

The French Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 12 September 2018



Merendera, *Merendera pyrenaica*



Camberwell Beauty



Broom Moth larva, *Ceramica pisi*



Cirque de Troumouse

Report & images compiled by Chris Gibson



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Day 1

Wednesday 5th September

An early afternoon flight from Stansted brought us to Lourdes by 5.30pm, with only a slight delay. After loading the minibus, we headed south into the mountains, in cloud and torrential rain, arriving in Gèdre an hour or so later. Given the weather, not surprisingly, all we saw on the journey was a few Collared Doves in the towns, and a single Black Kite.

Greeted at the Hôtel Brèche de Roland by our hosts Odile and Phillipe, we had time to unpack before reconvening for the first of many, unfailingly delicious meals, to the tumultuous accompaniment of a thunderstorm outside.

Day 2

Thursday 6th September

It was a cloudy dawn, but the clouds parted long enough for a brief glimpse of the eponymous Brèche at the head of the valley before breakfast. Sumptuously fed once again, we collected our picnics and then headed out, first on foot, for an orientation walk around the village and introduction to the local birds, including family groups of Spotted Flycatcher, Black Redstart and White Wagtail, together with Jays and Nuthatches. Continuing down by the river, past Small-leaved Lime trees bearing magnificent clumps of Mistletoe, we ended up at the lower bridge, where despite the sediment-stained torrential flow after last night's storm, a pair of Dippers performed magnificently for us. The sun started to break through, and immediately there descended a cloud of migrating Swallows and House Martins which were joined by locally breeding Crag Martins, still active around nests on the houses. Within a few minutes, all but the locals had moved on, and it was time for us to do likewise, taking the short drive up the Héas Valley to the Barrage de Gloriettes.

Our first stop was below the dam, and a lovely walk up the quiet road, to take in the late-summer remnants of the floral riches. Grass-of-Parnassus, Yellow Marsh Saxifrage and Devil's-bit Scabious highlighted the damp areas, with Yellow Rattle, Alpine Eyebright and Golden-rod flourishing in the drier areas. The attractive larva of a Broom Moth, pink with yellow stripes, was found at rest anomalously on a Grass-of-Parnassus stem. The piercing call of an Alpine Marmot alerted us to the presence of big birds above (albeit unable to distinguish friend from foe): our first (of many) Griffon Vultures, followed by an immature Lammergeier, sweeping along the mountainside with no more than an insouciant flicker of its wingtips.

Up at the dam and crossing it into the Estaubé Valley gave stupendous views as the clouds had lifted to around the mountain tops. But typically, the reservoir was devoid of birds, and the hoped-for Wallcreeper on the dam wall had seemingly not yet descended from its high-up breeding cliffs. More and more Griffons appeared, along with two further Lammergeiers, one sub-adult and the other fully adult, all flying together for easy and instructive comparison. Small birds of the rock-studded grassy slopes included Northern Wheatear, Tree Pipit and Yellowhammer, while sunny spells brought a few butterflies out, including Queen of Spain Fritillary, Small Heath and Chalk-hill Blue, along with a fly-by Hummingbird Hawk-moth. A dead Pyrenean Dor-beetle allowed the opportunity to examine its vivid, reflective purple underside, while a red-and-black *Corizus hyoscyami* bug advertised its toxicity, derived from its poisonous foodplants, in this case Swallow-wort. In patches, the turf was splashed with candy-pink Merendera flowers, and especially in the lee of boulders, both Purple and Yellow

Monk's-hoods, along with occasional, dramatic flowering Cardabelles and the last few flowering Pyrenean Eryngos. Reflecting the season, lots of the plants were in distinctive fruit, including Wild Cotoneaster, Bearberry and Snowy Mespilus.

After lunch, watched by a group of 40 or more Griffons, and several Ravens and Red-billed Choughs, the return walk revealed a few more insects, including Amanda's Blue, Brown Argus, Six-spot Burnet and Scalloped Oak, in between a few light showers, and several Alpine Marmots showed well among the rocks at the base of the dam wall.

A short walk then down by the Héas river proved excellent for insects, including several noisy Upland Green Bush-crickets, Wood Cricket, Green Shieldbug, Squash Bug, and Fire Bug, and several types of galls, lichens and snails. But the threatened heavy rain finally caught up with us, and brought proceedings to a halt, and an early return to the hotel. However, after a chance to dry out, the weather perked up, so we finished the afternoon exploring the riverside below Gèdre swimming pool, where Dippers and Grey Wagtails again performed well; other interesting finds included Vervain and Wild Carrot, and an abundance of Large Black Slugs, having emerged in response to the rain.

Day 3

Friday 7th September

It was a sunny dawn with cobalt skies, and the Brèche looked alluring, so it was up to Gavarnie we headed, after examining a dark-form Boxworm Moth on the hotel signboard. Once through the honeypot tourist village, we entered the spectacular glacial landscape of the Cirque de Gavarnie. The first bird we saw, cruising the upper cliff slopes, was an adult Golden Eagle, followed by a few Common Buzzards and, as ever, Griffon Vultures, albeit many fewer than yesterday.

Soon we entered the deep shade of a Beech wood, very cool after a chilly night; the bark of the trees was almost hidden under a mosaic of lichens, a reflection of the good air quality in these mountains. The ground flora was typically sparse, although a few spikes of Broad-leaved Helleborine remained in flower; otherwise, it was fungi among the carpets of dead leaves that grabbed our attention.

Out into the more open upper valley, the sun had by now surmounted the peaks, and it was warming up nicely. Flowers were mostly those we had seen the previous day, although some of the patches of Merendera were simply stunning. By the runnels of water, Horse Mint was flowering profusely, and attracting a wide range of nectaring insects, including hoverflies, tachinid flies, and Chalk-hill, Common and Adonis Blues, Small Heath and Mountain Small White.

In the open, boulder-strewn pasture, several Marmots showed remarkably well, at ranges down to 30 metres, but birds were few and far between: just a few Coal Tits, Dunnocks and Robins. Then a wonderful Camberwell Beauty established itself as one of the highlights of the trip, mobbing us and settling well on low bushes - and my rucksack, where it remained for 10 minutes, such that everyone else at least was able to get point-blank views and photos. Other butterflies of the dappled shade included Silver-washed Fritillary and Comma.

After lunch in a shady spot, rounded off with locally foraged Wild Strawberries, the return leg brought more of the same, with the addition of Fringed Gentian, Forked Spleenwort, Common Hawker and Southern Skimmer

dragonflies, a Scorpion-fly, Glow-worm, and a range of fungi (cheese caps, milk caps, ceps and puffballs) and galls, including the spectacular, inflated sawfly galls on Olive Willow. And butterflies were out in force, including Shepherd's Fritillary, Map, Large Wall Brown and a very obliging Common Swallowtail. Less attractive perhaps, but just as exciting, were the cowpats full of holes and Dung-beetles, a far cry from the pesticide-drenched counterparts, devoid of life, in many other parts of Europe.

As we arrived back at Gavarnie, the panorama behind us had become obscured by cloud and the first few drops of rain started to fall – perfect timing!

Day 4

Saturday 8th September

We had another sunny start, so we returned to the high tops, to the Col de Tentes at around 2200 metres, where the car park was almost full, it being the weekend. The almost level track from here to the Spanish border at the Port de Boucharo took us past many more Marmots, and a range of high-mountain flowers, including Alpine Toadflax, Pygmy Hawk's-beard and Pyrenean Thistle, the latter a magnet for bumblebees (including the high-mountain specialist *Bombus mesomelas*), hoverflies and Hummingbird Hawk-moths. At the border, looking over into Aragon and the Bujaruelo Valley, flanked by the massifs of Vignemale and Monte Perdido, the views were simply stunning, and equally remarkable was the fact that we bumped into one of my 'Twitter friends', Will Hawkes, part of a University of Exeter team studying insect migration over the Port de Boucharo for the next two months.

Although too cool and early for much in the way of insect movement, we were then treated to a wonderful pulse of visible bird migration. Struggling out of France, skimming the turf before dropping into Spain, a 20-minute spell produced 60 Swallows, a Sand Martin, two Linnets, four Meadow Pipits and 20 Yellow Wagtails: such a privilege to witness the wonders of migration unfolding before us.

Returning to the car park, it had warmed a little so there were more insects around, including Bath White, Black Mountain Moth, and Red-winged and Blue-winged Grasshoppers, and flirting groups of *Chorthippus sauleyi*. Numerous Pyrenean Rock Lizards, endemic to a very small area in the heart of the Pyrenees, were out basking, although probably not for long: as we headed down the road, thick clouds were spilling over from the south. With only a brief stop to watch a family party of Water Pipits, we then headed down into the Ossoue Valley for lunch. Shelter and sunshine brought out numerous Adonis Blues and a Camberwell Beauty, together with Rock Grayling, Pearly Heath and a dramatic Western Saddleback Bush-cricket. A sub-adult Lammergeier swept along the valley sides as we set off for a short walk, finding Yellow Rest-harrow, Pyrenean Burnet moth, and a very tatty Apollo, right at the end of this species' flight season.

Driving further up the valley to the shepherds' hut, we were greeted with the unexpected (at this altitude) sight of a White Stork feeding among the mountain cattle, as a pair of Golden Eagles soared around the peaks. A small patch of scrub held several Chiffchaffs, a Whinchat and a Pied Flycatcher, presumably migrants once again, resting up before moving on under the cover of darkness. Once more, the weekend crowds were in evidence, and the drive back, on narrow roads, flanked by cliffs and/or drops, with numerous vehicles heading up where we had just been, proved challenging.... but we made it, and headed back to the hotel after another full and varied day.

With a little time before dinner, I went out on a reccy around the village and found a white-flowered Buddleia in full bloom close to the swimming pool. Although conventional wisdom has it that the natural purple colour is best for insects, this one clearly hadn't read the books and was heaving with butterflies (Large Whites, Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillaries), plus Jersey Tigers and about 20 Hummingbird Hawk-moths. It was so good that we all walked back there after dinner: by night, the hummers and butterflies had gone, but were replaced by lots of Common Wainscots and a few Dark Arches and Burnished Brass moths. At the lights outside the *Mairie*, more moths were encountered, including Scarce Footman, Common Carpet, Cabbage and Mottled Rustic. And all the while there were bats around, with the echolocation calls of at least three species picked up in the detector: Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton's Bat and Serotine.

Day 5

Sunday 9th September

A spell of unforecast heavy rain at breakfast time left a moist, murky day with rather limited visibility higher up, and a generally subdued feeling which seemed to be reflected in the near-absence of birds wherever we went today. Heading up to the Saugué Plateau, a few parties of Mistle Thrush and a Pied Flycatcher were spotted, but there was little at the top, aside from the ubiquitous Black Redstarts, a covey of Grey Partridges, and a few Tree Pipits, including one which gave prolonged close views. Pyrenean Eryngo, Merendera, Horned Pansy and Viper's-bugloss were in flower on the limestone although, without sun to warm things up, not attracting any insects. But what there was up here was tranquillity. Away from the weekend crowds, away from rushing waters, there was no sound apart from the distant mellifluity of cowbells – a true 'Heidi moment'.

Somewhat earlier than expected, we headed back down to the forested valley of Bué, hoping for some bird action: apart from the occasional bunch of Long-tailed and Blue Tits and Goldcrest, there was nothing in the way of woodland birds. Of course, round the mountain tops, Griffons were starting to rouse themselves from roost, and another Golden Eagle joined in the throng.

Along the track sides, Blue Lettuce, Maiden Pink and Orpine were in flower, alongside the distinctive foliage of Lungwort and Hepatica, and several different kinds of fungi, such as Turkey-tail and Shaggy Ink-cap. A few Common Frogs were disturbed from the wet grass, and at the start of the open pasture, we found a dead Asp Viper, being 'dealt with' by Sexton Beetles.

After a late lunch in the forest we returned to Gèdre, to walk to Gèdre-Dessus, starting at the hotel herb garden which was heaving with insects, including Scarce Bordered Straw moths and numerous *Isodontia mexicana*, a grey-black wasp native to North America, but becoming increasingly established in parts of western Europe. Our path led initially up a steep, rocky track, with Greater Celandine and Soapwort, a range of warningly-coloured red-and-black bugs (Striped Shieldbug, also called AC Milan Bug, Fire Bug and *Lygaeus equestris*), and past a Smooth Snake, curled up in a niche in the rocks.

Out on the upper, quiet road, the hillside is south-facing and hot, and so has a flora more reminiscent of the Mediterranean zone further south, with Box, Large Mediterranean Spurge and Montpellier Milk-vetch. A couple of purple Buddleias were heaving with butterflies, including around 15 Silver-washed Fritillaries and several Large Wall Browns, together with Jersey Tigers and Six-spot Burnets. Eventually we potted our way back down the road to the village, past numerous basking Common Wall Lizards, to the white swimming-pool Buddleia. Despite a by-now blustery wind, this was still covered with insects, including Hornet Hoverfly and

several Hummingbird Hawk-moths: how can they feed effectively hovering next to flowers blowing around so wildly in the wind?

Long threatened, rain started to fall, bringing another varied day to a natural end, the dramatic tussocky larva of a Vapourer Moth on the windowsill as we convened the evening meeting being a final highlight.

Day 6

Monday 10th September

It was a cloudy start, but over breakfast the sun broke through, and with a fine day in prospect, we again headed to the high tops: the Col de Tourmalet, at 2100 metres, a cyclists' favourite, and our longest drive of the week. Although somewhat scarred by ski infrastructure, the views were still magnificent, of both the mountains and the Griffon Vultures, above, alongside and below us. Other birds included Kestrel, Linnet, Northern Wheatear and large numbers of Meadow Pipit, but the only plant in flower was the Alpine Clover.

Then it was back down the numerous hairpins to the Glère Valley, close to the town of Barèges. During our first walk in the lower mixed forest we came across Great Spotted and Iberian Green Woodpeckers, both species of Treecreeper, Crested Tits, a Pied Flycatcher and a couple of Citril Finches, albeit some only heard rather than seen. We marvelled at the efficiency of a Garden Spider despatching a Silver-washed Fritillary, and found the distinctive conical galls of the gall-midge *Mikiola fagi* on the leaves of Beech.

After a coffee/loo stop at Chez Louissette, when a Red Kite drifted over, it was up to the open valley and another scenic location for lunch. Several Brimstone butterflies flew by, and White and Grey Wagtails rested side-by-side on a small building for easy comparison. It then turned rather breezy, suppressing insect activity, although an obliging Camberwell Beauty basked in a hotspot on the track, and several species of Odonata – Common and Southern Hawker, Common Goldenring, and Beautiful Demoiselle - were located around the rivulets running down to the main stream.

A gentle stroll back down through the forest produced little further in the way of bird life, so we again returned to Gèdre a little early, and took the opportunity to head down to the Dipper bridge once more. Dippers and Spotted Flycatchers performed as on our first day, although the Crag Martins seemed to have moved on; a Jersey Tiger nectared at Hemp Agrimony; and a Great Green Bush-cricket was rescued from the narrow confines of the bridge walls. In a flurry of raptor magic, a Lammergeier drifted up and then across the valley, right over our heads, followed shortly by several Griffons, two Common Buzzards and our sole Honey Buzzard of the trip. Only on examining photos of the Lammergeier later did we realise it had been photobombed by a Peregrine, again our only one of the tour.

Day 7

Tuesday 11th September

Another gloriously sunny dawn saw us heading to one of the most beautiful parts of the Pyrenees, the Cirque de Troumouse, just a few minutes' drive (at least to the bottom of the hairpins) from Gèdre. Scenically, in good weather this site cannot fail to impress: from the floor of the upper valley at 2100 metres, the 270° panorama of mountain peaks, cliffs, screes and residual snow patches is a masterclass in glacial geomorphology, only marginally intruded upon by the improvement works taking place in the car park.

Being the last day, and having spent the whole week within a 30-kilometre radius of our base, it is perhaps not surprising that our walk around the Cirque produced rather little that was new for the week in wildlife terms. Marmots, Northern Wheatears and Water Pipits were abundant, but vultures and other large raptors, surprisingly and unaccountably, were few and far between. Although sunny, it was rather cool, and the only butterfly on the wing was Small Tortoiseshell. New plants included Moss Campion, and in some of the ponds, patches of Floating Bur-reed.

After lunch, as we had become accustomed to, the cloud started to build; just as we arrived back at the car park and a welcome degree of shelter, first rain and then large hailstones started to fall, so it was back down to the Héas Valley into more clement conditions. Walking down the last kilometre to the *péage* produced yet more Dippers, plus Dunnocks and a Speckled Wood butterfly, plus an array of galls and fungal blotches on the stunted trees. A patch of Dodder atypically seemed to be parasitizing Common Rock-rose, while down by the riverbank, a Roesel's Bush-cricket was located alongside the numerous, noisy Upland Green Bush-crickets.

A fittingly spectacular end to the week, but the day was not yet over as we again headed out batting after dinner. Although it was quite breezy, Common Pipistrelles performed well in the more sheltered spots.

Day 8

Wednesday 12th September

With a morning to spare before we needed to be heading to the airport, after checking out we once again headed up the Héas Valley, to a couple of riverside stops in very pleasant weather. Again, we found ourselves among the migration: flickering flocks of Swallows moved up the valley, but then drifted back, presumably having turned around at the prospect of no obvious passes through the mountains in this location. A Lammergeier joined the local Griffons high up the valley sides, and down by the river, there were several Common Chiffchaffs and Pied Flycatchers. Berger's Clouded Yellow and Geranium Argus belatedly added themselves to our butterfly list; a patch of Fly Agarics sprouted from beneath a Birch tree; and Green Huntsman spider, Hairy Shieldbug and Tansy Beetle were all basking in the sun.

All too soon though, it was time to return to Gèdre, for lunch at the Dipper Bridge, a fleeting facility stop at the hotel, and then head off to the airport for a late afternoon flight home, picking up a few new birds on the way, including Little Egret, Golden Oriole and Feral Pigeon!

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>					✓			
2	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				✓				
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓				
4	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>								✓
5	Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓
6	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						✓		
7	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			✓	✓	✓			
9	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓						
10	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						✓		
11	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓							
12	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>								✓
14	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>								✓
15	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓							✓
16	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		✓						
17	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						✓		
18	Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>					✓	✓		
19	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
20	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						✓		
21	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								✓
22	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>								✓
24	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>		✓		✓		✓		
26	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
27	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓					✓	
28	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			✓		✓	✓		
29	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						✓		
30	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
31	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>					✓			✓
32	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								✓
33	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓				
34	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓		✓				✓
35	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		✓	✓		✓			
37	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓		✓			
38	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>						✓		
39	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓				✓		
41	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			✓					
42	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					✓	✓		
43	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						✓		
44	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>						✓		
46	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						✓		
47	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓							✓

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
48	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>								✓
50	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓			
51	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓				✓	✓	
52	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓
53	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
54	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				✓				
56	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>				✓				
57	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
58	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
59	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			✓				✓	
61	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓				
62	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓			✓			
66	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>				✓		✓	✓	
67	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
68	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>						✓		
69	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓		✓	✓	
70	Citril Finch	<i>Serinus citrinella</i>						✓		
71	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓						
72	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓		✓				
73	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓				

Mammals (D = Dead; S = signs of)

Alpine Marmot, *Marmota marmota*,
 European Mole, *Talpa europea*, S
 Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*, S
 Daubenton's Bat, *Myotis daubentoni*,

Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, S
 Western Hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus*, D
 Common Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*,
 Serotine, *Eptesicus serotinus*,

Reptiles

Common Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis*,
 Asp Viper, *Vipera aspis*, D

Pyrenean Rock Lizard, *Iberolacerta bonnali*,
 Smooth Snake, *Coronella austriaca*,

Amphibians

Common Frog, *Rana temporaria*, X

Butterflies

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*,
 Large White, *Pieris brassicae*,
 Southern Small White, *Pieris manii*,
 Bath White, *Pontia daplidice*,
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*,
 Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*,
 Holly Blue, *Celastrina argiolus*,
 Southern Brown Argus, *Aricia cramera*,

Apollo, *Parnassius apollo*,
 Small White, *Pieris rapae*,
 Mountain Small White, *Pieris ergane*,
 Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*,
 Berger's Clouded Yellow, *Colias alfacariensis*,
 Lang's Short-tailed Blue, *Leptotes pirithous*,
 Geranium Argus, *Eumedonia eumedon*,
 Amanda's Blue, *Polyommatus amandus*,

Chalk-hill Blue, *Polyommatus coridon*,
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus* ,
 Peacock, *Inachis io* (caterpillars only),
 Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*,
 Comma , *Polygonia c-album*,
 Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia* ,
 Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia* ,
 False Heath Fritillary, *Melitaea diamina*,
 Rock Grayling, *Hipparchia alcyone*,
 Western Brassy Ringlet, *Erebia arvenensis*,
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*,
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*,
 Large Wall Brown, *Lasiommata maera* (incl *f. adrasta*),

Adonis Blue, *Polyommatus bellargus* ,
 Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*,
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta* (caterpillar only),
 Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae* ,
 Map, *Araschnia levana*,
 Dark Green Fritillary, *Argynnis aglaja*,
 Shepherd's Fritillary, *Boloria pales*,
 Woodland Grayling, *Hipparchia fagi*,
 Common Grayling, *Hipparchia semele* ,
 Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina* ,
 Pearly Heath, *Coenonympha arcania*,
 Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*,
 Silver-spotted Skipper, *Hesperia comma*,

Moths

Leaf-miner on *Rosa* , *Coptotriche angusticollis*,
 Rusty-dot Pearl, *Udea ferrugalis*,
 Six-spot Burnet, *Zygaena filipendulae*,
 Chalk Carpet, *Scotopteryx bipunctaria*,
 Purple-bar, *Cosmorhoe ocellata*,
 Black Mountain Moth, *Glacies coracina*,
 Annulet, *Charissa obscurata*,
 Scarce Footman, *Eilema complana*,
 Four-spotted Footman, *Lithosia quadra*,
 Vapourer Moth, *Orgyia antiqua* (caterpillar only),
 Scarce Bordered Straw, *Helicoverpa armigera*,
 Burnished Brass , *Diachrysis chrysis*,
 Dark Arches, *Apamea monoglypha*,
 Cabbage Moth, *Mamestra brassicae*,

Horse-chestnut Leaf-miner, *Cameraria ohridella* ,
 Boxworm Moth, *Cydalmina perspectalis*,
 Pyrenean Burnet, *Zygaena anthyllidis*,
 Common Carpet, *Epirrhoe alternata*,
 Willow Beauty, *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*,
 Scalloped Oak, *Crocallis elinguaris*,
 Yellow Shell, *Camptogramma bilineata*,
 Buff Footman, *Eilema depressa*,
 Jersey Tiger, *Euplagia quadripunctaria*,
 Hummingbird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*,
 Common Wainscot, *Mythimna pallens*,
 Feathered Gothic, *Tholera decimalis*,
 Dusky Brocade, *Apamea remissa*,
 Broom Moth, *Ceramica pisi* (caterpillar only),

Beetles, COLEOPTERA

Tansy Beetle, *Chrysolina graminis* ,
 Orange Ladybird, *Halysia sedecimguttata*,
 Sexton Beetle, *Nicrophorus interruptus* ,
 Greater Thorn-tipped Longhorn, *Pogonocherus hispidulus*
 Artichoke beetle, *Sphaeroderma testaceum*,

Dor-beetle, *Geotrupes stercorarius*,
 Glow-worm, *Lampyris noctiluca*,
 a false blister-beetle, *Oedemera podagrariae*,
 22-spot Ladybird, *Psyllobora 22-punctata*,
 Pyrenean Dor-beetle, *Trypocopris pyrenaicus*,

Bugs, HEMIPTERA

Lucerne Bug, *Adelphocoris lineolatus*,
 Squash Bug, *Coreus marginatus*,
 Hairy Shieldbug, *Dolycoris baccarum*,
 AC Milan Bug, *Graphosoma italicum*,
 Green Shieldbug, *Palomena prasina*,
 Fire Bug, *Pyrrhocoris apterus*,
 a seed-bug, *Stygnocoris rusticus*,

Alder Spittle-bug, *Aphrophora alni* ,
 Cinnamon Bug, *Corizus hyoscamii*,
 Potato Leafhopper, *Eupteryx aurata*,
 a ground-bug, *Lygaeus equestris*,
 a large mirid bug, *Pantilius tunicatus*,
 a psyllid gall on *Buxus*, *Spanioneura buxi*,
 Blue Shieldbug, *Zicrona caerulea* ,

Flies, DIPTERA

a tachinid fly, *Bithia spreta*,
 a midge gall on *Fraxinus*, *Dasineura fraxini*,
 a tachinid fly, *Ectophasia crassipennis*,

a tachinid fly, *Cylindromyia intermedia*,
 a midge gall on *Tilia*, *Didymomyia tiliacea* ,
 a hoverfly, *Eristalis nemorum*,

a hoverfly, *Eupeodes corollae*,
 Noon Fly, *Mesembrina meridiana* ,
 Batman Hoverfly, *Myathropa florea*,
 a leaf-miner on *Clematis*, *Phytomyza clematidis* ,
 a hoverfly, *Syrirta pipiens*,
 Kite-tailed Robberfly, *Tolmerus atricapillus*,
 Hornet Hoverfly, *Volucella zonaria* ,

a hoverfly, *Leucozona glaucia*,
 Midge gall on Beech, *Mikiola fagi*,
 a tachinid fly, *Nowickia ferox* ,
 a hoverfly, *Scaeva pyrastris*,
 a tachinid fly, *Tachina fera*,
 a large hoverfly, *Volcella inanis*,

Bees, Wasps & Ants, HYMENOPTERA

a parasitic wasp, *Amblyjoppa fuscipennis* ,
 a mountain bumble-bee, *Bombus mesomelas*,
 Ornate-tailed Digger-wasp, *Cerceris rybyensis* ,
 Heath Potter-wasp, *Eumenes coarctatus* ,
 Wood Ant, *Formica rufa*,
 Grass-carrying Wasp, *Isodontia mexicana* ,

Red-banded Sand-wasp, *Ammophila sabulosa* ,
 Common Carder-bee, *Bombus pascuorum*,
 Robin's Pin-cushion Gall on Rose, *Diplolepis rosae*,
 Sawfly gall on *Salix eleagnos*, *Euura krieckbaumeri* ,
 a solitary bee, *Hylaeus variegatus*,
 Bee-wolf, *Philanthus triangulum* ,

Grasshoppers, Bush-crickers & Crickets, ORTHOPTERA

Common Pincer Grasshopper, *Calliptamus italicus*,
 a montane grasshopper, *Chorthippus saulcyi*,
 Field-cricket, *Gryllus campestris*,
 Roesel's Bush-cricket, *Metriopectera roeselii* ,
 Blue-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda coerulescens*,
 Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus*,
 a stripe-winged grasshopper, *Stenobothrus stigmaticus*,
 Great Green Bush-cricket, *Tettigonia viridissima*,

Common Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*,
 Western Saddle-back, *Ephippiger diurnus*,
 Speckled Bush-cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima* ,
 Wood Cricket, *Nemobius sylvestris*,
 Red-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda germanica*,
 Dark Bush-cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*,
 Upland Green Bush-cricket, *Tettigonia cantans*,

Dragonflies & Damselflies, ODONATA

Southern Hawker, *Aeshna cyanea*,
 Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*,
 Common Goldenring, *Cordulegaster boltonii*,

Common Hawker, *Aeshna juncea*,
 Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*,
 Southern Skimmer, *Orthetrum brunneum*,

Scorpion-flies, MECOPTERA

Southern Scorpion-fly, *Panorpa meridionalis*,

Spiders & Mites, ARACHNIDA

Mite gall on *Acer*, *Aceria cephaloneus*,
 Garden Spider, *Araneus diadematus*,
 Green Huntsman, *Micrommata virescens*,

Mite gall on *Thymus*, *Aceria thomasi*,
 Mite gall on *Tilia*, *Eriophyes tiliae* ,

Slugs & Snails, MOLLUSCA

Large Black Slug, *Arion ater*,
 Brown-lipped Banded-snail, *Cepaea nemoralis*,

Pale-lipped Banded-snail, *Cepaea hortensis*,
 Garden Snail, *Cornu aspersa*,

Plant list not comprehensive, mainly those species in flower or conspicuous fruit

Ferns

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum, Black Spleenwort,
Asplenium ceterach, Rustyback,
Asplenium septentrionale, Forked Spleenwort,
Blechnum spicant, Hard Fern,
Polypodium vulgare, Common Polypody,

Asplenium ruta-muraria, Wall-rue,
Asplenium scolopendrium, Hart's-tongue Fern,
Asplenium trichomanes, Maidenhair Spleenwort,
Dryopteris oreades, Mountain Male-fern,
Pteridium aquilinum, Bracken,

Conifers

Abies alba, Silver Fir,
Picea abies, Norway Spruce,
Pinus uncinata, Mountain Pine,

Juniperus communis var. *saxatilis*, Dwarf Juniper,
Pinus sylvestris, Scots Pine,

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa, Alder,
Corylus avellana, Hazel,

Betula pendula, Silver Birch,

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica, Beech,
Quercus pyrenaica, Pyrenean Oak,

Quercus petraea, Sessile Oak,
Quercus robur, Common Oak,

Salicaceae

Salix eleagnos, Olive Willow,

Populus tremula, Aspen,

Ulmaceae

Ulmus glabra, Wych Elm,

Urticaceae

Parietaria judaica, Pellitory-of-the-wall,

Urtica dioica, Stinging Nettle,

Loranthaceae

Viscum album, Mistletoe,

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus, Greater Celandine,

Meconopsis cambrica, Welsh Poppy,

Polygonaceae

Rumex scutatus, French Sorrel,

Amaranthaceae

Chenopodium bonus-henricus, Good King Henry,

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium fontanum, Common Mouse-ear,
Dianthus monspessulanus, Fringed Pink,
Minuartia verna, Spring Sandwort,
Saponaria officinalis, Soapwort,
Silene alba, White Campion,

Dianthus deltoides, Maiden Pink,
Gypsophila repens, Alpine Gypsophila,
Paronychia kapela, Nailwort,
Silene acaulis, Moss Campion,
Silene saxifraga, Saxifrage Campion,

Silene vulgaris, Bladder Champion,

Ranunculaceae

Aconitum napellus, Monkshood,
Helleborus foetidus, Stinking Hellebore,
Hepatica nobilis, Hepatica,

Aconitum anthora, Yellow Monkshood,
Helleborus viridis, Green Hellebore,
Ranunculus repens, Creeping Buttercup,

Brassicaceae

Arabis alpina, Alpine Rock-cress,

Crassulaceae

Sedum acre, Biting Stonecrop,
Sedum dasyphyllum, Thick-leaved Stonecrop,
Sempervivum arachnoideum, Cobweb Houseleek,

Sedum album, White Stonecrop,
Sedum telephium, Orpine,
Sempervivum montanum, Mountain House Leek,

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga aizoides, Yellow Marsh Saxifrage,
Saxifraga umbrosa, Wood Saxifrage,

Saxifraga longifolia, Pyrenean Saxifrage,

Celastraceae

Parnassia palustris, Grass-of-Parnassus,

Grossulariaceae

Ribes alpinum, Mountain Currant,

Rosaceae

Alchemilla alpina, Alpine Lady's-mantle,
Crataegus monogyna, Hawthorn,
Filipendula ulmaria, Meadowsweet,
Potentilla erecta, Tormentil,
Rosa pendulina, Alpine Rose,
Rubus idaeus, Raspberry,
Sorbus aucuparia, Rowan,

Cotoneaster integerrimus, Wild Cotoneaster,
Dryas octopetala, Mountain Avens,
Fragaria vesca, Wild Strawberry,
Rosa canina, Common Dog Rose,
Rubus fruticosus agg., Bramble,
Sorbus aria, Whitebeam,
Sorbus mougeotii, Pyrenean Whitebeam,

Leguminosae

Hippocrepis comosa, Horseshoe Vetch,
Lotus corniculatus, Bird's-foot-trefoil,
Ononis natrix, Large Yellow Rest-harrow,
Vicia cracca, Tufted Vetch,

Lotus alpinus, Alpine Bird's-foot-trefoil,
Melilotus alba, White Melilot,
Trifolium alpinum, Alpine Clover,
Vicia sepium, Bush Vetch,

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella, Wood Sorrel,

Geraniaceae

Geranium pyrenaicum, Pyrenean Crane's-bill,

Geranium robertianum, Herb Robert,

Linaceae

Linum catharticum, Fairy Flax,

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia amygaloides, Wood Spurge,
Euphorbia helioscopia, Sun Spurge,
Mercurialis perennis, Dog's Mercury,

Euphorbia characias, Large Mediterranean Spurge,
Euphorbia maculata, Spotted Spurge,

Sapindaceae

Acer campestre, Field Maple,

Acer pseudoplatanus, Sycamore,

Aquifoliaceae

Ilex aquifolium, Holly,

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens, Box,

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alpinus, Alpine Buckthorn,

Malvaceae

Malva neglecta, Dwarf Mallow,

Tilia cordata, Small-leaved Lime,

Thymelaceae

Daphne mezereum, Mezereon,

Daphne laureola ssp. *philippii*, Mountain Spurge-laurel,

Hypericaceae

Hypericum maculatum, Imperforate St John's-wort,

Hypericum perforatum, Perforate St John's-wort,

Violaceae

Viola cornuta, Horned Pansy,

Cistaceae

Helianthemum nummularium, Common Rockrose,

Onagraceae

Epilobium angustifolium, Rosebay Willow-herb,

Epilobium montanum, Broad-leaved Willow-herb,

Cornaceae

Cornus sanguinea, Dogwood,

Araliaceae

Hedera helix, Ivy,

Apiaceae

Angelica sylvestris, Angelica,
Conopodium pyrenaicum, Pyrenean Pignut,
Eryngium bourgatii, Pyrenean Eryngo,
Laserpitium latifolium, Broad-leaved Sermountain,
Pastinaca sativa, Wild Parsnip,

Astrantia major, Pink Masterwort,
Daucus carota, Wild Carrot,
Heracleum sphondylium ssp. *pyrenaicum*, Pyrenean Hogweed,
Laserpitium siler, Sermountain,

Ericaceae

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Bearberry,
Rhododendron ferrugineum , Alpenrose,

Calluna vulgaris, Ling,
Vaccinium myrtillus, Bilberry,

Primulaceae

Primula integrifolia, Entire-leaved Primrose,

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior, Ash,

Gentianaceae

Gentiana ciliata, Fringed Gentian,

Gentiana cruciata, Cross Gentian,

Apocynaceae

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria, Swallow-wort,

Rubiaceae

Galium odoratum , Sweet Woodruff,
Rubia peregrina , Wild Madder,

Galium verum, Lady's Bedstraw,

Convolvulaceae

Calystegia sepium, Large Bindweed,

Convolvulus arvensis, Field Bindweed,

Boraginaceae

Echium vulgare, Viper's Bugloss,

Pulmonaria officinalis , Lungwort,

Verbenaceae

Verbena officinalis, Vervain,

Callitrichaceae

Callitriche stagnalis, Common Water Starwort,

Lamiaceae

Acinos alpinus, Alpine Basil Thyme,
Galeopsis pyrenaicum, Pyrenean Hemp-nettle,
Lamium album, White Dead-nettle,
Lamium purpureum, Red Dead-nettle,
Origanum vulgare, Marjoram,
Prunella vulgaris, Common Self-heal,
Stachys alopecurus , Yellow Betony,
Teucrium pyrenaicum, Pyrenean Germander,

Clinopodium vulgare, Wild Basil,
Galeopsis tetrahit, Common Hemp-nettle,
Lamium maculatum, Spotted Dead-nettle,
Mentha longifolia, Horse Mint,
Prunella laciniata, Cut-leaved Self-heal,
Sideritis hyssopifolia, Sideritis,
Teucrium chamaedrys , Wall Germander,
Thymus praecox , Wild Thyme,

Scrophulariaceae

Scrophularia canina, French Figwort,
Verbascum phomoides, Orange Mullein,

Verbascum nigrum, Dark Mullein,

Gesneriaceae

Ramonda myconi, Ramonda ,

Lentibulariaceae

Pinguicula grandiflora, Large-flowered Butterwort,

Plantaginaceae

Chaenorhinum minus, Lesser Snapdragon,

Linaria alpina, Alpine Toadflax,

Plantago media, Hoary Plantain,

Cymbalaria muralis, Ivy-leaved Toadflax,

Plantago lanceolata, Ribwort Plantain,

Plantago serpentina, Mountain Plantain,

Orobanchaceae

Euphrasia alpina, Pink Eyebright,

Rhinanthus minor, Yellow Rattle,

Caprifoliaceae

Centranthus ruber, Red Valerian,

Lonicera periclymenum, Common Honeysuckle,

Scabiosa columbaria, Small Scabious,

Valeriana montana, Mountain Valerian,

Knautia dipsacifolia, Wood Scabious,

Lonicera pyrenaica, Pyrenean Honeysuckle,

Succisa pratensis, Devil's-bit Scabious,

Valeriana officinalis, Common Valerian,

Adoxaceae

Sambucus ebulus, Dwarf Elder,

Sambucus racemosa, Alpine Elder,

Viburnum opulus, Guelder Rose,

Sambucus nigra, Common Elder,

Viburnum lantana, Wayfaring Tree,

Verbenaceae

Verbena officinalis, Vervain,

Campanulaceae

Campanula rotundifolia, Harebell,

Campanula trachelium, Nettle-leaved Bellflower,

Campanula scheuzeri, Alpine Harebell,

Phyteuma orbiculare, Round-headed Rampion,

Compositae (Asteraceae)

Achillea millefolium, Yarrow,

Arctium minus, Lesser Burdock,

Carduus carlinoides, Pyrenean Thistle,

Carlina acaulis, Stemless Carlina Thistle,

Cirsium acaule, Stemless Thistle,

Cirsium palustre, Marsh Thistle,

Crepis pygmaea, Pygmy Hawk's-beard,

Erigeron alpinus, Alpine Fleabane,

Lactuca perennis, Blue Lettuce,

Tussilago farfara, Colt's-foot,

Adenostyles alliariae, Adenostyles,

Bellis perennis, Daisy,

Carlina acanthifolia, Cardabelle,

Centaurea nemoralis, Knapweed,

Cirsium eriophorum, Woolly Thistle,

Cirsium vulgare, Spear Thistle,

Erigeron acris, Blue Fleabane,

Eupatorium cannabinum, Hemp Agrimony,

Solidago virgaurea, Golden-rod,

Colchicaceae

Colchicum (Merendera pyrenaica), Merendera,

Liliaceae

Lilium martagon, Martagon Lily,

Orchidaceae

Dactylorhiza majalis, Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid,

Epipactis helleborine, Broad-leaved Helleborine,

Gymnadenia conopsea, Fragrant Orchid,

Iridaceae

Iris latifolia , English Iris,

Xanthorrhoeaceae

Asphodelus albus, White Asphodel,

Typhaceae

Sparganium angustifolium, Floating Bur-reed,

Poaceae

Briza media, Common Quaking Grass,

Hordelymus europaeus, Wood Barley,

Cynodon dactylon, Bermuda Grass,

Lichens

Cladonia sp.

Peltigera sp., Dog Lichen,

Umbilicaria sp., Rock Tripe,

Pannaria rubiginosa

Rhizocarpon geographicum, Map Lichen,

Usnea sp. , Beard Lichen,

Fungi

Amanita muscaria, Fly Agaric,

Gymnosporangium cornutum, Rust on *Sorbus*,

Macrolepiota procera, Parasol,

Rhytisma acerinum, Maple Tar-spot,

Ruussula ochroleuca, a cheese-cap,

Trametes versicolor, Turkey-tail,

plus many others, including cheese-caps, ceps and milk-caps

Coprinus comatus, Shaggy Ink-cap,

Lycoperdon perlatum, Spiny Puffball,

Polyporus squamosus, Dryad's Saddle,

Rhytisma salicinum, Willow Tar-spot,

Stropharia semiglobata, Dung Roundhead,

Ustilago violacea, Anther-smut on *Saponaria*,

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