

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Endangered and protected butterflies:

Meadow Brown; *Maniola jurtina*

General remarks:

The meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*) is a butterfly out of the subfamily satyrs (Satyrinae) and the family of brushfoots (Nymphalidae). The butterfly has been described by ([LINNAEUS](#), 1758).

Indicator:

The moths reach a wing span of 40 to 48 millimetres.

The females have dark brown wing-tops, but on the forewings they have an extensive, more or less covering orange spot covering the entire middle of the wing. They also have a genital spot near the wing tip, but this is much larger than by the males. The females can reach a high age of up to 40 days.

The males also have almost monochrome dark brown coloured wing tops. On the forewings, one can see a slightly darker scaly dandruff near the base, near the wing tip sits a narrow orange edged, white spotted, black eye patch.

The undersides are approximately the same colour in both sexes. The underside of the forewings is broad orange-coloured, only the margin is grey-brown. The eye-spot on the front can also be found in the same place, sometimes it is also double-white pointed. The underside of the hind wings is predominantly grey-brown in colour and has fine, black speckles. In the posterior part of the wing (postdiscal region), a broad, brightly coloured bandage is discernible, especially at the back, out of focus.



Male



Female

Flying Times:

The moths fly in one generation from early June to early September.

Caterpillar time:

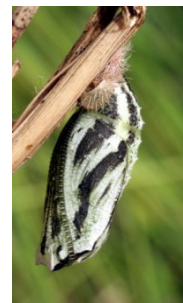
The caterpillars are about 25 millimetres long and are coloured light green. Below the stigmata, they have a fine, bright longitudinal line and have long, white hairs all along their body, which are curved at the tip.

The caterpillars can be found from September and after hibernation until May. In the hot regions, where they fly a maximum between the end of March to the end of September, only one generation occurs.

The animals can be found on the Canary Islands, across North Africa and throughout Europe (Crete), as well as high North, across Asia Minor and the north of Iran and Iraq, east up to the west of Siberia.

It can be found from the plains up to about 1,600 meters above sea level, in North Africa to 2,500 meters. They live in open, dry to slightly moist places, such as forest edges, on dry grasslands and on the edge of bogs. They are widespread and are one of the most common types of eye-butterflies, and are common even in gardens.

The females lay their cone-shaped, top-flattened and heavily ribbed eggs individually near the bottom of partly dried forage plants. The caterpillars that hatch are initially day-active. Hibernation takes place as a young caterpillar. Only after hibernation are they nocturnal after the second last or last moult. They pupate just above the ground in a yellowish-green to purple mannequin chrysalis, which has brownish stripes, on a dry stem.

**Forage plant:**

The caterpillars feed on many different sweet grasses (Poaceae), such as meadow brome (*Bromus erectus*), sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*), meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*), yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), meadow oat-grass (*Helictotrichon pubescens*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), lpine sweet vernalgrass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and chalk false brome (*Brachypodium pinnatum*).



Picture source: Wikipedia