The Spanish Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 - 27 May 2018



Alpine Marmot, Marmotta marmotta by Richard Jones



Spurge Hawk Moth by Julian Venables



Spanish Swallowtail, Iphiclides feisthamelii by Ricard Jones



Ramonda myconi Pyrenean Violet by Julian Venables

Report compiled by Philip Thompson Images courtesy of Richard Jones & Julian Venables



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Tour Report The Spanish Pyrenees

Tour participants: Philip Thompson and Sergio Padura (leaders) with 12 Naturetrek clients

Day 1 Sunday 20th May

With our late afternoon arrival into Zaragoza we only had time to complete the formalities of collecting our minibus and driving direct to Berdun where our guesthouse accommodation lay. Once we had arrived and settled into our rooms we were soon sitting down to the first of many enjoyable evening meals. During our journey we had only been able to spot birds from the rapidly moving vehicle that included several raptors, storks and common farmland species.

Day 2 Monday 21st May

Our first day was spent exploring the local area beginning with a morning's walk down from the guesthouse to the River Veral. As we made our slow progress we spent time examining the plants, insects and birds we encountered. The local flora comprised numerous interesting and exciting species, a number of which were particularly attractive such as the aptly named Beautiful Flax *Linum narbonense* and Shrubby Restharrow *Ononis fruticans*. A number of orchids were found such as Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea* and a range of Ophrys species. In the corner of a small arable field among the eroded badlands a couple of examples of the stunning Violet Horned Poppy *Roemeria hybrida* had produced their strikingly coloured flowers.

As we reached the river we left the main road and took a rather river eroded track that ran alongside through the alluvial gravelly soils. Here we encountered many more plants of a different nature around which several butterflies were seen mainly comprising Green-underside and Panoptes Blues. We were fortunate in picking out a singing Subalpine Warbler that, after moving around somewhat, eventually chose an exposed leafless tree, allowing the group to obtain an unobstructed view of this usually skulking species. During our time here we would periodically spot an overhead raptor or two that mainly comprised Griffon Vultures but also include both Red and Black Kites and Short-toed Snake and Booted Eagles. The deep blue flowered *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis* caught the group's attention followed by the equally intense blue of *Lithodora fruticosa*. Reaching the end of the path we retraced our steps back to the main dirt road to continue further, ultimately reaching a lush grassy meadow in which several species of orchid were found. Both *Ophrys apifera* and *lutea* were in full bloom, but we were disappointed by the young spikes of Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum* being still some way off flowering. With the morning warming up our thoughts began to turn towards a refreshing drink and lunch back at our guesthouse.

Once lunch was completed the afternoon was spent exploring the riverside areas of the River Aragon a short drive away. On our initial arrival the weather was somewhat inclement with a light rain falling with the result that we sat it out in the vehicle waiting for things to improve. After a short wait it was deemed suitable to risk a walk during which we again found several interesting plants such as *Arenaria aggregata* subsp. *oscensis*, *Dipcadi serotinum*, *Coris monspeliensis* and *Ajuga chamaepitys*. The rather overcast conditions with a rather persistent light intermittent rain had kept birdlife activity down but we did manage to pick out a quartering Marsh Harrier and spot one or two singing Garden Warblers which were joined by a single Melodious Warbler. This area held a range of confusing 'species' of Ophrys orchids whose current classification is somewhat in flux but we confidently ID'd *Ophrys sphegodes* plus a couple of subspecies and hybrids. The rain returned rather heavier producing a return to the buses and pre-empting any further examination of this fascinating and difficult group. We opted to explore

the opposite bank following a path through a more wooded environment. Here a rich mix of orchids was found with the highlight being several mature flower spikes of Military Orchid *Orchis militaris*. Of a rather less showy nature was a good find of a colony of the parasitic Purple Toothwort *Lathraea clandestina* growing at the base of the riverside trees with the flowers just protruding from the ground.

The weather continued to rather problematic so an early end to the day was opted for by some while a few hardier souls continued on with a visit to Berdun Marsh, an area of Redbud and Poplar plantation to the south of the town. Again the birds were rather quiet due to the light rain that continued but we were pleased with the discovery of numerous White Helleborines *Cephalanthera damosonium* in the plantation and a small colony of Laxflowered Orchid *Anacamptis laxiflora* in the marsh. A singing Western Bonelli's Warbler high in the Poplars proved typically elusive with only a few fleeting glimpses obtained. Feeling decidedly damp by now we also returned to the guesthouse to dry off in preparation for dinner!

Day 3

Tuesday 22nd May

Our weather was still due to be somewhat unsettled so we headed south to visit a variety of areas and locations in the pre-Pyrenean range of hills with its different mix of flora and birds compared to the high tops.

We began by stopping at the dam wall of the Embalse de la Pena. Once out of the buses we were immediately admiring the many Crag Martins swooping above us among the sheer cliffs mixed among several House Martins nesting in a rather more natural situation than our accustomed man-made structures! Roosting on the cliffs were a small number of Griffon Vultures with a couple of Egyptian Vultures adding to the spectacle. A passing Peregrine was duly noted and seen to settle on the cliffs high above the dam. A smart male Blue Rock Thrush made several appearances as it moved about the dam wall, rock pinnacles and buildings enabling the whole group to connect with it. It was the plants however that stole the show with several iconic Pyrenean species found growing on the rock-faces and scree slopes alongside the path. Most notable were numerous colonies of both Ramonda myconi and Saxifraga longifolia both in all their glory with an abundance of flowers to admire.

After this initial short walk we drove on to visit the Pinnacles of Riglos, the impressive eroded towers of red conglomerate rock that overlook the small village and river valley below. Parking in the village we walked through the houses towards the most impressive towers pausing to admire a freshly emerged Giant Peacock Moth (as big as your hand!!), before the path reached the tower base. Overhead a typical mix of birds of this habitat soared and swept past that included numerous vultures, Red-billed Choughs and Alpine Swifts. On the rock face could be seen Rock Sparrow, Blue Rock Thrush and Black Redstart whilst below in the warm scrub several singing Sardinian Warblers flitted to and fro.

With morning heading into lunchtime we returned to the vehicle to cross to the opposite side of the valley and a visit to the Chapel of Iglesias de Santiago near to the lesser-known Pinnacles of Aguero. This very interesting small chapel was adorned by several interesting carvings and makers' marks to hold the group's attention while lunch was prepared. Near the parked vehicles a splendid flowering spike of *Limadorum arbortivum*, a species new to most.

Our final stop of the day was taken after another drive reaching the impressive and historic Castillo de Loarre perched on its promontory overlooking the plains stretching off into the distance southwards. The group were

given free time to explore as they fancied during which a number of birds and flowers were found by most, although the café with coffee and ice-cream proved similarly attractive to some! The Red-billed Choughs, Rock Sparrows and Black Redstarts breeding in the castle walls proved popular whilst the adjoining pine plantation held Western Bonelli's Warblers and Firecrests found by some of the group.

After a long and varied day we then headed directly back to freshen up for dinner.

Day 4

Wednesday 23rd May

With better weather forecast we headed north up into the high realms of the Pyrenees starting with a visit to the Refugio de Gabardito. We did not linger too long upon our arrival, but headed directly up along the footpath leading towards the sheer cliffs. Our route led through pine forest, past a pleasant open meadow with several interesting plants (that delayed some!) before climbing steadily beneath the cliff face. Once here we stopped, rested and began to scour the rocks for our target of the elusive and sought-after Wallcreeper. With great good fortune our wait did not last long with a bird flying in after only a couple of minutes! Unfortunately many of the group had still not arrived. All ended well with both male and female Wallcreepers making a couple of appearances once the remainder of the group had arrived allowing everyone interested to at least obtain a view of sorts. During our time here we also spotted our first Izard on the far mountain slopes and overhead both Redbilled and Alpine Choughs, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures and Common Kestrel put in appearances. Returning to the vehicles we allowed ourselves the luxury of spending a little time admiring the abundant flora followed by picking up a couple of small parties of Citril Finches in the open pastures near the Refugio.

For lunch, with the weather forecast to remain dry if changeable, we decided to head further up the Hecho valley, passing through the Boca del Infierno gorge, to stop at a campsite area with some benches. The weather had clearly not paid attention to the forecast but did not spoil our picnic too much, during which a pair of breeding White-bellied Dippers were spotted on the river alongside.

With our final move up to the end of the road at the head of the valley we made a couple of stops and walks in the open alpine meadows. Our first stop had the group scrambling up a steep grassy slope photographing the many colourful specialist alpine flowers on show with an abundance of Spring Gentian *Gentiana verna* and Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula* dotting the area. After a further short drive, and after a short stop to admire a colony of Alpine Marmots, we parked and walked further up the track spotting a healthy herd of Izard and a pair of Lammergeier flying high among the peaks. Making slow and steady progress we were able to enjoy the surroundings, scenery and wildlife on offer before time necessitated a return.

Day 5

Thursday 24th May

Another day was spent in the pre-Pyrenees when we visited the monastery of St Juan de la Pena. Leaving the valley of the Aragon we climbed south into the massif within which the old monastery is perched and the new on the summit plateau. A stop was taken at a fine viewpoint on the way up where we were entertained by a Griffon Vulture cruising past within metres before climbing effortlessly in the rising air currents. On top of the steep and inaccessible slope behind us a fine selection of plants grew that included a few nodding *Fritillaria lusitanica* and Wild Tulip *Tulipa sylvestris*.

Passing the old monastery as we continued up we reached the sheltered car park. From here we took a pleasant walk through the Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* woods to reach another splendid viewpoint with a huge panorama of high Pyrenean peaks spread before us. At the start of the walk we spent a little time in the car park pines picking out several of the abundant Firecrests, Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch and a Red Squirrel. Reaching an area of meadow we found numerous diminutive floral spikes of Champagne Orchid *Anacamptis morio* subsp. *champagneuxii* mixed with abundant Grape Hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*. Once at the viewpoint we relaxed on the convenient benches for a short while before 'itchy feet' got the better of most and we walked a short distance further spotting a couple of good butterflies, plants and views for our trouble. A loudly drumming Black Woodpecker below us could not be found within the thick forest.

We headed back to have our picnic on the benches in the large open meadow alongside the new monastery. While it was set out a few of the group took the opportunity to be shuttled down to have a look at the old monastery built beneath a huge overhang of rock. The remainder of the group relaxed in the sun to await their return and tuck into lunch.

For the afternoon we headed east towards Arres. We parked up a few kilometres from this small village where we disembarked and undertook the short remaining distance on foot, following a section of the famous Camino de Santiago pilgrims' route. It was warm and sunny now with, thankfully, a cooling breeze to help us on our way. Notable plants continued to be found alongside the abundant Duke of Burgundy butterflies all along our route. The hoped for Orphean Warbler put in an appearance after we had been made aware of its presence from its distinctive song. The song was lovely but the appearance was all too brief with only a short flight view afforded the keen watchers. Upon reaching the village of Arres it became clear that the bar was only staffed by a local 'helping out' (the barmaid apparently off sick). This comprised much fun and games in getting our desire for a cold beer over to him, to the evident frustration of some!

Day 6 Friday 25th May

An early morning thunderstorm and heavy rain made for a slight change in plans as we visited the town of Jaca to admire the important Romanesque cathedral and historic city centre. During our short tour the weather passed and brightened up allowing our return and continuation of our original plans with a drive up to the high Aisa valley. A rather uncharacteristic Short-toed Treecreeper allowed for a clear view as it sang prominently from the apex of a nearby roof before we set off.

The drive up took us through much attractive scenery and mountain pastures before the road ended and we took to our legs to continue our full day enjoying the unspoilt tranquility of this beautiful Pyrenean valley.

After having climbed the steepest initial stretch of the walk the terrain flattened out and we were presented with pastures awash with a multitude of colourful flowers mainly comprising Spring Squill *Scilla verna*, Elder-flowered Orchid *Dactylorhiza sambucina*, *Gentiana verna* and *acaulis* and innumerable Cowslips *Primula veris* subsp. *suaveolens*. The scenery had opened out and we found ourselves within a beautiful and enormous amphitheatre formed by the snow-clad high summits. Swirling among them were large numbers of both Alpine and Red-billed Chough. Our route led towards a rushing torrent of the headwaters of the Rio Estarrun that prevented our crossing. We remained on the western side and continued up the valley. Many fresh and exciting plants were spotted with several highlights. After careful scanning through the dense Cowslip colonies we detected a lovely area of

grassland full of the delicate *Narcissus assoanus*, followed a little further on with a few rather past their best examples of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *minor*. Close to the river's edge and lining the wet flushes were huge numbers of pink Bird's-eye primrose *Primula farinosa* creating a colourful haze when seen from a distance. A couple of young Izard were seen coming down into the valley floor to lick at the salt put down for the grazing cattle and sheep when they are brought up in the summer. Their nervous approach was cut short when they detected our presence and they scampered off to the safety of higher ground.

Making slow progress with much to see and admire, we eventually opted to have our picnic in the lee of some large boulders with fine views all around. A few of the group had climbed higher for doubtless superior views but having forgotten that the main party was carrying their cheese and chorizo rations to accompany their lunch salad! As we awaited their return we spotted a large colony of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *bicolor* on the opposite side of the valley. Most chose to admire from afar with only one diehard enthusiast eager for a closer look. The majority lay back and admired his progress with a few bellowed directions to help! All too soon our rather curtailed day came to an end and we retraced our route back, but not before a couple of Lammergeiers and Griffon Vultures drifted by.

After dinner a final foray of the day was undertaken by some with a trip out in the dusk to scan for an Eagle Owl leaving its roost. Having arrived at our viewing point it was not long before the bird put in an appearance. Unfortunately it flew low across the valley before us without breaking the skyline and was thus missed by most. Luckily a short while later it flew again away from us but this time silhouetted against the darkening sky. The hoped for Nightjars could only be heard intermittently at some distance. After a little planet watching we drove off taking a different circuitous route in the hope of some nocturnal fauna. We succeeded in spotting nothing more exotic than a Hare, Rabbit and Fox for our efforts!

Day 7 Saturday 26th May

Due to the rather late spring being experienced throughout Europe this year we had left our final exploration of the high Pyrenees until last when we were to visit the Lady's Slipper Orchid site close to the French border. The season was still not with us, as when we arrived at the spot we were informed that the plants were still in bud, with most of the group opting to have a look nonetheless.

Moving on we parked up at the border hypermarkets where we set out on our first walk of the day. This initially led past a stunning slope covered with abundant flowering Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. bicolor and Fritillaria pyrenaica. The rocky outcrops all around were clothed in bright cerise-flowered Primula hirsuta and a splendid flowering colony of Scilla pyrenaica nestled in the wet flush beneath one such outcrop. The attractive Anemone narcissiflora that are abundant here were just coming into flower with only a couple of examples fully out. Among the rocky slopes a couple of Water Pipits performed their song flights. Right on cue a distant Golden Eagle was sighted that then proceeded to drift our way passing close overhead. Looking up to the rocks above us breaking the skyline a number of family groups of Izard with young kids were seen making for a particularly fine photo. Walking among the recently exposed grassy meadows an abundance of Soldanella alpina dotted the turf. A few of the group opted to scramble further into this stunning area being rewarded with a small patch of Crocus caeruleus, Primula integrifolia, Daphne mezereon and all too fleetingly a distant Alpine Accentor. Retracing our steps we reached the vehicles and then on into the nearby café for a short break.

Our weather that had been forecast to be dry in the morning with storms building lived up to the billing so we headed down a short distance to take our picnic on the benches alongside the reservoir of the Rio Aguas Limpias. This we just managed in time before the rain began to hamper our enjoyment of our excursion! The periodic passing showers did not deter most from opting to take the planned walk up the valley. This route led through some delightful scenery gently ascending up through the valley, which we made the most of in the rather inclement conditions. Reaching a pleasant vista of a rushing waterfall and with the rain beginning to match the view we decided to return to dry off with a coffee in the café below. Having re-joined the rest of the group in the café we sat and watched the changing clouds and occasional flash of lightning before feeling it was best to head back

Day 8

Sunday 27th May

We were stymied in our hoped for final morning spent seeking butterflies in some nearby meadows by the morning fog that lay in the valley. So, after saying our farewells, we headed directly south stopping first at the castle of Montearagon near Huesca. Our first halt was at the base of the isolated hilltop on which the castle is located. Here we were viewing into a small amphitheatre with rocky protrusions all around. After some careful scanning we managed to pick out not only Northern and Black-eared Wheatears but also our target of the scarce and localized Black Wheatear. A single male was picked out hopping among the boulders showing the white tail base against its all black plumage. With this success we drove on up to the castle itself and the fine views from its strategic location. Attention shifted to the butterflies that were flying here, the majority of which were Western Marbled Whites with a few blues and fritillaries mixed in that proved tricky to ID due to their constant motion.

Our next stop was a small reservoir, the Alberca de Loreto, not too far away, where we had our lunch before the group had time to explore in their own way. On the lake were several Great Crested Grebes joined by a pair of Black-necked Grebes that made their way across the open water before vanishing into the fringing rushes. Within the reed bed at the northern end a couple of Purple Herons could be picked out from time to time, whilst a Marsh Harrier made an appearance to quarter the area. Shortly after a male Montagu's Harrier was spotted behaving in a similar manner over the surrounding arable fields. A couple of the group were fortunate in spotting a Water Rail that flew from one patch of reed to another before vanishing. Loudly singing from the reeds were a number of Great Reed Warblers that proved elusive, similar to the rather less vociferous European Reed Warblers that were also present. With the day gently winding down all that remained was to complete our journey to Zaragoza and our homeward flight.

We arrived in perfect time to check in and await the arrival of our plane. It was then that we were to become the victims of not one, but two, freak occurrences of nature that brought about a somewhat roundabout and complex return home, but that's another story.

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Species Lists

Plants

Scientific name Common name

PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS) CONIFERS

CupressaceaeCypress FamilyCupressus sempervirensItalian CypressJuniperus communisCommon JuniperJuniperus oxycedrusPrickly JuniperJuniperus phoeniceaPhoenician Juniper

PinaceaePine FamilyPinus halepensisAleppo PinePinus nigra ssp. salzmanniiAustrian PinePinus sylvestrisScots PinePinus uncinata

MAGNOLIOPSIDA FLOWERING PLANTS

Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)

AceraceaeMaple FamilyAcer campestreField MapleAcer monspessulanumMontpelier Maple

AnacardiaceaeSumach FamilyPistacia terebinthusTurpentine Tree

ApiaceaeCarrot FamilyAnthriscus sylvestrisCow Parsley

Bupleurum rigidum

Conopodium majusEarthnutDaucus carotaWild CarrotEryngium bourgatiiPyrenean EryngoEryngium campestreField EryngoFoeniculum vulgareFennel

Heracleum sphondylium

Laserpitium gallicum a Sermountain

Laserpitium latifolium Broad-leaved Sermountain

Ligusticum lucidum

Meum athamanticumSpignelSanicula europaeaSanicle

Torilis arvensis

Torilis nodosa Knotted Hedge Parsley

Trinia glauca Honewort

Aquifoliaceae Holly Family

Ilex aquifolium Holly

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Ivy

Scientific name

Asteraceae

Achillea millefolium

Anthemis arvensis Artemesia campestris Artemesia herba-alba

Artemesia vulgaris Bellis perennis

Bellis sylvestris Carduncellus mitissimus

Carduus nutans Centaurea calcitrapa Cichorium intybus

Filago pyramidata
Helichrysum stoechas
Lactuca perennis
Leucanthemum vulgare

Leuzia conifera

Onopordum acanthium

Onopordum acaulon Pallenis spinosa Pilosella officinarum

Santolina chamaecyparissus

Scolymus hispanicus Silybum marianum Tragopogon crocifolius Tragopogon porrifolius Tragopogon pratensis Tussilago farfara

Boraginaceae

Anchusa azurea
Borago officinalis
Cynoglossum creticum
Echium vulgare
Lithodora fruticosa
Lithospermum officinale

Brassicaeae

Aethionema saxatile Alliaria petiolata

Myosotis alpestris

Arabis caucasica subsp. alpina

Arabis glabra Arabis hirsuta Arabis turrita

Barbarea intermedia Biscutella brevifolia Capsella bursa-pastoris Cardamine raphanifolia Coincya monensis

Descurainia sophia Draba aizoides Erophila verna

Common name

Daisy Family

Yarrow

Field Wormwood Pyrenean Wormwood

Daisy

Southern Daisy Dwarf Blue Thistle Musk Thistle Red Star Thistle

Chicory

Curry Plant Blue Lettuce Oxe-eye Daisy

Leuzia

Cotton Thistle

Stemless Cotton Thistle

Pallenis

Mouse-ear Hawkweed Lavender Cotton Spanish Oyster Plant

Milk Thistle

-

Salsify Goat's-beard Colt's-foot

Borage Family

Large Blue Alkanet

Borage

Blue Hound's-tongue Viper's Bugloss Shrubby Gromwell Common Gromwell Alpine Forget-me-not

Cabbage Family

Burnt Candytuft Garlic Mustard Alpine Rock-cress Tower Mustard Hairy Rock-cress Tower Cress

a Buckler Mustard Shepherd's Purse Greater Cuckooflower

Flixweed

Yellow Whitlow-grass Common Whitlowgrass

Scientific name

Common name

Erysimum canescens Thlaspi arvense

Buxaceae Box Family

Buxus sempervirens Box

CampanulaceaeBellflower FamilyCampanula glomerataClustered BellflowerCampanula persicifoliaPeach-leaved BellflowerCampanula tracheliumNettle-leaved Bellflower

Jasione laevis Legousia scabra

Phyteuma orbiculare Round-headed Rampion

CaprifoliaceaeHoneysuckle FamilyLonicera etruscaEtruscan Honeysuckle

Lonicera nigra

Lonicera periclymenum Honeysuckle

Lonicera pyrenaicaPyrenean HoneysuckleLonicera xylosteumFly HoneysuckleSambucus ebulusDwarf ElderSambucus racemosaRed-berried Elder

Sambucus nigra Elder

Scabiosa atropurpurea

Scabiosa columbaria Small Scabious Viburnum lantana Wayfaring Tree

Caryophyllaceae Pink Family

Arenaria grandiflora

Arenaria aggregata subsp. oscensis

Cerastium alpinum

Cerastium arvense Field Mouse-ear

Dianthus pungens subsp. hispanicus -

Minuartia verna Spring Sandwort

Paronychia capitata

Paronychia kapela subsp. serpyllifolia

Petrorhagia nantueilii

Petrorhagia proliferaProliferous PinkSaponaria ocymoidesRock Soapwort

Silene glaucifolia Silene latifolia

Silene nocturna

Silene nutansNottingham CatchflySilene vulgarisBladder CampionStellaria mediaCommon Chickweed

White Campion

Telephium imperati

CelastraceaeSpindle FamilyEuonymus europaeusCommon Spindle

Cistaceae Rockrose Family

Fumana ericoides Fumana

Fumana procumbens

Scientific name

Helianthemum apenninum Helianthemum nummularium H.nummularium subsp. pyrenaicum H.oelandicum subsp. incanum

Convolvulaceae
Convolvulus arvensis
Convolvulus cantabrica
Cuscuta epithymum

Cornaceae Cornus sanguinea

Crassulaceae
Sedum acre
Sedum album
Sedum dasyphyllum
Sedum sediforme
Sempervivum montanum
Umbelicus rupestris

CucurbitaceaeBryonia dioica

Ericaceae

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Calluna vulgaris Rhododendron ferrugineum Vaccinium myrtillus

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia characias subsp. characias Euphorbia helioscopia Euphorbia serrata

Fabaceae

Anthyllis montana
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. pyrenaica
Astragalus depressus
Astragalus glycyphyllos
Astragalus monspessulanus
Astragalus sempervirens
Bitumaria bituminosa
Coronilla minima
Coronilla scorpioides
Cytisophyllum sessilifolium

Dorycnium pentaphyllum Echinospartum horridum Genista hispanica Genista scorpius Genista tinctoria Hippocrepis comosa Hippocrepis emerus Common name

White Rockrose Common Rockrose Pink Rockrose Hoary Rockrose

Bindweed Family Field Bindweed Pink Bindweed Dodder

Dogwood FamilyCommon Dogwood

Stonecrop Family
Biting Stonecrop
White Stonecrop
Thick-leaved Stonecrop

Navelwort

Cucumber FamilyWhite Bryony

Heath Family
Bearberry
Ling
Alpenrose
Bilberry

Spurge Family

Large Mediterranean Spurge Sun Spurge

Pea Family

Mountain Kidney Vetch Pink Kidney Vetch

Wild Liquorice False Vetch Mountain Tragacanth Pitch Trefoil

Annual Scorpion Vetch

Echinospartum

Dyer's Greenweed Horseshoe vetch Scorpion Senna

Scientific name

Common name

Lathyrus aphaca Yellow Vetchling

Lathyrus cicera -

Lathyrus latifolius Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea

Lathyrus linifolius Bitter Vetch

Lathyrus pannonicus -

Lathyrus pratensis Meadow Vetchling

Lotus corniculatus Common Bird's-foot Trefoil

Lotus maritimus Dragon's Teeth

Medicago lupulina

Medicago sativa Lucerne

Medicago suffruticosa Medicago minima

Melilotus altissima Tall Melilot

Onobrychis argentea subsp. hispanica

Onobrychis saxatilis

Ononis fruticosa Shrubby Restharrow

Pisum sativum Wild Pea

Retama sphaerocarpa

Spartium junceum Spanish Broom

Trifolium campestre

Trifolium ochroleucon Sulphur Clover

Trifolium pratense

Vicia cracca Tufted Vetch
Vicia pyrenaica Pyrenean Vetch

Vicia sativa Vicia sepium

Fagaceae Oak Family

Castanea sativa Sweet Chestnut Fagus sylvatica Beech

Quercus x cerrioides

Quercus coccifera Kermes Oak

Quercus faginea

Quercus ilexHolm OakQuercus pubescensDowny Oak

GentianaceaeGentian FamilyBlackstonia perfoliataYellow-wort

Gentiana acaulis Trumpet Gentian

Gentiana occidentalis Pyrenean Trumpet Gentian

Gentiana verna Spring Gentian

Geraniaceae Geranium Family

Erodium ciconium
Erodium cicutarium

Erodium malacoides Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill

Geranium lucidum Shining Crane's-bill Geranium purpureum Little Robin

Geranium pyrenaicum

Hedge Crane's-bill

Geranium robertianum

Herb Robert

Geranium rotundifolium Round-leaved Crane's-bill

Scientific name

Gesneriaceae

Ramonda myconi

Globulariaceae

Globularia cordifolia

Globularia nudicaulis

Globularia repens

Globularia vulgaris

Grossulariaceae

Ribes alpinum

Hypericaceae

Hypericum perforatum

Lamiaceae

Acinos alpinus
Acinos arvensis
Ajuga chamaepitys
Ajuga pyramidalis
Horminum pyrenaicum
Lamium maculatum
Lavandula angustifolia
Marrubium vulgare
Melittis melissophyllum
Origanum vulgare
Phlomis herba-venti
Phlomis lychnitis
Salvia verbenaca
Sideritis hirsuta
Stachys recta

Lentibulariaceae

Thymus vulgaris

Thymus pulegioides

Pinguicula alpina Pinguicula grandiflora Pinguicula vulgaris

Linaceae

Linum narbonense

L. suffructicosum subsp. salsaloides

Loranthaceae

Viscum album subsp austriacum

Malvaceae

Althaea hirsuta Malva neglecta Malva sylvestris Tilia platyphyllos

Common name

Gloxinia Family

Ramonda

Globularia Family

Matted Globularia

Leafless-stemmed Globularia

-

Common Globularia

Gooseberry Family

Mountain Currant

St John's-wort Family

Perforate St John's-wort

Dead-nettle Family

Alpine Calamint
Basil Thyme
Ground Pine
Pyramidal Bugle
Dragonmouth
Spotted Dead-nettle
Common Lavender
White Horehound
Bastard Balm
Marjoram

-

Wild Clary

-

Yellow Woundwort Large Thyme Common Thyme

Butterwort Family

Alpine Butterwort Greater Butterwort Common Butterwort

Flax Family

Beautiful Flax Pyrenean Flax

Mistletoe Family

Mistletoe

Mallow Family

Rough Marsh Mallow

Common Mallow Large-leaved Lime

Scientific name

Common name

Moraceae

Ficus carica

Mulberry Family

Wild Fig

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Jasminium fruticans Ash

Wild Jasmine

Olive Family

Orobranchaceae

Lathraea clandestina Pedicularis sylvatica

Rhinanthus mediterraneus Orobranche hederae Orobanche latisquama

Broomrape Family

Purple Toothwort

a Yellow Rattle Ivy Broomrape

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella

Oxalis Family

Poppy Family

Wood-sorrel

Papaveraceae

Corydalis solida
Fumaria officinalis
Fumaria parviflora
Mecanopsis cambrica
Papaver argemone
Papaver rhoeas

Bird-in-a-Bush
Common Fumitory
Fine-leaved Fumitory
Welsh Poppy
Prickly Poppy
Field Poppy
Violet Horned Poppy

Plantaginaceae

Roemeria hybrida

Antirrhinum majus

Chaenorhinum origanifolium Erinus alpinus Linaria alpina Linaria supina Plantago alpina Plantago lanceolata Plantago major

Plantain Family

Snapdragon Malling Toadflax Fairy Foxglove Alpine Toadflax Pyrenean Toadflax

Plantago maritima subsp. serpentina

Plantago media Plantago sempervirens Veronica orsiniana Veronica prostrata Hoary Plantain

Polygalaceae

Polygala calcarea Polygala vulgaris

Polygala vulgaris

Milkwort Family

Chalk Milkwort Common Milkwort

Polygonaceae

Oxyria digyna

Rumex acetosa

Rumex scutatus

Dock Family

Mountain Sorrel

Sorrel

French Sorrel

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina

Androsace villosa

Primrose Family

Blue Pimpernel

Tour Report The Spanish Pyrenees

Scientific name

Common name

Coris Coris monspeliensis Primula elatior Oxlip

Primula farinosa Bird's-eye Primrose

Primula hirsuta Primula integrifolia

Primula veris subsp. suaveolens

Cowslip Soldanella alpina Alpine Snowbell Vitaliana primuliflora Vitaliana

Wintergreen Family Pyrolaceae Pyrola chlorantha Pale-green Wintergreen Pyrola minor Common Wintergreen

Ranunculaceae

Buttercup Family Adonis annua Pheasant's-eye Adonis vernalis Yellow Pheasant's-eye Anemone narcissiflora Narcissus-flowered Anemone

Aquilegia vulgaris Common Columbine Caltha palustris Marsh Marigold Clematis vitalba Traveller's Joy Stinking Hellebore Helleborus foetidus Helleborus viridis Green Hellebore Hepatica nobilis Hepatica

Ranunculus amplexicaulis Amplexicaule Buttercup

Ranunculus arvensis Corn Buttercup Ranunculus bulbosus **Bulbous Buttercup** Ranunculus carinthiacus

Ranunculus gouanii Gouan's Buttercup Ranunculus gramineus Grass-leaved Buttercup Ranunculus pyrenaeus Pyrenean Buttercup Greater Meadow Rue Thalictrum aquilegifolium

Thalictrum tuberosum

Globeflower Trollius europaeus

Mignonette Family Resedaceae Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette Reseda luteola Weld

Reseda phyteuma Corn Mignonette

Rhamnaceae **Buckthorn Family** Frangulus alnus Alder Buckthorn

Rhamnus alaternus Mediterranean Buckthorn Rhamnus alpina

Rhamnus cathartica Purging Buckthorn Rhamnus saxatilis Rock Buckthorn

Rose Family Rosaceae

Alchemilla alpina Alpine Lady's Mantle

Amelanchier ovalis Juneberry Filipendula vulgaris Dropwort Fragaria vesca Wild Strawberry Geum montanum Alpine Avens Geum pyrenaicum Pyrenean Avens

Scientific name Common name

Geum sylvaticum

Potentilla crantziiAlpine CinquefoilPotentilla neumannianaSpring CinquefoilPotentilla rupestrisRock CinquefoilPrunus mahalebSt. Lucie Cherry

Rosa agrestis Rosa arvensis Rosa canina

Rubus fruticosus agg. Bramble
Sanguisorba minor Salad Burnet

Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family

Cruciata laevipes Crosswort
Galium aparine Cleavers

Galium lucidum
Galium mollugo Hedge Bedstraw
Galium tricornutum Corn Cleavers
Rubia peregrina Wild Madder
Rubia tinctorum Common Madder

Rutaceae Rue Family

Ruta angustifolia

Santalaceae Sandalwood Family

Osyris alba Osyris

Thesium humifusum
Thesium pyrenaicum

Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family

Saxifraga fragilis

Thymelaea pubescens

Ulmus minor

Parietaria judaica

Saxifraga granulataMeadow SaxifrageSaxifraga longifoliaPyrenean SaxifrageSaxifraga paniculataLivelong Saxifrage

ScrophulariaceaeFigwort FamilyScrophularia caninaFrench Figwort

Solanaceae Nightshade Family

Atropa belladonna Deadly Nightshade
Hyoscyamus niger Henbane

Hyoscyamus nigerHenbaneSolanum dulcamaraBittersweet

ThymelaceaeDaphne FamilyDaphne laureolaSpurge LaurelDaphne mezereumMezereum

UlmaceaeElm FamilyUlmus glabraWych Elm

Urticaceae Nettle Family

Pellitory-of-the-wall

15

Scientific name

Common name

Urtica dioicaCommon NettleUrtica urensSmall Nettle

ValerianaceaeValerian FamilyCentranthus ruberRed ValerianValeriana montana-

Valeriana tuberosa

Violaceae Violet Family

Viola alba

Viola pyrenaica Pyrenean Violet

Viola reichenbachiana

Viola riviniana Viola rupestris

VitaceaeVine FamilyVitis viniferaWild Grape-vine

Liliidae (Monocotyledons)

AmaryllidaceaeDaffodil FamilyAllium ampeloprasumWild LeekAllium molyYellow Garlic

Allium roseum Rosy Garlic
Allium sphaerocephalon Round-headed Leek

Narcissus assoanus Narcissus asturiensis

Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. bicolor Narcissus pseudonarcissus subsp. minor

Asparagaceae Asparagus Family

Anthericum liliago St. Bernard's Lily
Aphyllanthes monspeliensis Blue Aphyllanthes
Asparagus officinalis Asparagus

Brimeura amethystina Pyrenean Hyacinth

Dipcadi serotinum

Leopoldia comosum

Tassel Hyacinth

Muscari neglectum

Grape Hyacinth

Muscari neglectum Grape Hyacinth
Ornithogalum narbonense

Ruscus aculeatusButcher's BroomScilla lilo-hyacinthusPyrenean SquillScilla vernaSpring Squill

DioscoreaceaeYam FamilyDioscorea communisBlack Bryony

IridaceaeIris FamilyCrocus caeruleusSpring Crocus

Gladiolus italicus Iris germanica Iris graminea

Iris graminea Grass-leaved Iris

Iris latifolia

Iris pseudacorus Yellow Flag

Scientific name Common name

Liliaceae Lily Family

Fritillaria lusitanica

Fritillaria pyrenaica Pyrenean Snakeshead

Gagea liotardii

Lilium martagon Martagon Lily
Tulipa sylvestris subsp. australis Wild Tulip

Melanthiaceae

Veratrum album White False Helleborine

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

Anacamptis laxiflora

Anacamptis morio subsp. champagneuxii

Anacamptis pyramidalis

Cephalanthera damasonium

Lax-flowered Orchid

Champagne Orchid

Pyramidal Orchid

White Helleborine

Cephalanthera longifolia Sword-leaved Helleborine Cypripedium calceolus Lady's Slipper Orchid Dactylorhiza majalis Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid Dactylorhiza sambucina Elder-flowered Orchid Fragrant Orchid Gymnadenia conopsea Himantoglossum hircinum Lizard Orchid Limodorum arbortivum Violet Limadore Neottia ovata Twayblade

Bee Orchid

Ophrys x arachnitiformis

Ophrys apifera

Ophrys fusca Sombre Bee Orchid

Ophrys insectifera Fly Orchid

Ophrys luteaYellow Bee OrchidOphrys scolopaxWoodcock OrchidOphrys speculumMirror OrchidOphrys sphegodesEarly Spider Orchid

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. araneola

Orchis mascula Early Purple Orchid

Orchis mascula subsp. laxifloriformis

Orchis militaris Military Orchid

Orchis pallens
Orchis provincialis
Orchis purpurea

Orchis purpurea Lady Orchid

Platanthera bifoliaLesser Butterfly OrchidPlatanthera chloranthaGreater Butterfly Orchid

Xanthorrhoeaceae Asphodel family
Asphodelus albus White Asphodel

Asphodelus cerasiferus Asphodelus fistulosus

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

				May							
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
1	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos								8	
2	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa			Н					2	
3	Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix					Н				

		May								
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis								Н
5	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis								2
6	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus			4					8
7	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	1	3	3					3
8	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea								3
9	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta								2
10	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	6							25
11	Lammergeier	Gypaetus barbatus				2		2	1	
12	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		12	40	20	20	10	3	6
13	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		3	6	2	8	4		
14	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos							2	
15	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus		2						
16	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus		2	3		1			2
17	Red Kite	Milvus milvus		3	10	3	4	2	2	4
18	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	6	15	10	6	6	2	4	12
19	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		1	10					1
20	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus		'						1
20 21	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1		1					3
21 22	Water Rail		- 1		1					1
		Rallus aquaticus						4		- 1
23	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos			_	4		1		
24	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis		2	3	1		1	5	1
25	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	✓		√	V	✓	V		✓
26	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	3	15	√					8
27	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus		Н		Н	Н			-
29	Eurasian Eagle Owl	Bubo bubo						1		
30	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus						Н		
31	Common Swift	Apus apus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba			12	2				
33	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops			2		Н			Н
34	European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	1	1	8	3				4
35	European Roller	Coracias garrulus	1							
36	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major		2			2			
37	Black Woodpecker	Dryocopus martius					Н			
38	Iberian Green Woodpecker	Picus sharpei		Н	Н					
39	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	2		1	1	1	2	1	
40	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo		2					1	
41	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus			1					
42	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio			5			2		
43	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus		3						
44	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		2		4	2	2	2	
45	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	✓	✓	✓	3	✓	√	✓	✓
46	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			8	20	2	✓	✓	
47	Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus				40	_	√	√	
48	Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	✓							
49	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 9 50	Northern Raven	Corvus corax		1	2	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	1	2
50 51	Coal Tit	Periparus ater		'			2		'	
		Lophophanes cristatus			3	2	2			-
52 52	European Crested Tit			2	√					4
53 54	Great Tit European Blue Tit	Parus major Cyanistes caeruleus		2	✓		✓			1

						M	May			
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
55	Woodlark	Lullula arborea		1						
56	Common Skylark	Alauda arvensis		1						
57	Thekla Lark	Galerida theklae								3
58	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	✓		✓			✓		~
59	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		~
60	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris			30	12	2	1		
61	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~
62	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti		Н						H
63	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		2		Н	Н			
64	Western Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli		1	5	3	Н			
65	Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus								4
66	European Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus								~
67	Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta		3						
68	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		6	Н	Н	Н	Н		
69	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin		6		4	Н	- ' '		
70	Western Orphean Warbler	Sylvia hortensis		0	1	7	1			
		Sylvia inornata		1	2		2			<u> </u>
71	Western Subalpine Warbler	•		ı	6					-
72	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala			ь		40			-
73	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus				H	12			-
74	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes				Н				-
75	Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea					4			_
76	Wallcreeper	Tichodroma muraria				2				_
77	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla		Н	1	Н	1	1		
78	Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos				1				
81	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula				2	Н	1	1	
82	Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	Н	Н	Н	2	Н	Н	Н	H
83	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros		2	3	1	3	2	2	2
84	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius			5					
85	European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola			4			2	2	
86	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe						1	2	1
87	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica		1						2
88	Black Wheatear	Oenanthe leucura								1
89	White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus			1	2		1		
90	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~
91	Common Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia		2	6					
92	Alpine Accentor	Prunella collaris							1	\vdash
93	Dunnock	Prunella modularis				1		Н	•	
94	Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava iberiae				•				2
95	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea				2		2		
96	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		3	1	4	3	1	2	
97	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris		3	1		3	1		1
	• •					1			4	-
98	Water Pipit Common Chaffinch	Anthus spinoletta		✓	✓	1	✓	✓	4 ✓	-
99		Fringilla coelebs		V	V	V	V		V	-
100	Eurasian Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula						1		-
101	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris		3		1		✓	✓	1
102	Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina		1		6		1		_
103	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	✓	✓	✓			✓		~
104	Citril Finch	Carduelis citrinella				5		4		

			May							
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
106	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella				3				
108	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		4						

Mammals

Red Fox, Vulpes vulpes

Pyrenean Chamois (Izard), Rupicapra pyrenaica

Alpine Marmot, *Marmotta marmotta*

Rabbit, Oryctolagus cuniculus

Weasel, *Mustela nivalis*Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*

European Hare, Lepus europaeus

Amphibians & Reptiles

Palmate Newt, Lissotriton helveticus

Green Lizard, Lacerta viridis

Common Wall Lizard, Podarcis muralis

Iberian Water Frog, *Rana perezi*Common Lizard, *Podarcis vivipera*Iberian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis hispanica*

Butterflies

Dingy Skipper, Erynnis tages

Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus malvae

Spanish Swallowtail, Iphiclides feisthamelii

Wood White, *Leptidea sinapis* Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Provence Orange Tip, Anthocharis euphenoides

Cleopatra, *Gonepteryx cleopatra*Duke of Burgundy, *Hamearis lucina*

Small Copper, Lycaena phlaeas

Black-eyed Blue, Glaucopsyche melanops

Chapman's Blue, *Polyommatus thersites* Southern White Admiral, *Limentitis reducta*

Knapweed Fritillary, Melitaea phoebe

Queen-of-Spain Fritillary, Issoria lathonia

Speckled Wood, Pararge aegeria

Western Marbled White, Melanargia occitanica

Red-underwing Skipper, Spialia sertorius

Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus armoricanus

Swallowtail, Papilio machaon

Black-veined White, Aporia cratargi

Orange Tip, Anthocharis cardamines

Clouded Yellow, Colias crocea Brimstone, Gonepteryx rhamni

Green Hairstreak, Callophrys rubi

Green-underside Blue, Glaucopsyche alexis

Panoptes Blue, Pseudophilotes panoptes

Common Blue, Polyommatus icarus

Red Admiral, Vanessa atalanta

Spanish Fritillary, Euphydryas desfontainii

Weaver's Fritillary, Boloria dia

Wall Brown, Lasiommata megera

Moths

Burnet Companion, Euclidia glyphica

The Tiger, Atlantarctia tigrina

Cream-spot Tiger, *Arctia villica* Mother Shipton, *Callistege mi*

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