



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Northeast Portugal recce
29 May – 2 June 2015**

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This an account of a recce visit by Domingos Leitão and Chris Durdin to plan a future Honeyguide holiday in northeast Portugal. The focus is on two natural parks – the Douro Internacional and Montesinho – that are close to each other and in both cases immediately adjacent to the border with Spain, plus a visit to Villafáfila, a wetland surrounded by steppe over the border in Spain.

It's worth noting that what we saw was influenced by the weather before and during the visit. Portugal had had a notably dry winter and an unusually hot month of May, so the landscape was drier than we'd expect for a group visit. Also the visit was in late May and early June on account of diary commitments, and we are planning a group holiday in mid-May. It was nonetheless an interesting area with lots to see for a naturalist.

Cover photos: The grand canyon of the Douro Internacional Natural Park, from the hotel, and Miranda do Douro city wall at twilight. Report and photos by Chris Durdin.

DAILY DIARY

Friday 29 May – Porto to Miranda do Douro

Stansted's internal reconstruction continues: it probably isn't slower but it feels more chaotic, all with the aim of taking you through yet more shopping areas. The Ryanair flight left Stansted on time and arrived at Porto a tad ahead of the scheduled 11:50 (and no clock change, this being Portugal which has the same time zone as the UK). There was a longish walk through a new airport building to baggage reclaim, outside which Domingos was there, having come from home on two trains. A curiosity is that for vehicle hire you have to get a hire company bus – be it Europcar, Avis, Hertz or whatever – to the hire vehicle compounds. But it worked and by the time we'd done the Hertz paperwork and were ready to leave it was 12:45.

The outskirts of Porto were distinctly unmemorable. Odds bit of flora – foxgloves and bracken – were more Atlantic than Mediterranean. Thirty five minutes later we stopped for some lunch at services at Penafiel. Heading east and crossing the river Tamega, Domingos driving, the impact of the dry winter and hot May showed itself on the sparse vegetation and burnt patches of maritime pine. Aside from the intense yellow of the abundant broom, there wasn't much to see. We stopped at a viewpoint and as we left there at 4 pm it was showing a high point of 33°C on the car's dashboard temperature gauge.

THE DOURO INTERNACIONAL NATURAL PARK

There was more to see on final leg of the journey: black kite, then red kite, the latter one of some 50 pairs that breed in Portugal and are concentrated in this area, that small number contrasting with the 3-5,000 that overwinter. We passed yellow lupin and azure-winged magpie. In the area just before Miranda do Douro old pigeon lofts are a distinctive landscape feature – about half a dozen in a kilometre or two. They are nothing like the fancy *pigeoniers* of France, being more functional buildings with a sloped, horseshoe-shaped roof. It's an aspiration of SPEA to get these restored and in action again as the pigeons will be good food for Bonelli's eagles. It was 4:45 and still 29°C when we arrived at Miranda do Douro.



Dovecote, Miranda do Douro style; Iberian Bluetail

The Posada de Santa Catarina in the small city of Miranda do Douro looks like it was built in the 1960s and at much the same time as the dam on the river Douro below. On reception Manuel (yes, really) had a friendly smile and way about him, though no real English (though I found I could converse in Spanish). The view from communal rooms and bedrooms over the gorge is magnificent. There were immediately pallid swifts swooping into the hotel area, presumably nesting. Looking down – slightly vertiginous, if leaning over the edge of the balcony – there was also a red-rumped swallow and several house martins. A river cruise boat 'cruzeiro ambiental' came past and across the river.

A scarce swallowtail dashed past as Domingos and I walked out to find an ice cream in the rather plain new bit of town where I gather Spanish people come to shop – for towels and T-shirts, it seems.

A short way along in an old quarry there were lots of nesting house martins: better still, two Bonelli's eagles appeared, the local birds, the larger female below and both cruising with some alpine swifts.

We drove a short distance into the open scrub that runs alongside the gorge, much of it Iberian oak and broom, interspersed with granite boulders. It was superb for birds: turtle dove, subalpine warbler, hoopoe, Bonelli's warbler and golden oriole calling. An Egyptian vulture surprised Domingos: not because it's unusual but as we'd seen this species before griffon vulture, as well as seeing Bonelli's eagle before golden eagle. Two hawfinches flew past as we stopped by signs for an Iron Age fort, an open area with flowering French lavender. Other highlights here and a little farther on included Iberian Bluetail damselfly, 'brown bells' (*Dipcadi*), Spanish marbled white and a golden eagle.

We returned to the hotel for a late dinner, then walked around the now cool old city and past the cathedral. Jupiter and Venus were in the sky and nightingales were singing in the scrub below the hotel.

Saturday 30 May - Miranda do Douro area

The man at the breakfast room was taken aback to see us at 7:30: it seems Manuel hadn't left a note. After breakfast we paused outside the hotel as scores, perhaps hundreds of swifts were buzzing round their nesting sites in the high wall this side of the cathedral.

We headed off to another place alongside the long frontier gorge, near Bruços, with a wide cobbled path making it an easy walk once there. There were immediately mystery plants: an abundant cistus with white flowers a little bigger than those of sage-leaved (*Cistus psilosephalus*); an umbellifer (*Margotia gummifera*). Grey-leaved cistus and spotted rockrose were more straightforward. Yesterday was a day without a griffon vulture; not so now as there were some 20 here and many more at various places today. Butterflies included both southern and Spanish gatekeepers. At a rather manky concrete-sided pond a male broad-bodied chaser was patrolling while the female laid eggs.



Viewpoint into the canyon; *Cistus psilosephalus* with a small skipper; and the strange basal leaves of the umbellifer *Margotia gummifera*

After a lunch-time snack in a café, we visited Miradoura Penedo Durão which overlooks the canyon. There were more griffons, fine views of Egyptian vultures, hobby and peregrine, plus rock bunting in the trees. Many rocks had clumps of a mystery pink: *Dianthus laricifolius* after later research. Much of the area was being taken over by seedlings of mimosa: whoever planted the first must be regretting it.

We returned the hotel to meet proprietor Antonio. He was there with his 1956 Rolls Royce, one of many classic cars gathering, from TR4s to a Mark 1 Ford Cortina. Meeting a Rolls Royce driving boss and his wife opened various thoughts about imminent discussions of arrangements and price, but it was all very straightforward: full board and meals to include a house wine or similar, and they seem to understand about our advice for portions that are not too big or heavy with meat, and to cater for special diets. Time will tell.

In the late afternoon we went to a more local spot near the gorge, walking in open juniper scrub. Golden orioles called and flew through, a turtledove sang and various small birds included subalpine and Dartford warblers. Two golden eagles showed well and there was another hobby and our first raven. Perhaps the best find, as we walked back to the car, was a juvenile spiny-footed lizard that stood stock-still once it realised we'd seen it.

The hotel – sleepy last night, with just six in the dining room – was packed. We ate out, in a restaurant called O Mirandes, a very short walk away. Domingos had a 'half steak' (the cattle is a local breed) and it was still too big. I had hake: like at the hotel, there was no vegetarian option on this menu.



Left: Classic cars parked at the Posada de Santa Catarina hotel. The concrete framework behind was going to be an addition to the hotel, but the project has stalled: in the meantime it has rock sparrows on it.

Right: smart lesser kestrel apartments in the otherwise abandoned and tumbledown village of Otero de Sariegas at Villafáfila.

VILLAFÁFILA

Sunday 31 May – Villafáfila

Over breakfast I discovered that Domingos and I had both been birdwatching with former Conservative government minister Ken Clarke. For Domingos, this was a weekend's guiding in Alentejo tacked onto an official visit to Portugal. For me it was a day in East Anglia in the days when Ken would contact the then RSPB Chief Executive Barbara Young for some birding and the 'other ranks' would be organised to lay this on, in that case in the Brecks and to see Montagu's harriers.

We packed and left Miranda do Douro at 8:55. Almost immediately we were across the border into Spain, at first on winding roads and in attractive countryside. That didn't last: we were soon on a nearly empty dual carriageway through featureless arable country, which at least took us quickly to Villafáfila: we arrived at 10:10, so a journey of an hour and a quarter. This is an area of steppe that surrounds lagoons and is all a protected area run by the regional government of Castilla y Leon.



Great bustards, poppies and rock sparrow at Villafáfila

The dry winter and hot May had taken its toll: the first lagoon at Villarrín was completely dry. Lesser kestrels hovered over fields and were hanging round old dovecotes converted for their use. There was also the first of many Montagu's harriers. We moved onto an abandoned village called Otero de Sariegas. Here there were more buildings adapted for lesser kestrels: the most prominent of these had several rock sparrows on the roof tiles. We spent some time watching and photographing them: they included a male with a prominent yellow patch on the throat, a feature shown in books but one I hadn't noticed before. There were also tree and house sparrows and black redstarts. A little farther on was a bird observatory that overlooked a dried up lake, so we didn't stop.

We drove along tracks through the fields of wheat, fallow and alfalfa, managed as a rotation to suit steppe birds. Villafáfila has the biggest population of great bustards in Spain and therefore Europe. A group of 13 males proved easy to find and we watched them as they walked slowly away from us. The Special Protection Area of Villafáfila also has some little bustards, stone-curlews and black-bellied sandgrouse, but these are low in number, or thinly spread, and we saw none today. However there were short-toed larks, a singing skylark and many northern wheatears.

We arrived at the park's visitor centre – Casa del Parque – at 1pm Portuguese time but 2pm Spanish time, just as it was shutting. We learnt it is only open 11-2 and 4-7:30 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays this time of year. That was a pity as it has a trail around water-filled lagoons, though we were able to go down the side of the fenced area and look inside.

A flock of some 30 gull-billed terns flew around and the ‘scrapes’ had avocets, black-winged stilts, redshanks and little ringed plovers plus a selection of wildfowl. An odd looking yellow flower with two each of two sizes of petals in the dry, disturbed ground was an unusual member of the poppy family called *Hypecoum imberbe*. A superb echium was *Echium asperrimum*, an alternative name for which is *Echium italicum* ssp. *pyrenaicum* – so an Iberian version of pale bugloss.

It took a while to find somewhere to grab a drink and bite in the town of Villafáfila. This we did in a noisy bar labelled ‘pub’ but the coffee machine was off so we moved to a nearby café named ‘Club de Jubilados’ (club for the retired), which was actually a more typical Spanish café. I tried to buy some water and the nice man insisted on giving me four bottles.

MONTESINHO NATURAL PARK

It was time to head back into Portugal for the next stage of the recce in Montesinho Natural Park, though not a route for the future Honeyguide holiday as for that we’ll go to Villafáfila and return to Miranda do Douro.

We arrived at Gimonde just before five o’clock where we found reception was in the shop. Susana greeted us and showed us around the complex of buildings that make up this rural business. The accommodation is spread around four separate buildings, though probably most if not all of a Honeyguide group could be accommodated in the first and nearest two. After the introductory tour and 101 questions asked and answered, there was time for a stroll in the warm evening alongside Gimonde’s rivers. The smaller Rio Igrejas was white with water crowfoot among which were Iberian water frogs and wagtails. Two storks’ nests seemed well-looked after and both had Spanish sparrows within them.



The restaurant and the river in Gimonde

Dinner was mostly locally produced pork, a speciality in this prize-winning restaurant, with a guessing game for flavours of the ice cream (quince) and flan (cheese). Midwife toads called as we returned to our rooms.

Monday 1 June – Montesinho Natural Park

We spent the day in the central part of Montesinho Natural Park. The lowest areas were wooded, mostly oak, chestnut and Scots pine plus alder along a river valley, grading into a scrubby heath of broom and tree heather at the top of Montesinho. Much in practice was neither one nor the other, resulting in an attractive mosaic of open woodland and scrub.

We started on a quiet but rough road alongside the river Sabor. Butterflies were in good numbers but not too active early on: these included Provence and marsh fritillaries, western dappled white and purple-shot copper. Iberian chiffchaff, honey buzzard and short-toed treecreeper were new birds for this short visit. The most dramatic looking new plant was a toadflax *Linaria triornithopus*. Why this flower is named ‘three birds’ is difficult to see. Going higher we found our first orchids, bug orchid, alongside some *Gladiolus illyricus*.



‘Three birds’ toadflax *Linaria triornithopus* in Montesinho Natural Park; *Halimium ocymoides* (dark spots on petals); *Halimium alyssoides* (no spots)

The mountain top, close to a row of wind turbines that are actually over the border in Spain, is a fascinating open area of scrub heath and large granite boulders. Damp patches had some heath spotted marsh orchids, but overall this is not orchid country as it's acid not limestone. But there are still a lot of flowers, often challenging to identify and not in the usual guides: these included a star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum concinnum* and *Simensthis mattiazzi*, a 'monocot' that's in the lily family. It was also amazing to see both water pipit and tawny pipit up at the high tops: I rather doubt if these two species occur alongside each other anywhere else. There was an Iberian grey shrike and red-backed shrike. This high area had other birds more associated with higher latitudes or altitudes such as whitethroat and rock bunting. A grazed area had several familiar plants – tormentil, heath sorrel, heath bedstraw – alongside a woody-based milkwort *Polygala microphylla* and a knee-high yellow, scrubby rockrose *Halimium alyssoides* that was abundant at all levels today.



Milkwort *Polygala microphylla*; heath/moor habitat in the higher parts of Montesinho NP; heath spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*

We had an afternoon cup of coffee in the sleepy but attractive mountain village of Montesinho. Inhabitants now number just a handful and many houses are owned by weekend visitors. In the early evening we had a quick look at Quinta das Covas, a short drive away on the outskirts of Gimonde and part of the wider complex run by A Montesinho Turismo. Some of the pigs that make a big part of this rural business were there. There were several turtle doves and a singing woodlark, but it wouldn't offer a lot to see for a Honeyguide group. As we were leaving, a ladder snake was crossing the road and Domingos removed it from the perils of a road crossing using his cork hat to fend off the snake's attacks.

At dinner I failed to get a vegetarian meal – the non-meat offer was cod fish – though we now have a menu for a Honeyguide group that includes daily options for any vegetarians. We settled for wild boar in rice.

Tuesday 2 June – Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros and home

An early evening flight allowed an eight o'clock breakfast and some stops on the way back to Porto. The first was just five minutes south of the motorway: the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros, which is open cork oak forest by a reservoir. It's run by a partnership of bodies, especially the butterfly group TAGIS (Centro de Conservação das Boletas de Portugal). We did the circuit that Domingos says is 2.3 kilometres, but on a hot day it felt further and took us, from 10 am, two and quarter hours. It was a lovely place, and the warm weather brought out butterflies and odonata, the latter including four-spotted chaser and a new damselfly for me, Orange Featherleg (Orange White-legged Damselfly). A golden oriole in the distance flew several times and splashed into the water: we can only speculate as to why, perhaps simply to drink. The lake was otherwise poor for birds: just gadwalls and great crested grebes. One area had tongue orchids and there were three species of non-native fish in the water. We found our first cardinal butterfly of the recce on the last leg.



Footpath through Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros

Finding a café for a bite of lunch in Vila Real was discouraging: all three bars we tried allowed smoking. We chose the least busy and moved swiftly on, to the Natural Park of Alvão. The landscape of large granite boulders in the high area was striking, but the vegetation mix similar to Montesinho, so that, combined with being further off-route, means that Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros is a better bet for a Honeyguide group.

We then headed back to Porto, refuelled the hire car before returning it, and were in good time for Domingos's train and my flight.

SPECIES LISTS

BIRDS

This lists the birds seen on the recce, with places abbreviated as follows:
Douro: the Douro Internacional Natural Park **Montesinho:** Montesinho Natural Park
Villafáfila: Villafáfila Natural Reserve, lagoon and steppe in Spain
Cavaleiros: Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros on the return journey

Little grebe	Villafáfila	Grey wagtail	Montesinho
Great crested grebe	Montesinho, Cavaleiros	White wagtail	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
White stork	Villafáfila, Montesinho	Yellow wagtail	Villafáfila
Shelduck	Villafáfila	Wren	Douro, Montesinho
Gadwall	Villafáfila, Cavaleiros	Robin	Montesinho
Mallard	Douro, Villafáfila	Nightingale	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Pochard	Villafáfila	Black redstart	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Black kite	Douro, Villafáfila	Stonechat	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Red kite	Douro, Villafáfila	Northern wheatear	Villafáfila, Montesinho
Egyptian vulture	Douro	Blue rock thrush	Douro
Griffon vulture	Douro, Villafáfila	Blackbird	Douro, Montesinho
Common buzzard	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Mistle Thrush	Douro
Honey buzzard	Montesinho	Song Thrush	Montesinho
Marsh harrier	Villafáfila	Cetti's warbler	Villafáfila, Montesinho
Montagu's harrier	Villafáfila	Fan-tailed warbler	Villafáfila
Golden eagle	Douro	Great reed warbler	Villafáfila
Bonelli's eagle	Douro	Dartford warbler	Douro, Montesinho
Lesser kestrel	Villafáfila	Subalpine warbler	Douro, Montesinho
Kestrel	Douro, Villafáfila	Sardinian warbler	Douro,
Red-legged partridge	Villafáfila	Whitethroat	Douro, Montesinho
Moorhen	Montesinho	Blackcap	Douro
Coot	Villafáfila	Melodious warbler	Douro
Great bustard	Villafáfila	Western Bonelli's warbler	Douro, Montesinho
Black-winged stilt	Villafáfila	Great tit	Douro
Avocet	Villafáfila	Crested tit	Douro, Montesinho
Little ringed plover	Villafáfila	Long-tailed tit	Montesinho
Redshank	Villafáfila	Nuthatch	Douro
Black-headed gull	Villafáfila	Short-toed treecreeper	Montesinho
Gull-billed tern	Villafáfila	Golden oriole	Douro, Cavaleiros, Montesinho
Whiskered tern	Villafáfila	Iberian grey shrike	Montesinho
Feral pigeon	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Woodchat shrike	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Woodpigeon	Douro, Montesinho	Red-backed shrike	Montesinho
Turtle dove	Douro, Montesinho	Jay	Douro, Montesinho
Collared dove	Douro, Villafáfila	Azure-winged magpie	Douro
Cuckoo	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Magpie	Douro
Swift	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Red-billed chough	Douro
Pallid swift	Douro, Villafáfila	Jackdaw	Douro
Alpine swift	Douro	Carrion crow	Douro
Bee-eater	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Raven	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Hoopoe	Douro, Villafáfila	Spotless starling	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Green woodpecker	Montesinho	House sparrow	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Great spotted woodpecker	Douro, Montesinho	Spanish sparrow	Villafáfila, Montesinho
Short-toed lark	Villafáfila	Tree sparrow	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Crested lark	Douro, Villafáfila	Rock sparrow	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Woodlark	Douro, Montesinho	Chaffinch	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Skylark	Villafáfila, Montesinho	Serin	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Crag martin	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Greenfinch	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
House martin	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Goldfinch	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Swallow	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho	Linnet	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
Red-rumped swallow	Douro,	Hawfinch	Douro
Tawny pipit	Montesinho	Cirl bunting	Douro
Water pipit	Montesinho	Corn bunting	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho
		Rock bunting	Douro, Villafáfila, Montesinho

MAMMAL

Rabbit

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Spiny-footed lizard
Large psammodromus
Ocellated lizard
Ladder snake
Common midwife toad
Iberian water frog



Spiny-footed lizard, juvenile

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail
Scarce swallowtail
Spanish festoon
Large white
Small white
Western dappled white
Bath white
Clouded yellow
Cleopatra
Brimstone
Red admiral

Southern white admiral
Small tortoiseshell
Queen of Spain fritillary
Marsh fritillary
Provencal fritillary
Heath fritillary
High brown fritillary
Cardinal
Spanish argus
Black-eyed blue
Small copper

Purple-shot copper
Green hairstreak
Western marbled white
Spanish marbled white
Meadow brown
Wall brown
Small heath
Southern gatekeeper
Spanish gatekeeper
Speckled wood



Two gatekeepers: left, southern gatekeeper; right, Spanish gatekeeper

MOTHS

Pine processionary (tents)
Hummingbird hawk-moth
Silver-Y

ODONATA

Iberian Bluetail
Common Blue Damselfly
Beautiful Demoiselle
Orange Featherleg (Orange White-legged Damselfly)
Broad-bodied Chaser
Red-veined Darter
Blue Emperor (Emperor Dragonfly)

OTHER NOTABLE INVERTEBRATES

Egyptian locust
Violet carpenter bee
Hornet
Ascalaphid *Libelluloides baeticus*
Ground bug *Spilostethus pandurus*
Red-striped oil beetle *Berberomeloe majalis*



Red-striped oil beetle

PLANTS

The plants in this area are a fascinating yet confusing mix of species, some occurring in the UK, others familiar from elsewhere in southern Europe and many with quite restricted distributions. Many plants not in the Mediterranean and other field guides were identified with the help of websites, especially www.flora-on.pt

<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	PTERIDOPHYTA – Ferns and Allies bracken
	SPERMATOPHYTA – Conifers
	<i>Pinaceae</i> – Pines
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	maritime pine
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	umbrella pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
	<i>Cupressaceae</i> – Cypress
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	prickly juniper
	ANGIOSPERMS
	<i>Anacardiaceae</i> – Pistacios
<i>Pistacia terebintus</i>	turpentine tree
	<i>Apiaceae</i> – Carrots
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel
<i>Ferula communis</i>	giant fennel
<i>Margotia gummifera</i>	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot
	<i>Asteraceae</i> (was <i>Compositae</i>) – Daisies
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>	andryala
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	mayweed / corn chamomile
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	red star-thistle
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	yellow star-thistle
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	corn marigold
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk thistle
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	slender thistle
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	mouse-ear hawkweed
<i>Tragopogon hybridum</i>	small salsify
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	
<i>Hispidella hispanica</i>	pale yellow with a dark centre
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	(western) goatsbeard
	<i>Boraginaceae</i> – Borage
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	large blue alkanet
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	purple viper's bugloss
<i>Echium aspernum</i>	a pale bugloss
<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	unidentified forget-me-not
<i>Omphalodes nitida</i>	a blue-eyed Mary
	<i>Brassicaceae</i> (<i>Cruciferae</i>) – Cabbages
<i>Biscutella</i> sp.	a buckler-mustard
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	wild radish
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress
	<i>Betulaceae</i> – Birches
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder
	<i>Campanulaceae</i> – Bellflowers
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	harebell
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	rampion bellflower
<i>Jasione montana</i>	sheepsbit scabious
	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i> – Pinks
<i>Arenaria montana</i>	mountain sandwort
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	common mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus loricifolius</i>	
<i>Silene scabrifolia</i>	
<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly
<i>Kohlruschia velutina</i>	kohlruschia
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	white campion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	bladder campion
<i>Paronychia</i> sp.	
<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	purple sand-spurrey
	<i>Cistaceae</i> – Rockroses
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	narrow-leaved cistus
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	gum cistus NiF
<i>Cistus psilosephalus</i>	a white cistus
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus

<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i> / <i>Halimium viscosum</i>	white rock-rose <u>or</u> a white Halimium (needs checking in the field)
<i>Halimium ocymoides</i>	dark patches on petal bases
<i>Halimium (lasianthum ssp.) alyssoides</i>	
<i>Tuberia guttata</i>	spotted rock-rose
	Convolvulaceae – Bindweeds
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed
	Clusiaceae – St John's worts
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	perforate St John's wort
	Crassulaceae – Stonecrops
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	a yellow stonecrop
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort
	Cucurbitaceae – Marrows
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	white bryony
	Dipsacaceae – Teasel family
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	field scabious
	Ericaceae – Heathers
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	heather NiF
<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish heath
<i>Erica arborea</i>	tree heath
<i>Erica umbellata</i>	
	Euphorbiaceae – Spurges
<i>Euphorbia oxyphylla</i>	endemic to the Iberian peninsula
	Fabiaceae (was Leguminosae) – Peas
<i>Adenocarpus complicatus</i>	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	kidney vetch
<i>Chamaespartium sagittale</i>	winged broom
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	white Spanish broom
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> = <i>Genista scoparia</i>	broom (same as UK species)
<i>Genista micrantha</i>	endemic to the Iberian peninsula
<i>Echinopartium ibericum</i>	a spiny broom with hairy yellow flowers
<i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i>	Tangier pea
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Lupinus luteus</i>	yellow lupin
<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	retama
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	false acacia
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	spotted medick
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	star clover
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	narrow-leaved crimson pea
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	fodder vetch
	Fagaceae – Oaks
<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	holm oak
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	holly / prickly / kermes oak
<i>Quercus suber</i>	cork oak
<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Portuguese oak
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	sweet chestnut
	Gentianaceae – Gentians
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	common centaury
	Geraniaceae – Geraniums
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	long-stalked cranesbill
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	shining cranesbill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	dovesfoot cranesbill
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i> ssp. <i>lusitanicum</i>	'Portuguese' cranesbill
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	little robin
	Lamiaceae – Mints
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	alpine calamint
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common hemp-nettle
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	henbit dead-nettle
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French lavender
<i>Thymus mastichina</i>	round-headed thyme
<i>Mentha rotundifolia</i>	apple mint
	Malvaceae – Mallows
<i>Malva moschata</i>	musk mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	dwarf mallow
	Oleaceae – Olives
<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive
	Papaveraceae – Poppies
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	ramping fumitory
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	common poppy

<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine
<i>Hypecoum imberbe</i>	
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Plantaginaceae* – Plantains buck's horn plantain
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Platanaceae – Plane trees oriental plane
<i>Armeria</i> sp., <i>transmontana</i> ?	Plumbaginaceae – Thrift a thrift
<i>Polygala microphylla</i>	Polygalaceae – Milkworts common milkwort
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Polygonaceae – Docks and Sorrels common sorrel
<i>Rumex bucephalorus</i>	horned dock
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Primulaceae – Primulas scarlet pimpernel
<i>Anagallis monelli</i>	shrubby pimpernel
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp. <i>peltatus</i> ?	Ranunculaceae – Buttercups water crowfoot
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Resedaceae – Mignonettes weld
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> (<i>R. sanctus</i>)	Rosaceae – Roses bramble
<i>Rosa canina</i>	dog rose
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	tormentil
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Rubiaceae – Bedstraws field madder
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	heath bedstraw
<i>Galium palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Scrophulariaceae* – Figworts bellardia
<i>Antirrhinum granaticum</i>	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Linaria oblongifolia</i>	a yellow toadflax
<i>Linaria spartia</i>	a yellow toadflax
<i>Linaria triornithopus</i>	
<i>Anarrhinum bellidifolium</i>	a pale blue toadflax
<i>Digitalis thapsis</i>	Spanish foxglove
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i> ssp. <i>lusitanica</i>	lousewort
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	water figwort
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	great mullein
<i>Tamarix</i> sp.	Tamaricaceae – Tamarix tamarix
<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Thymelaeaceae – Daphnes
<i>Viola lactea</i>	Violaceae – Violets pale dog violet
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	MONOCOTYLEDONS Amaryllidaceae – Daffodils hoop petticoat narcissus
<i>Ornithogalum concinnum</i>	a star of Bethlehem
<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>	Iridaceae – Irises yellow flag
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Liliaceae – Lilies common asphodel
<i>Dipcadi serotinus</i>	brown bells
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth
<i>Simethis mattiazzii</i>	
<i>Scilla ramburei</i>	
<i>Orchis (coriophora) fragrans</i>	Orchidaceae – Orchids bug orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	spotted orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	tongue orchid
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Poaceae – Grasses giant reed
<i>Stipa gigantea</i>	
<i>Briza maxima</i>	quaking grass
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	

Note: on www.flora-on.pt, toadflaxes and foxgloves are in the Plantaginaceae (plantain family) rather than Scrophulariaceae (figwort family).

Some more flowers from northeast Portugal (or Spain, for *Hypecoum imberbe*) that were a challenge to identify:



Spanish foxglove *Digitalis thapsis* growing with *Anarrhinum bellidifolium*; *Erica umbellatum* and *Scilla ramburei*



Echinospartum ibericum; *Anarrhinum bellidifolium* on its own; and *Genista micrantha*



Antirrhinum graniticum; *Hypecoum imberbe*, an unusual member of the poppy family; and *Hispidella hispanica*