

BUTTERFLIES

:

The Latin name for the brimstone is *Gonepteryx rhamni*.

This is a medium to large butterfly with a wingspan of about 6cm. The male is lemon-yellow without markings other than a reddish spot in the centre of the wings. The female is greenish white and can often be mistaken for a cabbage white butterfly. The wings are strongly curved, which helps to disguise the insect amongst the ivy leaves where it probably hibernates. It also hibernates in tree cavities, rock crevices and under stones.

On warm spring days, after hibernation, the adults emerge, flying widely in search of mates or food plants.

This butterfly lays its eggs singly on leaves of buckthorn, which hatch into long, thin, greenish caterpillars with a white stripe.