

## *Papilio machaon* Linnaeus, 1758

Papallona rei, Macaó (ca.) Mariposa rey, Macaón (es.), Swallowtail (en.)

**Distribution.** Mediterranean coastal regions in North West Africa. All continental Europe and the majority of the Mediterranean Islands. Excluding the Atlantic Islands and the British Isles where it is only seen in a small area of South East England. It is seen in all the Balearic Islands, including Cabrera.

**Description. Adult.** Very large butterfly, with a wingspan of 60 to 75 mm. It has a black reticular design on a yellow background, with some blue and red blotches on the hindwings which have two tails. **Caterpillar.** 35-40 mm long. Intense green colour with intersecting black bands and red or orange spots. **Chrysaids.** 30 mm. Hanging, pale green in colour

**Caterpillar foodplants.** The caterpillar feeds mainly off rue (*Ruta* spp.) or fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*).

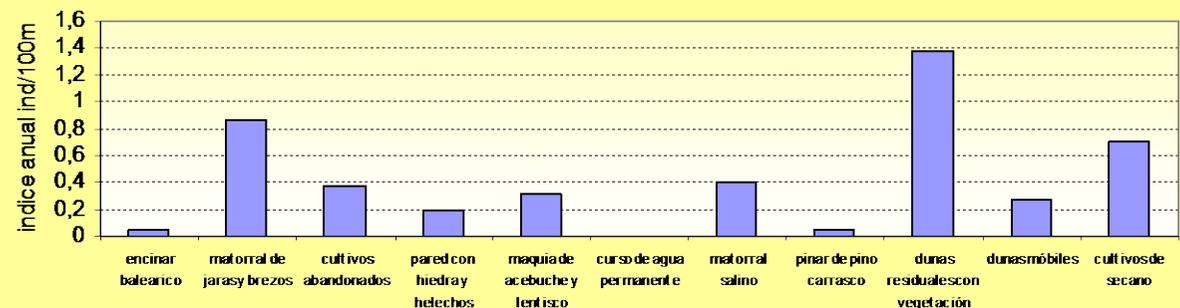
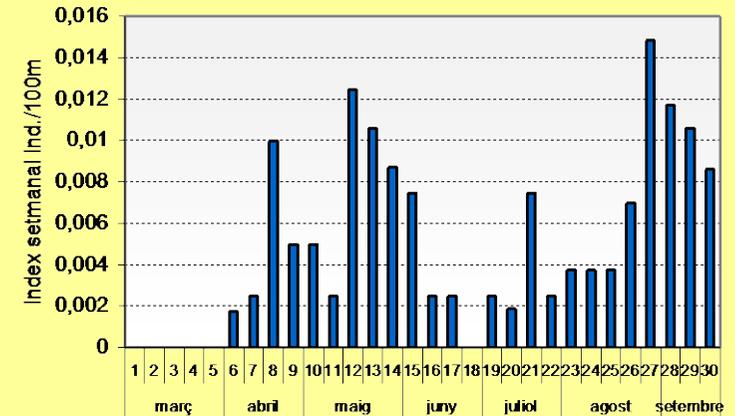
### *Papilio machaon* in Menorca

**Representation in the BMS** (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) It is a common species on the island and has been found in abundance for many years. However its representation in the BMS is less than 0.2%.5

**Flight time.** It is found from the beginning of April until well into the autumn, in various generations. It reaches its peak in April-May and around September-October. It hibernates as a chrysalis. The resident population on the island is definitely complemented with migratory examples which come from the North of Africa and Europe.

**Habitat y behaviour.** Open spaces, it has great mobility. Typically found in areas of sparse vegetation and where there is rue : countryside, gardens, verges of lanes and roads. The males carry out hilltopping (they concentrate on hills and wait for the females). Within the BMS they are most abundant on dunes with herbaceous vegetation and low scrub. It sips nectar from a variety of species such as *Scabiosa cretica* and, *S. atropurpurea*, *Limonium* sp. and *Carlina corymbosa*.

**Similar species present in Menorca.** *Iphiclides podalirius* is a similar species but it is whiter with colourful black stripes which completely cross the wing, the tails are longer and have a white tip. This species has been introduced on Majorca by man.





*Papilio machaon*

