

Pieris napi Linnaeus, 1758. Sin. *Artogeia napi*

Blanqueta del rave (cat.), Blanca verdinerviada (cast.), Green-veined white (eng.)

Distribution. Widely distributed. North Western Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America. It is not seen on the Atlantic Islands neither on Sardinia.

Description. Adult. 35-45 mm wingspan depending on the type. The obverse of the forewings is white with a black blotch on the apex and at the beginning of the nervation. The back of the hindwings is coloured with greenish black protruding veins, which is a characteristic feature of this species. There are differences between the first and second generations. The second generation males have a black spot on the hindwings, and the females have two black spots although these spots are not seen in the first generation. **Caterpillar.** 26-28 mm long, Dull green in colour with many little black and white spots and short whitish fine hairs. Its dorsal line is not marked and this differentiates it from the caterpillars of *Pieris rapae*. They are very passive and do not move far away from their foodplants. They can be seen on leaves basking in the sun on suitable days. **Chrysalis** 20-22 mm. They are angular in form and green or ochre in colour. The beards are brown. They attach themselves by a silk girdle which the caterpillar has spun beforehand but they do not have a favourite place to pupate : these can be tree trunks, branches, leaves, stones, walls, etc. They hibernate.

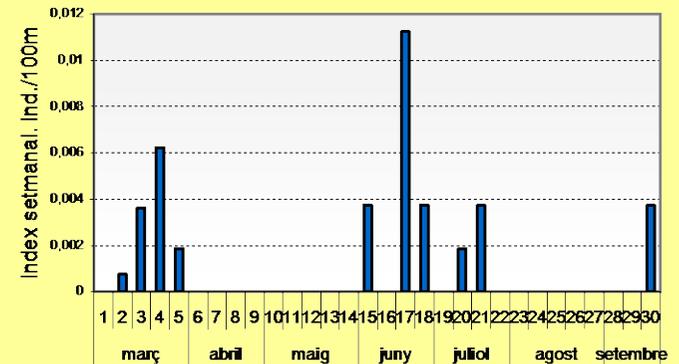
Foodplants. The feed off various cruciferous plants such as *Cardamine* spp. However they do not usually feed off cultivated cruciferous plants such as cabbage, turnips, etc.

Pieris napi in Menorca

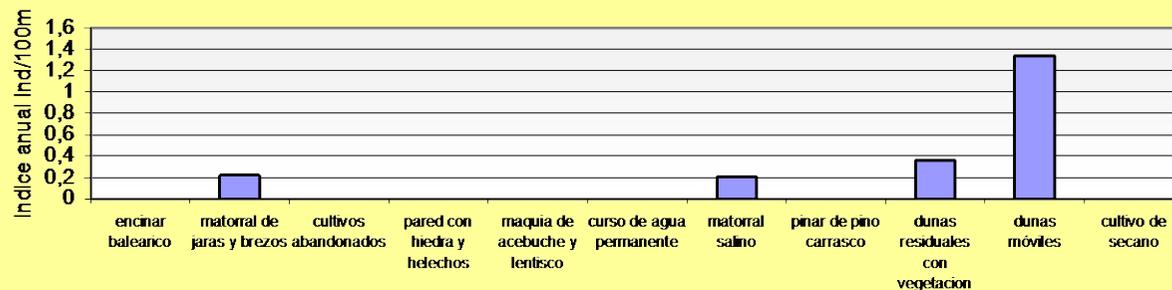
Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) It is an uncommon species on the island. On the three routes covered by the BMS, it has only been observed in Es Grau.

Flight time. More than one brood.. Successive generations until October. Although until now the data from the BMS shows three generations in Menorca, the sightings are not sufficient to be certain of this.

Habitat y behaviour. Humid regions with grass and flowers, edges of woods, meadows and wooded areas on sea shores. It has been observed most frequently on the BMS routes on the mobile dunes in Es Grau, and is therefore associated with humid regions.



Similar species present in Menorca. It can easily be confused with *Pieris rapae*. The first generations are easier to distinguish because the *Pieris napi* has veins marked with a greenish colour on the reverse of the wings. The later generations lose this feature but some traces always remain.



Pieris napi



Photograph by: Pep Monteverde



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