

Spain's Picos de Europa Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

11th – 18th June 2023



Ercina Lake & Central Massif



Bearded Vulture/Lammergeier



Griffon Vulture



Common Rock Thrush

Tour report by David Thornton and images by Pablo Perez



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Tour participants: Pablo Perez (Leader), David Thornton (Co-Leader) with eleven Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Sunday 11th June

London Bilbao, Observatorio Tarro Blanco and Playa Los Locos – Suances.

Weather: Sunny, some cloud, 24 degrees

The flight from England arrived on time into Bilbao, co-leader David had met some of our participants at London Gatwick already, and then greeted the rest of our group at the baggage reclamation. As a group, we then went through to meet tour leader Pablo. The first stop was at the airport café to have a drink, a sandwich and bottles of water for our initial journey. Pablo and David secured the two minibuses, and we were on our way.

Suitably refreshed, we drove for an hour and a half, along the coast road to our first stop: 'Observatorio Tarro Blanco. Here, we were able to park alongside and above an estuary with a large area of wetland – and the birdlife immediately delivered! We spotted Western Cattle Egrets, Teal, Shelduck, Heron, Redshank, Cetti's and Reed Warbler, Zitting Cisticola, Spotless Starling, Griffon Vulture and Black Kite. Butterflies included Small and Large White, Meadow Browns and a beautiful Swallowtail.

We continued our road journey onto the lovely coastal area of Playa Los Locos. We were soon entertained by the sight and song of a Melodious Warbler singing in a low bush. A Kestrel hovered above, Linnet, Goldfinch and Greenfinch twittered and peeped out of the shrubbery and Yellow-legged Gulls flew above. We then returned to the minibuses to continue our journey to the Hotel Torrecerredo in Arenas de Cabrales, heart of the Picos de Europa in Asturias.

The late afternoon remained sunny, we arrived at our first hotel of the tour, and everyone was helped with their luggage and shown to their rooms. It was a long day, but pleasing first one, and we were also able to enjoy the impressive mountain views from the terrace offered by the excellent Torrecerredo Hotel, with its friendly staff and its fantastic homemade food.

Day 2

Monday 12th June

Jitu Escarandi, Vega de Sotres, Ruta del Cares

Weather: Sunny morning, showery afternoon, 24 degrees

We awoke to a sunny morning and enjoyed a hearty and varied breakfast. Our target today Jitu de Escarandi (also known as Alto de Sotres) is a mountain pass at an elevation of 1,308m (4,291ft) above the sea level, located within the Picos de Europa National Park, in the Picos de Europa mountain range. The road features sections up to 21% in gradient, so the first of many spectacular views were taken in. The summit of this pass (Jitu d'Escarandi) is the border between the autonomous communities of Asturias and Cantabria. The views were a wonderful sight, with the surrounding mountains, hills and meadows.

Cranes-bill, *Helianthemum* (Rock-rose), *Himantoglossum hircinum* (Lizard orchid) were seen – David pointed out that *Himantoglossum* translated as ‘strap tongue’ and *hircinum* meaning ‘of Goats’ as the flowers are said to smell of male Goats...we accepted that fact without testing the local livestock! Various saxifrages were spotted whilst Griffon and Egyptian Vultures soared overhead. Kestrel, Carrion Crow, Raven and the first of many Red-billed, and later Alpine Chough were also noted.

Through a mixture of the minibuses and hiking, we traversed down Vega de Stores and also to the Ruta del Cares, the Cares Gorge and its babbling river. Here we came across locked and gated caves where the local shepherds would store their freshly made cheeses. Old stone houses were present, and, in the gables of one, we watched an Iberian Wheatear pair feeding their young chicks. A dragonfly was drying its fresh new wings on an old livestock water trough. In this trough were young newts, as well as endemic tadpoles and toadlets. Our prize target of the day was seen at length – the Common Rock Thrush. A wonderfully colourful bird with the male showing an unmistakeable blue-grey head, orange underparts and outer tail feathers. White Wagtail, Dunnock, Linnet and Rock Bunting were also seen. Campanula, Wild thyme and the striking *Ophrys scolopax* (Woodcock Orchid) were recorded.

An exciting day, finishing with our various choices of fresh, home-cooked food at Hotel Torrecerredo in Las Arenas.

Day 3

Tuesday 13th June

Arenas de Cabrales, Poo de Cabrales

Weather: A morning of steady rain, drying in the early afternoon, 22 degrees

In the morning the rain came down, however we continued with our plan to hike through a local forest, using an ancient trail used by drovers and their livestock. We walked past an old cave used as shelter by the farmers and their animals. After two hours we reached the wooded plateau and stopped at the village of Poo, where we had a coffee, and also, we could visit and buy cheese in one of the cheese factories. We enjoyed some refreshments and sampled some of these local cheeses. Bonelli's Warbler was seen, as well Iberian Chiffchaff, Eurasian Blackcap, Jay, Short-toed Treecreeper, Common and Black Redstarts and Stonechat.

The rain began to ease off as we descended back down towards Arenas de Cabrales heading for our hotel. The area around the hotel is excellent for wildlife. Cirl Bunting, Yellowhammer, Serin and Northern Wheatear were all seen. Again, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures glided above. Small blue and Adonis Blue butterflies were noted as well as Wall Brown, Duke of Burgundy, Cleopatra and Gatekeeper.

One member of the group spotted a European Green Lizard (*Lacerta viridis*) on the hotel driveway, this Lizard has a body length of around 13cm/5" and a tail up to twice that. A stunning looking, bright apple-green lizard.

After a rest at the hotel, we met, as usual to mark off the checklist for the day, and, at seven o'clock, we once again enjoy the excellent homemade food courses at the Hotel Torrecerredo.

Day 4

Wednesday 14th June

Mirador de la Reina, Lakes Ercina & Enol, Basilica de Santa Maria la Real de Covadonga

Weather: Bright & Sunny all day, 24 degrees

To avoid access problems, we left the hotel at 7am and arrived at the Lagos de Covadonga about an hour later, an exciting and mountainous drive with stunning views. The views of the Western massif, Cornión with Santa Maria de Enol still in the distance reflecting on the Ercina lake were the photographer's dream. We took lots of great pictures and began to walk along the right bank to see some of the shepherds' tracks that were easily accessible, and Pablo told us about the history of traditional livestock used and the famous Gamoneu cheese that is made in and around the lakes.

Along the way we saw some common waterfowl and Red-billed Choughs. We walked past the local breed of cattle such as the Asturian mountain cows, happily chewing the cud, with their cowbells dinging across the marvellous mountainsides. We also met the endemic heather plant called Irish heath and the white Aconite, Sheepbit and plenty of Eryngium/Sea Holly.

The Limestone landscape was jaw-dropping at every turn. Griffon and Egyptian Vultures were seen, as well as a Booted Eagle and Common Buzzard. We enjoyed the sight of Northern Wheatear and Water Pipit singing in the low scrubby bushes, Crag Martins dipped and swirled in along a sheer rock-face.

We continued our trek and soon arrived at Lake Enol, where we walked along its shore to a steep-ish hill climb where we could enjoy breath-taking views over both lakes. We continued down the shepherd's trails passing clumps of trefoil and Dropwort. Further down members of the group came across some Fragrant Orchids which were delightful, and indeed very perfumed.

We descended a little further to stop at the Mirador de la Reina where we took in the fabulous views of the Cuera mountain range in the background, whilst Choughs skimmed by, and Egyptian Vultures and numerous Griffon Vultures flew above us.

A short drive down the mountain to a famous local viewing point – and a Vulture/Scavenger's feeding station way down the valley but easily seen through binoculars and cameras. The panoramic views were again stunning, Choughs, Kites, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures glided above us, and some quite close – as were several Griffon Vultures perched close by us on crags. At least 30 to 40 Griffon Vultures were counted on the ground on the valley side as well as high perches. However, as we were about to leave, above a high ridge a large dark shape glided effortlessly on the thermals - a Lammergeier/Bearded Vulture soared above us and landed in the feeding area amongst the Griffon. With a near three metre wingspan, a diet of up to 90% of which is animal bones and weighing in at over 6kg – this bird was a delight to watch. We had some wonderful views of it as well as photos too.

Once in Covadonga, we enjoyed well-deserved ice-creams and refreshments, we visited the famous pink Limestone Basilica de Santa Maria la Real de Covadonga and the Grotto/Cave also there. We met the important statue figure of King Don Pelayo and the Santana of Asturias, then walked down alongside the rushing river, side-stepped a Grass Snake that was climbing the steps, before we returned to the hotel after a wonderful day.

Day 5

Thursday 15th June

Cantabrian Liebana, Andara, Eastern Massif & Brez

Weather: Bright & Sunny all day, 28 degrees

In the morning was time to bid a fond farewell to Jim, Pilar and their friendly staff as we made our way to our second and final destination: Hotel Posada el Cocal de Liebana, in Tama. This 14-bedroom hotel was built in 2007 and in the traditional, local Cantabrian Mountain style. It's sister restaurant sits a few yards from the hotel – that being Casa Fofi. We awoke to a sunny day, we left Asturias to approach Cantabria, specifically, Brez, high in the valley of Liebana. The climb through the forest was a pleasant one, with plenty of shady areas from the sun. Marbled White, Small & Large White Butterflies flitted across our path. Bonelli's Warbler, Blackcap and Raven were seen and noted. Pine Martin scat and Wild Boar prints were seen and a Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was enjoyed too.

Griffon and Egyptian Vultures soared above, alongside the odd Black Kite. We walked alongside lush green, bracken-covered valley sides and plenty of wooded areas, where a Coal Tit sang, and an Adonis Blue Butterfly was seen. We rested on a grassy path under the shade of Oak and Beech to have a sandwich and some drinks. Once at the top of the mountain, we could enjoy spectacular views of the eastern massif, Andara de los Picos de Europa with Potes at our feet. Upon returning to the minibuses on this circular route, we were delighted to get a sighting of a Middle-Spotted Woodpecker through the woodland canopy. Cirl and Rock Bunting entertained us on the way down, Pablo pointed out an Egyptian Vulture's nest in a craggy outcrop. A spotted Flycatcher was viewed, close and at length on a wire and then feeding it's young. Swallows and Martins swooped as we returned to our vehicles.

Once back in Tama, some of the group ventured off for a short walk alongside the nearby river at the rear of the hotel. Then, after a little siesta, a tasty meal was had on our large table at Casa Fofi.

Day 6

Friday 16th June

Espinama, Aliva, Fuente de, Central Massif

Weather: Bright & Sunny all day, 30 degrees

To avoid long queues in the morning we had an early breakfast and drove to Espinama to go up to Aliva. We left our minibuses here at this pre-arranged meeting point and alighted into more suitable rougher terrain vehicles, with local drivers. The drive was steep and a little bumpy, however, our drivers took their time and we arrived at the start of our trek at sunrise.

Once at Aliva we were quickly surprised by a good number of interesting birds such as the Snow Finch, the Alpine Chough and even the Water Pipit performing its nuptial dance.

As we climbed, we could see the geomorphological forms of the Picos de Europa and the activity of the ancient Glaciers and Moraine in the valley. We also learnt about the different livestock uses of the region and the relevance of the native breed Tudanca cows.

As we reached the Chalet Real, we approached some promontories to look for more birds, but first, a young Cantabrian Chamois was spotted high on a ridge. The alpine flora was on show, with fine specimens of Gentiana, Spring Squill, Saxifrages, Globularia and Moss Campion, as well as Large Tortoiseshell butterflies and Hummingbird Hawk Moths.

We continued climbing and we could easily see several Egyptian Vultures and Buzzards along with Griffon Vultures. We walked along gazing at the Massif of Picos de Europa, and the Urrieles. The needles of Ostioicoechea were pointed out as we continued our approach the Vueltona to look for the elusive Wallcreeper. Unfortunately, they stayed hidden, however we did have various good sightings of Alpine Accentor, with food in its mouth for its offspring. The cheeky Choughs flew low and landed very close to us.

After we re-energised on our packed lunches and watched the brave rock climbers (humans!) begin their ascent of vertical sheer limestone faces, we walked back down to our meeting point, but not before spotting another Bearded Vulture silently drifting above us and between the various outcrops and peaks. We walked on, spotted more Chamois amongst the high ridges and then we rested in the mountain café, took on some drinks and local snacks before being driven back down from the peaks.

Onwards then to our hotel for a siesta and then a short drive to Potes, initially for an hour's look around the town shops – and then for a traditional evening meal, in the cellar room at the wonderful Casa Cayou. A Scops Owl was heard around the hotel grounds later that night.

Day 7

Saturday 17th June

Vega de Liebana, San Glorio

Weather: Bright & Sunny all day, 26 degrees

Today was another earlier start in order to avoid traffic and enable us to have a full day trekking and spotting. The drive up was a steep one, however the views were just breath-taking. After a steady climb to over 1600 metres, we parked up and began exploring. Once again, the landscape was truly stunning. The San Glorio pass, valleys and areas are jaw-dropping. Ravens and Chough were seen, Griffon Vultures sailed the thermals high up, Black Kite, Carrion Crow. This is Bear and Wolf country, however, as usual they kept themselves well hidden.

Soon, we drove down a short way and parked in a high car parking area. We took a walk through a Pine wood and then across heathland. Firecrest, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Northern Wheatear, Stonechat, Tree and Water Pipit as well. Walking onwards, skirting the sheer mountain slopes we saw evidence of Snow Vole runs which would normally be under the snow, Yellowhammer, Cirl Bunting, Serin, Linnet, Tawny Pipit and Whitethroat were all seen.

We walked through rocky, but lush, picturesque green valleys and descended down to a directional fingerpost. We noted that this post had been clawed heavily by a bear! Onwards then past a marshy area with Man and Fragrant Orchids and then land opened out to a huge mountain basin, surrounded by the mountains. We settled down for our packed lunches by a babbling spring-fed stream where we refilled our water bottles.

Onwards past flowering Digitalis, Pine Forest and to collect our vehicles. First a refreshment stop at a delightful mountain café. We then had a short drive to try to spot some Ibex, however we assumed the heat of this day probably meant that they were resting in the shade. However, we did spot some young female Ibex on high rocky outcrops above the tumbling river. Back to the hotel Posada el Corcal in Tama. Some of our guests decided upon a pre-dinner walk along the babbling river adjacent to the hotel – and well worth it was too! A Dipper, a Woodlark and a pair of Golden Orioles were all spotted in this tranquil, early evening setting.

Day 8

Sunday 18th June

Journey to Bilbao

We left our hotel at 9am for the journey to Bilbao airport. Even the drive there was a beautiful reminder of all the flora and fauna that we saw and in the most glorious and stunning landscape of Los Picos de Europa, everyone agreed that it was a daily feast for the eyes.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	June 2022							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓			✓				
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>				✓		✓		
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓				
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓			✓			
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓							✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓							
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓					
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>					H			
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	H			H				
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						✓		
Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>				✓				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓		✓				
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓				
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>						✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>				✓		✓		
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>							✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		✓		✓	✓		H	
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	✓				✓			
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	✓				✓			
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H		H				
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓	✓					
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓	✓			
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓			
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓		✓	✓				
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	H	✓		H		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					✓		✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	H
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	June 2022							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>				✓				✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>								
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>						✓		
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>						✓		
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓			✓	✓			✓
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					✓		✓	
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓			✓		✓		
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓				✓	✓		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓			✓				✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓			✓		✓	
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	June 2022							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pyrenean Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	June 2022							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Common Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓							
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>			✓					
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓		✓			
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓		✓			
Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfahariensis</i>						✓		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓			✓	✓			
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓					
Long Tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>		✓						
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓			✓		✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓					✓	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓				✓		
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	✓							
Small pearl bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>					✓			
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bahseba</i>						✓		
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓			✓				
Chapman's Ringlet	<i>Eribia palarica</i>						✓	✓	✓
Iberian Marbled White	<i>Melanargia lachesis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

		June 2022							
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>			✓					

Moths

		June 2022							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>							✓	
Drinker Moth Caterpillar	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>				✓				
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>						✓	✓	✓

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>	✓							
Iberian Rock Lizard	<i>Lacerta monticola</i>			✓					
European Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			✓					
Viperine Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>			✓					
Palmate Newt	<i>Triturus helveticus</i>				✓				
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>				✓				
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix Helvetica</i>				✓				

Plants

Scientific Name

Brackens

Pteridium aquilinum

Common Name

Common Bracken

Spleenworts

Asplenium scolopendrium

Common Hart's Tongue

Conifers

Juniperus communis

Juniper

Taxus baccata

Yew

Apiaceae (Umbellifers)

Astrantia major

Daucus carota

Eryngium maritimum

Heracleum sphondylium

Anthriscus sylvestris

Foeniculum vulgare

conium maculatum

Conopodium majus

Aquifoliaceae

Ilex aquifolium

Carrot Family

Masterwort

Wild Carrot

Sea Holly

Hogweed

Cow Parsley

Common Fennel

Hemlock

Common Pignut

Holly Family

Holly

Scientific Name**Common Name****Asteraceae (Compositae)****Daisy family***Achillea millefolium*

Yarrow

Bellis perennis

Daisy

Centaurea nigra

Common Knapweed

Centaurea montana

Perennial Cornflower

Carduus defloratus ssp. carlinifolius

Carlina-Leaved Thistle

Carduus nutans

Musk Thistle

Dandelion

Taraxacum

Cichorium intybus

Common Chicory

Pallensis spinosa

Spiny Pallensis

Leucanthemum vulgare

Ox-Eye Daisy

Betulaceae**Birch Family***Betula pendula*

Silver Birch

Corylus avellana

European Hazel

Boraginaceae**Forget-me-not Family***Echium vulgare*

Viper's Bugloss

Myosotis alpestris

Alpine Forget-me-not

Myosotis scorpioides

Water Forget-me-not

Aegonychon purpureocaeruleum

Purple Gromwell

Glandora diffusa

Scrambling Gromwell

Symphytum tuberosum

Tuberous Comfrey

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)**Cabbage/Cress Family***Iberis carnosa*

Pruit's Candytuft

Arabis hirsuta

Hairy Rock Cress

Campanulaceae**Bellflower Family***C. persicifolia*

Peach-Leaved Bellflower

C. rotundifolia

Common Harebell

Jasione montana

Common Sheep's-Bit

Caprifoliaceae**Honeysuckle Family***Lonicera periclymenum*

Honeysuckle

Knautia arvensis

Field Scabious

Dipsacus fullonum

Common Teasel

Valeriana montana

Mountain Valerian

Caryophyllaceae**Pink Family***Rubra holostea*

Greater Stitchwort

Petrorhagia saxifraga

Tunic flower

S. vulgaris

Bladder Campion

Dianthus hyssopifolius

Fringed Pink

Silene otites

Spanish Catchfly

Scientific Name*Sinene acaulis**Sinen dioica***Common Name**

Moss Champion

Red Champion

Celastraceae*Euonymus europaeus***Spindle-tree Family**

Spindle Tree

Cistaceae*Heliathemum nummularian***Rock-rose family**

Common Rockrose

Clusiaceae (Hypericaceae)*H perforatum***St John'-wort Family**

Perforate St. John's Wort

Corylaceae*Corylus avellana***Hazel Family**

Hazel

Crassulaceae*Sedum album**S. acre***Stonecrop Family**

White Stonecrop

Biting Stonecrop

Disacaceae*Dipsacus fullonum**Knautia arvensis***Teasel Family**

Teasel

Field Scabious

Ericaceae*Calluna vulgaris**Erica cinerea**E. arborea**E. vagans**Daboecia cantabrica**Vaccinium myrtillus***Heath Family**

Heather/Ling

Bell Heather

Tree Heather

Cornish Heath

St. Dabeoc's Heath

Bilberry

Euphorbiaceae*Mercurialis perennis**E. pyrenaica**E. amygdaloides***Spurge Family**

Dog's Mercury

Pyrenean Spurge

Wood Spurge

Fabaceae (Leguminosae)*Anthyllis vulneraria ssp pyrenaica**Cytisus scoparius**Genista hispanica**Genista legionensis**Genista sericea**Hippocrepis comosa**Lotus alpinas**L. corniculatus**Medicago sativa**T pratense***Pea Family**

Kidney Vetch

Broom

Spanish Gorse

Picos Greenweed

Silk-Leaved Gorse

Horseshoe Vetch

Alpine Birdsfoot Trefoil

Birdsfoot Trefoil

Lucerne

Red Clover

Scientific Name

Vicia cracca
Echinospartum horridum
Anthyllis vulneraria
Vicia sepium
Ononis spinosa
Trifolium pratense
Trifolium repens
Trifolium campestre
Medicago lupulina

Common Name

Tufted Vetch
Hedgehog Gorse
Common Kidney Vetch
Bush Vetch
Common Restharrow
Red Clover
White Clover
Hop Trefoil
Black Medick

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa
Fagus sylvatica
Quercus ilex
Q. pyrenaica
Q. petraea
Q. suber

Oak and Beech Family

Sweet Chestnut
Beech
Holm Oak
Pyrenean Oak
Sessile Oak
Cork Oak

Gentianaceae

Gentiana occidentalis
G. verna

Gentian Family

Pyrenean Trumpet Gentian
Spring Gentian

Geraniaceae

G. saguineum
G. robertianum
G. pyrenaicum
Erodium cicutarium

Geranium Family

Bloody Cranesbill
Herb Robert
Pyrenean Geranium
Common Storks-bill

Horesetails

Water Horsetail

Equisetaceae

Equisetum fluviatile

Labiatae

Teucrium pyrenaicum
Prunella grandiflora
Prunella vulgaris
Thymus praecox
Thymus pulegiodes
Origanum vulgare
Clinopodium alpinum
Ajuga reptans
Betonica officinalis
Stachys sylvatica

Dead-nettle Family

Pyrenean Germander
Large-Flowered Selfheal
Common Selfheal
Wild Thyme
Large Thyme
Common Marjoram
Alpine Basil-Thyme
Common Bugle
Common Betany
Hedge Woundwort

Malvaceae

Malva moschata
M. sylvestris

Mallow Family

Musk Mallow
Common Mallow

Scientific Name*Tilia platyphyllos**Tilia cordata***Common Name**

Large-leaved Lime

Small-leaved Lime

Papaveraceae*Chelidonium majus**Papaver rhoeas***Poppy Family**

Greater Celandine

Field Poppy

Plumbaginaceae*Armeria maritima ssp alpina***Thrift Family**

Alpine/Mountain Thrift

Polygonaceae*P. viviparum**Rumex acetosella**Bistorta officinalis***Knotweed Family**

Alpine Bistort

Sheep's Sorrel

Common Bistort

Ranunculaceae*Aquilegia vulgaris**Helleborus foetidus**Helleborus viridis**Hepatica nobilis**Ranunculus amplexicaulis**R. gramineus**R. flammula**Thalictrum foetidum**Caltha palustris***Buttercup Family**

Columbine

Stinking Hellebore

Green Hellebore

Hepatica

Amplexicaule Buttercup

Grass-leaved Buttercup

Lesser Spearwort

Stinking Meeadow-rue

Marsh Marigold

Rosaceae*Alchemilla alpina**Fragaria vesca**Potentilla erecta**P. montana**Filipendula vulgaris**Rosa arvensis**Rosa canina**Sorbus sp.**Agrimonia eupatoria**Sanguisorba minor***Rose Family**

Alpine Lady's-mantle

Wild Strawberry

Tormentil

Mountain Cinquefoil

Dropwort

Field Rose

Dog Rose

A Whitebeam

Common Agrimony

Salad Burnett

Rubiaceae*Rubia peregrina**Gallium album**Gallium aparine***Bedstraw Family**

Wild Madder

Hedge Bedstraw

Cleavers

Saxifragaceae*S. rotundifolia**S. aspera***Saxifrage Family**

Round-leaved saxifrage

Rough Saxifrage

Scientific Name*S. hypnoides***Common Name**

Mossy Saxifrage

Scrophulariaceae*Digitalis parviflora**Verbascum pulverulentum**V. lychnitis**D. purpurea**Linaria alpina**Rhinanthus minor***Figwort Family**

(Small Brown Foxglove)

Hoary Mullein

White Mullein

Foxglove

Alpine Toadflax

Yellow Rattle

Thymelaeaceae*Daphne laureola ssp philippi***Daphne Family**

Spurge Laurel

Tiliaceae*T. platyphyllos***Lime Family**

Lime

Valerianaceae*V. montana***Valerian Family**

Mountain Valerian

Orchidaceae*Aceras anthropophorum**D. fuchsia**Dactylorhiza incarnata**Gymnadenia conopsea**Ophrys apifera**Anacamptis pyramidalis**Himantoglossum hircinum**Ophrys scolopax*

Man Orchid

Common Spotted Orchid

Early Marsh Orchid

Fragrant Orchid

Bee Orchid

Pyramidal Orchid

Lizard Orchid

Woodcock Orchid

Additional species recorded -

Common Smilax

Bermuda Blue-Eyed Grass

Stinking Iris

White Asphodel

Hairy Stonecrop

Pyrenean Violet

Dog Violet

Purple Loosestrife

Large-flowered Evening Primrose

Common Mistletoe

Lesser Stitchwort

Red Campion

Lesser Periwinkle

Field Bindweed

Yellow-throated Purple Toadflax

Daisy-leaved Toadflax
Ribwort Plantain
Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Leafless-stemmed Globularia
Slender Broomrape
Ivy Broomrape
Snapdragon
Ragged Robin
Germander Speedwell
Jointed Charlock