# The Italian & French Alps

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 June – 7 July 2015





Alpine scenes



Report compiled by Philip Thompson Alpine scenes courtesy of Dr Celia Baxter



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### Day 1

## **Tuesday 30th June**

The group arrived safely on time into a hot and sunny Turin where we were soon on our way (after a brief detour around the outskirts of the city!) towards the Aosta valley and ascent to Cogne, our first base of the trip. As we left the city and drove through the lowland agricultural areas, little of note was seen other than the common Hooded Crows. As we neared the Alps, the scenery became ever more impressive, with the final winding ascent to Cogne providing a glimpse of the botanical abundance soon to be explored growing along the roadsides.

Once we had all checked in, we were soon enjoying our first Italian meal, after much indecision over the extensive menu!

### Day 2

### Wednesday 1st July

We began the day by taking the short drive to the small village of Gimillan above Cogne, from where we could look across towards the high peaks of the Gran Paradiso National Park. Our walk took us along the Torrent Grauson which we crossed a couple of times during our journey.

The initial steady climb through a meadow filled with tall grasses and flowers was slow, allowing the group to begin the mammoth task of learning and identifying the rich and diverse flora to be seen throughout the trip. Butterflies were also a large feature of the trip with a profusion of species, in numbers unseen in the UK anymore. We were met with a herd of placidly grazing cattle at the top of the path, which had to be gently nudged aside to allow for progress to the more level sections ahead. Having reached gentle gradients, the group could regain their composure and begin to admire the beauty of their surroundings. Apollo butterflies regularly cruised close by, joined by Dark Green Fritillaries and Almond-eyed Ringlets. The high temperatures were somewhat tiring and produced many thirsty clients, a feature of this year's tour, with most days experiencing temperatures near to 30°C. The calls of Nutcracker alerted us to the presence of a couple of birds, but only resulting in brief views. All around us a multitude of various species of blue butterflies were constantly weaving their way across the flower-strewn tracksides.

As we reached the first bridge crossing the river, a patch of drying mud was attracting a large number of butterflies enabling close inspection and identification of the range of species present. These included a few Damon Blues among numerous Little, Osiris, Mazarine, Turquoise, Silver-studded and Alpine Blues, to name just a few! From here we crossed a gently rising meadow in which the rich pink flowers of Mountain Sainfoin (*Onobrychis montana*) stood out. Reaching the far side, we found some shade with a cooling breeze in the pines where we had our picnic lunch. Whilst eating we were able to watch a Golden Eagle patrolling the rocky slopes above us.

With lunch completed, we continued further up the path to reach a steeper section of switchbacks, from where we could enjoy a spectacular view. We continued just a little further to view the rushing waterfall nearby, before turning to retrace our route.

Once back near our earlier lunch stop, a search among the shorter meadow flowers produced our first examples of the iconic Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*) among many other colourful species. We reached the river at a different bridge where, after being asked 'do Dippers occur here?' an individual flew by upstream to land and begin feeding from the boulders in the fast moving water.

In the warm sun, progress was sedate as we next re-entered the thin pine woodland. Those at the head of the group were then fortunate in seeing a Black Woodpecker fly, from close-by, across the valley. Re-joining our outward track, our return was then completed back to the vehicle where we were able to replenish our exhausted water supplies before driving on into Cogne for a well-earned ice cream!

### Day 3

### **Thursday 2nd July**

Today we entered the Gran Paradiso Park for a couple of walks. The first was spent climbing the steep valley flank via numerous switchbacks, on a gently rising gradient path, starting from the village of Valnonty.

The morning started well, with a pair of Golden Eagles being sighted hunting above us, before flying onto what appeared to be a nest on a sheltered crag. The path began alongside the Alpine garden, within which we could see the laid-out beds of labelled plants. Several fine specimens of Martagon Lily (*Lilium martagon*) had hopped over the fence to be admired; we would see many more during the following days as genuine wild specimens. Butterflies were once more in plentiful supply with a mix of various Fritillaries and Blues etc, all active in the warm morning air. The stars were several metallic-orange Scarce Coppers that settled to be photographed. As we slowly made our way up the track, the views improved and we added to our growing list of plants seen. Reaching one bend beneath a high rock face, we were delighted to come face-to-face with one of the rather tame and habituated Alpine Chamois on this popular route. This individual seemed as curious of us as we were of it. It moved effortlessly along the vertiginous rock face no more than 20m away, before dropping into the forest where a second individual was sighted. These two animals then had a spell of interaction where status and dominance were worked out between them, as we quietly watched.

The path came to a wooden bridge crossing the spectacular waterfall that plunged down into the valley. Here we paused to relax and cool ourselves in the fine mist thrown up. Nearby, beneath the pines, some Wolf's-bane (*Aconitum vulparia*) grew among a rich assembly of other species. Returning back the way we had come, further Nutcrackers were seen, plus a couple of calling and singing Rock Buntings.

Upon reaching the vehicles, we then drove a short distance upriver to find a shady spot for lunch. Alongside us, as we ate, grew both *Astragalus exscapus* and Mountain Lentil (*A. penduliflorus*) to be admired once we were suitably refreshed.

Next we took a walk from our lunch spot on the comparatively flat valley floor. This easy walk was welcome in the increasing heat, as we took our time looking at the flowers, butterflies and birds encountered along the way. The route reached a small mountain hut with an inviting wooden bench alongside the running spring water. We took advantage of this shady spot to rest and watch the local Black Redstarts and Eurasian Treecreepers, before we headed back to cross over a bridge to the opposite bank. Here we found the striking, tall, silky-hairy flower heads of *Astragalus centralpinus*. A little further on, we came to an open boggy area alongside a picnic area popular

with the local population. Here several interesting new species of flower were found, such as Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) and the insectivorous Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*).

After a wonderful day in the field we retreated to a nearby café for refreshments before a short spell of souvenir shopping in Cogne.

Day 4 Friday 3rd July

After the interesting discovery of the possible eagle nest site yesterday a few of the group took an early prebreakfast drive to have a second look. The nest could be seen, but the cool morning air had not tempted any activity from the eagles. We were consoled with several Dippers, active on the river in front of us, and a couple of Willow Tits in the forest behind us.

We next undertook the transfer from Italy into France following an incredibly scenic route. We firstly passed the imposing Monte Bianco/Mont Blanc where we took a short pause for photos, before ascending to the Col du Petit St. Bernard. A second stop was taken here to enjoy the open treeless meadows at 2188m. The first Alpine Marmots of the trip were heard and seen in abundance, whilst new birds such as White-winged Snowfinch and Alpine Chough were also seen. We enjoyed our time wandering among the defensive fortifications built to guard this strategic pass but which were now covered with a wonderful alpine flora. Prominent among the new plants seen were the fuchsia-pink, loose flower heads of Alpine Clover (*Trifolium alpinum*) that covered the ground.

We drove on a short distance for a coffee stop and to enjoy the view at La Rosiere, before we dropped down the winding road to the valley below and then headed towards Val d'Isere. We passed straight through this famous ski town, to take a lunch stop at the foot of the ascent to the Col de l'Iseran. The warm weather made for a rather uncomfortable lunch, which was ameliorated by a walk from here into a dramatic deep gorge where a cooling breeze made life more comfortable. The route was now within the Vanoise NP, at a point very close to the Gran Paradiso that together form one large continuous protected area across the national boundaries. One reason for the walk here was the hope of seeing one of the mammals the parks were designated to protect, namely the Alpine Ibex. Within 100m of setting off, a young adolescent male was sighted, eagerly licking the bare earth riverbanks, probably for trace minerals, which the area produces. We were able to enjoy very close views of this relaxed animal before we moved on along the track. Another animal of similar age was spotted feeding on the grassy slopes above us soon after, making the walk a great success.

Returning to the vehicles, we then made the long climb up to the Col de l'Iseran at 2764m. These high regions produced stunning scenery at every turn in the road as we continued on to drop down once more into the River Arc valley and Lanslevillard where our next base would be.

## Day 5 Saturday 4th July

After the long day on the road yesterday, we began today with a short drive and climb up to Bellecombe. From here we enjoyed a comparatively easy and level walk in stunning conditions and scenery. As we slowly moved along the initial stages of the walk we encountered several new and exciting species of flowers that kept our attention fixed on the ground. Flying among this floral diversity was a fine selection of specialist high alpine

butterflies, with a notable abundance of Glandon Blues this year. Reaching the Plan du Lac we pondered over what species of fish occurred there, with the many fishermen seeming unable to catch anything to see!

The route continued over gently undulating ground to the Mountain Refuge, which we passed, heading on to a slope clothed in Alpenrose (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*) where we stopped for lunch. Wide vistas lay all around as we relaxed in the warm sunshine. A little further was walked, to a small rocky hillock alongside the path. This afforded even better scenic views, which a few of the group climbed to enjoy. Returning to the Refuge for coffee, we found a few examples of *Callianthemum coriandrifolium* in flower on the way, that had been missed on the outward journey.

Safely back at the vehicles, we started the return drive taking a couple of walks and stops on the way. The first was in an area of grassy meadows that held a few Round-headed Orchids (*Traunsteinera globosa*) found after a little diligent searching. The next walk led into the shade of the pine woodland where an array of select shade-loving species were found including two species of Wintergreen, and Dark Red Helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*) in full flower this year (perhaps a reflection of the warm and sunny conditions being experienced). The path led to a wooden bridge over a fast running stream where a pause was taken before our return.

## Day 6 Sunday 5th July

Today was spent around the Lac du Mont Cenis. After the short drive over the col at 2081m we drove along the western shore to park at the Refuge du Mont Cenis. Everywhere this year was incredibly busy, with a multitude of visitors presumably escaping hotter conditions in the lowlands. Fortunately we had arrived early enough to find a parking space! Our walk then led past the refuge and overshadowed by the summit of the Petit Mont Cenis.

New plants were still to be found. A notable start was made with the discovery of the abundant Spotted Gentians (*Gentiana punctata*). The walk followed an undulating route through an interesting mix of habitats. At one large boulder a beautiful patch of Alpine Columbine (*Aquilegia alpina*) grew in abundance; surely one of the loveliest alpine flowers. We walked on, reaching the Col du Petit Mont Cenis, to once more admire the views. Returning by a different route we passed numerous outcrops of rock covered in amazing mixes of colour and form to make any alpine gardener green with envy. The sun this year had brought out an especially flower-filled season, which we were fortunate to enjoy.

We then took our lunch on these flower-covered slopes near to the refuge. A pair of Golden Eagles distantly soaring and calling Quail enlivened the meal.

We then drove slowly back to the lake marvelling at the colour and abundance of flowers all around. Our next walk was the taken with a route that led towards the late 19th C Fort de Ronce with the summit of the Grand Mont Cenis in the background. The hot rising air from Italy was spilling over the dam wall of the lake and condensing into clouds, which made the humidity rather stifling in the heat but we were able to enjoy enough cooling breezes to ameliorate the conditions and continue with our walk. Birdlife was rather subdued in the heat, which was compensated by the flowers, butterflies and views.

### Day 7

## **Monday 6th July**

A pre-breakfast walk was taken by some of the group near the hotel for some early birding before things warmed too much. A fine selection of species were seen, most notably a wonderfully prolonged and close encounter with a family of Willow Tits, a bird in sharp decline in the UK and now very hard to find on domestic shores. To this, we added several sightings of an equally difficult species at home, with the local breeding Marsh Warblers seen moving among the tall Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) beds.

We next returned to the Col de l'Iseran to spend some time exploring this high alpine environment, which holds numerous specialised and hardy plants, most of which remain no taller than a centimetre or two! During time spent here we found numerous gems among which *Gentiana terglouensis* subsp. *schleicheri, Cerastium latifolium,* Pyrenean Whitlow-grass (*Petrocallis pyrenaica*) and Glacier Crowfoot (*Ranunculus glacialis*) mentions only a selection.

Our next excursion was taken with a steep climb up the flank of the Pointe des Lessieres at 3043m. We succeeded in finding the lovely Mont Cenis Bellflower (*Campanula cenisia*) growing from the cracks and crevices in this rather barren looking situation. Other notable plants found were *Oxytropis fetida, Geum reptans* and *Galium megalospermum*. Singing from the rocks an Alpine Accentor provided the birding highlight.

We then began to explore regions lower down with a couple of short roadside stops to wander through the damp vegetated scree slopes. Our first Lammergeyer was soon sighted, followed by a Griffon Vulture; both recently reintroduced to the Alps. One area of recent snowmelt produced hundreds of the delicate Alpine Snowbells (*Soldanella alpina*) while another wet seeping slope held an abundance of Glacier Crowfoot and Starry saxifrage (*Saxifraga stellaris*).

With lunchtime approaching we drove on to a ruined building alongside a dramatic waterfall where we set out our picnic and drank in the view. Further sightings of Lammergeyer and Griffon Vultures resulted as we relaxed. A short walk was taken to the edge of the cataract before we drove a little higher once more for our final walk of the day. This was a steady, and at times steep, climb around the Pointe des Arses 3187m and the Ouille Noire 3357m. We were hoping to find Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, which eluded us. We did spot a pair of Alpine Accentors alongside the widespread Northern Wheatears and Water Pipits. Plentiful Edelweiss grew in the short grassy slopes and together with the amazing views provided a fine end to our final full day in the field.

### Day 8

## **Tuesday 7th July**

Our late afternoon return flight allowed time for a last early walk along a track lying behind and overlooking the town of Lanslevillard. The day was warm and sunny once more which drew out a profusion of butterflies, which included Chestnut Heath and several Fritillaries. Prominent among the grass a number of stunning Orange Lilies (*Lilium bulbifera*) were the undoubted botanical highlight of the morning, although the discovery of a good population of Mont Cenis Restharrow (*Ononis cenisia*) with the two named peaks in the background was a close second! Birds were well represented, with a group of very confiding delightful Crested Tits providing the best sighting.

We returned to the hotel to load up and say our goodbyes before we drove back up to the Lac du Mont Cenis where we stopped for a walk around the botanic gardens and visitor centre before a light lunch. Our final look at

the views then left us the final drive to the airport. We initially became caught up in a bicycle tour being filmed from an open-top Maserati before seeming to move ahead of the riders. The very long descent down into Italy resulted in a couple of the cyclists then overtaking us again as we gently negotiated the countless hairpin bends! We finally arrived in Susa where we shortly joined the motorway and the remaining leg of the journey to the airport.

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### **Species Lists**

#### **Plants**

#### Scientific Name

#### **Common Name**

#### **GYMNOSPERMS**

#### **CONIFERS**

#### Cupressaceae

Juniperus communis subsp. communis Juniperus communis subsp. alpina

Juniperus sabina

**Juniper Family** 

Common Juniper **Dwarf Juniper** 

Savin

#### Pinaceae

Abies alba Larix decidua

Picea abies subsp. abies

Pinus mugo Pinus uncinata

### **Pine Family**

European Silver Fir European Larch

Spruce

**Dwarf Mountain Pine** 

Mountain Pine

#### **ANGIOSPERMS**

#### FLOWERING PLANTS

#### **Dicotyledons**

#### **Apiaceae**

Astrantia major Astrantia minor Athamanta cretensis Bupleurum petraeum Bupleurum ranunculoides Chaerophyllum aureum Chaerophyllum hirsutum

Daucus carota

Heracleum sphondylium Laserpitium latifolium Laserpitium siler Ligusticum mutellina Ligusticum mutellinoides

Molopospermum peloponnesiacum

Peucedanum ostruthium

Pimpinella major

#### **Carrot Family**

**Great Masterwort** Lesser Masterwort

> Athamanta Rock Hare's-ear

Three-veined Hare's-ear

Golden Chervil Hairy Chervil Wild Carrot Hogweed

**Broad-leaved Sermountain** Narrow-leaved Sermountain

Alpine Lovage Unbranched Lovage Molopospermum Masterwort

Greater Burnet-saxifrage

#### Asteraceae

Aster alpinus

Aster bellidastrum

Achillea erba-rotta agg Achillea millefolium Achillea nana Adenostyles alliariae Antennaria carpatica Antennaria dioica Arnica montana Artemisia absinthium Artemisia campestris Artemisia glacialis Artemisia genipi

#### **Daisy Family**

Simple-leaved Milfoil

Yarrow **Dwarf Milfoil** Adenostyles

Carpathian Cat's-foot

Cat's-foot Arnica Wormwood Field Wormwood Glacier Wormwood

Alpine Aster False Aster

#### Scientific Name

Bupthalmum salicifolium Carduus nutans

Carduus defloratus

Carduus personata
Cicerbita alpina
Cirsium eriophorum
Cirsium heterophyllum
Cirsium palustre
Cirsium spinosissimum

Centaurea scabiosa subsp. alpestris Centaurea montana Centaurea scabiosa

Centaurea triumfettii

Centaurea uniflora Crepis aurea

Crepis rhaetica

Doronicum grandiflorum

Erigeron acris
Erigeron alpinus
Erigeron glabratus
Erigeron uniflorus
Gnaphalium norvegicum
Hieracium alpinum agg

Hieracium angustifolium Hieracium tomentosum

Hieracium villosum Homogyne alpina

Lactuca perennis Leontopodium alpinum Leucanthemopsis alpina

Leucanthemum adustum Leucanthemum atratum

Leucanthemum vulgare
Petasites alba

Petasites hybridus Pilosella officinarum

Prenanthes purpurea Senecio doronicum

Senecio incanus Solidago virgaurea

Tragopogon pratensis subsp. orientalis

Tussilago farfara

Taraxacum agg

Berberidaceae

Berberis vulgaris

Betulaceae

Alnus viridis

**Boraginaceae** Echium vulgare Myosotis alpestris **Common Name** 

Yellow Oxeye
Musk Thistle
Alpine Thistle
Great Marsh Thistle
Alpine Sow-thistle
Woolly Thistle
Melancholy Thistle
Marsh Thistle

Spiniest Thistle a Knapweed

Perennial Cornflower Greater Knapweed

Plume Knapweed Golden Hawk's-beard

Large-flowered Leopard's-bane

Blue Fleabane
Alpine Fleabane
Variable Fleabane
One-flowered Fleabane
Highland Cudweed
Alpine Hawkweed

Woolly Hawkweed

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Alpine Colt's-foot Blue Lettuce Edelweiss

Alpine Moon Daisy

Saw-leaved Moon Daisy

Ox-eye Daisy White Butterbur Butterbur

Mouse-eared Hawkweed

Purple Lettuce Chamois Ragwort

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Goldenrod Dandelion Goat's-beard Colt's-foot

**Barberry Family** 

Barberry

Birch Family
Green Alder

Forget-me-not Family

Viper's-bugloss

Alpine Wood Forget-me-not

#### Scientific Name

#### **Common Name**

Myosotis sylvatica Wood Forget-me-not

Brassicaceae **Cabbage Family** Allyssoides utriculata Alyssoides Alyssum alpestre Alpine Alyssum Alyssum alyssoides Small Alyssum Alyssum montanum Mountain Alyssum Arabis alpina Alpine Rock-cress

Barbarea intermedia Common Winter-cress Barbarea vulgaris Biscutella laevigata **Buckler Mustard** 

Cardamine alpina

Flixweed Descurainia sophia

Draba aizoides Yellow Whitlow-grass

Erophila verna Whitlowgrass

Erysimum rhaeticum

Hugueninia tanacetifolia Tansy-leaved Rocket

Kernera saxatilis Kernera

Petrocallis pyrenaica Pyrenean Whitlow-grass

**Chamois Cress** Pritzelago alpina Sisymbrium austriacum Austrian Rocket

#### Campanulaceae

**Bellflower Family** Campanula barbata Bearded Bellflower Campanula cenisia Mt. Cenis Bellflower Campanula cochlearifolia Fairy's Thimble Clustered Bellflower Campanula glomerata Campanula rapunculoides Creeping Bellflower Campanula rapunculus Rampion Bellflower

Campanula rhomboidalis a Bellflower Campanula rotundifolia Harebell Campanula scheuchzeri Scheuchzer's Bellflower

Campanula spicata Spiked Bellflower Yellow Bellflower Campanula thyrsoides Nettle-leaved Bellflower Campanula trachelium

Phyteuma betonicifolium

Phyteuma globularifolium subsp. pedemontanum a Rampion

Globe-headed Rampion Phyteuma hemispaericum Phyteuma orbiculare Round-headed Rampion Phyteuma ovatum Dark Rampion

Phyteuma scorzonerifolium Scorzonera-leaved Rampion

Phyteuma spicatum subsp. coeruleum Spiked Rampion

#### Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family Lonicera caerulea Blue-berried Honeysuckle

Lonicera xylosteum Fly Honeysuckle

Caryophyllaceae **Pink Family** Arenaria ciliata Fringed Sandwort Cerastium arvense Field Mouse-ear Cerastium latifolium

Cerastium uniflorum Glacier Mouse-ear Carthusian Pink Dianthus carthusianorum agg

#### Scientific Name

Dianthus gratianopolitanus

Dianthus pavonius

Dianthus sylvestris

Gypsophila repens Minuartia recurva

Minuartia sedoides

Minuartia verna subsp. verna

Sagina glabra

Saponaria lutea Saponaria ocymoides Scleranthus perennis Silene acaulis

Silene acaulis Silene dioica Silene exscapa Silene italica

Silene nutans Silene otites Silene rupestris

Silene suecica (Lychnis alpina)

Silene vallesia

Silene vulgaris subsp. vulgaris

Silene vulgaris subsp. prostrata

Spergularia rubra

#### Chenopodiaceae

Chenopodium bonus-henricus

#### Cistaceae

Helianthemum nummularium

Helianthemum oelandicum subsp. incanum

#### Clusiaceae

Hypericum perforatum Hypericum richeri

#### Convolvulaceae

Cuscuta epithymum

#### Crassulaceae

Sedum acre Sedum album Sedum alpestre Sedum anacampseros

Sedum annuum Sedum atratum

Sedum dasyphyllum Sedum rupestre

Sempervivum arachnoideum Sempervivum grandiflorum Sempervivum montanum Sempervivum tectorum

#### **Common Name**

Cheddar Pink
Three-veined Pink

Wood Pink

Alpine Gypsophila Sickle-leaved Sandwort

Mossy Cyphel Spring Sandwort

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Yellow Soapwort Rock Soapwort Perennial Knawel Moss Campion Red Campion a Moss Campion

Nottingham Catchfly Spanish Catchfly Rock Catchfly Alpine Lychnis Valleis Catchfly Bladder Campion

Prostrate Bladder Campion

#### **Goosefoot Family**

Good King Henry

#### **Rock-rose Family**

Rock-rose

Hoary Rock-rose

#### St. John's-wort Family

Perforate St. John's-wort Alpine St. John's-wort

#### **Bindweed Family**

Dodder

#### **Stonecrop Family**

Biting Stonecrop
White Stonecrop

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Annual Stonecrop
Dark Stonecrop
Fat-leaved Stonecrop
Rock Stonecrop
Cobweb Houseleek
Large-flowered Houseleek
Mountain Houseleek

Common Houseleek

#### Scientific Name

**Dipsacaceae** Knautia arvensis Knautia dipsacifolia

Scabiosa columbaria

Elaeagnaceae

Hippophae rhamnoides

Empetraceae

Empetrum nigrum

Ericaceae

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Kalmia (Loiseleuria) procumbens Rhododendron ferrugineum

Vaccinium gaultherioides

Vaccinium myrtillus Vaccinum vitis-idaea

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia cyparissas

Fabaceae

Anthyllis vulneraria agg Astragalus alpinus Astragalus centralpinus Astragalus danicus Astragalus exscapus

Astragalus glycyphyllos

Astragalus leontinus

Astragalus monspessulanus Astragalus penduliflorus Astragalus sempervirens

Hippocrepis comosa Lathyrus latifolius

Lathyrus pratensis Lotus alpinus

Lotus corniculatus

Lotus pedunculatus Medicago sativa

Melilotus alba Melilotus officinalis Onobrychis montana Onobrychis viciifolia

Ononis cristata (O.cenisia) Ononis natrix

Ononis rotundifolia Oxytropis campestris

Oxtyropis fetida Oxytropis helvetica

Oxytropis jacquinii Securigera varia Trifolium alpinum **Common Name** 

**Teasel Family** 

Field Scabious Wood Scabious

**Small Scabious** 

Sea-buckthorn Family

Sea-buckthorn

**Crowberry Family** 

Crowberry

**Heather Family** 

Bearberry

Creeping Azalea

Alpenrose

Bilberry Cowberry

**Spurge Family** 

Cypress Spurge

**Pea Family** 

Kidney Vetch Alpine Milk-vetch

a Milk-vetch
Purple Milk-vetch

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Wild Liquorice Tyrolean Milk-vetch

False Vetch

Mountain Lentil

Mountain Tragacanth Horseshoe Vetch

Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea

Meadow Vetchling Alpine Bird's-foot Trefoil

Bird's-foot Trefoil

Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil

Lucerne

White Melilot Ribbed Meliliot

Mountain Sainfoin Common Sainfoin

Mt. Cenis Restharrow Large Yellow Restharrow Round-leaved Restharrow

Yellow Milk-vetch

Gaudin's Milk-vetch Mountain Milk-vetch

Crown Vetch Alpine Clover

#### Scientific Name

Trifolium badum Trifolium medium Trifolium montanum

Trifolium pratense subsp. pratense

Trifolium repens Vicia cracca Vicia onobrychoides

vicia onobrycho Vicia sepium

#### Gentianaceae

Gentiana acaulis Gentiana asclepiadea Gentiana bavarica Gentiana brachyphylla

Gentiana clusii Gentiana lutea Gentiana nivalis Gentiana punctata

Gentiana terglouensis subsp. schleicheri Gentiana verna subsp. delphinensis Gentiana verna subsp. verna

Gentianella campestris

#### Geraniaceae

Geranium phaeum Geranium pyrenaicum Geranium robertianum Geranium sanguineum Geranium rivulare

Geranium sylvaticum subsp. sylvaticum

#### Globulariaceae

Globularia bisnagarica Globularia cordifolia

### Grossulariaceae

Ribes petraeum Ribes uva-crispa

#### Lamiaceae

Acinos alpinus
Ajuga chamaepitys
Ajuga pyramidalis
Ajuga reptans
Calamintha nepeta
Clinopodium vulgare
Galeopsis ladanum
Nepeta nepetella

Origanum vulgare Prunella grandiflora

Prunella vulgaris Salvia pratensis Scutellaria alpina

#### **Common Name**

Brown Clover
Zig-zag Clover
Mountain Clover
Red Clover
White Clover
Tufted Vetch
False Sainfoin
Bush Vetch

#### **Gentian Family**

**Trumpet Gentian** 

Bavarian Gentian Short-leaved Gentian Clusius's Gentian Yellow Gentian Snow Gentian Spotted Gentian

a Short-leaved Gentian

Spring Gentian Field Gentian

#### Crane's-bill Family

Dusky Crane's-bill Hedgerow Crane's-bill

Herb Robert Bloody Crane's-bill a Wood Crane's-bill Wood Crane's-bill

#### **Globularia Family**

Matted Globularia

#### **Gooseberry Family**

Rock Redcurrant Wild Gooseberry

#### **Deadnettle Family**

Alpine Calamint Ground Pine Pyramidal Bugle

Bugle

Lesser Calamint Wild Basil

a Cat-mint Wild Marjoram

Large-flowered Self-heal

Self-heal Meadow Clary Alpine Skullcap

#### Scientific Name

Stachys pradica Stachys officinalis Stachys recta Teucrium montanum Thymus polytrichus Thymus pulegioides Thymus serpyllum

#### Lentabulariaceae

Pinguicula alpina Pinguicula vulgaris

#### Linaceae

Linum alpinum Linum catharticum

#### Onagraceae

Chamerion angustifolium Epilobium alpestre Epilobium fleischeri Epilobium nutans

#### Orobanchaceae

Orobanche alba Orobanche gracilis Orobanche minor

#### Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella

#### Papaveraceae

Papaver rhoeas

#### Parnassiaceae

Parnassia palustris

#### Plantaginaceae

Plantago alpina Plantago atrata Plantago maritima Plantago media

#### Plumbaginaceae

Armeria arenaria

#### Polygalaceae

Polygala alpina Polygala chamaebuxus Polygala comosa

#### Polygonaceae

Oxyria digyna Persicaria bistorta

#### **Common Name**

Alpine Betony

Betony

Yellow Woundwort Mountain Germander

Hairy Thyme Greater Thyme Wild Thyme

#### **Bladderwort Family**

Alpine Butterwort Common Butterwort

#### Flax Family

Alpine flax

Purging or Fairy Flax

#### Willowherb Family

Rosebay Willowherb

Alpine Willowherb Nodding Willowherb

#### **Broomrape Family**

Thyme Broomrape Slender Broomrape Common Broomrape

#### **Wood-sorrel Family**

Wood-sorrel

#### **Poppy Family**

Common Poppy

#### **Grass of Parnassus Family**

Grass of Parnassus

#### **Plantain Family**

Alpine Plantain Mountain Plantain Sea Plantain Hoary Plantain

#### **Thrift Family**

-

#### **Milkwort Family**

Alpine Milkwort Shrubby Milkwort Tufted Milkwort

#### **Knotweed Family**

Mountain Sorrel

**Bistort** 

#### Scientific Name

Persicaria vivipara Rumex acetosa Rumex alpinus Rumex scutatus

#### Primulaceae

Androsace chamaejasme Androsace obtusifolia

Androsace vitaliana subsp. vitaliana

Primula farinosa Primula pedemontana Soldanella alpina

#### Pyrolaceae

Moneses uniflora Orthillia secunda Pyrola minor

#### Ranunculaceae

Aconitum vulparia (lycoctonum subsp. v.)

Anemone baldensis Aquilegia alpina Aquilegia atrata Aquilegia vulgaris

Callianthemum coriandrifolium

Clematis alpina Clematis vitalba

Pulsatilla alpina subsp. alpina Pulsatilla alpina subsp. apiifolia

Pulsatilla vernalis
Ranunculus aconitifolius
Ranunculus acris
Ranunculus glacialis
Ranunculus keupferi
Ranunculus montanus
Ranunculus nemorosus
Thalictrum foetidum
Thalictrum minus

#### Resedaceae

Trollius europaeus

Reseda lutea

#### Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alpina Rhamnus pumila

#### Rosaceae

Agrimonia eupatoria Alchemilla alpina Alchemilla conjuncta Alchemilla glabra Alchemilla hybrida

#### **Common Name**

Alpine Bistort

Sorrel

Monk's Rhubarb French Sorrel

#### **Primrose Family**

Blunt-leaved Rock-jasmine

Vitaliana

Bird's-eye Primrose Piedmont Primrose Alpine Snowbell

#### Wintergreen Family

One-flowered Wintergreen Nodding Wintergreen Common Wintergreen

#### **Buttercup Family**

Monte Baldo Anemone

Wolf's-bane

Alpine Columbine Dark Columbine Common Columbine Callianthemum Alpine Clematis Old Man's Beard Alpine Pasque Flower Yellow Pasque Flower Spring Pasque Flower Aconite-leaved Buttercup Meadow Buttercup **Glacier Crowfoot** Pyrenean Buttercup Mountain Buttercup Wood Buttercup Stinking Meadow-rue Lesser Meadow-rue

#### **Mignonette Family**

Mignonette

Globeflower

#### **Buckthorn Family**

Alpine Buckthorn Dwarf Buckthorn

#### **Rose Family**

Agrimony

Alpine Lady's-mantle Silver Lady's-mantle Smooth Lady's-mantle

-

#### Scientific Name

Alchemilla pentaphyllea

Aruncus dioicus

Cotoneaster integerrimus

Crataegus monogyna

Dryas octopetala

Filipendula ulmaria

Fragaria vesca

Geum montanum

Geum reptans

Geum rivale

Potentilla aurea

Potentilla brauniana

Potentilla crantzii

Potentilla erecta

Potentilla grandiflora

Potentilla reptans

Rosa canina

Rosa pendulina

Rosa pimpinellifolia

Rubus fruticosus agg.

Rubus idaeus

Sanguisorba minor

Sorbus aria

Sorbus aucuparia

#### Rubiaceae

Asperula aristata

Asperula cynanchica

Galium lucidum

Galium megalospermum

Gallium mollugo

Galium pseudohelveticum

Galium verum

#### Salicaceae

Populus tremula

Salix breviserrata

Salix caesia

Salix caprea

Salix herbacea

Salix reticulata

Salix retusa

Salix serpyllifolia

#### Santalaceae

Thesium alpinum

#### Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga aizoides

Saxifraga androsacea

Saxifraga aspera

Saxifraga bryoides

Saxifraga diapensioides

#### **Common Name**

Cut-leaved Lady's-mantle

Goat's-beard Spirea

Wild Cotoneaster

Hawthorn

Mountain Avens

Meadowsweet

Wild Strawberry

Mountain Avens

Creeping Avens

Water Avens

Golden Cinquefoil

Dwarf Cinquefoil

Alpine Cinquefoil

Tormentil

Large-flowered Cinquefoil

Creeping Cinquefoil

Dog Rose

Alpine Rose

**Burnet Rose** 

Bramble

Raspberry

raopporty

Salad Burnet Whitebeam

Rowan

#### **Bedstraw Family**

a Squinancywort

Sqinancywort

a Bedstraw

Swiss Bedstraw

Hedge Bedstraw

Ladies Bedstraw

#### Willow Family

Aspen

Finely-toothed Willow

Blue-green Willow

Goat Willow

Least Willow

Net-leaved

Retuse-leaved Willow

a Willow

#### Sandalwood Family

Alpine Bastard Toadflax

#### Saxifrage Family

Yellow Mountain Saxifrage

Scree Saxifrage

Rough Saxifrage

Rough Saxifrage

#### Scientific Name

Saxifraga exarata subsp. exarata Saxifraga exarata subsp. moschata

Saxifraga oppositifolia Saxifraga paniculata Saxifraga rotundifolia Saxifraga stellaris

#### Scrophulariaceae

Bartsia alpina Digitalis ambigua Digitalis lutea

Euphrasia rostkoviana

Linaria alpina

Linaria angustissima
Melampyrum nemorosum
Melampyrum pratense
Melampyrum sylvaticum
Pedicularis ascendens
Pedicularis cenisia
Pedicularis foliosa
Pedicularis gyroflexa

Pedicularis rosea subsp. allionii

Pedicularis rostratospicata subsp. helvetica

Pedicularis verticillata Rhinanthus alectorolophus Rhinanthus minor agg.

Scrophularia canina subsp. hoppii

Verbascum densiflorum Verbascum lychnitis Verbascum pulverulentum

Verbascum thapsus subsp. montanum

Veronica allionii Veronica alpina Veronica aphylla Veronoica beccabunga Veronica bellidioides Veronica fruticans Veronica spicata

Veronica serpyllifolia subsp. serpyllifolia

Veronica urticifolia

#### Tamaricaceae

Myricaria germanica

**Thymelaeaceae**Daphne alpina
Daphne striata

**Urticaceae** Urtica dioica

Valerianaceae Valeriana montana

#### **Common Name**

Musky Saxifrage White Musky Saxifrage Purple Saxifrage Live-long Saxifrage Round-leaved Saxifrage Starry Saxifrage

#### **Figwort Family**

Alpine Bartsia

Large Yellow Foxglove Small Yellow Foxglove

an Eyebright Alpine Toadflax

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Common Cow-wheat Wood Cow-wheat Ascending Lousewort Mt. Cenis Lousewort Leafy Lousewort

-

Pink Lousewort Flesh-pink Lousewort Verticillate Lousewort Greater Yellow Rattle

Hay Rattle French Figwort

White Mullein Hoary Mullein Aaron's Rod a Speedwell Alpine Speedwell

Leafless-stemmed Speedwell

Brooklime Violet Speedwell Rock Speedwell Spiked Speedwell

Thyme-leaved Speedwell Nettle-leaved Speedwell

### **Tamarisk Family**

Myricaria

**Daphne Family**Alpine Mezereon
a Daphne

Nettle Family
Common Nettle

Valerian Family Mountain Valerian

#### Scientific Name

#### **Common Name**

Valeriana officinalis

Common Valerian

Violaceae Viola arvensis Viola biflora Viola calcarata subsp. calcarata Viola calcarata subsp. villarsiana **Violet Family** Field Pansy Yellow Violet Long-spurred Pansy Long-spurred Pansy

#### Monocotyledons

Dioscoreaceae Tamus communis **Black Bryony Family** 

Black Bryony

Juncaginaceae Triglochin palustre

**Arrow-grass Family** 

Marsh Arrow-grass

Liliaceae

**Lily Family** Allium oleraceum Allium schoenoprasum Chives

Allium sphaerocephalon Anthericum liliago Asphodelus albus Colchicum autumnale

Lilium bulbiferum subsp. croceum

Lilium martagon Maianthemum bifolium Paradisea liliastrum Polygonatum verticillatum Tofieldia calyculata

Veratrum album subsp. lobelianum

Field Garlic

Round-headed Leek St. Bernard's Lily

Asphodel Autumn Crocus Orange Lily Martagon Lily May Lily St. Bruno's Lily

Whorled Solomon's-seal Tofield's Asphodel White False Helleborine

Orchidaceae

Dactylorhiza alpestris Dactylorhiza fuchsii Dactylorhiza maculata Dactylorhiza majalis Dactylorhiza sambucina

Dactylorhiza (Coeloglossum) viride

Epipactis atrorubens Epipactis helleborine Gymnadenia cenisia Gymnadenia conopsea Gymnadenia cornelliana Gymnadenia rhellicani

Leucorchis (Gymnadenia) albida

Neottia ovata

Traunsteinera globosa

**Orchid Family** 

Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid Common Spotted-orchid **Heath Spotted Orchid** Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid Elder-flowered Ocrchid

Frog Orchid

Dark Red Helleborine Broad-leaved Helleborine Mt.Cenis Vanilla Orchid

Fragrant Orchid Red Vanilla Orchid a Vanilla Orchid Small White Orchid

Twayblade

Round-headed Orchid

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

			June/July							
	Common name	Scientific name	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix						Н		
2	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	3							
3	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	2							
4	Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture)	Gypaetus barbatus							3	
5	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus							8	
6	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus								1
7	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus			2				1	
8	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo					1	2		
9	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos		2	2			2		
10	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus				3		3	1	
11	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus								1
12	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	<b>✓</b>							<b>✓</b>
13	Rock Dove	Columba livia		<b>✓</b>						<b>✓</b>
14	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus			<b>✓</b>		1		1	2
15	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	<b>✓</b>							
16	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus								Н
17	Common Swift	Apus apus		10	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
18	Black Woodpecker	Dryocopus martius		10	•	<u> </u>		•		
19	European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis		1						
20	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio		1						1
					3				<b>✓</b>	2
21	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	<b>✓</b>		3			2	3	2
	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	•	4	4				3	
23	Spotted Nutcracker	Nucifraga caryocatactes		4	1		4			
24	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax				2	4			
25	Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus			3	60	4	6 ✓	2	
26	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone		2	✓	✓		<b>V</b>	✓	✓
27	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	✓							
28	Northern Raven	Corvus corax				2		3	1	
29	Willow Tit	Poecile montanus			Н	1			6	
30	Coal Tit	Periparus ater		2	6					2
31	European Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus			3					6
32	Great Tit	Parus major		Н					✓	
33	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus							✓	
34	Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis				Н	Н	3		
35	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓							✓
36	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		2	3	6	✓	✓	✓	
37	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus			Н					
39	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		Н					Н	Н
40	Western Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli		Н						1
41	Marsh Warbler	Acrocephalus palustris							5	
42	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla			Н	Н			✓	2
43	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin			Н				1	
44	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca		Н						
45	Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla			Н		1			
46	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus							1	
47	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes			1					
48	Eurasian Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris			3					
49	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula			1	1	3		<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>

			June/July							
	Common name	Scientific name	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris					2		✓	
51	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus				3			1	
52	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula			Н				Н	
53	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	2	3	4	4		Н	8	3
54	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra			1	2	1		3	2
55	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				2	4	✓	✓	2
56	White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus		1	2	4	1	3	1	1
57	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
58	White-winged Snowfinch	Montifringilla nivalis				1			8	4
59	Alpine Accentor	Prunella collaris							4	
60	Dunnock	Prunella modularis			1					
61	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		1	1	2	1	1		
62	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	2	1	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis					Н			2
64	Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta				5	6	✓	✓	2
65	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		✓	✓	Н			✓	
66	European Serin	Serinus serinus							1	
67	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris					2	2	✓	
68	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina						4	2	
70	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella		Н		Н			Н	
71	Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia		2	2					

#### **Butterflies**

Dingy Skipper, Erynnis tages

Olive Skipper, Pyrgus serratulae

Dusky Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus cacaliae

Essex Skipper, Thymelicus lineola

Small Apollo, Parnassius phoebus

Clouded Apollo, Parnassius mnemosyne

Black-veined White, Aporia crataegi

Small White, Pieris rapae

Peak White, Pontia callidice

Mountain Clouded Yellow, Colias phicomone

Blue-spot Hairstreak, Satyrium spini

Purple-shot Copper, Lycaena alciphron

Little Blue, Cupido minimus

Large Blue, Maculinea arion

Silver-studded Blue, Plebeius argus

Mazarine Blue, Cyaniris semiargus

Eros Blue, Polyommatus eros

Common Blue, Polyommatus icarus

Geranium Argus, Eumedonia eumedon

Turquoise Blue, Plebicula dorylas

Small Tortoiseshell, Aglais urticae

Glanville Fritillary, Melitaea cinxia

Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus armoricanus

Safflower Skipper, Pyrgus carthami

Red-underwing Skipper, Spialia sertorius

Small Skipper, Thymelicus sylvestris

Apollo, Parnassius apollo

Swallowtail, Papilio machaon

Large White, Pieris brassicae

Mountain Green-veined White, Pieris bryoniae

Orange Tip, Anthocharis cardamines

Moorland Clouded Yellow, Colias palaeno

Scarce Copper, Lycaena virgaureae

Purple-edged Copper, Lycaena hippothoe

Osiris Blue, Cupido osiris

Alpine Zephyr Blue, Plebejus trappi

Idas Blue, Plebeius idas

Damon Blue, Agrodiaetus damon

Escher's Blue, Polyommatus escheri

Glandon Blue, Agriades glandon

Alpine Blue, Albulina orbitulus

Chalk-hill Blue, Lysandra coridon

Painted Lady, Vanessa cardui

False Heath Fritillary, Melitaea diamina

Knapweed Fritillary, Mellitaea phoebe
Heath Fritillary, Mellicta athalia
Marsh Fritillary, Euphydryas aurinia
Shepherd's Fritillary, Bolaria pales
Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Boloria euphrosyne
Large Wall Brown, Lasiommata maera
Chestnut Heath, Coenonympha glycerion
Blind Ringlet, Erebia pharte
Large Ringlet, Erebia euryale
Marbled Ringlet, Erebia montana
Dewy Ringlet, Erebia pandrose
Alpine Grayling, Oeneis glacialis
Great Banded Grayling, Kanetisa circe

Spotted Fritillary, Melitaea didyma
Grison's Fritillary, Mellicta varia
Dark Green Fritillary, Argynnis aglaja
Mountain Fritillary, Boloria napaea
Titania's Fritillary, Boloria titania
Alpine Heath, Coenonympha gardetta
Mountain Ringlet, Erebia epiphron
Almond-eyed Ringlet, Erebia alberganus
Silky Ringlet, Erebia gorge
Piedmont Ringlet, Erebia meolans
Marbled White, Melanargia galathea
Great Sooty Satyr, Satyrus ferula

#### Mammals,

Stoat, *Mustela erminea*Alpine Ibex, *Capra ibex*Alpine Marmot, *Marmotta marmotta* 

### Reptiles,

Common Frog, Rana temporaria
Common Wall Lizard, Podarcis muralis

Alpine Chamois, Rupicapra rupicapra Red Squirrel, Sciuris vulgaris Snow Vole, Chionomys nivalis

Viviparous Lizard, Lacerta vivipara