

Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL

## Vercors 2019



## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	12 <sup>th</sup> June	Train to Valence.
2	13 <sup>th</sup> June	Les Nonières and surrounds.
3	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Col de Pennes, Jansac.
4	15 <sup>th</sup> June	Cirque d'Archiane.
5	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Le Claps, Marais des Bouligons, Châtillon-en-Diois.
6	17 <sup>th</sup> June	Vallon de Combeau (lower).
7	18 <sup>th</sup> June	Vallon de Combeau (upper), La Réserve Naturelle des Hauts-Plateaux du Vercors.
8	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Valence and return to London.

### Leaders

Charlie Rugeroni

Wildlife Travel

Phil Saunders

Wildlife Travel

Photos all by Charlie Rugeroni, unless marked PS (Phil Saunders)

Cover: Owlfly *Libelloides coccajus*.

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

### Day One: 12<sup>th</sup> June. Train to Valence.

Phil met almost everyone at St Pancras Station. One other was reconnoitring the Vercors slopes attempting to locate new sites for 2020. In the evening he waited for the group, and his supper, at Hôtel le Mont Barral. He knew that on the journey from Valence to Les Nonières the rest of the group would have just made out in the gloaming, the valley of the River Drôme, the lavender fields, the odd raptor, possibly roadside orchids and the rolling countryside of this area of south-east France. Everyone met that night, tired after a day sitting, yet eagerly sat again to a light supper of pâtés, cheeses, salads, brownies and fruit, after which we were all ready for bed and eager for tomorrow.

### Day Two: 13<sup>th</sup> June. Les Nonières and surrounds.

A fine day with a light breeze. The still morning broke with bird calls: Blackbird, Black Redstart, House Martin, Serin and the odd screaming and wheeling Alpine Swift. Now we could appreciate where we were. At breakfast, we soon got the hang of the soothing *petit déjeuner* ritual, where things were, and from which coffee jug not to take coffee. All would become second nature by the end of the week and we would all miss it. Little croissants, pain au chocolat or raisin, home-made yogurts with berries or honey, local bread, fresh juices, boiled eggs, tea or coffee... and cake, always cake.

Later, after a briefing in our meeting room, where mental maps were organised, we were off with picnic lunches, up the road in direction of Grenoble. Along here we picked up Wall-rue *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, Rustyback Fern *Asplenium ceterach*, Yellow Woundwort *Stachys recta*, and then stopped to admire both Scarce and Common Swallowtail, listen to a Western Bonelli's Warbler's machine-gun like call and turn to see a Golden Eagle being mobbed by a Raven. All within 100m of the Hotel's terrace tables. Moments later while admiring Soapwort *Saponaria officinalis*, Meadow Clary *Salvia pratensis* (a plant with wonderful blue flowers and a great foil for other plants when in profusion) with Painted Ladies, another two Golden Eagles put in an appearance against the Serre Sambuc opposite. On a bank, Early Purple Orchids *Orchis mascula* were just going over but Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* were coming through. Other butterflies seen here included, Pearly Heath and a very obliging Southern White Admiral. Several Griffon Vultures decided to take wing from the massive limestone cliffs of La Grande Pigne behind us, and after observing them we turned our attention to another orchid Violet Limodore *Limodorum abortivum* under some Downy Oak *Quercus pubescens*. Negotiating the odd motorbikes and cars on the road to Grenoble, we admired the 'box-clipped' roadside hedges of Box *Buxus sempervirens* and managed to find: Prostrate Canary Clover *Lotus dorycnium*, Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, Pyrenean Flax *Linum suffruticosum*, Nottingham Catchfly *Silene nutans* and the first of the 'yellow perils' here in the form of Stalkless-leaved Broom *Cytisophyllum sessilifolium* and Black Broom *Cytisus nigricans* (a bit like Dyer's Greenwood), and the papery Man.City blue flowers of Blue Cupidone *Catananche caerulea*. Here and there Prostrate Rock-rose *Fumana procumbens* and Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* tumbled out of rock cracks. A gathering of Woodland Pink *Dianthus sylvestris* still with dew drops on its petals bore the faintest of scents and behind a veg patch Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum* grew; not yet in flower, just a stout spike. Alan spotted a Common Wall Lizard.

From here we moved down towards a path alongside the stream which fed the Grande Cascade du Sapet and coursed through the village. Many a blue on poo here; mostly Silver-studded. On a floriferous Red Valerian *Valeriana rubra* growing unremarkably against chain-link wire fencing we had: Cleopatra, Scarce Swallowtail, Humming-bird Hawk-moth, Violet Carpenter Bee and on nearby Spreading Hedge-parsley *Torilis arvensis* there was Mediterranean Spotted Chafer *Oxythyrea funesta*, the red and black Striped Shieldbug *Graphosoma lineatum* and hovering around the place the Bee-fly *Hemipenthes morio*. We walked... slowly. Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* and the beautifully pink striped pink flowers of Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia* grew in a field over the wall to our left. Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* with its beautiful whitish flowers and a fuzz of pinkish-lilac stamens was enjoyed everywhere it was seen along the path as was Cornelian Cherry *Cornus mas*. More orchids: Common Twayblade *Neottia ovata*, Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora* and Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* everywhere under the pines. Mary noticed a large strikingly flowered labiate in the undergrowth - the infelicitously named Bastard Balm *Melittis melissophyllum*. On the wing, the owlfly *Libelloides coccajus*, some settling on grasses and on Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and a Large Wall Brown on Narrow-leaved Valerian *Valeriana angustifolia*.

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

To the waterfall and to lunch where we were kept amused by the blues: Adonis, Silver-studded, Small and an imposter, Red Underwing Skipper, all feeding on salts while the cascade roared in the background.

We took a right and up a slope passed Broad-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine* and Round-headed Rampion *Phyteuma orbiculare* with a Marmalade Hoverfly. On the forest road (part of a *Grande Randonnée* footpath) a bend had a large surprise in the form of Shrubby Restharrow *Ononis fruticosa* and a more delicate one found by Alan B, Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea* under some vegetation. We continued up the track, spotting Coal and Marsh Tit, Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* - from now on all would be sniffed in case we came across Short-spurred Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia odoratissima*, more spectacularly marked Common Spotted Orchid and a couple of other pea family members: Mountain Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis montana* with silky grey leaves and crimson flowers, and a scorpion vetch *Coronilla minima* with a tiny yellow crown inflorescence. The biggest surprise was yet another orchid hidden away under trees, in dappled light alongside the stream. A whoop of delight ('OMG') announced Lady's Slipper Orchid *Cypripedium calceolus* in fine fettle. Owlflies continued to glide and quarter the meadows, more helleborines *Epipactis* were coming through and under more pines we stumbled upon the shockingly blue flowered Alpine perennial Narrow-leaved Gentian *Gentiana angustifolia* and a roost of fresh Bird's-nest Orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*. Christine spotted a Pearl-bordered Fritillary; Alan G had Fly Orchid *Ophrys insectifera*.

On our way down we decided to concentrate on things on the wing and came up with: Tau Emperor Moth, Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Wood White and Eastern Wood White, Stoneflies and Mayflies, Hairy Shieldbug *Dolycoris baccarum* and Black and Red Bug *Lygaeus equestris* among others. Some in the group seemed to walk faster downhill, their walking poles a-blur, was it swimming pool time? Today we had enjoyed a wonderful variety of plants, birds and invertebrates in a lovely setting; among them there had been 18 different species of orchids. This was just the beginning.

### Day Three: 14<sup>th</sup> June. Col de Pennes, Jansac.

Cloudy with a cool, light breeze and some rain as we left. Just as we turned off for Recoubeau we were led by a Brown Hare lolloping along ahead of the minibus; seemingly unperturbed, then another later and another shortly after. For a moment it felt as if we would continue from here to eternity. On alighting from the bus at Col de Pennes at 1,042m, a Wryneck was heard in the valley below. Heavy cloud had set in with a light rain. On reaching the Col, Spanish Catchfly *Silene otites* impressed as did the showy and fleshy Blue Lettuce *Lactuca perennis*. However, the Brown Bluebell *Dipcadi serotinum*, despite really looking its best, did not impress some in the group; described as, 'not pretty, but refined'. The stiff thin spires of Tower Cress *Pseudoturritis turrita* punctuated a clearing between Box *Buxus sempervirens* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, its flowers pale-yellow, and its characteristic long pendulous fruits hanging in mid-air. Black-veined Whites were the most ubiquitous butterflies swinging from the grasses, singly or in mating pairs. Field Eryngo *Eryngium campestre* leaves were present everywhere. Spanish Broom *Spartium junceum* was in sweet scent and hiding behind it were the sky-blue flowers of Rampion Bellflower *Campanula rapunculus*. The other blue flowering plant lower down, pea-like, was False Sainfoin *Vicia onobrychioides*. The elegant White Laceflower *Orlaya grandiflora* was around too. As it warmed up Chalk Hill and Escher's Blues were flying, and as we were admiring them with eyes down, suddenly from behind and above us, no more than 20m or so away glided a Golden Eagle large and majestic as you like, silent and dark, then with a clearly audible downbeat of its wings it flew on. It left us breathless, amazed and open-mouthed - what an encounter.

Lunching with singing Firecrests and Black-veined Whites fighting owlflies above the diminutive but perfectly formed Common Crupina *Crupina vulgaris*. The impressive Sermountain *Laserpitium gallicum* held various bugs and beetles, among them Bee Chafer *Trichius gallicus*. Two distinguished flax, White Flax *Linum suffruticosum* and the blue Narbonne Flax *Linum narbonense* flowered here. A Safflower Skipper settled for us and we couldn't help but admire the blue flowers of Meadow Clary *Salvia pratensis* against the old orange leaves of wild Box. Cuckoos were heard and a Rock Bunting was observed when after lunch we explored the beech woodland track, where we heard Great Spotted Woodpecker and Black Woodpecker. Tall, large leaved, with grazed flower-heads - Purple Lettuce *Prenanthes purpurea* scattered the path, with Liverleaf *Hepatica nobilis* showing through the leafy track, and Bird's-nest Orchid emerging

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

from the leaf litter together with White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*, Colt's-foot *Tussilago farfara* and some, just about to flower, Martagon Lily *Lilium martagon*, with Lady Orchid and Common Spotted Orchid. Speckled Wood, Large Wall Brown and Duke of Burgundy were basking in the weak sun; Nuthatches and Chiffchaffs called.

We started our descent along a tarmac road with much to see on either side. Then came our first saxifrage, Encrusted Saxifrage *Saxifraga paniculata* and also the arching stems of Angular Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum odoratum*. Alan B spotted the leaves of Wolf's-bane *Aconitum vulparia*. This was easy-going plant spotting with views towards the north and in the distance we could see the higher Vercors mountains, which we would be exploring on our last day, weather permitting. Other new plants seen as we went downhill from here, were Chalk Milkwort *Polygala calcarea* in blue and white, Mountain Valerian *Valeriana montana*, Spring Vetchling *Lathyrus vernus*, Burnt-tip Orchid *Neotinea ustulata*, Broad-leaved Sermountain *Laserpitium latifolium* - just as impressive were the views of yet another Golden Eagle, this one being mobbed by Peregrine Falcons and then one of the falcons in turn being mobbed by Swifts.

Jansac our last spot of the day, a delightfully dishevelled hamlet. We walked to the top of the settlement, to its cemetery, opposite which stood the building where Wildlife Travel's first Vercors trip was housed, many years ago. On a little hummock further up Lizard Orchids were in full 'bloom' smelling... just smelling. The views north were spectacular as was 'Le Pique de Luc', Luc our driver today. Fire Bug *Pyrrhocoris aptera* was seen here with young, and also the moths Burnet Companion and White-spotted Sable. An intriguing conopid fly, or 'bee-grabber' *Sicus* sp. was found here. Alas, the mulberry tree produced only a handful of ripe fruit, no matter how many times we went round it.

Supper began appropriately enough with a Vercors Cheese Salad and ravioli croutons followed by Guinea fowl and polenta, finished with a divine chocolate mousse to end a full day on the Col. We then waited till 10pm and went out in search of glow-worms and fireflies on the Grenoble road. After much flashing around with torches and peering into nooks and crannies, we found two pairs of Central European Firefly *Lamprohiza splendidula* in their glimmering world; thankfully for us not hiding their lights under bushels.

### Day Four: 15<sup>th</sup> June. Cirque d'Archiane.

A threatening day today weather-wise. We took our chances and went for it. On leaving the bus a Golden Eagle was clearly seen skirting the impressive natural amphitheatre of limestone cliffs at Cirque d'Archiane. Winding our way to the hamlet of Archiane in a tentative sunlight, we stopped at a bank with a multitude of plants, among them: Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, European Stonecrop *Petrosedum ochroleucum*, Snapdragon *Antirrhinum majus* ssp. *latifolium*, and Clove-scented Broomrape *Orobancha caryophyllacea*). Moira saw a Marbled White, and there were also Heath and Provençal Fritillaries, Essex and Dingy Skippers, Meadow Brown, and both here and higher up, we'd see three Zygaenid moths: Transparent, Six-spot and Slender Scotch Burnet, Narrow Rose-banded Wave moth, and two Shieldbugs *Carpocoris pudicus* mating on Phil's arm. Atmospheric pressure felt very low: it was a sunny and oppressive morning. We popped into Archiane's Chapel, complete with confessional. One felt we should have confessed our culinary over-indulgence, but didn't because we knew we'd transgress tonight and every other night. Common Redstart was seen along the path above the hamlet and cicadas were stridulating away. On looking up towards the looming cliffs and pinnacles, some of us saw a flock of Griffon Vultures lazily gliding and soaring together with a Sparrowhawk. Carol found some small but striking Cut-leaved Selfheal *Prunella laciniata* and shortly after she, Christine and Mary spotted a new orchid: Late Spider Orchid *Ophrys fuciflora* and its many forms, here seemingly hybridising with Bee *Ophrys apifera* and possibly Woodcock *Ophrys scolopax* Orchids. In the cool shallows of the burbling stream we observed caddisfly larvae which were using the beech mast, collecting in the stream bed, for cases. Pinnate Coralroot *Cardamine heptaphylla* grew here in the shade with Narrow-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*. We forded the stream, some with greater success than others, and ambled down in the direction of the *buvette* for our wonderful picnic lunch.

In the fields alongside the track Fodder Burnet *Sanguisorba minor* ssp. *muricata* was seen growing and after spending an inordinate length of time following a very active blue butterfly, we agreed in the end that it was a Green-underside Blue. Lunch was had with clucking hens serenading us, as we enjoyed cool and

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

hot drinks with ice creams, all under the shade of a huge Ash tree and accompanied by umpteen cats. We marvelled at the quaint fridge and interior of the place. Wildlife Travel had been coming here since at least 2011 and it was good to see that the old *aubergiste* was still going strong, a little hard of hearing but strong. From here we headed for the stream once more and one last meadow. A Dipper was spotted by some, going upstream at a spot where a huge Round-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga rotundifolia* grew and on the bank, Sanicle *Sanicula europaea* was found in the shade. In the meadow Pyramidal, Fragrant, and Bee Orchids were seen with Clustered *Campanula glomerata* and Broad-leaved *Campanula rhomboidalis* Bellflowers. A Honey Buzzard flew high and before we hopped on the bus Dingy Skipper was about, and high against the Cirque d'Archiane, Moira and Claire had Golden Eagles. Skies darkened and we returned to home base. Yet back at base, some of us had a mite of vim and vigour left in us and decided to try the forest track above the hotel once again; others swam. Red Helleborine *Cephalanthera rubra* was not fully out yet, but Bee Orchid was. We noted Alpine Ibex hoof-prints on the wet mud, bank-side, then as the clouds darkened in the west and large drops of rain fell, we beat a hasty retreat, getting back *juste à temps*. Tonight's delectation comprised: *oeufs cocotte avec lard* (as in lardons) *et asparagus*, followed by *filet de truite à la Grenoboise, ruiz sauvage et printaniere de légumes*, and finishing with a *verrine crémeuse mascarpone au praliné fruits frais - et voilà!* A brief sortie in search of glow-worms and toads produce Tawny Owl and roding Woodcock.

### Day Five: 16<sup>th</sup> June. Le Claps, Marais des Boulignons, Châtillon-en-Diois.

A windy and grey to start the day gave way to brilliant sunshine later. This morning we headed to Le Claps, a site 2km south of Luc-en-Diois on the River Drôme. In 1442 a terrific thunderstorm combined with an earthquake to bring down a sizeable chunk of the mountain and a huge limestone outcrop, which blocked the river, inundating an area, forming a lake and diverting the course of the river. Over time the lake filled and in doing so, created the Marais des Boulignons. Crag Martins chased overhead and could be seen flying up to their nests in the almost sheer limestone cliff faces. Here we also had a good variety of birds including: Black Kite, Honey Buzzard, Kestrel, Raven, Firecrest, Black Redstart and Grey Wagtail. The Black Redstart was showing particularly well on a boulder with a blue sky backdrop. Roman Snails roamed the path.

It was very hot when we arrived at the Marais. Today was our dragonfly day and by the end of it we had admired six species: Western and Beautiful Demoiselle, Broad-bodied and Four-spotted Chasers, Large Red and Azure Damselflies, all seen in the river just outside the Marais and around a pond inside. We also had a White-spotted Black moth and the bee-fly *Bombylius cruciata*. Wall Lizards were around as we made our way past a Beaver's lodge and dam and onto a hillock which looked fairly insignificant but yielded plenty of plants and butterflies. There was a 'carpet' of Fragrant with a fair number of Short-spurred Fragrant Orchids - the strength of scent coming from the latter was intense when comparing the two. Interspersing these were clumps of Blue Grass Lily *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*, blue Narbonne Flax, yellow Hyssop-leaved St John's-wort *Hypericum hyssopifolium*, Bee and Lizard Orchids, Prostrate Canary Clover, Sainfoin, and Red Helleborine under the oaks. Swallowtails and Marbled Whites flip-flopped from plant to plant with the odd Mallow Skipper. We proceeded slowly along a path that took us above the Marais, which spread out below. Here we came across Smoke Tree *Cotinus coggygria*, an interesting birthwort *Aristolochia pistolochia* and Broad-leaved Helleborine, and we heard a Nutcracker calling. Down below Bonelli's Warbler rang out its call and when we got there we saw Bloody Cranesbill *Geranium sanguineum* and plenty of Common Twayblade and Common Spotted Orchid, with several Early Purple Orchids. We ate our lunch under Black Poplar *Populus nigra* and were grateful for the shade they provided and for the new benches installed over the last year.

We continued along the lower path and ventured into the dry marsh where Alan G located Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and many Lesser Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera bifolia*. Continuing past a pond which contained Marsh Frog, we progressed along a boardwalk into a wood and onto a meadow where we saw Dingy Skipper, Duke of Burgundy, Brimstone and Chalk Hill Blue butterflies. Further on another meadow, and here in the shade we came up against a very tall and stout orchid with shiny leaves. It had gone over but not sufficiently for it not to be identified as Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertianum*. A Willow Tit was heard where another orchid was growing, Late Spider Orchid *Ophrys fuciflora*. On our return we took a right turn before continuing and here we located good specimens of Violet Limodore,



## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

Burnt-tip Orchid, Military Orchid *Orchis militaris* and the lemon yellow flowers of Dragon's-teeth *Lotus maritimus*. We got back to the bus, grateful for shade, and whizzed off to the mediaeval town Châtillon-en-Diois for an ice cream, pressé, beer or coffee in the square, with Griffon Vultures soaring above. We explored the cobbled streets and strolled through the lanes of this lovely town. A fine end to a full and fine day.

### Day Six: 17<sup>th</sup> June. Vallon de Combeau (lower).

A fabulous morning, just right to hit the mid heights of Combeau. After taking photographs of a Pearly Heath butterfly on the hotel's honeysuckle on a stone pillar we were off and headed north on that Grenoble road. It wasn't long before we stopped at a scree. We admired and took pictures of the awe-inspiring Rocher de Combeau. Behind us we spied the pink-flowered Narrow-leaved Valerian on the scree slope, and then looking way up above it to the crests of the magnificent cliffs, we counted four sentinels - Griffon Vultures, sat gargoyle-like before they took off. Returning to our view of the Rocher, what should fly by and stop momentarily in front of us, but an Apollo butterfly at our feet on a hawkweed *Hieracium* sp., lit from behind by the morning sun. We moved on and stopped shortly after at a quarry which held French Sorrel *Rumex scutatus*, the frothy flowers of Rock Scurvy Grass *Kernera saxatilis*, the showy Mountain Cornflower *Centaurea montana*, with blue outer florets and violet inner ones, the low, tufted Fairy Foxglove *Erinus alpinus* and on the higher scree slope, under the pines, nuggets of deep blue - the flowers of Narrow-leaved Gentian *Gentiana angustifolia*, with green spotting down their throat. Narrow-leaved Helleborine thrived here, and then we saw another new orchid for the week, Spitzelli's Orchid *Orchis spitzellii* its flowers just beginning to die. The engaging Prostrate Toadflax *Linaria supina*, Cypress Spurge *Euphorbia cyparissias* and many other delights covered a grassy bank, on which one or two shrubs of the highly scented Alpine Mezereon *Daphne alpina* grew. The rambling Fly Honeysuckle *Lonicera xylosteum* was seen across the road.

And once again we moved. Higher but not much further, this time to a wet flush with much on show. The sun picked out the prominent pouched yellow lips which stood out from the reddish brown sepals and petals of Lady's Slipper Orchid, so many of them. These plants are very local and we were thrilled to have seen such numbers in one place. It wasn't just the Lady's Slipper Orchids that kept us enthralled - the roadside bank dribbled with water and there were insectivorous plants Large-flowered Butterwort *Pinguicula grandiflora*, more Military Orchids, Mountain Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis montana* and Yellow Gentian *Gentiana lutea* almost in flower; one held a Northern Wall Brown butterfly. Butterflies were on the wing but flying too quickly to allow convincing identification. We walked up a while then took the bus and slowly the sub-alpine meadows opened up ahead of us. Blue Meadow Clary, rose-pink Sainfoin, the strong orange-yellow shaggy petals of the wonderfully named Chamois Ragwort *Senecio doronicum*, Greater Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus major*, splashes of white with Star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum umbellatum*, the royal blue rampions and Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, all combining with tall fine grasses against the backdrop of pines and limestone cliffs. A sub-alpine landscape at its best.

Crossbills were seen near our destination, with Clouded Apollo and Orange-tip butterflies, and just round the corner the two forms of Elder-flowered Orchid *Dactylorhiza sambucina* were found with the leaves of Meadow Saffron *Colchicum autumnale*. Lyn found some Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* as we climbed the humpback hills towards our lunch spot, and more wild flowers came to us as we climbed: Basil Thyme *Clinopodium arvensis* and Cymbed Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella cymosa*, Fairy Foxglove, Round-headed Orchid *Traunsteinera globosa*, St Bernard's Lily *Anthericum liliago* and the tulip *Tulipa sylvestris* ssp. *australis*. Lunch couldn't have had a better view - straight down the Combeau valley as we sat among orchids and Clusius Gentian *Gentiana clusii*; a beech wood behind us. A large flock of Alpine Choughs could be heard and then were seen, and a Short-toed Eagle flew by, as did another Golden Eagle. Tree Pipits sang from pine tops and a Citril Finch was also seen.

After lunch we retraced our steps and walked down the hills and onto the road with full flower meadows on either side and on our right the Combeau stream flowed with Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris* on its banks and Globeflower *Trollius europaeus* erect stems bore yellow globose flowers, which shone like suns against the green vegetation and brown streambed. Aconite-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus aconitifolius* bloomed in the shade by the stream and across the valley the blue of the gentians, *Salvia* and Alpine

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

Milkwort *Polygala alpestris* was intense against the yellow-orange of ragwort and mouse-ear hawkweed. Towards the end of our stroll we came upon a single fat spike of Yellow Bellflower *Campanula thyrsoides* coming into bloom. Just before our comfort break at Gile's Gîte we found Frog orchid *Dactylorhiza viridis*, eight of them on a shady bank.

One last place was left for us to explore, situated on the way to Col de Menée, down a lengthy pot-hole track, under a beech wood. If needles and haystacks weren't going through the group's minds - swimming in hotel pools certainly were. The Mont Barral Gods must have been on our side, as the insignificant Coralroot Orchid *Corallorhiza trifida* was found after a thorough search. Herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia* was here, some with five leaves. And then home. Supper began with salad on a slate - a deliciously dressed rabbit terrine with green and yellow tomatoes, followed by trout risotto, and *iles flottante baie de cannellier* for *le dessert*.

### Day Seven: 18<sup>th</sup> June. Vallon de Combeau (upper), La Réserve Naturelle des Hauts-Plateaux du Vercors.

A sunshine day! Early morning birdwatchers were returning just as the sun was coming over the top of the valley and into sleepy Les Nonières. As we reached the lower Vallon de Combeau some of us headed for the farm track, others for the gully, both marked the start of our ascent to Upper Combeau. Those on the gully got round and up a rocky bluff with various ferns Brittle Bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis*, Holly-fern *Polystichum lonchitis* and Green Spleenwort *Asplenium viride*, continuing towards the top where Whorled Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum verticillatum* was found. Just as we approached the brow of the gully, gentians in sunshine indicated our arrival in alpine meadows and a display of soft pink flowers of Alpine Thrift *Armeria montana* with the odd clump of stiff leaved White False Helleborine *Veratrum album*. Lyn and Phil joined us and told us tales of Citril Finch feeding their young along the farm track. A rock outcrop possessed a mini-garden with Creeping Globularia *Globularia cordifolia*, delicate flowers on long stalks rising from encrusted basal rosettes of Encrusted Saxifrage, Mountain Milkwort *Polygala alpestris* and Spring Sandwort *Sabulina verna* among others. The grassy hillocks before the pines contained the two colours of countless Elder-flowered Orchids and the tiny Long-spurred Violet *Viola calcarata*, with its minute yellow eye.

We strolled along a gentle rise, at around 1,500m with the more gentle hills of La Bachasse to our right, comprising grassy areas and islands of Black and Scots Pines and on our left the grand eastern cliffs of the Vercors plateau still withholding snow patches in places beneath the Sommet de la Montagnette (1,972m). An outlier of rock and scree contained Hairy Rock-jasmine *Androsace villosa*, Cobweb Houseleek *Sempervivum arachnoideum*, Early Purple Orchid, and many Fragrant Orchid and saxifrage. Earlier we'd spotted Tufted Lousewort *Pedicularis gyroflexa*. As the track narrowed, gentians (mostly the larger-flowered, shorter-stemmed Clusius here) covered the rocky banks or else brought colour to pine shade. It was a hot and happy morning as we progressed in a north-easterly direction when suddenly we realised delicate tulips were at our feet and growing in good numbers in a hollow and under trees - *Tulipa sylvestris* ssp. *australis*, possibly at their most delicately beautiful when their six yolk-yellow petals, edged copper brown, were opening on drooping heads. As one might expect many of the plants we saw on our walk to the end of the Vallée had Alpine to their names: Alpine Avens *Geum montanum*), Alpine Bistort *Bistorta vivipara* and Alpine Plantain *Plantago alpina*. It was Christine who first laid eyes on Spring Gentian *Gentiana verna* and its inch-high blue propellers, and Moira who first spotted a Black Kite; Ring Ouzels were heard and Skylarks were seen. A large flock of mixed Choughs (Red-billed and Alpine), some feeding on the grassy knolls, with others flying and calling.

The path opened out onto a plain with large and small sink holes, and Frog Orchid, Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, the alien like Moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* and Hairy Rock-jasmine (in its two flower colours), pools of yellow Globeflower and some more tulips. There was one other species whose name was called out as 'Mountain Raven'; some in the group looked up into the sky while others looked down. The latter found it - Mountain Avens *Dryas octopetala*. It was here that we had fleeting glimpses of Marmot, so we sat and waited, and nothing happened. We were amused though by the distinctly odd calls coming from the Alpine Chough. A bit further on, Pheasant's Eye *Narcissus poeticus* were seen with their swept back petals in the breeze. Our lunch spot had been reached.



## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

We were looking NNE out to the French Alps (and Écrins National Park) covered in snow, a breath-taking landscape and perhaps none more magnificent than Mont Aiguille standing at 2,085m in front of us looking more like a Neotropical tepui than a pre-Alps peak. Here, we took lunch and relaxed - a Vercors panorama at its best and great visibility. Grand Veymont (2,341m), the highest peak in the Massif du Vercors, but not the highest in the Vercors Regional Natural Park was visible in the far distance. We were at 1,714m at the Pas de l'Essaure, below us Chichilianne. A Honey Buzzard flew low, beautifully patterned, as we finished another delightful picnic. We continued a little further north and on a grassy hill found more Moonwort, Frog Orchids and a new orchid; the tiny red-black flowered, vanilla-scented Black Vanilla Orchid *Gymnadenia nigra*. Also here, Garland Flower *Daphne cneorum* and Alpine Aster *Aster alpinus* in full flower. Griffon Vultures were on the move, drifting up, as we wound down the valley; stopping to look at some Marmot burrows that we spotted on the way up. It wasn't long before we were observing eight or nine of them, with young, grooming themselves either at the burrow entrance or beyond, and we managed to get excellent views of these timid mammals.

Other new plants on the way down including, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* in flower and Crosswort *Cruciata laevipes*. Then, just before walking down the farm track two Golden Eagles, an adult and possibly a three year-old in front of the Vercors plateaux cliffs. Serge was waiting for us at 16.30, perfect timing. An absolutely wonderful day. In fact, 'pretty marvellous!' as someone might have said. After a pictorial review of the week on the bar TV, supper beckoned one last time.

### Day Eight: 19<sup>th</sup> June. Valence and return to London.

Cases down, we said our goodbyes and Mary gave thanks beautifully in French, on our behalf, to Sylvie and her staff for their friendly hospitality and excellent meals. We picked up our picnic bags one last time, filled our bottles, took our photos and boarded the bus with Serge, leaving at 07.30 for Valence TGV station. On the way we saw, Black Kites, Bee-eaters and would you believe, a Golden Eagle. At Valence we said our *adieux* to Mary who was on her way to Strasbourg and we made our way to Platform 4.

**Charlie Rugeroni**

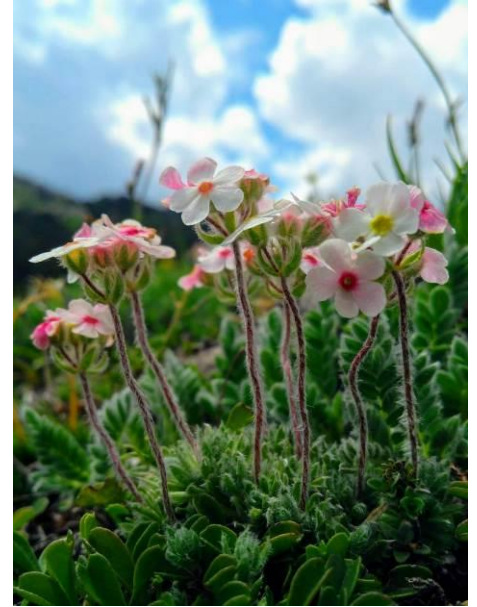
**Wildlife Travel, September 2019.**



Above: alpine meadow



## Vecors 2019



Top: Apollo; Hairy Rock-jasmine *Androsace villosa* (PS). Bottom: Moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* (PS); Silver-studded Blue and Small Blue (PS); Narbonne Flax *Linum narbonense*.



## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019



Top: Clusius's Gentian *Gentiana clusii*; Coralroot Orchid *Corallorhiza trifida*. Bottom: Pearly Heath (PS); the group in Vallon de Combeau; Common Wall Lizard.

## Species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Notes
<b>FERNS</b>										
<b>Aspleniaceae (Spleenwort Family)</b>										
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback Fern		x							
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue		x							
<i>Asplenium viride</i>	Green Spleenwort							x		
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder Fern							x		
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	Limestone Fern							x		
<b>Equisetaceae (Horsetail Family)</b>										
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail		x							
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great Horsetail						x			
<b>Dryopteridaceae (Wood Fern Family)</b>										
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	Holly Fern							x		
<b>Ophioglossaceae (Adder's-tongue Family)</b>										
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort							x		
<b>Polypodiaceae (Polypody Family)</b>										
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> agg.	Polypody							x		
<b>CONIFERS</b>										
<b>Cupressaceae (Cypress Family)</b>										
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper		x			x		x		
<i>Juniperus communis</i> ssp. <i>nana</i>	Dwarf Juniper						x			
<b>Pinaceae (Pine Family)</b>										
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine		x					x		
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine							x		
<b>ANGIOSPERMS: DICOTYLEDONS</b>										
<b>Anacardiaceae (Sumac Family)</b>										
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Tree					x				
<b>Adoxaceae (Moschatel Family)</b>										
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder							x		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		x				x	x		
<b>Amaranthaceae (Amaranth Family)</b>										
<i>Blitum bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry							x		
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen							x		
<b>Apiaceae (Carrot Family)</b>										
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica									
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley		x							
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo			x						
<i>Laserpitium gallicum</i>	Sermountain		x	x						
<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Sermountain		x							
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignel						x	x		
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet Cicely						x			
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	White Laceflower			x						
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle				x		x	x		
<i>Siler montanum</i> (= <i>Laserpitium siler</i> )	a sermountain			x			x			
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Spreading Hedge-parsley		x							
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-parsley		x							
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort			x						
<b>Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)</b>										
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort			x	x	x	x			
<b>Araliaceae (Ginseng Family)</b>										
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy		x			x				

# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Notes
<b>Aristolochiaceae (Birthwort Family)</b>										
<i>Aristolochia pistolochia</i>	a birthwort					x				
<b>Asteraceae (Daisy Family)</b>										
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		x			x				
<i>Adenostyles alliariae</i>	Adenostyles						x	x		
<i>Antennaria campestris</i>	Alpine Catsfoot							x		
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting						x			
<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Field Wormwood		x							
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Alpine Aster							x		
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		x		x		x	x		
<i>Bupthalmum salicifolium</i>	Yellow Ox-eye		x				x	x		
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved Carlina Thistle		x							
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Common Carlina Thistle		x							
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Cupidone		x			x				
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed		x			x				
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Perennial Cornflower						x			
<i>Centaurea pectinata</i>	a knapweed					x				The 'Ena Sharples' thistle
<i>Crepis albida</i>	Pyrenean Hawk's-beard									
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Common Crupina			x						
<i>Hieracium</i> agg.	hawkweed		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Homogyne alpina</i>	Purple Colt's-foot							x		
<i>Hypochoeris maculata</i>	Spotted Cat's-ear		x							
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	Blue Lettuce			x		x				
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Petasites albus</i>	White Butterbur					x				
<i>Pilosella cymosa</i>	Cymbel Mouse-ear hawkweed						x	x		
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed									
<i>Prenanthes purpurea</i>	Purple Lettuce		x	x		x	x			
<i>Senecio doronicum</i>	Chamois Ragwort						x	x		
<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	Saw-wort					x				Leaves Marais de Rochebriane
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle		x	x	x	x	x	x		widespread
<i>Tanacetum corymbosum</i>	a tansy			x						
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard		x				x			
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot		x	x		x	x	x		
<b>Betulaceae (Birch Family)</b>										
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		x				x	x		
<b>Boraginaceae (Borage Family)</b>										
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage			x						Jansac
<i>Cerithe minor</i>	Lesser Honeywort						x			
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue						x	x		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss		x							
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Alpine Forget-me-not						x			
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not		x				x			
<i>Pulmonaria angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Lungwort									
<i>Pulmonaria montana</i>	Mountain Lungwort							x		
<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>	a comfrey					x				
<b>Brassicaceae (Cabbage Family)</b>										
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft		x							On rock passed Lady Orchid
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard				x		x			

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

[illegible]



# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Notes
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed		x							
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Southern Bindweed			x						
<i>Cuscuta ephthymum</i>	Dodder						x	x		
<b>Cornaceae (Dogwood Family)</b>										
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry		x							
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<b>Crassulaceae (Stonecrop Family)</b>										
<i>Petrosedum ochroleucum</i> (= <i>Sedum ochroleucum</i> )	European Stonecrop				x					
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop		x							
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop		x							
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	Cobweb Houseleek							x		
<b>Ericaceae (Heath Family)</b>										
<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>	Green-flowered Wintergreen		x		x					
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Bog Bilberry		x							
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry							x		
<b>Euphorbiaceae (Spurge Family)</b>										
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge						x	x		
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury			x						Jansac
<b>Fabaceae (Pea Family)</b>										
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	Mountain Kidney Vetch		x				x	x		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch		x				x			
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	Montpellier Milk-vetch									
<i>Coronilla minima</i>	a scorpion vetch		x							
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	a scorpion vetch					x				Marais de Rochebriane, on hill.
<i>Cytisophyllum sessilifolium</i> (= <i>Cytisus sessilifolius</i> )	Stalkless-leaved Broom		x				x			
<i>Cytisus nigricans</i> (= <i>Lembotropis nigricans</i> )	Black Broom		x							
<i>Genista cinerea</i>	a broom		x							
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch		x				x			
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i> (= <i>Coronilla emerus</i> )	Scorpion Senna		x							
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum		x							Les Nonières, top of track
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling						x			Marais de Rochebriane, on hill.
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Pea			x						
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil		x				x			
<i>Lotus dorycnium</i> (= <i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i> )	Prostrate Canary Clover		x			x				
<i>Lotus maritimus</i> (= <i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i> )	Dragon's-teeth					x				
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil				x					
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed Melilot						x			
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin		x				x	x		
<i>Ononis fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Restharrow		x			x	x			
<i>Securigera varia</i>	Crown Vetch		x				x			
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom			x			x			
<i>Trifolium alpestre</i>	Alpine Zigzag Clover		x							
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover						x			
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>	Mountain Clover		x				x	x		



## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

[illegible]

# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Notes
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry									
<i>Morus nigra</i>	Black Mulberry			x						
<b>Oleaceae (Olive Family)</b>										
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash		x							
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash		x					x		
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet		x							
<b>Onagraceae (Willowherb Family)</b>										
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb		x	x	x	x	x			
<b>Orobanchaceae (Broomrape Family)</b>										
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat		x				x			
<i>Melampyrum velebicum</i>	a cow-wheat		x							By stream, Les Nonières
<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape			x	x					
<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Clove-scented Broomrape				x					
<i>Orobanche gracilis</i>	Slender Broomrape		x			x				
<i>Pedicularis gyroflexa</i>	Tufted Lousewort						x	x		
<i>Rhinanthus alectorolophus</i>	Greater Yellow Rattle		x				x	x		
<i>Rhinanthus major</i>	Greater Yellow Rattle		x				x	x		
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle		x		x					
<b>Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)</b>										
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine		x							
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy					x				
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy		x							
<b>Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)</b>										
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i> ssp. <i>latifolium</i>	Snapdragon		x		x					
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax				x					
<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	Large Yellow Foxglove				x					
<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Small Yellow Foxglove				x					
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove						x	x		
<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>	Creeping Globularia		x				x			
<i>Globularia punctata</i>	Common Globeflower		x			x	x	x		
<i>Linaria repens</i>	Striped Toadflax						x			
<i>Linaria supina</i>	Prostrate Toadflax						x			
<i>Plantago alpina</i>	Alpine Plantain						x	x		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great Plantain		x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Plantago maritima</i> ssp. <i>serpentina</i>	Fleshy Plantain					x				
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell				x		x			
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell		x							
<b>Plumbaginaceae (Leadwort Family)</b>										
<i>Armeria alpina</i>	Alpine Thrift							x		
<b>Polygalaceae (Milkwort Family)</b>										
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Mountain Milkwort		x		x		x	x		
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk Milkwort		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<b>Polygonaceae (Dock Family)</b>										
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i> (= <i>Persicaria vivipara</i> )	Alpine Bistort						x	x		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel			x			x			
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel						x	x		
<b>Primulaceae (Primrose Family)</b>										
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Hairy Rock-jasmine							x		
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel		x	x	x	x	x	x		

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

[illegible]

# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Notes
<i>Populus nigra</i> ssp. <i>betulifolia</i>	Black Poplar					x				
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen					x				
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow		x	x	x	x	x			
<b>Santalaceae (inc Santalaceae) Sandalwood Family)</b>										
<i>Thesium alpinum</i>	Alpine Bastard Toadflax							x		
<i>Thesium divaricatum</i>	Bastard Toadflax						x			
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe		x				x			
<b>Sapindaceae (Soapberry Family)</b>										
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple		x		x	x				
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier Maple			x						
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		x							
<b>Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)</b>										
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage			x			x	x		
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	Encrusted Saxifrage						x	x		
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Saxifrage				x		x			
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage						x			
<b>Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)</b>										
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort		x			x	x	x		
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein						x			
<i>Verbascum lychnitis</i>	White Mullein				x					
<b>Thymelaeaceae (Daphne Family)</b>										
<i>Daphne alpina</i>	Alpine Mezereon						x	x		
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Garland Flower							x		
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	Mezereon							x		
<b>Tilaceae (Lime Family)</b>										
<i>Tilia x europaea</i> (= <i>Tilia x vulgaris</i> )	Common Lime					x				
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime		x							
<b>Urticaceae (Nettle Family)</b>										
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall		x		x					
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle		x	x	x	x	x			
<b>Viburnaceae (Viburnum Family)</b>										
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree					x				
<b>Violaceae (Violet Family)</b>										
<i>Viola calcarata</i>	Long-spurred Violet							x		
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy						x			
<b>ANGIOSPERMS: MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>										
<b>Amoryllidaceae (Amaryllis Family)</b>										
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's-eye						x	x		
<b>Asparagaceae (Asparagus Family)</b>										
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St Bernard's Lily		x	x	x		x	x		
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue Grass Lily		x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley			x			x			
<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>	Dipcadi/Brown Bluebell			x						
<i>Leopoldia comosa</i> (= <i>Muscari comosum</i> )	Tassel Hyacinth		x			x				
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem						x	x		
<i>Paradisea liliastrium</i>	St Bruno's Lily						x	x		
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Angular Solomon's-seal		x	x						
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	Whorled Solomon's-seal						x			
<b>Colchicaceae (Colchicum Family)</b>										
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron						x			
<b>Liliaceae (Lily Family)</b>										
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily			x			x	x		

# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Notes
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> spp. <i>australis</i>	Wild Tulip							x		
<b>Melanthiaceae ( Trillium Family)</b>										
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb-Paris						x			
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False Helleborine						x	x		
<b>Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)</b>										
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid		x	x	x					
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine		x	x	x		x			
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red Helleborine		x		x	x				
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Coralroot Orchid						x			
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Lady's Slipper Orchid		x				x			
<i>Dactylorhiza viridis</i> (= <i>Coeloglossum viride</i> )	Frog Orchid						x	x		
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid		x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	Early Marsh Orchid					x				
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid						x	x		
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine					x				
<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	Marsh Helleborine					x				
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid		x	x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Gymnadenia nigra</i> (= <i>Nigritella nigra</i> )	Black Vanilla Orchid							x		
<i>Gymnadenia odoratissima</i>	Short-spurred Fragrant Orchid					x				
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid		x	x	x	x				
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid					x				
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore		x			x				
<i>Neotinea ustulata</i> (= <i>Orchis ustulata</i> )	Burnt-tip Orchid			x	x	x	x	x		
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid		x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Neottia ovata</i> (= <i>Listera ovata</i> )	Common Twayblade		x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid		x		x	x				
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i>	Late Spider Orchid				x	x				
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid		x	x			x			
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid					x				
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid		x		x					
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid		x	x	x		x	x		
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid					x	x			
<i>Orchis pallens</i>	Pale-flowered Orchid									
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid		x	x	x	x	x			
<i>Orchis spitzelli</i>	Spitzelli's Orchid						x			
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid		x	x	x	x				
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid					x				
<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>	Round-headed Orchid						x	x		
<b>Poaceae (Grass Family)</b>										
<i>Achnatherum calamagrostis</i> (= <i>Stipa calamagrostis</i> )	a feather grass					x				Marais de Rochebriane hill, under oaks
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater Quaking Grass				x		x			
<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Cottongrass					x				

# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>BIRDS</b>									
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)</b>									
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								
<b>Family Ardeidae (Herons)</b>									
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	x							
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>									
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)</b>									
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				x	x	x		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					x		x	x
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		x		x	x	x		
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				x	x	x		
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				x	x		x	
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons)</b>									
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					x			
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		x	x					
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails)</b>									
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					x			
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>									
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	x							
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			x	x				
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					H	x		
<b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>									
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>									
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>								
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>			H	H				
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>									
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		x		x		x	x	
<b>Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</b>									
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								x
<b>Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>									
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			H					
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			H		x	H		
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			H					
<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>									
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>							x	
<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)</b>									
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		x		x	x			
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x			x				
<b>Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)</b>									
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>						x	x	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			x			x	x	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				H	x		x	
<b>Family Cinclidae (Dipper)</b>									
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>					x	H	x	
<b>Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)</b>									
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H	H		H		
<b>Family Prunellidae (Accentors)</b>									
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			H				H	

# Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Family Turdidae (Thrushes)</b>									
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				H	H	H	H	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>							x	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		H	H	x	x	H	H	
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>							H	
<b>Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)</b>									
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	H	x	H	x	H	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			x	x	x	x	x	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	
<b>Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)</b>									
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				H			H	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		x	H	H	H	H	H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						x		
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			H					
<b>Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</b>									
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		x	H	H	X	H	H	
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		x	x	H	H	H	H	
<b>Family Regulidae (Crests)</b>									
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			H	H	X	H	H	
<b>Family Paridae (Tits)</b>									
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				x	x	x	x	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			H	x		x	x	
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		x				x		
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		x	x			H		
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		x			x			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		x	H	H	X	X	H	
<b>Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)</b>									
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H					
<b>Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)</b>									
Common Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			H			H		
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows)</b>									
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		x		x	x			
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>					H			
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>							x	
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>						x	x	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>				x	H	x	H	
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		x	x	x	x	x		
<b>Family Passeridae (Sparrows)</b>									
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches)</b>									
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			x	x	x	x	x	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>							x	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			x		x	x	x	
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				H				
Citrl Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>					H	x	x	
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		x	x	x	x		x	
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>						H		
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>							x	
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i>			x	x		x	x	
<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>									
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			x				x	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						x	H	



## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>MAMMALS</b>									
Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmot</i>					x		x	
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	x	x	x					
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							x	

<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>									
Midwife Toad	<i>Alytes obstetricans</i>						X? tad pole s		
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>								
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>					x			

<b>REPTILES</b>									
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>			x					
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		x		x	x			
Trout sp.					x	x			

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>LEPIDOPTERA - Butterflies</b>									
<b>Family Hesperidae (Skippers)</b>									
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>						x	x	
Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>				x				
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		x		x	x	x	x	
Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>		x						
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>				x	x			
Safflower Skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>			x					
Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>		x						
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		x		x	x			
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>				x	x			
<b>Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails)</b>									
Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>						x		
Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>						x	x	
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		x		x	x		x	
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		x	x	x	x	x		
<b>Family Pieridae (Whites)</b>									
Eastern/Wood White	<i>Leptidea duponchelis/sinapis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		x				x	x	
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crateagi</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		x	x		x	x	x	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		x						
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			x			x		
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>						x		
Berger's/Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacarensis/hyale</i>		x		x	x	x	x	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		x	x	x	x	x		
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>				x				
<b>Family Riodinidae (Metalmarks)</b>									
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		x	x	x	x			
<b>Family Lycaenidae (Blues, coppers and hairstreaks)</b>									
Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>						x		
Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium pruni</i>			x					
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		x				x	x	
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glacopsyche alexis</i>				x	x			
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		x		x				
Escher's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus escheri</i>			x					
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				x	x			
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		x				x		
Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>						x	x	
Chalk Hill Blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>		x			x			
<b>Family Nymphalidae (Vanessids, fritillaries and browns)</b>									
Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>				x				
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>				x				
Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>								
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>		x						
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>								
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		x						
Provençal Fritillary	<i>Mellicta deione</i>				x				
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		x					x	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>						x	x	
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>							x	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>						x		
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		x	x					
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			x		x			
Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>						x		
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>		x	x		x			
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			x					
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>			x	x	x	x		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		x	x	x	x	x		
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		x		x		x	x	
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>				x	x			
<b>LEPIDOPTERA - Moths</b>									
Mother Shipton Moth	<i>Euclidia mi</i>							x	
Small Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>							x	
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>				x				
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>				x				
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>							x	
Speckled Yellow Moth	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>				x				
White-spotted Black Moth	<i>Eurrhysis pollinalis</i>					x			
Narrow Rose-banded Wave Moth	<i>Rhodostrophia calabra</i>				x				
Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>				x				
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendula</i>				x				
Slender Scotch Burnet	<i>Zygaena loti</i>				x				

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES</b>									
<b>COLEOPTERA - Beetles</b>									
Central European Firefly	<i>Lamprohiza splendidula</i>			x					
Mediterranean Chafer	<i>Oxythrea funesta</i>		x						
Bee Chafer	<i>Trichius gallicus</i>			x					
Black-headed Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i>				x				
Longhorn Beetle	<i>Monachamus sutor</i>						x		
<b>DIPTERA -Flies</b>									

## Vercors, species list and trip report, 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
a hoverfly	<i>Volucella</i> sp					x			
a conopid fly	<i>Secus</i> sp.				x				
A Bee-fly	<i>Bombylius cruciatus</i>					x			
Marmalade Hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>				x				
<b>EPEHEMEROPTERA - mayflies, PLECOPTERA - Stoneflies, RAPHIDIOPTERA - snakeflies</b>									
Mayflies sp			x	x		x			
Snakefly sp.							x		
Stoneflies sp			x		x	x			
<b>HEMIPTERA - True Bugs</b>									
Cicada sp					x	x			
Firebug	<i>Pyrrhocoris aptera</i>			x					
Shieldbug	<i>Carpocoris pudicus</i>				x				
Striped Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma lineatum</i>								
<b>HYENOPTERA - Ants, Bees, Sawflies and Wasps</b>									
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>		x	x	x				
<b>NEUROPTERA - Net-winged Insects</b>									
an ascalaphid	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>		x	x	x	x	x		
<b>ODONATA - Dragonflies and Damselflies</b>									
Western Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx xanthosoma</i>					x			
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calypteryx virgo</i>					x			
Common Winter Damselfly	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>					x			
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>					x			
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>					x			
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>					x			
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>					x			
Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>								
Green-eyed Hooktail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>								
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum stiolatum</i>								
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>					x			
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>								
<b>ORTHOPTERA - Grasshoppers and Allies</b>									
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>			x	x	x			
<b>GASTROPODA - Slugs, Snails</b>									
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>				x				



Above: Mont Aiguille (PS)