

## *Charaxes jasius* Linnaeus, 1767

Papallona de l'arboç (ca.) Bajá, cuatro colas (es.), Two-tailed Pasha (en.)

**Distribution** Tropical Africa, it is found in on the coastal areas around the Mediterranean,

**Description. Adult.** Very large butterfly (75-80 wingspan) and a powerful flier. The obverse is brownish in colour with vivid orange edges which gradually turn back to yellow nearer to the anal angle of the hindwings where there are also two tails. On the back the colour is a combination of orange and white with greyish brown and reddish tones and some small blue blotches. Caterpillar. 43-45 mm long. Head with four red appendages slanting backwards. Green body with two lateral yellow lines, numerous black spots which give the skin a wrinkled appearance and two yellow dorsal eyespots with a blue centre. They live on the obverse of strawberry leaves on a small silk cushion which they knit around the central vein. They settle on this leaf throughout their development and only move infrequently to eat from the surrounding leaves and then return to the same leaf. The caterpillar usually leaves the strawberry leaves and pupates hidden amongst the vegetation hanging downwards, **Chrysalis.** 25 mm. The chrysalis is short, fat and green in colour. They are found hanging downwards.

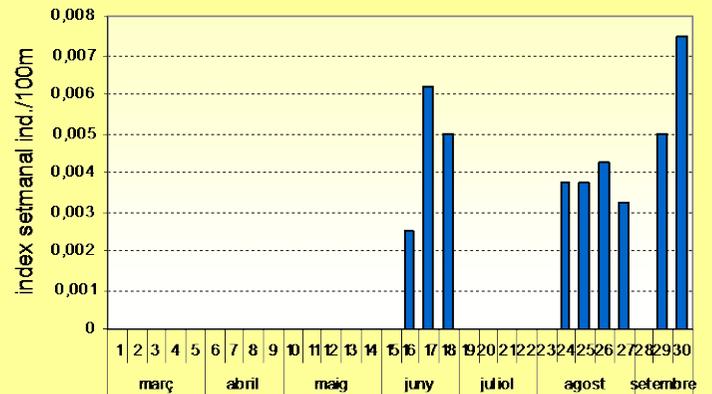
**Caterpillar foodplanats.** They feed exclusively off strawberry leaves. (*Arbutus unedo*).

### *Charaxes jasius* in Menorca

**Representation in the BMS (Butterflying Monitoring Scheme)** It is rarely found and was only seen occasionally until the research station of Santa Catalina, where there are wooded surroundings, joined the network. It can be considered as an uncommon species.

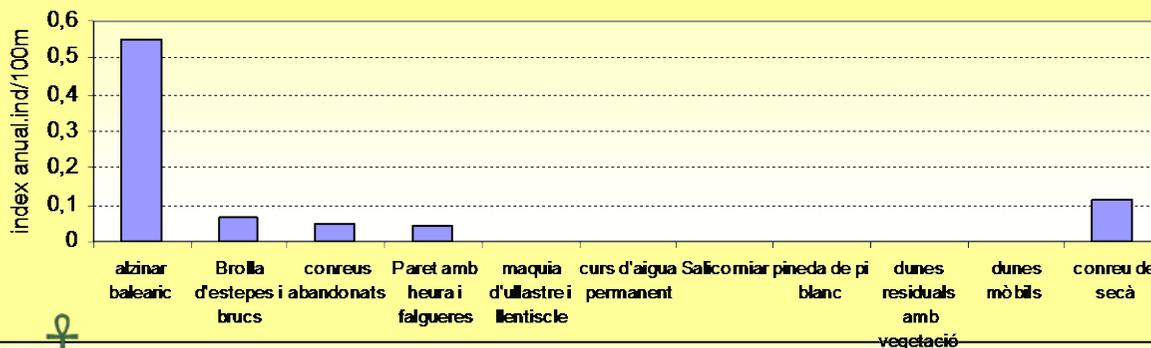
**Flight time.** More than one brood. The first generation which, is scarcer, is seen in flight from May to July, and the second generation, much more abundant, from August to October. The population peaks are separated by some two weeks which is the time needed for them to complete their cycle. It hibernates as a larva.

**Habitat and behaviour.** Closed woodland. Groves of holm oaks and thickets of rockrose and strawberry



plants. The males are very territorial and perform *hilltopping* in the middle of the day which means that they can be seen away from the reproductive populations. The adults eat ripe fruit from trees, and mammal droppings. The second generations are very fond of figs.

**Similar species present in Menorca** None.



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