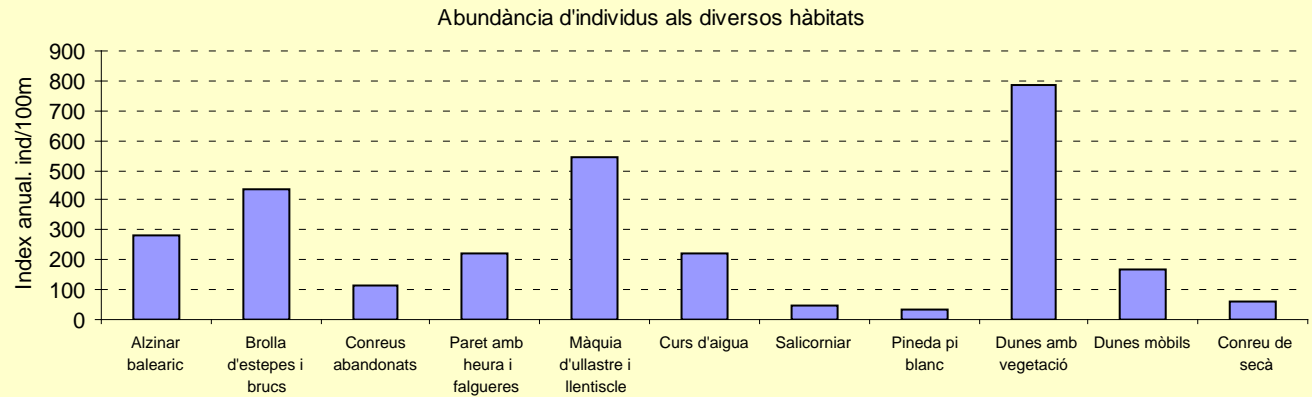


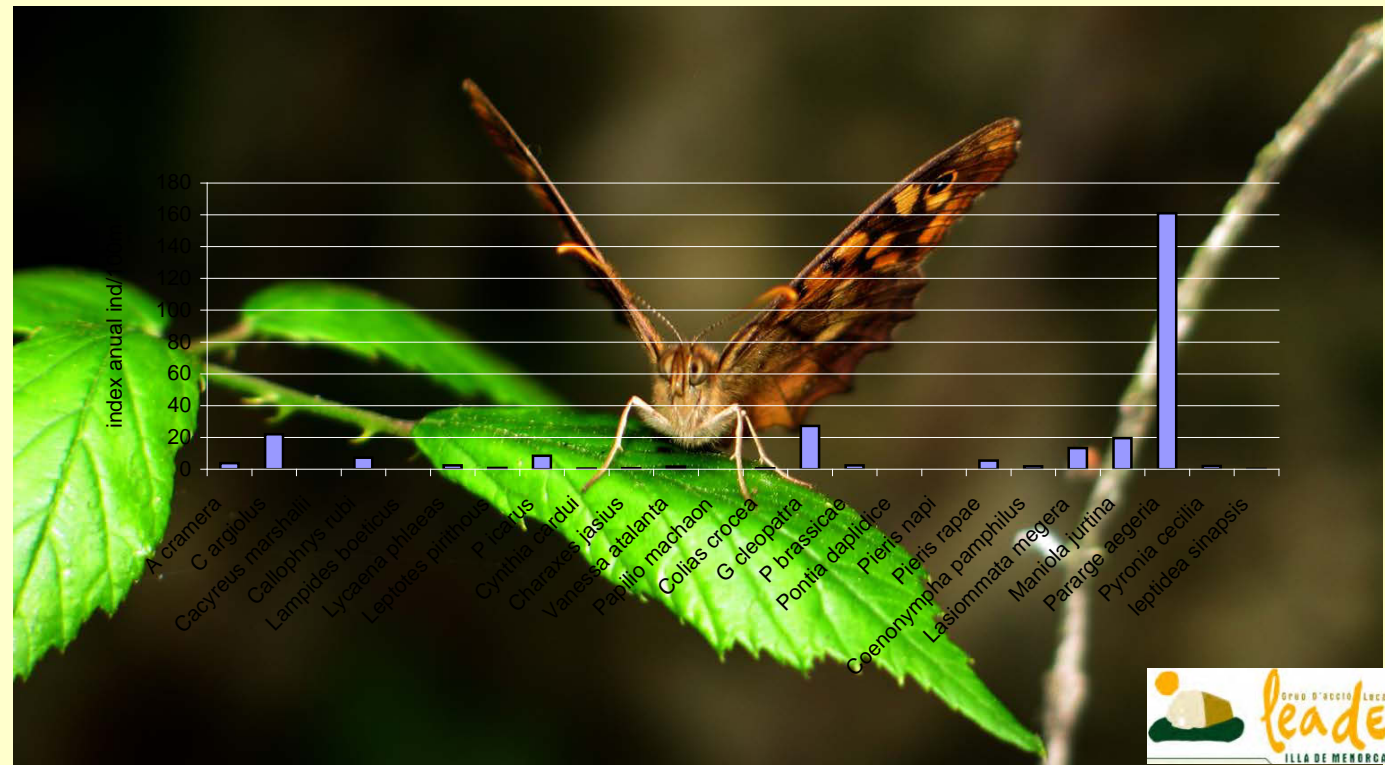
## Habitat and the numbers of species and individuals in a given area

The diverse butterfly species are distributed in different types of environments according to their preferences for temperature, humidity, solar radiation, sources of nectar, food plants, etc. In Menorca, the area with the richest abundance of butterflies in zones studied by the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) is in an open environment with herbaceous vegetation very near to the Lake at S'Albufera d'es Grau. That is to say, open spaces with a mixture of herbaceous and wooded vegetation and near to water are the environments where we will probably find large numbers of butterflies. With regard to specific numbers, there is not much difference between one habitat and another in Menorca and most are found in bushes of rockrose and heather. The following graphs show us the distribution of butterflies in Menorca according to the large areas represented.



### Closed woodland

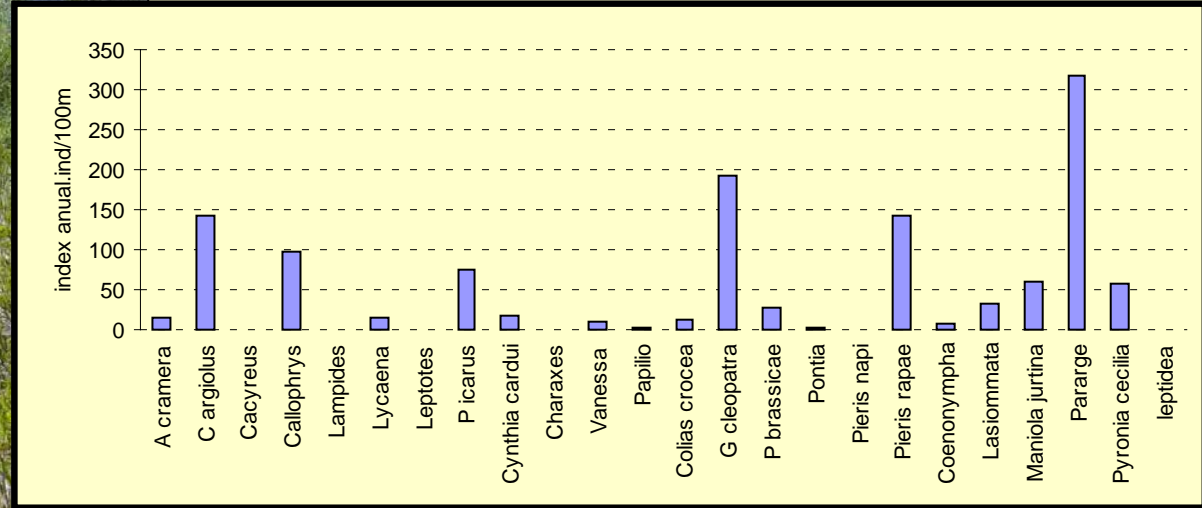
We can observe that closed woodland has small diversity and the woodland species par excellence is *Pararge aegeria*, the most abundant species in Menorca. Another species which is almost exclusively found in closed woodland is *Leptidea sinapis*, which, up until now, has only appeared in this habitat on the BMS routes.





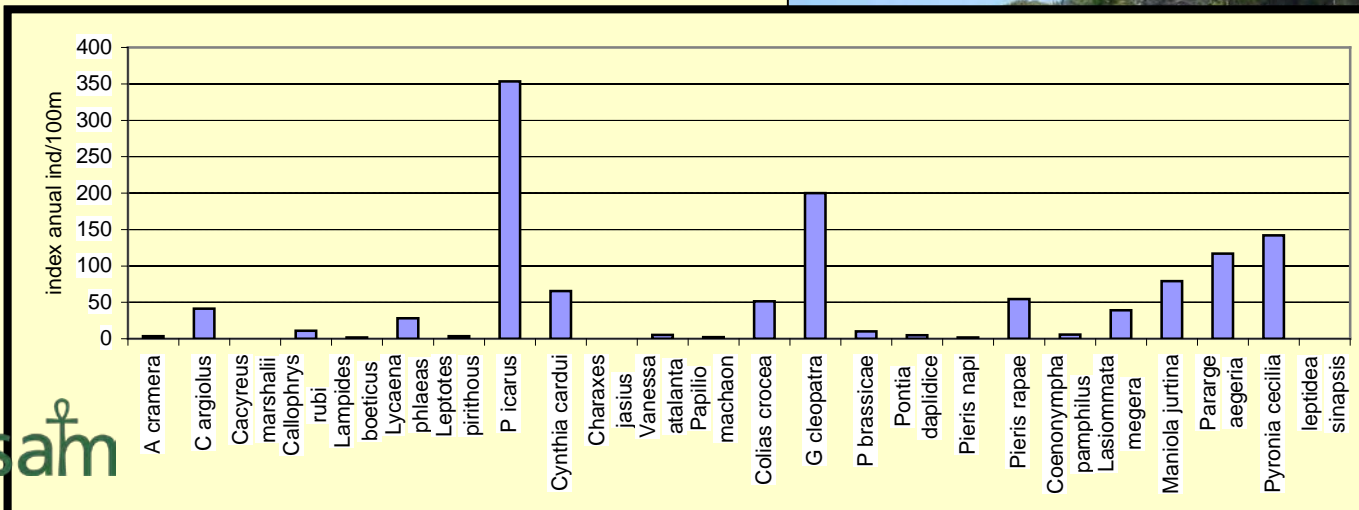
**Open woodland and low hills**

The open woodland and low hills are the environments where we can find the most variety of species and abundance of individuals in Menorca. *Pararge aegeria* continues to be the most abundant but other typical species of these environments such as *Celastrina argiolus*, *Lasiommata megera*, *Pieris rapae* and *Callophrys rubi* are becoming more significant.



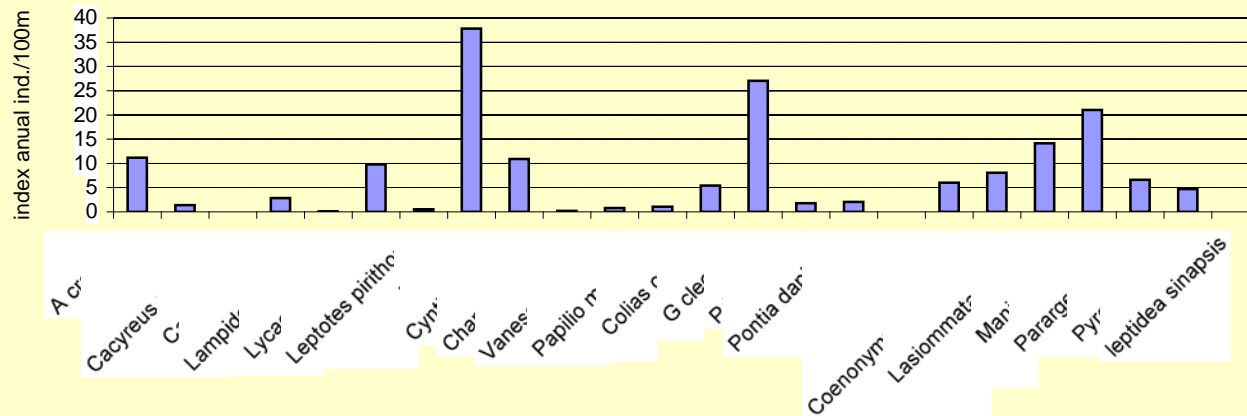
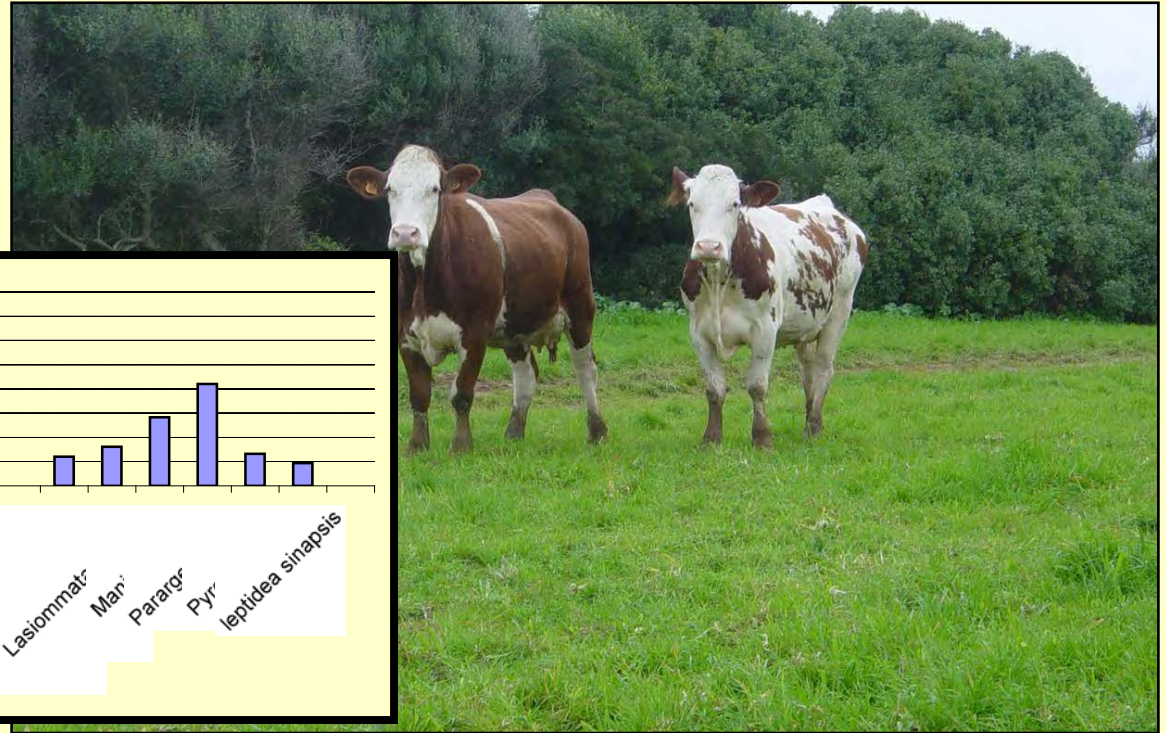
The open spaces with predominately herbaceous vegetation are also habitats where there are many butterflies, and a species which we can find in large numbers during the month of June in these surroundings is *Polyommatus icarus*.

**Open spaces with predominately herbaceous**



## Agricultural and rudaceous

In agricultural and rudaceous areas the *P. icarus*, is still very significant, and other representative species are *Lycaena phlaeas*, *Colias crocea* and *Pyronia cecilia* amongst others. There are species such *G. Cleopatra*, one of the most widespread in Menorca, which have a great mobility and are present in many open environments.



*Cynthia cardui*

There are periods of the year, during migrations, when one can see a very high number of examples flying a few metres above sea level towards the Menorcan coastline. One example is *Cynthia cardui* which begins its migration in Africa. Two passages of migration can be observed, the first in Spring on the South coast, made up of examples coming from more Southern regions, and the second passage occurs in autumn with examples coming from the north and returning to warmer regions in the south. The migrations are usually assisted by the wind, and it is therefore easy to find a large number of migratory spring individuals after the African winds come.

**Behaviour known as Hilltopping:** The males establish their territory which is defended by other males while they await the arrival of a female which is suitable for mating. They prefer these places to be hills, from which the name hilltopping comes. When a male intruder is detected, a spectacular interplay is seen which consists of acrobatic flights in form of a corkscrew reaching great heights and are followed by rapid pursuit. When the female comes into the territory, the resident male follows her straight away and the couple make a characteristic undulating flight towards a tree or a bush where they can mate.