Lake Van

Eastern Turkey

A Greentours Tour Report

 23^{rd} May -5^{th} June 2014

Leaders: Başak Gardner & Phil Benstead

Day 1 May 23rd to Istanbul

We all met up eventually at arrivals from an incredible array of departure locations; Copenhagen, Oslo, London, Dublin and Amsterdam, it took some time to get sorted but eventually we were in a vehicle speeding through a warm and sunny Istanbul late evening to our charming hotel in the Old Quarter. Meeting up with Başak at the hotel we discovered she had arranged an excellent fish restaurant for our evening meal. Some still had the energy after this late meal to walk the local site; the amazing Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sofia... Then there was just enough time a short night's sleep before our flight in the morning.

Day 2 May 24th Van to Doğubeyazıt

We were up very early this morning for breakfast at four-thirty and then on to the airport. There was no traffic this time and the journey was very short compared to the previous evening. Likewise the airport was quiet and we progressed efficiently through security, check-in and onto the gate.

Our flight was on time and we were soon heading east, crossing more or less the length of Turkey, a journey that takes almost two hours by plane. The weather was fine and sunny, fabulously so as we descended across Van's turquoise blue waters, the snow-rimmed crater of Nemrut Dağı marking the start of our descent and all the while to the south we could see line after line of very snowy mountains, many of them topping 3500m. There were neat villages perched among grassy basins and occasionally along the shore of the lake itself. We passed over Akdamar Island before banking round in a semi-circle and following the shoreline to the airport. Our baggage soon arrived and then it was out to meet our driver Cabbar.

We had a quick diversion to pick up Başak's boots and then we were off, heading out of town into the steppelands to the north. It took us a while to shake ourselves free of the expanding city, but soon there was nothing but wide open expanses and the occasional village and a seemingly out of place dual carriageway given the volume of traffic on it – not much! Our first stop was a large damp area which redshank, lapwing and black-headed wagtails called their home. There was an incredible sea of *Orchis pseudolaxiflora* colouring the field purple in places and amongst them more robust but equally purple heads of *Dactyorhiza osmanica*.

Sea arrow grass and the lousewort *Pedicularis comosa* were common. On the wing here we found our first butterflies, common blue and small heath seeming rather familiar... Odonata appeared too with the occasional patch of sun coaxing broad-bodied chaser and ornate bluet into flight. Black-headed buntings sang from nearby piles of rock and crested larks appeared and disappeared.

Dragging ourselves away we drove on a few kilometres and explored an area of dry steppe. This proved superbly productive with all manner of beautiful flowers, none better though than excellent and often immaculate purple blooms of *Iris barnumae*, our first oncocyclus iris of the tour. *Bellevalia longipes* had finished flowering (just) but there were *Muscari caucasicum* and *Muscari neglectum* in bloom. *Astragaluses* drew much praise with at least seven species present, notably the ground flowering *Astragalus angustiflorus*, the yellow blooms topped by a bonnet of long pinnate leaves. We also photographed *Rindera lanata*, patches of blue flowered, red-purple-bracted *Salvia multicaulis* mixed with masses of yellow *Astragalus caraganae*, and the lovely red *Adonis eriocalycina*. Overhead we watched migrating honey buzzards and Phil found our first tortoise but was easily trumped by the superb snake Liam found. There were many butterflies on the wing here including some nice Freyer's fritillaries.

Driving on we skirted the lakeshore, the intensity of colour of the lake's waters if anything seeming stronger even though we were now in the full glare of midday sun. Suphan Dağı, a dormant volcano that reaches 4400m and is Turkey's second highest mountain rose behind the lake, a sublime scene. We reached the northeast corner of the lake and left its shores at Bendimahi, not having time to stop and birdwatch (we'd save that for a later day) and instead following the Bendimahi River valley up into the hills. We stopped for a very pleasant lunch at Muradiye Waterfall which was most welcome after our very early start in the morning. The trout and chicken wings went down well but at the end of the meal it became apparent that the weather was deteriorating.

Moving on a tiny distance and with a storm gathering ominously behind us we dashed out of the vehicles to look at some fine *Iris ibirica* ssp. *elegantissima*. Forty or so black-purple blooms were topped with almost luminous white standards, these lightly edged in red. Our second oncocyclus iris of the day. There was some variation, two particularly pale plants were noted, but all were exceptionally large. Also here a few examples of the wonderful *Phelypaea tournefortii*. The impressive scarlet flowers of this strange parasite, essentially a broomrape with one large bloom, are an incongruous sight! Growing nearby were plenty of Bastard Toadflax, various Euphorbias – *cheiradenia* and *segurigiana*, and the lovely prostrate *Astragalus anthylloides*, the pale pink flowers turning into inflated almost peanut-like seedpods.

The rest of the afternoon was taken up with driving to our hotel, arriving just after 1700 we had time to settle in before a Başak had quick recap through of some of the plants seen during the day and dinner. Tired after a long day many of us retired and slept.

Meanwhile Phil's nocturnal (pr)owling turned up a nice long-eared owl and a whole gang of fantastic William's jerboa bouncing around on the steppe out the back of the hotel. Something for tomorrow night...

Day 3 May 25th Tendürek Pass

A small sub-set of us convened at seven for a spot of birdwatching in the hotel grounds. Phil had already

had a good look around by this time and had found a female barred warbler, so the stage was set for some exciting birding. The owner of the hotel is rather keen on natural history and has planted plenty of trees and bushes, and as the surrounding area is entirely treeless this makes it a magnet for birds. Migration was still moving along nicely judging by the large diversity of species encountered.

There was not a huge number of birds present but as the day warmed they started to become more obvious. First up was a dainty female red-breasted flycatcher and this was followed by a steady stream of warblers; marsh, garden, olivaceous, willow and whitethroat predominating. Walking out into the open steppe produced 'scope views of red-backed and lesser grey shrike. Isabelline wheatears were commonplace and overhead we occasionally spotted some bee-eaters. Nearby goalposts were attractive to singing rock sparrows. Scarlet rosefinches gave bursts of song but could not be located – frustrating.

After breakfast we headed uphill, onto the pass that leads over Tendürek Dağı, back-tracking along the way we had come the day before. We spent all day exploring the slopes either side of the pass in most magical weather with wall-to-wall fantastic scenery.

Although the weather looked good we elected to do the highest site first of all as insurance and had an enjoyable two hours walking the hills and climbing up to some snow-melt areas. Tackling the first slope we found quickly found *Pulsatilla albana*, *Anemone narcissflora* and *Gentiana verna*. Joost found a surprise orchid – *Coeloglossum viride*. With it was quite a bit of *Gagea glacialis* and on dryer spots *Gagea taurica*. Başak found *Arnebia pulchra*, and our first fritillaries, *Fritillaria pinardii*, as Snowfinches flew about us. Phil was busy looking for reptiles but turned up a small number of *Iris caucasica* and a nice drift of *Fritillaria* and the beautiful *Corydalis oppositifolia*, which made him popular with the rest of the team.

Lunch stop flora included Allium akaka, some remains of Tulipa juliae and Iris caucasica.

The lava fields just below our lunch stop were a potential site for another fritillary (*Fritillaria caucasica*) but sadly we could not find any flowering. One small area here though was jam-packed with *Bellevalia pycnantha*. The small stream here produced our first banded frogs.

Our last stop was in a north-facing gully by the road where there were many fine *Iris iberica elegantissima* flowers as well as the *Salvia limbata, Pedicularis condensata, Campanula stevenii, Primula auriculata* and *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*. Caucasian Agama was added to the list. After a welcome cuppa we headed back to the hotel.

Phil wandered the garden when we got back to see if anything was new-in and found two hawfinches and a golden oriole. What a great garden!

Phil's night walk was well-attended and we did rather well in a short amount of time. First up was a cracking view of a long-eared owl just outside reception. We left him alone quickly and moved on to the jerboa-infested steppe. Here we had no problems finding jerboa's but getting other people onto these hyperactive mammals as they dashed erratically over the steppe, dancing in the beam of the torch was another matter... We also found our first and much more obliging green toads. A nice end to a great day in the field.

Day 4 May 26th Ishak Paşa & the Çilli Pass

An early morning birdwatching trip was well attended. We drove across the flat plain to the edge of the lava flow at Ararat's foot and then through the lava, stopping for a nice male Finsch's Wheatear. We soon reached the wetland edge and spent the next hour making two stops and scanning the sea of wet grassland and scattered pools in front of us.

As usual here reptiles were easy to find and we spotted Caucasian agama, Rauch's stepperunner and the very localised sunwatcher (a toad-headed agama). The latter has a flattened almost circular body, a short stubby head and a widely banded tail. The camouflage, on the volcanic sands we spotted them on, was incredible. This is a rare species in Turkey, known only from the flanks of Mount Ararat.

There were birds to look at too with squacco heron and flocks of fly-by ruddy shelduck at the first stop. The second stop was better though and we spent most of our time going through the wildfowl here. Small numbers of mallard, shoveler, pochard, gadwall and even a male garganey were found. A second-year male Montagu's harrier shot past and out over the grassland were our first marsh harriers. White-winged and gull-billed terns hawked over the surface of the largest waterbody as a small gang of relaxed spoonbills looked on. A nice congregation of white storks was present too but then we had to tear ourselves away and head for breakfast and the rest of the day's activities.

After breakfast we headed for the Ishak Paşa Palace. The fortress sits high in the colourful multistrata-ed hills behind Doğubeyazıt, a quite fantastic location and one which overlooks what was once part of the silk route, and today is once again a major trading route. Unfortunately it was shut for some sort of filming so we did not get to look inside...

Instead we headed uphill. Başak walked us high onto the side of the ridge to look for the yellow tulips. Sadly these were not to be seen, though a few red ones were found, these *Tulipa juliae*. There were some superb mounds of *Androsace villosa*, the pretty little *Silene dianthoides* and the strange sinuate-leaved *Matthiola odoratissima*, a plant that after nightfall emits a very pleasant scent.

Several of us stayed lower down enjoying the birdwatching. Woodlarks sang from rocks. Chukars called above us. Three bunting species were seen, a couple of rock buntings, three or four grey-necked buntings, and some amazingly tame ortolan. Red-billed chough coursed along the cliff tops and two golden eagles flew in to sit nearby on the rocky ridge. Later we watched the latter hunting the incredibly abundant sousliks of this area. Unfortunately as we turned to head back for the van and lunch Hilary had an accident with a piece of grass and her eye and Başak had to take her to the local ER for a look-see. Whilst this was going on the rest of us lunched in the picnic area. The sousliks here were tame and very photogenic. Birds hopping about scavenging scraps included rock sparrow and western rock nuthatch.

After only a short wait the hospital team returned and we loaded up the van and drove out across the flat plain across the wide open landscapes, passing some very rustic villages, to an area of old lava hills that descend from Ararat's western slopes. Here there were dozens of perfect *Iris iberica* ssp *elegantissima* in excellent afternoon light. There were many other flowers too with deep purple *Gladiolus atroviolaceus*, *Vincetoxicum fuscata* and after crossing an ocean of dainty white *Scandix iberica* there were slopes with hundreds of pretty *Polygala anatolica* in a variety of colours from pink to purple and also *Cerinthe major* ssp

auriculata, the blue bells of Campanula stevenii and some pristine deep red-brown Orchis coriophora.

Phil wandered around checking the birds and found four species of wheatear breeding at the site and our first white-throated robin of the tour. Rufous scrub robins sang from the low scrub on the rock outcrops but we could not get a glimpse. Chunky bimaculated larks sang here too but we found them easily enough. Driving home we finally bumped into a small flock of rose-coloured starlings but as we slowed to a halt they made good their escape...

Day 5 May 27th Volcanos and wetlands

Then a small team accompanied Phil on an early visit back to the lake, primarily to get better photos of the sunwatcher agamas. In this we failed spectacularly but mainly because the birding on the lake was so good and we got very distracted. We occupied a suitable vantage point and were astonished to find that the set of birds was completely different from the day before – evidence that the birds we saw yesterday were probably still actively migrating.

We scanned the lake. The waders in were all new for us, a few avocet had replaced yesterday's stilts and the flocks contained little stint and ringed plover today. A few ferruginous ducks flew about and from the lake came the single boom of a bittern. Two whiskered terns flew through high and a good look at the distant agricultural fields on the other side of the lake produced a pair of cranes. Two male garganeys showed well.

After a speedy breakfast Phil checked the garden one last time for black-headed bunting, another hawfinch, more common rosefinches, penduline tit and three barred warblers. What a great little migrant trap this garden is.

It was another superb clear morning and Ararat shone icily at us as we breakfasted on the balcony of the hotel. The peak was still capped with cloud when we left, its honour intact. We said goodbye to the Sim-er Hotel and set off for the Iranian border and the so-called meteor crater. On the way we passed a very long queue of lorries taking up one carriageway of the road and stretching for miles. Waiting to cross the border...

The meteor site (actually a volcanic feature we suspected) consisted of a jackdaw-filled pipe into the earth. Not too deep but impressive all the same. Rock sparrows and Eastern rock nuthatch were nesting inside too and we flushed a nice pair of rollers when we arrived that we 'scoped later on nearby wires. We also got decent views of bee-eaters through the 'scope. The plants here were *Bungea trifida, Paronychia turcica, Salvia rosifolia, Silene odontopetala* and *Stachys inflata*.

Back-tracking we went into town to visit a supermarket to stock up on provisions and buy beer and wine. Our next hotel being dry. That done we headed back over the Tendürek Pass and back towards Lake Van. Our first stop was for orchids near Çaldıran, where we found *Orchis pseudolaxiflora* and *Dacthylorhiza umbrosa*. Unfortunately it was very windy here which meant Phil had to settle for marsh and banded frogs as birds and invertebrates were in very short supply.

We had a quick stop at the bridge at Bendimahi. Great reed warblers sang lustily. Moorhen and water rail

could be heard in the reeds. A couple of bearded tits were glimpsed but then we had to move on.

Our lunch stop was in a busy recreation area overlooking a small rapid that was very busy with migrating pearl mullet (*Alburnus tarichi*). Huge shoals waited patiently downstream as the front-runners tried to tackle the obstacle. Fascinating stuff, this small cyprinid is endemic to Lake Van and undertakes a spring migration up the lake's tributaries to spawn. What with the fish and the picnic we did not have much time for birds here and moved on.

We continued westward, stopping for another short stop at remote Göldüzü, a rustic village on the edge of Arın Gölü. This lake is an even more amazing colour than Van, being bright turquoise in more or less any weather. We were still blessed with sun, but the 4400m peak of nearby Suphan Dağı rearing above us to the north had a cloudy hat.

A bunch of local kids greeted us with noisy and rambunctious enthusiasm as we set about checking out the wildfowl here. White-headed duck were the star birds, no time to count properly sadly but there were a good number of this globally endangered species. Other ducks included a good number of red-crested pochard and a single male tufted duck. Along the back edge were a few Mediterranean and black-headed gulls

Moving on we stopped one last time in some poplar-planted meadows in Adilcevaz. These held an impressive population of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*, looking rather different from the form we'd seen at high levels in Çaldıran in the morning, here tall and leafy, and very variable in colour, ranging from dark magenta to white, with the latter predominating. Bogbean was also here. There were plenty of singing Olivaceous warblers in the trees and we also looked at Great Tit and a Cetti's Warbler. Then it was on to Tatvan, passing numerous possible stopping places on the way, but it really was time to get to our next hotel, set high upon the slopes of Nemrut Dağı volcano and finally reached in the middle of a squally rainshower. Despite the weather we could see that the hotel was perfectly situated, offering fantastic views out over the lake and the town.

Day 6 May 28th Nemrut Dağı

The area around the hotel was full of bird life before breakfast with rock sparrow and swifts nesting in the roof. Nearby fields produced ortolan bunting, shorelark and black-headed bunting.

After a breakfast with a view we spent the entire day up inside the crater of the Nemrut Dağı volcano. Being already more than half way up the mountain it didn't take long for us to reach the crater rim where we stopped and admired the view down into the caldera. Our first booted eagle put in an appearance here. Some six thousand years ago this would have been a volcano to rival Ararat in size but the top five or six thousand feet blew off and into the stratosphere, though a considerable amount of it landed nearby blocking the drainage of what would have been the upper tributaries of the Tigris. This led to the formation of huge Lake Van, which this morning lay gleaming in the sunlight below us.

Looking back inside the crater we could see the marvellous deep blue crater lake that fills a quarter of the caldera, the caldera walls made of cliffs and screes liberally sprinkled with birch and aspen forests and

streaked with snow. Nearer at hand lay obsidian and lava strewn hollows and slopes.

We drove down to the boulder fields at the bottom of the caldera and spent the morning exploring the beautiful rock gardens within. It was *Euphorbia denticulata*, named for the delicately fimbriate red-black shiny glands in the flowers, that first took the interest. Next was *Iris caucasica* which became more prolific as we walked down the slope, joined by bunches of *Onosma bracteatum* and patches of yellow *Linum triflorum*. Finally we encountered our first fritillaries. First was the butterscotch bells of *Fritillaria minuta*, set above wide bright shiny green leaves, a distinctive combination and very different from the *Fritillaria assyriaca* with its narrow glaucous leaves and narrow unflared bells. This grew just metres away and throughout the rest of the gullies we found them growing side by side, the *minuta* by melting snow and the *assyriaca* on the drier slopes abutting this, though often they were literally right next to each other. Perhaps not surprisingly there were hybrids, exhibiting various intermediate features, and these were quite frequent.

We watched two male white-throated robins chasing each other about. Woodlarks sang overhead taking it in turns with the numerous skylarks to dominate the soundscape. Hilary found the wonderful hawk-moth *Proserpinus proserpina* and Joan made Phil's day by finding a *Dorcadion* long-horn beetle (as yet unidentified). *Iris caucasica, Rindera lanata* and *Bornmuellera cappadocica* were some of the plants here. We found lovely *Corydalis oppositifolia* subspecies *rutifolia* in shaded areas and but sadly the strange 'Nemrut Dağı' form of *Puschkinia scilloides* was in fruit. This form is so different that we wonder that it hasn't been given a proper name yet. *Gagea luteoides* was common by snow melt and *Gagea uliginosa* grew on damp mossy ledges, and an unknown *Gagea* in similar situations. *Arabis caucasica* and *Solenanthus stamineus* flowered well amongst the rocks, which also held a small population of *Saxifraga sibirica*. Two Spur-thighed Tortoises were found, one huge, and everywhere there were Valentin's lizards, the males looking very smart with their green marbled backs and blue-speckled flanks.

We returned to the minibuses and set off down to the crater lake for a picnic. Whilst lunch was prepared the team searched a nearby rocky Aspen wood. Under these small trees was quite a population of *Dactylorhiza flavescens*, the Georgian Orchid, and just a few purple *Orchis pinetorum*. *Euphorbia macrocarpa* was impressive here.

In the afternoon we drove down through some remarkable scenery, slopes covered in beautiful bronze-leaved aspens, the understorey juniper, interspersed with scree slopes. Stopping by a small lake at the bottom we walked to the shoreline. Carla found our first roosting four-spot chaser dragonflies but the sun soon came out and they were on the wing in no time. Suddenly all around us were flying damselflies – all *Coenagrion lunulatum* or crescent bluets, a species which by some biogeographical quirk makes it into far eastern Turkey at this site.

One last stop inside the crater and we noted *Ranunculus crateris* and *Ranunculus diversifolius, Linum trinervium, Pulsatilla albana* and *Jurinella moschus*.

Driving back out over the crater rim and towards Ahlat we visited the old 12th century cemetery. Here we found some great bee-eaters and enjoyed the cultural diversion and brewed up some tea to go with our cakes. Then it was time to return to the hotel and dinner.

Day 7 May 29th Bitlis circuit

We departed our hotel on a hill at nine and trundled down to Tatvan and thence to a tiny village the other side where we spent a happy hour exploring the wooded slopes. Our prime target here were peonies and though we only found one small clump they were in fine condition, this being *Paeonia mascula*. The scrubby oak was a delight, if rather difficult to wander in! *Lathyrus rotundifolius* and *Lathyrus roseus* were both seen. The light shone through the fresh bright green foliage to the accompaniment of loud nightingale and golden oriole songs. Over the woodland a collection of hobbys were hawking for insects and inside the team found our first blue tits. In the understory we found Greater Butterfly Orchid, some of the typical white form and some decidedly greenish. Helleborines were in bud and one *Dactylorhiza flavescens* was still in flower. Phil stayed out in the open hunting for longhorn beetles and finally recording a few of the common white butterflies hitherto missing from the list. Mazarine blue surfaced at last too. Checking all the flowering *Ferrula* for invertebrates produced some nice robust *Orobanche kurdica*.

Our first stop on the Bitlis circuit was for a wet field full of orchids. The small roadside wetland held numerous broad-bodied chasers and a few blue-tailed damselflies. Driving on we stopped by a rushing mountain stream and looked in vain for *Iris sari*, unfortunately they were all over at this spot but we wandered a nearby slope very happily all the same. Plants noted here are *Trifolium* species like *Trifolium* physodes, *Trifolium arvense*, *Trifolium pauciflorum* and also *Legousia pentagyna* and *Cicer anatolicum*. Grey wagtails were spotted along the stream for the first time and a pair of lesser grey shrikes put in an appearance. Wandering the slope Phil found first a settled eastern spectre (*Caliaeschna microstigma*) and then a Turkish goldenring (*Cordulegaster picta*) both allowing plenty of photographs as they sat hardening off away from the water after emerging.

Driving on we stopped briefly for a stunning roadside *Campanula reuterana* and Phil and Carla watched a basking dice snake nearby on a rock in the river bed. Dipper was elusive here too. Next up was lunch. Phil bolted down a sandwich and headed to the nearby river and associated floodplain wetlands, which produced a huge number of Odonates. Dashing around produced none of the hoped-for gomphids but a number of species were added to the list including banded demoiselle, azure bluet, small bluetail, southern skimmer, broad scarlet and there were masses of ornate bluets to search through. Zitting cisticola called briefly.

Driving on we searched in vain for flowering *Aristolochia bottae*, plenty of leaves though and Başak spotted a nettle-tree butterfly. There was then a short break whilst the puncture on Phil's car was mended. The discovery that we did not have all the tools required to put on the spare resulted in a useful and rapidly assembled cast of helpful Kurdish men who did the job for us! Stopping in a flat meadow with a small stream running through it was a great idea. The botanists were released to graze the meadow covered with *Gentiana olivieri* and *Ornithogalum arcuatum*. Phil wandered the watercourses and nearby shallow reservoir and pointed out some nice desert tree frogs. The Odonata here were excellent and we all enjoyed the numerous red-veined darters. Common winter damsel and migrant spreadwing were found here too and our first snake-eyed lizard put in an appearance.

Our last stop was in a narrow gorge with a babbling stream. *Campanula involucrata, Centaurea triumfettii* and *Aethionema grandiflora* were some some of the plants here. More grey wagtail here and we did not have to wait long before we heard the song of the cinereous bunting. A glimpse was all we got though as they were

busy feeding young in the nest. After a hot day in the field Başak treated us to an icecream in Tatvan on the way home and we dropped the tire off to be mended...

Day 8 May 30th South Lake Van

Today we packed our bags and headed out to investigate an area Başak had identified as a likely site for the much-wanted Komper's orchid. At the start of the road we pottered about. The banks were full of *Aethionema grandiflorum* and possibly *Aethionema membraneceum* and further on we noted *Opopanax persicus* and possibly *Onosma polyoxanthum*. Invertebrates were good here, we found our first green-underside blues, mazarine blues and black-veined whites, some great weevils and jumping spiders. Moving on we stopped again and searched under the oak scrub. Phil went high up on to the ridge chasing butterflies and was rewarded with a perfect Komper's orchid. Rushing to the edge he called down and slowly but surely the team made their way to the top. Başak arrived first and found at least 15 more plants, all in perfect condition. A great result.

We took lunch under a spreading walnut tree, a nice comfortable spot and still with lovely weather. Then we explored some nearby poplar woods which had a good population of large forms of *Cephalanthera kotschyana*. These were exceptionally beautiful and easily reached too! From the nearby marsh came the song of the great reed warbler and a sleepy night heron flew about.

Driving on we stopped next on the road up to the Kizkunkiran Pass. The area below the pass finally produced *Iris sari* to our collective relief. In the shady area we found a brown flowered *Hesperis rupestris*. The botanists wandered amongst the irises and found other plants including a nice rhubarb-and-custard *Orobanche anatolica*. Butterflies were great here with eastern wood white finally appearing and Joan found a mass of mud-puddling blues in an irrigation channel. The blues here included the attractive Pontic blue and iolas blue. Mountain small white was a nice find here too.

Downhill, we soon reached a little area of woodland and meadow that was to be our last stop of the day. Golden oriole and olivaceous warbler were heard. There were masses of the local yellow rattle *Rhinanthus angustifolius* and some fine stands of *Gladiolus kotschyanus* in pastel mauves and pinks. However it was orchids we were seeking. Bug orchid proved rather common, and there were occasional pyramidal orchids too. We found a single *Ophrys mammosa* but the best though were some superb *Ophrys holoserica*. Depending on where you stood there were either masses of *Ornithogalum shelkovnokovii* or *Ornithogalum platyphyllum*. Both *Adonis eriocalycina* and *Adonis flammea* were seen and there was *Orobanche anatolica* too. And then it was on to the excellent Merit Hotel and a slap-up buffet and checklists.

Day 9 May 31st Karabet Pass

Phil and Başak took a pre-breakfast drive to teach Phil the route to the two birding locations near the hotel. We undertook two rapid assessments of these great sites and came back with a nice list of new species, including a great singing Savi's warbler.

After breakfast we set off for the high country under a blue sky. First stop was much lower down though,

by a rock smothered in the white flowers of the woody-based *Potentilla lignosa*. Pink *Hesperis persica* bloomed on the roadside bank and little *Campanula karakuschensis* was out of reach of most on the rockface. A rock thrush sang from the wires and there were several wheatears here, including the Kurdish wheatear we hoped for. Whilst we watched these Başak spotted our first blue rock thrush.

We headed up through very rustic Kurdish villages on the new asphalt road, so much quicker of course than the old road! Soon the mountains close to the road became snow-streaked and then patches of snow appeared by the roadside. This road takes us up over a very high pass, 2985m and we soon stopped to look at plants and enjoy our first alpine choughs and Radde's accentors.

Then higher up we stopped to enjoy *Puschkinia scilloides* which showered a pale green slope with blue, but there were also paler ice-blue plants, even more abundant, some along the road edge and many out further. These have just been named, *Puschkinia bilginerii*. *Gagea luteoides* was common and there were good populations of *Fritillaria minuta* and *Corydalis oppositifolia* too. Phil found a patch of *Merendera kurdica* that was well-received. A snowfinch gathered chilled insects from a nearby snow patch.

We headed up over the pass through fabulous scenery cresting the pass and continuing down the far side, the size of the scenery in all directions impressive. Our lunch spot was spectacular in all respects. A little roadside knoll had magnificent views down the valley towards Bahçesaray and all round to high snowy peaks. There was a high level of verticality at this spot! As the picnic and BBQ was set up we explored the little ridge below and found one of the floweriest spots imaginable. There were some wonderful specimens of pink *Tulipa humilis* and further down we managed to find one magnificent *Tulipa armena*. A goblet of brilliant red centred with black and yellow. There were some fine *Fritillaria crassifolia* about too, with groups of them particularly prolific on an area of limestone pavement where their vari-coloured green (almost pure in one or two) or more commonly dark red brown tessellated bells were shown off to wonderful effect. There was also a magnificent clump of *Iris caucasica* here with many flowers in bloom. *Rindera lanata* was particularly fine at this spot and *Eremurus spectabilis* would clearly shower the rocky slope with its yellow wands in a week or two. There was the usual suite of alpine buttercups, which is to say four species, but here we saw the unusual *Ranunculus polunini* leaves. Back on the top of the ridge was the architectural *Rindera albida*. Black Redstarts were seen as we munched on chicken wings and Turkish sausage.

After lunch we hunted for the lovely golden *Fritillaria minima*, a great rarity known from only one or two locations in the world. It took some time to locate it as it had finished in the normal spots and we had to back-track uphill to find it But suddenly there it was. We had to scramble a bit to get to it but most managed it. Rhoddy did the rest of us a favour by finding a single plant growing out of the gravel on the track.

It was time to head back down through the Çatak valley ignoring the many fine plants visible from the minibus as we sped home. We would be returning in the morning to look at this section.

Day 10 June 1st Dörümeç rivermouth and Çatak Valley

Three of the team accompanied Phil for an early morning birding session at 0530 to the fantastic Dörümeç rivermouth. En route we spotted roller, bee-eater and crested lark and we were soon installed on top of a

bank that was being used by sand martins and bee-eaters and looking out over the rivermouth. A close night heron was well-received and further out we found our first flamingos and spur-winged plover. Bearded tits behaved well and we even watched one pair at close range grubbing about in the mud on the edge of the marsh. A bittern broke cover and plopped down out of sight in the marsh in front of us. Sedge warblers and the Savi's warbler were in full song and way in the distance we watched reed bunting soundlessly singing. Other birds of note included quite a few garganey, ruddy shelduck, red-crested pochard and our first little egrets. Eventually though it was time to leave.

After breakfast we set off again at nine, heading for the Catak Valley. Our first stop was amid open country where areas of relict steppe were interspersed with arable land. Here we enjoyed a wonderful display of *Iris paradoxa*, in beautiful condition and glorious clear sunshine. There were some groups of ten or more and lots of variety in the population with some plants having standards strongly blue-ink lined, others with standards of a curious pale green colour. All though had the narrow velvety falls that are so distinctive. Freyer's fritillaries were on the wing again here. Orange-lined *Onobrychis galegifolia* was common and we all enjoyed lovely *Moltkia caerulea*.

Now we moved through a gorge and into a high valley where some of the team joined Başak and walked up the barren-looking hill behind. The flat Earth Society meanwhile took a more reasonable stroll up the valley into the teeth of a strong wind and found some nice *Iris sari*, a pair of crimson-winged finches flew by and so did a pair of rose-coloured starling. The team up the hill found the last remnants of *Tulipa sintenisii* and some nice plants of *Bellevalia longistyla*. Eventually, and it took a while, we found the first plants of an iris up here. These looked very like *Iris sari* however as we explored up the hill we found plenty of variety with many of the plants small, and with strong blue tints in the standards (some were clear mid-blue!) and narrower falls than you would expect of *Iris sari*. It seems that this must be a hybrid population with *Iris sari* and *Iris paradoxa* the parents. Certainly *Iris paradoxa* we know comes to within three or four kilometres to the north (maybe closer) and *Iris sari* comes up from the south, so a meeting point is quite conceivable here. There were very many *Astragalus* on this slope, a few we knew like *Astragalus fragrans* and *Astragalus lagurus*, but many we did not know. The delicate *Convolvulus lineatus* grew with clumps of *Onobrychis* and on the way down we saw the dwarf furry *Astragalus nanus*.

Our picnic was taken by the pond above the village of Mezne. This sunny spot proved very attractive to butterflies. Along the track the spring-fed puddles attracted many blues, mostly Zephyr but also lesser chequered blue and there were skippers and fritillaries too and plenty of mountain small whites. Dragonflies around the pond included another winter damsel and Joan found a couple of male stonechats.

On our way down out of the valley we stopped in the gorge for some plants like *Silene swertifolia* and *Linum trinervium*. Grey-necked buntings and rollers were watched here. Our next stop was for some roadside *Eremurus spectabilis* and this proved to be an excellent spot with a Romanoff's vernal copper being the highlight for Phil at least and some *Ablepharus bivittatus* skinks were wriggling about.

Last up for the day was the ancient site of Çavuştepe, an important Urartian site. A female Finsch's wheatear appeared here and best of all a nice marbled white (*Melanargia grumi*). This site proved florally good too with more *Iris paradoxa*, *Dianthus crinitus*, *Allium chrysantherum* and then exhausted after another great day we headed for the hotel.

Day 11 June 2nd Erçek Gölü

A car-load of us convened at 0600 for the 'late' morning birdwatch and headed for the Van Marshes. Not quite as salubrious as the lovely Dörümeç rivermouth of yesterday but every bit as birdy. Unfortunately there was a big dog standing in the middle of the main flood and it proceeded to chase birds around briefly... Still we enjoyed the terrapins along the stream and then wandered towards the reedbed. Terns were evident with quite a few common terns and at least three little terns on show. Joan spotted a flamingo flying by, a great sight against the backdrop of the snowy mountains behind our distant hotel. We enjoyed watching little ringed plovers and found some engaging lapwing chicks. In the reed bed we had excellent views of paddyfield warbler and bearded tit, and the *caspia* thick-billed race of reed bunting showed well too here. All too soon though we had to head back for breakfast, as we bumped along the track on our way out we spotted a pair of little owls nesting in the piles of builder's waste. One bird stared at us angrily as we stared back.

We set off at nine, stopping briefly in town, and then were off on to the road to Iran due east of Van. After ten kilometres or so Erçek Lake appears, a large lake, set even higher than Van at 1900m and surrounded by hill or mountainous steppe, a wide open and very beautiful sparsely inhabited landscape. Our first stop was by a small marsh for many years now the home of a some fantastic white-headed ducks. We found at least 15 and watched the almost comical males displaying, their bodies swelling as they put their heads down, swollen blue bills pushed out and charge There were great reed and paddyfield warblers and little grebes making a racket in the reedbed too. Out on the main lake a flock of black-necked grebes bobbed around.

Meanwhile the botanists explored the marshy fields and some steppe behind the marsh. *Ranunculus kotschyi* and *Ranunculus sceleratus* were in the wetter areas and orchids too, *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*. A very beautiful *Convolvulus galaticus* was found.

Moving on we found ourselves on the wide flat valley floor east of the main lake. Here the damp, slightly salt-imbued steppe had a vast population of the *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*. In places they grew thickly and there were very occasional white or strawberry milkshake forms. *Ornithogalum platyphyllum* was noted. Phil found a migrant spreadwing hiding amongst the blooms. From here we saw the first flocks of flamingos, we were to count at least 2000 over the next hour. Three breeding plumage cattle egrets appeared in roadside fields.

Our lunch spot was close by a tower hide put up to overlook Erçek's marshes and on arrival we flushed a great flock of flamingo. We also watched black-winged stilts, avocet, redshank, little ringed and Kentish plovers along the shore. As well as the common ducks another white-headed duck was seen.

During the afternoon we completed a circuit of the lake along quiet back roads and tracks through rolling arable and steppelands and all the time under a stormy threatening sky that somehow never delivered rain directly to us (just all around us). Hardly a car to be seen, just a few small Kurdish villages with cow dung 'hives' drying in the sun, and only the songs of the abundant larks as soundtrack. These comprised bimaculated lark, lesser short-toed lark and skylarks. There were also Tawny Pipits in small numbers and Long-legged Buzzards were seen on a number of occasions. At one point we heard black-bellied sandgrouse flying past. We photographed tall spires of *Eremostachys laciniata* and fields full of the red poppy *Glaucium*

grandiflorum and pink Sainfoin. We stopped for *Iris barnumae* but they had finished, but at this site we found lots of the lovely two-tone yellow *Salva suffruticosa*. *Astragalus lagurus* was seen and in places the fine yellow *Astragalus caraganae* was abundant. The furry *Astragalus velenowskyii* was interesting. Butterflies were not so frequent due to the conditions, though did include knapweed fritillary and meadow brown.

Day 12 June 3rd Güzeldere Pass, Zernek & Albayrak

After breakfast we headed out along the road towards Başkale from the southeast corner of Lake Van. The day once again was bright and sunny and today was exceptionally clear with the snowy peaks standing out very clear above the turquoise waters. A roadside steppe stop produced some *Iris paradoxa* and *Orobanche caesia*.

Our next stop was dedicated wholly to birds. In a dry rather unpromising-looking valley we found our quarry with ease. It did not take us long to find the pair of delicate Mongolian finches, which showed well eventually on a nearby rock outcrop. At least six trumpeter finches were keeping them company. Finsch's wheatear was singing here too, a very birdy spot. Caucasian agamas and snake-eyed lizards scuttled about and an Egyptian vulture cruised overhead as we headed back down to the minibus.

We continued on up to the Güzeldere Pass not stopping until we reached the top and headed off on a dirt track to examine the very dwarfed alpine flora. This was rather good with some nice cushions of *Androsace villosa*, some with flowers so thick that was all we could see. The straw-coloured pom-poms of *Centaurea vanensis* grew with *Silene dianthoides*, veronicas and the gorgeous bright pink and silvery haired *Hedysarum cappidocicum*. Dalmatian Ringlets flew back and forth. Overhead a single lammergier scoured the hillside for bones.

For lunch we headed downhill and eastwards, eventually reaching the farmed country to the south of Albayrak, just a couple of kilometres from the Iranian border. On the steppe next to the road we could already see the shining yellow heads of *Iris urmiensis*. This is a fabulous iris, the whole flower being yellow of differing shades, many two-tone, some pale and a good number a bright rich butter yellow, even some egg-yolk yellow. The wide open landscapes allowed one to choose a background for those wide angle shots. Tawny pipits sang and parachuted back to earth and a male cuckoo advertised from a nearby pylon.

After lunch we took the road back to the pass stopping briefly near an army outpost. *Aethionema stylosum* was colouring the banks with the shades of pink and mauve. Afterwards we stopped by a roadside gully. Our bird target here was bluethroat and we spotted them almost immediately. A pair feeding young in the nest by the minibus! The race in eastern Turkey is *magna* with an unspotted shimmering blue throat. Also here good views of Radde's accentors, water pipit and snowfinch. There were good displays of *Primula auriculata* along the wet valley floor, in places with *Gentiana verna*. *Trollius ranunculinus* was going over and so too the *Fritillaria crassifolia* which clearly had been abundant not so long before. There were some nice *Allium akaka* too.

Then it was back towards Van, stopping en route for photos of the rather mythical-looking Hosap Castle. Overhead our first alpine swift and plenty of house martins. Along the stream here a nice male semi-collared flycatcher was feeding young.

Our last stop was by the turquoise Zernek Reservoir where the steppe cloaking the rather arid hills was sadly rather dry and over. There were fine stands of *Eremostachys laciniata* and we found its strange-looking brethren *Eremostachys molucceloides*. The pale lime bracted *Hymenocrater calcycinus* had blue flowers, the lovely *Salvia atropatana* had yellow, and the large bloomed *Salvia kronenburgii* had white. Large pale flowers of *Silene swertifolia* perched atop sticky stems. Orange-lined wands of creamy *Onobrychis galegifolia* were a pleasant sight as were more of the lovely *Iris paradoxa*. We found tall *Muscari longipes*, huge *Crambes*, and Heather enjoyed the abundance of insects visiting the flowers of *Ferula orientalis*.

Day 13 June 4th Akdamar Island, the Urartu carpet shop & museum

We made an early morning visit to Dörümeç rivermouth where things were fairly quiet. Aside from a single black tern we did not add to our bird list this morning. Three cattle egrets dropped in whilst we watched and we chased bearded tits around the reedbed fairly successfully. A hoopoe fed nearby and the Syrian woodpecker was hammering away on his telegraph pole as usual. It was time for breakfast.

After breakfast we took off south and then west along the shore of the lake, before pulling up at the ferry terminal and heading out to the island. This is always a most pleasurable experience as the boat chugs across the turquoise water the fabulous views of the mountains south of the lake opens up.

Landing, most went up to the newly restored church. The superb relief carvings had been repaired slightly, but were basically unchanged. Showing major scenes from the old testament (Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, etc), plus the founding bishops, nevertheless, the main emphasis was on the local fauna (fish, birds, goats, deer, rabbits, etc) and flora, including a frieze of grape vines. Inside, the frescoes had been slightly brightened and the damaged plaster repaired. The whole has now been weatherproofed, with new windows, retiling of the roof and protection of the exterior against erosion.

Phil climbed to the high point of the island, through the cacophony of the nearby Armenian gull colony. Alpine swifts zoomed past at eye-level. Lesser kestrels were evident and three juvenile lanners obviously called the place home. From this lofty perch Phil spotted a drama unfolding below. Joan had sprained her ankle badly and was being ably assisted by our driver. Phil dropped down and got some ice... It was once round the lighthouse on the way back, we got to view the island from all angles and see just how many birds were breeding on this delightful sanctuary. Small boys were causing an uproar in the gull colony but we all got views of the lanners, lesser kestrels and alpine swifts and added little egret and night-heron to our island checklist.

Next stop was the excellent restaurant by the boat landing at Akdamar where we were treated to a fine lunch of 'et sote' served in sizzling dishes, this made of little pieces of various vegetables and lamb, and served with bulgur and salad – excellent! Afterwards we guiltily tried some fried pearl mullet, not asking how it had been acquired... Well sated we wandered the hill behind the restaurant looking at the flora and the many butterflies (mostly Amanda's blues but also including our only Essex skippers of the tour).

In the late afternoon Başak took us to the carpet shop and museum where there was much oohing and aahing at the many wonderful carpets and kilims shown. Lighter in the wallet in many cases we continued on into Van for some supermarket shopping.

At dinner we said our farewells to Başak and chatted away about the highlights of a very successful and enjoyable tour.

Day 14 June 5th departure

A leisurely morning, packing breakfasting and driving the short distance to the airport saw us all safely aboard our flight to Istanbul and hopefully on to suitable final destinations.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

The majority of the taxonomic order and nomenclature has been taken from the Turkish Flora (edited by P H Davis) although the more recent treatment of the orchids in Die Orchideen der Turkei (C. A. J. Kreutz) has been preferred for that group. Grateful thanks in particular to Rodney Burton, Peter Sheasby and Adil Guner for much of the original identifications and to Mervyn Southam for providing us with so much useful information on the umbellifers. Non-woody dicot and monocot species are in flower unless otherwise stated.

This is a composite list based on sightings from 2000 to 2014. Locations given cover all the years. The species seen this year is indicated blue.

Acanthaceae

Acanthus dioscoridis In leaf and early bud along the south side of Lake

Van.Summer 2004 found in good flower at several

localities

Aceraceae

Acer hyrcanum subsp.

tauricolum. South of Van circular.

Acer monspessulanum subsp.

cinarescens. South of Van circular. Çatak Road. Akdamar Island

Acer negundo [2006 - between Van & Dogubeyazit]

Acer platanoides 2006 - Nemrut Dagi]

Apiaceae

Anthriscus cerefolium Muradiye Waterfall area and near Bolukyazi

Anthriscus nemorosa Hill above Tugkovu Village southeast of Tatvan, Damp

meadows near Ahlat also in Nemrut Crater

Apium nodiflorum [2006 - near Adilcevaz]
Astrodaucus orientalis Scattered throughout
Bunium brachyactis Noted near Dogubeyazit

Bunium cylindricum

South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano

Brunium ferulaceum On the road to Çatak.
Brunium microcarpum Scattered throughout

Bunium paucifolium Noted around Dogubeyazit, the south side of Kurubas

Pass, south of Van, and the environs of campsite 1km

towards Gevas from Akdamar ferry

Bunium verruculosum Van Castle

Bupleurum falcatum ssp.

polyphyllum 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Carum carvi 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and 1km east of

Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Caucalis platycarpa East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 10km east of

Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor

road

Chaerophyllum crinitum Near Ahlat. Muradiye

Chaerophyllum hakkiaricum

The eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass

Chaerophyllum macropodum West side of Lake Van

Chaerophyllum macrospermum Damp meadows near Ahlat, 11km east of Kucuksu on

the south Van circular and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular Resadiye

on the south Van circular

Cymbocarpum anethoides Near Otanca in the Özalp direction from Van. ?

Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Or Turgenopsis

foeniculacea

Falcaria vulgaris East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat. Leaves only; South

of Van circular.

Ferula amanicola
Noted in the Bitlis/Tatvan area – leaves only
Ferula angulata
Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction

Ferula bernardii (stellata) (stellata) Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit

Ferula cf. elaeochrytis Muradiye Waterfall – leaves only
Ferula haussknechtii Upstream from Muradiye Waterfall

Ferula longipedunculata Souther shores of Van Lake – leaves only; On the road

to Çatak. 2009

Ferula orientalis West side of Lake Van. Bitlis Circuit

Ferula rigidula Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the

Hosap road. Leaves only

Grammosciadium cornutum Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road

Grammosciadium daucoides ? 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, the

hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south

along minor road

Grammosciadium platycarpum

Called Grammosciadium confertum on the tour. Muradiye Waterfall area and near Ulu Kumbet at Ahlat

Grammosciadium pterocarpum Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, Karabet Pass

Heptaptera anisoptera
Not sure where Mervyn's specimen came from?
Heracleum persicum
Along the south Van circular. Leaves only at this

Lagoecia aminoides Sason

Lecokia cretica Muradiye Waterfall area. Leaves only 2009

Laserpitium carduchorum Çatak

Malabaila dasyantha Noted in the Ahlat area and Tendurek

Malabaila lasiocarpa Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, Akdamar Island;

On the road to Catak

Malabaila secacul Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Van circular, also on Akdamar Island

Myrrhoides nodosa

Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

Oenanthe sophiae 2005 in wet meadows a little south of the Van Circular

en route to Hizan

Opoponax persicus Muradiye Waterfall area – by the river; between Tatvan

and Hizan.

Pimpinella affinis ? 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Pimpinella anthriscoides
Pimpinella kotschyana
Pimpinella peregrina

Pimpinella peucedanifolia

Pimpinella tragium ssp.

lithophila

Prangos acaulis

Prangos c.f. corymbosa

Prangos ferulacea

Prangos pabularia

Eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass

West side of Van Golu

Dogubeyazit area

Muradiye Waterfall area

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit Subsp.?. On the road to Çatak.

Dogubeyazit area

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and also at the Muradiye Waterfall area; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Prangos peucedanifolia Where? Dogubeyazit area Prangos platychlaena West side of Lake Van

Prangos uechtriztii Either on the eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass

or en route to Guzeldere

Prangos uloptera Dogubeyazit area

Scandix aucheri Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit

Bitlis Circuit

Scandix iberica East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, 11km east of

Kucuksu on the south Van circular, oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, and at

Bendimahi Marshes at NE

Scandix pectin-veneris

Scandix stellata

Seseli libanotis

Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Çatak Road

Two forms of this variable species seen - neither

greatly resembling the Western European forms!

Seseli peucedanoides ? Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the

Hosap road

Smyrniopsis aucheri Muradiye Waterfall area 2009

Smyrnium cordifolium Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road and on Akdamar

Island: between Tatvan and Hizan.

Torilis leptophylla Akdamar Island. Muradiye. Ercek Lake

Trinia scabra Dogubeyazit

Turgenia latifolia Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides

in the area; On the road to Çatak. Seeds from last year

mostly!

Zosima absinthifoliua Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass; south of the

harbour for Akdamar ferry.

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia bottae

Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis.

Also east of Ercek Golu.

Asclepidaceae

Vincetoxicum fuxcatum Cili Pass Vincetoxicum tmoleum Ahlat steppe Asteraceae

Artemisia splendens

Centaurea albonitens

Centaurea depressa

Centaurea triumfettii

Centaurea vanensis

(biebersteinii) southwest shore of Ercek Golu.

Achillea arabica Dogubeyazit area

Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from

Akdamar ferry; On the road to Catak. Also east of

Achillea vermicularis Küçüksu

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on

Amberboa moschata the Kars road

Anthemis cretica on slopes of Nemrut Dagi. Cilli Pass.

Anthemis wiedemanniana Bendimahi. Ercek

? The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass - on a

rock ledge above Fritillaria minuta. In bud.

Bellis perennis widespread in meadows

Carduus pycnocephalus between Tatvan and Hizan, Ishak Pasa?

2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van Carthamus lanatus

Dry hills between Ercek Lake and Ozalp; between

Hosap and Guzeldere Pass 2009

Centaurea aucheri ? 10km west of Dogubeyazit on the Agri road. Zernek

> Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir, also the southwest shore of Ercek Golu, and in Bendimahi

Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van

Centaurea glastifolia [2006 - in leaf only]

Centaurea handelii 2005 cliffs in the first gorge along the Catak Road

Centaurea iberica widespread, weedy.

Steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Catak Centaurea karduchorum

road - cliff above south-heading road

? Nominate? Van Castle, Akdamar Island, and the

Centaurea pseudoscabiosa environs of Ayamis Castle

Centaurea pterocaula East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat in leaf

Centaurea pulchella Van Castle. In bud – stems strikingly pale. Çatak Road

Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction, and 2km or

so south of the Guzeldere Pass Centaurea rhizantha

Common. Meadows 1km northeast of Caldiran, inside

Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and in steppe and fields

16km south of road 975 on the Catak road

Centaurea urvillei Subsp. armata Common in Van area

Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass

between Hosap and Baskale, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road;

above Ishak Paoa Palace, Dogubayazit.

? Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadive on the

Cephalorrhynchus south Van circular. Or

Cephalorrhynchus tuberosus rechingeranus? Dry hills between Ercek Lake and Ozalp; On the road to

Chardinia orientalis Çatak.

Cichorium intybus Scattered throughout

Cirsium arvense Subspecies vestitum. Scattered

Circium hamosus ?Cili Pass

Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir, and

roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat. Also between Van-

Cnicus benedictus Muradiye-Dogubayezit. Also at Meteor

Cousinia eriocephala Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Cousinia nabelekii ? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

Cousinia vanensis near Kurubas Pass.

Nominate. Oak woodland and grazed valley west of

Crepis pulchra Dogruyol near Bitlis, Akdamar Island

East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, Muradiye Waterfall

Crepis sancta area

Crupina crupinastrum south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry.

Crupina vulgaris Balaban Forest Echinops orientalis Ercek Lake Erigeron acer **Ercek Lake**

Erigeron caucasicum **Tendurek Mountain**

Filago arvensis Scattered Filago pyramidalis Bitlis circuit

> 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the

south Van circular. Between Van and Bendimahi

Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Gundelia tournefortii

Helichrysum arenarium

Subspecies aucheri.

Helichrysum arenarium

Subspecies rubicundum

. Environs of Ayamis Castle north of

Helichrysum graveolens ? South side of the Kurusbas Pass south of Van

Nominate. 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van

Helichrysum plicatum circular, and also at Van Castle

Inula helenium South of Van circular.

2005 in leaf only - meadows north of Dogruyol on the

Inula macrophyllum Bitlis Circuit

Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van, and

2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Mainly in bud.

Inula peacockiana

Jurinella moschus Inside the Nemrut Crater

Salt mine at Tuzluca, Around Sim-er Hotel near

Koelpinia linearis Dogubeyazit Fruit seen in 2005. Onopordum acanthium Scattered
Onopordum carduchorum Bitlis circuit

Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides

in the area

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, and around Sim-er Hotel near

Dogubeyazit; On the road to Çatak.

. East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Çilli Pass population had otherwise identical plants with yellow or violet flowers side by side!

Scorzonera mollis Subspecies

Rhagadiolus angulosus

Scorzonera cana

szowitsii

Scorzonera parviflora ? East shore of Ercek Golu

Scorzonera phaeopappa Nominate. 10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road

Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, in the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and on slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. In

Senecio eriospermus bud at the middle site otherwise leaves only Senecio taraxacifolius above Ishak Pa^oa Palace, Dogubayazit.

Widespread; weedy. East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and on the southwest shore of Ercek Golu – dominant

Senecio vernalis in areas of the former 2009

Serratula serratuloides ? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

Sonchus asper [2006 - scattered.]

Tanacetum chiliophyllum 10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road – in bud

Tabacetum cappadocicum Tanacetum argyrophyllum ssp. subulrescens Dogubeyazıt area

ubulrescens Çatak Valley

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road – on a cliff. On Pamuk Dagi between

Tanacetum partheniifolium Igdir and Dogubayezit.

Tanacetum uniflorum above Ishak Pa^oa Palace, Dogubayazit.

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and in oak woodland and the grazed valley west of Dogruyol

Tanacetum zahlbruckneri near Bitlis

Taraxacum officinale [2006 - scattered]

Tragopogon buphthalmoides ? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van.

Tragopogon coloratus Flowers purple, pappus purplish 2009

The Selcuk Cemetery at Ahlat, southwest shore of

Tragopogon dubius Ercek Golu

Tragopogon longirostris var.

abbreviatus

Catak road junction

Tripleurospermum decipiens Catak road

Tripleurospermum disciforme 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

? North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass, and the

Tripleurospermum oreades ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction

Tripleurospermum parviflorum ? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir

Widespread in leaf, Van and roadsides in the area - in

bud 2009

Xanthium strummarium Bitlis Circuit

Xeranthemum annuum [2006]

Xeranthemum longipapposum Scattered throughout around Lake Van

Berberidaceae

Tussilago farfara

Bongardia chrysogonum 2005. Roadsides between Van and Bendimahi

Subspecies not known. In seed by Muradiye Waterfall. Should check next time as it might be armeniacum

which hasn't been recorded in Turkey before?

Leontice leontopetalum **Betulaceae**

Alnus cordata ? 2005 streamsides south of Lake Van

Betula pendula Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater. Also Cilli Pass.

Populus alba Adilcevaz and near Tatvan

Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and the hill above

Populus tremula Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan

Salix caprea 2005 Bitlis Circuit

Salix fragilis ? Muradiye Waterfall area

Salix triandra 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri

Boraginaceae

Alkanna froedinii

Anchusa aucheri

Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from

Akdamar ferry. Further west too!

Scattered throughout. Called various things on the tour

Alkanna orientalis including a Moltkia and Anchusa!

Anchusa arvensis Subspecies

orientalis.

1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular. Looks

like an odd Lappula.

Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat and near Ayamis

Castle and near Dogubeyazit

Anchusa azurea Throughout.

Anchusa leptophylla below Tendurek

Bitlis Circuit ..Like azurea but flower colour is dirty

Anchusa strigosa white.

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Arnebia decumbens Dogubeyazit

Arnebia pulchra Tendurek Mountain

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit, the east side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and the terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

Asperugo procumbens the terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

(Syn. Lithospermum arvensis) Crags and slopes south

of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; Tendürek Pass.

Caccinia macranthera var.

Buglossoides arvensis

crassifolia.

auriculata.

Cerinthe minor Subspecies

Scattered throughout. Nominate. Cilli Pass west of

Ararat

Cynoglossum montanum Nemrut Crater

Cynoglossum officinale Muradiye Waterfall. Bitlis Circuit

Cynoglossum vanense In flora as montanum

Echium vulgare Catak Road Echium italicum Near Tatvan

? 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south

Heterocaryum szovitsianum along minor road. Zernek.

Lappula barbata Widespread Lappula squarrosa Widespread Widespread Lappula stricta

Moltkia caerulea South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van. Zernek.

> spp 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Annual with fruiting pedicel

Myosotis curving round axis

Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by

Dogubeyazit, and the north-facing slopes on the

Myosotis alpestris Tendurek Pass, and the

Myosotis diminuta Soguksu meadows south of Tendurek Pass

Myosotis heteropoda ? East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat

Myosotis minutiflora Muradive Waterfall area Myosotis ramosissimum between Tatvan and Hizan.

? East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 1km east of

Myosotis stricta Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Myosotis sylvatica Tatvan, Tugkoyu Village

Neostemma apulum Sim-Er

2005 east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap

Nonea anchusoides and Baskale and Tendurek

Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca, and east side of the

Nonea caspica Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale 2009

Nonea melanocarpa between Tatvan and Hizan. Ishak Paoa

Nonea melanthera 2005 along the Catak Road

Nonea pulla Subspecies

scabrisquamata . 10km west of Dogubeyazit on

Nonea pulla Subspecies? Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

2006 - Nemrut Dage and another place on the Bitlis

Nonea stenosiphon circuit.]

albo-roseum Onosma Var

sanguineolentum 2005 Zernek Onosma araraticum bright yellow flowered around Tendurek

Onosma bracteatum Sason **Ercek Lake** Onosma isauricum

Onosma nemoricolum Meteor, widespread along south shore of Van

Onosma polyoxanthium Near Tatvan

(procerum) 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van

circular Onosma procera

(sericeum) Marly slopes at east end of Zernek

Onosma sericea Reservoir on the Hosap

cristatum

Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor

Subspecies carduchorum.

Paracaryum

South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, and 2km or

Paracaryum racemosum so south of the Kurubas Pass as well

> 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. On Pamuk Dagi between

Paracaryum strictum Dogubayezit and Igdir.

> South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and

Rindera albida Baskale 2009

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south

Rindera caespitosa along minor road. Zernek

var. canescens Resadive on the south Van circular and

on the east side of the Guzeldere Pass

2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, the crags and slopes

south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and the east

side of the Cilli Pass. Ararat. Bitlis Circuit.

Muradiye Waterfall area, inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between

Solenanthis stamineus Hosap and Baskale

Muradiye Waterfall area, oak scrub slopes a little west

Solenanthus circinnatus

Symphytum kurdicum

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near

Bitlis

Campanulaceae

Rindera lanata

Rochelia disperma

Campanula coriacea Scattered throughout. Leaves only

2005 in leaf. Rocks on the Tendurek and Cilli Passes

Campanula crispa Campanula stevenii

2005 another tiny species along the Çatak Road Campanula flaccidula

Campanula glomerata By campsite near Akdamar Ferry, Gevas

Campanula involucrata 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

2005 tiny species noted along the Çatak Road and

Campanula karakuschensis along south side of Lake Van

Campanula ledebouriana [2006 - Çatak Road]

Campanula reuterana 2005 beautiful deep violet flowered species near Catak Crags and slopes south of Sim-Er Hotel, Dogubeyazit,

also 11 km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circula,

Campanula stevenii and on oak scrub slopes

Jasione supina Bitlis Circuit

Legousia pentagonia Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

Legousia speculum-veneris between Tatvan and Hizan.

Caprifoliaceae

Nominate. Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye

Lonicera caucasicum on the south Van circular.

Rhus coriaria in the crater of Nemrut.

Caryophyllaceae

Arenaria cucubaloides 11km south of Kucuksu, south of Tatvan

Arenaria gypsophiloides Meteor

Arenaria holostea Subspecies

macrantha

. Crags and rocky slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit

Cerastium armeniacum ? Various spots around Muradiye Waterfall

Cerastium dahuricum Just below Güzeldere Pass

Cerastium longipetala Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Cerastium purpurascens Tendürek Pass

Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the south Van

Cucubalus baccifer circular

Dianthus crinitus Cavustepe

Gypsophila bitlisensis Shales east of Ercek Golu, Ahlat area

Gypsophila elegans Zernek Valley

Crags south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and same

Gypsophila patrinii crags above Ishak Paºa

The Vegetable Sheep (purported to be Gypsophila aretoides Hotel, Dogubeyazit and also noted on the

same crags above the Ishak Pa^oa

Gypsophila ruscifolia Ahlat area

Gypsophila pulvinaris

Herniaria agaea 2004. Tendurek. Sepals ciliate, leaves glabrous

Herniaria glabra Scattered
Herniaria incana Scattered

Holosteum umbellatum Scattered throughout
Lepyrodiclis holostioides Picnic site near Igdir

? 'Kate's Gully' near the Ishak Paoa, Dogubeyazit.

Lepyrodiclis tenera Petals pink.New to Turkey if correct!

? Just below Guzeldere Pass on the east side. New to

Minuartia acuminata Turkey if correct!

Minuartia aiozoides Tendürek Pass

Minuartia hamata Crags south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit

Subspecies turcica. Between Dogruyol and Bolukyazi

Minuartia hybrida near Bitlis

Minuartia juniperina On the road to Çatak.

Minuartia lineata 2km below Asaginarlica at foot of Karabet Pass, Zernek

Minuartia sclerantha ? Near Ayamis Castle and elsewhere

Nominate. Noted in grasslands around Ahlat and

Moenchia mantica Tatvan

Paronychia kurdica South Van Circular and Akdamar Island

Paronychia turcica Akdamar Island, Meteor

sp Aras Valley near Calpala – apparently not in flora?

Saponaria sp Same or another species seen on the Bitlis circuit!

Saponaria kotschyi Bitlis Circuit

Scleranthus uncinatus West Lake Van area; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.

Silene alba Subspecies

eriocalycina . Bendimahi, Cilli Pass; South of Van circular.

on south slopes of Tendürek Pass; between Tatvan

Silene ampullaria and Hizan; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry.

? Caespitose white flowered campion in crevices on

Van Castle may have been this species? In flower now

Silene araratica though

Silene arguta Tendürek Pass

Silene capitellata Oak woodlands around Tatvan where common

Silene cappadocica Cilli Pass and north of Erçek Lake

Silene cartilaginea Çatak Valley

Silene chlorifolia Çatak Valley

Silene conica Adilcevaz area. Bitlis Circuit

Silene conoidea Scattered throughout

? Near Muradiye Waterfall – possibly this species. Also

Silene dianthoides Tendurek Pass

Silene lucida Güzeldere Pass

Silene marschallii Ishakpasa

Silene odontopetala Çatak Valley and north of Erçek Lake

Silene pungens High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass
Silene saxatilis Çili Pass and north of Erçek Lake

Crags and rocky slopes south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and above Ishak Pa^oa Palace, Dogubayazit; in the crater of Nemrut; On the road to

Silene spergulifolia Çatak.

Silene subconica North of Lake Van

Silene swertifolia Zernek

Silene vulgaris Subspecies

commutata Wdespread, mainly in bud in

Silene viscosa Zernek Valley
Stellaria persica Near Bolukyazi
Vaccaria hispanica Erçek Lake

Chenopodiaceae

Beta corolliflora ? Muradiye Waterfall

Chenopodium vulvaria ? Shales east of Ercek Golu

Bassia (Kochia)) prostrata Scattered around Van
Salsola ruthenica Near Tuzluca's salt mine

Ceratocarpus arenarius Nemrut Crater and Zernek Valley

Cistaceae

Helianthemum ledifolium Between Van and Bendimahi

North slope of Nemrut Dagi and 2km below Kurubas

Helianthemum salicifolium Pass south of Van

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus altheoides Graveyard along Hakkari Road

Convolvulus arvensis Scattered

Convolvulus calvertii 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

Between Tatvan and Hizan; between Ercek Lake and

Convolvulus cantabrica Ozalp.

Convolvulus galaticus Ercek Lake

Convolvulus lineatus Catak Road

Crassulaceae

Rosularia aizoon south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Nemrut Dagi

Rosularia elymaitiica [2006 - near Adilcevaz]

Rosularia radiciflora Bitlis Circuit

Rosularia sempervivum

Subspecies persica

Sedum aetnense

sempervivum Van Castle, Akdamar Island. Subspecies kurdica (given at the time as Rosularia radiciflora) Nemrut Crater

Muradiye Waterfall area. Sedum tetramerum is now

included in this species

Sedum hispanicum Var.

semiglabrum

Muradiye Waterfall area and on Akdamar Island

cf. armenum on south slopes of Tendürek Pass – may

Sempervivum be an incorrect identification?v

Sempervivum davisii Rocky outcrops on the Tendurek Pass

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye

Umbilicus erectus on the south Van circular

Umbilicus tropaeolifolius Akdamar Island

Cruciferae

Aethionema arabicum Scattered throughout 2009

Aethionema armenum Either side of Muradiye Waterfall

Aethionema cordatum Tendurek Pass
Aethionema elongatum North of Lake Van

but flowers smaller and darker and plant more woody

Aethionema grandiflorum 2009

Aethionema grandiflorum Widespread in the Van region. At least one more

Aethionema membranaceum Between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayezit

Aethionema speciosum ? Hillsides west of Resadiye on the Van circular.

Aethionema stylosum Albayrak Road

Aethionema trinervium Ridge above the Ishak Pa^oa and Guzeldere Pass

Alliaria petiolata Scattered

Alyssum condensatum ? Nominate. Lip of Nemrut Dagi's crater Alyssum contemptum ? 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van

Alyssum dasycarpum ? Tendurek and Caldiran areas

Alyssum desetorum 2005 Ishak Paoa

Alyssum lepidotum ? 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van

Crags behind Sim-er Hotel and also shales east of

Alyssum linifolium Ercek Golu

Alyssum longistylum ? High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass

Alyssum minus 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van 2009

Alyssum pateri Erçek Lake and Zernek Valley

Alyssum stapfii 2005 Ishak Pa^oa

Alyssum xanthocarpum ? 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van

Anchonium elichrysifolium Scattered – smells of pudding!

Arabidopsis thaliana Between Dogruyol and Bolukyazi, near Bitlis 2009

Arabis (Turritis) glabra Cilli Gecidi on Ararat

Arabis caucasica Nominate. Widespread 2009

Arabis montbretiana ? Hillsides west of Resadiye on the Van circular Arabis nova Cilli Gecidi on Ararat; above Ishak Pa^oa Palace.

? Aras Valley near Calpala; On the road to Karabet

Barbarea minor Pass.

Barbarea plantagineum Zernek Valley

Bornmuellera cappadocica Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Capsella bursa-pastoris Widespread. 2009

Capsella rubelia Bitlis Circuit

Cardamine impatiens 2005 Muradiye and Nemrut Dagi

Cardamine uliginosa Scattered 2009

Cardaria draba Widespread on road verges etc

Cardamine uliginosa Below Güzeldere Pass

Coluteocarpus vesicaria

Subspecies boissieri. Lip of Nemrut Dagi crater

Coluteocarpus vesicaria Above Ishak Paºa Palaca, Dogubayazit and at

Subspecies vesicaria Tendürek Pass.

Roadsides – e.g. in the Agri area; south of the harbour

Conringia orientalis for

Conringia perfoliatum Dogubeyazit area

Crambe orientalis Scattered throughout 2009

Widespread in the Aras Valley and Dogubeyazit areas

Descurainia sophia 2009

Subspecies indeterminate. A variety of forms were

Draba bruniifolia noted

High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass. Rodney also

Draba cappadocica spotted an

Draba polytricha Above the Ishak Paoa and on the Tendürek Pass.

Tendürek Pass; Between Hosap and Guzeldere

Draba rosularis Pass.2009
Draba siliquosa Tendürek Pass.

Drabopsis verna Tendürek Pass; in the crater of Nemrut.

Erophila verna Scattered

Erysimum alpestre Tendurek Pass, Ishakpaşa, Güzeldere Pass

Erysimum leptophyllum ? Scattered throughout the area north of Lake Van

Synonymous with Erysimum alpestre? East side of the

Erysimum sintenisianum Kuskunkiran Pass south Van circular

Euclidium syriacum Scattered

Fibigia macrocarpa Ravine on road to Bolukyazi near Bitlis

South of Kurubas Pass – south of Van, west of Ercek

Fibigia suffruticosa 2009

Hesperis bicuspidata 2005 Zernek 2009

Hesperis persica On the road to Karabet Pass. Guzeldere 2009

Hesperis rupestris Steppe betweenAhlat and Tatvan

Isatis buschiana Meteor, Albayrak

Isatis cappadocica Subspecies

steveniana Scattered in the Van area 2009

Isatis glauca Steppe 10km west of Dogubeyazit. In bud

Isatis tinctoria Subspecies

tomentella ? Ravine with road to Bulakyazi,2009

Lepidium campestre Meadows just east of Kucuksu on the Van circular

Lepidium cartilagineum

Subspecies crassifolium . Near Ayamis Castle

Lepidium latifolium Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Locally common in the Dogubeyazit area as well as

Lepidium perfoliatum near

This highly distinctive plant with very swollen stem

Lepidium vesicarium nodes, Cavuştepe

Malcolmia africana Scattered

Matthiola anchoniifolia (farinosa) 2005 Zernek

Matthiola odorantissima Nominate. Ridge above Ishak Paoa.

Matthiola Guzeldere Pass and ravine at junction of road to Çatak Iongipetala

Subspecies bicornis 2009

Neslia apiculata Noted west of Ercek; On the road to Çatak.

Rorippa nasturtium-officinale between Tatvan and Hizan. Adilcevaz meadows 2009

Rorippa sylvestris Near Çaldıran

> ? On shales to the east of Ercek Golu. New to Turkey! Similar to Neslia but with ong straight style; petals

Schimperia arabica whitish and a few simple hairs

Sisymbrium i?????

Sisymbrium loeselii

Scattered around Dogubeyazit and in the Aras Valley

2009

Sterigmostemum incanum 2km below Kurubas Pass - south of Van

Thlaspi arvense ? Meadows by Tugkoyu

? High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass. ?Cilli Pass Thlaspi kurdicum

in the crater of Nemrut; Between Hosap and Guzeldere

Pass Thlaspi perfoliatum

Torularia spp Crags south of Sim-er Hotel. Not in flora

Cupressaceae

Juniperus communis in the crater of Nemrut.2009

Mountainsides to the south of Kucuksu; between

Juniperus excelsa Tatvan and Hizan; On the road to Çatak. 2009

Juniperus oxycedrus Ridge above Ishak Paoa

Dipsacaceae

Centranthus longiflorus On the road to Çatak.

? Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and Cephalaria syriaca

roadsides in the area

East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and

Pterocephalus kurdicus Baskale. Akdamar Island.

2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van.

Scabiosa rotata Catak Road. 2009

Valeriana alpestris Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass Valeriana dioscoridis Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass

between Hosap and Baskale. Karabet Pass 2009 Valeriana leucophaea

Rugged hills above Ishak Paoa Palace, Dogubeyazit.

Valeriana officinalis Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van 2009

Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by

Dogubeyazit, also Muradiye Waterfall; On the road to

Çatak. 2009 Valeriana sisymbriifolia

Valerianella carinata Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Valerianella coronata Van circular 2009

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road, in the Muradiye Waterfall area, and in the environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and

Valerianella cymbicarpa roadsides in the area

Valerianella dacthylophylla Scattered throughout

Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road, and also 10km east of Ercek Golu and

Valerianella oxyrhyncha then shales 6km south along minor road

Valerianella plagiostephana Scattered, common in the north

Valerianella vesicaria Bitlis circuit

Elaeagnaceae

Elaeagnus angustifolius between Tatvan and Hizan. South Van Circular. 2009

Ephedraceae

Crags above Sim-er Hotel; Pamuk Dagi (W slopes of

Ephedra nebrodense (major) Agri Dagi) near Cilli Pass.

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia armena Near Sim-er Hotel

Euphorbia arvensis? Between Igdir and Tuzluca – check!

Euphorbia cheiradenia West side of lava plain north of Dogubeyazit 2009

South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano, Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, Ravine at Çatak-

Euphorbia denticulata Karabet-Van road junction 2009

Euphorbia heteradena Scattered throughout

Euphorbia kotschyi 2006 - Degirmanli near Ercek]

Euphorbia macrocarpa Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater 2009

West side of lava plain north of Dogubeyazit, Southfacing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano 2009

Euphorbia macroclada facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano 200

Euphorbia petrophylla Bitlis circuit 2009

Euphorbia seguieriana Nominate – southwest shore of Ercek Golu.

Euphorbia seguieriana

Subspecies niciciana – Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca

Euphorbia szovitsii Cavustepe Euphorbia virgata Erçek Lake

Fabaceae

Astragalus aduncus Tendurek Pass

North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and

Baskale. Small, scapose

Astragalus angustiflorus subsp.

Angustiflorus

Astragalus alyssoides

Astragalus armeniacus

2B, 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Acaulous, yellow; between Tatvan and Hizan. 2009

? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by Dogubeyazit

Astragalus bashkalensis Erçek Lake

? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van.

Astragalus bicolor Subscapose, lilac Astragalus cadmicus Dogubayazit area

Astragalus camopylosema Subspecies nigripilis

Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road. Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Scapose

Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van, and Muradiye Waterfall area. Caulescent, peduncles short, yellow

Astragalus caraganae

Astragalus fragrans

Astragalus hyalolepis

Astragalus cicer Erçek Lake

Astragalus chaldiranicus on hills near Caldiran.

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Astragalus cinereus

Astragalus clavatus

Pogubeyazit. Scapose, yellow

Refragalus clavatus

Pogubeyazit. Scapose, yellow

Refragalus cylindriacus

Scattered. Scapose, yellow

Ravine at junction of road to Catak en route back from

Astragalus densifolius Karabet Pass. Scapose, purple

Astragalus eriopodus Erçek Lake

North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass. Definitely

seen west of Kuzgunkiran Pass 2009

Astragallus galegifolia Ercek Lake

Astragalus guttatus ? East shores of Ercek Golu. An annual

Muradiye Waterfall area - at entry side of valley.

Astragalus halicacabus Muradiye Waterfall.also on the road to Catak

Astragalus hirticalyx Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.

? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by

Dogubeyazit. Scapose, purple

South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van and again 2km or o south of the Kurubas Pass. Spiny, racemes held above leaves. Calyx reddish; between Ercek Lake

Astragalus lagopoides and Ozalp.

Astragalus lagurus Catak, Pale pink, hairy long flower heads

Scattered throughout. Acaulous. Yellow, leaflets very few and broad. Common in the Zernek area.2009

Astragalus latifolius

Astragalus lineatus longipes

Astragalus macrocephalus

ssp.

subsp. finitimus

.etween Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Güzeldere Pass

Astragalus microcephalus

Bitlis circuit

Oak woodlands west of Resadiye on the south Van

Astragalus macrourus

circular. Scapose, yellow
Catak, purple-pink globose flower heads, very hairy

Astragalus nanus

leaves

Astragalus onobrychis

Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road. Caulescent, purple

Astragalus ornithopoioides

10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road, Muradiye Waterfall area. Caulescent, purple

Astragalus pinetorum yel

? Meadows 1km northeast of Caldiran. Acaulous, vellow

yellow

? The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – actually at the crag above the picnic site. Spiny. White flowers with a pink flush

Astragalus rechingeri

Ercek Lake and Zernek Vallley Caulescent, purple

Astragalus subrobustus

Astragalus stevenianus

Catak Valley. Scapose, violet

Astragalus szovitsii

Meteor and Ercek Lake

Astragalus velenowskyi

Erçek Lake

Astragalus viridissisimus

above Ishak Pasa, Prostrate, scapose, reddish-purple

flower and calyx, hairless

Muradiye Waterfall area, Muradiye Waterfall area; between Tatvan and Hizan.

Chesneya rytidosperma

Cicer anatolicum

Colutea cilicica

Lathyrus cicera

Meteor

Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the south Van

circular

Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Çatak Road and south

Glycyrrhiza glabra

side of Van Lake

Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the

Hedysarum cappadocicum

Hosap road, Guzeldere Pass

Hedysarum varium Zernek Valley
Hedysarum syrlaoni?? Akdamar Island

Lathyrus aphaca Cilli Pass

Cilli Pass west of Ararat 2009

Lathyrnus brachypterus Kuzgunkiran Pass

Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides

in the area; between Tatvan and Hizan.

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, also

Lathyrus inconspicuus Akdamar Island

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadive on the south

Van circular

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road and near Bolukyazi en route to Bitlis. In

leaf in

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Van circular. Scapose, violet

Lathyrus rotundifolius Noted on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit

Lathyrus setifolius Bitlis Circuit

Lathyrus nissolia

Lathyrus pratensis

Medicago monantha

Medicago orthoceras

Onobrychis cornuta

Onobrychis spp

Lathyrus roseus

Lathyrus tubersosus Oak woodlands near Bolukyazi en route to Bitlis 2009

Lotus corniculatus Widespread

Lotus pedunculatus [2006 - near Dogubeyazit]

2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri; Above Ishak Paoa Medicago lupulina

Medicago medicaginoides Also known as Trigonella arcuata. Salt mine at Tuzluca

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Medicago minima Van circular. Van Kalesi?

> Nominate. Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road, and environs of Avamis

Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area

? Around Sim-er Hotel near Dogubeyazit, Meadows

14km east of Adilcevaz

Medicago polymorpha 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Medicago radiata Ahlat Medicago rigidula Ahlat

Medicago sativa Nominate. Scattered

Medicago x varia Tendurek

Melilotus altissima 2005 ?probably this species along roadsides etc.

Onobrychis atropatana 2005. East of Ercek. Also another unidentified

> Widespread. Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and on the south side of Kurubas

Pass, south of v

Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides

Onobrychis galegifolia in the area

> 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; between Hosap and Guzeldere

Onobrychis radiata Pass. Very pretty!

2005. East of Ercek. Also another unidentified species

seen in the area

Onobrychis sulphureus

vanensis 2005. Another stunning species. Zernek

Pisum sativum Subspecies

elatius East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat Robinia pseudacacia 2005 Scattered as a planted tree

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, in the

ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and 2km or so

south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Adilcevaz - by

the road! 2009

Coronilla varia Roadsides

(Coronilla

Roadsides in the Aras Valley. Edremit area near Van.

Sophora alopecuroides 2009

Trifolium arvense south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Zernek.

Trifolium campestre Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan

Trofolium formosum Bitlis circuit

Trifolium hybridum Scattered throughout

Trifolium nigrescens

Securigera

orientalis

Subspecies petrisavii . Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

ID as Trifolium pilulare on the tour. Terraces at west

Trifolium pauciflorum edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

ID asTrifolium arvense on the tour. Near Sarikum

between Ahlat and Tatvan, and in terraces at west

Trifolium phleoides edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan; south

Trifolium physodes of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Bitlis Circuit.

Trifolium pratense Scattered throughout

Trifolium repens between Tatvan and Hizan.

Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan and in oak

scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van

Trifolium resupinatum circular. Bitlis Circuit.

Trifolium speciosum Purple-flowered species. Oak woodlands near Kucuksu

Trifolium tomentosum between Tatvan and Hizan.

Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz, Roadsides near the

hotel at Ahlat. Also near Hosap. The blue fenugreek

2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van and

campsite near the ferry to Akdamar Island, Gevas. Cilli

Trigonella velutina Pass.

Vicia anatolica Near the Sim-er Motel

Vicia balansae scattered

Vicia canescens Subspecies

Trigonella caerulescens

variegata.

East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and

Baskale. Also north of Van. Like an astragalus.

Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides

Vicia cappadocica in the area

Vicia cassia Bitlis circuit

Vicia cracca ssp. stenophyllus between Tatvan and Hizan.

Vicia dalmatica Akdamar Island

Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Akdamar Island

Vicia ervilia 2009

Vicia grandiflora East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat

Vicia hyrcanica Balaban forest

Near Resadiye, South Van Circular. Near Bendimahi,

Vicia michauxii Van

Vicia peregrina Balaban forest

[2006 - this pretty species was on marls around Zernek

Vicia raflige and along the Catak road]

Vicia sativa Bitlis circuit Vicia tetrasperma Akdamar Island

Seen in Oak woodlands near Yassaca near Resadiye

Vicia trunculata on South Van circular. Cilli Pass 2009

Vicia villosa subsp. villosa Common throughout

Fagaceae

Quercus brantii Sason

Var pinnata. Oak woodland and grazed valley west of

Quercus libani Dogruyol near Bitlis; On the road to Çatak.

> Subspecies pinnatiloba. 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol

Quercus petraea village near Bitlis

Quercus pubescens Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater

Ficaceae

Ficus carica Subspecies rupestris. 2005 Çatak Road

Fumariaceae

Corydalis nariniana Guzeldere Pass. Spur almost straight.

Corydalis Nemrut Dagi crater and also on the east side of oppositifolia

Subspecies kurdica

Kuskunkiran Pass and on the south face of Tendürek

Fumaria asepala Scattered throughout

Fumaria microcarpa In the Aras Valley 15km west of Tuzluca

Fumaria officinalis Cilli Pass west of Ararat Fumaria parviflora South of Van circular Fumaria vaillantii 2004 Near Dogubeyazit

Gentianaceae

Gentiana cruciata 2005 in leaf meadows along the south side of Lake Van

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on

Gentiana olivieri the Kars road. Also Kizkunkiran Pass

Subspecies pontica..Guzeldere Pass and Tendurek

Gentiana verna Pass

In leaf by the stream on the east side of the Guzeldere

Swertia longifolia Pass

Geraniaceae

This is the strange foetid-leaved plant found by Rodney found with the Iris sari on the Catak Road south of Van. Tuberous foetid herb with narrow bipinnatifid leaves and 5 pale yellow laciniate petals. Little known in

Biebersteinia multifida Turkey 2009

Cilli Pass, Ararat and also Aras Valley walls 16km past

Tuzluca, north-facing slope of Tendurek Pass

Erodium absinthoides SSD.

armenum

Erodium cicutarium Roadsides 1km east of Kucuksu, Van circular

Geranium collinum North-facing slopes of Tendurek Pass Geranium molle between Tatvan and Hizan, Akdamar,

Geranium pratensis

. 2005. Along South side of Lake Van Subspecies kurdicum

Geranium pyreniacum South side of Lake Van

Akdamar Island; South of Van circular. Bitlis Circuit

Geranium rotundifolium 2009

Geranium stepporum Widespread on steppes Geranium tuberosum Widespread in the north

Geranium

tuberosum/stepporum Cilli Pass, Ararat. Intermediate between two species?

Globulariaceae

Globularia orientalis in the crater of Nemrut; between Tatvan and Hizan

> 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Globularia trichosantha Van circular

Guttiferae

Hypericum linaroidies Nemrut Crater

Hypericum lydium 11km south of Kucuksu, Tatvan; On the road to Çatak.

Hypericum helianthemoides ? East end of Zernek Baraji, near Hosap

Hypericum scabrum Widespread

Hypericum spectabilis Leaves only, Bitlis circuit

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia

Cultivated in valleys around Dogruyol near Bitlis and in

Catak valley

Labiatae

Acinos arvensis 2005 East of Ercek Golu

> Widespread in steppe. The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the south-

facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano

Acinos rotundifolius

Ajuga chamaepitys Subspecies

?chia.

Widespread. South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi

Volcano, Tendurek Pass

the Kars road, the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, Eremostachys laciniata and the Muradiye Waterfall area Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Eremostachys moluccelloides Hosap road The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road. A small shrub with blue flowers within lime coloured bracts. Hymenocrater bituminosus Lallemantia canescens Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. East of Ercek The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road as well as between Van-Muradiye-Lallemantia iberica Dogubayezit. Lallemantia peltata Quite common north of Lake Van Lamium album Scattered - often in disturbed habitats Near Tuzluca and oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis; on south slopes of Tendürek Pass; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Lamium amplexicaule Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and the Lamium garganicum Muradiye Waterfall area; On the road to Çatak. 2009 Lamium rotundifolium above Ishak Paºa Palace, Dogubayazit - in leaf Molucella laevis Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass Nepeta betonicifolia Kuzgunkiran Pass ? The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, the marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road, and the environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area Nepeta congesta The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Nepeta fissa Pass south of Van 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Bteween Van and Bendimahi. Nepeta heliotropifolia Zernek. Crags and slopes south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; Nepeta meyeri south slopes of Tendürek Pass Southwest shore of Ercek Golu, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor Nepeta transcaucasica road; On the road to Çatak. 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van and Phlomis armeniaca near Ayamis Castle north of Van. Zernek.2009 Salvia aethiopis Widespread especially in the north ? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Salvia atropatana Leaves linear, flowers later

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on

South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van. Calyx violet.

Corolla only 12mm; between Hosap and Guzeldere

Pass.

Salvia caespitosa Tendürek Pass

Salvia brachyantha

Salvia ceratophylla

Salvia nemorosa

Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp; between Hosap and

Guzeldere Pass.

Salvia frigida Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

> 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Calyx wide open, glabrous and whitish green; dry hills

Salvia kronenburgii near Hosap. Çatak Road.

> Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area (EP). Corolla white with pale yellow lower

Salvia limbata lip. 25mm.

> East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale by the road and Muradiye Waterfall area.

Salvia microstegia Corolla white

> Muradiye Waterfall area, and oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Calyx wide

Salvia multicaulis open, purplish violet, corolla 18mm

> Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Corolla purple, 10-12mm. Bracts purple 5-10mm. Catak Road 2009

2005 noted at Muradiye and at Zernek Salvia poculata

Salvia rosifolia Meteor

Salvia stamineum [2006 - Sim-er Motel, Dogubeyazit]

Salvia sufriticosa Tendürek Pass

Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis.

? Muradiye Waterfall area. South of Lake Van. 2009

Salvia trichoclada 2003 on the road to Çatak. 2009

Salvia verticillata Subspecies

amaniensis

Scutellaria megalaspis??? Bitlis circuit

Scutellaria orientalis Subspecies pinnatifida. ravine near Bolukyazi near

Bitlis. Tendurek Pass 2009

Scutellaria orientalis

Subspecies sosnowskyi.

Scutellaria orientalis

Subspecies virens.

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular.

south of Van.

Nominate. Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca, Squamulate;

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on

the Kars road, and the south side of Kurubas Pass,

Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass

Sideritis montana

Stachys annua between Tatvan and Hizan Stachys annua var. lycaonica is on Catak road 2009

Subspecies stenostachya. Muradiye Waterfall area

Stachys iberica 2009

Stachys inflata Meteor Stachys lavandulifolia Widespread in steppe 2009

Stachys macrantha on north slopes of Tendürek Pass

Teucrium chaemedrys ssp.

Thymus kotschyanus

sinuatum Zernek

Teucrium polium Akdamar Island

? Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Ercek area.

Thymus sipyleus 2004 above the Ishak Paoa Palace

Ziziphora capitata On the road to Catak. 2009

? Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir, and

10km east of Ercek Golu and shales 6km south along

Ziziphora persica minor road.

Linaceae

Linum austriacum Common in Dogubeyazit area

Linum densiflorum [The large white flowered species along the Catak road]

Linum flavum Ahlat

Linim hirsutum 2005 large blue flowers. Ishak Paoa

Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass; On the road to

Linum meletonis Çatak

Linum mucronatum Subspecies

armenum

Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the Van circular and 2km below the Kurubas Pass south of Van; in the crater

of Nemrut.

? Cilli Pass on Ararat and 11km east of Kucuksu, near

Linum nervosum Tatvan

Linum pycnophyllum

Subspecies kurdicum

? Kurubas Pass south of Van and west of Dogubeyazit

Linum trinervium Nemrut

Malvaceae

Alcea kurdica Bitlis circuit

Scattered in steppe. Between Tuzluca and Igdir;

between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Akdamar Island.

Oleaceae

Fraxinus angustifolia between Tatvan and Hizan; On the road to Çatak.

Orobanchaceae

Orobanche cilicica

Malva neglecta

Orobanche anatolica Fairly widespread. On Salvia

Orobanche bungeana 2005 Zernek Orobanche caesia Zernek Valley

2005 abundant in rough fields at the north end of the

Orobanche caryophyllacea Çatak Road.

Purple one seen in steppe south of Kurubas Pass,

Orobanche cernua south of Van, Cili Pass

[2006 Muradiye Waterfall]

Orobanche crenata [2006 Cilli Pass.]

Orobanche kurdica Catak Road Orobanche lutea 2005. East of Ercek Golu
Orobanche purpurea Fairly widespread. On Achillea
Orobanche ramosa Akdamar Island. Zernek. 2009

Orobanche schultzii ? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

Karabel Road, differs from below species by having

hairless calyx.

Muradiye Waterfall area; above Ishak Pasa Palace,

Dogubayazit.

Paeoniaceae

Phelypaea coccinea

Phelypaea tournefortii

Flowering in Aspen Woodland and scrub above the

village of Tugkoyu

Papaveraceae

Paeonia mascula

Glaucium corniculatum Aras Valley. Zernek

Glaucium grandiflorum Zernek

Hypecoum pendulum Scattered localities around Van

Papaver arenarium Çili Pass
Papaver argemone Ishakpasa

2004 Noted east of the Sim-er, Dogubeyazit – orchards

Papaver commutatum in the next village

Papaver dubium Subspecies laevigatum

Papaver macrostomum Ercek Lake

This taxon includes previously separate Papavers fugax tauricola and acrochaetum all of which were seen – the and acrochaetum all to the south and east of Van 2009 hairs. Noted in a variety of localities most at about lake level of which were seen – theand acrochaetum all of which were seen – the and acrochaetum all of which

Papaver persicum were seen – the

Muradiye Waterfall - side valley - in bud; above Ishak

Papaver pseud-orientale Paoa Palace, Dogubayazit. 2005 only in leaf

Papaver rhoeas Weeds on fields.

Purple. Few in flower by the Van-Agri-Dogubeyazit road

Roemeria hybrida junction; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Çatak Road

Roemeria refracta Bright red. Widespread around Van

Plantaginaceae

Plantago atrata North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass

Widespread on meadows and disturbed habitats.

Plantago lanceolata Guzeldere Pass

Plantago major 2005! Somewhere!

Plumbaginaceae

Acantholimon bracteatum

Subspecies capitulum . 2005 East of Ercek Golu, Çavuştepe

Limniopsis davisii 2005 Çatak Road

Polygalaceae

2005 well out of range but clearly this species on the

Polygala alpestris Cilli Pass.

11km south of Kucuksu, south of Tatvan; between Van-

Muradiye-Dogubayazit; between Tatvan and Hizan. Polygala anatolica

Polygala hohenbekeriana Tendurek Pass

Polygonaceae

Atraphaxis billardieri Zernek valley

Polygonum alpinum on north slopes of Tendürek Pass.

Polygonum cognatum Between Dogruyol and Bolukyazi, near Bitlis 2009

Polygonum aviculare Between Ercis and Ahlat

Polygonum polycnemoides Tatvan area Polygonum amphibium 2005 Zernek

East end of Zernek Baraji and also shales east of ercek

Golu. This was also the 'rhubarb'-like thing being sold in

Rheum ribes local markets!

Rumex acetosa Cili Pass

Rumex acetosella Widespread on disturbed habitats.

Ravine near Bolukyazi, Bitlis & at Muradiye Waterfall;

South of Van circular. Rumex scutatus Rumex angustifolius 11km south of Kucuksu

Rumex crispus Meadows 1km east of Kucuksu

Primulaceae

Short stemmed species with pink flowers Tendurek

Androsace albana **Pass**

> East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat and on the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular, also

Androsace maxima above the Ishak Paºa Palace, Dogubeyazit 2009

> Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by Dogubeyazit and the slopes above and south of the

Androsace villosa Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale 2009

East shore of Arin Golu near Adilcevaz and the

meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz

Primula algida Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass

> Soguksu meadows south of Tendurek Pass, the east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and a little east of Asaginarlica below the

Karabet Pass

Primula elatior ssp. meyerii Leaves seen on Tendurek Pass

Pteridophyta

Glaux maritima

Primula auriculata

Ceterach officinarum Limestone cliffs on Akdamar Island

Cheilanthes persica in the crater of Nemrut. Along the Çatak Road Cystopteris fragilis Brittle Bladder Fern. Scattered throughout

south face of Tendürek Pass; Between Hosap and

Equisetum arvense Guzeldere Pass.

Equisetum palustris meadows between Tatvan and Hizan, 2009

Equisetum ramossisimum Between Van and Dogubevazit

Ranunculaceae

Adonis flammea

Adonis wolgensis

Between Van and Muradiye; On the road to Çatak.

Adonis aestivalis Fields around Dogubeyazit

Pass.

Slopes by campsite near Akdamar Ferry and also near Adonis eriocalycina Ayamis Castle; On the road to Çatak. Ercek Golu area.

Widespread. A local farmer told us he used it to make

an infusion 'to keep cancer at bay'

Noted on the ridge above the Ishak Paoa and also as common on the lower north-facing slopes of the

Tendurek Pass near Somkaya village

On the crater rim of Nemrut Dagi and at Tendürek

Anemone (Pulsatilla) albana Anemone narcissiflora Subspecies willdenowii

. A little to the north of Tendurek Pass. Güzeldere Pass

Ceratocepahlus testiculatus

Less common than following species – e.g. Arin Golu

Ceratocephalus falcatus

Clematis orientalis

Consolida orientalis

Common especially in north

Noted 3km east of Tuzluca. 2005 leaves only - Çatak

Road

Quite common in fallow or disturbed ground in the Aras

Valley. Also near Edremit and at Van Kalesi

Nigella segetalis ? 2006 - Fields near Gevas]

Ranunculus arvensis Scattered throughout in fields and waysides

> Kuskuniran Pass - just on the east side as well as Tendürek Pass. In the crater of Nemrut; between

Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Ranunculus brachylobus

subsp. incisilobatus

Has bulbils in the axils of the stem leaves. Tripartite or trisect leaves, sepals spreading. Described as recently as 1992 as being new to Turkey - from Van area. Top of the Kizkunkiran Pass

Ranunculus bulbilliferus

Ranunculus

constantinopolitanus

Ranunculus crateris

Wet meadows along the Van circular south side.

2005. Noted between Van and Bendimahi - very

distinctive leaves

First noted around the Sim-er and as guite common in

Ranunculus cuneatus dry areas north of Lake Van

Ranunculus dissectus Subsp.

glabrescens

Ishakpasa

Ranunculus dissectus Subsp.

huetii

On the road to Karabet Pass and between Van and

Bendimahi

The tall large-leaved buttercup in the woodlands south

Ranunculus diversifolius of Lake Van 2009 Another tall large-leaved buttercup in the woodlands

Ranunculus fenzlii south of Lake Van!

Ranunculus grandiflorus Both sides of Tendurek Pass in saturated ground 2009

Ranunculus illyricus The Cilli Pass west of Ararat; in the crater of Nemrut.

Ranunculus isthmicus north of Van. fruits like a clown's hat 2009

By snowmelt at many localities – like a squat celandine!

Ranunculus kochii 2009

Ranunculus polyrhizos

Ranunculus sericeus

Wet meadows east of Agri and Nemrut Dagi Crater -

Ranunculus kotschyi locally common 2009

Ranunculus myosuroides 2005 just coming into flower on the Karabet Pass

Ranunculus oxyspermus Tendurek and Tatvan

Ranunculus poluninii 2005. Karabet Pass – just coming into flower

between Tatvan and Hizan; between Hosap and

Ranunculus polyanthemos Guzeldere Pass 2009

On the ridgetop south of the Guzeldere Pass. Near top

of Tendurek Pass

Noted near Igdir and near Bolukyazi. Scattered in wet

Ranunculus repens areas around Van.

Wetlands at base of Mount Ararat in several localities Ranunculus sceleratus and also seen in wet meadows near Adilcevaz 2009

and also seen in wet meadows near Adilcevaz 2009

Wet meadows near Bendimahi and along south shore

of Lake Van 2009

A water crowfoot. Roadside ditches just outside

Ranunculus sphaerospermus Dogubeyazit 2009

Ranunculus trichophyllus Bitlis circuit

Ranunculus vanensis South of Van circular – top of Kizkinkiran Pass

Thalictrum flavum Riversides and wet areas south of Lake Van 2009

Scattered in mountains south of Lake Van. Flowering at

Thalictrum isopyroides 2750m at this season 2009

shaley slopes between Ercek & Ozalp, above Ishak

Paºa Palace & many other places 2009

Thalictrum sultanabadence Karabel and Catak

A few plants on the Guzeldere Pass east of Hosap.

Trollius ranunculinus 2005 only leaves seen. A few in flower 2009

Resedaceae

Thalictrum minus

Reseda lutea Scattered on steppe and disturbed habitats.

Rhamnaceae

in the crater of Nemrut; between Tatvan and Hizan; On

Rhamnus pallasii the road to Çatak. Meteor

Rosaceae

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near

Agrimonia eupatoria Bitlis

Alchamilla erithoperta scattered 2009

Amygdalus orientalis North of Van

Amygdalus trichamygdalis [2006 - Cilli Pass]

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Cotoneaster integerrimus Dogubeyazit

Cotoneaster nummularia in the crater of Nemrut.; South of Van circular 2009

Crataegus aronia 2005 Cilli Pass
Crataegus curvisepala Bitlis Circuit
Crataegus meyeri Near Bolukyazi

Crataegus monogyna South of Van circular.

Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. Leaves

Crataegus orientalis only

Filipendula ulmaria 2005 Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van 2009

Filipendula vulgaris 2005 Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near

Bitlis

Malus sylvestris Subsp.

Geum urbanum

orientalis v. orientalis . South of Van circular. 2009

Potentilla anservina??/ Kurubas?

Potentilla bifurca Muradiye Waterfall area. Zernek. Ercek. 2009

Potentilla lignosa On the road to Karabet Pass. Çatak Road

Potentilla orientalis 2005 Çatak Road

Potentilla recta Erçek Lake

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; between Hosap and Guzeldere

Potentilla supina Pass. Very pretty!

Prunus (Cerasus) prostrata South of Van circular. Karabet. 2009

(Cerasus) Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, and a little east of Asaginarlica

Prunus brachypetala below the Karabet Pass.

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular; in the

Prunus divaricata crater of Nemrut.

(Cerasus angustifolia) Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; on Pamuk Dagi between Dogubayezit and Igdir. Strange looking plant that only

Prunus incana Var. sintenisii. vaguely resembles a cherry!

Pyrus amygdaliformis [2006 - Bitlis Circuit] 2009

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Pyrus syriaca Subsp. syriaca. Van circular. Leaves only. 2009

Rosa canina 2005 Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van 2009

Rosa foetida scattered

Rosa haemisphaerica [2006 ?probably this species - Cilli Pass]

Rosa heckeliana Var.

heckeliana. 2005 Small shrubs above Ishak Paoa and Cilli Pass

Rubus sanctus between Tatvan and Hizan.

Picnic site near Calpala in the Aras Valley; widespread

Sanguisorba minor in meadows. 2009

Sorbus persica 2004 South Circular Woods

Sorbus torminalis Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan.

. Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Leaves only. Var cretica. Near

Sorbus umbellata Var. taurica Bolukyazi near Bitlis 2009

Rubiaceae

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Asperula arvensis Dogubeyazit 2009

Asperula glomerata Subspecies ?eriantha

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Dogubeyazit, also on terraces at west edge of Dogruyol

Asperula orientalis village near Bitlis

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south

Van circular, and also on the Kuskunkiran Pass on the

Asperula setosa south Van circular. East of Ercek Golu
Asperula xylorrhiza Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road

Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca and the marly slopes at

east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road

Common throughout - Cruciata laevipes almost

Cruciata taurica certainly present too? 2009Menyanthaceae

Galium aparine Scattered near habitation especially

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Galium czerepanovii Dogubeyazit

Subspecies elatius. Oak scrub slopes a little west of

Resadiye on the south Van circular 2009

Nominate. 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and in

fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir

Galium verum Scattered

Menyanthes trifoliata Adilcevaz 2009

Rutaceae

? Near Ayamis Castle; west of Van Lake, on slopes of

Haplophyllum schelkovnikovii Nemrut.

Santalaceae

Callipeltis cucullaria

Galium incanum

Galium spurium

Muradiye Waterfall area; above Ishak Paoa Palace,

Thesium billardieri Dogubayazit.

Thesium impressum Aras Valley north of Tuzluca. Muradiye.

Saxifragaceae

2005 spring half way along the South Van Circular

Saxifraga cymbalaria 2009

By stream through oak woodland near Bolukyazi near

Saxifraga hederacea Bitlis

Rugged hills above the Ishak Pa^oa Palace by Dogubeyazit though the bright orange petals seem a little odd! The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass and on the pass itself some superb specimens 2009

Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukvazi road: in the crater of

Nemrut, Tendurek Pass

Scrophulariaceae

Saxifraga kotschyi

Saxifraga sibirica

Scattered on steppe. Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road.

Bungea trifida Zernek. Meteor

Dodartia orientalis Fallow fields near Igdir in the Aras Valley

Euphrasia juzepczukii 2005 Cilli Pass Euphrasia pectinata Scattered

2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and the rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by Dogubeyazit; On the

Lagotis stolonifera road to Çatak. 2009

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on

Linaria armeniaca the Kars road. Zernek.

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Cilli Pass,

Linaria chalepensis Ararat. Muradiye. 2009

Linaria genistifolia Near Tatvan

Linaria genistifolia Subspecies

confertifolia

Linaria genistifolia Subspecies

prealti

Linaria kurdica Near Tatvan Linaria grandiflora Catak Road

Linaria simplex East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat

. Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol Parentucellia latifolia near Bitlis. Cilli Pass, Ararat. As the subspecies name

at Zernek, 2005

east of Ercek Golu

Subspecies flaviflora suggest it is yellow flowered!

Pedicularis caucasica Meadows in the Kucuksu area. Tendurek Pass

Widespread and common - both wet meadow and dry

Pedicularis comosa rocky slope forms 2009

Pedicularis condensata Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass

Rhinanthus angustifolius

Subspecies grandiflorus

. 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and 11km east of

Kucuksu on the south Van circular. Zernek. 2009

Scrophularia ilwensis Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Scrophularia libanotica Van Castle

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit – on screes. An intermediate between this and the following species was found on rocks here too;

Scrophularia nachitschevanica

Tendürek Pass.

Scrophularia orientalis

2005 Tendurek Pass

Scrophularia rimanum

By Ayamis Castle north of Van

Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from Akdamar ferry and at the wetland justside Ahlat. In leaf

Scrophularia umbrosa

in 2005

Verbascum macrocarpum

? near Tatvan

Verbascum phoeniceum

the Kars road. Cilli Pass

Verbascum suworowianum

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on

along minor road.

Verbascum vanense

? Muradive Waterfall area

? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir; On the road to

Veronica anagallis-aquatica

Çatak. Adilcevaz 2009 Bitlis Circuit

Veronica anagalloides

East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, the Ishak Paoa Palace above Dogubeyazit, and the Kuskunkiran Pass

Veronica biloba

on the south Van circular

Muradiye Waterfall area

Veronica bornmuelleri

? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat as well as the

Veronica bozakmanii

Veronica intercedens

Veronica gentianoides North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass 2009

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near

Bitlis

Veronica orientalis

Scattered throughout 2009

Veronica polita

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Veronica pusillus

Caldiran

Solanaceae

Ishak Paoa Palace above Dogubeyazit and Muradiye Waterfall; in the crater of Nemrut; between Ercek Lake

Hyoscyamus niger

Hyoscyamus pusillus

and Ozalp. 2009 West side of lava plain north of Dogubeyazit, and the

salt mine at Tuzluca

Muradiye Waterfall area, the roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, and Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake

Van 2009

Hyoscyamus reticulatus Lycium ruthenicum

Van Castle

Tamaricaceae

Seen along the river east of Agri and near Hosap 2009

Myricaria germanica Thymelaeaceae

Daphne oleoides

Subspecies kurdica. In flower at Oak scrub slopes a

little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. 2009

In leaf only. Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye

on the south Van circular 2009 Daphne mucronata

Ulmaceae

Celtis glabrata **Bitlis Circuit**

Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis; in

Celtis tournefortii the crater of Nemrut.

subspecies minor. in the crater of Nemrut. Between

Ulmus minor Van and Muradiye 2009

Urticaceae

On the road to Çatak; On the road to Karabet Pass.

Parietaria judaica East of Ercek Golu 2009

A narrow-leaved stingless form at Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz was shown to us by a local who gathered it to use as a vegetable and as an 'anti-cancer' herb this form approached what we call Urtica galeopsifolia

in the UK 2009

Urtica dioica Violaceae

Viola arvensis Cilli Pass west of Ararat

Viola kitaibeliana in the crater of Nemrut, Tendurek Pass, Cilli Pass, 2009

Viola modesta Scattered in rocky areas in the north

Viola occulta Roadsides near Taslicay east of Agri. Cilli Pass Viola sieheana between Dogubayezit and Ahlat. Tendurek Pass.

Violaceae

Viola arvensis Cilli Pass west of Ararat

Zygophyllaceae

Widespead on steppe, Van Kalesi; Between Hosap and

Peganum harmala Guzeldere Pass. 2009 Tribulis terrestris Steppe near Hosap

Zygophyllum fabago Hosap and Van Kalesi 2009

Monocotyledons

Alismataceae

East shore of Ercek Golu; between Tatvan and Hizan.

Alisma lanceolatum 2005 in leaf only 2009 Alisma plantago-aquatica 2005 on the Bitlis Circuit

Amaryllidaceae

Ixiolirion tataricum Subspecies

montanum

Widespread in steppe

detruncatum

Araceae

Arum

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, also 10km east of Ercek Golu and then

shales 6km south along minor road and in the ravine at Çatak- Karabet-Van road junction. 2005 sadly didn't

check the plants at Muradiye? 2009

Butomaceae

(conophalloides)

Greentours Natural History Holidays www.greentours.co.uk 49

Butomus umbellatus

East shore of Ercek Golu and also at Bendimahi. By Van Kalesi

Iridaceae

Crocus cancellatus

Gladiolus atroviolaceus

Gladiolus kotschyanus

Iris barnumae

Iris urmiensis

Iris caucasica Iris gatesii

Iris iberica

Iris paradoxa Iris persica

Iris pseudocaucasica

Iris sari Iris spuria Subspecies musulmanica Brian Matthew confirmed that the single bulb collected from the hillside where Iris sari was prolific along the Catak Road was this autumn-flowering species

East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Also east of Hosap.

Muradiye Waterfall area and around Ayamis Castle. Also several places south and east of Lake Van

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. On the road to Ercis on dry hillsides, c. 30 km from Van, 1730 m altitude. East of Ozalp, particularly in the military area.

2006 - this stunning sulphur form was common in the steppe near Albayrak

Rugged hills above the Ishak Pa^oa Palace by Dogubeyazit; Tendürek Pass and inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater; On the road to Karabet Pass.

very good clumps seen at Sason

Subspecies *elegantissima*. 10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road. Also below the crags and on the slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, as well as around the hotel itself. Also on the east side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and in the Muradiye Waterfall area.

Forma choschab. South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, the approach to the Guzeldere Pass, and the road between Zernek and Lake Van. Also noted along the roadsides along the Zernek Reservoir. Also on the road to Catak 2009

Plants in seed noted on the Bitlis circuit

Just a few plants in flower on a ridge above our picnic site on the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and a few on the eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass; dry hills east of Ozalp (in seed there). In seed in

Steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road and fields around the village of Kay(r?)abogaz a little south of there; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. A large colony of mixed colours on the Çatak Road had several plants intermediate (hybrids?) between this species and Iris paradoxa? A single plant also seen in flower north of Dogruyol in the Bitlis area.

. Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van; between Ercek Golu and Ozalp – not yet in flower

Juncaginaceae

Soguksu meadows south of Tendurek Pass, the meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz and 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular: Between Hosap

and Guzeldere Pass. Ercek Golu 2009

Triglochin maritima

Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz and 1km east of Triglochin palustris Kucuksu on the south Van Circular, Ercek Golu 2009

Liliaceae

Rugged hills above the Ishak Pa^oa Palace by Dogubeyazit, also the south side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass

Allium akaka south of Van and at Ayamis Castle.

Allium atroviolaceum Near Adilcevaz

Allium chrysantherum Çavuştepe and Erçek Lake

Allium dictyoprasum Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Allium hirtifolium Van Castle and a variety of south Van locations

? Muradiye Waterfall area. Note the perianth segments Allium pseudoampeloprasum are smooth and obtuse - may be another species?

Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass; Kurubas Pass;

Allium scabriscapum south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Allium scorodoprasum Subspecies waldsteinii. Akdamar Island

Asparagus officinalis Noted on the first visit to Muradiye Waterfall. Cilli Pass

Asparagus palaestinus Zernek

Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by

Dogubeyazit. Asparagus persicus

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and the eastern approach to the Bellevalia fominii Karabet Pass. Also Çatak Road and oak woodlands

Bellevalia longipes North of Van (in frt)

> Generally quite common in the Van area - e.g. Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular and the

Bellevalia longistyla eastern approach to the Karabet Pass

> (including Bellevalia pycnantha) North-facing slopes near snowline on the Tendurek Pass, the east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and

Bellevalia paradoxa the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass

Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass

between Hosap and Baskale 2009

Colchicum kotschyana On the road to Catak. (in leaf – autumn-flowering)

> Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale; Kurubas Pass. Tendurek

Pass

Scattered at lower levels to the south and east of Lake

Eremurus spectabilis Van 2009

Bellevalia rixii

Colchicum szovitsii

On north facing slopes of ravine northwest of Muradiye Waterfall – a single dried-up flower found! 2003 only found in seed. 2004 dried up plants on Tendurek may have been this species

Fritillaria alburyana

Fritillaria assyriaca Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, Tendurek

Fritillaria caucasica

Tendürek Pass.

Fritillaria crassifolia

kurdica x pinardii, Several on the Tendurek Pass appeared to be intergrades between these two species East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass.

Fritillaria crassifolia

. .

Fritillaria crassifolia Subspecies 'kurdica'

Fritillaria minuta

Fritillaria minima

Fritillaria minuta x assyriaca

Fritillaria pinardii

Fritillaria straussii Gagea bohemica

Gagea bulbifera

Gagea confusa

Gagea fistulosa

Gagea gageoides

Gagea glacialis

and possibly 'crassifolia ' involved though practical delimination of these subspecies seems impossible in this area. The form seen on the Tendurek Pass which superfically looks like Fritillaria michailovskyi is subspecies kurdica probably of the form grossheimiana described from Iran some years ago. 2009

The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Several thousand in flower this year – a very rare fritillary known from only three or four sites 2009

Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, also on the east side of the Kiskunkiran Pass south van circular, and above Yukarinarlica on the Karabet Pass 2009

Nemrut Dagi. Very common hybrid and very easy to 'pick' with bright glossy green leaves and narrow slightly waisted flowers

North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass. The status of plants in Nemrut Dagi Volcano is unclear though possibly this species is not present there 2009

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular – in fruit

Nemrut Dagi crater lip and Karabet Pass

Rugged hills above the Ishak Pa^oa Palace by Dogubeyazit, by the Hosap Fortress, and on the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; in the crater of Nemrut.

Nemiul.

Lip of Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater. Karabet Pass. Also

by lava fields at Tendurek Pass

Widespread and common near snowmelt everywhere

2009

Rugged hills above the Ishak Pa^oa Palace by Dogubeyazit, the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular, hills above Ercek and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. First gorge along the Çatak Road The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; in the crater

of Nemrut. Also on Tendurek 2009

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The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; Between

Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

in the crater of Nemrut; South of Van circular. Karabet

Pass 2009

Gagea stylosa Tendürek Pass.

in the crater of Nemrut and on Tendurek Pass. Above

Ishak Paoa. Also on the Karabet Pass 2009

Gagea tenera 2005 Nemrut Dagi and Karabet Pass

Gagea uliginosa Nemrut Dagi crater and Karabet Pass 2009

Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by

Dogubeyazit 2009

Hyacinthella longipes Kurubas Pass.

Hyacinthella siirtensis Above Ishak Pa^oa Palace, Dogubayazit.

Merendera kurdica The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass 2009

North-facing slopes near snowline on the Tendurek Pass, and the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. The plants from the Tendurek Pass fit the form 'raddeana' with wide

perianth segments and broad leaves.2009

Merendera trigyna

Gagea helenae

Gagea luteoides

Gagea taurica

Gagea villosa

Muradiye Waterfall area

Muscari armeniacum Locally common throughout 2009

2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Also Nemrut Dagi and

Muscari aucheri Guzeldere

Widespread - much commoner than previous species

Muscari caucasicum 2009

In very damp meadows just north of Dogubeyazit and

near Ishak Paoa Palace - one of the 'open-flowered'

Muscari coeleste Bellevalia

Muscari comosum Scattered 2009

Kurubas Pass; On the road to Karabet Pass. Çatak

Muscari longipes Road 2009

Above Ishak Pa^oa Palace, Dogubayezit. East of Ercek

Muscari neglectum Golu.

Ornithogalum arcuatum 2005 along the south shore of Lake Van in fields

? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by Dogubeyazit. Probably not montanum but certainly

Ornithogalum montanum looked like it!

Ornithogalum narbonense Akdamar and Çatak Road
Ornithogalum oligophyllum Scattered throughout 2009

10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south

Ornithogalum orthophyllum along minor road

2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van.

Ornithogalum platyphyllum Bitlis Circuit

Ornithogalum shelkovnikovii Widespread 2009
Ornithogalum wiedemannii Or oligophyllum

'nemrut dagi' A doubtfully distinct 'Puschkinia' rather Puschkinia

uncommon in the crater floor 2009

'karabet' Grows with 'scilloides' but much the commoner of the two - pyramidal inflorescence,

Puschkinia bilginerii different filament structure etc. 2009

> North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass, the east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass

Puschkinia scilloides locally very abundant at all these sites 2009

Scilla monanthos Above the Ishak Paoa Palace Scilla sibirica Above the Ishak Paoa Palace

Tulipa armena Subsp. armena Tendurek Pass, above Ishak Pasa

> Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. Both white with yellow

centre and fully yellow forms Tulipa biflora

> East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern

approach to the Karabet Pass. 2009

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and on the rugged hills above the Ishak

Pa^oa Palace by Dogubeyazit. 2009

Recently finished plants were seen south of Bolukyazi. A large colony in good flower by the end of the first gorge on the road to Çatak, very good colony seen at

Çatak 2009

Tulipa sylvestris Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.

Orcidaceae

Tulipa humilis

Tulipa julia

Tulipa sintenisii

Anacamptis pyramidalis

Coeloglossum viride

Dactylorhiza flavescens

Dactylorhiza iberica

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular - mostly in bud. Several at the little

roadside wood west of Gevao

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, the hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van

Cephalanthera kotschyana circular 2009

In scrub above the South Van Circular near Resadiye Cephalantherea longifolia

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, 2006

on the Guzeldere Pass

Comperia comperiana Many found in oak scrub slopes near Tatvan.

Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater. Oak woods on

South Van Circular 2009

2005 very many in bud in marshy fields on the west

wide of the Kizkunkiran Pass.

Dactylorhiza incarnata between Ercis and Ahlat. Dactylorhiza osmanica A large population south of Bendimahi was a surprise!

Widespread in wet meadows. The very tall plants with densely leafy stems and elongate bracts from the wet meadows near Adilcevaz fit the form 'longibracteata'. Strangely this highly distinctive form appears nowhere in Kreutz's work! The 'chuhuensis' form with purplemarked leaves and bracts was seen north of Lake Van.

2009

In leaf at Adilcevaz and above Tugkoyu Village

Epipactis helleborine southeast of Tatvan

Epipactis persica In leaf above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan

Ophrys holoserica Bitlis Circuit near village Icgecit 2009

Ophrys mammosa Near Tatvan

Dactylorhiza umbrosa

Ophrys phrygia North of Kuslu (north of Bolukyazi)

Ophrys straussii Noted in a little roadside wood west of Geva^o

Nominate. Akdamar Island. One or two in good flower in oak scrub on the south Van circular. Several at the

Ophrys transhyrcana little roadside wood west of Geva^o 2009

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, oak.woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, and in the Selcuk Cemetery at Ahlat. Road to Çatak. Quite common in some marhsy

Orchis coriophora fields south of Lake Van. 2009

East shore of Ercek Golu; ?between Ercis and Ahlat.

Orchis palustris 2009

Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and 11km east of

Kucuksu on the south Van circular 2009

Orchis pseudolaxiflora Very good population seen at Ercek Lake

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the

Orchis tridentata south Van circular 2009

Platanthera chlorantha Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan

Cyperaceae

Orchis pinetorum

Blysmus compressus East shore of Arin Golu near Adilcevaz Carex divulsa

Blysmus compressus Subspecies leersii

Bolboschoenus maritimus East shore of Ercek Golu 2009

Carex acutiformis Meadows at Adilcevaz

Carex diluta ? Junction of the Van-Agri-Dogubeyazit roads

Carex distans 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular 2009

Carex divisa Widespread

Carex flacca Subspecies

serratula . 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Carex orbicularis Subspecies

?kotschyana . 2km or so south of the Kurubas

Carex otrubae Bitlis circuit

1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and a

Carex panicea little east of Asaginarlica below the Karabet Pass
Carex tomentosa 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Pass south of Van Carex kurdica

Scirpiodes holoschoenus Scattered

Juncaceae

Eleocharis uniglumis Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz 2009

Juncus effusus East shore of Ercek Golu etc 2009

East shore of Arin Golu near Adilcevaz and meadows

Juncus gerardi 14km east of Adilcevaz

Poaceae

Aegilops cylindrica Scattered throughout 2009

Aegilops triuncialis Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat etc

Agropyron cristatum Subspecies pectinatum

? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir and meadows

Alopecurus arundinaceus 14km east of Adilcevaz

Alopecurus aucheri Lip of Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater

Rugged hills above the Ishak Paoa Palace by

Alopecurus laguroides Dogubeyazit 2009

Alopecurus myosuroides Near Ulu Kumbet at Ahlat

Bromus lanceolatus ? Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Van Castle

Bromus tectorum Scattered
Bromus tomentellus Scattered

Catabrosa capusii ? Muradiye Waterfall area

Catabrosella parviflora Subspecies calvertii

Dactylis glomerata Near Edremit 2009

Eremopoa songarica Scattered

? Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and

Eremopyrum distans roadsides in the area

Nominate. Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Festuca callieri Dogubeyazit

East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and

Festuca sclerophylla Baskale

Hordeum geniculatum Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van

Hordeum murinum Subspecies ?glaucum

Hordeum violaceum Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van 2009

Melica persica Subspecies cf. inaequiglumis

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol.

Milium vernale New to

Phleum alpinum On Tendürek Pass

Widespread – the commonest grass. Fertile specimens

Poa bulbosa at Inside Nemrut crater

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,

Psathyrostachys fragilis Dogubeyazit

Puccinellia distans Subspecies sevangensis Reservoir on the Hosap road

Sclerochloa dura Van Castle

Rugged hills above the Ishak Pa^oa Palace by

Dogubeyazit and east side of the Guzeldere Pass

Sesleria phleoides between Hosap and Baskale

Stipa arabica Erçek Lake

Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides

Stipa holosericea in the area

Taeniatherum caput-medusae Subspecies crinitum

Triticum baeoticum Subspecies ?thaoudar

Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. New to

Ventenata subenervis East Turkey

Vulpia ciliata Nominate. Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near

Zingeria pisidica Bitlis

Typhaceae

Typha angustifolia 2004. Adilcevaz 2008

Typha latifolia 2004. Ahlat area

Typha minima Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

The taxonomy and order of the following list largely follows Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species).

Little grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	Scattered records, mostly heard only.
Great crested grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van marshes.
Black-necked grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	Erçek Gölü.
[Eurasian bittern]	Botaurus stellaris	Heard at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on the second visit.
		One at Dörümeç rivermouth.
Night heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	Small numbers at the South Lake Van lunch spot,
		Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van marshes. Also one at
		Akdamar Island.
Squacco heron	Ardeola ralloides	Small numbers at Sim-er Hotel wetland and South Van
		Marshes.
Cattle egret	Bubulcus ibis	Three at Erçek Gölü and another three at the Dörümeç
	_	rivermouth. All in breeding plumage.
Little egret	Egretta garzetta	Small numbers at Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van
0 1	A 1	marshes. One at Akdamar Island.
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	Small numbers at most wetlands visited.
Purple heron	Ardea purpurea	Small numbers at Göldüzü, Dörümeç rivermouth and
White stork	Ciconia ciconia	South Van marshes. First seen the the Sim-er Hotel wetland. Small numbers
willte stork	Ciconia ciconia	thereafter on five dates.
Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	Six at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on both visits.
Greater flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber	A small flock at Dörümeç rivermouth on both visits. One
Greater Hammigo	1 πουπιεοριεί με τι μου	at South Van Marshes and at least 2000 at Erçek Gölü the
		same day.
Ruddy shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	Sim-er Hotel wetland, Dörümeç rivermouth and South
,		Van marshes. Two flew by Akdamar Island.
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	South Van marshes, Dörümeç rivermouth and Erçek
		Gölü.
Gadwall	Anas strepera	One male at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. Some along the
		lakeshore near Ahlat and a few at Dörümeç rivermouth.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	First recorded at the Sim-er Hotel wetland and recorded
		on four dates thereafter.
Garganey	Anas querquedula	One male at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. Two there the next
		day. Small numbers at Dörümeç rivermouth and South
01 1		Van marshes.
Shoveler	Anas clypeata	A few at the Sim-er Hotel wetland and the Dörümeç
Dad mastad made and	Notto milion	rivermouth.
Red-crested pochard	Netta rufina	Good numbers at Göldüzü. Also recorded at the Dörümeç
Pochard	Authua forina	rivermouth and South Van marshes. One male at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. Abundant at
rucharu	Aythya ferina	Göldüzü. Smll numbers at the Dörümeç rivermouth and
		South Van marshes.
Ferruginous duck	Aythya nyroca	Two or three at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on the last
1 211 uginous uuch	1 19 11 19 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	morning there. One at the Dörümeç rivermouth.
Tufted duck	Aythya fuligula	Single male at Göldüzü.
	5 5 6	0

White-headed duck Oxyura leucocephala At least 35 at Göldüzü. Single males at Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van marshes. At least 15 at Erçek Honey buzzard Pernis apivorus Six migrating north on the first day. Lammergier *Gypaetus barbatus* One over the Güzeldere Geçidi. Egyptian vulture Neophron percnopterus One at Zernek. Sim-er Hotel wetland and noted in small numbers at most Marsh harrier Circus aeruginosus wetlands thereafter. Montagu's harrier Second-year male at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. A female Circus pygargus there the next morning. Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus Single female along 'Komper Ridge' (South Lake Van). Common buzzard Buteo buteo Singles at the Tatvan hotel and South Lake Van area on the same day. Long-legged buzzard Buteo rufinus Small numbers on most days. **Booted** eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* Single pale phase bird at Nemrut Daği. Golden eagle Aquila chrysaetos Two above the Ishak Paşa palace. Lesser kestrel Falco naumanni At least four on Akdamar Island. Common kestrel Falco tinnunculus Scattered records, recorded on eight dates. Falco subbuteo A few including; Bitlis circuit (3) and Van (2). Recorded Hobby on four dates. Falco biarmicus Lanner At least three immature birds over Akdamar Island on the last day. Chukar Alectoris chukar Several above the Ishak Paşa palace. A calling bird at the Karabet lunch spot. One heard at Güzeldere Geçidi. Quail Coturnix coturnix Joan flushed a beauty off 'Komper Ridge' (South Lake Van). Heard in the Çatak Valley and around Erçek Gölü. Heard in the reeds at the Bendimahi bridge and the [Water rail] Rallus aquaticus Dörümeç rivermouth. Moorhen Gallinula chloropus Heard at the Bendimahi bridge. Small numbers thereafter. Coot Fulica atra Sim-er Hotel wetland and all other large wetlands thereafter. Common crane Grus grus A pair at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on the second visit. Himantopus himantopus First noted at Sim-er Hotel wetland and frequent on Black-winged stilt wetlands thereafter. Recurvirostra avosetta Avocet Recorded at Sim-er Hotel wetland, Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van marshes Charadrius dubius A few at South Van marshes and Erçek Gölü. Little ringed plover Ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula A few at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on the second visit. Kentish plover Charadrius alexandrinus Breeding pairs at South Van marshes and Erçek Gölü. Single at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on the second visit. Grey plover Pluvialis squatarola Spur-winged plover Hoplopterus spinosus Pair at Dörümeç rivermouth. Lapwing Vanellus vanellus widespread. Little stint Calidris minuta Small flock at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on second visit. Ruff Philomachus pugnax Sim-er Hotel wetland, Dörümeç rivermouth Common redshank Tringa totanus widespread. Tringa nebularia Greenshank One at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. Another at South Van marshes. Wood sandpiper Tringa glareola One at the Dörümeç rivermouth. Common sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos One along the river below the waterfall on the first day and another along the stream in the Güzeldere Pass. Small numbers at Göldüzü. Mediterranean gull Larus melanocephalus

Black-headed gull Larus ridibundus Small numbers at Göldüzü and also at South Van

marshes.

Slender-billed gull Larus genei Small numbers at South Van marshes.

Yellow-legged gull Larus cachinnans Istanbul.

Armenian gull Larus armenicus widespread, recorded in most wetlands visited.

Common tern Sterna hirundo South Van marshes.

Little ternSterna albifronsThree or four at South Van marshes.Gull-billed ternSterna niloticaOne at Sim-er Hotel wetland.Black ternChlidonias nigerOne at Dörümeç rivermouth.

White-winged tern Chlidonias leucopterus A few at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. One at Bendimahi

bridge.

Whiskered tern Chlidonias hybridus Two briefly at the Sim-er Hotel wetland on the second

visit.

[Black-bellied Pterocles orientalis Heard at Erçek Gölü.

sand grouse]

Rock dove Columba livia Ubiquitous.

WoodpigeonColumba palumbusSim-er Hotel garden only.Collared doveStreptopelia decaoctoOne at the Sim-er Hotel.

Laughing dove Streptopelia senegalensis Noted in towns on just two dates.

Cuckoo Cuculus canorus Seen or more usually heard on ten dates.

Long-eared owl Asio otus Seen well in the garden at the Sim-er Hotel every night.

[Scops owl] Otus scops Heard during the day on the Bitlis circuit.

Little owl Athene noctua One en route to Karabet Geçidi. A pair at South Van

marshes.

Common swiftApus apusWidespread, recorded daily.Alpine swiftApus melbaGüzelsu and Akdamar Island.

European bee-eater Merops apiaster A few whilst driving on the first day but a huge flock of

120+ over the hotel garden at dusk. Thereafter seen daily

in good numbers.

Roller Coracias garrulus Pair at Meteor. Another pair at the junction to Dörümeç

rivermouth. Common around Van.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* A single on the first day at the first stop was our first.

Thereafter small numbers noted daily.

[Wryneck] *Jynx torquilla* One heard on the South Lake Van day.

Syrian woodpecker *Dendrocopus syriacus* Sim-er Hotel and small numbers on three dates thereafter.

[Lesser spotted Dendrocopos minor Heard at the Sim-er Hotel.

woodpecker]

Crested lark Galerida cristata Occasional records, usually whilst driving.

Woodlark Lullula arborea Noted above the Ishak Paşa palace and at Çilli Pass.

Abundant at Nemrut Daği.

Lesser short-toed larkCalandrella rufescensErçek Gölü.Calandra larkMelanocorypha calandraGöldüzü.

Bimaculated lark Melanocorypha bimaculata Çilli Pass and Erçek Gölü.

Skylark Alauda arvensis Scattered records.

Shore lark Eremophila alpestris Noted in all alpine habitats (7 dates).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Widespread.

Sand martin Riparia riparia Common over the larger wetlands we visited.

House martin Delichon urbica Güzelsu.

Tawny pipit Anthus campestris Singles at Tendürek Pass and on four dates thereafter.

Water pipit Anthus spinoletta Tendürek and Güzeldere Passes.

Black-headed wagtailMotacilla flavaRecorded on nine dates.Grey wagtailMotacilla cinereaRecorded on three dates.

White wagtail Motacilla alba Scattered records. Prunella ocularis Radde's accentor Common on Karabet Geçidi and Güzeldere Geçidi. *Cercotrichas galactotes* Heard in Çilli Pass. [Rufous bush-chat] [Nightingale] Luscinia megarhynchos Scattered records of singing birds. Irania guttaralis White-throated robin Males encountered (often singing) at Çilli Pass, Nemrut Daği and South Lake Van. Phoenicurus ochuros Black redstart Scattered records, abundant above the Ishak Paşa palace. Stonechat Saxicola torquata Three at Nemrut Daği and two at Mezne. The eastern race armenicus. Northern wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe widespread. Isabelline wheatear Oenanthe isabellina widespread. Black-eared wheatear Oenanthe hispanica Scattered records (6 dates). Oenanthe finschii Finsch's wheatear At least two males in the lava fields we drove through en route to the wetland near the Sim-er Hotel one morning. Also recorded at Çatak valley and Zernek. Kurdish wheatear Pair feeding young at the bottom of the Catak valley. Oenanthe xanthoprymna Monticola saxatilis Rock thrush Two males on the Tendürek Pass and another above the Ishak Paşa palace. Also recorded at Karabet Geçidi and Çatak valley. Monticola solitarius Blue rock thrush Single male at the bottom of the Çatak valley. Heard at the waterfall on the first day and at the 'pearl [Cetti's warbler] Cettia cetti mullet river' en route to Tatvan. Small numbers heard thereafter. Savi's warbler Locustella luscinoides Singing bird at Dörümeç rivermouth. Barred warbler Sylvia nisoria One female on the first morning at the Sim-er Hotel and three there on the last morning. Lesser whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Nemrut Daği. Whitethroat Sylvia communis Migrants at the Sim-er Hotel and singing birds above Ishak Pasa. Garden warbler Sylvia borin Good numbers of migrants at Sim-er Hotel. Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla Singles daily at Sim-er Hotel. Marsh warbler Acrocephalus palustris Sim-er Hotel. Singing birds in South Lake Van area and Catak vallev. Sedge warbler Acrocephalus Sim-er Hotel wetland, also singing and seen at Dörümeç schoenobaenus rivermouth. Paddyfield warbler Acrocephalus agricola South Van marshes. Great reed warbler Acrocephalus Single in the garden at the Sim-er Hotel. Also Bendimahi, arundinaceus Göldüzü, Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van. Olivaceous warbler Hippolais pallida Sim-er Hotel. Abundant in the poplars at Adılcevaz and small numbers thereafter. Willow warbler Phylloscopus trochilus A few in the garden at the Sim-er Hotel. Spotted flycatcher Muscicapa striata Migrants in the trees at the waterfall on the first day and a few in the garden at the Sim-er Hotel. **Red-breasted** A female on the first morning at the Sim-er Hotel. Ficedula parva flycatcher Bearded tit Panurus biarmicus Two at the Bendimahi bridge. Abundant at Dörümeç rivermouth. Great tit Parus major Adılcevaz, Ahlat and Van. Blue tit Parus caeruleus Bitlis circuit. Western rock Sitta neumayer Abundant above the Ishak Paşa. A few thereafter. nuthatch Eastern rock nuthatch Sitta tephronata Pair nesting inside the Meteor crater.

Penduline tit Remiz pendulinus One on the last morning at the Sim-er Hotel. Oriolus oriolus Golden oriole Sim-er Hotel, Bitlis circuit and a few thereafter. Lesser grey shrike Lanius minor At least three on the steppe at the back of the Sim-er Hotel on the first morning. Pair on the Bitlis circuit. Lanius collurio Red-backed shrike One female at the waterfall on the first day. Abundant around the Sim-er Hotel on two of the days there. Garrulus glandarius Nemrut Daği, Bitlis circuit. Jay Magpie Pica pica Widespread. Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax Several above the Ishal Paşa palace. **Jackdaw** Corvus monedula widespread. Rook Corvus frugilegus widespread. Hooded crow Corvus corone Widespread but in small numbers. Sturnus vulgaris widespread. **Starling** Rose-coloured Sturnus roseus Eight in the Çilli Pass from the van and another single in starling garden briefly at the Sim-er Hotel. At least 12 from 'Komper's Ridge'. Two at Dörümeç rivermouth. Two at Çatak valley. House sparrow Passer domesticus Ubiquitous. Rock sparrow Petronia petronia Ubiquitous. **Snow finch** Montifringilla nivalis Tendürek Pass, Karabet Pass and Güzeldere Pass. **Red-fronted serin** Serinus pusillus Seen well from the van at the Ishak Paşa picnic area. Carduelis carduelis Goldfinch Two dates only. Linnet Carduelis cannabina Small numbers in montane habitat. Hawfinch Coccothraustes Two in the grounds of the Sim-er Hotel one afternoon coccothraustes were a surprise. One on the last morning there too. Common rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* First noted in the Sim-er Hotel grounds, where up to three daily. Crimson-winged Rhodopechys sanguinea Pair flying by up the Çatak valley. finch Trumpeter finch Bucantes githagineus Six or perhaps eight birds at Zernek. Bucanetes mongolicus Mongolian finch A pair at Zernek. **Rock bunting** Emberiza cia Birds feeding young in the nest above the Ishak Paşa palace. Also recorded on the Nemrut Daği and the Bitlis circuit. Ortolan bunting Emberiza hortulana Common and often surprisingly tame above the Ishak Paşa palace. Small numbers thereafter. **Grey-necked bunting** Emberiza buchanani Two or three above the Ishak Paşa palace. Also recorded in the Catak valley on two dates. An elusive singing male on the Bitlis circuit. Cinereous bunting Emberiza cineracea Several singing males on the first day and common in Black-headed Emberiza melanocephala

Emberiza schoeniclus

Milaria calandra

bunting Reed bunting

Corn bunting

suitable habitat thereafter.

Dörümeç rivermouth and South Van Marshes. The

impressive large-billed eastern race caspia.

Widespread, mostly heard though.

Systematic list No. 3 Odonata

Banded demoiselle Calopteryx splendens Bitlis circuit. Migrant spreadwing Lestes barbarus Bitlis circuit and Erçek Gölü. Sympecma fusca Common winter Bitlis circuit (1) and Mezne (1). damsel Common bluetail Ischnura elegans Bendimahi bridge, Bitlis circuit, South Lake Van. Small bluetail Ischnura pumilio Bitlis circuit. Enallagma cyathigerum Only recorded around Lake Van, in the grounds of the Common blue damselfly hotel and at Akdamar. Ornate bluet Coenagrion ornatum One at the first stop on day 1. Abundant on the Bitlis circuit. A few on the South Lake Van day and at Mezne. Crescent bluet Coenagrion lunulatum Good numbers by the 'warm' lake in the Nemrut Daği crater when the sun came out. Azure bluet Coenagrion puella Bitlis circuit, South Van. Caliaeschna microstigma Two on the Bitlis circuit. Eastern spectre Turkish goldenring Cordulegaster picta One on the Bitlis circuit. **Broad-bodied chaser** Libellula depressa One at the first stop on Day 1. Common on the Bitlis circuit and in South Van area. Four-spot chaser Libellula quadrimaculata Good numbers by the 'warm' lake in the Nemrut Daği crater. One on South Van day and a few thereafter. **Broad scarlet** Crocothemis erythraea Bitlis circuit (1). Red-veined darter Sympetrum fonscolombii Bitlis circuit.

Systematic List Number 4 Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and the systematic order have been taken from Baytaş's 'Butterflies of Turkey' (2007).

Swallowtail Papilio machaon Hill-topping individuals at 'Komper Ridge' (South Van).

Clouded apollo Parnassius mnemosyone One on 'Komper Ridge' (South Van).

Black-veined white Aporia craetegi South Lake Van.

Eastern wood white Leptidea duponcheli South Lake Van and Mezne.

Large white *Pieris brassicae* Scattered records.

Mountain small Artogeia ergane South Lake Van and Mezne.

white

Small white Artogeia rapae Bitlis circuit and around Lake Van.

Eastern dappled Euchloe ausonia A few around Lake Van.

white

Clouded yellow Colias crocea Bitlis circuit and frequent thereafter.

Green hairstreak Callophrys rubi Çilli Pass and Çatak valley.

Romanoff's vernal Tomares romanovi Çatak Valley (1).

copper

Balkan copper Lycaena candens first day.

Turkish fiery copper *Lycaena ochimus* Noted on first day and a few thereafter.

Lesser fiery copper *Lycaena thersamon* Albayrak.

Small copper Lycaena phlaeas 'Komper Ridge' (South Lake Van) and Akdamar Landing.

Sooty copperLycaena tityrusfirst day.Osiris blueCupido osirisSouth Lake Van.

Green-underside blue *Glaucopsyche alexis* South Lake Van and occasional thereafter.

Iolas blueGlaucopsyche iolasSouth Lake Van.Lesser checqueredPseudophilotes vicramaÇatak Valley.

blue

Silver-studded blue *Plebeius argus* recorded.

Zephyr blue Plebeius pylaon Çilli Pass, South Lake Van.

Brown argus Aricia agestis recorded.

Blue argusAricia anterosÇilli Pass, Bitlis circuit.Pontic bluePolyommatus coelestinusSouth Lake Van day.Amanda's bluePolyommatus amandaNoted on the first day.

Adonis bluePolyommatus bellargusÇilli Pass.Common bluePolyommatus icaruswidespread.

Mazarine blue Polyommatus semiargus Bitlis circuit, South Van.

bellis

Nettle-tree butterflyLibythea celtisBitlis circuit.Small tortoiseshellAglais urticaBitlis circuit.Painted ladyCynthia carduiwidespread.Southern commaPolygonia egeaBitlis circuit.Queen-of-SpainIssoria lathoniaScattered records.

fritillary

Glanville fritillary Melitaea cinxia Tatvan Hotel grounds and elsewhere.

Freyer's fritillary Melitaea arduinna Abundant at the first day Iris barnumae spot. Also at Iris

paradoxa site on Çatak valley day.

Meadow brown Maniola jurtina Erçek Gölü.

Dalmatian ringlet Protoerebia afra Nemrut Daği and Güzeldere.

Small heath Coenonympha pamphilus widespread.

Mallow skipper Carcharodes alceae Iris paradoxa site on Çatak valley day.

Red-underwing

skipper

Essex skipper Thymelicus lineola Small skipper

Iris barnumae spot on day 1 and South Van.

Akdamar Landing.

Thymelicus sylvestris Bitlis circuit.

Systematic List Number 5 Reptiles & Amphibians

Green toad Bufo viridis Found at night behind the Sim-er Hotel.

Banded frog Rana camerani Tendürek Pass.

Spialia orbifer

Rana palustris Marsh frog Frequently seen and especially heard.

Desert treefrog Hyla sauvignyi A few on the Bitlis circuit.

Spur-thighed tortoise Testudo graeca One on the first day, small numbers occasionally

thereafter.

Stripe-necked

terrapin

Caucasian agama

Sunwatcher Phrynocephalus persicus Strauch's racerunner

Three-lined lizard Valentin's lizard

Snake-eyed lizard Ravergier's whip-

Dice snake

snake

Mauremys caspica

Laudakia caucasica

Eremias strauchi Lacerta media

Darevskia valentini Ophisops elegans

Coluber ravergieri

South Van marshes.

Tendürek Pass and the Sim-er Hotel wetland.

One on the first morning at the Sim-er Hotel wetland. One on the first morning at the Sim-er Hotel wetland.

Ishak Paşa, Bitlis circuit.

Widespread, the common wall lizard on the tour.

Bitlis circuit.

One for Liam on the first day.

Natrix tessellata A dead one at the Bendimahi Bridge. Two seen on the

Bitlis circuit.

Systematic List Number 6 **Mammals**

[White-breasted

hedgehog]

Asia Minor souslik

Erinaceus concolor

A few dead on the road around Van.

Spermophilus

xanthoprymnus

Allactaga williamsi William's jerboa

Tendürek Pass, Ishak Pasa.

On the steppe out the back of the Sim-er Hotel at night.