



Geranium Bronze

Cacyreus marshalli (Butler, 1898)

DESCRIPTION

Wingspan: From 1.5 to 2.7 cm. **Closed wings:** Their colour is grey or dark brown, and they have white lines on both parts, as well as one dark stripe, edged in white, in the middle of each wing, which goes all over the wings. On the hindwings, there is a small white spot behind this stripe. There are sometimes one or two small dark spots around a false antenna. They also have checked hairs (*fimbriae*) on the edges of the hindwings. **Open wings:** This species hardly ever stretches its wings. Both of them are brown with checked *fimbriae* and a dark small spot next to the false antenna.

KEY FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION



Checked fringe (fimbriae)

Dark stripe edged in white

Large white spot

Small dark spot

False antennae



Checked fringe (fimbriae)

Small dark spot

False antennae

SIMILAR SPECIES

Pea Blue / Long-tailed Blue: This species is bigger and dark brown, with plenty of white lines and a wide white stripe on each wing. Its fake eyes are larger. When its wings are open, which is not very often, it is blue of bluish. **Lang's Short-tailed Blue / Common Zebra Blue:** This species does not stretches its wings very often. It always has some blue colour over them. When the wings are closed, they are grey with dark spots surrounded by thin stripes. There is a broken line, which is parallel to the outer margins of each wings, as well as false eyes, surrounded by a bright sky blue and orangey rings.



BIOLOGY & HABITAT

Several of its generations are active one after another, and can be seen throughout the year in lower and coastal areas. In winter, the amount of these butterflies decreases.

They live in urban zones, in small and bigger tons or cities, as its caterpillars feed on geraniums (*Pelargonium sp.*), which are used for decorating houses, streets, parks and gardens.

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

This butterfly species comes from South Africa, and it was brought to Europe at the end of 1980s. It can be seen along all stages of the GMP, though it is more common along the coast. In the rest of cases and urban areas, it can be found at specific places where geraniums are used as decorative plants.

