Bulgaria – Flowers of the Balkans

Naturetrek Tour Report

13th - 20th June 2023



Crested Cow-Wheat - Rhodope Mountains



Pink species, Dianthus microlepis, Pirin Mountain



Red-topped Sage, Rhodope Mountains



Spurge Hawkmoth on Glaucous Spurge, Rila Mountain

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Tour summary

Our mid-summer botanical adventure in southern Bulgaria was a remarkable experience, with breath-taking sights and an extensive array of plant species, many of which are unique to Bulgaria and/or the Balkan region of SE Europe. The middle of June provided the perfect timing for this expedition, as the mountain roads were clear of snow, and the sub-alpine flora was in full bloom. Our journey led us to many high-altitude locations (including some above the treeline), which were notable for the profusion of alpine and sub-alpine flower present. The native spruce, fir and pine forests provided not only a beautiful landscape with rich habitats and flora, but also an opportunity to observe fascinating bird and insect species.

As we traversed through the largely unspoiled countryside, we had the privilege of witnessing the traditional agricultural practices which are still maintained in this region of Europe. Bulgaria's iconic White Storks graced us with their presence, nesting in villages and returning year after year to the same locations. The visit to the renowned Rila Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was an extraordinary experience, and we enjoyed exploring the tranquil villages and towns scattered across the area.

Among the highlights of our tour was the thrilling encounter with the majestic Eurasian Brown Bear at the Bear Sanctuary Belitsa in the Rhodope Mountains, observed from the safety of protective fencing.

Day 1

Tuesday 13th June

Our group assembled at Sofia Airport, arriving from various locations in the UK on synchronized flights. Rain clouds threatened overhead as we made our way up to the Vitosha Mountain National Park, not far south of Sofia. Hungarian Mullein (Verbascum speciosum) and Viper's Bugloss (Echium vulgare) were in full flower and showy along roadsides in Sofia. The rain precluded much exploration of the National Park during the afternoon, but we enjoyed the Information Centre for Nature Conservation, which gave us a nice introduction to this park, which was designated in 1934 by the then Bulgarian King. A sheltered viewing platform here above the surrounding Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) forests gave us a first impression of the local habitats. After this, we made our way to the quaint Studena Lodge, where we would stay for the next two nights. After a lovely dinner of local cuisine in the impressive dining room and an update from Rossen and Alexis on the upcoming plans, we took a gentle stroll down the driveway, where we encountered the local flora. These included Wild Liquorice (Astragalus glycophyllos) and the showy relative of our Bush Vetch (Vicia cracca), namely, Russian Vetch (Vicia villosa). House Martins could be easily viewed nesting under the eaves above our windows, and their calls gave a pleasant feel to this bucolic setting.

Day 2

Wednesday 14th June

The day greeted us with a sunny morning after the rainy previous day. Following breakfast, we set out towards the Golo Bardo Mountain, renowned for its open lime-rich hillside meadow habitats and impressive flora. As we explored the hillsides, we were captivated by the golden-flowered subspecies of Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria* subsp. *aurea*, *Anthyllis aurea*) and other fascinating endemic and local species. These included the Balkan endemic Knapweed species, *Centaurea immanuelis-loewii*, and the bellflower species Edraianthus (*Edraianthus serbicus*).

Fascinating plants like the Grecian Foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*), Ground Pine (*Ajuga chamaepitys*) and two Balkan endemic Golden Drop species (*Onosma visianii* and *Onosma taurica*) were abundant here. The smells of the many aromatic plants filled our olfactory senses. Cuckoo and Blackcap were heard in the vicinity, and Scarce Swallowtail was spotted on the wing also.

The quiet village of Bosnek was our next destination, and after a short walk above the village, we were greeted with another extraordinarily rich meadow with Lesser Honeywort (*Cerinthe minor*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and yet another bellflower species, *Asyneuma limonifolium*.

We set out our picnic on a quiet riverside location by the Struma River, discovering an interesting mix of riverine and grassland species. Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor*) was noted by a number of our party flowering abundantly by the river bank, whilst in the grassland nearby, the blood red-flowered Pink species, *Dianthus cruentus*, was observed.

Our final stop of the day was to yet another floriferous meadow, in which Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) is known to occur, but was not visible at the time of visiting, perhaps due to the unusually heavy rains in the spring and early summer which delayed growth of some species in this area. Nonetheless, we were greeted with an array of new species for the trip, including the red-flowered Macedonian Scabious (*Knautia macedonica*), which is a Balkan endemic. On the adjacent roadside, Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) was in full flower and wafted its pleasant scent towards us.

On our return from the field trip, we enjoyed another local meal in the dining room of Studena Lodge.

Day 3

Thursday 15th June

We departed from the Studena Lodge in the morning, ready for our journey to Rila National Park. On the road towards the Rila Monastery, we stopped to enjoy a lush wet meadow habitat, which provided a contrast to the previous day's dry grassland habitats. Venturing through the tall grasses and sedges, we discovered a few impressive spikes of the Lax-flowered Marsh Orchid (*Anacamptis palustris* subsp. *elegans*). This meadow hosted numerous other captivating species, including Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Common Hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola officinalis*) and Tubular Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*). The dainty, yellow-flowered Clover species *Trifolium patens* was abundant within the meadow.

Our next destination was the renowned Rila Monastery. As we ascended the mountain road, the weather became cloudier and more humid, and intermittent rain was felt. The deciduous woodland gradually gave way to slopes covered with pine and spruce. Wild Boar and White Stork were noted from the bus by some of our group in fields along the roadway. Finally, we arrived at the magnificent Rila Monastery, where breath-taking views surrounded us. The monastery itself featured captivating murals and carvings on its buildings, as well as drinking fountains of fresh mountain water which turned out to be a frequent feature of the Bulgarian mountain regions. Local birds were dissuaded from entering the monastery by a raptor recording which was intermittently played over a loud speaker. Nonetheless, Nightingales were heard calling nearby. By a mountain stream just outside the monastery walls, the large leaves of Ox-Eye (*Telekia speciosa*) were observed. After the monastery visit, we made a lunch stop at a traditional restaurant nearby that delighted everyone with its fresh river trout.

With energies refreshed by the local cuisine, we retraced our route, heading down towards a river crossing surrounded by a high isolated outcrop of conglomerate rock. This area turned out to be very rich botanically, and gave us a whole new suite of species to observe, presumably due to the effects of the underlying bedrock geology. Immediately, one of the group noted the large colourful caterpillar of the Spurge Hawkmoth perched on its food plant, Glaucous Spurge (Euphorbia myrsinites), along with a Large White butterfly nearby. The miniature shrubs on these rocky soils were of interest and included Eastern Hornbeam (Carpinus orientalis) and Christ's-Thorn (Paliurus spina-christi), with its extensive sharp thorns and strange disc-like fruits. We discovered various species of Saxifrage, Houseleek and Stonecrop on the rocks, although most were not in full flower. One species of Stonecrop was in full flower and showed its distinctive four cross-like petal arrangement, namely, Sedum stefco. This species was our first noted Bulgarian endemic. The Houseleek species Sempervivum ciliosum, a Balkan endemic found on the rocks here, revealed its long ciliate hairs on the leaf edges. Wall Germander (Teucrium chamaedrys), Mullein Pink (Lychnis coronaria) and Pale Bugloss (Echium italicum) were also notable here, as was the Balkan endemic Scabious, Scabiosa triniifolia.

Back on the road southwards, the European Smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria*) was observed as a rather distinctive shrub in roadside scrub near Blagoevgrad, whilst Sand Martins were observed in one location nesting in abundance along the sandy banks of the Struma River south of that city.

Finally, we reached our destination of Bansko, a modern town developed around an historic village and renowned ski resort. Our centrally located modern hotel provided easy access to the town's attractions. The Pirin Mountains were visible in the distance in some locations. In the evening, we gathered near the hotel for some more traditional Bulgarian cuisine, followed by reviewing our collections and records for the day and discussing plans for the next day.

Day 4 Friday 16th June

Following a satisfying breakfast, we embarked on our journey towards the lower slopes of the Pirin Mountain, a part of the expansive National Park established in the 1930s. Although the area had witnessed significant development for winter sports, with the addition of car parks, lodges, ski lifts, and snow-making machines, we were pleasantly surprised to find vast stretches of the park still untouched. Our destination was the Banderitsa Lodge, where we disembarked from the bus and began our ascent along the meandering mountain road, which was refreshingly free of traffic. As we walked, we thoroughly explored the verges on both sides, discovering a wealth of botanical treasures. The journey progressed slowly due to the abundance of flora, but the easy walking along the verges allowed us to enjoy every moment. Our botanical checklist expanded rapidly as we encountered various species along the way. Highlights from the verges along this mountain road were Pale-Flowered Orchid (Orchis pallens), Lady Orchid (Orchis purpurea) and the Balkan endemic Violet species, Viola orbelica.

Above us, the forest predominantly consisted of coniferous trees, including the impressive Bosnian Pine (*Pinus heldreichii*). One particular tree, known as the Baikusheva Mura, or Baikushev's Pine, caught our attention, an ultraveteran specimen estimated to be 1,300 years old, approximately the age of the Bulgarian State itself. Indeed, access to the tree was recently restricted as a large branch had partially broken off the trunk of the tree. The tree nonetheless stood tall and proud as ever.

As we made our way higher, past scree slopes and mountain streams, our focus remained on the vibrant flora carpeting the ground. The aromatic-leaved Rock Crane's-bill (*Geranium macrorrhizum*) showcased its colourful blooms in large, spreading clusters. Among the special finds of this area were Elder-Flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*), Heart-flowered Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza cordigera*) and the delicately fragrant Garland-Flower (*Daphne cneorum*). In the rocky crevices and outcrops along the road, we spotted the elegant Holly Fern (*Polystichum lonchitis*) and the delicate Brittle Bladder-fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*).

On the scree slopes by a stream which cut across the road, a totally different flora was observed, with the Aubrieta, *Aubrieta gracilis*, and the Speedwell *Veronica kellererii* (a Bulgarian endemic) both being noted. As we ascended to higher altitude, we left behind the taller pine and spruce forests and entered the sub-alpine zone of the Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo*), which grows no higher than a medium-sized shrub.

Our picnic spot at Vihren Chalet coincided with a stream formed by the snowmelt from a nearby gulley, which provided delicious, fresh, mountain water to refill our bellies and bottles. With breath-taking views of the surrounding mountains and forests, we enjoyed our meal amidst the natural beauty. Traditional Bulgarian mountain herbal tea was taken after our meal. In the immediate surroundings, we were delighted to find a few purple flowers of *Crocus veluchensis*. On the wet slopes, clumps of Balkan Butterwort (*Pinguicula balcanica*) flourished abundantly with their delicate blueish flowers.

After our pleasant break at the Vihren Chalet, where the road ended, some of us headed up the well-frequented mountain walking paths a little way to find anything new that could be discovered here. A short way up the path, it opened out on to a lovely wet alpine meadow filled with the erect stems of False Helleborine (*Veratrum album*). On the drier fringing grasslands, the minute flowers of the alpine Pink species, *Dianthus microlepis* were observed. We then re-joined the bus from Vihren Chalet and returned to Bansko, stopping off at the Information Centre for the national park, which visit rewarded us with some beautiful photo montages of the park on display. In the evening, we gathered once again to review our checklists and collections and discuss the plans for the upcoming day, reflecting on the rewarding experiences of our eventful botanical exploration.

Day 5

Saturday 17th June

Today was to be an eventful day, as we planned to experience the thermal mountain waters at a local 'banya' and also hoped to see Eurasian Brown Bears in the flesh, alongside our morning of botanising. We started the day at Krushe Marsh, a strict nature reserve not far from Bansko. This marsh occurs in a lower plateau between the Pirin and Rila mountain ranges. It is lime-rich in nature, as a consequence of lime-rich water flowing down from the limestone section of the Pirin Mountains. The marsh is lightly grazed by cattle, which helps to keep the vegetation open and herb-rich. Notable orchids that we found in the marsh were the Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza kalopissii*, which is only known rarely from scattered locations in Bulgaria and Greece, along with the musky-scented Fragrant Bug Orchid (*Orchis coriophora* subsp. *fragrans*). The white furry heads of Broad-leaved Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum latifolium*) were also abundant here in the wetter parts of the marsh. Unfortunately, some areas of this marsh were seen to be threatened by recent (and often abandoned) building developments.

Having thoroughly enjoyed this lovely marsh habitat, we headed on into the mountains to Bear Sanctuary Belitsa. This sanctuary takes in to its care numerous Eurasian Brown Bears which have been mistreated in captivity, e.g. as circus animals, and the sanctuary provides a wonderful opportunity to see bear behaviour up close and personal,

albeit behind protective electric fencing. Hibernation holes were seen dug out under tree trunks, and one female bear was particularly charismatic, even scratching herself on a tree trunk for our viewing, which was highly amusing to the group. The woodland flora in this area was also of interest for those who could avert their gaze from the Bears for a moment, as flowering Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*) was seen, along with a Wintergreen (*Pyrola*) species and the white-flowered White Wood-rush (*Luzula luzuloides*). Jays were also on display near the bears.

Our bus then headed to the town of Banya, which is famous for its thermal baths or 'banya', and the group partook of a refreshing dip in the naturally heated water, which is ϵ . 58°C where it first emerges from the ground. The water is mineral-rich and highly basic, at ϵ . 9.4 pH. After this, the group returned to Bansko for dinner, feeling well-rested and rejuvenated by the mineral waters.

Day 6

Sunday 18th June

After bidding farewell to our hotel this morning, we set off southwards to reach the Rhodope Mountains, near the Bulgarian border with Greece. After a long drive south through the Bulgarian countryside, we finally reached an area of 'phrygana' vegetation just north of Pavliova Padina Nature Reserve and had time to soak up the botanical riches. Near the border with Greek Macedonia, the vegetation was appearing decidedly more Mediterranean in influence. Our first botanical sighting right by the road was the distinctive and beautiful Red-Topped Sage (Salvia viridis), with its purple 'false flower' bracts on the tips of the flowering stems, drawing the attention of pollinators. Also nearby the road, we were greeted with one of the orchid highlights of the trip in the vibrant Lizard Orchid, Himantoglossum calcaratum, a Balkan species which is related to our separate UK Lizard Orchid species. The erect flowering shoots of St. Bernard's Lily (Anthericum liliago) adorned the phrygana hillside vegetation in abundance. Other specialities of this area which we enjoyed in the phrygana and meadows were Woodcock Orchid (Ophrys cornuta), Fragrant Bug Orchid (Orchis coriophora subsp. fragrans), a Thyme relative, Ziziphora capitata, the beautiful Crested Cow-Wheat (Melampyrum cristatum) and also the black-flowered Monkswort (Nonea pulla).

We then drove a short distance up the hill to the pleasant village of Teshovo, were we set out lunch on a beautiful sheltered terrace (on the grounds of a former school) overlooking the town and surrounding hillsides. Light rains passed through as we enjoyed the views and the fresh Bulgarian meat, cheese, fruits and vegetables. During our lunch, discussions were had about Alexander the Great, who was borne some three hours' drive from our lunch spot. After lunch, we spent some time exploring the adjacent St. Demeter's Church, which, although in need of restoration works, was nonetheless very beautiful in its original state and with wonderful and varied historical and religious artwork on the walls.

Finally, we reached the Hotel Dabrash, just west of Dospat, our accommodation for the remaining days of our journey, which provided breath-taking panoramic views of the Rhodope Mountains near the Greek border. Some of the group found time to explore the local pine forests and meadows immediately surrounding the hotel, which were of great interest botanically. Beneath the pine trees not far from the hotel, we discovered the saprophytic Violet Limodore (*Limodorum abortivum*), as well as the Greater Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*). In the wet meadow below the hotel right by the driveway, a number of beautiful species were observed, including Laxflowered Marsh Orchid (*Anacamptis palustris* subsp. *elegans*), Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea* s.l.), Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) and Tassel Hyacinth (*Leopoldia comosa*). Others noted Hummingbird Hawkmoth and Elephant Hawkmoth on the wing. The expansive and tranquil grounds of the hotel provided an idyllic setting for

bird-watching and relaxation, as Swallows and House Martins gracefully swooped overhead. Another rich and tasty dinner awaited us in the dining room, and drinks were had in the terrace afterwards.

Day 7

Monday 19th June

On our final day in Bulgaria, we set our sights towards the Greek border, venturing to the renowned Trigrad Gorge, known for its wonderful landscapes and abundance of rare plant species. The journey took approximately an hour, offering awe-inspiring scenery along the way, including lush forests, expansive dams, and flower-laden hay meadows that adorned the entire route. Our first stop led us to the path descending to the "Devil's Throat", where the river cascaded through a deep ravine. Guided by steps and a handrail, we ventured to a viewpoint, and here were treated to the sight of the Orpheus Flower (Haberlea rhodopensis), a Bulgarian endemic plant (and genus) and one of only five European representatives of the mostly sub-tropical/tropical African Violet family (Gesneriaceae). Nestled against the mossy rock faces and perpetually drenched in spray, this unique species captured our admiration. Some of our group then purchased some local honey and tea herbs on sale near the ravine. This included the Mountain Ironwort (Sideritis montana), the attractive plant used to create the herbal tea we had enjoyed on several occasions.

On the roadsides above the ravine, the small white flowers of the Rhodope Sandwort (*Arenaria rhodopaea*) were observed, the plants growing directly out of the limestone rock faces. This was perhaps the rarest species we encountered on the trip, as it is endemic to only the Trigrad Gorge in Bulgaria and is found nowhere else on Earth. Crag Martins meanwhile flew in large numbers above our heads, giving us a wonderful chorus.

We then headed on to a new site higher up the gorge near the top of the slope with a pleasant walking path before us, and here we strolled, discovering new plant treasures with each step. Among the first sightings were the Bellflower *Campanula lingulata*, as well as Burnt Orchid (*Neotinea ustulata*). The leaves of Prickly Whorlflower (*Morina persica*) were observed but it was not in flower yet. This species is distributed from the Rhodope Mountains at its westernmost extent, across Central Asia to the Himalayas. On the rocks and scree adjacent to the path, further interesting species were observed, including the Globularia species *Globularia aphyllanthes* and *G. cordifolia*, and a tall showy Balkan endemic Mullein, *Verbascum nobile*. On our way back along the path, a local beekeeper offered us a sample of fresh bee pollen collected from local hives just above the path.

A lunch of fresh local trout was then enjoyed in the town of Trigrad, followed by coffee and tea in the town of Yagodina. Our last stop of the day was an old abandoned Soviet-era roadway above a gorge near the town of Teshel, which leads to the Kastrakli Nature Reserve. This walk turned out to be extremely rich botanically. Two exciting orchids were added to our list, namely, Red Helleborine (Cephalanthera rubra) and Lady's Slipper Orchid (Cypripedium calceolus), the flowers of the latter unfortunately past their best but nonetheless a true privilege to see. Limestone Fern (Gymnocarpium robertianum) creeped up through some of the cracks in the limestone rock adjacent to the path. The trees along the path contained an abundance of European Hop-Hornbeam (Ostrya carpinifolia), a species not found in western Europe. It is superficially very similar to Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) but has different fruits. Below the trees, Yellow Flax (Linum capitatum), Mezereon (Daphne mezereum) and Willow Gentian (Gentiana asclepiadea) were evident. On our return along the same path, other species revealed themselves to us, which has been missed on the initial walk (as so often happens), including Fly Orchid (Ophrys insectifera) and White Helleborine (Cephalanthera damasonium). A beautiful Poplar Hawkmoth turned up on the clothing of one of the group, and after enjoying its beauty, it was returned to the scrub.

On our return to the hotel, we stopped off briefly to marvel at an old Ottoman-era bridge over the Karadjadere River. We then returned to the hotel for our final dinner meal of the trip, which was topped off with towers of ice cream and some local 'rakia' spirits. The final full day was perhaps the most botanically rich out of all of our days in Bulgaria. These remarkable botanical encounters enriched our journey, adding to the memories we would cherish from our exploration of this remarkable landscape.

Day 8

Tuesday 20th June

In the morning, we rose early to prepare for our return journey to Sofia. By 7 am, we were all set to depart. The roads meandered through picturesque wooded hills, revealing glimpses of several expansive lakes and reservoirs along the way. Traffic remained relatively light for the journey, and it allowed us time to observe various birds and mammals near the roadsides, including Red Deer, the occasional Buzzard, and several White Storks.

As the landscape transitioned from steep hillsides and forested uplands to the fertile agricultural lowlands, vineyards and sprawling fields of Sunflowers (most not yet in flower) and Potatoes painted a vibrant tapestry. We made a brief stop at a service station to treat ourselves to coffee and avail of the restrooms, and also a second stop at a bakery to partake of some local cheese-filled pastries to energise ourselves, breaking the journey before reaching Sofia Airport with ample time for our London/Dublin-bound flights. While some members of our group planned to extend their stay in Bulgaria, we expressed our heartfelt gratitude to our Bulgarian hosts (both leader and driver) for a truly unforgettable trip, bidding them farewell at the airport.

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Species lists

Plants ([] = introduced or planted, * = endemic)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Calamophytes	Horsetails	
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
Equisetum sp.	no coam ammy	Rila, wet meadow at the fork for Stob village
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
Cystopteridaceae	Bladder-fern Family	
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle Bladder-fern	Rila town, rocks at the eco-trail to the "Cross" Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's Throat
Gymnocarpium dryopteris	Oak Fern	
Gymnocarpium robertianum	Limestone Fern	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's Throatand Teshel, road to Kastrakli reserve
Dryopteridacae	Buckler-fern Family	
Polystichum lonchitis	Holly-fern	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family	
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
Abies alba	European Silver Fir	Rhodope, Teshel
Pinus heldreichii (P.leucodermis)	Bosnian Pine	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Pinus mugo	Dwarf Mountain Pine	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Pinus peuce *	Macedonian Pine	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Pre-dicots	Primitive Angiosperms	
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
Aristolochia clematitis	Birthwort	Rila town, rocks
Eu-dicots	True Dicotyledons	
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
Sambucus ebulus	Dwarf Elder / Danewort	Golo bardo
Sambucus nigra	Common Elder	Golo bardo
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
Bupleurum rotundifolium		Golo bardo
Laser trilobum		Rhodope, Teshel
Laserpitium siler	Laserwort	Rhodope, Teshel
Oenanthe fistulosa	Tubular Water Dropwort	Rila, wet meadow at the fork for Stob village
Orlaya grandiflora	-	Golo bardo
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle	Rila, Bear park
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
Vinca sp.		Rhodope, Trigrad
Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	Swallow-wort	Mesta, Teshovo village
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
Ostrya carpinifolia	Hop Hornbeam	Rhodope, Teshel
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
Anchusa officinalis	Alkanet	Mesta, Teshovo village
Cerinthe minor		Golo bardo
Cynoglossum montanum		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Echium italicum	Pale Bugloss	Rila town, rocks
Echium vulgare	Viper's Bugloss	Mesta, Teshovo village
Nonea pulla	Monksweed (blue-purple fls)	Mesta, Teshovo village
Onosma sp.	,	Mesta, Teshovo village Rhodope, Yagodina Rhodope, Trigrad
Onosma heterophylla	-	Rila town, rocks
Onosma taurica	-	Golo bardo
Onosma visianii		Golo bardo
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
Alyssum alyssoides	Small Alison	Golo bardo
Arabis alpina	Alpine Rock-cress	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Arabis ferdinandi-coburgi *		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Arabis turrita	Tower Cress	Rila, Rila monastery
Aubrieta gracilis *	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Cardamine cf. impatiens		Rhodope, Teshel
Erysimum sp.		Golo bardo Pirin, Banderitsa-Vihren
[Lepidium draba]	Hoary Cress	Golo bardo
Rorippa sp.		Rila town, rocks
Rorippa thracica		Rila, Bear park
Thlaspi arvense	Field Pennycress	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
Asyneuma limonifolium	-	Golo bardo
Campanula sp.		Mesta, Teshovo village
Campanula lingulata	-	Rhodope, Trigrad
Campanula orphanidea *	-	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Campanula rumeliana (Trachelium jacquinii subsp. rum.) *		Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Campanula scutellata *		Rila town, rocks
Edraianthus serbicus *		Golo bardo

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle family	
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	Golo bardo
Knautia macedonica *	1 leid Scabious	Golo bardo
Scabiosa sicula		Mesta, Teshovo village
Scabiosa triniifolia *		Rila town, rocks
	-	· ·
Valeriana montana	Thus a la sua d Malavia a	Rhodope, Teshel Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Valeriana tripteris	Three-leaved Valerian	Pillii, balluelitza – Villieli
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
Arenaria rhodopaea *	,	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Dianthus sp.		Rila, Bear park Mesta, Teshovo village
Dianthus cruentus	-	Golo bardo
Dianthus gracilis *		Rila town, rocks
Dianthus microlepis*	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Herniaria glabra	Smooth Rupturewort	Rila town, rocks
Herniaria hirsuta	Hairy Rupturewort	Rila town, rocks
Minuartia sp.	, ,	Golo bardo
Moehringia pendula	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Moenchia mantica	-	Razlog, Krushe Rila, Bear park
Paronychia sp.		Golo bardo
Silene sp.		Mesta, Teshovo village
Silene alba		Golo bardo
Silene coronaria (Lychnis c.)	Rose Campion	Rila town, rocks
Silene fabarioides*	-	Rhodope, Trigrad
Silene flos-cuculi (Lychnis f-c.)	Ragged Robin	Rila town, meadow
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	Golo bardo
- Cherry Fanguine	2.aaac. campon	00.000.00
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
Helianthemum nummularium	Common Rockrose	Golo bardo Rhodope, Trigrad
Fumana procumbens*	-	Golo bardo Mesta, Teshovo village
Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
Achillea ageratifolia *	-	Golo bardo
Achillea clypeolata *	-	Golo bardo
Achillea coarctata (A. compacta)	-	Rila, Rila town, rocks
Achillea collina		Golo bardo Rila, Bear park
Anthemis orbelica (= Anthemis macedonica subsp. orbelica)		Rila town, rocks
Carduus nutans		Golo bardo
Centaurea stoebe	-	Rila town, rocks
Crepis setosa	Bristly Hawkweed	Rila town, meadow
Doronicum columnae	Heart-leaved Leopardsbane	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Erigeron annuus		Rila town, meadow
Filago germanica (F. vulgaris)	Common Cudweed	Golo bardo
Gnaphalium luteo-album		Rila town, rocks
Hieracium aggr.		Rila monastery

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Hieracium kittaniae		Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Jurinea mollis	Jurinea	Golo bardo
Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit	Golo bardo
Mycelis muralis	Wall Lettuce	Rila montastery
Pilosella piloselloides subsp. bauhinii	-	Golo bardo
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common Fleabane	Razlog, Krushe
Telekia speciosa	-	Rila monastery
Tragopogon orientalis	-	Golo bardo
Tragopogon pratensis		Razlog, Krushe
Tragopogon pterodes	-	Golo bardo
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
Convolvulus cantabrica		Golo bardo Mesta, Teshovo village
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
Sedum acre	Biting Stonecrop	Golo bardo
Sedum cepaea	r	Rila monastery
Sedum hispanicum	_	Rila monastery
Sedum stefco *		Rila town, rocks
Sedum urvillei		Mesta, Teshovo village
Sempervivum ciliosum *		Rila town, rocks
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry	Rhodope, Teshel
Pyrola cf. media		Rila, Bear park
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
Euphorbia sp.		Rila town, meadow
Euphorbia myrsinites	Broad leaved Glaucous Spurge	Rila town, rocks
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
Gentiana asclepiadea	Willow-leaved Gentian	Rhodope, Teshel
Geraniaceae	Cranesbill Family	
Geranium macrorrhizum	Rock Crane's-bill	Rila monastery Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Geranium pyrenaicum	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	Golo bardo
Geranium sanguineum	Bloody Crane's-bill	Golo bardo Rhodope, Trigrad
Gesneriaceae	Pyrenean-violet Family	
Haberlea rhodopensis *	-	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat Rhodope, Teshel
Grossulariaceae	Gooseberry Family	
Ribes petraeum	Rock Redcurrant	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Hyporiogogo	C4 Jahmia word Familie	
Hypericaceae	St. John's-wort Family	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Hypericum cerastioides	-	Rila, Bear park Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St. John's-wort	Rila town, rocks
Hypericum rumeliacum *	-	Golo bardo
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
Acinos alpinus	Alpine Calamint	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Clinopodium acinos (Acinos arvensis)	Basil Thyme	Golo bardo
Acinos suaveolens		Mesta, Teshovo village
Ajuga chamaepitys	Ground Pine	Mesta, Teshovo village
Ajuga genevensis	Blue Bugle	Golo bardo Pirin, Banderitsa-Vihren
Ajuga laxmannii	-	Golo bardo
Lamium garganicum	Large Red Deadnettle	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Leonurus cardiaca	Motherwort	Golo bardo
Marrubium peregrinum		Golo bardo
Melissa officinalis		Golo bardo
Salvia argentea		Golo bardo
Salvia glutinosa		Rhodope, Teshel
Salvia nemorosa		Golo bardo Mesta, Teshovo village
Salvia viridis		Mesta, Teshovo village
Sideritis montana	-	Rhodope, Trigrad
Sideritis montana subsp. remota		Mesta, Teshovo village
Stachys germanica	Downy Woundwort	Mesta, Teshovo village
Stachys officinalis	Betony	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Teucrium chamaedrys	Wall Germander	Golo bardo
Teucrium montanum	Mountain Germander	Golo bardo
Thymus sp.		Rila town, rocks
Thymus striatus	Thyme	Golo bardo
Ziziphora capitata		Mesta, Teshovo village
Lawrence (Fabrasca)	D. a. F	
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family	
Anthyllis vulneraria	Common Kidney Vetch	Golo bardo
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. aurea *	-	Golo bardo
Astragalus monspessulanus	False Vetch	Rhodope, Trigrad
Astragalus onobrychis	-	Golo bardo
Coronilla emerus		Golo bardo
Coronilla varia		Rila town, rocks
Dorycnium herbaceum		Mesta, Teshovo village
Genista sp.		Mesta, Teshovo village Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Lathyrus hirsutus	Hairy Vetchling	Rila town, meadow
Lotus aegaeus		Mesta, Teshovo village
Onobrychis arenaria	Small Sainfoin	Golo bardo
Ononis spinosa	Spiny Restharrow	Rila town, meadow
[Robinia pseudacacia]	False Acacia	Golo bardo
Trifolium sp.		Rila town, rocks
Trifolium campestre	Hop Trefoil	Rhodope, Trigrad
Trifolium incarnatum		Golo bardo
Trifolium patens		Rila town, meadow

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Vicia sp.		Rila Bear park Rhodope, Trigrad
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Golo bardo
Vicia hirsuta	Hairy Tare	Rila Bear park
Vicia onobrychioides	-	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Vicia pannonica	-	Golo bardo
Vicia villosa		Rhodope, Trigrad
Lentibulariaceae	Bladderwort Family	
Pinguicula balcanica*	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
Alcea cf. pallida		Rila town, rocks
Oleaceae	Ash Family	
Fraxinus angustifolia (= F. oxycarpa)		Rila town, meadow
Epilobium dodonaei	-	Rhodope, Trigrad
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
Melampyrum cristatum	Crested Cow-wheat	Mesta, Teshovo village
Orobanche sp		Golo bardo Rila town, rocks
Orobanche alba	Thyme Broomrape	Golo bardo
Rhinanthus sp.	mymo Broomapo	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Rhinanthus serotinus (= angustifolius)		Golo bardo
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
Chelidonium majus	Greater Celandine	Rila monastery
Fumaria vaillantii		Mesta, Teshovo village
Papaver dubium	Long-headed Poppy	Golo bardo
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	Golo bardo
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
Digitalis lanata	-	Golo bardo Rhodope, Trigrad
Globularia aphyllanthes		Golo bardo Rhodope, Trigrad
Globularia cordifolia	Matted Globularia	Rhodope, Trigrad
Gratiola officinalis		Rila town, meadow
Plantago media	Hoary Plantain	Razlog, Krushe
Veronica austriaca subsp. jacquinii		Golo bardo Rhodope, Trigrad
Veronica kellereri *	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Veronica officinalis	Heath Speedwell	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Veronica urticifolia	Nettle-leaved Speedwell	Rhodope, Teshel
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
Armeria cariensis var. rumelica		Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family	
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Golo bardo
Rumex alpinus	Monks Rhubarb	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup family	
Anemone nemorosa	Wood Anemone	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Consolida hispanica	Wood Allemone	Golo bardo
Consolida regalis	Forking Larkspur	Golo bardo
Ranunculus sp.	1 Orking Larkspui	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Thalictrum minus	Lesser Meadow Rue	Golo bardo
Thaicuum minus	Lessei Meadow Rue	Golo bardo
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
Paliurus spina-christi		Rila town, rocks
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	Rila town, meadow
Alchemilla sp.	1 13	Pirin, Banderitsa-Vihren
, nonenima op.		Rhodope, Teshel
Filipendula vulgaris	Dropwort	Golo bardo
		Razlog, Krushe
Potentilla argentea	Hoary Cinquefoil	Golo bardo
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	Golo bardo
Galium album	-	Golo bardo
Santalaceae	Bastard Toadflax Family	
	Bastaru Toauriax Fairiiry	Golo bardo
Thesium sp.		Gold bardo
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
Saxifraga luteoviridis (S. corymbosa)	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Saxifraga rotundifolia	Round-leaved Saxifrage	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Saxifraga sempervivum	-	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat Rhodope, Teshel
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
Verbascum nobile *	i ignorer anni,	Rhodope, Trigrad
		i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
Thymelaeaceae	Mezereon Family	
Daphne cneorum	Garland Flower	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Daphne mezereum	Mezereon	Rhodope, Teshel
Violaceae	Violet family	
Viola sp.	,	Golo bardo
viola op.		Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Viola crinita (= Viola orphanidis subsp. crinita) *		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Viola dacica	-	Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat (?)
Viola orbelica*	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Viola tricolor	Heartsease	Golo bardo
MONOCOTS	Monocotyledons	
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
Anthericum liliago	St Bernard's Lily	Mesta, Teshovo village
		Rhodope, Trigrad

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Leopoldia (Muscari) comosum	Tassel Hyacinth	Rila Bear park Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Ornithogalum sp.		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Ornithogalum comosum	-	Golo bardo
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
Blysmus compressus	Flat Sedge	Razlog, Krushe
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge	Mesta, Teshovo village
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Razlog, Krushe
Carex lepidocarpa		Razlog, Krushe Rhodope, Trigrad
Carex ovalis		Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Carex pallescens	Pale Sedge	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Carex panicea		Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Carex sylvatica	Wood Sedge	Rhodope, Teshel
Eleocharis palustris	Common Spike-rush	Razlog, Krushe
Eriophorum latifolium	Broad-leaved Cotton-grass	Razlog, Krushe
Holoschoenus vulgaris		Razlog, Krushe
Scirpus sylvaticus	Wood Club-rush	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Dioscoreaceae	Black Bryony Family	
Tamus communis	Black Bryony	Rhodope, Teshel
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
Crocus veluchensis *	-	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
Juncus compressus	•	Rila town, meadow
Luzula luzuloides	White Wood Rush	Rila Bear park
		Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Luzula multiflora agg.	Heath Wood-rush	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Luzula pilosa	Hairy Wood-rush	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Luzula pindica		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Liliaceae	Lily Comily	
Lilium martagon	Lily Family Martagon Lily	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
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Melanthiaceae	Herb-paris Family	
Veratrum album	White False Helleborine	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
Anacamptis (Orchis) coriophora	Bug Orchid	Razlog, Krushe
лнаватрия (Oronis) вопорнога	Bug Ordilu	Mesta, Teshovo village Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Anacamptis morio	Green-winged Orchid	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Anacamptis palustris subsp. elegans	-	Rila town Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid	Golo bardo Rhodope, Trigrad
Cephalanthera damasonium	White Helleborine	Rhodope, Teshel
Cephalanthera rubra	Red Helleborine	Rhodope, Teshel

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Cypripedium calceolus		Rhodope, Teshel
Dactylorhiza cordigera	Heart-shaped Marsh Orchid	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Dactylorhiza kalopissii *		Razlog, Krushe
Dactylorhiza saccifera	Wedge-lipped Orchid	Rhodope, Teshel
Dactylorhiza sambucina		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Epipactis sp.		Rhodope, Teshel
Gymnadenia conopsea agg.	Fragrant Orchid	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel Rhodope, Teshel
Himantoglossum calcaratum *	-	Mesta, Teshovo village
Limodorum abortivum	Violet Limodore	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Neotinea ustulata	Burnt Orchid	Rhodope, Trigrad
Neottia nidus-avis	Birds Nest Orchid	Rila, Bear park
Neottia ovata (Listera ovata)	Twayblade	Rhodope, Teshel
Ophrys cornuta	-	Mesta, Teshovo village
Ophrys insectifera	Fly Orchid	Rhodope, Teshel
Ochis pallens		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Orchis purpurea		Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Platanthera chlorantha	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Poaceae	Grass Family	
Aira elegantissima	-	Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Alopecurus rendlei		Rhodope, Dabrash hotel
Bromus squarrosus	Rough Brome	Rila town Mesta, Teshovo village
Catabrosa aquatica		Razlog, Krushe
Cynosurus echinatus	Rough Dogstail	Rila town, rocks
Festuca sp.		Golo bardo
Festuca vivipara		Rhodope, Trigrad
Hordeum cf. hystrix		Mesta, Teshovo village
Koeleria sp.		Golo bardo Rila town, rocks
Melica nutans	Mountain Melick	Rhodope, Teshel
Nardus stricta	Mat Grass	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Panicum sp.		Rila town, rocks
Phleum alpinum	Alpine Catstail	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Poa alpina	Alpine Meadow Grass	Pirin, Banderitza – Vihren
Sesleria cf. caerulea		Rhodope, Trigrad, Devil's throat
Stipa pulcherrima		Golo bardo
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow Oat-grass	Golo bardo
Vulpia bromoides		Rila Bear park
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Asphodel Family	
Asphodelus sp.		Golo bardo