

## *Pararge aegeria* Linnaeus, 1758

Papallona del gram (ca.); Maculada, Mariposa de los muros (es.); Speckled Wood (en.)

**Distribution.** Northern Africa, Europe, Turkey and temperate parts of Asia.

**Description. Adult.** 35-45 mm. Upper face of the wings is brown with orange cells all over the forewing forming a postdiscal border on the hind wings. These orange coloured parts contain the eyespots, one of which is subapical on each of the forewings and three postdiscal on the hind wings. On the reverse of the forewings the design of the upperface is the same although the contrast in colours is not so defined, and the hind wings, which are not so evident, are of watery colours which darken and lighten. On the postdiscal part of the wing there is a not very clear line of eyespots. **Caterpillar.** 28 mm. Green in colour with whitish fine hairs and long lines in dark green, yellow and black. Drum-shaped with spherical head and two tips on the edge of the abdomen. They hibernate in this state. **Chrysalis.** 17mm. They are green in colour and hang from a silk sac.

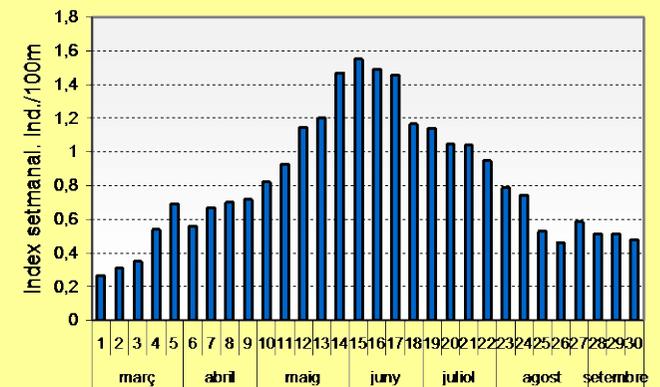
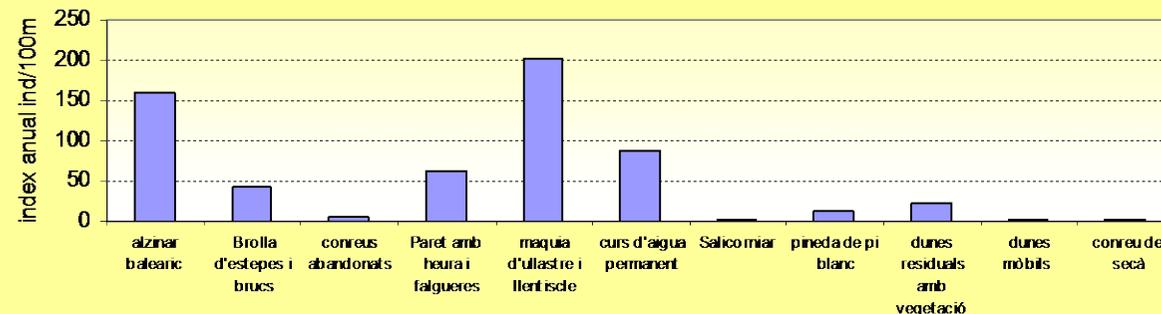
**Caterpillar foodplants.** Various types of grass (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Cynodon dactylon*,...)

### *Pararge aegeria* in Menorca

**Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme).** It is the most abundant species in Menorca with a representation in the BMS of 23% of the species observed.

**Flight time.** Species with more than one brood. With successive generations which intermingle. It flies throughout nearly all times of the year. It hibernates mainly as a larva and a pupa but it can also be seen flying on sunny winter days, and it can be observed copulating in the month of January. It is very abundant from March to October, with a decrease in August and a recovery in September. It is at its maximum peak at the end of May-beginning of June.

**Habitat and behaviour.** Closed woodland. Typical woodland species. It is always found on the verges of tracks which cross woods and brambles. It is a gloomy species and is very territorial



**Similar species present in Menorca.** It can be confused with *Lasiommata megera* but this is found in open spaces and *Pararge* is found in darker areas. With regard to morphologic differences, the lower face of the hind wing of *P. aegeria* is brown in colour with yellowish-red bordering while the *L. megera* is greyish with dark winding cross lines and a series of small postdiscal eyespots formed by a central black spot and a white pupil around a single ring. On the upper face of the hind wing *P. Megeria* has an orange blotch while the *L. megera* has an orange postdiscal edge.

*Pararge aegeria*



Photographs by: Margi Eiguren