

Pieris rapae Linnaeus, 1758

Blanqueta de la ravenissa (ca.), Blanquita de la col (es.), Small white (en.)

Distribution. Widespread and common. Northern Africa, Europe and Asia. Well established and widespread in the Balearic Islands.

Description. Adult. 45-50 mm wingspan. The upper face of both pairs of wings is whitish with some black blotches : two on the forewings and one on each side of the hind wings. It has a black apical border on the upper faces of the wings. The lower face of the hind wings is yellowish and that of the forewings is white with only the upper edge having a yellow blotch. The sexual divergence is found in the two black spots which the females have on the upper face of their wings, but the male does not have them, or, if it does, only one. **Caterpillar.** 25-30 mm long. Greenish with fine black dotted lines, a yellowish dorsal line and ventral edges with white or yellowish separated spots. They are not gregarious and examples of some females can be found in different places on the same plants. **Chrysalis** 23-25 mm. It hangs from walls, stones or tree trunks by means of a silk thoracic girdle. Angular aspect and green or ochre in colour with projecting brown beards.

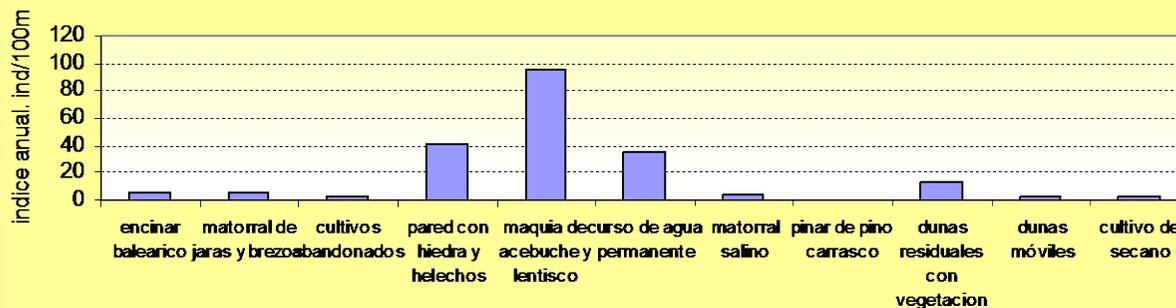
Caterpillar foodplants. Cruciferous which can turn into a plague both on cultivated and wild plants.

Pieris rapae a Menorca

Representation in BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). It is a very abundant species on the island. It is the fifth most abundant within the BMS and represents 8.7% of the species observed.

Flight time. More than one brood in a season. It is one of the first species with club shaped antennae which appear in flight in the spring and continues well into the autumn. Maximum numbers are seen at the end of June and the beginning of July. It hibernates as a chrysalis. It has strong migratory tendencies.

Habitat and behaviour. The environment in which it is found is open woodland, low hills, fields and allotments. The habitat in which it found most frequently in Menorca is in the wild olive trees and lentiscus.



Similar species present in Menorca. The examples in Menorca are larger than normal, especially at the beginning of the season when it can be confused with *Pieris brassicae*. As the season goes on, the generations are smaller and can be differentiated from *P. brassicae*, especially by the yellowish tone on the back which becomes more evident. Another different aspect is the black blotch which is more intense, more extensive and which goes down lower than the wing edge in the *P. brassicae*.

Pieris rapae

