



# Honeyguide

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Picos de Europa**  
**12 – 19 June 2022**

### Holiday participants

Jill Jordan  
John Rumpus & Rosemary Macdonald  
Anne McGregor  
David & Steph Bennett  
Ron Fitton & Val Appleyard

John Coish  
Karen Klempka & Mike Mccue  
Marc Carlton  
Graham Phillips

### Leaders

Pau Lucio and Chris Durdin. Report by Chris Durdin.

We stayed at the Hotel Tierra de la Reina in Boca de Huérgano [www.hoteltierradelareina.com](http://www.hoteltierradelareina.com)



Broom-covered hillsides, La Uña area (DB). The abundant, flowery broom is *Genista florida*.

Photos by Graham Phillips (GP), David Bennett (DB) and Chris Durdin (CD) or as attributed, all taken on the holiday.

Cover, top: silver-washed fritillaries on a Picos de Europa sign (GP).

Bottom: cupidone, maiden pink and pearly heath CD).



Our late morning routine: a *café con leche* or other drink in a bar.

As on every Honeyguide wildlife holiday, we contributed to a conservation project. The conservation contribution of £40 per person, supplemented by an additional donation and gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, totalled £870. This we split as follows: £580 for Asociación Zerynthia, a Spanish NGO dedicated to the study and conservation of butterflies, plus £290 for SEO Cantabria, whose coastal nature reserve at Santander we visited before the flight home. As at July 2022, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £142,877.



## DAILY DIARY

### Sunday 12 June: Stansted to Santander, Santander to Boca de Huérgano

We landed with a bump, though safely enough, and were soon through the Covid pass and passport control checks to where our luggage was already on the carousel. Pau was outside to greet us, as were Karen and Mike, who'd come via Madrid for a few days in Santander before joining the group. Once Olga at the Enterprise desk had sorted her previous customer, my paperwork was quickly done and we walked to our two VW minibuses, loaded up and left at 18:50. We drove steadily through at first unremarkable landscape, though getting more interesting as we progressed. Interesting might also describe the weather: though mostly fine, we also saw rain and fog. In one area there were dozens of white storks, and later a large chick on a nest. Black kites became increasingly frequent; John C was pretty sure he saw a wild boar and probable roe deer were reported. After 2 hours and 20 minutes, the final stretch being through the Picos de Europa National Park, we arrived at the Hotel Tierra de la Reina in Boca de Huérgano. A nightingale was singing as we checked in and, on account of the late arrival, we quickly took suitcases to rooms and then gathered in the bar before going into dinner.

### Day 2: Monday 13 June: Las Salas and Lois

Several of us were out before breakfast. The nightingale was still in full song in the bush by the hotel and we soon found a black redstart perched in the open. Serins flew over and white wagtails were around. The flower-rich fields, ruderal in nature, included a viper's bugloss that was peculiarly distorted. Later research suggests this was caused by gall mites. We identified a caterpillar as grass egg moth with the help of Google Lens, supported by Val's previous experience of this species.



Black redstarts were reliable around Boca de Huérgano (GP); viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*, infected with *Aceria echii*, gall mites (CD).

The temperature on the pharmacy sign just down the road showed 10°C before breakfast and 14°C as we set off, and if we'd watched it all day, numbers in the high 20s would have showed, for sure. This morning we had a gentle walk along the Roman road near Las Salas. From where we parked the song of a garden warbler led us to the bird perching high on an open tree and good views through the telescope for everyone. Briefly a serin joined it. On the other side of the river Esla a wet rockface had a cascade of large-flowered butterwort, and scruffy-looking lizard orchids nearby. We ended up fairly spread out along the path, so notes on observations won't apply to everyone. A patch of *Erygnium bourgatii* was mixed with field eryngo *Erygnium campestre* and plants that appeared to be hybrids: no surprise, says Marc, who is aware how these things happen in the gardening world. Pearly heaths were showing well and everyone would have seen southern speckled woods in shadier places. Other butterflies included orange tip, long-tailed blue and dark green fritillary. Often there was the familiar song of Cetti's warbler from riverside scrub, though perhaps more notable was singing and 'chuff chuff chuff' calls of Iberian chiffchaffs in riverside poplars – confirmed by those trying 'Merlin' bird recognition software. A few found burnt-tip orchid and there were some marsh orchids in damp patches.

We walked into Las Salas to the delightful bar there, for coffee or a cold drink, with complementary omelette or cake, too. In the road here was a road casualty snake, identified while at our next stop as southern smooth snake. We drove on to that stop, some picnic tables helpfully in the shade by a church. After our picnic lunch we had an hour to potter, finding maiden pink, the umbellifer *Thapsia villosa*, cardinal butterfly (though fast moving for everyone but Pau, who had first photographed it on a thistle), chimney sweeper moth and some tongue orchids, among other things.

We drove the winding road – I like to call it Lois Lane – to the remote village of Lois. Maria was at the ‘smoke-house’ to guide us round this small local house that was occupied by a man aged 90 until the late 1990s. The thatched roof of barley straw was permanently smoked by indoor fires with no chimney, the smoke removing pests from the straw and adding a tarry coating, visible as tiny black stalactites: we were given a lump to feel. The smell of smoke remains dominant and low ceilings mean you have to duck.

Over the road was the ‘Catedral de la Montaña’, a church made of pink-tinted limestone, big considering the small size of the village, on account of an influential bishop, but now redundant apart from the occasional wedding. Maria’s job is as a care worker for elderly people in the village where the population continues to decline, we heard.

We returned via Riaño where we stopped to buy fuel.



Lois and a room inside the ‘smoke house’ (DB).

### Day 3: Tuesday 14 June: Fuente Dé

There was unarranged gathering of the pre-breakfast birdwatchers by the white storks’ nest around the corner from the hotel. A creature in the narrow concrete watercourse turned out to be a slug, and not as we first suspected in trouble as it then crawled up the side. We walked on to the bridge, and quickly found a dipper. As we returned, there was a small bird with a prominent pale supercilium in a road. My first thought was woodlark though actually this bird and another that then appeared were even better: rock sparrows.



Dipper bridge and rock sparrow in Boca de Huérgano (DB).

We headed off to Fuente Dé, pausing briefly for a red-backed shrike on a roadside, which was there again on the return journey, via the elegant town of Potes. We bought tickets for the cable car, though were advised we’d have to wait till half past one. We spent a little time in the big meadow, which had many stemless knapweeds *Carduncellus mitissimus*, though a combination of the heat and otherwise feeling rather unproductive meant that the idea of adjourning for a coffee or cold drink was well-received. Graham carried on looking for butterflies around the car park with some success; several small blues and long-tailed blue were among what he found. It made sense to eat our picnics in some shade near the big car park; one less thing to carry.

By a stroke of luck all the group squeezed into the same cable-car and we were soon moving up the mountainside and emerging into high alpine habitat. The immediate impression was the colour and volume of flowers, nearly all compact and low growing. Sheets of yellow were Spanish gorse, rockroses or birdsfoot trefoil; others were androsace (rock-jasmine), trumpet gentians and chaenorhinum. A stock *Matthiola perennis* and spring gentians were a little farther on.





Fuente Dé, from below (DB); *Carduncellus mitissimus* (CD).



Fuente Dé, arriving above: the cable car (CD) and view from the cable car station (DB)

It can be decidedly chilly up here, but not today. It was also busy: not just with general visitors but several lively school parties, all walking some distance in chatty groups. Our group was fairly spread out, travelling at their own pace, so anything noted here may not have been seen by everyone. Alpine choughs were immediately obvious, often hanging around with people for the chance of some scraps. There were ravens and red-billed choughs too, the latter turning over livestock dung to look for food. A black vulture appeared high in the sky with the griffons, and two Egyptian vultures flew through. A snowfinch showed fairly well and Anne found alpine accentors.



Three mountain birds: snowfinch, adult Egyptian vulture and Alpine chough (DB).

We were attempting to move steadily and reached the rocks where often wallcreepers can be seen. There was a large and noisy school group enjoying a snow field, so it all seemed unpromising, and I made perhaps the wrong choice in heading back to the greener areas which generally had more flowers and birds. Pau and Graham had the patience to wait for the school party to move on and were rewarded with close views of wallcreepers. The return walk felt shorter, and again we saw snowfinch, plus northern wheatear and water pipit. Two or three hummingbird hawkmoths were feeding actively on plants like alpine calamint and wild thyme. Small tortoiseshells and clouded yellows were on the wing. I scanned a snow patch and found a sitting chamois – or isard, of the Cantabrian subspecies – keeping cool, perhaps. A lizard posed well enough for photos; identification of lizards in the Iberian Peninsula is a challenge, though from a combination of distribution and features, common wall lizard is likeliest.



More from Fuente Dé: alpine toadflax (CD) and hummingbird hawkmoth (GP).

It had been shirt sleeves weather at the high tops, but we were reminded of Spain's heatwave as we descended. Choughs and a single buzzard with some crows were in the meadow between the car park and the mountain from which we had descended. It was 5:45 as we left and the minibus temperature gauge showed at 33.5°C, and it was still 31°C on the pharmacy when we arrived back at the hotel an hour and a half later.

After dinner, several of us walked past the storks' nest, watched black redstarts and onto 'dipper bridge', where there were white wagtails on the river and fish in it, though no dipper in the twilight. A midwife toad was calling very close to the hotel.



Iberian woodpecker: the lack of black around the eye (as on green woodpeckers) shows well here (DB).

#### Day 4: Wednesday 15 June: La Uña area

Anne drew the pre-breakfast group's attention to a partly flooded field a stone's throw from the hotel, where swallows were collecting mud and wagtails and goldfinches were feeding. We also took time to look at singing black redstarts, both a very black male with white flashes that would therefore be two years old at least, plus a duller singing male, looking like a female, a first-year bird. Nearby there were two mistle thrushes, though better still was an Iberian green woodpecker in the dead upper branches of a poplar. As a species that is often tricky to see well, a sustained view in the open, through the telescope, was quite something.

The heatwave was continuing, though it was bearable, especially having chosen a relatively high area. Nonetheless there was still morning mist over the reservoir near Riaño. We parked at Puerto de las Señales and explored the first of many meadows rich in flowers and insects, which included St Dabeoc's heath and tree heather. A dunnock was singing on top of a small tree here, a garden warbler was recognised from our sighting two days ago and a trill revealed the hidden presence of a Bonelli's warbler.

We carried on to our main destination for this morning, visiting two pools set in alpine meadows. There were hints of missed early season delights in the form of the leaves and fruit of early-flowering dog's tooth violets and gone-over daffodils. Moving on, we visited two small pools set in alpine meadows. At the first, flowers included lousewort and heath spotted orchid, though it was the constant movement of dragonflies that caught the eye. Most were four-spotted chasers plus a much bigger blue emperor. A green damselfly remained nicely settled: a robust spreadwing, a rather local species in the UK. A tree pipit sang on and off, though was tricky to see well.

There were even more dragonflies at the higher pool. We estimated 200 four-spotted chasers, many of which were mating, flying in tandem or egg-laying. A couple of red dragonflies took longer to pin down: eventually one settled, and it was a common darter. There were common blue damselflies and more robust spreadwings, the latter including two that were plainly freshly emerged as their excuviae – shed larval skins – were there on the same slim piece of vegetation. The weather had plainly enabled this fine show of odonata, though probably also contributed to a lack of amphibians on the warm land next to the cool pool.





Alpine pool near La Uña; one of the many four-spotted chasers here (DB).

Anne saw citril finch among the pines. Rosemary found some moonwort by the path – Marc also found some in the meadow – and we stopped to admire it on the way back to the minibuses.



Moonwort (CD); robust spreadwings with shed larval skins (DB); a novel cider-serving device (CD).

We descended to the small town of Acebedo for coffee in a bar with a shady courtyard. A black kite and scores of screaming swifts added interest. A feature of the bar was locally made cider. Serving this Picos scrumpy into a glass from a height is supposed to enhance its flavour, achieved by the bottle being in a contraption with a pump, which then pushes a spurt of cider into a glass held in place below.

Picnics were in a stunning site with shady trees, reached by crossing a boardwalk through a glorious wet meadow where flowers included ragged robin, bistort and common spotted orchids. In this meadow were several purple-edged coppers among various butterflies. Looking up, Pau added pale phase booted eagle and honey buzzard to the list. We could also hear yellowhammer, corn bunting and an occasional, rather faint, quail. A star find here was a grasshopper nymph of an intense violet-blue colour.



Purple-edged copper (GP); Ron & Val advise that this gorgeous violet grasshopper is a form of female common field grasshopper.

Our final short walk of the day started by the chapel used as a picnic site on a much cooler trip three years ago. Here we were met by a friendly young Spanish mastiff, a breed of dog often used to guard livestock. Though the chapel and picnic benches offered little shade, there was some relief from the sun along the track nearby, helpfully punctuated with wet bits that attracted butterflies. Flowers had an alpine flavour, such as globeflower, Pyrenean valerian and horned violet. But it was butterflies that had the most attention. Chapman's ringlet showed well, the biggest of the ringlets and with a distribution limited to the Picos. We saw our first sooty coppers and Graham photographed Glanville fritillary. We noted spotted fritillary, Adonis blues and a fast-flying scarce swallowtail, and grizzled and Oberthur's grizzled skipper settled on muddy edges. As we descended, green-veined white and Queen-of-Spain fritillary were new species.



Chapman's ringlet, spotted fritillary and Adonis blue (GP).

We returned to Boca de Huérgano in good time to allow everyone time to chill, in both senses. Graham found a tiny tick attached to him and Pau took him to a local clinic where it was quickly removed with a promise of an analysis to follow. No wait, no cost, no bureaucracy, no request for an EHIC/GHIC; if only the NHS could be as instantaneous and helpful.

After dinner, at twilight, Anne, Jill and I went looking for a midwife toad very close to the hotel. One called and, after some diligent searching, I had a brief glimpse of a toad in a hole in some concrete, but it quickly retreated before the others could see it.

#### Day 5: Thursday 16 June: towards San Glorio Pass

A thunderstorm overnight cleared the air somewhat for a pre-breakfast date for Karen, Mike and several others to walk to the Roman bridge over the river Esla in the hope of seeing dippers. Happily, the dippers were in on the arrangement and at least two showed very quickly. They did what dippers do: perched on rocks, hunted for invertebrates in shallow water and flew under and over the bridge. One perched somewhat incongruously on the roof of an open garden outhouse. There were also grey and white wagtails and crag martins. John C knows his fish and pointed out trout feeding in a flowing stream, essentially waiting for food to come their way, and dozens of barbels, including a very large one with an obvious downward pointing mouth and barbules, feeding on algae on the river bed.

After breakfast we walked a short distance beyond the prominent storks' nest so Pau could show us common redstarts in a garden. We're not sure what the lady with the dog made of this. The male quickly appeared, perching on a dead twig in an old fruit tree, then high on top. Mostly we saw the female as she used a regular perch on a stick close to where she then disappeared into a hole in the wall where evidently their nest was located. We stopped to watch rock sparrows as we walked back, mostly on aerials though also four at one time on the ridge of a gable end of a house. There were many caddis-fly larvae in the concrete water channel by the storks' nest.

Boarding the minibuses we drove through various villages called something de la Reina and stopped on a quiet road by a stream for what was probably the loveliest meadow so far, with a helpful ridge of dry grassland alongside boggy bits. A large and fresh-looking swallowtail was a good start. An early damp path was rich with bistort, marsh orchids and brook thistles, the last attracting pale-looking carder bees. Drier ground had sulphur clover, burnt-tip orchid and a lovely local cranesbill *Geranium subargenteum*. A look at tiny flowers revealed eyebright, fairy flax and yellow wood violet. Much of our attention was on invertebrates: Val was finding various bugs but mostly we were trying to find ID for fritillaries, with Provencal, Glanville, knapweed and a pearl-bordered species among these. A large and scary-looking stonefly – though actually harmless – landed on Marc's shoe. Group members were also finding interesting herptiles: ocellated lizard (John C), Schreiber's green lizard (Anne) and the viper *Vipera seoanei* (Anne again).

We took a short walk along the bottom slope of the much steeper other side of the road. Here a rock bunting perched in the same place for ages, so was easy to enjoy through telescopes.



Right by the scope was a lovely small foxglove *Digitalis parviflora* in full flower. A male broad-bodied chaser showed for us really well: we had to disturb it from its regular perch so we could skirt around a damp patch.



Perhaps our very best meadow today (GP); *Geranium subargenteum* (CD).

Back by the minibuses, Marc and John C had walked a little of the roadside and found radish-leaved bittercress (aka large cuckoo flower) and adenostyles. As we returned, they pointed out a pristine swallowtail on the gravelled edge of the road, feeding alongside a marbled skipper.



Small foxglove *Digitalis parviflora* (CD); Marbled skipper with swallowtail behind (GP); stonefly (CD).

It was time for our pre-lunch coffee, which came with a small cake and a very affectionate dog.

Our picnic and afternoon stop was with the motorhomes and motorbikes at San Glorio Pass (1609m). We had lunch in the shade of a plantation of mountain pine, where we puzzled over the lack of promised hard-boiled eggs (they didn't make it out of the hotel's kitchen) and why we had an additional packed lunch.

It was now the hottest time of day, and both sides of the plantation included a steep slope that seemed steeper in the heat. We went down first, alongside banks of wood saxifrage. Patches of sheep's bit solved a mystery from a previous day, as Anne had photographed one in bud, which foxed us all, and here they were again alongside fully-out flowers. A low-flying adult Egyptian vulture flew through. Our hope was crossbills and citril finches: Pau heard both, but neither showed. Other passerines were a typical high-altitude combination: dunnock, garden warbler, whitethroat and linnet, plus flying serins and a calling quail.

We put the telescope on a group of distant chamois: I counted 20. It was time to return to base to cool down.

There was a short, sharp shower, starting with hailstones, while we did wildlife checklists. This evening the midwife toad was out in the open a short distance from its hole.

### Day 6: Friday 17 June: Valle de Valdeón

It was a routine morning in the Picos: an Iberian woodpecker briefly showed in the dead poplar branches, followed by a mistle thrush; lots of black redstarts, displaying serins, a rock sparrow on a wire, a flypast Egyptian vulture, singing nightingale. Graham went to dipper bridge and the reliable dippers were there.



Cone knapweed (CD); rock bunting (DB).

Our first stop was for the view and photos at Mirador del Tombo. A rock bunting perched close to us, albeit not for long, and a quail called. We moved on to another car park with a short walk to some limestone grassland that we hoped would be good for orchids. The recent heat meant they had mostly gone over and what we could find were the last lingering blooms of man, fragrant and lizard orchids, plus a couple of pyramidal orchids. However, there was plenty of other interest such as yellow woundwort, yellowwort, Pyrenean germander and round-headed rampion. Two low-growing composites were of special interest: the ground-hugging *Carduncellus* and a stonking cone knapweed.

We drove on a short distance to where Pau knew we could see dark red helleborine, helpfully right by a parking area. Some may have been lost to strimmers, though one remained in perfect condition for easy photos on the edge of the slope, and there were a score or more a few metres up the road. Fringed pink was another nice find, plus cow-wheat and madder. A bright cleopatra butterfly was, I thought, too mobile for photos, but Graham proved me wrong.



Dark red helleborine (CD); Cleopatra (GP).

Next stop was a former wolf trap, where in years gone by teams of people would drive packs of wolves into a funnel of wooden palisades and into a pit at the end. Wolves now are protected in Spain, though remain controversial in rural areas.



We were then entertained by two silver-washed fritillaries that settled on the sign for 'El Chorro de los Lobos', especially where it said 'Picos de Europa Parque Nacional'. A fine advertisement for the area (see *the report's cover*). We had coffees or cold drinks in the town of Valdeón where we were joined by a rather charismatic insect, namely a giant lacewing.



Valdeón and a giant lacewing *Osmylus fulvicephalus* (CD).

We then drove a very short distance to a picnic site by a lake. The tables were in full sun but happily there was plenty of shade. There were good numbers of dragonflies over the lake, mostly four-spotted chasers again, and, like three years ago, I searched for and found the distinctive egg-laying scars of willow emerald damselflies, to explain about them to the few in the group who hadn't previously encountered them.



With the heatwave continuing, what to do on a roasting hot afternoon, the day's peak heat, was again a challenge. The answer was a return to Valdeón. As we parked there was a spotted flycatcher near 'our' café, then Pau walked us past some traditional buildings, especially *hórreos* on stilts, (*left, DB*) wooden constructions intended for the storage and conservation of grain and vegetables. A scruffy buzzard then two neater-looking buzzards joined about 100 swifts in a thermal. We found a shady route down to a river, and looked at various flowers, mostly ruderal species, though also a gorgeous English iris in a meadow. A common redstart showed

briefly. We returned to the café for beer, *clara* (shandy) or other drinks.

It was time to return, with the car's temperature gauge showing that it was now 37°C. Back in Boca de Huérgano we stopped by dipper bridge for Pau to show us some martagon lilies he had found. Their origin is uncertain, though to Marc, who has experience of this lovely species, it rang true that these are wild rather than escapes. While near the bridge we had to check the river for dippers and there were three, including one with scaly plumage, a recently fledged youngster.

At dinner, we were surprised by a *postres* (afters) choice of Picos blue cheese, which Val had been enthusing about all week. Pau had arranged it, naturally. The midwife toad was calling from his hole at dusk, this evening retreating when the curious humans showed up.



Wildlife close to the hotel: martagon lily, midwife toad (CD), short-toed tree creeper (DB).

### Day 7: Saturday 18 June: lowlands near Crémenes and La Encina

Lesser black-backed gull was new for the list, though a short-toed treecreeper perching in the open on a dead branch was perhaps the best bird before breakfast. The volume and quality of sightings was again brilliant: rock sparrow, linnet feeding young, serins, black redstart, corn bunting, calling Iberian woodpecker, all a stone's throw from the hotel.

We'd left the more lowland day until last with an eye on cooler weather, which worked for temperature as although the morning had a period of being very hot, it then started to cool and we had a little rain just before lunch. We went south-west today, our first stop being by the reservoir for a photo. Blackcap and whitethroat sang, though better still was melodious warbler – a pale individual, not yellow – and a garden warbler that sang in succession from the same perch. A violet carpenter bee fed on some viper's bugloss. A mystery plant here was later identified as berry catchfly *Cucubalus baccifer*.

We turned right in the village of Crémenes. Here we had a circuit up and down a hillside, returning along the quiet road. We started with a fine new dragonfly: a keeled skimmer (with fine shoulder stripes that at the time prompted the name of epaulette skimmer), which perched very obligingly for good views. A Bath white rested on an eryngo. Suddenly, emerging over the hill, came a phalanx of griffon vultures, with accompanying black kites. The reason was a feeding station with a photography hide, and a warden appeared with drinks for those inside.



Bath white, beautiful demoiselle, sawfly orchid (CD).

It was generally dry and the hoped-for orchids were almost over, save a few pyramidals and a sawfly orchid. There were other flowers: St Dabeoc's heath, beautiful flax, white flax and *Dorycnium pentaphyllum*, for example, and we looked at bellardia and the tiny yellow flax *Linum strictum*. Marc recognised Deptford pink. Val and Ron were on the search for bugs, as ever, and were particularly pleased by a field cricket.

It turned cooler as we descended, and we were soon at a small watercourse where a male beautiful demoiselle showed off its beauty to us. A couple in the group saw a golden-ringed dragonfly, but it didn't return. Nearby butterflies settled on the ground: most were fritillaries and mostly it felt better to enjoy them rather than wrestle with IDs of these. A rock grayling was new and Pau and I tackled the ID of a blue, which was Idas blue rather than the very similar silver-studded blue, on account of the lack of a spur on its front leg tibiae.

We went into Crémenes for coffee sitting opposite the bar, overlooking the river. It rained briefly as we arrived at the picnic site under a newish chapel, but happily that soon blew over. Black-veined white and Spanish marbled whites were attracted by thistle flowers.

We drove farther south-west to stop in more meadows near La Encina, just beyond Yugueros. A woodlark settled on various places on a wire. The place felt very dry, and there were many long gone-over orchids, though there was a single broad-leaved marsh orchid in flower in a damper patch. Among the dried seedheads of yellow rattle were blue-flowered cupidone and lots of cut-leaved selfheal, mostly white though some in a pale purple.

Bee-eaters were calling in the distance, so we walked in that direction; one on the dead upper branches of a poplar gave the best, if distant, views through the telescope. A golden oriole called from poplars, which Anne and Pau managed glimpses of. A shower prompted a return to the minibuses. As we drove back, there was another bee-eater on a wire and a hoopoe on the ground.

It was a damper evening and that probably encouraged the midwife toad to come out of its hole at dusk. There was also a much larger spiny toad nearby on the edge of the concrete watercourse.





Black-veined white (GP); bee-eaters were somewhat distant today (DB).

#### Day 8: Sunday 19 June – Santander and home

We packed and left pretty promptly, with a small and friendly dog watching the proceedings, especially Graham who was lying down trying to photograph a white-letter hairstreak on the tarmac by the back of the minibuses. We had our first stop a little less than an hour from Boca de Huérgano at an area of dry grassland, scrub and arable with a more lowland feel. Immediately there were skylarks and corn buntings singing plus a perched whinchat, our first for the week, and calling quail. Better still were two raptors on the wing: elegant Montagu's harriers, one a brown female, the other with some grey showing, so an immature male. There was lots of cupidone, looking much smarter than yesterday's ragged plants, and Pau noticed that the many marbled whites flying in the chilly conditions – our coats and even gloves were out – were slightly smaller with a subtle difference in wing pattern and were Esher's marbled whites. Anne suggested that a very distance blob on a tree was worth investigating with a telescope, and so it proved: a little owl.

We had coffee and topped up with fuel much closer to Santander, arriving at the nature reserve of SEO (BirdLife Spain), though SEO's office was closed, being Sunday. We ate picnics and Pau guarded the buses while we birdwatched afterwards. The first part of El Astillero was a tidal lagoon named Marismas Negras created on a former eucalyptus plantation, with many stumps remaining. Though this new intertidal site has most value in winter, common terns were nesting on platforms and we saw several juveniles. Black kite and several cattle egrets flew through. We walked to a pontoon bridge under a dual carriageway to a freshwater pool and reedbed where there were many ducks, coots and little grebes. Perhaps of more interest was a single spoonbill and a family party of mute swans, the latter with six cygnets, three of which were the white 'Polish' form<sup>1</sup>. Our final butterfly species, holly blue, was on the walk back to SEO's centre.

We drove the very short distance to the airport, said farewell to Pau, Mike and Karen, and it was a smooth journey home.



Esher's marbled white (GP); a family of swans in Santander including white 'Polish' form cygnets (DB).

<sup>1</sup> Why Polish? See <https://www.birdguides.com/articles/ornithology/what-is-a-polish-swan/> The gist is that swans were imported from the Baltic for eating, during the 1800s, and some produced white cygnets.

## Holiday highlights

These are the holiday highlights nominated by group members.

Mike	Picos landscape, dippers.
Karen	Dippers galore!
Ron	Field cricket, midwife toad.
Val	Field cricket, violet grasshopper, burnet moth + the field we weren't meant to be in.
Marc	Grandeur of the scenery, going to dipper bridge, running in the early morning with empty road, interesting plants and rich birdsong.
Steph	Magnificent yellow broom everywhere; stark background of bare mountains behind; meadows full of wild flowers and butterflies; large flock of griffon vultures appearing and disappearing.
David	Amazing scenery with yellow broom dotted everywhere like a giant impressionist painting; Fuente Dé; stunning picture postcard scenery around the huge reservoir.
Graham	All the meadows with their flowers and insects; Fuente Dé; sounds of quail and midwife toad; Cleopatra and long-tailed blue.
John R	View of chamois at Fuente Dé; numbers of butterflies; the cable car!
Rosemary	Moonwort; bagworm, when a head popped out its wrapping.
Jill	Beautiful flowers, scenery, Cleopatra and swallowtail butterflies; serins; hoopoe.
John C	I was surprised and mightily impressed with the daily excursions into, and the backdrop of, the Picos, combined with the quantity and variety of species, a trip to savour for years.
Anne	Meadows full of flowers, butterflies and other insects; Fuente Dé; and the alpine flowers, snowfinches, wheatears and alpine accentors; standing in a pine forest, listening and seeing citril finches; finding the Seoane's Viper.
Pau	Landscape and quality of the meadows.
Chris	'Village' birds, meadows, robust spreadwing damselflies just emerged.



Field cricket (CD), village birds like this white stork (GP) and dippers (DB) were among holiday highlights.

## WILDLIFE LISTS

### BIRDS

<b>Little grebe</b>	On the freshwater wetland at Santander.
<b>Cormorant</b>	1-2 flying past the hotel most days; Santander.
<b>Cattle egret</b>	On the journey from Santander; also many at Santander's nature reserve.
<b>Grey heron</b>	A single bird seen on 15/6, also Santander.
<b>White stork</b>	Nesting in Boca de Huérgano and regularly elsewhere.
<b>Spoonbill</b>	Santander nature reserve.
<b>Mute swan</b>	Santander only, including 3 'Polish cygnets.
<b>Gadwall</b>	Santander only.
<b>Mallard</b>	Seen on 4 days, but many looked like they were of feral origin.
<b>Common pochard</b>	Santander only.
<b>Black kite</b>	Seen every day
<b>Red kite</b>	On the return journey, 19/6
<b>Egyptian vulture</b>	Seen on all six days in the Picos.
<b>Black vulture</b>	1 at Fuente Dé, reintroduced into the Picos.
<b>Griffon vulture</b>	Seen every day, apart from the travel days, including many Crémenes.
<b>Montagu's harrier</b>	Two at the stop on the return journey, 19/6.
<b>Buzzard</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Booted eagle</b>	Seen on two days, 15/7 & 18/7, both pale phase birds.
<b>Honey buzzard</b>	One on 15/6.
<b>Common kestrel</b>	Seen on 2 days.
<b>Hobby</b>	1, 18/6/.
<b>Quail</b>	Heard on five days.
<b>Coot</b>	Fresh water lake at Santander only.
<b>Black-tailed godwit</b>	Santander.
<b>Green sandpiper</b>	1, 15/6.
<b>Black-headed gull</b>	Santander only.



<b>Yellow-legged gull</b>	Recorded almost daily, often flying past the hotel.
<b>Lesser black-backed gull</b>	18/7 in Boca de Huérgano.
<b>Common tern</b>	Nesting at Santander.
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	Seen on 5 days.
<b>Collared dove</b>	Seen on 3 days, including both journey days.
<b>Cuckoo</b>	Heard every morning around the hotel, but not seen.
<b>Little owl</b>	At the stop on the return journey.
<b>Swift</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Bee-eater</b>	Several on 18/6.
<b>Great spotted woodpecker</b>	13/6 only.
<b>Iberian woodpecker</b>	Surprisingly vocal and visible; seen or heard on 5 days near the hotel.
<b>Red-backed shrike</b>	Seen on 5 days.
<b>Golden oriole</b>	Heard by many and seen by one group member on 18/6.
<b>Jay</b>	Seen on 14/6 only.
<b>Magpie</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Red-billed chough</b>	Fuente Dé.
<b>Alpine chough</b>	Several and very tame on the high tops at Fuente Dé.
<b>Carrion crow</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Raven</b>	Seen on 5 days, including flying past the hotel.
<b>Coal tit</b>	Two days only.
<b>Great tit</b>	Seen daily
<b>Blue tit</b>	Seen on 4 days
<b>Barn swallow</b>	Daily.
<b>Crag martin</b>	Seen on 4 days.
<b>House martin</b>	Seen daily in various towns and villages.
<b>Woodlark</b>	On a wire near the bee-eaters.
<b>Skylark</b>	Singing at the stop on the return journey, 19/6.
<b>Cetti's warbler</b>	Heard on 3 days.
<b>Reed warbler</b>	Santander freshwater reedbed.
<b>Melodious warbler</b>	One singing near the reservoir, 18/6.
<b>Iberian chiffchaff</b>	Heard or seen on 2 days.
<b>Western Bonelli's warbler</b>	Heard and seen on 4 days.
<b>Blackcap</b>	Heard daily, occasionally seen.
<b>Garden warbler</b>	Heard or seen on 5 days.
<b>Whitethroat</b>	Seen on 5 days.
<b>Orphean warbler</b>	Heard on 18/7.
<b>Goldcrest</b>	Heard while waiting for tickets at Fuente Dé.
<b>Dipper</b>	Seen on every visit to the bridge in Boca de Huérgano.
<b>Wren</b>	Heard or seen almost every day.
<b>Wallcreeper</b>	Seen at Fuente Dé.
<b>Short-toed treecreeper</b>	Heard or seen, 2 days.
<b>Spotless starling</b>	Heard or seen on 4 days, journey days included; .
<b>Blackbird</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Song thrush</b>	Heard on 4 days.
<b>Mistle thrush</b>	Seen on 3 days.
<b>Robin</b>	Seen or heard every day.
<b>Nightingale</b>	Heard every day, especially opposite the hotel.
<b>Black redstart</b>	Seen every day, including in Boca de Huérgano.
<b>Common redstart</b>	Seen on 2 days, including in Boca de Huérgano.
<b>Stonechat</b>	Seen on 3 days.
<b>Whinchat</b>	On the return journey, 19/6.
<b>Northern wheatear</b>	Seen at Fuente Dé.
<b>Spotted flycatcher</b>	On 17/6 in Valdeón only.
<b>House sparrow</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Rock sparrow</b>	Around the hotel on 5 days.
<b>Snowfinch</b>	Fuente Dé only.
<b>Alpine accentor</b>	Fuente Dé.
<b>Dunnock</b>	Seen on all 6 days.
<b>Grey wagtail</b>	Seen on 4 days, especially from the bridge in Boca de Huérgano.
<b>White wagtail</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Tree pipit</b>	Heard 15/6 & 16/6, but not seen well.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Serín</b>	Seen daily, lots in Boca de Huérgano.
<b>Citril finch</b>	Seen on 15/6 and heard 16/6.
<b>Greenfinch</b>	Heard on 15/6 only.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Linnet</b>	Seen on 5 days.
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	Heard or seen on 4 days.
<b>Rock bunting</b>	19/6 and 20/6.
<b>Corn bunting</b>	Seen on 4 days, mostly while travelling.

MAMMALS		
Wild boar (rootings)	Roe deer	Southern/Pyrenean chamois (Isard)
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS		
Ocellated lizard		Seoane's viper
Schreiber's green lizard		Common midwife toad
Common wall lizard		Spiny toad
Southern smooth snake (roadkill)		Common frog
DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES		
Western willow spreadwing/Willow emerald damselfly		<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i> – egg-laying scars
Robust spreadwing/Scarce emerald damselfly		<i>Lestes dryas</i>
Common bluet/common blue damselfly		<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Azure bluet/damselfly		<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Beautiful demoiselle		<i>Calopteryx virgo meridionalis</i>
Iberian bluetail		<i>Ischnura graellsii</i>
Blue emperor (dragonfly)		<i>Anax imperator</i>
Golden-ringed dragonfly		<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>
Four-spotted chaser		<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Broad-bodied chaser		<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Common darter		<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
Keeled skimmer		<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>

Our butterfly checklist for the holiday was a combination of the species seen on holiday in 2012 and 2019, yet we still had 18 write-ins! That's on account of the weather, which brought out so many butterflies, both numbers and species. And probably a few were missed in the tricky groups like skippers and fritillaries.

BUTTERFLIES			
Marbled skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	Spotted fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>
Chequered skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>
Iberian grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>	Esper's marbled white	<i>Melanargia russiae</i>
Oberthur's grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricus</i>	Spanish marbled white	<i>Melanargia ines</i>
Safflower skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>	Rock grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>
Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus action</i>	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>
Essex skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Chapman's ringlet	<i>Erebia palarica</i>
[Common] Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	De Prunner's Ringlet	<i>Erebia triaria</i>
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Green-veined white	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Pearly heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Chestnut heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>
Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Southern speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>
Bath white	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	Large wall brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Spanish purple hairstreak	<i>Lacosopsis roboris</i>
Berger's clouded yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>	Sloe hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	White-letter hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Sooty copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Purple-edged copper	<i>Paleochrysophanus hippothoe</i>
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Long-tailed blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Cardinal	<i>Pandoriana pandora</i>	Small blue/Little blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria Euphrosyne</i>	Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	Idas blue	<i>Lycaedes idas</i>
Dark green fritillary	<i>Mesoacidalia aglaja</i>	Brown argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Queen of Spain fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Green-underside blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>
Knapweed fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	Turquoise blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>
Glanville fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	Adonis blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Provençal fritillary	<i>Melitaea dejone</i>	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>

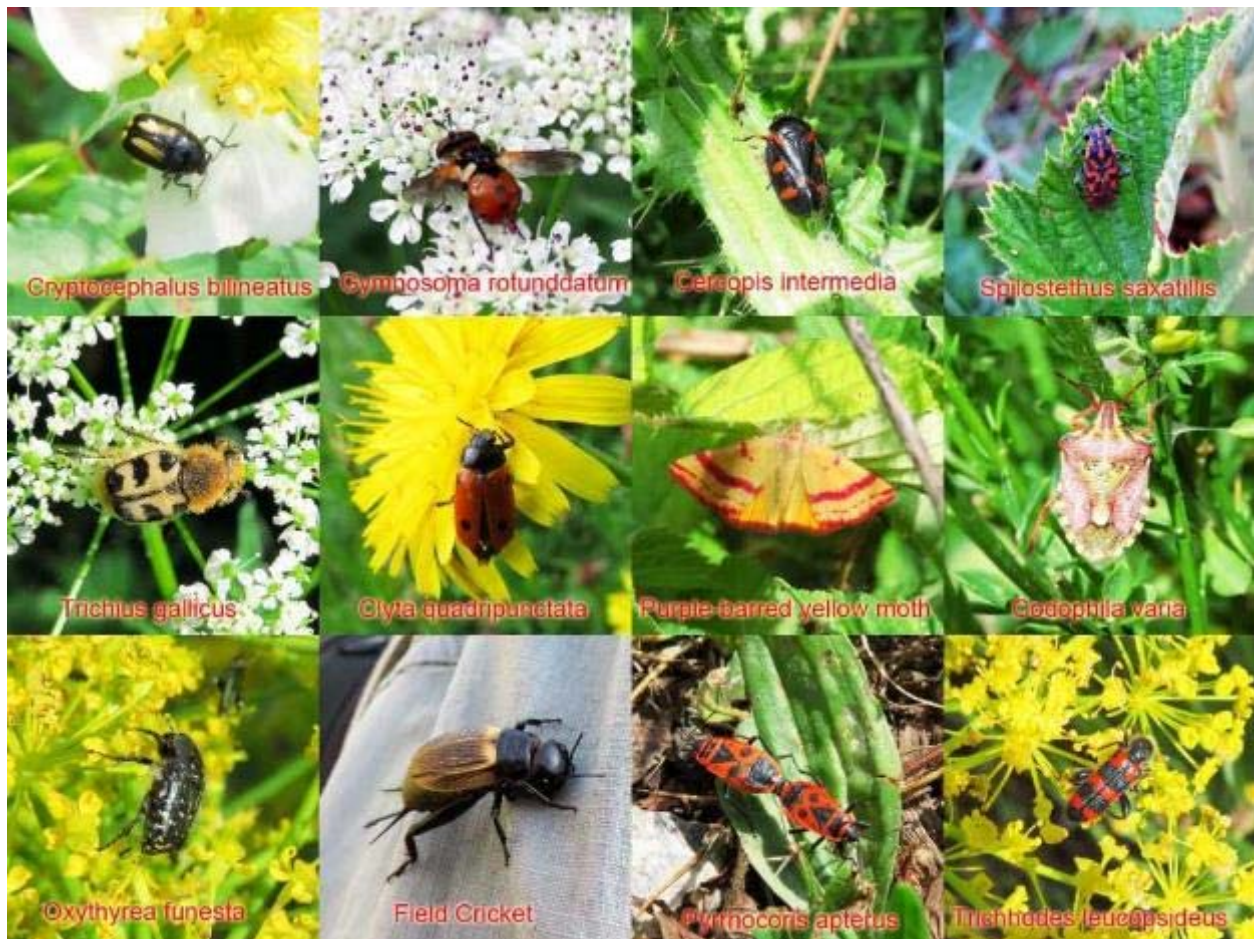




Spanish purple hairstreak, green hairstreak on bistort, small pearl-bordered fritillary, cardinal (PL).

The following lists – and the collage photo – were compiled by group members Val Appleyard and Ron Fitton, with a few additions by Chris from the general checklist. English names or descriptions are added where easily available.

BEETLES	
<i>Cryptocephalus aureoles</i> a green leaf beetle	<i>Trichius gallicus</i> Bee beetle
<i>Cryptocephalus bilineatus</i> a small black and yellow leaf beetle usually associated with kidney vetch	<i>Trichodes alvearius</i> a soldier or bee-hive beetle
<i>Heliotaurus ruficollis</i> black with a dark red thorax	<i>Trichodes leucopsides</i> ditto
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i> Flower or pollen chafer	<i>Trypocoris pyrenaeus</i> Heath dumble dor
<i>Pseudovadonia livida</i> Fairy-ring longhorn beetle	<i>Mordella aculeata</i>
<i>Rutpela maculata</i> Spotted longhorn	<i>Agriotes sputator</i> Common click beetle
<i>Serica brunnea</i> Brown chafer	<i>Clytra quadripunctata</i> a leaf beetle with 4 spots
<i>Stenopterus mauritanicus</i>	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i> Thick-legged flower beetle
<i>Stenurella melanura</i> a longhorn beetle	<i>Cetonia aurata</i> Rose chafer
	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i> 7 spot ladybird
FROGHOPPER	
<i>Cercopis intermedia</i> black and red	
LACEWINGS AND ALLIES	
<i>Chrysoperla carnea</i> a common green lacewing	<i>Osmylus fulvicephalus</i> giant lacewing
<i>Libelluloides longicornis</i> ascapaphid or owlfly	
SAWFLY	
<i>Athalia rosae</i> the turnip sawfly	
BUGS	
<i>Codophila varia</i> a shield bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i> firebug
<i>Corizus hyoscyami</i> a red and black plant bug	<i>Spilostethus mauritanicus</i> another red and black bug
<i>Graphosoma lineatum italicum</i> in Honeyguide circles, often called Millwall bug	<i>Spilostethus mauritanicus</i> another red and black bug
<i>Melanocoryphus albomaculatus</i> another red & black bug	<i>Tupiona mixticolor</i> a mirid bug
SPIDERS	
<i>Neoscona adianta</i> Bordered orb web	<i>Salticus zebraneus</i> a black & white jumping spider
GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS	
Dark bush cricket nymph <i>Pholidoptera griseoaptera</i>	Speckled bush cricket <i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>
Great green bush cricket <i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Field cricket <i>Gryllus campestris</i>
Common field grasshopper <i>Chorthippus brunneus</i> (both normal and violet female form)	
HOVERFLIES	
<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	<i>Chrysostom festivum</i>
FLIES	
<i>Gymnosoma rotundatum</i>	<i>Tachina fera</i>
STONEFLY	
Stonefly Cf <i>Dinocras cephalotes</i>	
BEES AND WASPS	
Common carder (orange form) <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Harebell bee <i>Chelostoma campanularum</i>
Violet carpenter bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Paper wasp <i>Polistes</i> sp
BEE-FLIES	
<i>Bombylius discolor</i> Dotted bee-fly	<i>Bombylius medius</i>
MOTHS	
Bordered straw <i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	Hummingbird hawkmoth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Purple barred yellow <i>Lythria purpuraria</i>	Chimney sweeper <i>Odezia atrata</i>
Silver Y <i>Autographa gamma</i>	Forester moth <i>Adscita</i> sp
Speckled yellow <i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	Lackey moth larva <i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
Burnet moth <i>Zygaena rhadamanthus</i>	Grass egg moth larva <i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>
	Bagworm moth larva <i>Psychidae</i> family



Hello Chris

My name is Yeray Monasterio. I hold the position of president of the ZERYNTIA Association, the entity that is in charge of the study, conservation and divulgation of butterflies in Spain.

Pau has been so kind to transfer us that you have deposited a part of your profits in our bank account. As in 2019, we would like to express our sincere gratitude, on behalf of all the members of our entity, for your generous contribution to the conservation of Spanish butterflies.

Kind regards: Yeray Monasterio León

Presidente de la Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio (ZERYNTIA)

Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio ZERYNTIA

[www.asociacion-zerynthia.org](http://www.asociacion-zerynthia.org)



@asocZERYNTIA

Dear Chris, first thank you very much for your donation and the recognition of our work in Astillero. It is always a pleasure to receive English visitors that come to our region and enjoy our birds and habitats, and could see our efforts to restore ancient wetlands.

Best wishes



**Felipe González Sánchez**

Delegado Territorial de Cantabria

Centro de Estudios de las Marismas

Avda. de Chiclana nº 8, 39610 Astillero (Cantabria)

[www.seo.org](http://www.seo.org)

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PLANTS NiF = not in flower	
FERNS	
<i>Adiantum capillis-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall rue
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-backed fern
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
CONIFERS	
<i>Juniperus thurifera</i>	Spanish juniper
<i>Pinus (mugo) uncinata</i>	Creeping or mountain pine
DICOTYLEDONS	
<b>Apiaceae (Umbellifers) Carrot Family (incomplete)</b>	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock samphire, Santander
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Pyrenean sea holly
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel NiF
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet cicely
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock water dropwort
<i>Smyrnum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
<i>Thapsia villosa</i>	'villous deadly carrot'
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright hedge parsley
<b>Asteraceae (Compositae) Daisy family</b>	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Adenostyles alliariae</i>	Adenostyles
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Carduncellus mitissimus</i>	
<i>Carduus carlinoides</i>	Pyrenean thistle
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Cupidone
<i>Centaurea alpestris</i>	Knapweed
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower
<i>Centaurea nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Cirsium rivulare</i>	Brook thistle
<i>Doronicum carpetanum</i>	Leopardsbane
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry plant
<i>Hieracium (mixtum) bombycinum</i>	a very hairy mountain hawkbit
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy
<i>Leuzea conifera</i>	Cone knapweed
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear hawkweed
<i>Scorzonera angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved viper's-grass
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	Marsh ragwort
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard
<b>Boraginaceae Forget-me-not Family</b>	
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Alkanet
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's bugloss
<i>Lithodora oliefolia</i>	Shrubby gromwell
<i>Lycopsis arvensis</i>	Bugloss
<i>Myosotis alpina</i>	Alpine forget-me-not
<b>Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) Cabbage Family</b>	
<i>Biscutella sp</i>	Buckler mustard
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	Large (or radish-leaved) cuckoo flower
<i>Erysimum mayorii</i>	Wallflower
<i>Iberis carnosa</i>	Pruit's candytuft
<i>Matthiola perennis</i>	a stock
<b>Campanulaceae Bellflower Family</b>	
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	Rampion bellflower
<i>Jasione laevis</i> ssp <i>carpentana</i>	a local sheep's-bit, 'botón azul'
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed rampion
<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Spiked rampion
<b>Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family</b>	
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf elder
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder

<b>Caryophyllaceae Pink Family</b>	
<i>Arenaria purpurascens</i>	Pink sandwort
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field-mouse ear
<i>Cucubalus baccifera</i>	Berry catchfly
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden pink
<i>Dianthus monspessulanus</i>	Fringed pink
<i>Kohlruschia (Petrorhagia) velutina</i>	Hairy pink
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham catchfly
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion
<b>Chenopodiaceae Goosefoot Family</b>	
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry
<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>	Sea purslane
<b>Cistaceae Rock-rose family</b>	
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White rockrose
<i>Helianthemum canum</i>	Hoary rockrose
<i>Helianthemum nummularian</i>	Common rockrose
<b>Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family</b>	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed
<b>Corylaceae Hazel Family</b>	
<i>Corylus avellane</i>	Hazel
<b>Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family</b>	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop
<i>Sedum album</i>	White stonecrop
<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	English stonecrop
<i>Sedum dasophyllum</i>	Thick-leaved stonecrop
<i>Sedum rupestre</i> (or <i>reflexum</i> )	Rock or reflexed stonecrop
<b>Disacaceae, Teasel/scabious Family</b>	
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood scabious
<b>Ericaceae, Heath Family</b>	
<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	St. Dabeoc's heath
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree heather
<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish tree heath
<b>Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family</b>	
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood spurge
<b>Fabaceae (Leguminosae) Pea Family</b>	
<i>Adenocarpus complicatus</i>	yellow shrub at Boca de H
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch (yellow)
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>pyrenaica</i>	Kidney vetch (pink)
<i>Genista florida</i>	the abundant, flowery broom
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> ssp <i>carpentanus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Lotus uliginosus</i>	Greater (marsh) birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Trifolium ochroleucon</i>	Sulphur clover
<i>Trifolium pretense</i>	Red clover
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch
<b>Fagaceae Oak and Beech Family</b>	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak
<b>Gentianaceae Gentian Family</b>	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
<i>Gentiana angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>corbariensis</i>	Pyrenean trumpet gentian
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great yellow gentian
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring gentian
<b>Geraniaceae Geranium Family</b>	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked cranesbill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin
<i>Geranium subargenteum</i>	
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean geranium
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Wood cranesbill

<b>Globulariaceae Globularia Family</b>	
<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i>	Leafless-stemmed Globularia
<i>Globularia repens</i>	Creeping globularia
<b>Hypericaceae St. John's Worts</b>	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's wort
<i>Hypericum richeri</i> ssp <i>burseri</i>	Alpine St. John's wort
<b>Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) Mint Family</b>	
<i>Acinos alpina</i>	Alpine calamint
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	Basil-thyme
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted dead-nettle
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse mint
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	Large self-heal
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved self-heal
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort
<i>Teucrium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean germander
<i>Thymus</i> sp	Wild thyme
<b>Lentibulariaceae Butterwort Family</b>	
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered butterwort
<b>Linaceae Flax Family</b>	
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial flax
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful flax
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging or fairy flax
<i>Linum strictum</i>	yellow flax
<i>Linum (suffruticosum) salsoloides</i>	Pyrenean/white flax
<b>Malvaceae Mallow Family</b>	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
<b>Oleaceae Olive &amp; Lilac Family</b>	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<b>Onograceae Willowherb Family</b>	
<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>	Large-flowered evening primrose
<b>Papaveraceae Poppy Family</b>	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
<b>Plantaginaceae Plantain Family</b>	
<i>Plantago alpina</i>	
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain
<b>Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family</b>	
<i>Armeria cantabrica</i>	(= <i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp <i>alpina</i> )
<b>Polygalaceae Milkworts</b>	
<i>Polygala</i> sp	Milkwort
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Mountain milkwort
<b>Primulaceae Primrose Family</b>	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Ciliate rock-jasmine
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip NiF
<b>Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family</b>	
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold NiF
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica NiF
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower
<b>Resedaceae Mignonette Family</b>	
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White mignonette
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<b>Rosaceae Rose Family</b>	
<i>Agrimonia euphatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine lady's mantle
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort
<i>Fragaria</i> sp	Wild strawberry NiF
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulphur cinquefoil (pale)
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose
<i>Rosa pendulina</i>	Alpine rose

<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<b>Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family</b>	
<i>Galium album</i>	White bedstraw
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh bedstraw (Santander)
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw
<b>Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family</b>	
<i>Saxifraga bryoides</i>	Mossy saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga canaliculata</i>	Cantabrian saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga umbrosa</i>	Wood saxifrage
<b>Scrophulariaceae (inc. Antirrhinaceae) Figwort Family</b>	
<i>Antirrhinum braun-blanquetii</i>	
<i>Bartsia (Parentucellia) viscosa</i>	Yellow bartsia
<i>Bartsia (Bellardia) trixago</i>	Bellardia
<i>Chaenorhinum origanifolium</i>	Malling toadflax
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Digitalis parviflora</i>	Small-flowered foxglove
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy foxglove
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Eyebright
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine toadflax
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Small cow-wheat
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common lousewort
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle
<i>Rhinanthus serotinus</i> subsp. <i>asturicus</i>	Greater yellow rattle
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French figwort
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark mullein
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary mullein
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Veronica ponaе</i>	Spiked Pyrenean speedwell
<b>Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family</b>	
<i>Daphne laureola</i> subsp. <i>philippi</i>	Spurge laurel
<b>Valerianaceae Valerian Family</b>	
<i>Centranthus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved red valerian
<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean valerian
<b>Violaceae Violet Family</b>	
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow wood violet
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Horned pansy
<b>Viscaceae Mistletoe Family</b>	
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>	
<b>Liliaceae Lily Family</b>	
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Chives
<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	Round-headed leek
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common asphodel
<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>	Dog's-tooth violet NiF
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon lily
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth NiF
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A spiked star of Bethlehem
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star of Bethlehem
<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring squill
<i>Veratrum album</i>	False white helleborine
<b>Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family</b>	
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> ssp. <i>nobilis</i>	Wild daffodil NiF
<b>Iridaceae Iris Family</b>	
<i>Iris xiphoides</i>	English iris
<b>Orchidaceae Orchid Family</b>	
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsia</i>	Common spotted orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath spotted orchid
<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	Dark red-leaved helleborine
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant orchid
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard orchid
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
<b>Sedge and grasses (very incomplete)</b>	
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Cottongrass