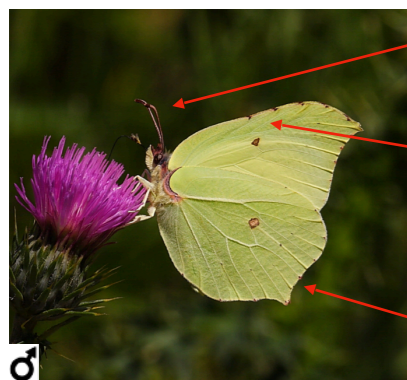




Identification Guide: Gonepteryx

Diagnostic features [male and female]

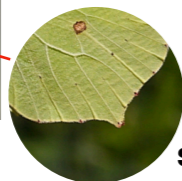
Brimstone [*Gonepteryx rhamni*]



tip light reddish brown above



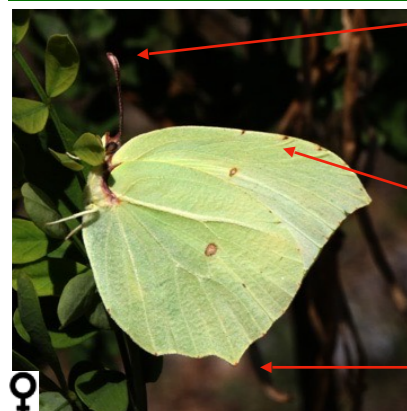
slightly concave



strongly dentate

♂

Powdered Brimstone [*Gonepteryx farinosa*]



tip white above



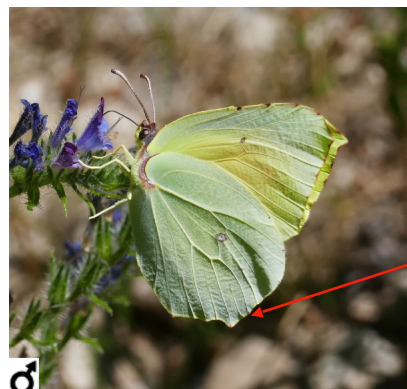
rounded



strongly dentate

♀

Cleopatra [*Gonepteryx cleopatra*]

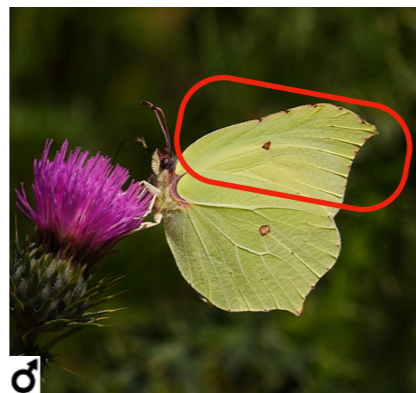


feebly dentate

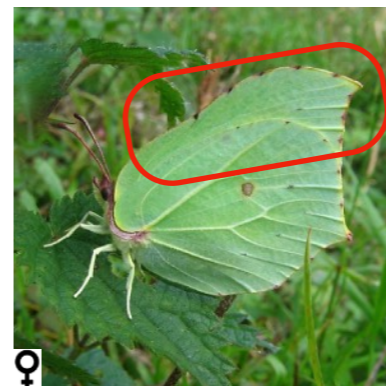
♂

The colour of the underside fore-wing is diagnostic

MALE & FEMALE: Uniform colour



♂



♀

MALE yellowish



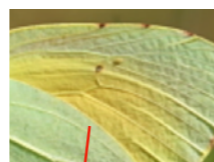
♂

FEMALE green and white



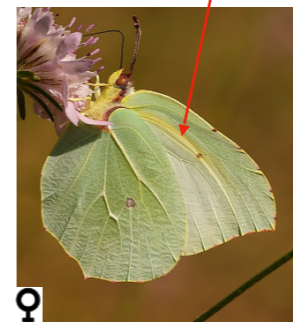
♀

MALE orange



♂

FEMALE yellow



♀

Upperside and Range

All three species usually land with wings closed. Uppersides shown below to aid in-flight identification



♂



♀

Uniform colour,
MALE: lemon yellow
FEMALE: pale greenish white

Widespread in Europe



♂



♀

MALE fore-wing: lemon yellow,
MALE hind-wing: pale yellow
FEMALE: all white

Local in southern Balkan Peninsula



♂



♀

MALE: lemon yellow with orange fore-wing
distinctive in flight
FEMALE: pale greenish white with a
yellowish shade on hind-wing

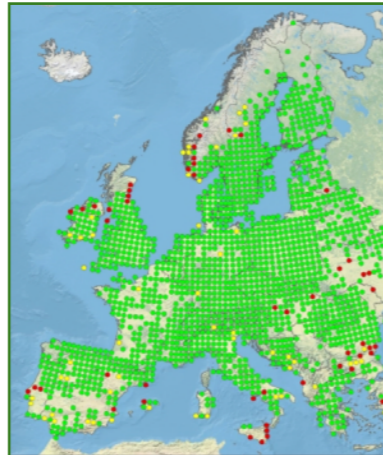
Widespread in Mediterranean Europe

Distribution Maps

● Up to 1950

● 1951 - 1980

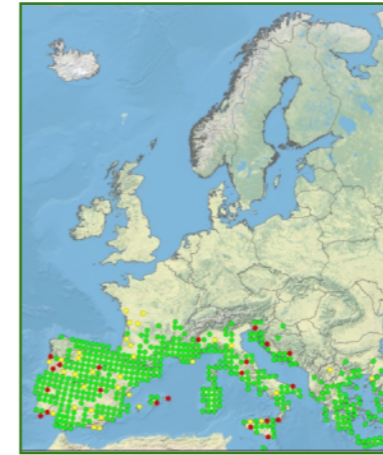
● After 1980



Brimstone



Powdered Brimstone



Cleopatra

For completeness it should be noted that there are two isolated species of *Gonepteryx*.

Madeiran Brimstone [*Gonepteryx maderensis*]

Found only on the island of Madeira

Canary Brimstone [*Gonepteryx cleobule*]

Found only in the Canary Islands

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For more information on all aspects of European butterflies please go to european-butterflies.org.uk including the other Identification Guides in this series which are free to download at EBG Identification Guides

Guide designed by Bill Raymond.

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