

Pyronia cecilia Vallantín, 1894

Grogueta (ca.) , Lobito jaspeado (es.), Southern Gatekeeper (en.)

Distribution. Morocco, Algeria, the Iberian Peninsula with the exception of the Cantabrian mountain range, the Balearic Islands, part of the French Pyrenees and the Maritime Alps, Italy, the South East Balkans, Western Greece and North Western Turkey.

Description. Adult. The upper face of the wings is orange in colour and the wings have black edges. One eyespot with a double white pupil on each forewing, the hindwings have no eyespots. The hindwings have clear tones on the back which are combined with clear grey and brown colours and are distinguished by a wide whitish discal border. Strong sexual dimorphism. The males have scent scales which are dark brown and separated by orange veins on the forewings, and in much way smaller than on the females. **Caterpillar.** Pale yellow with fine black spots and a clear brown band on side near to the head and darker towards the fork in the feathers. **Chrysalis.** Bright clear brown.

Caterpillar foodplants. Varios types of grasses especially *Brachipodium retusum*.

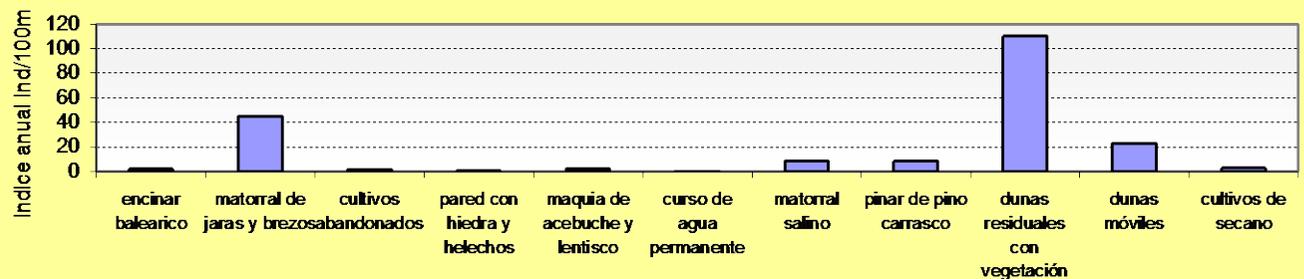
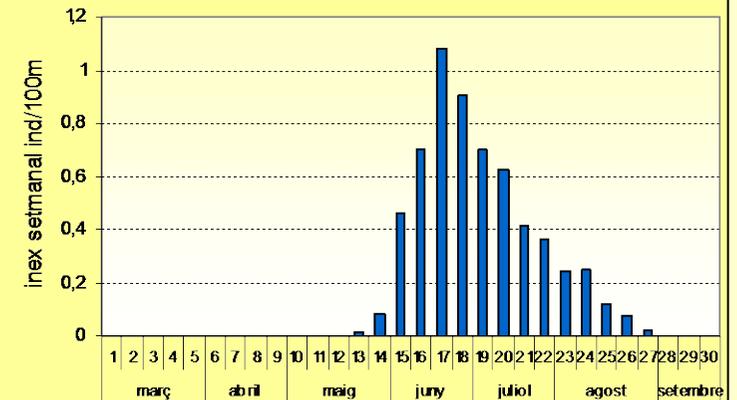
Pyronia cecilia in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) Species common to Menorca. In the BMS it represents 5.6% of the species observed.

Flight time. One brood per season from the end of May until the end of August. The males appear first and then the females. It hibernates as a larva.

Habitat and behaviour. Open woodland and low hills. Warm dry areas with sparse vegetation. The habitat in which it has been most observed by the BMS is in dunes with vegetation, and secondly, but a lot less, it is found in thickets of rockrose and heather. It flies low and is very shy: it quickly hides in the shadows or under a bush. The adults feed off *Limonium*, *Scabiosa*, *Pulicaria* y *Carlina*, which flower in the summer.

Similar species found in Menorca. It can be confused with *Maniola jurtina* if the observer is inexperienced but there are important differences between both species. An obvious difference is that *M. jurtina* only has two white dots one white dot in the eyespot on the wing apex whereas the *P.cecilia* has inside this eyespot. *M. jurtina* is bigger.



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