



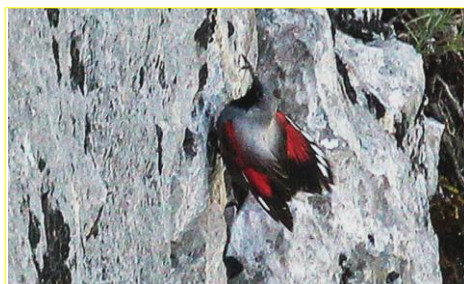
# *Honeyguide*

## **WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: [chris@honeyguide.co.uk](mailto:chris@honeyguide.co.uk)



**Bulgaria's Western Rhodopes**  
**18 – 26 June 2014**

### Holiday participants

Stephen and Helen Burrell  
Kathy and Terry Bilham  
Tony and Sandy Langford  
Sue Davy  
Averil Monteath

Margaret Hosking  
Jill Sutcliffe  
Gillian Plummer and  
Alan Burt  
Judith Poyser

### Leaders

Vladimir (Vlado) Trifonov and Chris Gibson

Our hosts at the Hotel Yagodina are Mariya and Asen Kukundjiev – [www.yagodina-bg.com](http://www.yagodina-bg.com)  
On the return journey to Sofia we stayed one night in the conservation village of Koprivshtitsa at Bashtina Kashta (Father's House) – [www.fhhotel.info](http://www.fhhotel.info)

Report by Chris Gibson.

All the photos in this report were taken during the holiday by the leaders or participants, indicated by initials.  
Front cover from top clockwise: Yagodina from St. Iliya (CG); *Lilium rhodopaeum* (CG); Wallcreeper (MH); Trigrad Gorge (JP); a species rich Yagodina meadow (CG); scarce copper (CG).  
Below – the last evening, with the 'Yagodina Grannies' (CG).



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards local conservation work. The conservation contributions from this holiday raised £540 and this has been split two ways, both to support the protection of *Lilium rhodopaeum*. The Rhodope lily is a scarce endemic flower of the Western Rhodopes, found on just a handful of sites in Bulgaria and just over the border in Greece, about half of which have no protection.

£200 has been sent to the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, the BirdLife partner in Bulgaria, which also has a wider biodiversity remit. This sum will support BSPB in finalising the designation of Protected Area Tzigransko Gradishte, a *Lilium rhodopaeum* site, as part of the Natura 2000 network of internationally important wildlife sites, and will fund meetings with local stakeholders as BSPB continues to lobby to get Tzigransko Gradishte designated for nature conservation.

£340 has gone to Honeyguide leader Vlado Trifonov, who is recognised as the leading authority on the Rhodope lily, to fund monitoring and mowing at the location visited by Honeyguiders.

The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £96,017 as at July 2014.



## DAILY DIARY

### Wednesday 18 June: the way there...

After a horribly early start, most of the group gathered at Gatwick for our six o'clock flight to Sofia. As the flight progressed, so the clouds thinned, allowing views of the snow-capped Alps and as we approached our destination a glorious patchwork of small strip fields embracing tight agricultural settlements, although visibility over the city was somewhat restricted by cloud. On disembarking from the plane, the first impression was of humid heat, and clearly there had been some substantial rain not long previously. In the terminal we successfully located our final tour member Sue (flown in from Athens) and Vlado, my co-leader and expert on the flora of the region.

At the coach we were introduced to our driver Veselin, and then settled in for the drive across the flatlands of central Bulgaria, towards the distant mountains beckoning in the hazy distance. As is often the case, the first birds were commonplace – swallows, house martins and magpies, but as we progressed we started to see a few buzzards and white storks, the latter often on nests in the towns and villages. The multitude of agricultural greens was periodically splashed with the vibrant shades of purple larkspurs and blue viper's-bugloss, as much an indicator of the unfamiliarity of our surroundings as the mosques and Orthodox churches in the towns. A welcome break for lunch at a service station (with nesting house martins under the canopy) gave us a chance to stretch our legs and examine the birdlife in more detail. White wagtails and crested larks fed around the car park, while overhead a honey buzzard drifted into view. Judith took the opportunity to indulge in her passion for spotting bugs and beasties, and on the edge of the car park a pollarded poplar came up with the first few of the many showy insects which featured on this trip, including a large red leaf-beetle *Chrysomela populi* and the distinctive spotted moth hyaline brown burnet *Dysauxes famula*. The drive south then continued, Veselin's careful driving especially appreciated by those sharing seats with suitcases (especially Sue!), and by all of us when his satnav tried to take us across a level crossing which didn't exist....



A colourful bush cricket  
*Poecilimon macedonicus* (CG)



A large orb-web spider  
*Araneus angulatus* (CG)

Heading onwards, we arrived at the Bessapari range of rounded hills clad in steppe-like grassland with scattered Christ's-thorn, and large cropped fields, for a short walk. The sound of singing larks came not from skylarks, but calandras, their bulk and blackish underwings being especially apparent in flight, and a booted eagle passed over on its endless search for suslik dinner. Not that everyone was looking upwards: the grassland at our feet was

fluttering, crawling and hopping with a vast range of beetles, grasshoppers and butterflies amongst the glorious floral display. White-flowered clumps of felted germander, the bold yellow splashes of spurge and *Inula*, purple thyme and shell-pink *Convolvulus cantabricus* all played their part, but it was the unusually erect flowers of nodding thistle which really drew the insects in. Many had their attendant beetle *Mylabris polymorpha*, large and black and orange, and bush-cricket (including wart-biter and *Poecilimon macedonicus*), and everywhere there were butterflies. Common, silver-studded and Adonis blues and brown argus flittered around, along with an attractive black-and-white micromoth *Pyrausta cingulata*; a couple of common swallowtails indulged in their courtship flight in front of us; and several blackish and white banded graylings later proved from photos to be very large examples of the hermit butterfly. *Bombylius minor*, a small sandy bee-fly, hovered around our feet, and several dramatic yellow and black ascalaphids zoomed past. But one of the latter had met its come-uppance: the ants had their revenge on the ant-lion, and were systematically taking it apart for food.

Arriving eventually at the mountains via the gorge at Krichim, we paused briefly to peer at a rock face, with stands of *Juniperus excelsa*, a Red Data Book species, protected under the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act. Crag martins wheeled around, and a raven and an immature golden eagle appeared briefly on the distant skyline. A short walk down to the tumbling river produced several examples of the aptly-named beautiful demoiselles, of the south-eastern form *meridionalis*, darker winged and more iridescent than our more familiar British form. A nine-spotted moth posed for photos, and we located two lovely crab spiders in the bushes, *Heriaeus hirtus* (large, green and hairy) and *Thomisus onustus* (pure white and triangular). Even more impressive was a huge orb-web spider with humpy tubercles on its abdomen. This was subsequently identified as *Araneus angulatus*, reputedly the first ever species (pre-Linnaeus) to be given a scientific name which is still in use today.

Continuing on, several cormorants on a reservoir were added to the bird list, along with grey wagtails on every stretch of river, and dippers more locally. Eventually we arrived at Yagodina, to be greeted by Maria, our host, and an almost deafening chorus of field crickets. After a few minutes to unpack and settle in, it was time for a welcome drink and introductions while sheltering from the now persistent rain (and a huge flash of lightning), and then the first of many wonderful meals, the fresh salads being a real feature.

#### Thursday 19 June: Trigrad Gorge and the valley above

A cloudy but dry dawn broke as the pre-breakfast birding crew gathered outside the hotel. We were just taking in the local 'garden' birds – great tits, black redstarts, serins and numerous tree sparrows (house sparrows being seemingly absent from the village) – when a black woodpecker flew right overhead, across the valley. A short walk around the village then produced white wagtail, singing chiffchaff, blackcap and yellowhammer, and a couple of red-rumped swallows among the hordes of commoner hirundines. And several examples of two large, showy insects which were soon to become a familiar sight – the black-and-red stripey 'Millwall Bug' *Graphosoma italicum* and the bronzy-green rose chafer *Cetonia aurata*. Breakfast soon beckoned, a sumptuous spread of home-made yoghurt, local jams and honey, and fresh flat doughnuts and bread.

Then on with the holiday! A short drive of some 8km, albeit spectacular within the rocky gorges, brought us to our first destination, Trigrad Gorge, where Vlado pointed out a crevice in the rock face just a few metres above the road. This is a regular nest site for wallcreepers, reputedly the easiest place to see this jewel of a bird in Europe. However, this year they seem to have found another breeding site (not difficult given the vast rock faces in every gorge) but after a short wait, the local male did appear and treated us to a private display of feeding, creeping and wing-fluttering before it headed back up the gorge. And of course that was not all. Growing on the cliffs were patches of the local endemic African violet *Haberlea rhodopensis*, although most of its mauve, tubular flowers were now over. One of just five members of its family in Europe, each one a pre-glacial relict of a much wider distribution, this was to become a regular feature of our next few days, thriving especially on shady north-facing rocks. Other plants included *Valeriana montana*, a Bulgarian Red List species, and beautiful pink patches of rock crane's-bill. The song of a firecrest drifted up from a fir tree below us, but our eyes were more on the skies, as heavy clouds started to build and produce the first rumbles of thunder. The



Wallcreeper (MH)

forecast suggested we were very likely to encounter storms and torrential rain today, but thankfully our worst fears went unrealised – we seemed to be blessed with a bubble of more-or-less fine, dry weather all day, as the thunder clouds unleashed their worst all around. And not just in the Rhodopes – associated with this storm system, north-east Bulgaria experienced damaging, and sadly lethal, flooding around the same time.

Walking through the tunnel and up the gorge, we soon came to the Devil's Throat cave, the rocks around the car park adorned with *Dianthus petraea* and *Arenaria rhodopaea*, a local endemic with strikingly large white flowers. Continuing up the road towards the village of Trigrad, during the occasional bursts of sunshine a few butterflies started to fly, although mostly familiar species such as orange tip, comma and painted lady, along with several black-veined moths. And the verges and meadows were ablaze with flowers, including yellow rattle, henbane, poppies, Ottoman comfrey, deep blue *Anchusa barrelieri*, white *Silene fabarioides*, a supercharged version of our more familiar bladder campion, and a muddy-pink goat's-beard *Tragopogon pterodes*. Even the tiny pockets of cultivation had their interest, especially the numerous Colorado beetles demolishing many a potato patch. Other insects included the biggest ground beetle any of us had ever seen, *Carabus intricatus* (about 4cm long), and a large black-and-red froghopper *Cercopis vulneratus*.

Lunch was taken in a restaurant next to a dairy and cheese factory, and not surprisingly provided us with some lovely cheese dishes, as we contemplated the still brooding weather all around. Notwithstanding, we headed by coach further up the valley, before walking back down the road taking in the botanical and entomological riches on the way. Among the many plants were tufted vetch, fragrant orchids and maiden pink, mixing with yellow *Genista januensis* and *Linum capitatum*; the beautiful, if understated, *Ajuga laxmannii* mingling with purple *A. pyramidalis*; patches of matted globularia; and the picnicker's nightmare – unexpectedly spiny cushions of *Astragalus angustifolius*. Even the thistles were impressive – tall, multi-headed *Cirsium appendiculatum*, a magnet for nectaring insects. Birds were few and far between, just coal tits, a great spotted woodpecker and a young long-eared owl calling from the forest, and a pair of red-backed shrikes around a cultivated patch. Duke-of-Burgundy and chequered skipper both showed well, along with chimney-sweeper moths and a mating pair of a second species of nine-spotted moth *Syntomis kruegeri*, while also in the mood for love was a pair of metallic blue longhorn beetles, *Agapanthia violacea*.

In the damper areas, a number of purple marsh orchids were identified as *Dactylorhiza baumanniana*, and a short walk down to the river produced some unexpected delights in the form of yellow-bellied toads in the marginal pools, initially drawing attention to themselves by their gentle 'poop' calls. In contrast, the rocky cuttings were a haven for saxifrages, with both *Saxifraga sempervivum* and *S. stribyrnii* – mostly finished flowering but clearly distinguishable by their different leaf forms.



*Carabus intricatus* (CG)



*Syntomis kruegeri* (GP)



Yellow-bellied toad (CG)

As we headed home, we fell into the honeytrap, a roadside stall selling local honeys and jams, one of rather few opportunities for retail therapy! And the rest of the drive home was spent in a heavy rain shower, further emphasising how lucky we had been with the weather, barely needing the waterproofs we had seen as a necessity for the day. And for those who ventured out on a private potter before dinner, the sun came out in a final blaze of glory, bringing the soggy landscape to sparkling life.

After dinner, all eyes (well, some eyes!) were on the TV as it was World Cup football, and the first England match. However, given the final result against Uruguay, there were few regrets from those who opted for bed at half-time...

#### Friday 20 June: Trigrad to Yagodina

A brighter dawn saw the early birders heading up the hill behind the hotel. A mixed flock of tits contained both crested and a single sombre tit, and Kathy's birthday was marked by her spotting an overflying nutcracker. As always, the trackside flora was equally captivating, with bug orchids and tassel hyacinths galore.

After breakfast and making our packed lunch, we headed back to Trigrad and took another opportunity to stop at the wallcreepers' nest site. What a contrast to yesterday! Even before we had disembarked, Vlado heard and spotted a male bird around the (former) nest crevice, and it proceeded to entrance us with an extended display of feeding, flicking and flying.

Starting on the trail back to Yagodina, a distance of 6km, the Honeyguide pace soon became apparent. Indeed the walk eventually clocked in at some seven hours! In Trigrad village itself, we noted that the predominant sparrow here was the house sparrow, and the verges and fields were clothed in an array of spectacular plants. Sadly *Morina persica*, although abundant, was not yet flowering, but swallow-wort, *Jurinea* and especially St Bernard's lily put on a great show. And a pair of red-backed shrikes delivered a constant supply of large insects to their brood, deep in a thorn bush.

Approaching the forest edge, various high-pitched calls from the canopy resolved into firecrests and coal tits, while a nutcracker called frustratingly nearby, although only seen fleetingly. A lesser whitethroat rattled away in the foliage, and a few Lepidoptera were noted (especially speckled yellow moths), despite the relatively chilly, overcast conditions. An unusual hound's-tongue with large pinky-red flowers proved to be subspecies *rotatum* of the more familiar *Cynoglossum officinale*, and among the numerous species of clover, the large red *Trifolium alpestre* was the most showy.

After a brief (but notably fragrant) encounter with a local chap and his cows, we came to a rocky section of the trail which demonstrated clearly the turbulent geological history of the Rhodopes, with limestone strata twisted and folded, and partly metamorphosed into marble, the result of past continental collisions. We came upon a single flowering spike of toothed orchid, while a large-flowered bellflower *Campanula orphanidea* was especially attractive, and the rocks glistened with the trails of numerous Roman snails.

The forest edge produced several different fungi, including several large *Boletus* specimens, and there were plentiful signs of some of the mammalian inhabitants: pine cones eaten by red squirrels, the rootings of wild boar, a wood ants' nest which had been demolished, perhaps by a brown bear, together with a large pile of droppings, containing grain and insects. Seemingly too large and of the wrong shape for a boar, it too may have come from a bear, as indeed may some of the larger trackways through the trees.



A cool breeze and intermittent rain meant it was heads down to the highest point of the walk, where we took lunch in a small flowery meadow, amongst the yellow rattle, spring sandwort and bastard-toadflax, with a few examples of the attractive brown goat's-beard *Tragopogon balcanicus*. Then downhill all the way back, spotting *Orchis pinetorum* (albeit finished flowering), green-winged orchid and white helleborine, with *Aremonia agrimonioides*, beautiful swathes of *Lathyrus laxiflorus*, and orange-tinged *Hypericum linarioides* in support. In the areas of deepest shade, flowering was rather limited, apart from *Haberlea* on the boulders, but a further range of fungi was located, along with a patch of the dog-sick slime mould, *Mucilago crustacea*. A family party of long-tailed tits moved through the canopy, and as the trees gave way to meadows, yellowhammers and corn buntings came into view. In a flurry of excitement, territorial pairs of yellowhammer and red-backed shrike were interacting closely, though it was impossible to tell whether the shrikes were looking for a (large) meal, or the yellowhammers were trying to drive the shrikes away. A couple of field crickets, so numerous but rarely seen, allowed close examination and the muddy edges of puddles revealed prints of what seemed to be a wolf, from the 'in-line' nature of the track. As the sun broke through, so the insects sprung into action, including clouded buff and woodland burnet moths and black-veined white butterflies, and an interesting addition to the plant list was a patch of corncockles in one field corner.

The group was well strung out by the time of our final descent into Yagodina, but some at least managed to add mazarine blue and the amazingly bright scarce copper to the butterfly list, while several large, greenish longhorn beetles *Agapanthia cynarea* clambered over the flowering spikes of thistles.

Dinner, as always, was much appreciated, rounded off with a lovely birthday cake for Kathy.

### Saturday 21 June: Borino, Zmeitsa and Chala



Early morning around Yagodina (CG)

Early morning produced its usual delights, as the sun broke through the low cloud and mist which enveloped the village at dawn. A cirl bunting was singing from the slopes, as a roe deer picked its way across, and a pair of marsh tits were noted among the much more frequent great tits. Swifts were much more apparent than previously – hopefully a sign of better weather to come – and the majority were pallid, with just a few common swifts. A male bullfinch, accompanied by a juvenile, gave excellent views, and just before we headed in for breakfast, a black woodpecker gave a prolonged flight view as its almost reptilian form crossed the valley.

The peace of Yagodina was shattered as we assembled to depart when a motorised wedding convoy, horns blaring, headed out of town, and this being a Saturday, the local people were out and about in force. Near Borino, our intended stopping place was fully occupied, so we were not able to try and find comcrakes, although we did see briefly a couple of rock partridges which flew away from the road verge, and in the town the usual storks' nest platform was sadly unoccupied. Continuing beyond the village towards Zmeitsa, we were taken on a side road to potter back through the woods and meadows. Butterflies were everywhere here including many Balkan and scarce coppers and large skippers, with a few chestnut heaths, as well as chimney-sweeper and hummingbird hawkmoths. Other striking insects included a snake-fly *Phaeostigma notata*, rhombic leatherbug and the spotted flower chafer *Oxythyrea funesta*. The damp grassland harboured several common frogs, while from a nearby fishing lake arose the unmistakable quacking chorus of marsh frogs.

The grassland was incredibly diverse, and contained several plants we had not previously encountered, including *Armeria rumelica*, *Plantago subulata*, Spanish catchfly, *Polygala major* and false helleborine, as well as some good stands of *Digitalis viridiflora*. A tree pipit and several firecrests were in song, and a distant singing ortolan bunting saw telescopes brought into action. But the bird stars were undoubtedly the two, possibly three, hobbies which spent several minutes hawking dragonflies overhead, eating their captures on the wing. However, the pond was pretty much devoid of water birds and insects alike.

Reluctantly we had to forego the invitation from a group of dancing ladies to join their festivities (it was the day to collect herbs at their most potent), and head back to Borino for lunch. Accompanied by the call to prayer from the nearby mosque, our luck (or as we like to think of it perfect planning!) meant that we were under cover as the heavens opened.

A sudden hailstorm lashed down, followed by more persistent heavy rain, through which we then progressed in the bus to the hilltop village of Chala. Swathed in cloud, the views were somewhat restricted, but as we worked our way through the wonderful flower-rich meadows, the weather steadily improved such that first the mountain tops and then Yagodina far below us came into view.



Zmeista, with the storm looming (CG)

The meadows were simply stunning, a patchwork of *Pastinaca hirsuta*, wild pansy, yellow rattle, wild pink, thyme broomrape and thrift, with a fair sprinkling of burnt orchids. A distant corncrake called a couple of times, and the numerous insects included the now-familiar harlequin ladybird. Heading back, a stop at the corncrake corner failed to deliver, apart from good views of kestrel, corn bunting and red-backed shrike, while a second stop down at the river allowed all to have good views of adult and fledgling dippers.

### Sunday 22 June: walk to Yagodinska cave and the valley beyond

Another misty dawn saw the pre-breakfast walkers on the eroded slopes east of the village, the songs of blackcap and garden warbler mingling with the gentle sound of cows being led up to the high pastures. As the sun rose, it illuminated the dew and spiders' webs, transforming the view into a magical landscape. A roe deer grazed on the distant slopes, seemingly oblivious to the roar of a second, hidden animal. A male yellowhammer was lit up on its pine tree perch, while a hobby and then a green woodpecker flew over.

After breakfast, we headed up the hill behind the hotel to another set of meadows (these featuring the white flowers of dropwort and *Moenchia mantica*), again teeming with insects. A Chapman's blue lingered long enough to confirm its identity, and there were numerous metallic green beetles with large orange antenna, later identified as probably *Cerocoma schaeffrei* (thanks to Stanislav Krejčík [www.meloidae.com](http://www.meloidae.com)).



Nutcracker (MH)

We then headed through the pine, spruce, silver fir and beech forest to Yagodinska Cave. The forest was typically quiet so far as birds were concerned, with just a few chiffchaffs, blackcaps and goldcrests singing and calling in the dense tree cover. Towards the end, Margaret managed to connect with (and photograph) a nutcracker, but impossible to miss was the vast wood ants' nest, so big that a fence had been built around it and the trail diverted. In the deep shade, plant life was limited, but included two species of wintergreen, sanicle and some nine species of orchid, including fly, lesser butterfly, twayblade, coralroot and broad-leaved, white and red helleborines. Best of all, to Vlado at least as it was a new species for him, was a couple of frog orchids.

After our morning's walk, a drink at the restaurant outside the cave entrance, with our packed lunch, was in order, taking advantage of the shade from the rising heat. Then following lunch we were ferried into the upper valley, to another stunning meadow, albeit partly damaged by the parking of road-builders' plant. The insects included numerous silver-studded and Amanda's blues; a hummingbird hawkmoth nectaring on thistle heads; and a glorious array of beetles and bugs. One particular mullein flower hosted a wonderful, large, spotted longhorn beetle *Pachyta quadrimaculata*, apparently defending its chosen spike against all comers. A long stretch through dense forest then followed, and proved very quiet, perhaps related to the recent blasting and road-widening activities along the way, although we did come across several flowering spikes of a marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza cordigera*.

It was by now hot and humid, and Judith's suggestion of a cup of tea and/or ice cream back at the cave restaurant found unanimous favour!



Frog orchid (VT)



### Monday 23 June: Devin

A welcome sunny early morning walk turned up the usual selection of birds: red-backed shrikes, numerous pallid swifts and a superb black woodpecker which flew over calling.

Our drive today took us to the outskirts of Devin – home of the lovely local bottled water – and the start of a track which led us alongside the tumbling Devinska river, into a broad, heavily wooded, rocky gorge. Here we were among some unfamiliar trees, such as green alder, oriental hornbeam, *Quercus dalechampii*, and both small-leaved and large-leaved limes. A patch of the Balkan endemic *Digitalis viridiflora*, beckoned us in to the botanical delights, including yellow patches of *Genista carinalis*, blue *Camapanula persicifolia*, the local endemic King Boris's cinquefoil, *Salvia virgata*, alpine skullcap and *Dianthus giganteus*.

But once again it was the insects which really fired our enthusiasm, with beautiful demoiselles, patrolling and displaying; southern white admiral, common glider, nettle-tree butterfly, ilex hairstreak, yellow-banded skipper and slender Scotch burnet all putting in an appearance. Several

trees were festooned with the large larval webs of large tortoiseshell, and an Apollo flew through for at least some of the group.

Basking on the track were several dark-winged *Anthrax* flies, while a large hoverfly *Volucella pellucens* worked its way through the numerous nectar sources. Equally intent on feeding was a dramatic black-and-red crab-spider *Synaema globosum* which had captured an unfortunate honeybee. A couple of male green lizards with striking blue heads peered at us as they clambered through the bushes, and a pair of common wall lizards were seen mating on a large boulder. Even more accommodating, an eastern hedgehog posed for photos in a patch of grass.



Nettle-tree butterfly and mating common wall lizards (H&SB)



Bird-wise, the gorge was quiet apart from the omnipresent grey wagtails, although those who were able to lift their eyes skywards were treated to several common buzzards and one, maybe two, golden eagles coursing the distant skyline.

We took lunch in the heart of the gorge, entertained for a while by a large hornet, and giving time for the adventurous to explore its upper reaches along a walkway suspended from the rocks. Here, martagon lily was in full flower and a boulder in the river provided evidence of the local otters, in the form of a cache of dismantled crayfish. But all too soon it was time to head back, although the cold beer from the bar near the car park proved a temptation too far for some! Then it was into Devin for a coffee, a bank and the chance for some retail therapy, before we headed back towards home.

The second birthday of the trip (Tony's) was marked as before by a cake at dinner, preceded by a celebratory sampling of the local bubbly. But Vlado's judgement proved sound ("It is good only for the 'pop'.") as the assorted Honeyguide palates detected the aromas of cauliflower, burning rubber, diesel and mothballs...

### Tuesday 24 June: St. Iliya and Yagodina

A short walk before breakfast, given that we had booked an early start to take advantage of the time before rain was forecast, was uneventful, apart from our good deed of the day, releasing a female black redstart which was trapped inside the (unlocked) cab of one of the ex-military vehicles parked behind the hotel.

In hot sunshine, we herded ourselves into and onto (H&S rules anybody?) two 4WD vehicles to ferry us up to the top of the local mountain St. Iliya, a height of 1560m. One truck-full had a view of a fox roaming through the fields, and both picked up the call of a quail of two on the way up. But what a drive over the steep and heavily rutted ground - it was testament to the skill and experience of the drivers that there were no visible signs of discomfort as we spilled out at the top.

With the early start, we had the summit to ourselves, to enjoy the spectacle of alpine swifts wheeling around, above and below, and the vast unspoilt montane landscapes, the snow-capped slopes of Pirin to the west, and the border with Greece to the south.



Then it was out to the viewing platform, sticking out into the void from the cliff edge, with a heart-stopping sheer drop of some 600m below. For those who could tear their eyes from the drop, a male wallcreeper performed wonderfully below, creating such excitement that Helen's stick somehow broke free and went tumbling into the abyss.



Contemplating the void (VT)

Our adrenaline levels suitably raised, we then pottered slowly back along the crest of the mountain ridge, gradually losing altitude, through the sparse pine forest. Several mistle thrushes scattered in our wake, and the abundant butterfly life was heavily dominated by painted ladies and Queen-of-Spain fritillaries, including several pairs of the latter mating, and consequently allowing close approach by the photographers. On the upper slopes, Balkan marbled whites and wall browns were numerous, with 'ordinary' marbled whites taking over as we headed downhill.

The rocky limestone grassland flora included burnt and green-winged orchids, yellow patches of horseshoe vetch, *Ranunculus illyricus* and *Fumana procumbens*, a single-flowered knapweed *Centaurea triumfettii*, and white *Cerastium decalvans*. And last year's seedheads of *Carlina acanthifolia*, flat to the ground, provided a spectacular counterpoint to the plant growth from the current season.

By now it was very hot, still, and becomingly increasingly humid: despite the unbroken blue skies, things were clearly developing on the weather front. It was not until we settled for lunch under the shade of the final stretch of pine trees before our gradual descent to Yagodina, conveniently close to a magnificent flowering spike of red helleborine, that the atmospheric instability manifested itself. As a cloud appeared from behind the summit ridge, the first rumble of thunder echoed around the valley. The clouds continued to build as we headed back to the hotel; although they were all around us and delivering substantial amounts of rain on the hills, we remained at the eye of the storm for most of the walk back, only the back markers getting a wetting.

After our early start, the rest of the afternoon was free time, for everyone to do their own thing, a last dose of the Yagodina delights: walking, relaxing, packing and drinking!

After dinner we were treated to a folk-song and dance evening, courtesy of the local ladies (affectionately dubbed the 'Yagodina Grannies'), which soon turned into a highly participative event, especially for some adorned in the local costume. Alan looked particularly fetching, and we could easily envisage a new career for him as a garden gnome! The revelries spread out from the dining room onto the patio, before we were again forced to shelter by the next thunderstorm. And so, reluctantly, to bed....although Judith and I finally realised the benefits of being billeted away from the hotel: perhaps as a result of the humidity, we encountered a lovely display of fire-flies, dancing fairy lights contributing to a wonderful multi-sensory experience: huge flashes of lightning and deep, rumbling thunder rolls, with an almost deafening chorus of field crickets.

### **Wednesday 25 June: Shiroka Laka, Stoykite, Bachkovo Monastery and the journey to Koprivshtitsa**

Bags were packed and loaded before breakfast, so we could get a prompt departure by nine o'clock, after bidding farewell to Maria, Asen and Hotel Yagodina.

Although the main purpose of the day was travelling to Koprivshtitsa, in order to ease the journey time to the airport the following morning, we packed in a series of stops to explore the wildlife and culture en route.

First was a brief stop in Shiroka Laka, a traditional village with stone-tiled roofs, and a remarkable icon-filled Orthodox church, built from scratch in 1834 in just 38 days. Several serins showed well in the churchyard, and we all marvelled at resourcefulness of the locals in recycling domestic radiators into garden fences! Perhaps even more remarkably, a local gift shop was able to provide all who wanted one with a copy, in English, of the Rhodope flower book (its production bizarrely part funded by Defra!) – we had previously bought up the whole of the hotel's supply.

Then, a real treat! Vlado is a national authority on one of the most spectacular local endemic plants, the Rhodope lily *Lilium rhodopaeum*. He has written the Action Plan for its conservation, and been involved in monitoring the known sites – and when he introduced the previous Honeyguide party to it, by unanimous agreement we decided that the conservation contribution should go to that species. So a return visit was definitely in order.



The plant hunters (TL)

On reaching the remote valley near Stoykite, it soon became clear it was a special place. Flowery meadows extending into the distance harboured a croaking corncrake or two; a territorial pair of whinchats watched us from a distance; and a grey-headed woodpecker called and flew along the valley. Pools on the track each had their attendant butterflies – as before, plenty of blues, but here with as many, if not more, fritillaries, including marsh and heath fritillaries – while narrow-bordered bee-hawkmoth and Camberwell beauty put in brief flypasts. A stunning orange patch of *Geum coccineum* drew our eyes into the meadow, and there, standing proud on the grassy slopes, the dramatic yellow flowers of Rhodope lily, the large drooping blooms with recurved tepals at their flowering peak. With maybe a hundred plants in total, here is one of just ten known localities for this iconic plant, five each in Bulgaria and Greece, all within the Rhodope range. A delight and privilege for the whole group, and for those who got close enough, sufficiently dramatic to forgive its 'interesting' smell ...

Vlado indicated though that the future of this population must be considered at some risk. Unlike certain other sites, this has no conservation protection, and it is clear that there is insufficient or inappropriate management, whether by grazing or mowing, to keep it in tip-top condition. While the site is less rank than two years previously, no doubt in part due to the Vlado's work with the local community which Honeyguide is helping to support, there was a worrying number of flower heads which had been eaten off the stem and left lying forlornly on the ground nearby. Of course without an

on-site wardening presence, and perhaps some fencing experiments, it isn't possible to lay the blame on any cause, whether of vertebrate or invertebrate origin: we must rely on the persistence of the bulbs to give some resilience and buy time until a fully evidenced conservation strategy can be developed and implemented.

Pressing on, we arrived at Bachkovo Monastery, clearly a tourist honeypot near the northern edge of the mountains, for lunch in a restaurant. Afterwards we couldn't forego the opportunity to visit the monastery itself, albeit briefly: an oasis of calm, full of cultural treasures, the heady scent of lime flowers and interesting trees such as *Diospyros* species. And as we returned to the bus, Veselin proudly got into the wildlife spirit by showing us a freshly dead dragonfly he had found – a splendid male eastern spectre.

Then it was out of the mountains and north across the plains, in increasingly intense heat, a reminder of just how hot it could have been had we not spent the previous week in the mountains, above 1000m. A brief fuel stop was bejewelled with at least 20 bee-eaters, wheeling around and making feeding forays from the electricity wires, together with a northern wheatear on the forecourt, two black-headed buntings singing from the tops of bushes, and an equally dramatic male black-headed wagtail.

The rest of the journey was relatively uneventful, apart from numerous white storks, nesting, flying and feeding, including the memorable sight of fifteen in one small hayfield with haymaking in progress, and presumably producing rich orthopteran pickings.

We arrived at our destination, Father's House in Koprivshitsa around 6PM, which gave the opportunity for a short walk around the village, through traditional houses in abundance, with memorials to amongst other things a local poet and the location of the first shot being fired in the uprising which led to the overthrow of Ottoman rule in 1876. Serins were abundant in the trees and gardens, while greenfinches, a bullfinch and song thrushes also showed well, along with a couple of additions to our holiday list – distant crossbills 'chupping' in the trees, and a much more confiding spotted flycatcher.



Black-headed wagtail (CG)



### Thursday 26 June: the way home...

Early morning, sun shining, and several folk headed out for a short walk, if only to stretch the muscles after the hard mattresses! And equally early, it was farewell to Sue who headed off by taxi to Sofia airport for an early flight to Athens. But for the rest of us, a quick breakfast, suitcases loaded, and the final couple of hours back to Sofia.

#### The best bits

On our final evening over dinner, as is a Honeyguide tradition, everyone was asked to recall their most memorable moments of the week, although many found it difficult to remain within the suggested restriction to two items!

<b>Alan</b>	The glorious sight of a golden eagle around Devin Gorge; the fantastic scenery, and being inspired to look closely at bugs and other insects.
<b>Averil</b>	The wallcreepers (of course!), and the brilliantly-coloured Balkan coppers, especially at Zmeitsa.
<b>Gillian</b>	The colours of the mixed meadow flowers, with a special mention for tassel hyacinths; and the laughter from the group, especially on the 4WD trip!
<b>Helen</b>	Wallcreepers; and nettle-tree butterflies, especially on the bridge in Devin Gorge.
<b>Jill</b>	Wonderful views of hobbies feeding at Zmeitsa; favourite flower was <i>Asyneuma limonifolium</i> with its lovely blue spikes; and a special mention for the kindness of the group.
<b>Judith</b>	The diversity, size and abundance of bugs and beasties; and that lovely male green lizard clambering through the bushes at Devin.
<b>Kathy</b>	Her birthday wallcreeper; and being inspired to look at and for butterflies.
<b>Margaret</b>	Bee-eaters (her favourite group of birds), despite the distance away; looking down on wallcreeper and alpine swifts; and the mind-blowing landscapes.
<b>Sandy</b>	The remarkable, anomalous sight of small cultivated plots, with beans or potatoes, in the middle of nowhere; and Chris's enthusiasm when faced with a slime-mould that looked like dog sick!
<b>Stephen</b>	Wallcreepers; and it was going to be the lily, but that was knocked off the podium by the fly-past Camberwell beauty for a select group.
<b>Sue</b>	Wonderful scenery, harbouring such a diversity of bugs and beasties; the 4WD mountaineering experience; and the patience and caring nature of the group.
<b>Terry</b>	The wallcreeper from the observation platform; and the conviviality of our final meal together.
<b>Tony</b>	The abundance of white storks on the journey, both feeding and fly-pasts; and a second vote for the male green lizard.

On to the management:

<b>Veselin</b>	We helped open his eyes to nature in the Rhodopes; and the feeling of freedom he gets in those mountains.
<b>Vlado</b>	Good food and good company, with whom he felt very comfortable; and the incredible diversity and complexity of life in the Rhodopes.
<b>Chris</b>	The 'roadbuilders' meadow', harbouring mullein spikes with a whole community of insects, including that wonderful spotted longhorn; and finally, on our last night at Yagodina, our private light show from the fire-flies.

Surprisingly, nobody mentioned the local bubbly....!

Taking all of these highlights along with a few other facts and figures (84 bird species, 73 butterflies, and many other animals and plants, including numerous local endemics and rarities), it is not difficult to understand why we all headed home with smiles on our faces!



A meadow of tassel hyacinths (CG)

## LISTS

You may realise that the lists provided, especially for the insects, are somewhat more extensive than is normal for a Honeyguide report. In part, this is testament to the incredible richness of the Western Rhodopes, but it is also in recognition of the fact that there are few readily-available sources of information in English about the wildlife of the area.

I am hugely grateful to Judith for the innumerable hours she has spent since our return, seeking out names for the many bugs and beasties we photographed. I must stress however that I take full responsibility for any misidentifications which may have crept in. To supplement this report we are preparing a photoguide to some of the wonderful insects we saw, and when finished it will be available on the Honeyguide website.

In general, localities are not given for groups other than birds, as we stayed most of the time in a tight area around Yagodina, and almost anything we saw could reasonably be expected to be seen almost anywhere around there in the right habitat.

BIRDS	
<b>Little Grebe?</b>	One possible seen briefly on a mountain reservoir while travelling.
<b>Little Egret</b>	Several birds by lowland wetlands on the journey there.
<b>Cormorant</b>	Three, on one of the reservoirs in the Rhodopes on the journey there.
<b>White Stork</b>	Several breeding pairs and individuals seen on the journeys; a notable gathering of 15 birds in one hay field north of Plovdiv.
<b>Honey Buzzard</b>	Just one bird, from the lunch stop on the journey there.
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	One over St. Iliya.
<b>Common Buzzard</b>	The commonest raptor, seen almost every day.
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	Immature at Krichim, and one, perhaps two, adults around Devin Gorge.
<b>Booted Eagle</b>	A dark individual over Bessapari Hills.
<b>Kestrel</b>	Small numbers most days.
<b>Hobby</b>	Single birds on three occasions around Yagodina; two or three hunting at Zmeitsa.
<b>Corncrake</b>	Heard briefly at Chala and Stoykite.
<b>Rock Partridge</b>	Two near Borino.
<b>Quail</b>	Heard well, above Yagodina.
<b>Feral Pigeon</b>	Common, especially in towns and villages; some true Rock Dove types in the gorges.
<b>Collared Dove</b>	Common around the lowland settlements, not in the mountains.
<b>Cuckoo</b>	An occasional bird still calling at the start of the week.
<b>Little Owl</b>	One near Borino.
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	One heard from the forest above Trigrad.
<b>Common Swift</b>	Common.
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	Frequently seen with Common Swifts; seemingly the most frequent species around Yagodina.
<b>Alpine Swift</b>	Excellent views of several birds from St. Iliya; one in Trigrad Gorge.
<b>Kingfisher</b>	One seen briefly from the bus, below Yagodina.
<b>Bee-eater</b>	Several birds north of Plovdiv, near the petrol station on the lowlands as we headed to Koprivshitsa.
<b>Green Woodpecker</b>	Seen or heard most days.
<b>Grey-headed Woodpecker</b>	One seen and heard at Stoykite.
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	Seen or heard most days.
<b>Black Woodpecker</b>	Seen on several early mornings around Yagodina.
<b>Calandra Lark</b>	Common on the Bessapari Hills.
<b>Crested Lark</b>	Seen well while stopped on both journeys through the lowlands.
<b>Crag Martin</b>	Common in suitable rocky habitats.
<b>Barn Swallow</b>	Common everywhere.
<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	Small numbers most days in the mountains; breeding at Yagodina and a disused nest at Devin Gorge.
<b>House Martin</b>	Common; breeding in villages and on cliff faces.
<b>Tree Pipit</b>	Single birds near Zmeitsa and Stoykite.
<b>Black-headed Wagtail</b>	A male bird near the petrol station north of Plovdiv.
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	Common in all upland rivers.



<b>White Wagtail</b>	Common around water and in villages.
<b>Dipper</b>	Present in all upland rivers, but relatively sparse.
<b>Wren</b>	One of the most obvious birds, by song, in all mountain forests and gorges.
<b>Dunnock</b>	Frequent in mountain forest clearings and scrub.
<b>Robin</b>	Common in the forests.
<b>Black Redstart</b>	A constant feature of all towns and villages.
<b>Whinchat</b>	A territorial pair near Stoykite.
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	A male at the petrol station north of Plovdiv.
<b>Blackbird</b>	Fairly common.
<b>Song Thrush</b>	Common in Koprivshitsa, and frequently heard in the mountain forests.
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	Seen occasionally around upland forest habitats.
<b>Blackcap</b>	Common in forest areas, especially near streams, and around villages.
<b>Garden Warbler</b>	A couple of singing birds around Yagodina.
<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>	Seen or heard several days – one of the more obvious birds in sparse woodland.
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	Abundant in the mountain forests; still singing freely.
<b>Goldcrest</b>	Common.
<b>Firecrest</b>	Small numbers in several lightly forested areas.
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	One at Koprivshitsa.
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	Occasional family parties around Yagodina.
<b>Marsh Tit</b>	Occasional around Yagodina.
<b>Crested Tit</b>	Surprisingly scarce; seen only at Yagodina and near Trigrad.
<b>Sombre Tit</b>	Occasional around Yagodina.
<b>Coal Tit</b>	Common, and noisy in all forest areas.
<b>Blue Tit</b>	Fairly common.
<b>Great Tit</b>	Common.
<b>Wallcreeper</b>	Males at Trigrad and from the St. Iliya viewing platform.
<b>Red-backed Shrike</b>	Common in upland agricultural habitats and scrub.
<b>Jay</b>	Frequent in the forests.
<b>Magpie</b>	Very common.
<b>Nutcracker</b>	One between Yagodina and Yagodinska Cave; one between Trigrad and Yagodina; and one in flight over Yagodina.
<b>Jackdaw</b>	Sofia Airport.
<b>Hooded Crow</b>	Common.
<b>Raven</b>	Seen in small numbers every day.
<b>Starling</b>	Moderately common, especially at lower levels.
<b>House Sparrow</b>	Common in some towns and villages, including Trigrad and Devin.
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	Replaces House Sparrow in some villages, such as Yagodina.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Common.
<b>Serín</b>	Fairly common, especially around villages.
<b>Greenfinch</b>	Only in Koprivshitsa, apart from one at Yagodina.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Fairly common.
<b>Bullfinch</b>	Pairs occasionally seen or heard during the week, around villages and forest clearings, with a juvenile at Yagodina; also at Koprivshitsa.
<b>Crossbill</b>	A few birds seen and heard briefly around Koprivshitsa.
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	Present, and reasonably abundant, in agricultural uplands.
<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	One above Yagodina.
<b>Black-headed Bunting</b>	Two males from the petrol station north of Plovdiv.
<b>Ortolan Bunting</b>	A singing male at Zmeitsa.
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	Fairly common in agricultural areas.
<b>Rock Bunting</b>	A singing male between Trigrad and Yagodina; also single birds seen above Trigrad and on St. Iliya.

#### **TOTAL – 84 SPECIES**

Probably the most surprising omissions were peregrine, rock thrush and blue rock thrush .... and woodpigeon!

## MAMMALS

<b>Red Squirrel</b>	None seen, but much evidence from their nibbled cones.
<b>Brown Hare</b>	Several seen on St. Iliya; droppings also frequently seen.
<b>Eastern Hedgehog</b>	One seen well in Devin Gorge; otherwise road-kills.
<b>Mole</b>	Hills very obvious in some mountain pastures.
<b>Pine Marten</b>	Tracks and scats; also several road casualties.
<b>Stone Marten</b>	Scat in Devin Gorge.
<b>Otter</b>	Feeding remains (crayfish) in Devinska River.
<b>Polecat</b>	Tracks near Yagodina.
<b>Badger</b>	Tracks in mud in several places.
<b>Brown Bear</b>	Raided ant nests, and droppings between Trigrad and Yagodina.
<b>Red Fox</b>	One seen close to Yagodina; droppings in several places.
<b>Wolf</b>	Tracks not far from Yagodina.
<b>Wild Boar</b>	Abundant rootings on the edge of the forests.
<b>Roe Deer</b>	On the slopes above Yagodina early morning; also on St Iliya.

Very surprisingly, given that the Western Rhodopes are one of the bat diversity hotspots of Europe, we did not encounter any bats, despite deploying a bat detector around Yagodina on several occasions.

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

<b>Balkan Wall Lizard</b> – occasional.	<b>Common Frog</b> – above Trigrad and Yagodinska Cave.
<b>Common Wall Lizard</b> – common.	<b>Marsh Frog</b> – near Zmeitsa, in the ponds and still waters.
<b>Green Lizard</b> – two in Devin Gorge.	<b>Common Toad</b> – several small specimens esp. above Trigrad.
<b>Slow Worm</b> – road casualty, Zmeitsa.	<b>Yellow-bellied Toad</b> – in pools by the river above Trigrad.
<b>Large Whip-snake</b> – Zmeitsa.	<b>Fire Salamander</b> – road casualties at Yagodina and Zmeitsa.

## BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Balkan Marbled White
Scarce Swallowtail	Silver-washed Fritillary	Adonis Blue
Clouded Apollo	Dark Green Fritillary	Chalkhill Blue
Apollo	Glanville Fritillary	Common Blue
Large White	Marsh Fritillary	Idas Blue
Small White	Marbled Fritillary	Silver-studded Blue
Green-veined White		Chapman's Blue
Orange Tip	Lesser Spotted Fritillary (caterpillars)	Mazarine Blue (including ssp. <i>helena</i> )
Wood White		
Black-veined White	Twin-spot Fritillary (caterpillars)	Holly Blue
Clouded Yellow		Osiris Blue
Brimstone	Heath Fritillary	Amanda's Blue
Powdered Brimstone	Nickerl's Fritillary	Brown Argus
Red Admiral	Speckled Wood	Balkan Copper
Painted Lady	Large Wall Brown	Purple-shot Copper
Peacock	Wall Brown	Scarce Copper
Comma	Hermit	Small Copper
Small Tortoiseshell	Woodland Ringlet	Ilex Hairstreak
	Bright-eyed Ringlet	Nettle-tree Butterfly
Large Tortoiseshell (caterpillars)	Ottoman Brassy Ringlet	Duke-of-Burgundy
Common Glider	Meadow Brown	Yellow-banded Skipper
Hungarian Glider	Pearly Heath	Grizzled Skipper
Southern White Admiral	Chestnut Heath	Large Skipper
Camberwell Beauty	Eastern Large Heath	Small Skipper
Queen-of-Spain Fritillary	Small Heath	Essex Skipper
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Marbled White	Chequered Skipper

**TOTAL – 73 SPECIES**



## MOTHS

Narrow Rose-banded Wave <i>Rhodostrophia calabra</i>	Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Silver-ground Carpet	Red Twin-spot Carpet
Golden-yellow Wave <i>Idaea aureolaria</i>	Dwarf Cream Wave
Mountain Marble <i>Elophos dilucidaria</i>	Dotted Wave <i>Idaea rufaria</i>
Common Heath	Chimney Sweeper
Speckled Yellow	Latticed Heath
Willow Beauty	Mottled Beauty
Clouded Buff	Black-veined Moth
Heart & Dart	Lesser Yellow Underwing
Carnation Cleophane <i>Teinoptera olivina</i>	<i>Acronicta cinerea</i> – caterpillar on <i>Rhinanthus</i>
Silver Y	Mother Shipton
Slender Scotch Burnet	Woodland Burnet <i>Zygaena osterodenis</i>
Cistus Forester	Scarce Forester
Nine-spotted Moth <i>Syntomis phegea</i>	Hyaline Brown Burnet <i>Dysauxes famula</i>
Large White Plume-moth	Krueger's Nine-spotted Moth <i>Syntomis kruegeri</i>
<i>Pyrausta cingulata</i>	<i>Platyptilia gonodactyla</i>
<i>Scoparia</i> cf. <i>basistrigalis</i>	<i>Pyrausta nigrata</i>
<i>Dichrorampha petiverella</i>	<i>Chrysocrambus craterella</i>
<i>Epiblema sticticana</i>	<i>Olethreutes arcuella</i>
<i>Isophrictis anthemidella</i>	<i>Epiblema turbidana</i>
<i>Coleophora vibicella</i> – large black pistol-cases on <i>Chamaecytisus</i>	<i>Taleporia tubulosa</i> – a tubular bagworm case

## DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES

Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Sombre Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster bidentata</i>
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Eastern Spectre	<i>Caliaeschna microstigma</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Southern Beautiful	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>
Demoiselle	<i>meridionalis</i>	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>

## OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Sightings are listed only if they were identified to species or at least to genus. Therefore several groups (eg mayflies **Ephemeroptera** and Stoneflies **Plecoptera**) on which we made no progress with identification are omitted.

### Mollusca – Molluscs

*Cepaea hortensis* White-lipped banded snail    *Helix pomatia* Roman Snail    *Zebrina detrita* a stripey snail

### Crustacea – Crustaceans

*Austropotamobius pallipes* White-clawed Crayfish

### Diplopoda – Millipedes

*Tachypodiulus* sp. a black millipede

### Arachnida – Spiders and relatives

<i>Aranaeus angulatus</i> a humpy orb-web spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i> a crab-spider
<i>Aranaeus diadematus</i> Garden Spider	<i>Evarcha falcata</i> a piebald jumping spider
<i>Aculipeira ceropegia</i> Oak Spider	<i>Enoplognatha ovata</i> a comb-footed spider
<i>Araniella cucurbitina</i> Cucumber Spider	<i>Tetragnatha extensa</i> a stretch-spider
<i>Oxyopes heterophthalmus</i> a lynx spider	<i>Agelena orientalis</i> a large funnel-web spider
<i>Xysticus cristatus</i> a ground crab-spider	<i>Aceria exilis</i> a mite gall on Lime
<i>Heriaeus hirtus</i> a green, hairy crab-spider	<i>Aceria lateannulatus</i> a mite gall on Lime
<i>Thomisus onustus</i> a white crab-spider	<i>Phyllocoptes populi</i> a mite gall on Aspen
<i>Synaema globosum</i> a black-and-red crab-spider	<i>Eriophyes diversipunctatus</i> a mite gall on Aspen
<i>Diaea dorsata</i> a green crab-spider with a brown back	

### Dictyoptera – Cockroaches

*Ectobius panzeri* Lesser Cockroach

### Orthoptera – Grasshoppers and Crickets

<i>Pholidoptera aptera</i> a brown bush-cricket	<i>Isophya</i> sp. a very large, but unidentifiable bush-cricket
<i>Pholidoptera femorata</i> a brown bush-cricket	<i>Polysarcus denticauda</i> a tooth-tailed bush-cricket
<i>Rhacocleis neglecta</i> a brown bush-cricket	<i>Ephippiger</i> sp. a saddle-back bush-cricket
<i>Psorodonotus fieberi</i> a large, fat, brown bush-cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i> Speckled Bush-cricket
<i>Poecilimon macedonicus</i> a colourful bush-cricket	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i> Red-winged Grasshopper
<i>Poecilimon thoracicus</i> a bush-cricket	<i>Gomphocerippus rufus</i> Rufous Grasshopper
<i>Poecilimon orbelicus</i> a bush-cricket	<i>Psophus stridulus</i> Rattling Grasshopper
<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i> Wart-biter	<i>Asiotmethis limbatus</i> a large brown grasshopper
<i>Decticus albifrons</i> a brown bush-cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i> Field Cricket
<i>Isophya speciosa</i> a wingless green bush-cricket	

### Neuroptera – Lacewings and Ant-lions

<i>Chrysopa perla</i> a blue-green lacewing	<i>Chrysopa carnea</i> a green lacewing	<i>Libelloides macaronius</i> an ascalaphid
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### Mecoptera – Scorpion-flies

*Panorpa meridionalis* a scorpion-fly

### Raphidioptera – Snake-flies

*Phaeostigma notata* a snake-fly

### Hemiptera – Bugs

<i>Lygaeus saxatilis</i> a red-and-black ground bug	<i>Peribalus strictus</i> Vernal Shield-bug
<i>Lygaeus equestris</i> a red-and-black ground bug	<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i> Hairy Shield-bug
<i>Deraeocoris ruber</i> a brown-and-red plant bug	<i>Pentatoma rufipes</i> Forest Bug
<i>Capsodes</i> sp. a black-and-red plant bug	<i>Tritomegas sexmaculatus</i> Rambur's Pied Shield-bug
<i>Lygus pratensis</i> a brown plant bug	<i>Carpocoris purpureipennis</i> A large brown shield-bug
<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i> Fire Bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i> Squash Bug
<i>Corizus hyoscyami</i> a red-and-black bug	<i>Syromastus rhombeus</i> Rhombic Leatherbug
<i>Graphosoma italicum</i> "Millwall Bug"	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i> a large black-and-red frog hopper
<i>Eurydema ornata</i> a red-and-black shield-bug	<i>Philaenus spumarius</i> Common Frog hopper
<i>Eurygaster testudinaria</i> Tortoise Shield-bug	<i>Aphrophora alni</i> Alder Spittle-bug
<i>Palomena prasina</i> Green Shield-bug	<i>Macrosiphum rosae</i> an aphid on <i>Knautia</i>
<i>Eysarcoris venustissimus</i> Woundwort Shield-bug	<i>Aphis fabae</i> Black Bean Aphid on <i>Rumex</i>

### Hymenoptera – Bees, Wasps, Ants and Sawflies

<i>Pontania proxima</i> a sawfly gall on willow	<i>Eucera</i> sp. a long-horned bee
<i>Pontania virilis</i> a sawfly gall on Purple Willow	<i>Vespa crabro</i> Hornet
<i>Pontania pedunculi</i> a sawfly gall on willow	<i>Polistes</i> sp. a paper wasp
<i>Tenthredo</i> cf. <i>mesomela</i> a sawfly with fluorescent green patches	<i>Formica rufa</i> Wood Ant
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> Violet Carpenter-bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i> Honeybee
<i>Diplolepis rosae</i> Robin's-pincushion gall	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i> Red-tailed Bumblebee
<i>Osmia</i> sp. a mason bee	

### Diptera – Flies

<i>Chromatomyia syngenesiae</i> a fly mine on Sow-thistle	<i>Sepsis</i> sp. an ensign-fly
<i>Aulagromyza coenigera</i> a fly mine on Honeysuckle	<i>Volucella pellucens</i> Pellucid Hoverfly
<i>Phytomyza spondylii</i> a fly mine on Hogweed	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i> Marmalade Hoverfly
<i>Phytomyza fulgens</i> a fly mine on Clematis	<i>Eristalis tenax</i> Drone-fly
<i>Mikiola fagi</i> a gall-midge on Beech	<i>Eristalis pertinax</i> a hoverfly
<i>Exoprosopa capucina</i> a bee-fly	<i>Melanostoma scalare</i> a small hoverfly
<i>Hemipenthes maura</i> a bee-fly	<i>Sphaerophoria cf. scripta</i> a slender hoverfly
<i>Hemipenthes morio</i> a bee-fly	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i> a hoverfly
<i>Bombylius minor</i> Lesser Bee-fly	<i>Sicus ferrugineus</i> a thick-headed fly
<i>Dioctria atricapilla</i> a robber-fly	<i>Xyphosia</i> sp. a picture-winged fly
<i>Neoitamus socius</i> a robber-fly	<i>Urophora quadrifasciata</i> a picture-winged fly
<i>Chrysopilus cristatus</i> a snipe-fly	<i>Phaonia</i> sp. a house-fly
<i>Sciara hemerobioides</i> Black Fungus Gnat	

## Coleoptera – Beetles

*Carabus intricarius* a huge purplish ground-beetle  
*Cetonia aurata* Rose Chafer  
*Hoplia argentea* a small, iridescent chafer  
*Hoplia graminicola* a small brown chafer  
*Oxythrea funesta* a spotted flower chafer  
*Eupotosia mirifica* a black flower chafer

*Trypocopris vernalis* a dor beetle  
*Mylabris polymorpha* a red-&-black beetle  
*Cerocoma schaeffrei* a metallic green oil-beetle  
*Rhagonycha fulva* Hogweed Bonking-beetle  
*Cantharis livida* a soldier-beetle  
*Cantharis rustica* another soldier-beetle  
*Malachius cf. aeneus* close to Scarlet Malachite Beetle

*Malachius bipustulatus* Common Malachite Beetle  
*Malachius scutellaris* a red malachite beetle  
*Luciola lusitanica* Fire-fly  
*Prosternon tessellatum* a click beetle

*Anthaxia helvetica* a jewel-beetle  
*Rutpela maculata* Black-&-yellow Longhorn Beetle  
*Paracorymbia maculicornis* a red-brown longhorn  
*Stenurella melanura* Black-striped Longhorn Beetle  
*Stenurella septempunctata* a black-spotted, red longhorn  
*Dinoptera collaris* a black-&-red longhorn  
*Pachyta quadrimaculata* a large, spotted longhorn beetle

*Phytoecia nigripes* a longhorn beetle  
*Agapanthia cynarae* a longhorn beetle  
*Agapanthia violacea* a metallic blue longhorn beetle  
*Agapanthia intermedia* a grey-blue longhorn  
*Agapanthia kirbyi* a greenish longhorn  
*Dorcadion pedestre* a black longhorn with white stripes  
*Rhagium inquisitor* Inquisitive Longhorn  
*Monochamus sartor* a black, spotted longhorn  
*Lagria hirta* a hairy darkling beetle  
*Coccinella septempunctata* Seven-spot Ladybird  
*Harmonia axyridis* Harlequin Ladybird  
*Psyllobora 22-punctata* 22-spot Ladybird  
*Subcoccinella 24-punctata* 24-spot Ladybird

*Leptinotarsa decemlineata* Colorado Beetle  
*Chrysomela populi* Red Poplar Leaf-beetle  
*Chrysomela aenea* Alder Leaf-beetle  
*Chrysolina fastuosa* a shiny, multi-coloured leaf-beetle  
*Chrysolina graminis* a metallic leaf-beetle  
*Chrysolina polita* a red-&-green leaf-beetle  
*Crepidodera aurata* Willow Flea-beetle  
*Phyllobius* sp. a green weevil  
*Lixus* spp. two very large weevil species

*Pissodes pini* a spotted weevil  
*Liparus* sp. a large, blue-spotted weevil



Hummingbird hawkmoth  
(CG)



*Cerocoma schaeffrei*  
(JP)



Colorado beetles  
(CG)

## FUNGI

*Xerocomus chrysonemus* Goldenthread Bolete  
*Pisolithus tinctorius* Bohemian Truffle  
*Lycoperdon perlatum* Warty Puffball  
*Fomes fomentarius* Bracket fungus on Birch  
*Phragmidium tuberculatum* Rust on Rose  
*Boletus aereus* a penny-bun

*Coprinus niveus* Snowy Inkcap  
*Calvatia gigantea* Giant Puffball  
*Sarcosphaeria coronaria* Violet Crowncup  
*Aureobasidium microstictum* Rust on Solomon's-seal  
*Puccinia coronata* Rust on Alder-buckthorn

## LICHENS

*Peltigera canina* Dog's-tooth Lichen

*Usnea* sp. Beard Lichen

## SLIME-MOULDS

*Mucilago crustacea* Dog-sick Slime-mould

## BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

*Nostoc commune*



## PLANTS

For the plants, a separate list has been made for those species found at Bessapari, as they constituted a distinctly different, steppic element from those in the Western Rhodopes.

### BESSAPARI HILLS

<i>Acinos suaveloens</i>	<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i>	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
<i>Alcea pallida</i>	<i>Inula oculus-christi</i>	<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	<i>Linum tenuifolium</i>	<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	<i>Onobrychis arenaria</i>	<i>Sedum acre</i>
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	<i>O. caput-gallii</i>	<i>Sideritis montana</i>
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	<i>Ononis pusilla</i>	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>
<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	<i>Teucrium polium</i>

### FERNS

<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i> Black Spleenwort	<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i> Branched Horsetail
<i>A. ruta-muraria</i> Wall-rue	<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i> Limestone Fern
<i>A. trichomanes</i> Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> Bracken

### CONIFERS

<i>Abies alba</i> Silver Fir	<i>Juniperus communis</i> Juniper	<i>Pinus nigra</i> Black Pine
<i>A. borisii-regis</i> Bulgarian Fir	<i>J. excelsa</i> Grecian Juniper	<i>P. sylvestris</i> Scots Pine
	<i>Picea abies</i> Norway Spruce	

### HIGHER PLANTS

#### Aceraceae – Maple family

<i>Acer hyrcanum</i>	Balkan Maple
<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore

#### Anacardiaceae – Pistachio family

<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke-bush
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#### Apiaceae – Carrot family

<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica
<i>Chaerophyllum aureum</i>	Golden Chervil
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Heracleum sibiricum</i>	Hogweed
<i>Laserpitium siler</i>	Laserwort
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	White Laceflower
<i>Pastinaca hirsuta</i>	Hairy Parsnip
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle
<i>Seseli rhodopaeum</i>	Rhodopean Moon-carrot
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort

#### Aristolochiaceae – Birthwort family

<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	Asarabacca
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#### Asclepiadaceae – Milkweed family

<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort
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#### Asteraceae – Daisy family

<i>Achillea ageratifolia</i>	Greek Yarrow
<i>A. clypeolata</i>	Yellow Yarrow
<i>A. crithmifolia</i>	
<i>A. grandiflora</i>	
<i>A. nobilis</i>	Noble Yarrow
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Aster amellus</i>	European Michaelmas-daisy
<i>Carduus thoermeri</i>	
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved Carline-thistle
	Clustered Carline-thistle
<i>C. corymbosa</i>	
<i>Centaurea affinis</i>	
<i>C. nigra</i>	Black Knapweed

#### Daisy family (cont'd)

<i>C. triumfettii</i>	Squarrose Knapweed
<i>Cirsium appendiculatum</i>	Balkan Thistle
<i>C. ligulare</i>	
<i>Hypochaeris maculata</i>	Spotted Cat's-ear
<i>Inula aschersoniana</i>	
<i>Jurinea mollis</i>	
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Hairy Hawkbit
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall-lettuce
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur
<i>Scorzonera laciniata</i>	
<i>Tanacetum corymbosum</i>	
<i>Tragopogon balcanicus</i>	Balkan Goat's-beard
<i>T. pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard
<i>T. pterodes</i>	
<i>Telekia speciosa</i>	Large Yellow Ox-eye
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot

#### Betulaceae – Birch family

<i>Alnus viridis</i>	Green Alder
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#### Boraginaceae – Borage family

<i>Anchusa barrelieri</i>	False Alkanet
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue
<i>C. officinale</i> ssp. <i>rotatum</i>	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss
<i>Onosma arenaria</i>	Golden-drops
<i>Pulmonaria rubra</i>	Red Lungwort
<i>Symphytum ottomanum</i>	Turkish Comfrey

#### Brassicaceae – Cabbage family

<i>Alyssum montanum</i>	
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Towercress
<i>Aurinaria saxatilis</i>	
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Flixweed
<i>Erysimum</i> sp.	
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrow-leaved Bittercress

**Campanulaceae – Bellflower family***Asyneuma limonifolium**Campanula glomerata* Clustered Bellflower*C. lanata**C. lingulata**C. moesiaca**C. orphanidea**C. patula* Spreading Bellflower*C. persicifolia* Peach-leaved*C. sparsa**Trachelium rumelianum* Throatwort**Caprifoliaceae – Honeysuckle family***Sambucus ebulus* Dwarf Elder*S. nigra* Elder*Viburnum lantana* Wayfaring-tree**Caryophyllaceae – Campion family***Agrostemma githago* Corncockle*Arenaria rhodopaea* Rhodope Sandwort*Cerastium decalvans**Dianthus deltoides* Maiden Pink*D. cruentus**D. petraeus* Rock Pink*Herniaria glabra* Smooth Rupturewort*Lychnis coronaria* Rose Campion*L. flos-cuculi* Ragged-robin*L. viscaria* Sticky Catchfly*Minuartia verna* Spring Sandwort*Moenchia mantica**Scleranthus perennis* Perennial Knawel*Silene dichotoma* Forked Catchfly*S. fabarioides**S. italica* Italian Catchfly*S. noctiflora* Night-flowered Catchfly*S. otites* Spanish Catchfly*S. roemerii**S. subconica**S. vulgaris* Bladder Campion**Celastraceae – Spindle family***Euonymus latifolius***Cistaceae – Rock-rose family***Fumana procumbens**Helianthemum* Rock-rose*nummularium***Clusiaceae – St. John's-wort family***Hypericum cerastoides* Aaron's Beard*H. linarioides***Cornaceae – Dogwood family***Cornus mas* Cornelian-cherry*C. sanguinea* Dogwood**Corylaceae – Hazel family***Carpinus betulus* Hornbeam*C. orientalis* Eastern Hornbeam*Corylus avellana* Hazel*Ostrya carpinifolia* Hop-hornbeam**Crassulaceae – Stonecrop family***Sedum acre* Biting Stonecrop*S. album* White Stonecrop*S. hispanicum* Glaucous Stonecrop*S. sartorianum***Cyperaceae – Sedge family***Carex hirta* Hairy Sedge**Dipsacaceae – Teasel family***Knautia arvensis* Field Scabious*K. drymeia* Hungarian Widow-flower*Morina persica* Prickly Whorlflower*Scabiosa rhodopensis* Rhodopean Scabious**Euphorbiaceae – Spurge family***Euphorbia amygdaloides* Wood Spurge*E. cyparissias* Cypress Spurge*E. myrsinites* Rock Spurge*E. nicaeensis**E. polychroma**E. seguieriana**E. villosa**Mercurialis ovata***Fabaceae – Pea family***Anthyllis vulneraria* ssp. Kidney-vetch*bulgarica**Astragalus angustifolius* Spiny Milk-vetch*A. glycyphyllos* Wild Licorice*A. onobrychis* Sainfoin Milk-vetch*A. spruneri**Chamaecytisus hirsutus* Clustered Broom*Coronilla emerus* Scorpion-vetch*C. varia* Crown Vetch*Dorycnium herbaceum* Prostrate Canary-clover*Genista carinalis**G. januensis* Genoa Broom*Hippocrepis comosa* Horseshoe Vetch*Latyrus aphaca* Yellow Vetchling*L. laxiflorus**L. niger* Black Pea*L. nissolia* Grass Vetchling*L. pratensis* Meadow Vetchling*L. vernus* Spring Pea*Lotus corniculatus* Bird's-foot-trefoil*Medicago lupulina* Black Medick*Melilotus albus* White Melilot*Onobrychis alba* White Sainfoin*O. viciifolia* Sainfoin*Robinia pseudacacia* False Acacia*Trifolium alpestre* Purple Globe Clover*T. aureum* Large Hop Trefoil*T. hybridum* Alsike Clover*T. incarnatum* ssp. Long-headed Clover*molineri**T. medium* Zig-zag Clover*T. ochroleucon* Sulphur Clover*T. pratense* Red Clover*Vicia cracca* Tufted Vetch*V. onobrychoides* Sainfoin Vetch**Fagaceae – Beech family***Fagus sylvatica* ssp. Beech*moesiaca**Quercus dalechampii* Dalechamp's Oak**Geraniaceae – Crane's-bill family***Geranium lucidum* Shining Crane's-bill*G. macrorrhizum* Rock Crane's-bill

**Crane's-bill family (cont'd)**

<i>G. purpureum</i>	Little Robin
<i>G. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Crane's-bill
<i>G. reflexum</i>	
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill

**Gesneriaceae – African-violet family**

<i>Haberlea rhodopensis</i>	Rhodopean Haberlea
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**Globulariaceae – Globularia family**

<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>	Matted Globularia
<i>G. aphyllathes</i>	Globe-flower

**Juglandaceae – Walnut family**

<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut
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**Lamiaceae – Mint family**

<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine Basil-thyme
<i>A. arvensis</i>	Basil-thyme
<i>A. suaveolens</i>	
<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>	Laxmann's Bugle
<i>A. pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Bugle
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
<i>L. garganicum</i>	Large Red Dead-nettle
<i>L. maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle
<i>Marrubium frivaldskyanum</i>	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>M. spicata</i>	Spear Mint
<i>Salvia argentea</i>	Silver Sage
<i>S. sclarea</i>	Clary
<i>S. verticillata</i>	Whorled Clary
<i>S. virgata</i>	Wand Sage
<i>Scutellaria altissima</i>	Tall Skullcap
<i>Sideritis scardica</i>	Mountain Tea
<i>S. montana</i>	Ironwort
<i>Stachys alpina</i>	Alpine Woundwort
<i>S. germanica</i>	Limestone Woundwort
<i>S. officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>S. recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander
<i>Thymus</i> sp.	Thyme

**Liliaceae – Lily family**

<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St Bernard's Lily
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily
<i>L. rhodopaeum</i>	Rhodope Lily
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Ornithogalum divergens</i>	
<i>O. montanum</i>	Mountain Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Angular Solomon's-seal
<i>Veratrum lobelianum</i>	False-helleborine

**Linaceae – Flax family**

<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
<i>L. capitatum</i>	Yellow Flax
<i>L. tenuifolium</i>	

**Lythraceae – Purple-loosestrife family**

<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple-loosestrife
<i>L. virgatum</i>	Slender Purple-loosestrife

**Moraceae – Fig family**

<i>Ficus carica</i>	Wild Fig
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**Oleaceae – Olive family**

<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac

**Onagraceae – Willowherb family**

<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rose-bay Willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb

**Orchidaceae – Orchid family**

<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>C. rubra</i>	Red Helleborine
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Coral-root Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza baumanniana</i>	Baumann's Marsh-orchid
<i>D. cordigera</i>	Heart-flowered Marsh-orchid
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common Twayblade
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid
<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	Bug Orchid
<i>O. mascula</i>	Early Purple-orchid
<i>O. morio</i> ssp. <i>picta</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>O. pinetorum</i>	Pinewood Orchid
<i>O. tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid
<i>O. ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly-orchid

**Orobanchaceae – Broomrape family**

<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape
<i>O. caryophyllacea</i>	Clove-scented Broomrape

**Papaveraceae – Poppy family**

<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy

**Phytolaccaceae**

<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed
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**Plantaginaceae – Plantain family**

<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain
<i>P. subulata</i>	Awl-leaved Plantain

**Platanaceae – Plane family**

<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
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**Plumbaginaceae – Sea-lavender family**

<i>Armeria rumelica</i>	
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**Poaceae – Grass family**

<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Wood Millet
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass
<i>Stipa pennata</i>	Feather-grass

**Polygalaceae – Milkwort family**

<i>Polygala major</i>	Large Milkwort
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort

**Polygonaceae – Dock family**

<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Bistort
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**Primulaceae – Primrose family**

<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	Dotted Loosestrife
<i>L. vulgaris</i>	Yellow-loosestrife
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose

**Pyrolaceae – Wintergreen family**

<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>	Yellow Wintergreen
<i>P. minor</i>	Lesser Wintergreen

**Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family**

<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica
<i>Ranunculus illyricus</i>	

**Buttercup family (cont'd)**

<i>R. serbicus</i>	
<i>R. trichophyllus</i>	Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Greater Meadow-rue
<i>T. minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue

**Rhamnaceae**

<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder-buckthorn
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**Rosaceae – Rose family**

<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Aremonia agrimonioides</i>	Bastard-agrimony
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>F. vulgaris</i>	Dropwort
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Geum coccineum</i>	
<i>G. montanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>G. rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary Cinquefoil
<i>P. borisii-regis</i>	King Boris's Cinquefoil
<i>P. erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry
<i>Rosa gallica</i>	French Rose
<i>R. pendulina</i>	Alpine Rose
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>S. torminalis</i>	Wild Service-tree
<i>Spiraea salicifolia</i>	Bridewort
<b>Rubiaceae – Bedstraw family</b>	
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw

**Salicaceae – Willow family**

<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>S. purpurea</i>	Purple Willow

**Santalaceae – Sandalwood family**

<i>Thesium divaricatum</i>	Bastard-toadflax
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**Saxifragaceae – Saxifrage family**

<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	Livelong Saxifrage
<i>S. rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved
<i>S. sempervivum</i>	Evergreen Saxifrage
<i>S. sibirica</i>	

**Scrophulariaceae – Figwort family**

<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	Grecian Foxglove
<i>D. viridiflora</i>	Green Foxglove
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp.	Eyebright
<i>Linaria arvensis</i>	Common Toadflax
<i>L. genistifolia</i>	Balkan Toadflax
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Wood Cow-wheat
<i>Rhinanthus rumelicus</i>	
<i>R. wagneri</i>	
<i>Scrophularia aestivalis</i>	
<i>S. scopoli</i>	Italian Figwort
<i>Verbascum nobile</i>	Noble Mullein
<i>V. phlomoides</i>	Orange Mullein
<i>Veronica austriaca</i> ssp. <i>jacquinii</i>	
<i>V. beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>V. urticifolia</i>	Nettle-leaved Speedwell

**Solanaceae – Nightshade family**

<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane
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**Tiliaceae – Lime family**

<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime
<i>T. platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime

**Urticaceae – Nettle family**

<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	Large Pellitory-of-the-wall
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle
<i>U. galaeopsifolia</i>	Stingless Nettle

**Valerianaceae – Valerian family**

<i>Valeriana montana</i>	Dwarf Valerian
<i>V. officinalis</i>	Common Valerian

**Violaceae – Violet family**

<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow Wood Violet
<i>V. tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy



Laxmann's Bugle (CG)



Grecian Foxglove (CG)