

Danaus chrysippus Linnaeus, 1758.

Papallona tigre (ca.), Mariposa tigre (es.), Plain Tiger (en.)

Distribution. Canary Islands, Africa, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, tropical Asia and Australia. It reaches Mediterranean coastal regions during migration although there can be temporary breeding populations in other regions.

Description. Adult. 75-90 mm wingspan. The forewing is orangey-red in colour. Black apical edges with white blotches, and the hindwings have a black border. The back of the hindwings is yellowish with black veins. **Caterpillar.** 33 mm in length. Body with white and black rings and white blotches on the black rings. They have fleshy filaments on the body. **Chrysalis** 25 mm. Green, short and thick. One can see a crown in the shape of a black ring between the thorax and the abdomen. There are some gold spots on the thorax.

Foodplants. In the Balearic Island larvae have been found on cotton like plants. (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*).

Danaus chrysippus in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). Until now they have not been observed on the BMS routes. They occasionally appear in Menorca during migration.

Flight time. More than one. They originate in Africa and in recent years they have made regular migrations to the Canary Islands. The first migrations are usually observed in the delta of the Ebro river at the end of June, they reproduce and their descendants are seen in abundance the end of summer until well into October. They would therefore possibly reach Menorca around these dates.

Habit and behaviour. In Catalonia they reach the delta of the river Ebro, they settle on salt marshland and from there return to the courses of the main rivers.

Similar species present in Menorca. None.

Danaus chrysippus

