

Lampides boeticus Linnaeus, 1767

Blaveta de la ginesta (cat.); Canela estriada (cast.); Long tailed blue (eng.)

Distribution. North West Africa, the Canary Islands, Mediterranean Islands and Europe as far as latitude 54 degrees North (Northern Germany.)

Description. Adult. 30-35 mm wingspan. Sexual dimorphism. The males are bluish violet in colour. There is a fine dark brown border on the edges of the wings. The females' forewings have dark edges while the edges of the hindwings are more or less stained in blue as far as the base. There is a black dot in the anal angle and a small feathery appendage present in both sexes. The back of the wings is pale brown with a series of white wavy lines, one of which is wider in the postdiscal area., and two black spots surrounded by metallic green and orange on the base of the tails. **Caterpillar.** 15 mm long. Pale green or yellowish in colour with a dark stripe on the back and many dark or white spots. **Chrysalis.** 12 mm. Light brown with dark blotches. They pupate wrapped inside a leaf or in the pods of the foodplants.

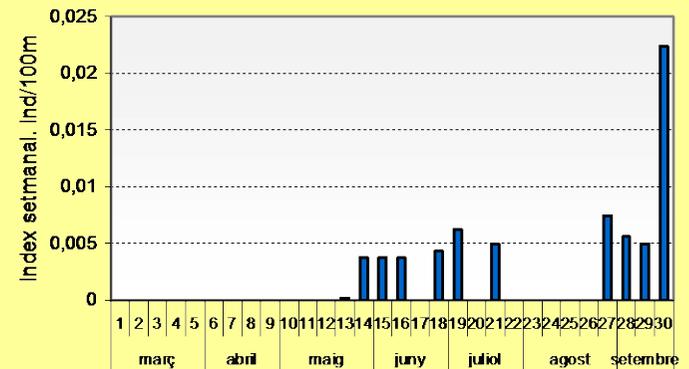
Caterpillar foodplants. They are very polyphagous but because of the larva's antophagous diet (they feed off flowers), the females only lay eggs on plants which are starting to flower. Alfalfa, (*Medicago sativa*), the wind pea (*Pisum sativum*), Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*) and other legumes are some examples. They can cause problems with the cultivation of legumes as the larvae can live or even pupate inside the buds of the foodplants.

Lampides boeticus in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). A species with little representation, for the moment, in the BMS.

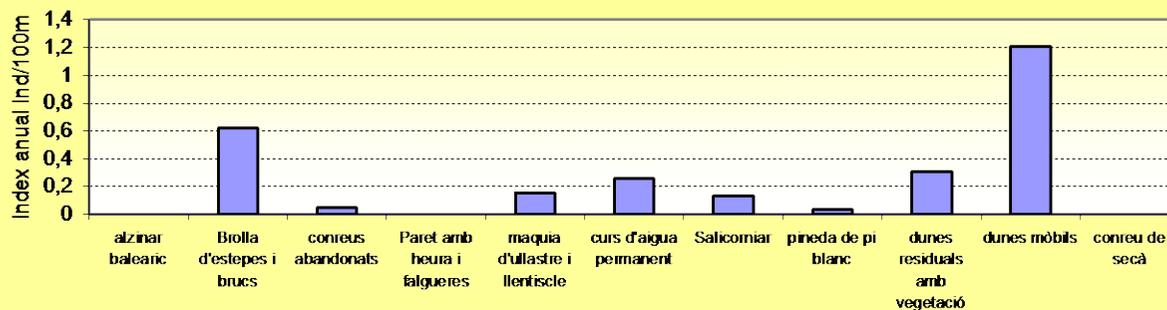
Flight time. Migratory subtropical species, more than one brood. It does not enter into diapause. It arrives annually from Africa or from the south of the Iberian Peninsula, but it can usually survive the winter on the island. The first examples are usually detected in June-July after which there are various generations which mean that the population density is greater at the end of the summer and in the autumn.

Habitat and behaviour. Open spaces predominantly with herbaceous vegetation. Meadows and areas of sparse vegetation. The maximum figures for the BMS have been on moving dunes. It flies quickly and in an



irregular manner and the males have a tendency to practice hilltopping.

Similar species present in Menorca. It can be confused with *Leptotes pirithous*, which is slightly smaller and does not have the postdiscal white side on the back of the hindwings. The back of the wings in both species is brown with a blue diffusion but the *L.pirithous* also has brown darker blotches which the *L.boeticus* does not have.



Lampides boeticus

