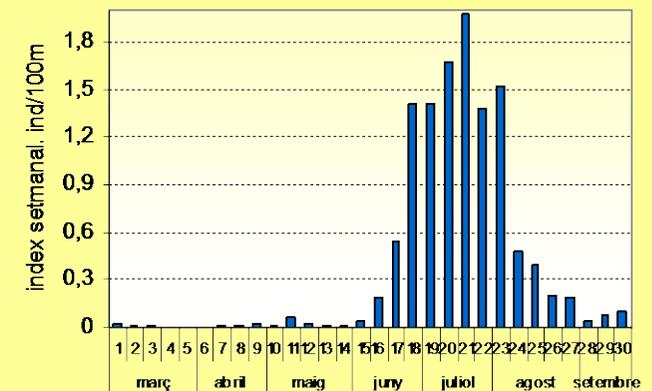
Foodplants. Principally ivy (*Hedera helix*). Also brambles (*Rubus*) and other plants of the leguminous families.

Celastrina argiolus in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). Species which is widespread in Menorca. It represents 11% of the species observed by the BMS

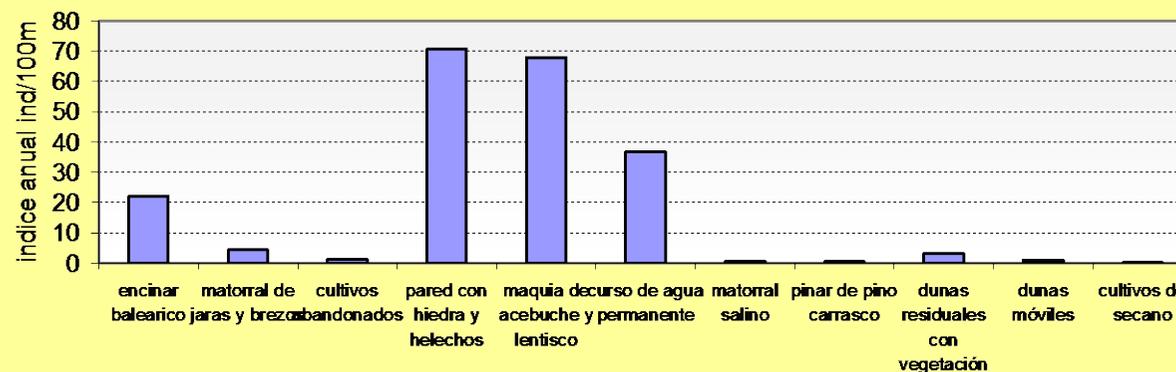
Flight time. More than one. Several generations in the Balearic Islands. Species which is widespread at the start of the summer but which can be observed throughout the year, including on sunny days in the winter. The observations carried out in Menorca indicate a peak every three years possibly caused by a cycle of parasites in the larvae.

Habitat and behaviour When temperatures are mild, it can be found in open woodland and scrubland, and when it is warmer it seeks refuge in woods and valleys. It is often observed near humid areas and running water. In the Algendar gorge it is widespread where there are walls with ivy and ferns, and near the river. It generally



settles on brambles which are a certain distance from the ground.

Similar species found in Menorca When in flight, it can be confused with the males of *P. icarus* because of the colour of the back of the wings and its size, but when observed closely it is easily distinguishable. The white colour on the reverse of the wings of *Celastrina* is easily seen, even in flight.



Celastrina argiolus

