



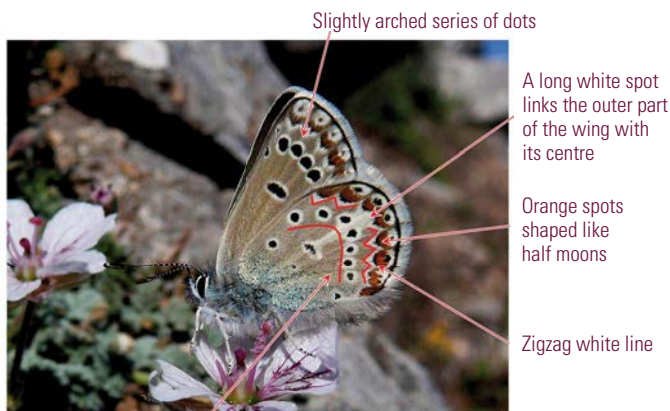
Geranium Argus

Eumedonia eumedon (Esper, 1780)

DESCRIPTION

Wingspan: From 2.6 to 3 cm. **Open wings:** They are light brown or greyish. On the forewing, there is a series of aligned dots which form a kind of arch. On the hindwing, there is another series of dots in a shape of an arch, as well as orange spots outlined in black and zigzag white line towards the inner part of wings, which look like half moon. A long white spot links the outer part of the wing with its centre. **Open wings:** It hardly ever rest with open wings. The background is brown with an orange stripe on the forewings, which appearance depends on a butterfly. Orange spots in the shape of an arch with a brown dot inside of them and a white arrow beneath are on the hindwing. The arrow is different depending on a butterfly

KEY FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION



Arched series of dots



White or sky blue arrows



SIMILAR SPECIES

These perfectly aligned dots, the lack of a dot in discal area and the white spot which connects outer part with the centre of hindwings make this species unique.

BIOLOGY & HABITAT

There is one generation a year which flies from the end of May to the beginning of July, depending on the altitude. These butterflies live in medium-high or high mountains in Málaga, at an altitude that ranges between 1240 m and 2065 m, on open areas, such as stones and bushes, where their caterpillars' foodplant from *Geraniaceae* family, *Erodium cheilanthifolium*, can be found. Adult butterflies do not get far away from it neither.

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

The species is considered vulnerable in 'Libro Rojo de los Invertebrados de Andalucía' [The Red Book of the Andalusian Invertebrates], as there is a possibility of its extinction, but it is not protected by any law. It is limited to certain places in Málaga, such as middle-high areas in the Sierra de las Nieves, and the mountain ranges of Cabrilla, Chimenea, Torcal, Camarolos and Tejeda. None of the stages along the GMP is close to the places where the colonies of the *Geranium Argus* or its foodplant live. 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.

