

Pieris brassicae Linnaeus, 1758

Blanqueta de la col (cat.), Mariposa de la col, Blanca de la col (cast.), Large white (eng.)

Distribution. Widespread and common. Northern Africa, Europe and Asia, present on nearly all the Mediterranean Islands. Well established and very abundant in the Balearic Islands

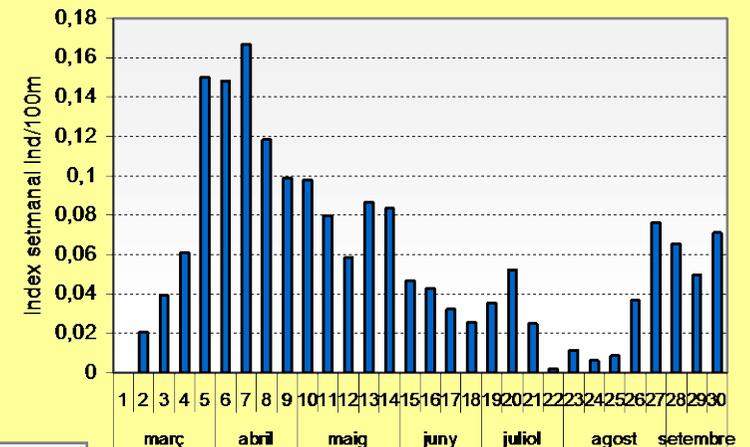
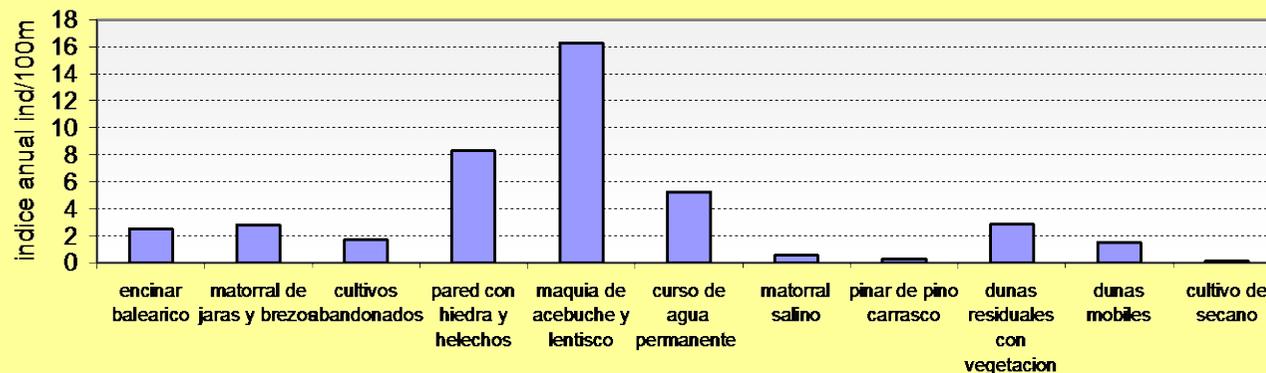
Description. Adult. 55-60 mm wingspan. White with a black apical edge on the upper faces which extends to the outer edge of the extreme upper part of the wing. The females, apart from their black edge, are a creamier colour, and have some black blotches on their wings which allow them to be distinguished from the males.. **Caterpillar.** 45-50 mm long. Greenish yellow with lines of dark spots on the edges. They are gregarious and stay in groups of 20 to 30. **Chrysalis.** 26 mm. Angular aspect and yellowish-white or grey. They hang by means of a thoracic silk girdle. The adult takes 10 to 15 days to emerge.

Foodplants. Cruciferous which can turn into a plague, both on cultivated and wild plants.

Pieris brassicae in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) . It is a species which is very common on the island. Its representation in the BMS is around 1.7% of the species counted within the network. It is one of the first to appear and the most abundant during the first weeks of the season, together with *Pararge aegeria* and *G. Cleopatra*.

Flight time. More than one brood from February-March until November. Especially abundant in March-April. Very scarce in the peak of the summer season. Migratory species. It hibernates as a chrysalis.



Habitat and behaviour. Open spaces with predominantly herbaceous vegetation and in fields and allotment but it can be present in all types of environments.

Similar species present in Menorca. *P. rapae* but *P. brassicae* is much larger and has a more defined black blotch on edge of the wings. This blotch extends to the bottom edge of the wing.

Pieris brassicae



Chrysalis