

Lasiommata megera Linnaeus, 1767

Papallona del margall (ca.) ; Saltacercas (es.); Wall brown (en.)

Distribution. Widespread and common. North Africa, Europe, Turkey and the majority of the Mediterranean Islands.

Description. Adult. 35-45 mm wingspan. The top of the forewings is predominantly orange in colour with brown segments. The males have an androconial (male scent) blotch which is also brown and makes it seem darker in colour. The hindwings have a similar design to *P.aegeria*, and are brown with an orange postdiscal fringe where the eyespots are situated. The reverse of the hindwings is of a greyish tone, darker in the males, and has a line of postdiscal eyespots. The forewings are orangey in colour with intersecting brown lines and with a large subapical eyespot. We can also find a Parameggaera type which means that the lines in the hindwings are much narrower or vestigial. **Caterpillar.** 28mm. Pale green in colour with two or three white lateral lines with fine white hairs. They hibernate in this state at the foot of their foodplants *Chrysalis*. 17 mm. They can be found in April, May, July and August. They attach themselves and hang down by a thread. They can be pale green or black in colour.

Foodplants for the caterpillars. The larvae feed on various types of grass, principally spikelet. (*Poa annua*) and others of the type *Bromus*, *Festuca*, *Hordeum*, *Aira*, *Agrostis*,...

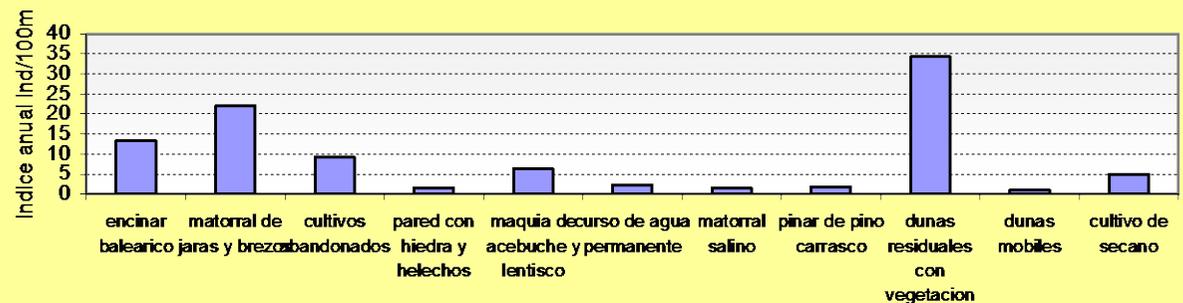
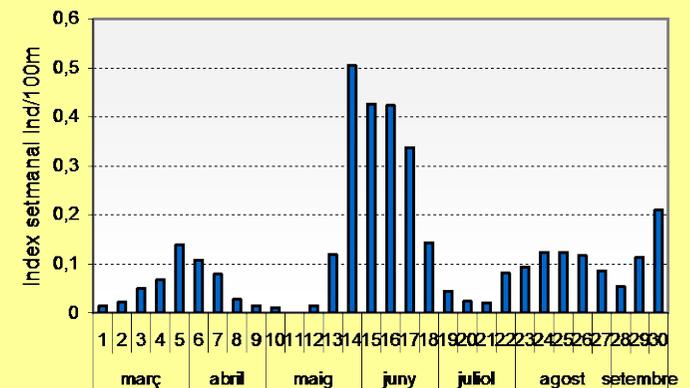
Lasiommata megera in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). Butterfly common to Menorca. It represents 3.4% of the species observed by the BMS.

Flight time. Species with three or four broods. It appears in February-March and it keeps flying until well into the autumn. It hibernates as a larva.

Habitat and behaviour. Environments where there is open woodland and low hills. Open ground, waste land, and barren rocky areas. Associated with stony areas of little vegetation. It usually sleeps in areas protected by overhanging rocks. It shows signs of *hilltopping* (they concentrate on hills and wait for females to appear)

Similar species found in Menorca. It can be confused with *Pararge aegeria* but in *P.aegeria* the brown edges are more reticular on the hindwings. Also the habitat of the *P.aegeria* is mainly in woody areas whereas the *Lasiommata* is generally found in more open areas.



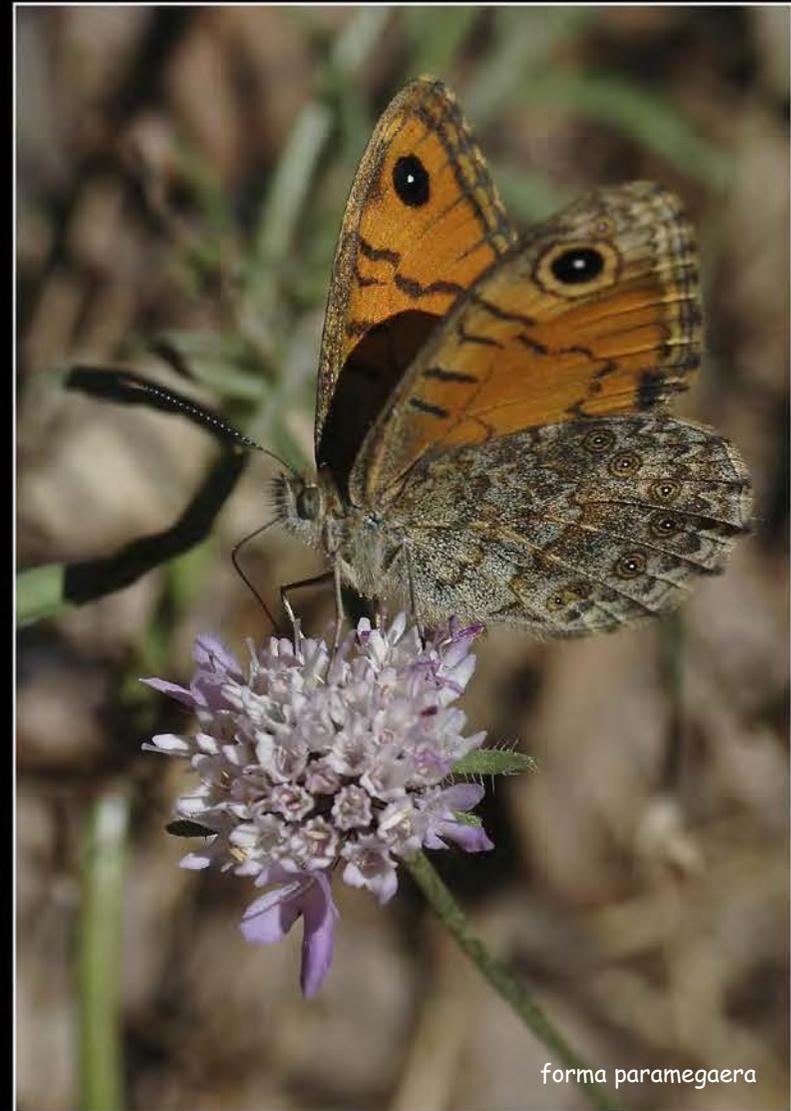
Lasiommata megera



Femella forma
paramegaera



Masclle forma
nominal o *megera*



forma *paramegaera*