



# Chapman's Blue

*Polyommatus thersites* (Cantener, 1835)

## DESCRIPTION

Wingspan: From 2.4 to 3 cm. **Closed wings:** Their colour is greyish or pale brown in the case of male butterflies, while females are brown. There are pointed orange spots that in the case of some butterflies have black tops. On the hindwings, there is a series of dots in the shape of an arch, which is broken as two dots are joined and separated from the rest. **Open wings:** It hardly ever rest with open wings. Both sexes are similar to other species, as male is bright blue and female brown with big orange spots on both wings' outer margins.

## KEY FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

Large pointed orange spots that in the case of some butterflies have black tops

FEMALE



No dots on discal area



MALE

Two joined dots that are separated from the rest and break the arch

Fotos: Eduardo Marabuto



## SIMILAR SPECIES

**Southern Blue:** They have a dot in the discal area. The orange spots are outlined and there is black colour on the front margins. **Mother-of-pearl Blue:** It is light brown or whitish, and it has a lot of smaller orange spots. **Escher's Blue:** It has larger dots which clearly form a question mark. There are well-marked orange spots. **Spanish Chalk-hill Blue:** Male and female butterflies have small orange spots on the outer margins and a series of small dots on the hindwings, which does not exist on some butterflies. They have checked hairs (*fimbriae*) and a dot in the discal area. **Adonis Blue:** These butterflies have checked hairs, large dots and a series of dots that clearly form a question mark, and a dot in the discal area.



Southern Blue



Mother-of-pearl Blue



Escher's Blue



Female



Male



Adonis Blue

## BIOLOGY & HABITAT

There are two generations a year that fly from May to July in the mountainous area of the Arco Calizo Central, composed of open woodland and scattered thickets, as well as wide grass areas and meadows at an altitude that ranges from 1000 to 1300 m. Their caterpillars feed on varied short leguminous plants, such as *Onobrychis argentea*, *Hedysarum boveanum* and *Lotus corniculatus*.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
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## DISTRIBUTION

This species is rare and limited to specific locations in Málaga. There are only two places where it can be seen at the moment, and only one of them is on the GMP, more precisely, on stage 11. There is a possibility that it can be spotted along stage 10 as well. It is greatly important to send any information about spotting the species at any point along or outside of the GMP to the author of this guide.

