



# Graying

*Hipparchia semele* (Linnaeus, 1758)

## DESCRIPTION

**Wingspan:** From 4.3 to 5.5 cm. **Closed wings:** They are light brown, sprinkled with darker colours and grey. On the forewing, a black eyespot with a white centre and yellow outline can be perceived. There is also a smaller eyespot below it, which can hardly ever be seen. A wide white stripe, mottled with dark colours so that the white can be difficult to see, goes across the hindwings up the front margin, close to which it breaks. There are two wavy lines that spread from the brown section to the base of the wing. The first line is touching the white one and a long border line at the place where the white stripe is interrupted. There is a small black eyespot close to the anal angle. Its outlines are not clearly marked and its centre is white. **Open wings:** This species hardly ever stretches the wings. Dark brown with orange stretches on both wings. The forewing has two black eyespots and a white centre. There is another eyespot on the hindwing, close to the anal angle.

## KEY FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

Eyespot similar to the one on Rock Grayling's wings



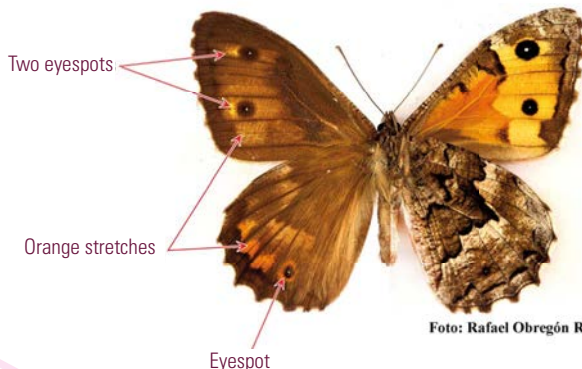
Broken white stripe

Long border line

White stripe

Black wavy lines

Black eyespot with white centre



Two eyespots

Orange stretches

Eyespot

Foto: Rafael Obregón Romero

## SIMILAR SPECIES

**Rock Grayling and Great Banded Grayling:** The above species can be distinguished from these two, mainly, because the white stripe on the hindwing is not broken, and it stands out more as there are no black scales over it.



## BIOLOGY & HABITAT

This species takes only one generation a year to fly from May to October. There are more butterflies in June and July. They generally live in forests, including oak, cork oak, and Spanish fiwoods. They can also be found in thickets, grassland and some kinds of bushes. In the forests, they often rest on tree trunks, where they cannot be perceived due to their colours and patterns. Their caterpillars feed on varied grasses, among them, esparto ( *Stipa spp.*) and False-bromes ( *Brachypodium spp.*).

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

These butterflies are typical for forests, so they can be found on most of GMP stages, though not in great numbers and they live in specific kind of places. The species cannot be spotted along stages that do not go through forests, such as coast paths and some more degraded trails in the north of the province.

