Corsica in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th - 17th September 2024



Cyclamen hederifolium



Genoese Bridge



Pyrus spinosa



Two-tailed Pasha

Tour report and photos by David Tattersfield



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Tour Summary

We spent a week exploring the aromatic maquis, magnificent forests, rugged high mountains, and varied coastline, that make Corsica such a unique destination. We enjoyed a variety of birds and insects and many of its special endemic plants.

In attractive towns and villages, we had a taste of its long history and architecture and encountered the sheep, goats, pigs, and ancient breed of cattle that provide the mainstay of its rural economy and contribute to its tasty, traditional cuisine. Stunning scenery, superb weather and, above all, the enthusiasm and good humour of the group ensured we had very enjoyable and memorable week.

Day 1

Tuesday 10th September

We arrived, on time, in a hot and sunny Bastia. Once we had loaded the minibus, we travelled westwards to Ponte Leccia, where we had a coffee break. At Isle Rousse, we bought fresh fruit and vegetables at a farmer's market, before continuing to Calvi, where we explored its harbour and interesting streets. Moving south, we had our lunch at a rocky bay, just north of Galeria. Plants of interest, in the vicinity, included Rock Samphire *Crithmum maritimum*, an attractive grey-leaved spurge *Euphorbia pithyusa* subsp. *pithyusa*, and two of the island's endemics, namely Corsican Stork's-bill *Erodium corsicum* and *Limonium corsicum*, a distinctive Sea Lavender, with intricately branched flower stems resembling wire netting.

As we travelled south, we enjoyed tremendous views of the maquis-covered countryside and rugged coastline, as the road followed a seemingly endless series of twists and turns. We paused to walk beside steep cliffs of red granite, just before reaching Porto, where notable plants included Tree Spurge *Euphorbia dendroides*, Sticky Woundwort *Stachys glutinosa*, the pungent Cat Thyme *Teucrium marum*, and Corsican Seseli *Seseli praecox*. After Porto, we climbed steeply inland and arrived at our hotel in Evisa, where a dinner awaited us.

Day 2

Wednesday 11th September

We enjoyed another hot and sunny day. We made a short walk into the Forêt d'Aitone, above the hotel, where we found the familiar leaves of Corsican Hellebore *Helleborus argutifolius* and flowers of *Cyclamen hederifolium*, under a high canopy of Corsican Pine *Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*. We visited a series of beautiful cascades and natural pools, along the river and the ruins of an old mill, that had harnessed waterpower, to produce chestnut flour. Birds of the forest included Eurasian Jay, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Coal Tit, Eurasian Treecreeper and Goldcrest and we could hear the high-pitched calls of Fircrest, high above our heads. Our next destination was above the trees, at the Col de Sevi, where we recorded our first Corsican Finch.

We continued down to Sagone, on the coast, where we purchased provisions for our lunches and had a coffee break, before a short drive to the Liamone estuary. A few birds of note included Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Common Kingfisher, and Western Marsh Harrier. Cetti Warbler and Water Rail were heard, and an abundance of insects included Red Band-winged Grasshopper, Common and Scarlet Darter, Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Copper, Common Blue, Cardinal and Plain Tiger.

After lunch, we walked down to the beach, noting plants, typical of the sandy shore, such as Sea Bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*, Sea Medick *Medicago marina* and Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*. A single Audouin's Gull was picked out among the common Yellow-legged Gulls, along the beach. We returned to the minibus, through the scrub-covered dunes, where flocks of birds included Spotless Starling, Italian Sparrow, Common Linnet and lots of European Goldfinch. After ice cream, in Sagone, we stopped at the local landfill site, where there were good numbers of Red Kite and Northern Raven.

Day 3

Thursday 12th September

We awoke to a much cooler and showery morning. After breakfast, we walked down the road, through Evisa, and ventured a little way into the Spelunca Gorge. Before the road was built, this ancient mule trail was a vital link between Evisa and the harbour in Porto. We were in mature maquis, under tall Tree Heather *Erica arborea*, Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo* and Holm Oak *Quercus ilex*. The distinctive bark of Maritime Pine *Pinus pinaster* subsp. escarena was much admired and, coupled with its large cones, made it easily distinguishable from Corsican Pine.

Returning to the road, we drove down towards the bottom of the gorge, stopping at intervals to take in the magnificent scenery. It was raining steadily, so we abandoned our planned walk in the gorge and retreated to the comfort of Chez Felix, in Ota, where we were able to prepare our picnic lunch. By 2.00pm the rain had stopped, and we drove to the Calanches de Piana, a short way down the coast. First, we made a short walk into an area of maquis and Maritime Pine, where among the smaller birds, we recorded Spotted Flycatcher, Common Redstart, European Greenfinch, Eurasian Blackcap, Sardinian Warbler, Western Orphean Warbler and a possible Western Olivaceous Warbler. Walking along the road, through the World Heritage Site, we enjoyed the spectacular eroded pinnacles of pink granite, and admired the delicate flowers of the endemic Pink Snowflake *Acis rosea* and the attractive mature fruit of Strawberry Tree.

Day 4

Friday 13th September

Leaving Evisa, soon after breakfast, we made a short walk to a damp area of the forest, where we found large drifts of Willow-leaved Gentian *Gentiana asclepiadea*, the diminutive, aromatic Corsican Mint *Mentha requienii* and Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*. At the Col de Vergio, we reached the treeline, in an open landscape with stunted trees and a prickly carpet of prostrate Juniper and the low-growing Salzmann's Broom *Genista salzmannii* subsp. *lobelioides*. Here and there were the shiny, red hips of *Rosa serafinii* and the endemic Caraway Thyme *Thymus herba-barona*. After a long descent through the forest, we stopped by a damp ditch, where we found more Corsican Mint and the insectivorous Corsican Butterwort *Pinguicula corsica*.

After lunch by the shore of the reservoir, near Calacuccia, we descended into the narrow chasm of the Santa Regina Gorge and walked along a section of the beautifully engineered road. Typical plants, in the hot dry conditions included Large Mediterranean Spurge *Euphorbia characias*, French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas*, prostrate forms of Rosemary *Salvia rosmarinus* and the white Tunic Flower *Petrorhagia saxifraga* subsp. *gasparinii*.

After the tortuous mountain roads, it was a relief to join the main route, at Francardo, and after driving south, past Corte, we soon arrived at our hotel, below Venaco, where we had time to explore the riverside and surrounding maquis, before dinner.

Day 5

Saturday 14th September

A sheltered gully in Venaco, provided a magnet for a range of butterflies and, among others, we recorded Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Long-tailed Blue, Southern White Admiral, Queen of Spain and Silver-washed Fritillary, Cardinal, Great Banded Grayling and the endemic Corsican Grayling.

A little way south, we reached Gustav Eiffel's dramatic railway bridge, spanning the Verghello Valley, alongside the elegant modern road bridge. Walking slowly up the road, we were delighted to find several Two-tailed Pashas, arguably Europe's most attractive butterfly, which, obligingly, posed for photographs. As we climbed higher, Maritime Pine gradually gave way to Corsican Pine, and at the end of the road, we enjoyed panoramic views of the mountainous landscape, while we ate our lunch. Afterwards, we walked slowly down through the forest, in the hope of locating Corsican Nuthatch, and at last, we were fortunate to see two birds.

Returning to the main road, we continued south, through Vivario, to the top of the pass, where, rather surprisingly, the upper limit of forest is dominated by Beech *Fagus sylvatica*. In the past, the trees had been coppiced for their timber, and we walked under a high, dense canopy of multi-trunked monsters, with little in the way of ground flora, except for the abundant *Cyclamen hederifolium*. We rounded off the afternoon with drinks at Vizzavona station, the highest on Corsica's unique railway, and were back at the hotel for 6.00pm.

Day 6

Sunday 15th September

Close to the hotel, at Pont Noceta, we watched White-throated Dippers on the river, before returning to Venaco, where we enjoyed a cup of coffee and added Comma and Southern Grayling to our list of butterflies. After stopping to take in the classic view of Corte, famously painted by Edward Lear, we continued up the Restonica Valley, as far as the campsite, at Tuani, where we had good views of four more Corsican Nuthatch, as we walked along the riverside track.

After a hearty lunch beside the river, we explored Corte, in the afternoon, climbing up to the citadel and shopping for souvenirs in its historic streets, before returning to the café in Venaco.

Day 7

Monday 16th September

Travelling down the Tavignano Valley, we stopped to admire an attractive Venetian bridge and historic chapel. Fragrant Clematis *Clematis flammula* was in full flower, on a roadside bank, and there were many Grey Wagtail along the river. After some last-minute shopping in Aleria, we drove down to the coast. After a coffee break, we explored the sandy beach where an interesting variety of strandline plants included Golden Samphire *Limbarda crithmoides*, Sea Daffodil *Pancratium maritimum*, Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, and Purple Spurge *Euphorbia peplis*. Among the storm debris, were large numbers of 'sea balls', formed of aggregated hairs, from the rhizomes of Neptune Grass *Posidonia oceanica*.

A little further south, we had lunch beside the Étang d'Urbino, the second largest of Corsica's saline lagoons, where there were informative display boards, explaining the importance of these unique coastal habitats, for fishing and wildlife. European Shag, Great Cormorant and Black-headed Gulls were close by, and we were amused to find several, large Tubular Sea Cucumbers, at the water's edge. Overlooking the inland margin of the lagoon, we saw

Grey Heron, Little Egret and Great Egret, along with Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, and large numbers of Eurasian Coot.

We were back at the hotel for 5.20pm, to pack for the return journey, and then gathered to share reminiscences, over a glass of wine, before dinner.

Day 8

Tuesday 17th September

After an early breakfast, we made good progress to the airport, stopping for a leg-stretch to see the delightful model village at Ponte Novu, and arrived at Bastia with plenty of time for check-in.

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Species lists

Plants

Latin name Common name Notes

• = endemic to Corsica, or nearby region, ‡ = cultivated or naturalised

PTERIDOPHYTES

FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

Aspleniaceae Spleenwort Family

Asplenium ceterachRustybackRocksAsplenium onopterisSharp-leaved SpleenwortWalls

Asplenium ruta-murariaWall-rueForêt d'Aitone, RestonicaAsplenium septentrionaleForked SpleenwortShaded rocks. SpeluncaAsplenium trichomanesMaidenhair SpleenwortOccasional on rocks

Athyriaceae Lady-fern Family

Athyrium felix-femina Lady-fern Forêt d'Aitone

Blechnaceae Hard-fern Family

Blechnum spicant Hard-fern Forêt d'Aitone

Dennstaedtiaceae Bracken Family

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken Common

Dryopteridaceae Buckler-fern Family

Dryopteris cambrensisNarrow Scaly Male-fernCommonDryopteris dilatataBroad Buckler-fernForestsDryopteris oreadesMountain Male-fernCommon

Polystichum aculeatum Hard Shield-fern Cascades des Anglais

Polystichum setiferum Soft Shield-fern Forêt d'Aitone

Equisetaceae Horsetail Family

Equisetum arvense Field Horsetail Occasional in pasture

Equisetum ramosissimum Branched Horsetail Hedges

Equisetum telmateia Giant Horsetail Occasional in ditches

Osmundaceae Royal Fern Family

Osmunda regalis Royal Fern Common by rivers

Polypodiaceae Polypody Family

Polypodium cambricumSouthern PolypodyOccasional on rocksPolypodium vulgareCommon PolypodyOccasional on rocks

Selaginellaceae Lesser Clubmoss Family

Selaginella denticulata Toothed Clubmoss Damp earth. Common

GYMNOSPERMS CONIFERS

Cupressaceae Cypress Family

Cupressus sempervirens Italian Cypress Cultivated

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Juniperus communis var. saxatilisJuniperCommon in mountainsJuniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrusPrickly JuniperCommon in maquis

Pinaceae Pine Family

Abies alba European Silver-fir Forêt d'Aitone, Vizzavona
Larix decidua ‡ Larch Occasional. Forêt d'Aitone

Pinus halepensis‡Aleppo PinePlantedPinus nigra subsp. laricio •Corsican PineForests

Pinus pinaster subsp. escarenaMaritime PineCommon in lower forestsPinus pinea ‡Umbrella PinePlanted near coastsPseudotsuga menziesii ‡Douglas FirPlanted. Forêt d'Aitone

ANGIOSPERMS FLOWERING PLANTS

DICOTYLEDONS

Aizoaceae Dewplant Family

Carpobrotus edulis ‡ Yellow Hottentot-fig Coastal alien

Amaranthaceae Goosefoot Family

Beta vulgaris subsp. maritimaSea BeetLiamone beachBlitum bonus-henricusGood-King-HenryAnimal pensHalimione portulacoidesSea PurslaneBeaches

Salicornia fruticosa Shrubby Glasswort Salt marsh. Étang d'Urbino

Salsola kali Prickly Saltwort Sandy beaches

Anacardiaceae Sumach Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree Common in maquis

Apiaceae Carrot Family

Bunium alpinum subsp. corydalinum • A Pignut Mountain pasture

Bupleurum fruticosum Shrubby Hare's-ear Rocky places in maquis

Crithmum maritimumRock SamphireCoastal rocksDaucus carotaWild CarrotCommon

Echinophora spinosa Echinophora East coast beach

Eryngium campestreField EryngoFrequentEryngium maritimumSea HollyCoastFerula communisGiant FennelFrequentFoeniculum vulgare subsp. vulgareFennelCommonSeseli praecox •Corsican SeseliCliffs Porto

Seseli praecox • Corsican Seseli Cliffs. Port

Apocynaceae Dogbane Family

Gomphocarpus fruticosus ‡Bristle-fruited SilkweedOccasional. RoadsidesNerium oleanderOleanderBy streams in maquis

Vinca difformis Intermediate Periwinkle Evisa

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Swallow-wort Verghello valley

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Aguifoliaceae Holly Family

Ilex aquifolium Holly Frequent in forests

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Ivy Common

Asteraceae Daisy Family

Achillea ligusticaSouthern YarrowCommonAnthemis maritimaSea ChamomileEast coastBellis perennisDaisyOccasionalBellis sylvestrisSouthern DaisyFrequentBellium bellidioides •False DaisyCommon

Carduus pycnocephalus Plymouth Thistle Common. Waste ground

Carduus tenuiflorus Slender Thistle Coast

Carlina corymbosa Flat-topped Carline Thistle Common to 1000 metres

Chondrilla junceaRush SkeletonweedWaste placesCichorium intybusChicoryRoadsides

Dittrichia graveolensAromatic InulaRoadsides. FrequentDittrichia viscosaStink AsterRoadsides. Common

Doronicum corsicum •Corsican Leopard's-baneWet rocksGalactites tomentosusMediterranean ThistleWaste placesHelichrysum italicum subsp. italicumA Curry PlantRocky places

Hypochaeris achyrophorusMediterranean Cat's-earFrequentHypochaeris radicataCommon Cat's-earSand dunesHypochaeris robertiaA Cat's-earWidespreadJacobaea maritimaSilver RagwortCliffs. PortoLimbarda crithmoidesGolden-samphireÉtang d'Urbino

Mycelis muralis Wall Lettuce Walls

Onopordum illyricumIllyrian Cotton ThistleCommon. Waste groundPhagnalon saxatileA Shrubby CudweedRocks at low altitude

Prenanthes purpurea Purple Lettuce Forests

Ptilostemon casabonae Herring Bone Thistle Santa Regina Gorge, Verghello

Pulicaria odoraMediterranean FleabaneCommon in maquisSenecio transiens •A Sea GroundselCoastal rocks and sand

Senecio vulgarisGroundselWaste placesSilybum marianumMilk ThistleWaste placesSonchus asperPrickly SowthistleWaste placesSonchus oleraceusSmooth SowthistleWaste places

Tripolium pannonicum Sea Aster Salt marsh. Étang d'Urbino

Betulaceae Birch Family

Alnus alnobetula subsp. suaveolens •Corsican AlderRestonicaAlnus cordata •Italian AlderOccasional

Alnus glutinosa Common Alder Common by rivers
Betula pendula Silver Birch Forests to treeline

Boraginaceae Borage Family

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Cynoglossum creticumCretan Hound's-tongueRoadsidesEchium italicumItalian Viper's-buglossRoadsidesEchium plantagineumPurple Viper's-buglossWaste ground

Heliotropium europaeum Heliotrope Common. Roadsides

Brassicaceae Cabbage Family

Barbarea rupicola • **Rock Winter-cress** Damp rocks Cakile maritima Sea Rocket Coasts Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse Widespread Cardamine hirsuta Widespread Hairy Bitter-cress Lepidium hirtum subsp. oxyotum A Pepperwort Mountains Lobularia maritima Sweet Alison Coastal sand Lunaria annua Honesty Near habitation

Matthiola sinuataSea StockEast coastMatthiola tricuspidataThree-horned StockCoastal

Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. landraSea RadishLiamone beachRhamphospermum arvenseCharlockWaste placesSinapsis albaWhite MustardWaste placesSisymbrium officinaleHedge MustardWaste places

Buxaceae Box Family

Buxus sempervirens Box Spelunca

Cactaceae Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-indica ‡ Prickly Pear Widely planted

Campanulaceae Bellflower Family

Jasione montana Sheep's-bit Liamone dunes

Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family

Knautia integrifoliaEntire-leaved ScabiousWaste placesLonicera etruscaEtruscan HoneysuckleOccasional

Lonicera implexaA HoneysuckleFrequent in maquisValeriana rubra ‡Red ValerianGarden escape

Caryophyllaceae Pink Family

Arenaria balearica •Balearic SandwortWet rocksCerastium fontanumMouse-ear ChickweedFrequentCerastium glomeratumSticky Mouse-earWaste places

Cerastium soleirolii •Corsican Mouse-earCommon. MountainsCorrigiola litoralis subsp. telephiifoliaA StrapwortSand dunes. LiamoneDianthus gyspergerae •Madame Gysperger's PinkCliffs. Calanches de Piana

Dianthus gyspergerae ●Madame Gysperger's PinkCliffs. CalandDianthus virgineusA Wood PinkCliffs

Paronychia argenteaSilvery NailwortSandy coastPetrorhagia dubiaHairy PinkOpen maquisPetrorhagia saxifraga subsp. gasparrinii •A Tunic flowerFrequent on rocks

Sabulina verna Vernal Sandwort Mountains

Common

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Saponaria ocymoides subsp. alsinoides • A Rock Soapwort Col de Vergio, Verghello Saponaria officinalis Common Soapwort Occasional. Roadsides

Pearlwort

Silene paradoxaA CampionPont NocetaSilene vulgarisBladder CampionFrequentSpergularia bocconeiBoccone's Sea-spurreyCoastalSpergularia rubraSand SpurreyRocky placesStellaria mediaCommon ChickweedFrequent

Cistaceae Rockrose Family

Sagina procumbens

Cistus creticusCretan CistusCommon in maquisCistus monspeliensisNarrow-leaved CistusCommon in maquisCistus salviifoliusSage-leaved CistusCommon in maquis

Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family

Calystegia sepiumLarge BindweedOccasional weedCalystegia soldanellaSea BindweedSand dunes. Liamone

Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed Frequent Ipomoea indica ‡ Blue Morning Glory Cultivated

Corylaceae Hazel Family

Corylus avellana Hazel Frequent

Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family

 Petrosedum rupestre
 Reflexed Stonecrop
 Rocks. Occasional

 Sedum album
 White Stonecrop
 Rocks. Frequent

 Sedum brevifolium
 Short-leaved Stonecrop
 Rocks. Common

 Sedum cepaea
 Occasional

 Sedum dasyphyllum
 Fat-leaved Stonecrop
 Rocks and walls

 Sedum rubons
 Rocks. Common

Sedum rubensRed StonecropRocks. CommonUmbilicus rupestrisWall PennywortRocks. Common

Cucurbitaceae Cucumber Family

Ecballium elaterium Squirting Cucumber Waste places

Ericaceae Heather Family

Arbutus unedoStrawberry TreeMaquisErica arboreaTree HeatherMaquis

Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family

Euphorbia semiperfoliata • Tyrrhenian Wood Spurge Frequent. Forests

Euphorbia chamaesyce Prostrate Spurge Common. Waste ground

Euphorbia characias subsp. characiasLarge Mediterranean SpurgeWidespreadEuphorbia dendroidesTree SpurgeCoastal cliffsEuphorbia exiguaDwarf SpurgeOccasionalEuphorbia helioscopiaSun SpurgeWaste groundEuphorbia insularis •Tyrrhenian SpurgeForêt d'Aitone

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Evisa Euphorbia lathyris Caper Spurge Euphorbia maculata ‡ Spotted Spurge **Trackways** Euphorbia peplis Purple Spurge Coastal sands Coast. Galeria Euphorbia pithyusa subsp. pithyusa Pithyusa Spurge Mercurialis annua Ruderal **Annual Mercury** Ricinus communis ‡ Occasional Castor-oil-plant

Fabaceae Pea Family

Anthyllis hermanniae subsp. corsica • Hermann's Kidney Vetch Common Bituminaria bituminosa Common Pitch Trefoil Calicotome infesta Thorny Broom Maquis Calicotme villosa Hairy Thorny Broom Maquis Ceratonia siliqua ‡ Carob Occasional Cercis siliquastrum ‡ Judas Tree Frequent Genista corsica • Corsican Broom Maquis Genista monspessulana Monpellier Broom Maquis Genista salzmannii subsp. lobelioides • Salzmann's Broom Mountains

Lower altitudes than var.

Genista salzmannii subsp. salzmannii • Salzmann's Broom lobelioides

Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea Open forest Lathyrus latifolius Lotus corniculatus Bird's-foot Trefoil Occasional Lupinus angustifolius Narrow-leaved Lupin Occasional Spotted Medick Common Medicago arabica Medicago lupulina Black Medick Frequent Medicago marina Sea Medick Sand dunes Medicago sativa ‡ Lucerne Crop and escape

Melilotus indicus **Small Melilot** Occasional Ononis spinosa subsp. antiquorum Spiny Restharrow Rocky pasture Robinia pseudoacacia ‡ False Acacia Cultivated Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Roadsides Trifolium arvense Hare's-foot Clover Occasional Trifolium campestre Hop Trefoil Occasional **Red Clover** Common Trifolium pratense White Clover Common Trifolium repens Vicia cracca subsp. tenuifolia **Tufted Vetch** Common

Fagaceae Beech Family

Vicia sativa subsp. sativa

Castanea sativa ‡Sweet ChestnutWidely cultivatedFagus sylvaticaBeechForests to tree line

Common Vetch

Common

Quercus cocciferaKermes OakMaquisQuercus ilexHolm OakMaquisQuercus pubescensDowny OakVenaco

Quercus suber Cork Oak Lowland maquis

Frankeniaceae Sea-heath Family

Frankenia laevis Sea-heath Galeria

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Gentianaceae Gentian Family

Gentiana asclepiadea Willow Gentian Forêt d'Aitone. Restonica

Geraniaceae Crane's-bill Family

Erodium cicutariumCommon Stork's-billCoast and waste placesErodium corsicum •Corsican Stork's-billCoastal rocks. Galeria

Geranium lucidumShining Crane's-billSpeluncaGeranium robertianumHerb RobertWidespread

Hypericaceae St John's-wort Family

Hypericum montanumPale St John's-wortForestsHypericum perfoliatumPerfoliate St John's-wortFrequentHypericum perforatumPerforate St John's-wortWet places

Juglandaceae Walnut Family

Juglans regia ‡ Walnut Occasional

Lamiaceae Dead-nettle Family

Clinopodium nepeta Lesser Calamint Waste places. Widespread

Clinopodium vulgare Wild Basil Common

Lavandula stoechasFrench LavenderRocky places in maquisMarrubium vulgareWhite HorehoundRoadsides. Ruderal

Mentha aquaticaWater MintWet placesMentha requienii •Corsican MintForêt d'AitoneMentha spicataSpear MintDamp places

Micromeria filiformisThread-leaved MicromeriaSanta Regina GorgeSalvia rosmarinusRosemaryHot rocky places

Salvia verbenacaWild ClaryFrequentStachys corsica •Corsican WoundwortFrequentStachys glutinosa •Sticky WoundwortRocky places

Teucrium massilienseMarseille GermanderEvisa, Col de SeviTeucrium scorodoniaWood SageCommon in forestsThymus herba-barona •Caraway ThymeCommon in mountains

Cat Thyme

Rocky places

Lentibulariaceae Butterwort Family

Teucrium marum •

Pinguicula corsica • Corsican Butterwort Wet places. Restonica

Malvaceae Mallow Family

Malva arborea Tree-mallow Near coast Malva multiflora Smaller Tree-mallow Occasional Malva parviflora Least Mallow Occasional Malva sylvestris Common Mallow Roadsides Tilia cordata Small-leaved Lime Occasional Tilia platyphyllos ‡ **Broad-leaved Lime** Planted

Montiaceae Blinks Family

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Montia fontana subsp. chondrosperma Blinks Ephemeral pools

Moraceae Fig Family

Ficus carica Fig Frequent in maquis

Morus alba ‡ White Mulberry Cultivated

Myrtaceae Myrtle Family

Eucalyptus camaldulensis ‡ River Red Gum Cultivated

Myrtus communis Common Myrtle Occasional in maquis

Oleaceae Olive Family

Fraxinus ornus Manna Ash Common in maquis

Olea europaea Wild Olive Maquis

Phillyrea angustifolia Narrow-leaved Mock Privet Common in maquis

Onagraceae Willowherb Family

Epilobium hirsutumGreat WillowherbDamp placesEpilobium montanumBroad-leaved WillowherbFrequent

Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family

Odontites luteusYellow OdontitesLocally common. MaquisOdontites vernusRed BartsiaSpelunca, VecchioOrobanche rigens •A BroomrapeParasitic on Genista

Oxalidaceae Wood-sorrel Family

Oxalis corniculataProcumbent Yellow SorrelRuderalOxalis pes-caprae ‡Bermuda ButtercupAlien weed

Papaveraceae Poppy Family

Glaucium flavum Yellow Horned-poppy Sand dunes

Phytolaccaceae Pokeweed Family

Phytolacca acinos ‡ Pokeweed Waste places

Plantaginaceae Plantain Family

Cymbalaria muralis ‡Ivy-leaved ToadflaxWalls. CalviDigitalis purpureaFoxgloveCommonLinaria vulgaris ‡Common ToadflaxCorte

Plantago afra Glandular Plantain Rocky places. Common

Plantago coronopusBuck's-horn PlantainCoastalPlantago lanceolataRibwort PlantainWidespreadPlantago majorGreater PlantainWaste groundPlantago subulataAwl-leaved PlantainMountains

Veronica anagallis-aquatica Water Speedwell Stream. Verghello

Veronica arvensisWall SpeedwellFrequentVeronica cymbalariaPale SpeedwellRuderalVeronica hederifoliaIvy-leaved SpeedwellRuderal

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Veronica officinalisHeath SpeedwellForêt d'AitoneVeronica persica ‡Common SpeedwellOccasional

Platanaceae Plane Family

Platanus x hispanica ‡ London Plane Cultivated

Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family

Armeria leucocephala •White-headed ThriftSanta Regina GorgeArmeria multiceps •Multi-headed ThriftMountains. CommonLimoniastrum monopetalumLimoniastrumShore. Étang d'UrbinoLimonium corsicum •A Sea LavenderCoastal rocks. GaleriaLimonium narbonenseA Sea LavenderSalt marsh. Étang d'Urbino

Polygonaceae Dock Family

Bare ground Polygonum aviculare Knotgrass Polygonum maritimum Sea Knotgrass Coastal Rumex acetosella subsp. pyrenaicus A Sheep's Sorrel Common Rumex bucephalophorus Fiddle Dock Frequent Rumex conglomeratus Clustered Dock Damp places **Curled Dock** Rumex crispus Liamone estuary Fiddle Dock Rumex pulcher Waste places

Portulacaceae Purslane Family

Portulaca oleracea Common Purslane Occasional

Primulaceae Primrose Family

Cyclamen hederifolium subsp. hederifolium lvy-leaved Sowbread Locally common

Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family

Aquilegia dumeticola •A ColumbineForêt d'Aitone, RestonicaClematis flammulaFragrant ClematisFrequentClematis vitalbaOld Man's BeardCommonHelleborus argutifolius •Corsican HelleboreCommon

Ranunculus flammulaLesser SpearwortForêt d'AitoneRanunculus lanuginosusWoolly ButtercupFrequentRanunculus repensCreeping ButtercupCommon

Resedaceae Mignonette Family

Sesamoides clusii Sesamoides Col de Vergio

Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family

Rhamnus alaternus Mediterranean Buckthorn Occasional in maquis

Rosaceae Rose Family

Amelanchier ovalis Snowy Mespilus Forêt d'Aitone, Restonica

Aria edulisCommon WhitebeamForêt d'AitoneComus domesticaService-treeCalacuccia

Latin name Common name Notes

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Crataegus monogynaHawthornCommonFragaria vescaWild StrawberryFrequent

Geum urbanum Herb Bennet Occasional in shade

Potentilla erecta Tormentil Frequent

Potentilla reptans Creeping Cinquefoil Common. Waste places

Prunus aviumWild CherryOccasionalPrunus spinosaBlackthornFrequent.

Pyrus spinosa Almond-leaved Pear Frequent. Maquis

Small-leaved Sweet-briar Rosa agrestis Frequent Dog-rose Roadsides Rosa canina Rosa sempervirens Evergreen Rose Roadsides Rosa serafinii Col de Vergio Rubus ulmifolius Elm-leaved Bramble Common Sanguisorba minor subsp. balearica Salad Burnet Common

Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family

Galium aparineCleaversOccasionalGalium mollugo subsp. erectumHedge BedstrawOccasionalGalium scabrumScabrous BedstrawShaded maquisGalium verumLady's BedstrawOccasional

Salicaceae Willow Family

Populus albaWhite PoplarFrequentPopulus nigraBlack PoplarFrequent

Populus tremula Aspen Occasional. Pine Forests

Salix albaWhite WillowCommonSalix cinerea subsp. oleifoliaGrey WillowCommon

Santalaceae Sandalwood Family

Osyris alba Osyris Maquis

Viscum album subsp. austriacum Mistletoe Common on Pine and Fir

Sapindaceae Maple Family

Acer monspessulanumMontpellier MapleFrequent in maquisAcer platanoides ‡Norway MapleNear CalacucciaAcer pseudoplatanusSycamoreRestonica

Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family

Saxifraga pedemontana subsp. cervicornis • Tyrrhenian Piedmont Saxifrage Shaded mountain rocks
Saxifraga rotundifolia Round-leaved Saxifrage Shaded damp places

Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family

Buddleja davidii ‡Butterfly-bushNear habitationScrophularia caninaFrench FigwortRocky slopesVerbascum sinuatumWavy-leaved MulleinRestonica, Vecchio

Verbascum thapsus Great Mullein Occasional

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Simaroubaceae Tree-of-heaven Family

Ailanthus altissima ‡ Tree-of-heaven Widespread

Solanaceae Nightshade Family

Nicotiana glauca ‡Shrub TobaccoRoadsides. AlienSolanum nigrumBlack NightshadeWaste ground

Tamaricaceae Tamarisk Family

Tamarix africana Tamarisk Near coasts

Thymelaeaceae Mezereon Family

Daphne gnidium Mediterranean Mezereon Widespread in maquis

Ulmaceae Elm Family

Ulmus minor Small-leaved Elm Frequent

Urticaceae Nettle Family

Parietaria judaicaPellitory-of-the-WallWalls and rocksUrtica atrovirens •A NettleEvisa, VerghelloUrtica dioicaCommon NettleWaste places

Verbenaceae Vervain Family

Lantana camara ‡LantanaCultivatedVerbena officinalisVervainRoadsides

Viburnaceae Viburnum Family

Sambucus ebulus Danewort Forêt d'Aitone, Vizzavona

Sambucus nigraElderberryOccasionalViburnum tinusLaurustinusShaded maquis

Violaceae Violet Family

Viola biflora Yellow Wood Violet Shaded wet places

Viola riviniana Common Dog-violet Frequent

Vitaceae Vine Family

Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris Wild Vine Spelunca

Zygophyllaceae Caltrop Family

Tribulus terrestris Maltese Cross Waste places

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family

Acis rosea • Pink Snowflake Calanches de Piana

Pancratium maritimum Sea Daffodil Sand dunes

Araceae Lords-and-Ladies Family

Latin name Common name Notes

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Arisarum vulgareFriar's CowlShaded maquisArum italicumItalian Lords-and-LadiesNear habitation

Asparagaceae Asparagus Family

Agave americana ‡CenturyplantCultivatedAsparagus acutifoliusMediterranean Wild AsparagusMaquisDrimia pancrationSea SquillFrequentProspero autumnaleAutumn SquillLocally common

Prospero autumnaleAutumn SquillLocally commonRuscus aculeatusButcher's-broomShaded maquis

Asphodelaceae Asphodel Family

Asphodelus ramosus Branched Asphodel Common

Colchicaceae Meadow Saffron Family

Colchicum neapolitanum A Meadow Saffron Frequent

Cyperaceae Sedge Family

Carex pendulaPendulous SedgeCommonCyperus capitatusSand GalingaleCoastal sandsCyperus longusGalingaleLiamone Estuary

Dioscoreaceae Yam Family

Dioscorea communis Black Bryony Shaded maquis

Juncaceae Rush Family

Juncus acutus Sharp Rush Frequent

Nartheciaceae Bog Asphodel Family

Narthecium reverchonii • Corsican Bog Asphodel Wet rocks

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

Spiranthes spiralis Autumn Lady's-tresses Occasional in maquis

Poaceae Grass Family

Hordeum murinum

Arrhenatherum elatius False Oat-grass Frequent

Arundo donax ‡ Giant Reed Wet places. Lowland

Avena barbata Bristle Oat Ruderal Avena sterilis Ruderal Barren Oat Avenella flexuosa Roadsides Wavy Hair-grass Briza maxima Dry places **Greater Quaking-grass** Briza minor Lesser Quaking-grass Waste places Calamagrostis arenaria subsp. australis Marram Sand dunes Mountain Small-reed Streamsides Calamagrostis varia Bermuda Grass Cynodon dactylon Dry places Cynosurus echinatus Rough Dog's-tail Mountains Dactylis glomerata Cock's-foot Frequent

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Dry places

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Wall Barley

Latin name Common name Notes

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Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail Grass Dry places Lamarckia aurea Golden Dog's-tail Dry places Melica ciliata Hairy Melick Rocky places Oloptum miliaceum Smilo Grass Common Phragmites australis Common Reed Wet areas Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass Pathways

Posidoniaceae Neptune Grass Family

Posidonia oceanica Neptune Grass Sub-marine

Smilacaceae Smilax Family

Smilax aspera Common Smilax Common in maquis

Typhaceae Bulrush Family

Typha latifolia Greater Reed Mace Liamone estuary

Zosteraceae Eelgrass Family

Zostera marina Eelgrass Sub-marine

Birds (H = Heard only)

• = endemic to Corsica, ? = uncertain record		September 2024									
Common name	Latin name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos							√			
Common Swift	Apus apus						√				
Feral Rock Dove	Columba livia	✓	√	√	√	√	√	✓			
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus						√	√			
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	✓	√		√	√	√	√			
Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus		Н								
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra							√			
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		√		√			√			
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus							√			
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus							√			
Audouin's Gull	Ichthyaetus audouinii		√								
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	√	√					√			
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo					√		√			
European Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis							√			
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea		√			√		√			
Great Egret	Ardea alba							√			
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		√					√			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus						√				
Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	•	√								
Red Kite	Milvus milvus	√	√	√	√	√	30	√			
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	√	√		√	√	Н				
Eurasian Scops Owl	Otus scops	Н	Н								
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis		√								
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	√	√	√	√	√	Н	√			
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	√	√		√	√					
Eleonora's Falcon	Falco eleonorae			2							

• = endemic to Corsica, ? = uncertain record			September 2024									
Common name	Latin name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Northern Raven	Corvus corax	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	•	✓				
Coal Tit	Periparus ater		✓	✓	✓	•	✓	•				
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Great Tit	Parus major			✓		✓	✓					
Woodlark	Lullula arborea				•	√						
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	✓	√	✓	√	√	√	✓				
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	•			•	•		2				
Western House Martin	Delichon urbicum			√		√		✓				
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti		Н			•						
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus						√	√				
Western Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna opaca			?								
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		√	√		√	√	√				
Western Orphean Warbler	Curruca hortensis			√								
Sardinian Warbler	Curruca melanocephala		Н	√	Н	Н	Н	√				
Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla		√	Н	Н	Н		Н				
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus				√							
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes			Н	Н							
Corsican Nuthatch •	Sitta whiteheadi					2	4					
Eurasian Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris				Н							
Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor		√				√	√				
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	√	√		√	√	√					
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata			√	√	√	√	√				
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula			Н	Н	√	√					
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus			√								
European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola				√							
White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus						√					
Italian Sparrow	Passer italiae		√	√	√	√	√	√				
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		√		√	√	√	√				
Eurasian Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		✓	√		✓	✓	✓				
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes		•									
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris			/		√		/				
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra			•	Н	,						
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		√					√				
Corsican Finch •	Carduelis corsicana		√					√				
European Serin	Serinus serinus		,	•		√						
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		Н	/	√	√						

Other vertebrates

• = endemic to Corsica		September 2024								
Common name	Latin name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Geckos	Phyllodactylidae									
Moorish Gecko	Tarentola mauritanica	✓								
Lizards	Lacertidae									
Bedriaga's Rock Lizard •	Archaeolacerta bedriagae		√							
Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard •	Podarcis tiliguerta		√		√	√	√	✓		
Italian Wall Lizard	Podarcis siculus						√	✓		

Invertebrates

• = endemic to Corsica, E= Eviden			September 2024					
Common name	Latin name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Butterflies								
	Papilionidae							
Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius	✓						✓
	Hesperiidae							•
Mallow Skipper	Carcharodus alceae		✓					✓
	Pieridae							•
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni					✓	✓	
Large White	Pieris brassicae		√	•	√	√	√	•
Small White	Pieris rapae	√	√			√	√	
	Lycaenidae	•				•	•	
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeus		√		√	√	√	
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	Leptotes pirithous					√		•
Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus					√	√	
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus					√	√	
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis					✓	✓	
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus		√		√	✓	✓	√
	Nymphalidae					-	•	Ť
Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta					√	1	
Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia					√ 	√	
Silver-washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia		√		√	√	· ✓	
Cardinal	Pandoriana pandora		√		√	√	√	
Painted Lady	Cynthia cardui		_		_	•	V	√
Comma	Polygonia c-album						√	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Plain Tiger	Danaus chrysippus		√				V	
Two-tailed Pasha	Charaxes jasius		√			√	√	√
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		\ \ \		/	V	V	
Corsican Heath •	Coenonympha corinna				√			-
Southern Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria		√			√	√	
Corsican Wall Brown •	Lasiommata paramegaera		✓ ✓		/	V	✓ ✓	
Southern Grayling •	Hipparchia aristaeus		V		V		√	
Corsican Grayling •	Hipparchia neomiris		√		√	/	✓ ✓	
Great Banded Grayling	Brintesia circe					√ /		
Meadow Brown					,	√	√	
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	√		_	√	√		√
Moths					_			
	Macroglossum stellatarum		,					-
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	-	✓	√				√	
Pine Processionary Moth	Thaumetopoea pityocampa				E			
Duamantiiaa								_
Dragonflies	O-tt		•				•	
Beautiful Demoiselle	Calopteryx virgo		√					
Broad-bodied Chaser	Libellula depressa		√			-		<u>.</u>
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum	✓	✓			•		_
Scarlet Darter	Crocothemis erythraea		✓					✓
				•		•		
Other Insects				•			•	
Red Band-winged Grasshopper	Oedipoda germanica		✓	✓	✓			
Blue Band-winged Grasshopper	Oedipoda caerulescens		✓	•	✓	✓	✓	✓
Praying Mantis	Mantis religiosa		✓					
A Fire Bug	Scantius aegyptius					✓	✓	

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Common name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
German Wasp	Vespula germanica	✓	✓	√			✓				
Hornet	Vespa crabro					√	√				
Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea					√					
Honey Bee	Apis mellifera					√	√				
Corsican Buff-tailed Bumblebee •	Bombus terrestris subsp. xanthopus					√					