

Spring Flowers of the Sierra de Guadarrama

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 - 30 April 2014



Red-striped Oil Beetle, *Berberomeloe majalis* by David Sheppard



Ladybird Spider, *Eresus cinnabarinus* by David Sheppard



Puerto La Morcuera by Laura Benito



Narcissus rupicola by Laura Benito

Report compiled by Derrick Donnison-Morgan & Laura Benito

Images by David Sheppard & Laura Benito



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Day 1

Wednesday 23rd April

Weather: Mostly sunny at London Heathrow Airport 16°C. Sunny upon arrival in Madrid, 19°C. Some drizzle in the mountains later in the day

12 tour participants met Derrick the trip leader, at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5 for the 11:40 am Iberia Flight to Madrid. On arrival in Madrid we were met by the remaining two members of our party and Laura the co-leader. After taking possession of our two minibuses for the week, we headed north to the small town of Miraflores de la Sierra and the Miraflores Hotel, where we were to stay for the next 6 nights. After room allocation and settling in, some of the group explored the town. Following a brief get-together in the hotel bar, we took supper in the hotel's private dining room.

Day 2

Thursday 24th April

Weather: 17.3°C. Raining heavily all morning, with showers persisting into the afternoon. Hail storms and sunshine later. Becoming warmer

From our hotel in Miraflores de la Sierra, we headed south west towards our first wildflower site. Because of rain, we decided to stop at the small town of Manzanares el Real, where a magnificent and imposing 15th Century castle overlooks the town. For the next two hours we were treated to an extensive tour of the marvellously renovated castle from dungeon to the highest tower. The rain had eased a little by the time we had finished the tour and we were able to explore the grounds of the citadel where we had our first botanical encounters. From the ramparts clung fine examples of *Asplenium ceterach* (Rustyback Fern) and dwarfed specimens of *Ficus carica* (Fig). The grounds of the castle also gave up some surprises: *Quercus ilex subsp. rotundifolia* and outside the public entrance, *Teucrium fruticans* (Tree Germander).

We continued to brave the inclement weather and ate our picnic, provided by the hotel, at the Area Recreativa beside the Rio Samburriel.

A short drive via El Boalo and Mataelpino brought us to a large wildflower meadow at Los Colmenares. This superb meadow has all the ingredients for many hours of botanising. We easily found our first Daffodil, *Narcissus bulbocodium* var. *graellsii* and the first of several orchid species that we were to discover during the days to come. *Orchis morio* (Green Winged Orchid) and its near relative (sometimes considered a subspecies) *Orchis champagnexii*, (Champagne Orchid) were both in evidence. A sizable population of *Serapias lingua* (Tongue Orchid) was also present and a yellow flowered *Dactylorhiza* had us debating its possible epithet well into supper that evening. It was generally agreed that this was *Dactylorhiza insularis* (Barton's Orchid) although many other denominations were suggested. Large specimen plants of *Leopoldia (Muscari) comosa* were scattered across the meadow and a few leaves of *Gladiolus italicus* were found that would make a flowering display later in the year. Alas the weather was changeable and our time in the field became limited. On the walk back to the vehicles we found the blue *Lupinus angustifolius* (Narrow-Leaved Lupin). This had been an excellent first encounter with the Sierra de Guadarrama flora which had us all looking forward to much more in the coming days. Supper was taken at the hotel amid much discussion of the day's events.

Day 3

Friday 25th April

Weather: A cold 4.4°C morning, with snow and sleet in the air, improved as the day progressed. By early evening, temperatures were achieving around 20°C in Miraflores

After an excellent and varied buffet breakfast we set out north towards the Puerto de Canencia. At 1505 metres, this is considered one of the lower passes in the Sierra de Guadarrama. Nevertheless, the *Narcissus rupicola* were in full bloom with a number of buds within this vast population still to burst into flower. A couple of hours were spent discovering the flora of this rocky pass. Dwarf shrubs form an understory to the *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pines), including *Erica arborea* (Tree Heath) and *Genista florida* (Broom). Bulbous species included *Scilla bifolia*, *Gagea pratensis* and *G. arvensis*.

Many photographs later, we moved onward, north and then south west via Lozoya del Valle to Rascafría where we enjoyed coffee and made purchases in the locally famous chocolatiers. After various stops en-route, particularly at the high plateau of Cantera de la Compuerta where we were able to find both *Narcissus bulbocodium* var. *graellsii* and *N. bulbocodium* var. *nivalis* intermingled, we took our picnic lunch at the Refugio El Palancar. *Narcissus rupicola* was again in evidence with *N. bulbocodium* var. *graellsii* nearby. Knowing the promiscuity of this genus, it was surprising that we were unable to find any hybrids!

Our next stop on the way south was at the Puerto de la Morcuera (1796 mtrs). Here, under *Pinus nigra* (Austrian Pine), we found *Tanacetum pallidum*, a delicately coloured *Asteraceae* and more *Narcissus bulbocodium* var. *nivalis*. On the pastureland opposite we found the last flowering *Crocus vernus* and leaves of *Colchicum (Merendera) montanum*. Our last stop for the day was on the outskirts of Miraflores de la Sierra, where we saw our first, but somewhat spent, population of *Narcissus triandrus* subsp. *pallidulus*. Some of the group decided to walk the remaining few kilometres back to the hotel, as it had turned out to be a pleasant and sunny afternoon. Supper was taken in the hotel's private dining room.

Day 4

Saturday 26th April

Weather: Heavy and persistent rain for most of the morning. Remaining cool all day

After another fuel-filled breakfast, we wound our way via, by now well known roads, to Alto de los Leones (1511 mtrs.) to see *Narcissus rupicola* and *N. triandrus subsp. pallidulus* in their natural setting amongst the rocks and cropped turf. By the time we arrived, the rain was heavy so many took refuge and coffee in the Asador Alto de León. Those who did brave the rain and cold found the *Narcissus* spread over a wide area in open and pine covered ground to the south of the pass. Both species were in their very best condition despite the weather. The *N. triandrus subsp. pallidulus*, are very fine examples in this particular population. Plants with three or four flowers to a stem were not uncommon. A few *Gagea arvensis* were also present. After a drying period, which required another intake of coffee, we moved on to the Monasterio of San Lorenzo de El Escorial.

The Royal Site of San Lorenzo de El Escorial is a historical residence of the King of Spain, about 45 kilometres (28 mi) northwest of Madrid. It functions as a monastery, royal palace, museum, and school. Philip II of Spain engaged the Spanish architect, Juan Bautista de Toledo, to be his collaborator in the design of El Escorial. On 2 November 1984, UNESCO declared The Royal Seat of San Lorenzo of El Escorial a World Heritage Site. It is a popular tourist attraction, visited by more than 500,000 visitors every year. The building's cornerstone was laid on 23 April 1563 and completed in 1584. Since then, El Escorial has been the burial site for most of the Spanish kings of the last five centuries. Aside from its explicit purposes, the complex is also an enormous storehouse of art. It displays masterworks by Titian, Tintoretto, El Greco, Velázquez Rogier van der Weyden, Paolo Veronese, Alonso Cano, José de Ribera, Claudio Coello and others. It would take a day to do this edifice justice but with only a few hours to spare we were happy with a truncated tour. Our picnic was taken in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, in a small public park.

Heading west, we made an impromptu stop at Robledondo and took a marked track through the hills above the small town. Along the track we found *Cistus populifolius* (Poplar-leaved Cistus), *Globularia repens*, *Aristolochia pistolchia* (Birthwort); *Marrubium vulgare* (White Horehound) and *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis* amongst other well known wayside plants. Evidence of wolves was found along the track. Moving on to Santa Maria de la Alameda, we were disappointed to see that the *Narcissus confusus* (now regarded as a synonym of *N. pseudonarcissus subsp. portensis*) had finished flowering. Only one weather-beaten specimen was showing any colour. However, excursions within the surrounding area found that the previously small population was far more extensive than first realized. Woodland adjacent to the site was home to many thousands of *Narcissus* with the wonderful addition of *Paeonia officinalis* and *P. broteroi*. *Dactylorhiza insularis* were scattered amongst the Daffodils and Peonies. We finished our day with a long drive back to Miraflores and our hotel for supper.

Day 5

Sunday 27th April

Weather: A much warmer and brighter start to the day, although remaining cool in the mountains until late morning. Temperatures of 20°C+ by the end of the day

A lazy start, after the travails of the previous day, saw us taking a leisurely breakfast before heading north towards Puerto de Lozoya (1570 metres.). A short stop on the road beyond the Puerto de Canencia was made to photograph white specimens of *Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid) amongst the more usual purple forms.

A further stop at the Area Recreative Pena Alta was yielded nothing new. At the Puerto de Lozoya, we spent an hour exploring the rocks and gullies for interesting plants. *Narcissus rupicola* was in clear evidence as was the ubiquitous *Ranunculus gregarius*. Deeper into the garrigue we found *Crocus carpetanus* and *Linaria elegans*.

Continuing to Puerto de Navafria (1773 mtrs), we found more *Narcissus rupicola* and a pleasant spot for our picnic. We continued north for a few more kilometres, stopping at what seemed to be an interesting site that could hold a few surprises. Unfortunately the surrounding area was fenced but a few *Dactylorhiza insularis* were found in a small field and *Armeria alliacea* (Thrift) was found in flower at the side of the road. Previous examples of this plant had been seen at higher altitudes but always in tight bud. We retraced our steps to the hotel.

Day 6

Monday 28th April

Weather: A fine spring day, warm and comfortable with temperatures around 20°C for much of the day

A long drive via Guadalupe de la Sierra took us to the main E5 highway north across the Sierra de Guadarrama at Puerto de Somosierra (1440 metres) and into the province of Segovia. Just west of the town of Sepúlveda is situated the Parque Natural de las Hoces de Rio Duraton. From the car park we were able to take a pleasant and easy walk along the main track. The park consists of 5,037 hectares of unspoilt countryside with 100m high gorges formed by the Rio Duraton. The walk along the riverside track is peaceful, although much used. From the very beginning of our walk, we were able to find plants not seen during the previous days; *Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maidenhair Fern) and *Sarcocapnos crassifolia* clung to the gorge walls, whilst *Rhamnus myrtifolius* shaped itself into every nook. *Muscari neglectum* (Grape Hyacinth) is rampant here together with *Polygonatum odoratum* (Solomon's Seal) and some garden escapees *Prunus dulcis* (almond) and *Cydonia oblonga* (Quince) from an abandoned farm. Near the car park we were able to find *Ophrys lutea* (Yellow Ophrys), *O. sphegodes* (Early Spider Ophrys) and on the nearby dunes *Lithodora diffusa* (Purple Gromwell).

Our picnic lunch was taken at the Parque before heading south west towards Segovia. On the way, we stopped at likely places for plant discoveries and found a small population of *Ophrys speculum* (Mirror Ophrys) and a single and much photographed specimen of *Orchis papilionacea* var. *grandiflora* (Pink Butterfly Orchid).

We arrived rather late in Segovia, but were able to persuade an exceedingly helpful young man at the official tourist information centre to take us on a whistle-stop tour of the Aqueduct of Segovia. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the aqueduct is the foremost symbol of Segovia, as evidenced by its presence on the city's coat of arms. It was constructed between the second half of the 1st Century AD and the early part of the 2nd Century and is undoubtedly one of the greatest of all Roman remains in Spain. Until recently, it continued to transport water from Fuente Fría River 17 km away. The structure is at its tallest, 28.5 m high. There are both single and double arches supported by pillars. From the point it enters the city until it reaches Plaza de Díaz Sanz, it includes a total of 166 arches, and is built of unmortared, brick-like granite blocks. We returned to our hotel and supper via Puerto de Navacerrada (1860 mtrs), where *Narcissus triandrus* subsp. *pallidulus* could be seen along the roadsides.

Day 7

Tuesday 29th April

Weather: Pleasantly warm in Miraflores, becoming increasing hotter in Madrid

After a leisurely breakfast we took our leave of the Hotel Miraflores and said our goodbyes to the efficient and helpful staff. We journeyed south to Madrid to our hotel, the Hotel Opera. After checking-in to our rooms, the group dispersed for a free day in this vibrant city. Six of the group accompanied the group leaders to the Real Jardín Botánico. Irises were in full bloom and the garden was in excellent condition. The remainder of the group were either fortunate enough to have purchased tickets in advance for the Cézanne exhibition at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, or visited the Museo Nacional del Prado. Supper was taken at the hotel.

Day 8

Wednesday 30th April

Weather: Another warm day 20oC+ in Madrid with cloudless skies. 14°C on arrival at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5

The group had another leisurely start to the day before taking the morning at ease in Madrid. It was an opportunity for last minute shopping, packing or wandering aimlessly amid the sights and sounds of this great city. We said farewell to two of our number who were remaining in Madrid for an extra day. We reloaded baggage and participants into the minibuses for the across town journey to Madrid Airport.

Laura left us at Madrid airport and two further participants took a later flight to Liverpool. For the rest of us, we arrived at London Heathrow at 17:20 hrs local time. I would like to voice my appreciation and thanks to the group who accompanied me on the tour.

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Species List

Plants * indicates a plant is endemic

Scientific name	Common name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES		
Leptosporangiate Ferns		
Aspleniaceae		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Spleenwort Family Black Spleenwort	Miraflores
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	Castillo de Manzanares
Cystopteridaceae		
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle bladderfern	Nr. Puerto de Lozoya
Dennstaedtiaceae		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Family Bracken	Puerto de Canencia
Polypodiaceae		
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Polypody Family Southern Polypody	Puerto de Canencia
Pteridaceae		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Ribbon Fern Family Maidenhair Fern	Hoces de Rio Duraton
GYMNOSPERMS		
Cupressaceae		
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Juniper Family Monterey Cypress	Castillo de Manzanares
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	Supulveda
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	Throughout
Pinaceae		
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>nigra</i>	Pine Family Austrian Pine	Puerto de Morcuera
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine	Nr. Cerceda
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	Throughout
PRE-DICOTS		
Aristolochiaceae		
<i>Aristolochia pistolochia</i>	Birthwort Family	Hoces de Rio Duraton
EU-DICOTS		
Adoxaceae		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Apiaceae		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Carrot Family Cow Parsley	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	nr. Santa Maria de la Alameda
<i>Heracleum</i> sp.	a Hogweed	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Segovia

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Segovia
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix agg</i>	Ivy	Throughout
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Throughout
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Miraflores
<i>Carduncellus monspelliensium</i>		Robledondo
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	Robledondo
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	Madrid Botanic Gardens
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		Robledondo
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	Phagnalon	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Sencio vulgare</i>	Groundsel	Throughout
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	El Escorial
<i>Tanacetum pallidum</i>	-	Puerto de Morcuera
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>		Throughout
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	Nr. Puerto de Navafria
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Alnus glutinosus</i>	Alder	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Bugloss	Robledondo
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Lithodora diffusa</i>	Purple Gromwell	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Alyssum montanum</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Bittercress	Miraflores
<i>Biscutella intermedia</i>	a Buckler Mustard	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Erysimum cheiri</i>	Wallflower	Miraflores
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	Miraflores
<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
Cannabaceae		
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	-	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Common Honeysuckle	Nr. Puerto de Lozoya
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Arenaria grandiflora</i>	Greater Sandwort	Robledondo
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	Puerto de Morcuera
<i>Dianthus subcaulis</i>		Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Paronychia capitata</i>		Throughout
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Miraflores

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum Cistus	Manzanares
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Miraflores
<i>Cistus populifolius</i>	Poplar-leaved Cistus	Robledondo
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Manzanares
<i>Helianthemum appeninum</i>	White Rock-Rose	Miraflores
<i>Helianthemum canum</i>	Hoary Rock-rose	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	Miraflores
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	Large Stonecrop	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	Castillo de Manzanares
Cyperaceae		
<i>Carex strigosa</i>	Wood Sedge	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Ericaceae	Heath Family	
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath	Puerto de Canencia
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Anthyllis sp.</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>		Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Manzanares
<i>Genista florida</i>	Broom	Robledondo
<i>Lathyrus linifolius subsp. montanus</i>		Robledondo
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Ononis striata</i>		Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	Manzanares
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Robledondo
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Robledondo
<i>Vicia sp.</i>		Robledondo
Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	Throughout
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Oak	Puerto de Lozoya
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak	Throughout
<i>Quercus ilex subsp. rotundifolia</i>		Castillo de Manzanares
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Robledondo
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shiny Crane's-bill	Throughout
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-robert	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Grossulariaceae		
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Redcurrant	Hoces de Rio Duraton

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Linaceae		
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Blue Flax	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>linum suffruticosum</i>	White Flax	Miraflores
Lamiaceae		
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> subsp. <i>stoechas</i>	French Lavender	Miraflores
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	Robledondo
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Lemon Balm	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	Apple Mint	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Oregano	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Phlomis lychnitis</i>		Nr. Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Throughout
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Tree Germander	Castillo de Manzanares
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	Miraflores
Malvaceae		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
Moraceae		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig Family Fig	Castillo de Manzanares
Oleaceae		
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	Throughout
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Orobanchaceae		
<i>Orobanche elatior</i>	Knapweed Broomrape	Puerto de Canencia
<i>Orobanche hederaræ</i>	Ivy Broomrape	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Papaveraceae		
<i>Papaver rhœas</i>	Poppy Family Common Poppy	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Sarcocapnos crassifolia</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
Paeoniaceae		
<i>Paeonia broteri</i> (<i>P. broteroi</i>)	a Peony	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	a Peony	Santa Maria de la Alameda
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Chaenorhinum organifolium</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Miraflores
<i>Globularia repens</i>		Robledondo
<i>Linaria elegans</i>	a Toadflax	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Robledondo
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved speedwell	Nr. Puerto de Lozoya
Plumbaginaceae		
<i>Armeria alliacea</i>	Thrift	Nr. Puerto de Navafria

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Polygonaceae <i>Rumex scutatus</i>	Dock Family French or Shield Dock	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Primulaceae <i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	Santa Maria de la Alameda
Ranunculaceae <i>Ficaria verna (Ranunculus ficaria)</i> <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> <i>Ranunculus gregarius</i>	Buttercup Family Lesser Celandine Bulbous Buttercup -	Hoces de Rio Duraton Throughout Throughout
Rhamnaceae <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> <i>Rhamnus myrtifolius</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	Hoces de Rio Duraton Hoces de Rio Duraton
Rosaceae <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> <i>Aphanes arvensis</i> <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Cydonia oblonga</i> <i>Fragaria vesca</i> <i>Geum urbanum</i> <i>Prunus dulcis</i> <i>Prunus spinosa</i> <i>Potentilla anserina</i> <i>Rosa sp</i>	Rose Family Parsley-piert Hawthorn Quince Wild Strawberry Wood avens Almond Blackthorn Silverweed a Rose	Hoces de Rio Duraton Robledondo Hoces de Rio Duraton Hoces de Rio Duraton Nr. Puerto de Lozoya Hoces de Rio Duraton Hoces de Rio Duraton Hoces de Rio Duraton Puerto de Canencia Hoces de Rio Duraton
Rubiaceae <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> <i>Galium aparine</i> <i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Bedstraw Family Smooth Bedstraw Cleavers Field Madder	Hoces de Rio Duraton Throughout Hoces de Rio Duraton
Rutaceae <i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Rue	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Salicaceae <i>Populus alba</i> <i>Populus tremula</i>	Willow & Poplar Family White Poplar Aspen	Throughout Hoces de Rio Duraton
Sapindaceae <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Maple Family Horse Chestnut	Segovia
Saxifragaceae <i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Saxifrage Family Meadow Saxifrage	Throughout
Scrophulariaceae <i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Figwort Family -	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
Urticaceae <i>Parietaria judaica</i> <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle Family Pellitory-of-the-wall Common Nettle	Segovia Puerto de Canencia

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Valerian	Miraflones
<i>Valeriana tuberosa</i>	-	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Violaceae		
<i>Viola sp.</i>	a Violet	Miraflones
MONOCOTS	Monocotyledons	
Alliaceae	Onion Family	
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Crow Garlic	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium var. graellsii</i>	Hoop-petticoat Daffodil	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium var. nivalis</i>	Hoop-petticoat Daffodil	Puerto de Morcuera
<i>Narcissus confusus</i>	-	Santa Maria de la Alameda
<i>Narcissus rupicola</i>	-	Puerto de Canencia
<i>Narcissus triandrus subsp. pallidulus</i>	-	Alto de los Leones
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>		Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Asparagus albus</i>	White-Stemmed Asparagus	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebell	Miraflones
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Leopoldia (Muscari) comosa</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Solomons Seal	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>		Puerto de Canencia
Colchicaceae	Meadow Saffron Family	
<i>Merendera (Colchicum) montana</i>	-	Puerto de Morcuera
Dioscoreaceae	Black Bryony Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	Hoces de Rio Duraton
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Crocus carpetanus</i>	a Crocus	Nr. Puerto de Lozoya
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Spring Crocus	Puerto de Morcuera
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>		Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
Juncaeae	Rush Family	
<i>Luzula lactea</i>	a Woodrush	Puerto de Navafria
Liliaceae	Lily Family	
<i>Gagea pratensis</i>	a Yellow Star of Bethlehem	Puerto de Canencia
<i>Gagea arvensis (G. villosa)</i>	a Yellow Star of Bethlehem	Puerto de Canencia
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	Nr. Puerto de Canencia
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green Winged Orchid	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Orchis champagnexii</i>	Champagne Orchid	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Dactylorhiza insularis</i>	Barton's Orchid	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
<i>Orchis papilionacea var. grandiflora</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	Nr. Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Ophrys	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Ophrys	Nr. Hoces de Rio Duraton

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Ophrys	Hoces de Rio Duraton
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	Los Colmenares nr. Navacerrada
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Asphodel Family	
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel	Throughout
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Small Asphodel	Nr. Puerto de Navafria

Birds (H = heard only)

Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ,	Great Crested Grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ,
White Stork, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> ,	Great Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ,
Red Kite, <i>Milvus milvus</i> ,	Black Kite, <i>Milvus migrans</i> ,
Griffon Vulture, <i>Gyps fulvus</i> ,	Cinereous Vulture, <i>Aegypius monachus</i> ,
Common Buzzard, <i>Buteo buteo</i> ,	Booted Eagle, <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> ,
Common Kestrel, <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> ,	Rock Dove, <i>Columba livia</i> ,
Stock Dove, <i>Columba oenas</i> ,	Common Pigeon, <i>Columba livia feral</i> ,
Common Wood Pigeon, <i>Columba palumbus</i> ,	European Turtle Dove, <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> ,
Eurasian Collared Dove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> ,	Common Cuckoo, <i>Cuculus canorus</i> , H
Common Swift, <i>Apus apus</i> ,	Pallid Swift, <i>Apus pallidus</i> ,
Monk Parakeet, <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> ,	European Bee-eater, <i>Merops apiaster</i> , H
Eurasian Hoopoe, <i>Upupa epops</i> ,	Eurasian Wryneck, <i>Jynk torquilla</i> , H
Great-spotted Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos major</i> ,	European Green Woodpecker, <i>Picus viridis</i> ,
Woodchat Shrike, <i>Lanius senator</i> ,	Eurasian Jay, <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> ,
Azure-winged Magpie, <i>Cyanopica cyanus</i> ,	Eurasian Magpie, <i>Pica pica</i> ,
Red-billed Chough, <i>Pyrrhcorax pyrrhcorax</i> ,	Carrion Crow, <i>Corvus corone</i> ,
Northern Raven, <i>Corvus corax</i> ,	Coal Tit, <i>Parus ater</i> ,
European Crested Tit, <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> ,	Great Tit, <i>Parus major</i> ,
Eurasian Blue Tit, <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> ,	Crested lark, <i>Galerida cristata</i> ,
Eurasian Skylark, <i>Alauda arvensis</i> ,	Sand Martin, <i>Riparia riparia</i> ,
Barn Swallow, <i>Hirundo rustica</i> ,	Common House Martin, <i>Delichon urbicum</i> ,
Cetti's Warbler, <i>Cettia cetti</i> ,	Long-tailed Tit, <i>Aegypius caudatus</i> ,
Common Chiffchaff, <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> ,	Western Bonelli's Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> ,
Melodious Warbler, <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> ,	Eurasian Blackcap, <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> ,
Dartford Warbler, <i>Sylvia undata</i> ,	Common Firecrest, <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> ,
Eurasian Wren, <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> ,	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> ,
Mistle Thrush, <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> ,	European Robin, <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> ,
Common Nightingale, <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> , H	Black Redstart, <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> ,
European Stonechat, <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> ,	House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i> ,
Yellow (Blue-headed) Wagtail, <i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i> ,	White Wagtail, <i>Motacilla alba</i> ,
Common Chaffinch, <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> ,	European Serin, <i>Serinus serinus</i> ,
European Greenfinch, <i>Carduelis chloris</i> ,	European Goldfinch, <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> ,
Common Linnet, <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> ,	Red Crossbill, <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> , H
Corn Bunting, <i>Emberiza calandra</i> ,	Rock Bunting, <i>Emberiza cia</i> ,
Cirl Bunting, <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> ,	

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*,
 Orange Tip, *Anthocaris cardamines*,
 Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*,
 Adonis Blue, *Lysandra bellargus*,
 Peacock Butterfly, *Inachis io*,
 Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*,
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*,

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*,
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*,
 Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*,
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*,
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*,
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*,

Other Invertebrates

Spoonwing Antlion, *Nemoptera bipennis*,
 Red-striped Oil Beetle, *Berberomeloe majalis*
 Ladybird Spider, *Eresus cinnabarinus*

Xylocopa violacea,
Iberodorcadion perezii,

Mammals (E = Evidence of)

Wolf, *Canis lupus*, E
 Badger, *Meles meles*, E
 Rabbit, *Oryctologus cuniculatus*, E
 European Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*,
 Shrew sp

Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, E
 Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*, E
 Beech Marten, *Martes foina*, E
 Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*,

Amphibians & Reptiles

Spanish Rock Lizard, *Iberolacerta cyreni*,



In search of plants by Laura Benito