

Colias crocea Geoffroy, 1785

Papallona de l'alfals (ca.), Amarilla (es.), Clouded yellow (en.)

Distribution. North of Africa, the Canary Islands, the Azores, Madeira and Europe including the Mediterranean Islands,

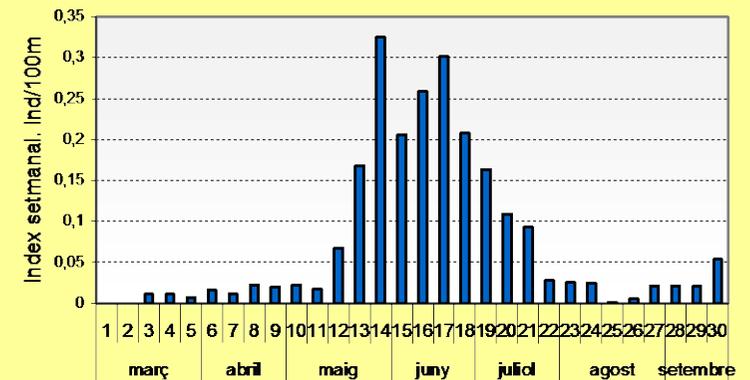
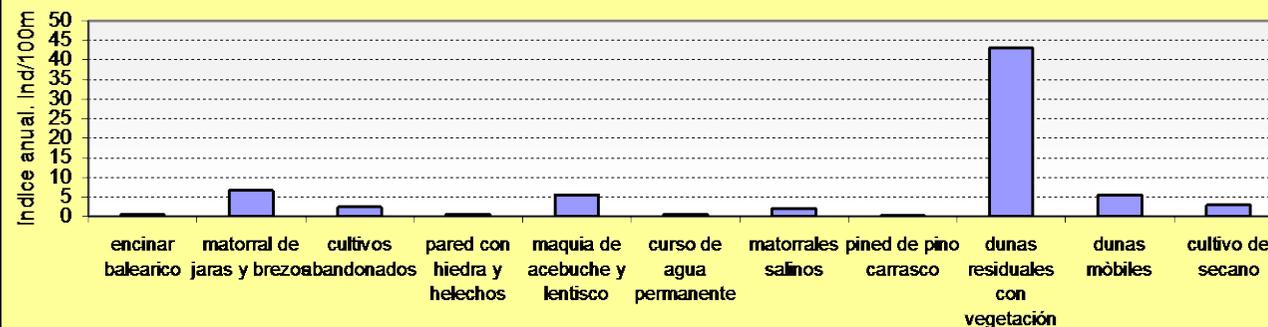
Description. Adult. 50-55 mm wingspan. It is of a very acute orangey yellow colour with a wide black marginal border on the forewings and on the hindwings. Sexual dimorphism. The females have orange blotches inside the black border of their wings, while this feature is absent in the male. White females, instead of yellow (pale) can be found and these make up approximately 10% of the females. **Caterpillar.** 30 mm long. Green and wrinkled with a white or yellowish lateral line and small black dots. **Chrysalis.** 23 mm. Pointed head, swollen stomach and a whitish lateral fringe on a pale greenish fine haired background.

Caterpillar foodplants. They settle on leguminous plants. They prefer clovers (*Medicago sativa*, *Trifolium pratense* and *Lotus corniculatus*). Larvae have been observed on *Silene vulgaris*. They also feed off other fodder crops.

Colias crocea in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). It is a species which is moderately abundant in Menorca. It represents 3.1% of species counted by the BMS.

Flight time. Various generations which continue from the end of the winter until well into the autumn. During the winter, there is a decrease in the larvae's development but they do not move into suspension (diapause) so when the weather is mild they can be seen in January and February. There are permanent populations which are boosted by African migratories in spring, and by European ones in September and October. However, they have a clear migratory tendency which is detected in the middle of May and June, and then towards October and November. The population peaks at the end of May and June, and in July they start to decrease and are scarce in August, having a recovery period in September, October and November.



Habitat and behaviour. The largest environments where they are found are open spaces with predominately herbaceous vegetation. It is a species which is typically found in meadows and rudaceous areas. Within the routes of the BMS, the habitat where the highest number of individuals have been found is on dunes with vegetation.

Similar species present in Menorca. None.

Colias crocea



Femella



Masclle



Femella