# **Maritime Alps**

Wildlife at Leisure

### A Greentours Tour Report

11th to 18th July 2022

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Daily Accounts and Systematic Lists written by Paul Cardy

This was an excellent week in the western Alps, on both the French and Italian sides of the glorious Maritime Alps. Even after more than twenty years of leading tours here, and living just to the north, the area still holds some surprises.

The season was advanced this year, with several of the usual plants already over, but the converse of this was that several species not usually in bloom were. These included the endemic *Gentiana villarii* in fine flower at Lombarde, *Senecio incanus* at its best, superb houseleeks (especially robust *Sempervivum tectorum*), *Potentilla caulescens*, perfect *Saxifraga caesia*, much flowering *Gentiana cruciata*, and the always impressive *Leuzea conifera*.

An excellent tour for butterflies, we recorded 113 species, many in large numbers, with several sites simply alive with nectaring butterflies, the variety and numbers of fritillaries particularly memorable.

The first four nights were spent at a small pleasant family run hotel in the Valdeblore village of La Bolline, a fine location, well situated for all excursions, and with a small grocery just along the street where we could do the daily picnic shopping. For the last three nights of the tour we moved to the Italian side of Mercantour National Park, and the town of Limone Piemonte in Cuneo province, which allowed easy access into the Italian Alpi Maritime, another superbly productive area.

During the week our daily excursions mixed lower Mediterranean influenced sites, through mid altitude meadows and subalpine forests, to alpine pastures above the tree line, producing a wealth of flora and fauna in these different habitats.

On Monday all arrivals were at Nice, on three different flights. Challenges came with delayed flights, airline strikes, a bag left at a bus stop (!), but retrieved, and the hotel giving me a deadline for dinner. John and Fiona arrived on time, and Nicolo drove them to the hotel whilst Beatrice and I waited for the delayed London flight. Somewhat after seven o'clock, Angela, Bob, Pietro, Peter, and Gillian arrived, and we headed purposefully north, rolling into La Bolline just in time for an excellent welcome dinner. Nicolo though then had to return to the airport to meet Tonje and Beate, arriving in the early hours, their flights rebooked due to Scandinavian airline strikes.

The first full day was spent visiting a selection of local sites in Valdeblore. The first plant I showed everyone was *Euphorbia maculata* growing in the village pavements. Initially we drove towards Col St.Martin, under clear blue skies, the day already hot. Our first stop was to admire stunning *Iberis umbellata*, in perfect bloom. Of course there was much else here, everything being seen for the first time. *Fumana procumbens* and *Helianthemum italicum* bloomed side by side, *Viscum album* was rather common on pines, this the subspecies *austriacum*, and the grass *Bothriochloa ischaemum* featured on the roadsides. Grasshoppers, blue-winged *Oedipoda caerulescens*, and the red-winged *Oedipoda germanica*, made short flights.

A minor road climbs above the col and features a Mediterranean influenced flora at a surprisingly high altitude. A dead Garden Dormouse was the first thing of interest as we got out of the vehicles.

Genista cinerea was co-dominant in the scrub. This was a productive area for umbellifers, with much impressively large Laserpitium gallicum, the stately Molopospermum peloponnesiacum in fruit, delicate yellow Bupleurum praealtum, and unpleasant smelling Sison amomum. The umbels swarmed with a great variety of Diptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, and other insects. Among these were the bug Graphosoma italicum, and the black and red banded beetles Trichodes alvearius and Trichodes apiarius. Pietro found a Swallowtail larva on the Laserpitium gallicum.

Pyramidal Orchid was still in flower, there were fine large patches of *Cuscuta epithymum*, *Galium obliquum* had sprays of delicate pink flowers, *Hypericum coris* with its narrow leaves was in impressive bloom, *Teucrium montanum* was attractive, and *Centaurea leucophaea* was numerous. Yellow flowered *Ononis minutissima*, *Ononis striata*, and *Ononis natrix* were all here. *Plantago sempervirens* was a distinctive woody branched plantain, and the delicate flowered grass *Achnatherum calamagrostis* was a beautiful feature. There were fine Dark Red Helleborines.

Butterflies were numerous and varied, especially attracted to the abundant *Scabiosa vestita*. We could have spent hours along just one stretch of road where the butterfly diversity was very high, as we kept spotting new species. Marbled Whites were numerous. Among the blues were Escher's Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Damon Blue, Turquoise Blue, Long-tailed Blue, Lang's Short-tailed Blue, and Short-tailed Blue. Several Blue-spot Hairstreaks nectared. Beautiful Purple-shot Coppers, the *gordius* race, were stunning. Also here were Small, Scarce, and Sooty Coppers.

The great fritillary variety began with Silver-washed Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Niobe Fritillary, Queen-of-Spain Fritillary, Marbled Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary, Knapweed Fritillary, Spotted Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, and Provençal Fritillary. Here too were Pearly Heath, Bath White, and Scarce Swallowtail. Both Pale and Berger's Clouded Yellows were on the wing, the ground colour of each subtly distinct when seen together. *Hipparchia* species, probably both Woodland and Lesser Rock Graylings, were a feature (examination of jullien organ necessary for positive identification), and Great Banded Grayling was impressive.

Among burnets were *Zygaena transalpina*, *Zygaena filipendulae*, and *Zygaena lonicerae*, and Oak Eggar was seen. There were several of the moth Frosted Yellow, extinct in UK, and associated here with the various shrubby legumes.

Plants continued with Asperula aristata, the endemic Euphorbia valliniana, Hieracium staticifolium, Hieracium pictum, Coronilla varia, Veronica fruticulosa, and Cirsium eriophorum. Gentiana ligustica had gone over, Rhamnus alpinus was in fruit, and Bearberry tumbled across rocks.

The extensive picnic lunch was set out at a shaded riverside site (no water above ground though!). This was a site we've been visiting since the end of the last century, but the topography had been transformed since our last visit due to a major landslide. The river gravels were completely rearranged, the previous track no longer here. However, a stroll along the wooded lane produced many plants in productive forest and along open stretches with fine views of Valdblore below. *Gentiana cruciata* and *Dianthus seguieri* were both in fine flower at the lunch site, and Southern White Admirals, Wood White, and Cleopatra were on the wing.

Woodland plants included *Campanula trachelium*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Digitalis lutea*, the attractive purple bracted *Melampyrum velebiticum*, Nodding Wintergreen, *Goodyera repens*, *Geranium nodosum*, *Astragalus glycyphyllos* in fruit, *Euphrasia rostkoviana*, *Calamintha nepeta*, *Pimpinella tragium*, and *Seseli galloprovinciale*. The endemic *Teucrium lucidum* was a feature. A surprise was a Cucumber plant, naturalised here! I was pleased to add the grass *Sesleria argentea* to the list.

Our next burnet species, the beautiful Zygaena hilaris, was admired, including one ovipositing on its foodplant, Ononis. Nicolo found several Dolichopoda crickets in crevices and holes in the walls. Having consulted my French Orthoptera atlas, the species was presumably Dolichopoda azami. According to the more recent 'Grasshoppers and Crickets of Italy', Iorio et al., the correct name of this species is Dolichopoda ligustica ligustica (Dolichopoda azami being an Italian endemic occuring here in two subspecies). There is an endemic species in the upper Tinee Valley, Dolichopoda chopardi, but there are no recent records in the atlas. Speckled Wood was on the wing.

The impressively situated village of Rimplas affords fine views in all directions. There we drove to a Maginot Line fort, where Great Sooty Satyrs were much in evidence, especially attracted to the tall white flowered *Cephalaria leucantha*, together with with a few Black Satyrs, and several Great Banded Graylings. The planted flowering lavenders in the centre of the village which attracted a wealth of butterflies and other insects, interestingly many more than the wild *Lavandula angustifolia* which was also in flower. Among blues were Furry Blue, Escher's Blue, and Amanda's Blue, and Meadow Fritillary was a highlight. Of great interest was the burnet *Zygaena ephialtes*.

The plants here show a strong Mediterranean influence. The hillside scrub had both Prickly and Phoenician Juniper, and St.Lucie's Cherry was in fruit. *Asperula purpurea* with its small purple flowers was very attractive. Among other species that had escaped the strimmers were Yellow Chamomile, Spiny Spurge, Shrubby Plantain, and both *Artemisia alba* and *Artemisia chamaemelifolia*. *Centaurea paniculata* was another butterfly favourite.

The following day we headed over the Col St.Martin, into the Vesubie valley. The scenes that greeted us in St.Martin Vesubie were remarkable. Devastating floods in October 2020 had caused immense damage. Again, the topography was changed. Bare river gravels swept across the landscape where a newly layed road now took us into town past half collapsed houses, houses now filled with rocks, and general destruction. Most striking was an imposing house cut in half by the landslide, the remaining half surviving atop the newly formed cliff, the rooms exposed to the elements.

We had intended to take the valley to Madone de Fenestre, but it was closed to traffic. The next challenge. OK, we'd go to Gordolasque instead, I'd intended to visit there later in the day anyway, and it transpired to be such a productive valley that it easily merited a whole day spent there.

We negotiated the network of roads in and above the village of Belvedere, and found the road that climbs up the Gordolasque valley. At the upper end of the valley a superb walk was enjoyed amid fine alpine scenery, alongside a rushing stream, with beautiful flowery meadows alive with butterflies. There was enough to amuse us even in the car park. Plants began with Laserpitium latifolium, Aconitum napellus, Dianthus pavonius, Galeopsis ladanum, Pimpinella major, and Aythyrium distentifolium. Of interest was the hybrid Galium verum x Galium album (Galium x pomeranicum). Rushes featured in wet flushes, with Juncus acutiflorus, Juncus articulatus, Juncus bulbosus and Juncus conglomeratus all here.

Listera ovata bloomed, the endemic Potentilla valderia was in flower, Sempervivum arachnoideum was impressive (this would be a good day for houseleeks), Sagina glabra flowered in the path, and Cuscuta europaea parasitised nettles. New plants punctuated the walk, among them Lychnis flos-jovis, Aster alpinus, Erigeron alpinus, Armeria alpina, Digitalis grandiflora, Malva moschata, Antennaria dioica, Centaurea uniflora, Coincya cheiranthus, Silene rupestris, Campanula spicata, Campanula scheuchzeri, Astrantia minor, Sedum annuum, Galium tendae, Gentianella campestris, and Lamium garganicum. Botrychium lunaria was common in one area of turf and Cryptogramma crispa grew amid acidic boulders.

Idas and Silver-studded Blues were both here, Apollo drifted over the slopes, Provençal Fritillary was a pleasing find, Sooty Copper and Purple-edged Copper were admired, and Meadow Fritillary was seen again. Among *Erebias* were Arran Brown, Large Ringlet, and Almond-eyed Ringlet. Burnets typical of the habitat were *Zygaena loti*, Slender Scotch Burnet, and *Zygaena purpuralis*, Transparent Burnet.

Beatrice pointed out two grazing Chamois on the slopes above. Indeed, looking up now and again from our perusal of the plants and insects revealed great open views, the valley stretching far above, ultimately to the Val des Merveilles. On the slopes of Mt.Bego, the Merveilles valley boasts many rocks and boulders with carvings, mostly dating from the second millenium B.C., some 40,000 in total. Among them are carvings of animals and human figures, the sun, arrows, and various mysterious symbols.

Plants continued with *Trifolium badium*, *Minuartia capillacea*, *Spergularia rubra*, *Armeria alpina*, *Hypericum montanum*, and *Erigeron acer*.

We chose a pretty riverside spot for the picnic lunch. Nearby rivulets across the track attracted a selection of mud puddling skippers, Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper, Large Grizzled Skipper, Safflower Skipper, and Olive Skipper, as well as Mountain Argus and Mazarine Blue.

A wet flush had Grass of Parnassus in flower, *Epilobium palustre*, *Eriophorum latifolium*, *Blysmus compressus*, and a selection of sedges including *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea*, and *Carex lepidocarpa*.

Boulders had impressive rosettes of the endemic *Jovibarba allionii*, and nearby *Campanula glomerata* and *Allium paniculatum* were in flower. On the slopes above flowered Great Yellow Gentians.

Back in the vehicles, driving slowly back down the valley, superb robust *Sempervivum tectorum* prompted a stop, and we found *Sempervivum arachnoideum* flowering beside it, and impressive Large Yellow Foxgloves too.

At a riverside stop we saw Dipper, and Ringlet and Arran Brown were on the wing. Saxifraga cuneifolia flowered at the forest edge, and Primula latifolia was in fruit on boulders. Geranium macrorrhizum was also in fruit, a species with an interesting disjunct distribution, centred on the Balkans, here too, but absent from most of the Alps in between. Balkan Fritillary has a similar distribution. The attractive geometer Aplocera praeformata, Purple Treble-bar, was admired, a species with just two twentieth century British records. The foodplant is Hypericum.

Lastly today was a stop in bustling St.Martin Vesubie, where I led a group to the bookshop, pleasingly still open after all these years. The main target there was maps. There was time for a stroll in town before returning to the tranquility of the hotel after another excellent productive day.

On Thursday, leaving La Bolline again under cloudless blue skies we travelled the now familiar road via St. Martin down to Roquebilliere. This was Bastille Day. We stopped for picnic supplies in St.Martin Vesubie.

Taking a road above the village of Bollene, two species of Globe Thistle, *Echinops ritro* and *Echinops sphaerocephalus*, were in flower on verges, and many of the pines were parasitised by Mistletoe. The first site was very parched, but afforded fine views down to the Vesubie valley. Here were fruiting Large Mediterranean Spurge, *Petrorhagia prolifera*, *Petrorhagia saxifraga*, and mating Bath Whites.

We headed up to the Col de Turini, the many bends becoming more floriferous as we ascended. *Catanache caerulea* flowered on roadsides. A bright orange flower also catches the eye on the roadsides here, *Leucanthemum discoideum*, a near endemic, and very attractive, being an ox-eye daisy with no ray petals. Also seen were *Bupleurum falcatum* ssp.*cernuum*, *Clinopodium vulgare*, *Cirsium erisithales*, *Adenostyles alpina*, and *Digitalis lutea*. Arran Brown nectared and Pietro saw a worn Large Blue. The flowering Deadly Nightshade was impressively large. Black Woodpecker called.

Some way down the other side of the Col de Turini was an excellent butterfly site, one of the most productive of the tour, with many species and large numbers of individuals. Among the fritillaries were Silver-washed, Dark Green, High Brown, Niobe, Queen-of-Spain, Marbled, Titania's, Weaver's, Spotted, Knapweed, Provençal, and Heath. There were several Scarce Coppers, and Sooty Copper. Among blues were Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Holly Blue, Mazarine Blue, Chalkhill Blue, and Escher's Blues, and Brown and Mountain Argus. Here too were Arran Brown and Gatekeeper, and Lulworth Skipper was alongside the commoner hesperiines. There was a selection of cerambycids, and Scarlet Tiger was admired.

The focus here was on insects, but we did see *Salvia glutinosa*, *Goodyera repens*, *Carex sylvatica*, and *Prunella laciniata*. Beside the picnic table I spotted the endemic umbel *Trochisanthes nodiflora*. There were a few boletes in the woods.

A scenic drive took us to and from Sospel where I had hoped to refuel, but I was amazed to find this sizeable town had no filling station! Flowering Dwarf Elder supported surprisingly few butterflies, although we did see Southern White Admiral.

Leuzea conifera was new for the tour and a plant highlight, in fruit but its bracts the most impressive feature. This spot had a very Mediterranean character with Pitch Trefoil, Wild Madder, and *Ononis minutissima*.

Back at Turini came a heavy rain storm. In the Vesubie valley I was relieved to finally get fuel, the machine that had refused my card earlier in the day now accepting it. We took the opportunity to refuel all three vehicles.

At least every other evening saw us going through the plant and butterfly checklists before dinner, each hotel having a room ideal for the purpose. Evening walks around La Bolline yielded both Fireflies and Glow-worms, bats of course, Convolvulus Hawk-moth, and *Hyles vespertilio*. Nightjar churred every evening, heard from the hotel.

Friday saw us leaving La Bolline, carefully loading the cars, and saying fond farewells to Isabelle and Serge. The transfer day in the alpine zone saw us initially driving along the Tinee Valley to Isola, up to Isola 2000 and above to the Col de la Lombardie (or Lombarde), and into Italy. Once above Isola the roadsides became ever more floriferous. Again we enjoyed cloudless blue skies, and it was hot.

First stop was a site for that most special of endemics, *Saxifraga florulenta*. So rare to see it in bloom, I had once seen it flowering here, but this year we at least saw a still spectacular rosette. Even through the telescope, I'm not sure everyone appreciated its significance! *Saxifraga paniculata* and *Saxifraga cuneifolia* were here too. Also special here was Marbled Ringlet, Apollo nectared, and there was Spotted Fritillary.

The endemic *Saxifraga cordifolia* was on cliffs, and *Erigeron atticus* and *Erigeron gaudinii* flowered side by side. Also here were *Lactuca perennis* and *Valeriana montana*.

Next was a stop for fine flowering mats of *Astragalus hypoglottis*. Purple-edged Copper was on the wing, Nutcrackers called, and Crag Martins flew low over the road. The geometer *Crocota pseudotinctaria* was typical of the habitat.

A superb show of *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* coloured whole stretches of the roadside. *Gentiana asclepiadea* was in leaf, *Tofieldia calyculata* and *Parnassia palustris* bloomed in wet flushes, *Lilium martagon* was in flower, *Chaenorhinum minus* was seen, and *Stachys pradica* was impressive.

Above the sprawling ski development of Isola 2000 flowery slopes had the endemic *Veronica allionii*, *Carex leporina*, *Leontodon pyrenaicus*, and *Pinguicula vulgaris* rosettes. Erebias were represented by Mountain Ringlet, Lesser Mountain Ringlet, Silky Ringlet, and Common Brassy Ringlet flying low over the turf. Two special fritillaries were here, Grisons Fritillary typical of the habitat, where its foodplant *Plantago alpina* grows, and Balkan Fritillary, notable for its disjunct distribution, the Balkans and here in the western Alps, missing from most of the Alps in between. Water Pipit perched atop conifers.

The Italian side of the Col de la Lombarde, at about 2,300m, boasted fine views of the surrounding peaks as a backdrop, Marmots whisling their alarm calls. A bonus was fine *Gentiana villarsii* in flower this year. Usually we don't see this yellow-flowered endemic in bloom, but in this early season it was, and numerous too. *Achillea erba-rotta* was here and *Senecio incanus* was in attractive flower. There was much *Adenostyles leucophylla* with its distinctive white woolly leaves, typical of the acidic rocks, and there were some fine patches of Parsley Fern growing among the outcrops. *Polygonum alpinum* and *Euphrasia alpina* were in flower.

Rather than the usual lunch site by the lake, trees was the request, so I found a wooded spot someway into Italy. Whilst lunch was prepared we strolled along the flowery verges of the upper Val Sta.Anna, seeing

Prenathes purpurea, Aconitum lycoctonum, and Daphne mezereum in fruit. A few Clouded Apollos were on the wing, the only place we saw it. Pietro saw the only Orange-tip of the tour, rather worn of course, this being just about the very end of it's flight period, even up here.

After lunch we reurned to the Col itself and explored the environs of a small alpine lake, full of flowering *Sparganium angustifolium*, an uncommon species here but numerous at this site. The flora was very advanced this year, more so than the sites we'd already visited today, due to the exposed situation and continuous hot weather. Alpine Choughs were in the air.

Splashes of yellow were provided by *Potentilla grandiflora*. The wetter flushes nearer the lake held an interesting selection of rushes and sedges, the latter including *Carex brunnescens*. There were False Helleborines in flower, *Dianthus pavonius* was numerous and provided a fine show, *Trifolium alpinum* was over, and Moonwort was found in short turf. *Juncus trifidus* was over this year, when in flower a beautiful mixture of delicate yellow and pink. *Pseudorchis albida* was also over. In flower were *Crepis conyzifolia*, *Cirsium spinosissimum*, and *Carex foetida*.

Among the *Erebia* were the endemic False Mnestra Ringlet, and Western Brassy Ringlet. Mountain Clouded Yellow flew over the grassy slopes. Puzzling however was the scarcity of butterflies at this site (only here) in such perfect weather in this advanced season. Where were the Cynthia's Fritillaries for example? Pietro found a wart-biter.

A site a little further on had many of the endemic vanilla orchid *Nigritella corneliana*, but again they were all over this year, the first time this had ever been the case on the tour. *Pedicularis rostratospicata* was very common indeed but also all were in fruit.

A drive further into Italy along the Santa Anna valley took us into superb habitat, bursting with flowers. *Lychnis flos-jovis* provided splashes of vivid pink, there were some very robust *Campanula spicata*, large flowered *Lamium garganicum*, *Veronica fruticans*, *Luzula nutans*, and *Centaurea nervosa* with its beautiful feathery bracts.

Silver-spotted Skipper and Silvery Argus were added to the butterfly list. At a riverside stop Scarce Copper was numerous, there was another Marbled Ringlet, and the usual selection of larger fritillaries. *Cynoglossum officinale* was in flower.

Once in the Stura di Demonte Valley, we headed purposefully east. A stop was made in Borgo San Dalmazzo to stock up on water.

Our journey took us towards the now closed Tende tunnel, and the small town of Limone Piemonte, where we settled in to our pleasant hotel, a new one for us. In meadows outside the town we saw a Roe Deer. The long term closure of the Tende tunnel forced a reorganisation of the itinerary this year. In recent years we have had one base, the hamlet of Casterino, on the French side of the Col de Tende. From there we have visited sites on both sides of the border, using the tunnel several times during the week. Severe landslides in 2020 forced the closure of the tunnel, such an important link between Piemonte and Nice, and it will surely not reopen for several years.

To enable us to visit the excellent sites in both France and Italy we stayed in Valdeblore for the start of the tour, and then moved to Limone to enable the Italian sites, especially the excellent Col de Tende, to be

included. A great bonus was that Marina and Angelo, my friends who run the hotel in Casterino (currently closed), owned and ran the restuarant next door to this new hotel in Limone. So staying in the comfortable hotel, we ate next door, the food as always excellent.

Our first full day in Italy (well, we did spend a short time in France too), was a superbly productive one, especially floristically. Limone was an ideal base, and it was only a matter of minutes before we were at the first site. A great find was many plants of the very local endemic *Micromeria marginata* flowering on cliffs at the mouth of the old attempt at a tunnel, where *Arabis alpina* and the endemic *Minuartia villarii* were also in flower. One *Saxifraga callosa* was in fine flower in the cool tunnel entrance. Otherwise all of this most impressive cascading saxifrage, so common on the fort walls, were over this season. *Saxifraga rotundifolia* flowered in the shade too, it was beautifully cool here. Some walked a little way into the tunnel.

I pointed out the endemic Carex ferruginea tendae and the many plants continued with Aster bellidiastrum, Adenostyles alliariae, Campanula cochlearifolia, Limestone Fern, Polystichum aculeatum, and Cystopteris fragilis.

Silver-washed Fritillaries nectared, including *valesina* (Frohawk named his daughter after this variety), and we saw Scarlet Tiger, Black-veined Moth, and Blue-spot Hairstreak. The genus *Rosa* featured today, with several rather confusing plants seen, but at least *Rosa glauca* was distinctive. A wet flush had a species of *Rorippa* in flower.

At woodland edge Cicerbita alpina was all in fruit this year. Other forest edge plants included the endemic Trochisanthes nodiflora, Streptopus amplexifolius with red fruits, Chaerophyllum hirsutum, Senecio ovatus, Prenanthes purpureus, and Lady Fern and Male Fern side by side. Chiffchaff called. Interesting were Robin's pin cushions in the middle of rose leaves, but these were still caused by the widespread gall wasp Diplolepis rosae.

A short walk along a side track yielded Scarce Swallowtail, *Malva moschata*, *Gentiana cruciata* (still no eggs of Mountain Alcon Blue), *Galium rubrum*, and *Allium oleraceum*. Marmots called from a colony on the open slopes. A soaring Griffon was the only one of the tour.

Today it was the rocks higher up that revealed many fine flowers. Saxifraga callosa was, as mentioned above, unusually already over, but cascaded abundantly in fruit from cliff faces and fort walls. A bonus in this early season was Saxifraga caesia in superb flower this year. The endemic Allium narcissiflorum was in flower and a trip highlight, but that too was somewhat past it's best, there were however a few perfect flowers. Both Bupleurum petraeum and Bupleurum ranunculoides were very attractive, and the endemic Silene campanula was in fine flower this year. Dryas octopetala was still just in bloom. The white-felted Hieracium tomentosum was very common, and there was much of the very hairy Hieracium villosum. Plants continued with Hypericum richeri, Galeopsis pubescens, Veronica allionii, large flowered Hypochoeris uniflora in fruit, Arnica montana, and Parnassia palustris flowering in an unusually dry spot for the species. Also surprising was Herb Paris completely exposed here, in alpine pasture. Quail called.

Those who ventured up a steeper side track were rewarded with the above selection of species, but some had walked further along the main track, or enjoyed a coffee in the refugio. Once reunited we drove to the col and a few kilometres into France to one of the many nineteenth century forts that characterise the area.

Here it was dry and dusty but there were many flowers, *Nepeta nepetella* and *Rhamnus saxatilis* among the new ones. Damon Blue and Mountain Green-veined White were among the butterflies.

We enjoyed our picnic outside the impressive walls of the fort, a very atmospheric place. It was busy today, not least with a large group of 4WD enthusiasts. A drive a little further on the French side of the col, along the track that leads to Casterino, afforded fine views down to the French side of the tunnel, an impressive series of switchbacks below us, the road having been notably improved due to the increased importance of the Col route now the tunnel is closed. Alpine Choughs were settling on the fort.

Plants continued with *Sedum anacampseros*, *Gentiana campestris*, *Carlina acaulis caulescens* (the stemmed stemless carline thistle!), *Cruciata laevipes*, *Asplenium septentrionale*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Stachys pradica*, and the only *Calluna vulgaris* of the tour. *Saxifraga exarata* had gone over. Among butterflies were Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Olive Skipper. Nutcrackers called.

Another stop was prompted by the endemic *Dianthus subacaulis* that I spotted from the vehicle. *Linaria angustissima* was a beautiful rich yellow, *Minuartia rostrata* was added to the list, and there were many *Potentilla valderia* in flower. Below the road were many *Allium sphaerocephalon* and flowering *Gentiana lutea*. There were more very robust *Sempervivum tectorum*. A species of annulet, a geometer, was seen.

A stop at the refuge, coffees or ice cream, was much appreciated.

Woodland edge lower down had Herb Paris (in more typical habitat), fruiting *Cardamine heptaphylla*, and several fine Broad-leaved Helleborines. Nicolo found a slow worm, here being Italian Slow Worm, *Anguis veronensis*. Bob and Pietro saw Large Tortoiseshell.

Among other butterflies today were Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Apollo, Mountain Clouded Yellow, Scarce Copper, Mountain Argus, Large Grizzled Skipper, Olive Skipper, and Safflower Skipper.

The last full day was spent again not too far from Limone, in the environs of the attractive village of Entracque, and the Valdieri valley, on the northern slopes of Argentera at the heart of the Alpi Marittime National Park.

We parked in a small hamlet, beautifully situated. *Campanula bononiensis* flowered in the meadows. We set out on foot initially along a leafy lane.

Butterflies began with Silver-washed Fritillaries, Ringlet, and Scotch Argus. There were several of the black, white, and yellow moth *Amata phegea*. Southern Small White was on the wing. The site features a strong colony of Lesser Spotted Fritillary, associated with the *Verbascum* here. This is generally a scarce species in Piemonte. Great Banded Grayling and Red-underwing Skipper continued the variety. *Zygaena loti* nectared. Broad-leaved Helleborines and *Asperula purpurea* were in flower.

*Cirsium acaule* was admired and there were a few *Centaurium pulchellum*. The song of Western Bonelli's Warbler was a feature. Nicolo found a scorpion by stone turning.

Plants continued with Melica ciliata, Asplenium viride, Cotoneaster tomentosus, Polygala nicaeensis, and Moehringia muscosa. I was pleased to be able to show the group the 'giraffe-necked weevil', Apoderus coryli, associated with hazel. It's affinities to the well known Madagascan species (associated with

Melastomataceae) were obvious. This European species, not quite as striking and bizarre, nonetheless does have a distinctive elongate head. I'd been pleased to find the species in the UK in the last couple of years.

The blue staining bolete here was *Hortiboletus bubalinus*. *Iberis saxatilis* was in attractive flower.

Whilst some took the opportunity to wait in the shade of the woodland, several persevered, and John and Fiona, Tonje, and Gillian, all reached the Gorge della Reina with me. There, a bull blocked our way, guarding cows, but we found a way around him. The cliffs of the gorge added little in the way of plants but it is an impressive and notable spot. On the May tour we see the very special endemic *Primula allionii* in bloom here. Today we saw the endemic *Micromeria marginata*.

Back near the start of the track, Pietro, Bob, and I spend half an hour with the abundant flowering lavender that was attracting very many butterflies and other insects. Among the many species were Swallowtail, Brimstone, Little Blue, Furry Blue, Adonis Blue, Tufted Marbled Skipper, and Dingy Skipper.

Lunch was in the shade in the garden of some empty holiday homes. Pietro found a White-letter Hairstreak.

Back in the vehicles we explored another valley, leading to Terme de Valdieri. A stop at a stand of flowering Dwarf Elder did have several nectaring butterflies, in contrast to the earlier Sospel stop, including a female Dusky Meadow Brown.

Having reached the end of the paved road, we parked and walked in fine alpine scenery. A wet flush was particularly lovely, with flowering *Saxifraga stellaris*, much *Scirpus sylvaticus*, *Carex echinata*, and *Carex panicea*. Apollo and Lesser Mountain Ringlet were here, and on the track was a variety of mud-puddling butterflies. *Melampyrum sylvaticum* and *Ranunculus aconitifolius* were added to the plant list.

That evening, after a final run through the checklists, we enjoyed an excellent last dinner, and John gave an appreciation speech after such a productive and enjoyable tour.

On Monday, departures were various. Nicolo and I drove with most to Torino, leaving the hotel promptly at 6 am. The hotel had surprisingly and kindly provided a full breakfast. Taking pleasant quieter roads, the route I used to drive so often when I lived near here for a decade, we stopped at a cafe and had a quick coffee, or as Angela said, 'breakfast at Tiffany's'.

Joining the Torino tangenziale was something of a culture shock, the first heavy traffic we'd seen all week. As intended, we arrived on the dot of 9am at Caselle. The London five checked in for their BA flight, I returned my hire car, and Nicolo spent the day with Tonje and Beate who were not flying until the evening.

Beatrice meanwhile drove John and Fiona to Nice again via the Col de Tende, for their afternoon departure.

## **Maritime Alps July 2022 Systematic Lists**

### **Compiled by Paul Cardy**

#### **Itinerary**

- Day 1. Monday 11th July. Arrival Nice, and transfer to La Bolline
- Day 2. Tuesday 12th July. Col St. Martin, La Bolline, Rimplas
- Day 3. Wednesday 13th July. Gordolasque, St. Martin Vesubie
- Day 4. Thursday 14th July. Col de Turini, Moulinet Forest, Sospel
- **Day 5. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July.** Tinee Valley, Isola 2000, Col de la Lombarde (Col du Lombardie), Val Sta.Anna, Limone Piemonte
- Day 6. Saturday 16th July. Col de Tende
- Day 7. Sunday 17th July. Entracque, Gorge della Reina, Terme di Valdieri
- Day 8. Monday 18th July. Departure

### **Systematic List Number 1 Plants**

The systematic order and nomenclature follow 'Flora Alpina' by Aeschimann et al (2004), the standard work for the whole of the Alpine Arc. Among many other works used were 'Guide de la Flore des Alpes-Maritimes' by Lionel Carles and Ludovic Thébault, 2010, and 'Mémento de la Flore Protégée des Alpes-Maritimes' by Salanon et al., 2010. 'Flora Gallica, Flore de France' by Tison and de Foucault, Biotope 2014, and 'Flora d'Italia' by Sandro Pignatti, 4 volumes, Edagricole 2017 to 2019 are the standard floras for each country.

Ferns and Allies

Selaginella helveticaSwiss ClubmossEntracqueEquisetum arvenseCommon HorsetailScattered recordsEquisetum telmateiaGreat HorsetailSospel area

Botrychium lunariaMoonwortGordolasque and Col du LombardieCryptogramma crispaParsley FernGordolasque and Col du Lombardie

Polypodium vulgareCommon PolypodyWidespreadPteridium aquilinumBrackenScattered recordsAsplenium trichomanesMaidenhair SpleenwortRimplas, La Bolline, etc.

Asplenium virideGreen SpleenwortRecordedAsplenium adiantum-nigrumBlack SpleenwortRecorded

Asplenium septentrionale Forked Spleenwort La Bolline, Gordolasque, Tende

Asplenium ruta-muraria Wall-rue La Bolline, Tende etc.

Asplenium ceterach Rusty-back Fern La Bolline

Athyrium filix-feminaLady FernScattered records, e.g. Val Sta.AnnaAthyrium distentifoliumAlpine Lady FernScattered at higher altitudes, e.g. LombardeCystopteris fragilisBrittle Bladder FernLocal, e.g. Gordolasque, Lombarde, Tende

Gymnocarpium robertianumLimestone FernTendePolystichum aculeatumHard Shield FernTende

Dryopteris filix-masMale FernLocally commonDryopteris affinisScaly Male FernScattered records

Gymnospermae

Pinaceae

Abies albaSilver FirScattered recordsPicea abiesNorway SpruceLocally dominantLarix deciduaLarchLocally dominant

Pinus sylvestris Scot's Pine Widespread and locally dominant

Pinus mugo ssp. mugoDwarf Mountain PineHigher altitudesPinus mugo ssp. uncinataMountain PineWidespreadPinus halepensisAleppo PineNice collines

Pinus cembra Arolla Pine Local at higher altitides

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens Italian Cypress Planted

Juniperus communis ssp.communis Juniper Scattered records

Juniperus communis ssp.alpina Prostrate Juniper Locally common at higher altitudes

Juniperus oxycedrusPrickly JuniperRimplasJuniperus phoeniceaPhoenician JuniperRimplas

Angiospermae Dicotyledons

Ranunculaceae

Helleborus foetidus Stinking Hellebore Day 2

Helleborus viridis Green Hellebore In leaf at various sites

Actaea spicata Baneberry In fruit at Tende

Caltha palustris Marsh Marigold In fruit

Aconitum lycoctonum ssp. vulpariaWolfsbaneMoulinet, Isola, etc.Aconitum napellusMonk's-hoodGordolasqueConsolida regalisForking LarkspurLa Bolline

Anemone narcissifloraNarcissus AnemoneIn fruit, Col de la LombardeHepatica nobilisHepaticaNoted in leaf at various sites

Pulsatilla alpina Alpine Pasque Flower In seed at Lombarde

Clematis vitalba Traveller's Joy Widespread and locally common

Ranunculus repensCreeping ButtercupLa BollineRanunculus acrisMeadow ButtercupScattered records

Ranunculus montanus Mountain Buttercup Common at higher altitudes, but all in fruit this year Ranunculus villarsii a mountain buttercup Col de la Lombarde, in fruit this year. Endemic.

Ranunculus aconitifolius Aconite-leaved Buttercup Terme di Valdieri, in flower

Ranunculus platanifolius a buttercup Tende, in fruit

Aquilegia vulgaris Common Columbine Several at one site in Valdeblore

Thalictrum foetidumFoetid Meadow-rueGorge della ReinaThalictrum minusLesser Meadow-rueIn leaf Moulinet

Berberidaceae

Berberis vulgaris Barberry Gorge della Reina

Coriariaceae

Coriaria myrtifolia Mediterranean Coriaria Tinee valley

Papaveraceae

Papaver rhoeasCorn PoppyEntracqueChelidonium majusGreater CelandineLa Bolline

Fumariaceae

Fumaria vaillantii Few-flowered Fumitory Entracque arable field

Ulmaceae

Ulmus glabraWych ElmUlmus minorSmall-leaved ElmCeltis australisNettle Tree

Cannabaceae

Humulus lupulus Hop

Moraceae

Ficus carica Fig

Urticaceae

Urtica dioica Common Nettle
Parietairia judaica Pellitory-of-the-Wall

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia Walnut

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica Beech

Castanea sativaSweet ChestnutQuercus ilexHolm OakQuercus cerrisTurkey OakQuercus petraeaSessile Oak

Quercus pubescens Downy Oak

Betulaceae

Betula pendulaSilver BirchAlnus viridisGreen AlderAlnus glutinosaAlderAlnus incanaGrey AlderCarpinus betulusHornbeamOstrya carpinifoliaHop Hornbeam

Corylus avellana Hazel

Phytolaccaceae

Phytolacca americana Pokeberry Turin roadsides

Chenopodiaceae

Chenopodium bonus-henricus Good King Henry Numerous in eutrophied pasture at Gordolasque

Chenopodium album Fat-hen Entracque arable field

Amaranthaceae

Amaranthus retroflexus Common Amaranth Entracque arable field

Caryophyllaceae

Arenaria grandiflora Large-flowered Sandwort Tende

Arenaria serpyllifolia Thyme-leaved Sandwort

Moehringia muscosaMossy SandwortEntracqueMinuartia rostrataa sandwortTende (France)

Minuartia villarii a sandwort Tende old tunnel entrance

Minaurtia verna Spring Sandwort

Minuartia capillaceaa sandwortAbove Col St.Martin, GordolasqueMinuartia laricifoliaa sandwortLocal at mid altitudes, e.g. Sta.Anna

Minuartia sedoidesMossy CyphelLombarde 2010Stellaria nemorumWood StitchwortGordolasque

Stellaria media Chickweed

Stellaria gramineaLesser StitchwortGordolasqueCerastium arvenseField Mouse-earScattered recordsCerastium fontanum ssp.vulgareCommon Mouse-earScattered records

Sagina glabra Lawn Pearlwort Gordolasque, Lombarde, etc.

Sagina procumbens Procumbent Pearlwort

Scleranthus perennisPerennial KnawelGordolasqueSpergularia rubraSand SpurreyGordolasqueSilene flos-jovisPurple LychnisGordolasque

Silene italica Italian Catchfly Tende, Col St. Martin

Silene nutans Nottingham Catchfly Widespread

Silene cordifolia a catchfly Above Isola. Endemic.

Silene vulgaris Bladder Campion Widespread

Silene campanulaa catchflyTende upper rocks, several in fine flowerSilene rupestrisRock CampionScattered records, e.g. Gordolasque

Silene latifolia ssp. alba White Campion Widespread Gypsophila repens Creeping Gypsophila Gordolasque

Saponaria ocymoidesRock SoapwortIn fruit Col St.MartinSaponaria officinalisSoapwortRoadsides, locally common

Petrorhagia saxifragaTunic FlowerScattered recordsPetrorhagia proliferaProliferous PinkBelow Col de Turini

Dianthus carthusianorum Carthusian Pink

Dianthus seguieriSeguier's PinkValdeblore, Tende etc.Dianthus pavoniusThree-veined PinkLocally very common

Dianthus sylvestris Wood Pink Widespread
Dianthus subacaulis a pink Tende

Polygonaceae

Polygonum aviculare Knot-grass Scattered

Polygonum persicaria Redshank

Polygonum bistorta Bistort Lombarde and Gordolasque

Polygonum viviparumViviparous BistortTendePolygonum alpinumAlpine KnotgrassLombardeRumex acetosellaSheep's SorrelGordolasqueRumex scutatusFrench SorrelWidespread

Rumex alpestris Mountain Dock Col de la Lombarde and Gordolasque

Rumex acetosa Common Sorrel Scattered

Rumex alpinus Monk's Rhubarb Common in eutrophied alpine pasture

Rumex crispus Curled Dock

Plumbaginaceae

Armeria alpina Mountain Thrift Tende, Lombarde, Gordolasque

Hypericaceae

Hypericum coris Heath-leaved St.John's-wort Above Col St.Martin, and Tende, in fine flower

Hypericum montanumPale St.John's-wortGordolasque, Lombarde, ValdieriHypericum richeriAlpine St.John's-wortScattered records, e.g. Tende, Sta.Anna,

Gordolasque

Hypericum perforatum Perforate St.John's-wort Widespread

Tiliaceae

Tilia platyphyllos Large-leaved Lime Tilia cordata Small-leaved Lime

Malvaceae

Malva moschata Musk Mallow Scattered, e.g. Gordolasque

Althaea cannabina a marsh mallow La Bolline

Cistaceae

Helianthemum nummulariumCommon Rock-roseScattered recordsHelianthemum italicumItalian Rock-roseCol St.MartinFumana procumbensHeath-roseCol St.Martin

Violaceae

The genus *Viola* was notably almost absent in this early season, whereas usually we see at least the endemic *Viola* valderia; *Viola* calcarata including the yellow flowered ssp.cavillieri at Lombarde; and the widespread *Viola* tricolor and *Viola* arvensis.

Viola biflora Yellow Wood Violet In leaf at Terme di Valdieri

Cucurbitaceae

Cucumis sativus Cucumber Naturalised at La Bolline!

Salicaceae

Salix alba White Willow
Salix appendiculata Large-leaved Willow

Salix cinerea Grey Willow Salix caprea Goat Willow

Salix viminalis Osier

Salix eleagnos Olive Willow Salix purpurea Purple Willow Populus tremula Aspen Populus nigra Black Poplar

#### Brassicaceae

Crucifers were fewer than usual on this tour due to the early season.

Sisymbrium austriacum Austrian Rocket Lombarde Sisymbrium officinale Hedge Mustard Gordolasque

Erysimum virgatum a treacle-mustard French side of Col de la Lombarde

Barbarea vulgaris Winter-cress Scattered Rorippa sp. a yellow-cress Tende wet flush Cardamine heptaphylla Seven-leaflet Bittercress In fruit at Tende In fruit at Moulinet

Cardamine pentaphyllos

Cardamine asarifolia Asarum-leaved Bittercress In fruit at Gordolasque waterfall

Arabis turrita Tower Cress In fruit

Arabis alpina Alpine Rock-cress Tende, old tunnel entrance

Turritis glabra Tower Mustard Gordolasque

In fruit along Tinee Valley. In flower in May. Alyssum ligusticum an alyssum

Endemic.

Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-Purse Gordolasque Iberis saxatilis Rock Candytuft Entracque

Iberis umbellata Garden Candytuft Col St.Martin, in fine flower

Biscutella laevigata **Buckler Mustard** Tende Coincya cheiranthos Wallflower Cabbage Gordolasque

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette Gordolasque

Ericaceae

Tende (France) Calluna vulgaris Ling

Alpenrose Col de la Lombarde, Tende, Valdieri, Rhododendron ferrugineum

> Gordolasque, all in fruit this year Above Col St.Martin and Tende

Bearberry Vaccinium uliginosum Bog Whortleberry Col de la Lombarde

Vaccinium myrtillus Bilberry Col de la Lombarde and Gordolasque

Pyrolaceae

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Orthilia secunda Nodding Wintergreen Valdeblore, in fruit

Primulaceae

Primula veris Cowslip Scattered records in fruit Viscid Primrose In fruit Gordolasque Primula latifolia

Marginate Primrose In fruit below Isola 2000, and Tende Primula marginata

Crassulaceae

Sempervivum arachnoideum Cobweb Houseleek Widespread, both ssp. arachnoideum and

ssp. tomentosum locally common

Mountain Houseleek Lombarde, Sta.Anna Sempervivum montanum

Tende, Col St.Martin, especially robust Gordolasque Sempervivum tectorum Common Houseleek

Jovibarba allionii In bud Gordolasque. Rosettes Sta. Anna. a hen-and-chickens

> houseleek Endemic.

Sedum anacampseros Reddish Stonecrop Gordolasque and Tende

Sedum anopetalum Creamish Stonecrop Widespread and locally common

Sedum montanum a stonecrop Locally common

Sedum acre Biting Stonecrop

Sedum alpestre a stonecrop Lombarde Sedum album White Stonecrop Scattered records

Thick-leaved Stonecrop Scattered records Sedum dasyphyllum Sedum annuum Annual Stonecrop Gordolasque

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga stellaris Starry Saxifrage Terme di Valdieri Saxifraga rotundifolia Round-leaved Saxifrage Tende old tunnel entrance Saxifraga cuneifolia Lesser London Pride

Gordolasque

Saxifraga caesia In fine flower at Tende Grev Saxifrage

Mostly over this year at Tende, where Saxifraga callosa Thick-leaved Saxifrage numerous, but one in fine flower in the

old tunnel entrance

Saxifraga paniculata Paniculate Saxifrage Scattered records Saxifraga florulenta

The Ancient King 9 rosettes on boulders at Trecolpas lake

2011. 2012 several small rosettes at

Trecolpas.

In 2009, several rosettes on boulders between Isola and Isola 2000, with ONE IN FLOWER.

This was the very rare form with white

flowers. No sign of rosettes at that site in

2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013. 2022, one rosette at this Isola site.

Saxifraga exarata Musky Saxifrage Tende (France), in fruit

Parnassia palustris Grass of Parnassus Widespread in flower this year, Gordolasque,

Valdieri, Lombarde, and at Tende in

unusually dry habitat.

Ribes uva-crispa Gooseberry Valdeblore

Rosaceae

Goat's-beard Spiraea Aruncus dioicus Moulinet Meadowsweet Scattered records Filipendula ulmaria Rubus fruticosus agg. brambles Widespread Rubus saxatilis Stone Bramble Scattered records Widespread Rubus idaeus Raspberry Gorge della Reina Rubus caesius Dewberry

Glaucous Dog Rose Tende Rosa glauca Rosa pendulina Alpine Rose Sta.Anna

Rosa montana Mountain Rose Above Col St.Martin etc.

Rosa canina Dog Rose

Downy Rose La Bolline Rosa villosa

Rosa agrestis Small-leaved Sweet-brian

Several unidentified Rosa spp. roses

Agrimonia eupatoria Agrimony Scattered Sanguisorba officinalis Great Burnet Entracque Sanguisorba minor Col St.Martin Salad Burnet

Common in fruit at Tende, 1 in Dryas octopetala Mountain Avens

flower

Geum montanum Alpine Avens Lombarde, in fruit Water Avens Geum rivale Scattered in fruit Geum urbanum Herb Bennet Recorded

Potentilla argentea Hoary Cinquefoil Locally common

Potentilla grandiflora Large-flowered Cinquefoil Locally common, e.g. Sta.Anna,

Tende, Gordolasque

Potentilla erecta Tormentil Scattered

Potentilla caulescens In bud at Tende

Potentilla valderia a cinquefoil Locally common at higher altitudes,

Gordolasque and Tende. Endemic.

Fragaria vescaWild StrawberryScatteredFragaria moschataHautbois StrawberryGordolasqueFragaria viridisGreen StrawberryScattered

Alchemilla alpina Alpine Lady's Mantle Locally common at higher altitudes

Alchemilla conjuncta Silver Lady's Mantle Scattered records

Alchemilla xanthochlora Intermediate Lady's Mantle Col de la Lombarde and probably elsewhere

Alchemilla glabra Smooth Lady's Mantle Gordolasque etc.

lady's mantles Other species not identified. Flora Alpina

treats the genus conservatively, whereas the recent Flora d'Italia includes 97

species.

Malus sylvestris Wild Apple

Sorbus aucuparia Rowan Common Sorbus aria Whitebeam Widespread

Amelanchier ovalis Snowy Mespilus Local in fruit, e.g. Entracque

Cotoneaster integerrimusWild CotoneasterTendeCotoneaster tomentosusBrickberry CotoneasterEntracqueCrataegus monogynaHawthornScattered recordsPrunus spinosaBlackthornEntracquePrunus aviumWild CherryWidespread

Prunus mahaleb St.Lucie's Cherry Rimplas and Entracque

Fabaceae

Alchemilla spp.

Laburnum anagyroidesLaburnumWidespreadLaburnum alpinumAlpine LaburnumWidespread

Cytisophyllum sessilifolium a broom Valdeblore in fruit
Genista cinerea Ash-coloured Broom Numerous at Col St.Martin

Genista pulchella a broom Above Col St. Martin

Genista sagittalis Winged Broom A few records (Chamaespartium

sagittale)

Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Roadsides lower down

Robinia pseudacacia False Acacia Locally commonly naturalised, e.g. Tinee

and Roya Valleys

Astragalus hypoglottis Purple Milk-vetch In fine flower below Isola 2000

Astragalus glycyphyllos Wild Liquorice Valdeblore and Tende
Astragalus monspessulanus False Vetch In fruit at Tende

Bituminaria bituminosa Pitch Trefoil Roadsides at lower altitudes

Vicia craccaTufted VetchWidespreadLathyrus nigerBlack PeaIn leaf Tende forestLathyrus pratensisMeadow VetchlingScattered recordsLathyrus sylvestrisNarrow-leaved Everlasting Pea Widespread

Lathyrus latifolius Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea A few roadside records

Ononis natrix Large Yellow Restharrow Col St.Martin

Ononis minutissima a restharrow Above Col St. Martin, and west of Sospel

Ononis striataYellow RestharrowAbove Col St.MartinOnonis spinosaSpiny RestharrowValdeblore etc.Ononis repensCommon RestharrowBelow Col de Tende

Melilotus albusWhite MelilotWidespreadMedicago lupulinaBlack MedickScatteredMedicago sativaLucerneScattered

Trifolium alpinum Alpine Clover Locally common at higher altitudes, in fruit

this year

Trifolium repens White Clover Widespread

Trifolium pallescens Pale Clover

Trifolium badium Brown Clover Gordolasque

Trifolium aureum Large Hop Trefoil

Trifolium pratenseRed CloverWidespreadTrifolium alpestreAlpine TrefoilDay 5Dorycnium pentaphylluma canary cloverWest of Sosp

Dorycnium pentaphylluma canary cloverWest of SospelLotus corniculatusBird's-foot TrefoilWidespreadLotus alpinusAlpine Bird's-foot TrefoilHigher altitudes

Anthyllis montana Mountain Kidney Vetch Tende and above Col St.Martin, in fruit Kidney Vetch Widespread, several subspecies present

Securigera variaCrown VetchWidespreadHippocrepis emerusScorpion SennaValdebloreHippocrepis comosaHorseshoe VetchValdebloreOnobrychis supinaa sainfoinTende

Onobrychis montana Mountain Sainfoin

Onobrychis viciifolia Sainfoin Tende

Lythraceae

Lythrum salicaria Purple Loosestrife Roadsides at lower altitudes

Thymeleaceae

Daphne mezereum Mezereon In fruit upper Val Sta. Anna

Daphne laureola Spurge Laurel In fruit at Moulinet

Onagraceae

Circaea alpina Alpine Enchanter's Nightshade Moulinet
Oenothera biennis Common Evening Primrose Gordolasque

Epilobium angustifolium Rosebay Willowherb Widespread and abundant

Epilobium dodonaei a willowherb Val Sta.Anna

Epilobium fleischeri Alpine Willowherb

Epilobium hirsutum Great Willowherb Piemonte lower roadsides

Epilobium montanum Broad-leaved Willowherb Valdieri

Epilobium palustre Marsh Willowherb Gordolasque and Valdieri wet flushes

Epilobium alsinifolium Chickweed Willowherb Wet flushes, Gordolasque

Cornaceae

Cornus sanguinea Dogwood

Loranthaceae

Viscum album ssp. austriacum Mistletoe Parasitic on Pinus, e.g. Valdeblore

Celastraceae

Euonymus europaeus Spindle

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens Box Rimplas

Euphorbiaceae

Mercurialis perennisDog's MercuryScattered recordsEuphorbia maculataSpotted SpurgePavements in La BollineEuphorbia dulcisSweet SpurgeMoulinet and Tende

Euphorbia spinosa Spiny Spurge Rimplas

Euphorbia taurinensis Turin Spurge

Euphorbia vallinianaVallino SpurgeValdebloreEuphorbia characiasLarge Mediterranean SpurgeBollene

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alaternusMediterranean BuckthornRimplasRhamnus saxatilisRock BuckthornTende (France)

Rhamnus cathartica Buckthorn

Rhamnus alpina Alpine Buckthorn Above Col St. Martin, Tende

Linaceae

Linum austriacum ssp.collinum a flax Entracque

Linum tenuifolium a flax Valdeblore and Tende

Linum suffruticosum ssp.appressum a flax Linum strictum a flax

Linum catharticum Purging Flax Valdeblore and Tende

Polygalaceae

Polygala nicaeensis Nice Milkwort Tende and Entracque

Polygala vulgaris Common Milkwort Gordolasque

Hippocastanaceae

Aesculus hippocastanum Horse Chestnut

Aceraceae

Acer campestre Field Maple
Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore

Acer opalus Italian Maple Col de Turini

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggyria Smoke Tree Widespread and locally common

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima Tree of Heaven Commonly naturalised in lower valleys

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella Wood Sorrel In leaf at Moulinet

Geraniaceae

Geranium macrorrhizumRock Crane's-billGordolasqueGeranium sylvaticumWood CranesbillIn fruit

Geranium nodosumKnotted CranesbillScattered recordsGeranium pyrenaicumHedgerow CranesbillScattered records

Geranium columbinumLong-stalked CranesbillTuriniGeranium dissectumCut-leaved CranesbillTurini

Geranium robertianum Herb Robert Valdeblore etc.

Araliaceae

Hedera helix Ivy

Apiaceae

Sanicula europaeaSanicleMoulinet ForestAstrantia majorGreater MasterwortScattered records

Astrantia minor Lesser Masterwort Scattered records at higher acidic sites

Eryngium campestreField EryngoRimplasChaerophyllum hirsutumHairy ChervilTende

Chaerophyllum villarsii a chervil

Chaerophyllum aureum Golden Chervil Valdeblore

Chaerophyllum temulum Rough Chervil
Anthriscus sylvestris Cow Parsley

Myrrhis odorata Sweet Cicely Tende

Molopospermum peloponnesiacum Molopospermum In fruit above Col St. Martin

Pimpinella tragium a burnet-saxifrage Valdeblore

Pimpinella major Greater Burnet-saxifrage Scattered, e.g. Gordolasque

Pimpinella saxifragaBurnet-saxifrageWidespreadAegopodium podagrariaGround ElderGordolasqueSeseli libanotisMoon CarrotGordolasqueSeseli galloprovincialea moon carrotScattered records

Foeniculum vulgare Fennel Rimplas

Trochiscanthes nodiflora Trochiscanthes Tende, a few, forest edge, and one at

Moulinet lunch site

Meum athamanticum Spignel Local at higher altitudes, common at

Tende

Bupleurum praealtum a hare's-ear St.Martin, La Bolline, etc.

Bupleurum petraeum Rock Hare's-ear Rocks at Col de Tende, some impressive

plants

Bupleurum ranunculoides Three-veined Hare's-ear Locally very common at Tende

Buplerum falcatum ssp.cernuum Sickle-leaved Hare's-ear Col de Turini

Bupleurum fruticosum Shrubby Hare's-ear Roadsides north of Nice

Trinia glauca Honewort Tende

Sison amomum Stone Parsley Above Col St.Martin

Caraway Widespread

Angelica sylvestris Wild Angelica Local by watercourses

Peucedanum ostruthium Masterwort Locally common, e.g. Gordolasque

Pastinaca sativaWild ParsnipRoadsidesHeracleum sphondyliumHogweedCommonLaserpitium silera sermountainValdeblore

Laserpitium latifolium Broad-leaved Sermountain Scattered records, e.g. Gordolasque

Laserpitium gallicum a sermountain Scattered records, e.g. above Col St.Martin

Daucus carota Wild Carrot Widespread

Gentianaceae

Centaurium pulchellum Lesser Centaury Entracque

Gentiana luteaYellow GentianGordolasque and Tende (France)Gentiana villarsiia gentianMany in fine flower this year at Col de

Lombarde. Endemic.

Gentiana asclepiadea Willow Gentian In leaf below Isola 2000

Gentiana cruciata Cross Gentian Locally common in flower, Valdeblore,

Tende, Entracque, etc.

Gentiana ligusticaa trumpet gentianCol St.Martin, in fruitGentiana acaulisTrumpet GentianOver at Col de la Lombarde

Gentiana rostanii a gentian Col de la Lombarde, in fruit. Endemic.

Gentiana campestris Field Gentian Gordolasque and Tende

Asclepiadaceae

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Swallowwort Widespread

Solanaceae

Atropa bella-donna Deadly Nightshade Some very large plants at Col de Turini

Convolvulaceae

Cuscuta europaea Greater Dodder Gordolasque and Valdieri

Cuscuta epithymum Dodder Scattered records, e.g. Col St.Martin

Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed Scattered records

Boraginaceae

Echium vulgareViper's BuglossWidespreadPulmonaria pictaa lungwortScattered in leaf

Myosotis scorpioides Water Forget-me-not Gordolasque and Valdieri

Cynoglossum officinale Hound's-tongue Sta. Anna and Tende

Verbenaceae

Verbena officinalis Vervain Rimplas and Entracque

Lamiaceae

Teucrium chamaedrys Wall Germander Valdeblore etc.

Teucrium lucidum a germander Locally common, e.g. Valdeblore and Tende.

Endemic.

Teucrium montanum Mountain Germander Col St. Martin, Tende, etc.

Scutellaria alpina Alpine Skullcap Val Sta. Anna

Galeopsis ladanum Broad-leaved Hemp-nettle Scattered records, e.g. Gordolasque

Galeopsis pubescens Downy Hemp-nettle
Galeopsis tetrahit Common Hemp-nettle

Lamium garganicumGargano Dead-nettleGordolasqueLamium maculatumSpotted Dead-nettleScattered recordsBallota nigraBlack HorehoundScattered recordsStachys pradicaa betonyLombarde and Tende

Stachys officinalis Betony Scattered

Stachys sylvatica Hedge Woundwort Tende and Moulinet Forest etc.

 Stachys recta
 Yellow Woundwort
 Scattered, e.g. Tende

 Nepeta nepetella
 Small Catmint
 Locally numerous at Tende

 Prunella laciniata
 Cut-leaved Self-heal
 Moulinet and Entracque

 Prunella grandiflora
 Large Self-heal
 Gordolasque etc

Prunella grandiflora Large Self-heal Gordolasque etc. Prunella vulgaris Self-heal Widespread Acinos alpinus Alpine Calamint Gordolasque Acinos arvensis Basil Thyme Scattered Calamintha grandiflora **Greater Calamint** Tende (Italy) Calamintha nepeta Lesser Calamint Valdeblore etc. Clinopodium vulgare Wild Basil Scattered records

Micromeria marginata a micromeria Very locally common by Tende old

tunnel entrance. Also Gorge della Reina.

Endemic.

Origanum vulgare Marjoram Scattered records

Thymus vulgaris Common Thyme Widespread in leaf. Very common in flower

in the area in May.

Thymus praecox Hairy Thyme Common and widespread

Thymus pulegioides Larger Wild Thyme Widespread

Mentha longifolia Horse Mint Locally common, e.g. Gordolasque and

Tende

Lavandula angustifoliaCommon LavenderWidespread and commonSalvia glutinosaSticky ClaryMoulinet and TendeSalvia pratensisMeadow ClaryBorgo San Dalmazzo area

Plantaginaceae

Plantago major Greater Plantain Scattered records, both ssp. major and

intermedia

Plantago maritima ssp.serpentina Fleshy Plantain Scattered records

Plantago alpina Alpine Plantain Higher altitudes, e.g. Col de la Lombarde

Plantago media Hoary Plantain Widespread in meadows

Plantago atrataMountain PlantainTende (France)Plantago lanceolataRibwort PlantainScattered recordsPlantago sempervirensShrubby PlantainValdeblore

Buddlejaceae

Buddleja davidii Buddleia Naturalised on river gravels

Oleaceae

Fraxinus ornusManna-ashFraxinus excelsiorAshLigustrum vulgarePrivetOlea europaeaOlive

Scrophulariaceae

Verbascum phlomoidesOrange MulleinVerbascum thapsusAaron's RodVerbascum pulverulentumHoary MulleinVerbascum chaixiiNettle-leaved MulleinVerbascum nigrumDark Mullein

N.B. There were many hybrids between the above *Verbascum* species, and many individual plants were impossible

to identify

Scrophularia nodosa Common Figwort Tende and Sta.Anna

Scrophularia caninaFrench FigwortValdebloreChaenorhinum minusSmall ToadflaxLa Bolline

Linaria repens Pale Toadflax Valdeblore and below Isola 2000

Linaria angustissimaa toadflaxTende (France)Linaria supinaProstrate ToadflaxLombardeCymbalaria muralisIvy-leaved ToadflaxLa Bolline

Digitalis grandiflora Large Yellow Foxglove Widespread but local, e.g. Gordolasque Small Yellow Foxglove Scattered records, e.g. Valdeblore

Veronica fruticansRock SpeedwellVal Sta.AnnaVeronica fruticulosaa speedwellAbove Col St.Martin

Veronica urticifolia Nettle-leaved Speedwell Tende

Veronica officinalis Heath Speedwell In leaf La Bolline

Veronica allionii a speedwell Lombarde, Sta. Anna, and Tende. Endemic.

Veronica chamaedrys Germander Speedwell Gordolasque

Veronica beccabunga Brooklime Scattered in wet habitats, e.g. Gordolasque

Veronica persica Common Field-speedwell Scattered

Melampyrum velebiticum a cow-wheat Valdeblore and Moulinet Forest

Melampyrum sylvaticumSmall Cow-wheatValdieriEuphrasia rostkovianaCommon EyebrightLa BollineEuphrasia alpinaAlpine EyebrightLombarde

Euphrasia spp. Eyebrights Several other species not identified

Pedicularis rostratospicata Flesh-pink Lousewort Stem with two lines of hairs (Flora Helvetica)

ssp.helvetica Pink flowers long beaked. Col de la

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Lombarde, where abundant, but all in fruit

this year.

Pedicularis gyroflexa Tufted Lousewort Downy, pink flowers short beaked, on

limestone. Lombarde and Tende. All in fruit

this year.

Rhinanthus minorYellow RattleWidespreadRhinanthus ovifugusa yellow rattleScattered recordsRhinanthus alectrolophusGreater Yellow RattleScattered records

Globulariaceae

Globularia cordifolia Heart-leaved Globularia In fruit Col St.Martin Globularia repens a globularia Tende, in fruit

#### Orobanchaceae

N.B. No broomrapes were seen this year, other than a few dead spikes. I list here species seen on the tour in the past on similar dates.

Orobanche purpurea
Orobanche alba
Orobanche minor
Orobanche hederae
Orobanche caryophyllacea
Orobanche teucrii

Yarrow Broomrape
Thyme Broomrape
Ivy Broomrape
Bedstraw Broomrape
Germander Broomrape

Orobanche salviae a broomrape
Orobanche rapum-genistae Greater Broomrape

Lentibulariaceae

Pinguicula vulgaris Common Butterwort Col de la Lombarde, rosettes and fruit

Campanulaceae

Campanula glomerata Clustered Bellflower Gordolasque

Campanula spicata Spiked Bellflower Locally common, e.g. Gordolasque and

Sta.Anna

Tende

Gordolasque. Galium album x verum.

Campanula trachelium Nettle-leaved Bellflower Valdeblore, Goerdolasque, etc.

Campanula rapunculoides Creeping Bellflower Valdeblore
Campanula bononiensis a bellflower Entracque

Campanula fritschii a bellflower
Campanula cochlearifolia Fairy's Thimble

Campanula stenocodon Cottian Bellflower Tende. Endemic.

Campanula scheuchzeri a bellflower Scattered records, e.g. Gordolasque

Campanula rotundifoliaHarebellWidespread and commonPhyteuma micheliia spiked rampionVal Sta.Anna. Endemic.

Phyteuma betonicifolium Betony-leaved Rampion Locally common, e.g. Val Sta.Anna

Phyteuma orbiculare Round-headed Rampion Gordolasque etc.

Rubiaceae

Asperula aristataa squinancywortA few recordsAsperula cynanchicaSquinancywortA few recordsAsperula purpureaa woodruffRimplas etc.Galium verumLady's BedstrawWidespread

Galium xpomeranicum

Galium mollugoHedge BedstrawScattered recordsGalium albumUpright Hedge-bedstrawScattered records

Galium laevigatum a bedstraw In leaf in Tende woodland

Galium obliquum a bedstraw Col St. Martin etc.

Galium rubrum a bedstraw Tende

Galium pumilumSlender BedstrawScattered recordsGalium tendaea bedstrawGordolasque. Endemic.

Cruciata laevipesCrosswortTende (France)Cruciata glabraa crosswortEntracqueCruciata pedemontanaa crosswortCol de TuriniRubia peregrinaWild MadderSospel area

Caprifoliaceae

Sambucus ebulus Dwarf Elder In flower Sospel and Valdieri

Sambucus nigra Elder

Sambucus racemosa Red-berried Elder Locally in fruit, e.g. Gordolasque,

Sta.Anna

Lonicera xylosteum Fly Honeysuckle In fruit

Valerianaceae

Valeriana officinalisCommon ValerianIn fruit below Isola 2000Valeriana montanaMountain ValerianIn fruit below Isola 2000

Centranthus ruber Red Valerian Rimplas etc., widespread, mostly in fruit

this year

Dipsacaceae

Cephalaria leucantha a cephalaria Rimplas, where common, and Sospel area

Dipsacus fullonumTeaselDay 5Knautia arvensisField ScabiousWidespreadKnautia integrifoliaa scabiousScattered records

Scabiosa triandra a scabious Local

Scabiosa vestita a scabious Widespread and locally common, e.g.

Col St.Martin and Valdeblore

Asteraceae

Eupatorium cannabinumHemp AgrimonyValdeblore etc.Solidago virgaureaGoldenrodWidespreadAster alpinusAlpine AsterGordolasque

Aster bellidiastrumDaisy StarTende, old tunnel mouthErigeron annuusTall FleabaneWidespread and commonErigeron karvinskianusMexican FleabaneWalls, e.g. Belvedere

Erigeron acerBlue FleabaneWidespreadErigeron atticusGreek FleabaneBelow Isola 2000Erigeron gaudiniia fleabaneBelow Isola 2000Erigeron alpinusAlpine FleabaneGordolasque

Micropus erectus

Helichrysum stoechas Shrubby Everlasting In fruit

Antennaria dioica Cat's Foot Local at higher altitudes

Inula conyzaePloughman's SpikenardRimplasBuphthalmum salicifoliumYellow Ox-eyeWidespreadAnthemis tinctoriaYellow ChamomileRimplas

Achillea erba-rotta Simple-leaved Milfoil Col de Lombarde
Achillea millefolium Yarrow Widespread and common

Tripleurospermum inodorumScentless MayweedScattered recordsMatricaria discoideaPineapple WeedTende old tunnel site

Tanacetum vulgare Tansy Entracque
Leucanthemum vulgare Ox-eye Daisy Widespread

Leucanthemum atratum an ox-eye daisy ceratophylloides

Leucanthemum discoideum Rayless Ox-eye Daisy This very attractive near endemic was in

lower at the Col de Turini

Leucanthemum spp. ox-eye daisies Other species of this complex genus probably

present Widespread

Artemisia vulgarisMugwortWidespreadArtemisia absinthiumWormwoodWidespread

Artemisia alba a wormwood Valdeblore, locally common Artemisia chamaemelifolia a wormwood Valdeblore, locally common

Tussilago farfara Colt's-foot In leaf, abundant

Petasites albusWhite ButterburIn leafPetasites hybridusButterburIn leaf

Adenostyles alliariaeAdenostylesTende old tunnelAdenostyles glabraan adenostylesCol de Turini

Adenostyles leucophylla an adenostyles Common on the Italian side of Col de

Lombarde

Arnica montana Arnica Scattered at higher altitudes

Senecio incanus Hoary Groundsel Col de la Lombarde, in fine flower this year

Valdeblore etc.

Senecio ovatus ssp.alpestris a Wood Ragwort Widespread, locally very common

Senecio sylvaticus Heath Groundsel Gordolasque

Senecio vulgaris Groundsel
Calendula arvensis Field Marigold Rimplas

Carlina vulgaris

Carlina acaulis caulescensStemmed Stemless Thistle!Tende (France)Echinops sphaerocephalusa globe thistleNear Col de TuriniEchinops ritroGlobe ThistleWest of Sospel

Carline Thistle

Arctium lappa Greater Burdock Gordolasque etc.

Arctium minus Lesser Burdock Gordolasque etc.

Carduus defloratus Variable-leaved Thistle Common at altitude

Cirsium eriophorum Woolly Thistle Valdeblore etc.

Cirsium vulgare Spear Thistle Scattered records

Cirsium montanum a brook thistle Scattered in damp wooded habitats

Cirsium erisithalesYellow Melancholy ThistleCol de TuriniCirsium spinosissimumSpiniest ThistleCol de Lombarde

Cirsium acaule Dwarf Thistle Col St.Martin and Entracque

Cirsium monspessulanum Noted in leaf
Cirsium arvense Creeping Thistle Scattered

Leuzea conifera A few in fruit west of Sospel

Centaurea scabiosaGreater KnapweedWidespreadCentaurea paniculataJersey KnapweedRimplas

Centaurea leucophaeaWhitish-leaved KnapweedCommon in ValdebloreCentaurea nigrescensBlack-rayed KnapweedScattered, e.g. Col St.MartinCentaurea unifloraPlume KnapweedGordolasque etc.

Centaurea nervosa a plume knapweed Lombarde and Sta. Anna
Cichorium intybus Chicory Roadsides

Catananche caeruleaCupidoneMoulinetHypochaeris unifloraa cat's-earTende, in fruit this yearHypochaeris radicataCat's-earScattered records

Leontodon helveticus Swiss Hawkbit Higher altitude acidic sites

Leontodon hispidus Rough Hawkbit Gordolasque Picris echioides **Bristly Oxtongue** Scattered records Hawkweed Oxtongue Picris hieracioides Valdeblore etc. Tragopogon pratensis Goat's-beard Below Isola 2000 Lactuca serriola Prickly Lettuce Valdeblore etc. Lactuca virosa Great Lettuce Above Col St.Martin Perennial Lettuce Lactuca perennis Col St.Martin

Cicerbita alpina Alpine Sow-thistle Tende, locally common, but all in fruit this

Prenanthes purpurea Purple Rattlesnake-root Moulinet Forest and Tende

Mycelis muralisWall LettuceScattered recordsCrepis conyzifoliaa hawksbeardSta.Anna and Tende

Crepis nicaeensis French Hawk's-beard

Crepis spp. hawksbeards Several others to be identified!

Hieracium staticifolium a hawkweed Scattered, locally common above Col St.

Martin, and Lombarde

Hieracium pilosella Mouse-ear Hawkweed Widespread, e.g. Col St.Martin

Hieracium lactucellaa hawkweedLocal, e.g. Sta.AnnaHieracium angustifoliuma hawkweedCol de la LombardeHieracium cymosuma hawkweedSta.Anna

Hieracium murorumWall HawkweedIn leaf, locally commonHieracium villosumShaggy HawkweedCommon at Tende

Hieracium pictum a hawkweed Locally common, e.g. Valdeblore

Hieracium tomentosum Woolly Hawkweed Common at Tende

Hieracium prenanthoidesa hawkweedHieracium racemosuma hawkweedHieracium sabaudumSavoy HawkweedHieracium laevigatuma hawkweed

Monocotyledons

Juncaceae

Juncus jacquinii a rush In fruit at Lombarde. One of the most

beautiful plants in the area when in

flower.

Juncus filiformis Thread Rush

Juncus conglomeratus Compact Rush Gordolasque and Tende (France)

Juncus trifidus Three-leaved Rush Col de la Lombarde

Juncus compressus Round-fruited Rush

Juncus bufonius Toad Rush

Juncus bulbosus Bulbous Rush Gordolasque

Juncus acutiflorusSharp-flowered RuahScattered, e.g. GordolasqueJuncus articulatusJointed RushScattered. e.g. Gordolasque

Luzula campestris Field Wood-rush

Luzula multiflora Heath Wood-rush Scattered

Luzula sudetica a wood-rush

Luzula nutans a wood-rush Val Sta.Anna

Luzula nivea Snow-white Wood-rush Widespread and locally common

Luzula pedemontana Piedmont Wood-rush Scattered

Luzula alpinopilosa a wood-rush Upper Val Sta. Anna

Cyperaceae

Scirpus sylvaticus Common in wet flushes at Valdieri

Trichophorum caespitosumDeergrassCol de LombardeBlysmus compressusFlat-sedgeGordolasque and Valdieri

Eriophorum angustifolium Common Cotton-grass Col de la Lombarde

Eriophorum latifolium Broad-leaved Cotton-grass Gordolasque and Val Sta. Anna

Carex spicata Spiked Sedge

Carex pairaeCommon Prickly SedgeScattered recordsCarex foetidaa sedgeCol de LombardeCarex leporinaOval SedgeScattered records

Carex echinataStar SedgeGordolasque and ValdieriCarex brunnescensa sedgeBy the lake at Col de Lombarde

Carex curvula a sedge

Carex sylvaticaWood SedgeMoulinetCarex flaccaGlaucous SedgeScattered records

Carex panicea Carnation Sedge Gordolasque and Valdieri

Carex flava Large Yellow Sedge

Carex lepidocarpaLong-stalked Yellow SedgeGordolasqueCarex pallescensPale SedgeScattered recordsCarex montanaSoft-leaved SedgeScattered recordsCarex sempervirensa sedgeScattered records

Carex ferruginea ssp.tendae a sedge Tende

Carex elataTufted SedgeScattered recordsCarex nigraCommon SedgeScattered records

Poaceae

Festuca paniculataa fescueFestuca giganteaGiant FescueFestuca rubraRed FescueFestuca laevigataa fescue

Festuca spp. fescues Other species not identified

Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass
Lolium multiflorum Italian Rye-grass
Vulpia myuros Rat's-tail Fescue
Vulpia unilateralis Mat-grass Fescue

Catapodium rigidum Fern-grass

Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass Poa trivialis Rough Meadow-grass Smooth Meadow-grass Poa pratensis Poa angustifolia Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass Flattened Meadow-grass Poa compressa Poa nemoralis Wood Meadow-grass Poa bulbosa **Bulbous Meadow-grass** Poa alpina Alpine Meadow-grass Dactylis glomerata Cock's-foot

Cynosurus cristatus Crested Dog's-tail Rough Dog's-tail Cynosurus echinatus **Quaking Grass** Briza media Sesleria argentea a moor-grass Sesleria caerulea Blue Moor-grass Melica uniflora Wood Melick Melica ciliata Ciliated Melick Glyceria notata Plicate Sweet-grass Bromus diandrus Great Brome Barren Brome Bromus sterilis Drooping Brome Bromus tectorum **Compact Brome** Bromus madritensis Hungarian Brome Bromus inermis Hairy Brome Bromus ramosus Upright Brome Bromus erectus Soft Brome

Bromus hordeaceus Rough Brome Bromus squarrosus False Brome Brachypodium sylvaticum Brachypodium rupestre a tor-grass Elymus caninus **Bearded Couch** Elymus repens Common Couch Hordeum murinum Wall Barley Hordelymus europaeus Wood Barley Avena fatua Wild Oat

Helictotrichon spp.

Arrhenatherum elatius False Oat-grass Koeleria macrantha Crested Hair-grass Koeleria pyramidata a hair-grass Deschampsia cespitosa Tufted Hair-grass Avenella flexuosa Wavy Hair-grass Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal Grass Alpine Vernal-grass Anthoxanthum alpinum Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Velvet Bent Agrostis canina a bent Agrostis schraderiana

Agrostis schraderiana a bent Agrostis capillaris Common Bent Agrostis stolonifera Creeping Bent

Agrostis spp.

Calamagrostis epigeios Wood Small-reed
Calamagrostis varia a small-reed
Phleum pratense Timothy

Phleum alpinum Alopecurus pratensis Milium effusum

Achnatherum calamagrostis

Arundo donax Molinia arundinacea

Nardus stricta Cynodon dactylon Setaria pumila Setaria viridis Sorghum halepense Bothriochloa ischaemum Alpine Cat-s-tail Meadow Foxtail Wood Millet Rough Feather-grass

Giant Reed a purple moor-grass

Mat Grass Bermuda-grass Yellow Bristle-grass Green Bristle-grass Johnson-grass

Sparganiaceae

Sparganium angustifolium

Floating Bur-reed

Filling the pond on the Italian side of the Col de la Lombarde, many in flower

Liliaceae

Tofieldia calyculata Veratrum album Anthericum liliago

Aphyllanthes monspeliensis

Lilium martagon Allium narcissiflorum

Allium paniculatum

Hemerocallis fulva

Allium schoenoprasum

Tofield's Asphodel White False Helleborine St.Bernard's Lily

Orange Day-Lily Martagon Lily

Chives

Allium oleraceum Allium rotundum Allium sphaerocephalon Streptopus amplexifolius

Polygonatum verticillatum

Paris quadrifolia

Gordolasque and below Isola 2000 Locally common, in flower

Sta.Anna, Tende, in fruit In fruit in Sospel area Naturalised at Valdieri

A few below Isola 2000

Many plants at Tende, in flower, but most

past their best this year

Scattered records Gordolasque Field Garlic Tende (Italy)

a leek Scattered records Round-headed Leek Scattered records

Streptopus Several in fruit in Tende woods

Whorled Solomon's Seal Tende, in fruit

Herb Paris Woodland edge at Tende, also on exposed

rocks there! Also Moulinet Forest.

Orchidaceae

Epipactis helleborine Epipactis atrorubens Cephalanthera rubra Neottia nidus-avis Listera ovata Goodyera repens Gymnadenia conopsea Pseudorchis albida Nigritella corneliana

Dactylorhiza sambucina

Anacamptis pyramidalis

Dactylorhiza fuchsii

Broad-leaved Helleborine Dark Red Helleborine Red Helleborine Bird's-nest Orchid Common Twayblade Creeping Lady's-tresses Fragrant Orchid Small White Orchid a vanilla orchid

Elder-flowered Orchid Common Spotted Orchid Pyramidal Orchid

Tende and Entracque

Several in Valdeblore, and at Tende Gone over on Col St.Martin A few of last year's spikes A few in flower, e.g. Gordolasque In flower at Valdeblore and Moulinet

Tende, over

Col de Lombarde, over

Many at Col de la Lombarde, but for the first time on the tour, all over this year.

Endemic.

Below Isola 2000, over

Widespread and locally very common In flower above Col St.Martin

### Systematic List Number 2 Butterflies

The taxonomic order and nomenclature follow Tolman and Lewington's 'Butterflies of Britain and Europe'.

**Papilionidae** 

Swallowtail Papilio machaon Seen on 3 days, and a larva above Col St.Martin Scarce Swallowtail Iphiclides podalirius Widespread in small numbers, seen on 5 days

Apollo Parnassius apollo Gordolasque, Val Sta. Anna, Tende, Terme di Valdieri

Clouded Apollo Parnassius mnemosyne A few in upper Val Sta. Anna

Pieridae

Large WhitePieris brassicaeSeen on 2 daysBlack-veined WhiteAporia crataegiScattered recordsSmall WhiteArtogeia rapaeSeen daily

Southern Small White Artogeia mannii Several at Gorge della Reina

Green-veined White Artogeia napi Seen on 3 days

Mountain Green-veined White Artogeia bryoniae Tende

Bath White Pontia daplidice Seen on 3 days in France
Orange-tip Anthocharis cardamines A male still on the wing Sta.Anna

Mountain Clouded Yellow Colias phicomone Lombarde and Tende

Clouded Yellow Colias crocea Widespread in small numbers

Pale Clouded YellowColias hyaleSeen on 5 daysBerger's Clouded YellowColias alfacariensisCol St.MartinBrimstoneGonepteryx rhamniSeen on 2 daysCleopatraGonepteryx cleopatraOn 2 days in France

Wood White Leptidea sinapis Widespread in small numbers

Lycaenidae

Blue-spot Hairstreak Satyrium spini Above Col St.Martin, and Tende

White-letter Hairstreak Satyrium w-album 1 at Entracque

Small Copper Lycaena phlaeas Widespread in small numbers
Scarce Copper Lycaena virgaureae Widespread and often common

Sooty Copper Lycaena tityrus Seen on four days, ssp.subalpina at Entracque

Purple-shot Copper Lycaena alciphron Col St.Martin and Valdeblore

Purple-edged Copper Lycaena hippothoe Gordolasque and Lombarde, ssp.eurydame

Long-tailed Blue Lampides boeticus Above Col St.Martin

Lang's Short-tailed Blue Leptotes pirithous Above Col St.Martin and Day 4

Short-tailed Blue Everes argiades Valdeblore
Little Blue Cupido minimus Entracque

Holly Blue Celastrina argiolus Moulinet and Sta.Anna Large Blue Maculinea arion Moulinet and Entracque Silver-studded Blue Plebejus argus Scattered records Idas Blue Plebejus idas Scattered records

Idas BluePlebejus idasScattered recordBrown ArgusAricia agestisA few recordsMountain ArgusAricia artaxerxesSeen on 3 daysSilvery ArgusPseudaricia niciasVal Sta.AnnaMazarine BlueCyaniris semiargusWidespread

Damon Blue Agrodiaetus damon Valdeblore and Tende

Furry Blue Agrodiaetus dolus Singletons at Rimplas and Entracque

Escher's Blue Agrodiaetus escheri Seen daily
Amanda's Blue Agrodiaetus amanda Scattered records

Turquoise Blue Plebicula dorylus Valdeblore, Gordolasque, Entracque Chalk-hill Blue Lysandra coridon Widespread and common, seen daily

Adonis Blue Lysandra bellargus Entracque

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* Seen on three days

Nymphalidae

Southern White Admiral Limenitis reducta La Bolline and Sospel

White Admiral Limenitis camilla La Bolline before the start of the tour

Large Tortoiseshell Nymphalis polychloros 1 above Limone 1400

Peacock Inachis io 1 at Isola before the tour began

Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta Scattered records

Painted Lady Vanessa cardui A few records, seen on five days

CommaPolygonia c-albumScattered recordsSouthern CommaPolygonia egea1 in GordolasqueCardinalArgynnis pandoraLa Bolline

Silver-washed Fritillary Argynnis paphia Widespread, most numerous at Entracque.

Seen on 6 days, form valesina seen on 3

days. (sometimes spelt valezina).

Dark Green Fritillary

Argynnis aglaja

Widespread and reasonably common, seen on 5 days

High Brown Fritillary

Argynnis adippe

Widespread and often common, as at Moulinet

Niobe Fritillary Argynnis niobe Scattered records, seen on 4 days

Queen-of-Spain FritillaryIssoria lathoniaWidespread, seen dailyMarbled FritillaryBrenthis daphneLocally common, seen dailyBalkan FritillaryBoloria graecaFrench side of Lombarde

Titania's Fritillary Clossiana titania Scattered records
Pearl-bordered Fritillary Clossiana euphrosyne Tende (France)

Weaver's Fritillary Clossiana dia Valdeblore and Moulinet

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia* Valdeblore Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea phoebe* Scattered records

Spotted Fritillary Melitaea didyma Widespread in small numbers

Lesser Spotted Fritillary Melitaea trivia A strong colony at Entracque, a scarce species in Piemonte

Heath Fritillary Mellicta athalia Widespread and common

Provençal Fritillary Mellicta deione Scattered records

Grisons Fritillary Mellicta varia French side of Lombarde Meadow Fritillary Mellicta parthenoides Rimplas and Gordolasque

Satyridae

Marbled White Melanargia galathea Widespread and very common

Woodland/ Lesser Woodland Grayling Hipparchia fagi/genava One or both of these species seen daily

Black Satyr Satyrus actaea Valdeblore

Great Sooty Satyr Satyrus ferula Widespread and often numerous Great Banded Grayling Kanetisa circe Scattered records, seen on 4 days Arran Brown Erebia ligea Scattered records, seen on 4 days Large Ringlet Erebia euryale Widespread and often numerous

Mountain Ringlet Erebia epiphron Col de Lombarde

Lesser Mountain Ringlet Erebia melampus Col de Lombarde and Terme di Valdieri

Scotch Argus Erebia aethiops Gorge della Reina

Almond-eyed Ringlet Erebia alberganus Widespread and locally common

Silky Ringlet Erebia gorge Col de Lombarde False Mnestra Ringlet Erebia aethiopella Col de Lombarde

Common Brassy Ringlet Erebia cassioides Col de Lombarde. ssp. arvernensis, split by some as Erebia

arvernensis, Western Brassy Ringlet

Marbled Ringlet Erebia montana One below Isola 2000, and one in Val Sta. Anna

Meadow Brown Maniola jurtina Widespread, seen daily

Dusky Meadow Brown Hyponephele lycaon Valdeblore, and a female at Valdieri

Ringlet Aphantopus hyperantus Scattered records

Gatekeeper Pyronia tithonus Moulinet
Small Heath Coenonympha pamphilus Seen on 2 days

Dusky Heath Coenonympha dorus Valdeblore Pearly Heath Coenonympha arcania Widespread and common, seen daily Alpine Heath Col du Lombarde, seen before the tour Coenonympha gardetta Speckled Wood Pararge aegeria La Bolline and Moulinet Wall Brown Lasiommata megera A few records Large Wall Brown Lasiommata maera Widespread in small numbers

Hesperiidae

Large Grizzled Skipper Pyrgus alveus Seen on three days Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper Pyrgus foulquieri Seen before the tour began Carline Skipper Pyrgus carlinae Lombarde Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper Pyrgus armoricanus Gordolasque Olive Skipper Pyrgus serratulae Gordolasque and Tende Safflower Skipper Pyrgus carthami Scattered records Red-underwing Skipper Spialia sertorius Valdeblore and Entracque Tufted Marbled Skipper Carcharodus flocciferus Entracque Dingy Skipper Erynnis tages 2 at Entracque Lulworth Skipper Thymelicus acteon Valdeblore and Moulinet Thymelicus lineola Essex Skipper Widespread, seen daily Thymelicus sylvestris Small Skipper Widespread, seen daily Large Skipper Ochlodes venatus Widespread, seen daily Silver-spotted Skipper Val Sta.Anna Hesperia comma

### Systematic List Number 3 Birds

The focus of the tour was on butterflies and plants, summer in the European mountains not the most productive for birds, but the following species were recorded during the week.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea
Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvus
Honey Buzzard Pernis apivorus
Common Buzzard Buteo buteo
Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Quail Coturnix (Heard)

Black-headed Gull
Yellow-legged Gull
Common Tern
Rock Dove
Woodpigeon
Collared Dove

Larus ridibundus
Larus cachinnans
Sterna hirundo
Columba livia
Columba palumbus
Streptopelia decaocto

Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus (Heard)

Common Swift Apus apus
Pallid Swift Apus pallidus
Hoopoe Upupa epops

Jynx torquilla (Heard) Wryneck Green Woodpecker Picus viridis (Heard) Black Woodpecker Dryocopus martius (Heard) Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne rupestris Swallow Hirundo rustica House Martin Delichon urbica Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

Tree Pipit
Water Pipit
Anthus trivialis
Water Pipit
Anthus spinoletta
Grey Wagtail
White Wagtail
Dipper
Anthus trivialis
Motacilla cinerea
Motacilla alba
Cinclus cinclus

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes Prunella modularis Dunnock Robin Erithacus rubecula Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros Stonechat Saxicola torquata Northern Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe Blackbird Turdus merula Song Thrush Turdus philomelos Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus Lesser Whitethroat Sylvia curruca Garden Warbler Sylvia borin Sylvia atricapilla Blackcap Bonelli's Warbler Phylloscopus bonelli

Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita Regulus regulus Goldcrest Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus Marsh Tit Parus palustris Willow Tit Parus montanus Coal Tit Parus ater Blue Tit Parus caeruleus

Great Tit Parus major Nuthatch Sitta europaea Garrulus glandarius Jay

Magpie Pica pica

Goldfinch

Linnet

Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes (Heard)

Carduelis carduelis

Carduelis cannabina

Alpine Chough Pyrrhocorax graculus Carrion Crow Corvus corone

Hooded Crow Corvus (corone) cornix

Raven Corvus corax House Sparrow Passer domesticus Italian Sparrow Passer italiae (Torino) Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs Serin Serinus serinus Citril Finch Serinus citrinella Greenfinch Carduelis chloris

# Systematic List Number 4 Amphibians, Reptiles, Mammals

Common Frog Rana temporaria Scattered records Italian Slow Worm Above Limone 1400 Anguis veronensis Common Wall Lizard Podarcis muralis Scattered records Western Green Lizard Lacerta bilineata Entracque

Snake species One at Entracque, I didn't see it, awaiting

> news of species! Road casualties

Western Hedgehog Erinaceus europaeus Alpine Marmot Gordolasque, Lombarde, Tende Marmota marmota Garden Dormouse A casualty at Col St.Martin Eliomys quercinus

Fox Vulpes vulpes A road casualty Alpine Chamois Gordolasque Rupicapra rupicapra Roe Deer Limone Piemonte Capreolus capreolus