



Dusky Meadow Brown

Hyponephele lycaon (Kühn, 1774)

DESCRIPTION

Wingspan: From 3.5 to 4 cm. **Closed wings:** The hindwing is grey and a little mottled. There is a wavy dark line with shades of orange, and a light stretch behind it. Some orangey or brownish spots can be seen on the hindwing margin. A small dot, which is sometimes not visible, is placed at the anal angle. On the forewing, we can see a big eyespot on the apex, margins of the same colour as the hindwing and orange inner part. **Open wings:** This species hardly ever stretches its wings. Male butterflies are brown with two small eyespots on the forewing and a not really prominent andocronia. Female butterflies have bigger eyespots with wide orange spots around them. The hindwing is brown.

KEY FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

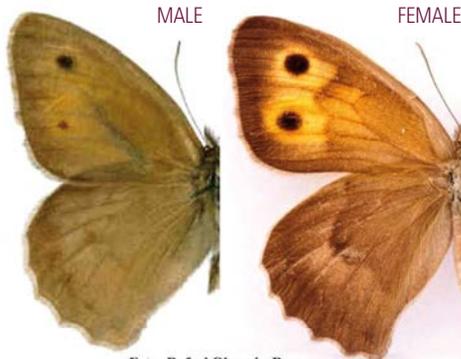
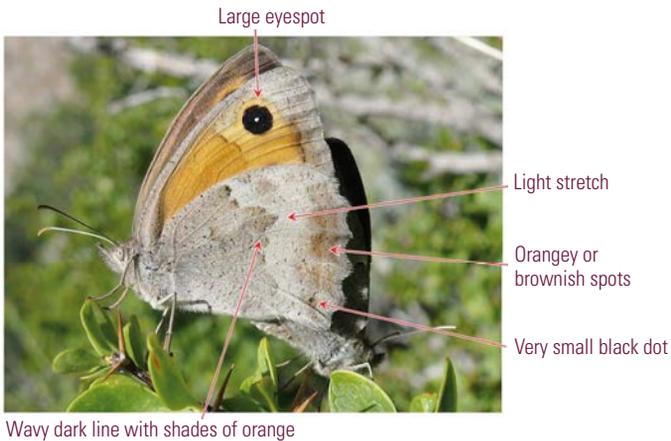


Foto: Rafael Obregón Romero



SIMILAR SPECIES

Meadow Brown: It is rather similar, but bigger and less mottled. It has more brown sections. There is a series of black spots along the hindwing outer margin, which has no orange spots over itself.
Oriental Meadow Brown: It is completely grey, and mottled with black. The hindwing does not have a wavy line nor a dot at the anal angle.



Meadow Brown



Oriental Meadow Brown

BIOLOGY & HABITAT

They take one generation a year to fly, above all, in July in mountainous surroundings, between 850 m and 1900 m of altitude. It can often be found in open stony areas, with scarce and scattered vegetation, sunny and dry zones, such as oak and pine forests in bad conditions if their caterpillars' foodplants, grasses that belong to the genera *Stipa*, *Bromus* and *Festuca*, live in the area.

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

Only one generation of this species has been spotted along the GMP, specifically, on stage 11, where it is rare and limited to specific locations. There is a possibility that it appears at some other places in the Arco Calizo Central, the Almijara Mountains or the Serranía de Ronda.

