

Aricia cramera Eschscholtz, 1821. Sin. *Aricia agestis* subsp. *cramera*

Morena Serrana (cast.), Rogeta d'esteperol (cat.), Brown argus (eng.)

Distribution. Morroco, Algeria, Tunisia, Canary Islands and the Iberian Peninsula. Sightings in Majorca and Menorca in the Balearic Islands.

Description. Adult. Medium sized butterfly with 14 mm wingspan, dark brown in colour with orangey blotches on edges of the wings. These markings are bigger and more visible on the females than on the males and are larger. **Caterpillar.** 14 mm long. Green with white and pink borders. Retractable head. **Chrysalis.** 10 mm. Light ochre in colour with greenish parts. They attach themselves to dead leaves by means of a small strand of thoracic silk.

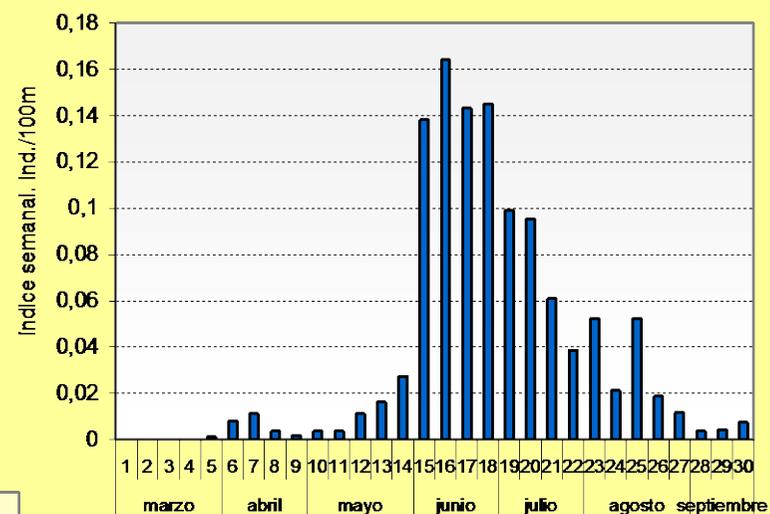
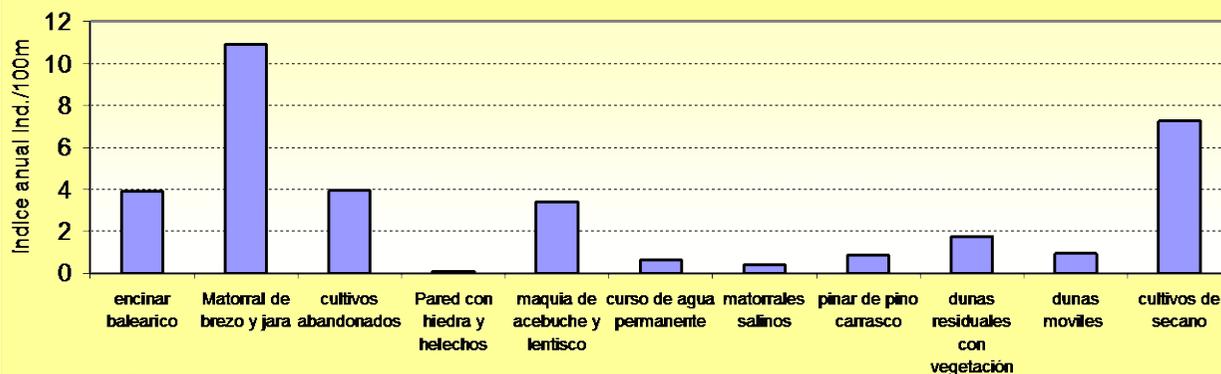
Foodplants. The second generation larvae live with ants on sobre cistáceas (rockrose); geraniáceas (geraniums); y composite species of *Centaurea*.

Aricia cramera in Menorca

Representation within the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). It only represents 1% of the species observed by the BMS, but it is not rare. The BMS found the first example of this species in 2003. It is easily confused with other species.

Flight time. More than one. Several generations overlap from the month of March until the month of October but is at its most abundant in June. It hibernates as larva.

Habitat and behaviour. Open spaces predominantly with grass vegetation and at the side of tracks. It has been mostly found by the BMSL on bushes of rockrose and on heather. It flies low and over short distances. It shows a preference for cardoons type *Eryngium*, as well as *E. campestre* and *E. maritimum*. Also for *Limonium*.



Similar species seen in Menorca. It can be confused with the females of *P. icarus*, but these have two black blotches on the bottom of the back of the forewings whilst the *A. cramera* only has one.

Aricia cramera

