

Lycaena phlaeas Linnaeus, 1761.

Rogeta (ca.) Manto bicolor (es.), Small cooper (en.)

Distribution. Widespread and common. Canary Islands, Northern and Central Africa, Europe, North America, temperate areas of Asia and Japan.

Description. Adult. 26 mm wingspan.. The forewings are orange with black spots and the edges are almost black. The hind wings are greyish-brown with an orange strip on the edge. It has an anal angle with a small appendage. The back of the forewings is pale grey. **Caterpillar.** 13-16 mm long. Short and robust. Green in colour with abundant white spots. They hibernate and move very little. They live on the back of the leaves. **Chrysalis.** 10 mm. White in colour with black blotches. It has an enlarged thorax. It is found on dead leaves and can be observed from April until September.

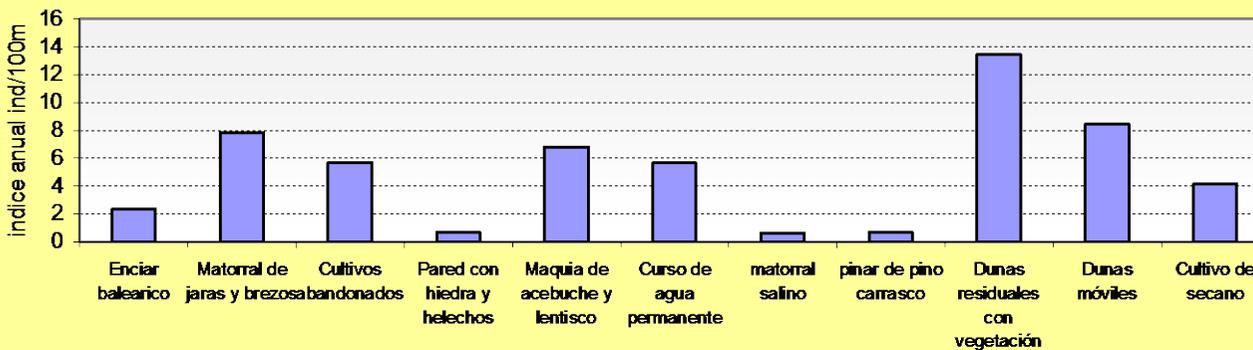
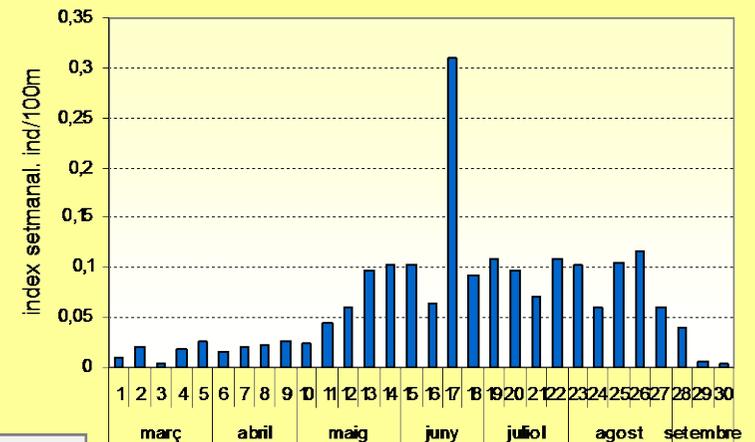
Foodplants. Polygonaceous.

Lycaena phlaeas in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) Common species. In the BMS it represents 2.8% of species but mostly in groups of ten.

Flight time. It can be seen in flight from March until October with various generations overlapping. It reaches its peak in the last two weeks of June.

Habitat and behaviour. Open spaces predominantly with herbaceous vegetation. It is found in small meadows and open sunny areas such as abandoned fields, grass verges or large expanses of sand. It is a species with a strong anthropic tendency, that is, it is linked to human activity, but its



dispersive and colonising talents means that it appears in all types of environments. The butterflies can often be seen sipping nectar from arnica (*Pulicaria odora*) or other composites. It very much likes cardoons (*veryngium*, *Carlina*), and olive bushes (*Dittrichia viscosa*)

Similar species present in Menorca. None

Lycaena phlaeas

