Corsica - The Scented Isle

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 17 May 2009







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Day 1

Sunday 10th May

We arrived mid-afternoon in a rather windy Bastia. We headed south down the busy coast road before turning inland through the maquis-covered hills. Our first stop was in Ponte Leccia for a drink and leg stretch and to admire the architecture of the old bridge. Moving on westwards, we were soon passing through dramatic scenery of the Santa Regina Gorge. Unfolding views of lofty jagged peaks followed and after climbing the seemingly endless twisting road through the pine forest, we arrived at Col Verghio. We had been particularly fortunate in timing our arrival, as a scan of the hillside revealed two Mouflon, silhouetted against the skyline. Evisa was visible far below and it was not long before we were settled in to our hotel and enjoying dinner. Most of us wandered a little way up the road, after our meal, and were rewarded with glimpses of a Nightjar, feeding in the light of the streetlamps.

Day 2

Monday 11th May

Early risers managed to locate their first Wryneck and Corsican Nuthatch, in the ancient Chestnut forest above the village. After breakfast, a leisurely stroll down the long main street of Evisa brought us to the start of our day's walk down the Spelunca Gorge. The path descended steeply through mature maquis under a canopy of Tree Heather, Erica arborea and Strawberry Tree, Arbutus unedo, where botanical highlights included Cyclamen repandum, the delicate endemic Snowflake, Leucojum longifolium and the beautiful, scented white blooms of the Illyrian Sea Daffodil, Pancratium illyricum. Lunch was enjoyed by the impressive Genoese Zaglia Bridge, before we continued along the gentler path to the road. We finished the afternoon relaxing and enjoying the view from the lovely village of Ota, before returning by minibus to Evisa.

Day 3

Tuesday 12th May

We spent the morning walking in the Forest of Aitone, above the village. New plants here, in wet areas in the forest, included the strong-smelling Corsican Mint, *Mentha requinii*, Willow Gentian, *Gentiana asclepiadea*, and Herb Paris, *Paris quadrifolia*, but the Corsican Nuthatch, which regularly breed here, were nowhere to be seen.

After lunchtime entertainment from some over-friendly pigs on the Col de Sevi, we enjoyed good views of Golden Eagle and Blue Rock Thrush, before driving down to the mouth of the Liamone River on the coast. It was very hot but the birding was good and we added, among others, Avocet, Audouin's Gull and European Beeeater. The nearby water-meadows had impressive colonies of Tongue Orchid, *Serapias lingua*, and many Laxflowered Orchids, *Orchis laxiflora*. Down on the beach, a colourful coastal flora included Yellow Horned-poppy, *Glaucium flavum*, Three-horned Stock, *Matthiola tricuspidata*, and Sea Bindweed, *Calystegia* soldanella. We rounded off the afternoon with drinks and ice-creams before, reluctantly, returning to Evisa.

Day 4

Wednesday 13th May

We left Evisa after breakfast and returned to Col Verghio to explore the mountain slopes above the ski station. A few *Crocus corsicus* were still flowering among the rocks and the silver-leaved *Helichrysum frigidum* sheltered in crevices in the granite. We paused to take in the splendid views from Calacuccia, before finding a spot for lunch in the dramatic setting of the Santa Regina Gorge. Memorable plants in the gorge included the endemics, *Genista corsica*, and the white Thrift, *Armeria leucocephala*. Moving on, a careful search in an area of maquis close to the railway located a number of orchids, including Green-winged Orchid, *Orchis morio*, Provence Orchid, *Orchis provincialis* and the dark *Ophrys incubacea*. Overhead we were fortunate to see Lammergeier, three Golden Eagle and four migrating Honey Buzzard, while Dartford and Sardinian Warbler flitted in the scrub. Time allowed a short visit to Corte, before our final leg of the journey to our hotel below Venaco, on the banks of the Vecchio River.

Day 5

Thursday 14th May

With the weather looking promising, we headed off up the Restonica Valley behind Corte. As the forest thinned out, dramatic granite peaks came into view, still with remnants of the winter snows. It was exciting to find the white flowers of the endemic Pasque Flower, *Pulsatilla alpina* subsp. *cyrnea*, reflecting the lateness of the spring. From the car park our walk followed a varied and entertaining route to Lac de Melo, punctuated by thousands of delicately-striped *Crocus corsicus*. Some of the group chose to remain below but the rest of us enjoyed a picnic lunch on the shore of the lake which was still almost completely covered in ice. Water Pipit, Alpine Accentor and Alpine Chough were added to our list, the latter sharing our leftovers, only a few feet away. On our descent, further highlights included the pale-flowered Corsican Butterwort, *Pinguicula corsica* and a much photographed Corsican Fire Salamander. After refreshments at the cafe, we returned down the valley, stopping briefly to explore some of the magnificent Corsican Pine forest.

Day 6

Friday 15th May

The morning was spent walking in the Verghello Valley, above the dramatic Eiffel railway bridge. The Heart-Flowered Orchid, *Serapias cordigera*, was plentiful here and we found several Violet Bird's Nest Orchids, *Limodorum abortivum*. Hoopoe and Wryneck were seen and a good selection of warblers.

Moving on to the top of the valley, we explored different habitats under the Corsican Pines, before finding an idyllic picnic spot to enjoy the day's selection of delicious local cheeses. *Cyclamen repandum* was abundant with masses of Corsican Helleborus argutifolius and the delicate onion, *Allium pendulinum*.

In the afternoon we moved south, to the high Col de Vizzavona, to experience the cathedral-like beech forest, and finally for some relaxation at Vizzavona Station, the highest point of Corsica's unique railway. We were delighted when two trains arrived, one consisting of brand new rolling stock.

Day 7

Saturday 16th May

After breakfast we walked a short distance along the road to the bridge, where Dippers were in evidence on the river. Several orchids were photographed, including Bug Orchid, *Orchis coriophora* subsp. *fragrans*. After another visit to Corte for essential supplies we set off up the Tavignano Valley. Again it was sunny and hot and the walk proved quite arduous for some. Nevertheless, we had good views of several pairs of Marmora's Warbler in the open scrubby hillsides. After lunch in the shade of the first Pine trees we encountered, the more energetic members of the party continued a little way up the valley, before we all reassembled at the minibuses for the return journey.

Day 8

Sunday 17th May

Our flight was not until early afternoon, so we had an opportunity to make the most of our journey. Beyond Corte we visited an orchid-rich meadow near Soveria, finding Bee Orchid, *Ophrys apifera*, Lady Orchid, *Orchis purpurea* and Man Orchid, *Aceras anthropophorum*, among others. South of Bastia Airport, we stopped at the church an Early-Christian archaeological site at La Canonica where we watched a party of feeding Bee-eaters and found Olivaceous Warbler and Red-backed Shrike in adjacent farmland. The coastal dunes were ablaze with yellow *Halimium halimifolium* and we made a short stop to explore this new habitat, before moving on tour final stop at the Biguglia Lagoon for lunch. Three Greater Flamingo and a couple of Great Crested Grebe were our last highlights, before we made the short drive to the airport.

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Systematic list of plants noted

The term, 'endemic', is applied to taxa restricted to Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, adjacent parts of Italy or the Balearic Islands. For ease of reference, plant families are listed in alphabetic order.

PTERIDOPHYTA	FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

Adiantaceae Maidenhair Fern Family

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern Wet rocks. Spelunca

Aspidiaceae

Dryopteris felix-mas Male Fern Occasional in forests

Aspleniaceae Spleenwort Family

Asplenium onopterisAcute-leaved SpleenwortShaded rocksAsplenium ruta-murariaWall RueSanta Regina GorgeAsplenium septentrionaleForked SpleenwortSanta Regina GorgeAsplenium trichomanesMaidenhair SpleenwortOccasional, on rocks

Ceterach officinarum Rustyback Fern Santa Regina Gorge

Athyriaceae Athyrium Family

Cystopteris fragilis Brittle Bladder-fern Mountain rocks

Blechnaceae Blechnum Family

Blechnum spicant Hard Fern Foret d'Aitone

Cryptogrammaceae

Cryptogramma crispa Parsley Fern Mountain screes

Denstaedtiaceae Bracken Family

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken Common

Hemionitidaceae

Anogramma leptophylla Jersey Fern Occasional. Shady banks

Osmundaceae Osmunda Family

Osmunda regalis Royal Fern By rivers. Spelunca and

Vecchio

Polypodiaceae Polypody Family

Polypodium cambricum Southern Polypody Occasional, on rocks

Selaginellaceae Lesser Clubmoss Family

Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Selaginella Damp areas

GYMNOSPERMAE CONIFERS

CupressaceaeCypress FamilyCupressus sempervirensItalian Cypress

Cupressus sempervirens Italian Cypress Planted

Juniperus communis subsp. Common Juniper (form) Common in mountains

alpina

Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. Prickly Juniper Coastal

macrocarpa

Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. Prickly Juniper Common in maquis

oxycedrus

Acer obtusatum

Juniperus phoenicea Phoenician Juniper Common in maquis

Pinaceae Pine Family

Abies alba Silver Fir Foret d'Aitone.

Vizzavona

Pinus halepensisAleppo PinePlantedPinus nigra subsp. laricioCorsican PineEndemic

Pinus pineaUmbrella PinePlanted near coastsPinus pinasterMaritime PineRestonica and VerghelloPseudotsuga menziesiiDouglas FirPlanted. Foret d'Aitone

ANGIOSPERMAE FLOWERING PLANTS

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae Maple Family

Acer monspessulanum Montpelier Maple Santa Regina Gorge

Rocky places

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore Restonica

Aizoaceae Dew Plant Family

Carpobrotus acinaciformis Red Hottentot Fig Coast. Alien

Anacardiaceae Pistacio Family

Pistacia lentiscusMastic TreeFrequent in maquisPistacia terebinthusTurpentine treeCommon in maquis

Apocyanaceae Periwinkle Family

Nerium oleander Oleander By streams in maquis

Vinca difformis Intermediate Periwinkle Evisa cemetary

Aquifoliaceae Holly Family

Ilex aquifolium Holly Foret d'Aitone

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Ivy Widespread

Asclepiadaceae Milkweed Family

Gomphocarpus fruticosus Bristle-fruited Silkweed Occasional. Alien

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Swallow-wort Verghello

Berberidaceae Barberry Family

Berberis aetnensis A Barberry Mountains. Endemic

Betulaceae Birch Family

Betula pendula Silver Birch Forests to treeline

Alnus cordata Italian Alder Frequent. Endemic

Alnus glutinosa Common Alder Frequent

Alnus alnobetula subsp. Sub-alpine. Restonica

suaveolens Endemic

Boraginaceae Borage Family

Anchusa arvensisBuglossWaste groundBorago officinalisBorageWaste groundCynoglossum creticumBlue Hound's TongueWaste ground

Echium plantagineum Purple Viper's Bugloss Roadsides
Heliotropium europaeum Heliotrope Occasional. Waste ground

Buxaceae Box Family

Buxus sempervirens Box Spelunca

CampanulaceaeBellflower FamilyJasione montanaSheep's-bitMountain rocks

Phyteuma serratum Mountain rocks. Endemic

Cannabaceae Hemp Family

Humulus lupulus Hop Thickets

Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family

Lonicera etrusca Etruscan Honeysuckle Occasional

Lonicera implexa
Sambcus ebulus Dwarf Elder Occasional

Viburnum tinus Laurustinus Occasional in maquis

Caryophyllaceae Pink Family

Arenaria balearica Balearic Sandwort Walls. Vizzavona

Cerastium boissierianum A Cerastium Mountains

Dianthus sylvestris subsp. Santa Regina Gorge.

godronianus Endemic

Petrorhagia saxifraga subsp. Rocky places. Endemic gasparrinii

Petrorhagia velutina Kohlrauschia Rocky places

Paronychia argentea Sandy and waste places

Paronychia polygonifolia Mountains
Sagina apetala Common Pearlwort Waste ground

Sagina apetala Common Pearlwort Waste ground Silene alba White Campion Occasional

Silene sericea Sand dunes Endemic

Silene vulgarisBladder CampionOccasionalSpergularia rubraSand-spurreyLiamone estuaryStellaria mediaCommon ChickweedWidespread

Cistaceae Rock-rose Family

Cistus creticus
Cistus monspeliensis
Narrow-leaved Cistus
Cistus salvifolius
Sage-leaved Cistus
Common in maquis
Common in maquis
Common in maquis
Common in maquis

Halimium halimifoliumCoastal maquis. BigugliaTuberaria guttataSpotted Rock-roseFrequent in maquis

Tuberaria lignosa Occasional in maquis

Compositae Daisy Family

Achillea millefolium Yarrow Widespread

Anthemis maritimus Coastal dunes. Biguglia

Bellis annuaAnnual DaisyOccasionalBellis perennisCommon DaisyFrequentBellis sylvestrisSouthern DaisyFrequent

Bellium bellidioides Frequent. Endemic

Calendula arvensis Field Marigold Waste ground

Carlina corymbosa Flat-topped Carline Thistle Dry areas

Centaurea sphaerocephala Coastal dunes. Biguglia

Dittrichia viscosa Waste ground

Doronicum corsicum Streamsides. Restonica

Galactites tomentosa Galactites Waste places

Helichrysum frigidum Mountains. Endemic

Helichrysum italicum

Rocky places

Mycelis muralis

Wall Lettuce

Frequent

Mycelis muralisWall LettuceFrequentOtanthus maritimusCottonweedCoasts

Pallenis spinosa Rocky places. Frequent

Phagnalon saxatile Dry rocky areas

Prenanthes purpurea Purple Lettuce Occasional. Damp shade Ptilostemon casabonae Open maquis. Endemic

Rhagadiolus stellatus Star Hawkbit Occasional

Robertia taraxacoides Mountain rocks. Endemic

Santolina corsica Corsican Lavender Cotton Tavignano

Senecio leucanthemifolius Coasts

Senecio vulgaris Common Groundsel Waste places

Solidago virgaurea Goldenrod Rocky places. Verghello

Tragopogon porrifolius Salsify Waste places

Xanthium spinosum Spiny Cocklebur Biguglia beach. Alien

Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family

Calystegia sepiumLarger BindweedCoastal thicketsCalystegia soldanellaSea BindweedLiamone beachConvolvulus arvensisField BindweedOccasionalConvolvulus altheoidesMallow-leaved BindweedRoadsidesCuscuta epithimumDodderOccasional

Cornaceae Dogwood Family

Cornus sanguinea Dogwood Occasional. Damp places

Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family

Sedum album White stonecrop Rocky places

Sedum brevifoliumMountain rocks. EndemicSedum caeruleumLowland, exposed rocks.

Endemic Rocks and walls Sedum dasyphyllum Thick-leaved Stonecrop Sedum rupestre Large Rock Stonecrop Rocky places Umbilicus rupestris Navelwort Rocks and walls Cruciferae **Cress Family** *Arabis alpina* subsp. Alpine Rockcress Vizzavona station caucasica Arabis verna Rocky places Spring Rockcress Rocks and shady cliffs Barbarea rupicola Endemic Cakile maritima Sea Rocket Coasts Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's Purse Widespread Cardamine hirsuta Hairy Bitter-cress Widespread Woad Roadsides Isatis tinctoria Mountains. Endemic Lepidium hirtum subsp. oxyotum Occasional Lunaria annua Honesty Maresia nana Maresia Sand dunes Sea Stock Coastal Matthiola sinuata Three-horned Stock Coastal Matthiola tricuspidata Sea Radish Raphanus raphanistrum Liamone estuary subsp. maritima White Mustard Sinapsis alba Waste ground Charlock Waste ground Sinapsis arvensis Cucurbitaceae **Cucumber Family** Ecballium elaterium Squirting Cucumber Coasts Dipsacaceae **Teasel Family** Dipsacus fullonum Teasel Casual Ericaceae **Heath Family** Arbutus unedo Strawberry Tree Maquis Tree Heath Erica arborea Maquis **Spurge Family Euphorbiaceae** Euphorbia amygdaloides Wood Spurge Forest Widespread in maquis Euphorbia characias Euphorbia dendroides Coastal cliffs. Porto Tree Spurge **Dwarf Spurge** Euphorbia exigua Santa Regina Gorge Sun Spurge Waste ground Euphorbia helioscopia Euphorbia hybernea subsp. Forest clearings Irish Spurge Endemic insularis Euphorbia pithyusa subsp. Coast pithyusa

FagaceaeBeech FamilyCastanea sativaSweet Chestnut

Castanea sativa Sweet Chestnut Widely planted Fagus sylvatica Beech Forests to tree-line

Quercus ilexHolm OakCommon in maquisQuercus pubescensDowny OakOccasionalQuercus suberCork OakLowland maquis

Fumariaceae Fumitory Family

Fumaria capreolata White Ramping Fumitory Widespread

Gentianaceae Gentian Family

Blackstonia perfoliata Yellow-wort Open places in maquis

Gentiana asclepiadea Willow Gentian Foret d'Aitone

Geraniaceae Geranium Family

Erodium chium subsp. Rocky places near the sea

littoreum
Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill Roadsides

Geranium columbianum Long-stalked Crane's-bill Occasional Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Occasional Geranium lucidum Shining Crane's-bill Spelunca Geranium molle Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Rocky places Little Robin Shaded rocks Geranium purpureum Geranium pusillum Small-leaved Crane's-bill Rocky places Geranium robertianum Herb Robert Widespread

Juglandaceae Walnut Family

Juglans regia Walnut Frequently planted

Labiatae Mint Family

Calamintha nepetaLesser CalamintWaste places, EvisaLavandula stoechasFrench LavenderRocky places in maquisMentha requieniiCorsican MintDamp places. EndemicMentha spicataSpear MintDamp places

Mentha spicataSpear MintDamp placesRosmarinus officinalisRosemaryHot rocky placesStachys corsicaFrequent. EndemicStachys glutinosaRocky places. EndemicTeucrium marumRocky places. Endemic

Teucrium scorodonia Wood Sage Widespread in forests
Thymus herba-barona Mountains. Endemic

Leguminosae Pea Family

Anthyllis hermanniae Common in maquis

Anthyllis tetraphylla Bladder Vetch Occasional Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. Mediterranean Kidney Vetch Rocky places

praepropera

Calycotome spinosaThorny BroomFrequent. MaquisCalicotome villosaHairy Thorny BroomCommon. MaquisCeratonia siliquaCarobOccasional. Maquis

Cercis siliquastrumJudas TreePlantedDorycnium hirsutumDorycniumVerghello

Genista corsica Open maquis

Genista salzmannii var. Mountains. Endemic

lobelioides

Genista salzmannii var. Lower altitudes than var.

salzmannii lobeloides. Endemic

Genista tinctoriaDyer's GreenweedVerghelloHippocrepis unisiliquosaA Horseshoe VetchVerghelloLathyrus aphacaYellow VetchlingOccasionalLathyrus clymenumWaste places

Lathyrus sphaericus Widespread

Lotus corniculatus Common Bird's-Foot Trefoil Common Lotus cytisoides Sandy coasts

Lupinus angustifolius Narrow-leaved Lupin Occasional. maquis

Medicago arabicaSpotted MedickWidespreadMedicago lupulinaBlack MedickWidespreadMedicago orbicularisLarge Disc MedickWaste placesMedicago marinaSea MedickCoasts

Medicago marinaSea MedickCoastsMelilotus indicusSmall MelilotBiguglia

Ononis variegata Sand dunes. Liamone

Ornithopus compressus Compressed Bird's-Foot Rocky places Orange Bird's-Foot Ornithopus pinnatus Rocky places Pisum sativum subsp. elatius Wild Pea Restonica Psoralea bituminosa Pitch Trefoil Common Planted. Alien Robinia pseudacacia False Acacia Scorpiurus muricatus Scorpiurus Waste places Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Roadsides

Teline monspessulana Teline Common. Spelunca

Trifolium fragiferum Strawberry Clover Widespread Trifolium pratense Red Clover Waste places Trifolium repens White Clover Common Widespread Trifolium stellatum Star Clover Trifolium tomentosum Wooly Trefoil Waste places Vicia benghalensis Widespread

Vicia craccaTufted VetchWidespreadVicia hirsutaHairy TareWaste placesVicia lathyroidesSpring VetchWidespreadVicia luteaYellow VetchCoastal

Vicia sativaCommon VetchWaste placesVicia villosaFodder VetchWaste places

Lentibulariaceae Bladderwort Family

Pinguicula corsica A Butterwort Wet areas. Restonica. Endemic

Linaceae Flax Family

Linum bienne Pale Flax Occasional

Lythraceae Loosestrife Family

Lythrum hyssopifolia Grass-poly Water-meadows. Liamone

Lythrum salicaria Purple Loosestrife Liamone estuary

Loranthaceae Mistletoe Family

austriacum

Viscum album subsp. Mistletoe Common on Pine

Malvaceae Mallow Family

Malva neglecta Small-flowered Mallow Waste places

Modiola caroliniana Water-meadows. Liamone

Alien

Moraceae Mulberry Family

Ficus carica Fig Frequent in maquis

Myrtaceae Myrtle Family

Myrtus communis Myrtle Frequent in maquis

Oleaceae Ash Family

Olea europaea Olive Frequent in maquis

Fraxinus ornus Manna Ash Below Evisa

Fraxinus ornusManna AshBelow EvisaPhillyrea angustifoliaFrequent in maquisPhillyrea latifoliaFrequent in maquis

Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family

Orobanche ramosa Branched Broomrape Occasional

Oxalidaceae Wood-sorrel Family

Oxalis articulataPink OxalisAlien. Garden escapeOxalis corniculataProcumbent Yellow SorrelWidespread alien weedOxalis pes-capraeBermuda ButtercupCultivated places. Alien

Papaveraceae Poppy Family

Glaucium flavum Yellow Horned-poppy Coasts

Papaver rhoeas Red Poppy Fields and waste places

Phytolaccaceae Pokeweed Family

Phytolacca acinos Pokeweed Fields and waste places.

Alien

PlantaginaceaePlantain FamilyPlantago afraRocky places. Common

Plantago coronopus Buck's-horn Plantain Coastal

Plantago lanceolataRibwort PlantainWaste groundPlantago majorGreater PlantainWaste ground

Plantago sarda var. sarda Sub-alpine pasture. Endemic

Platanaceae Plane Tree Family

Platanus x hispanica London Plane Planted

Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family

Armeria leucocephala Santa Regina Gorge. Endemic

Enge

Mountains. Endemic Armeria multiceps Santa Regina Gorge Plumbago europaea European Plumbago **Dock Family** Polygonaceae Polygonum maritimum Sea Knotgrass Liamone Beach Rumex acetosella Sheep's Sorrel Widespread Rocky places Rumex bucephalophorus Clustered Dock Rumex conglomeratus Damp places Curled Dock Rumex crispus Liamone estuary Primulaceae **Primula Family** Anagallis arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel Occasional Asterolinon linum-stellatum Asterolinon Occasional Cyclamen hederifolium Ivy-leaved Sowbread Locally common Cyclamen repandum Spring Sowbread Locally common Rafflesiaceae **Rafflesia Family** Cytinus hypocistis Cytinus Flowers yellow. Parasitic on white-flowered Cistus Cytinus ruber Flowers white. Parasitic on pink-flowered Cistus Ranunculaceae **Buttercup Family** Restonica, Foret d'Aitone Aquilegia dumeticola Endemic Fragrant Clematis Maquis Clematis flammula Clematis vitalba Traveller's Joy Trees and hedges Helleborus argutifolius Corsican Hellebore Endemic Lesser Celandine Foret d'Aitone Ranunculus ficaria Ranunculus bulbosus **Bulbous Buttercup** Frequent Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup Frequent Water-meadows. Liamone Ranunculus scleratus Celery-leaved Crowfoot Resedaceae **Mignonette Family** Reseda alba White Mignonette Waste places Sesamoides clusii Mountains. Col de Vergio Rosaceae **Rose Family** Crategus monogyna Hawthorn Restonica Fragaria vesca Wild Strawberry Widespread Potentilla erecta **Tormentil** Mountain pasture Potentilla crassinervia Rocks. Lac de Melo. Endemic Wild Cherry Occasional Prunus avium

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Occasional

Occasional. Maquis

Blackthorn

Almond-leaved Pear

Prunus spinosa

Pyrus amygdaliformis

Dog Rose Frequent Rosa canina Occasional Rosa sempervirens

Rosa serafinii Col de Vergio. Rosa tomentosa Downy Rose Occasional Bramble Rubus ulmifolius Common Salad Burnet

Restonica. Endemic *Sorbus aucuparia* subsp. Rowan

praemorsa

Sangisorba minor

Rubiaceae **Bedstraw Family**

Cruciata laevipes Crosswort Occasional Gallium mollugo Hedge Bedstraw Hedges Galium odoratum Woodruff Spelunca Galium rotundifolium Spelunca Rubia peregrina Wild Madder Spelunca Sherardia arvensis Occasional Field Madder

Rutaceae **Rue Family**

Ruta chalepensis Fringed Rue Rocky places.

Salicaceae Willow Family

White Poplar Populus alba Near water, Liamone

Santalaceae Sandalwood Family

Osyris alba **Osyris** Maquis. Red berries in

autumn

Common

Saxifragaceae **Saxifrage Family**

Shaded cliffs at low Saxifraga corsica

altitude. Endemic Shaded mountain rocks.

subsp. cervicornis Endemic

Saxifraga rotundifolia Round-leaved Saxifrage Verghello valley

Scrophulariaceae **Figwort Family**

Saxifraga pedemontana

Cymbalaria aequitriloba Damp shade. Spelunca.

Endemic

Foxglove Widespread. Endemic Digitalis purpurea var.

variety gyspergerae

Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax Waste places Weasel Snout Misopates orontium Occasional

Parentucellia latifolia Rocky places

Paretucellia viscosa Yellow Bartsia Water-meadow. Liamone

Waste ground Scrophularia peregrina Nettle-leaved Figwort Roadsides Verbascum nigrum Black Mullein Verbascum sinuatum Roadsides

Veronica chamaedrys Germander Speedwell Occasional Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell Walls Veronica cymbalaria

Solanaceae **Potato Family**

Shrub Tobacco Casual alien Nicotiana glauca

Tamaricaceae Tamarisk Family

Tamarix gallica Local. Liamone

Tamarix africana Coasts

Thymelaceae Daphne Family

Daphne gnidium Widespread in maquis

Tiliaceae Lime Family

Tilia platyphyllos Broad-leaved Lime Planted

Umbelliferae Carrot Family

Crithmum maritimum Rock Samphire Coastal rocks. Galeria

Daucus carotaWild CarrotOccasionalEchinospora spinosaEchinosporaCoastal sandsEryngium maritimumSea HollyCoastal dunesFoeniculum vulgareFennelWidespread

Ferula communis Giant Fennel Santa Regina Gorge
Oenanthe fistulosa Tubular Water Dropwort Water-meadows. Liamone

Pseudorlaya maritima Pseudorlaya Coastal dunes

Sanicula europaea Sanicle Shaded maquis and forest

Scandix pecten-veneris Shepherd's Needle Waste places

Smyrnium olusatrum Alexanders Damp dunes. Liamone

Tordylium apulum Tordylium Coastal

Urticaceae Nettle Family

Parietaria judaica Pellitory of the Wall Walls and rocks

Urtica atrovirensA NettleEndemicUrtica dioicaCommon NettleWidespread

Violaceae Violet Family

Viola biflora Frequent in mountains
Viola kitaibeliana Dwarf Pansy Rocky places. Frequent

Viola reichenbachianaWood Dog VioletFrequentViola rivinianaCommon Dog VioletFrequentViola corsicaRestonica

Vitaceae Vine Family

Vitis vinifera Grape Vine Frequent in maquis

Zygophyllaceae Caltrop Family

Tribulus terrestris Maltese Cross Waste places

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Agavaceae Agave Family

Agave americana Century Plant Planted

Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family

Leucojum longifoliumSpelunca. EndemicNarcissus tazettaPolyanthus NarcissusWater-meadows. Liamone

Pancratium illyricum Illyrian Sea daffodil Maquis. Locally abundant. Endemic

Sea Daffodil Sand dunes Pancratium maritimum

Araceae **Arum Family**

Friar's Cowl Arisarum vulgare Spelunca

Cyperaceae **Sedge Family**

Carex pendula Pendulous Sedge Foret d'Aitone

Dioscoreaceae Yam Family

Tamus communis Black Bryony Maquis

Graminae **Grass Family**

Ammophila arenaria Marram Grass Sand dunes **Sweet Vernal Grass** Anthoxanthum odoratum Occasional Arundo donax Giant Reed Widespread Wild Oat Roadsides Avena fatua Briza minor Lesser Quaking Grass Frequent Desmazenia rigida Fern-grass Coastal sands Elymus farctus Sand dunes Wall Barley Roadsides Hordeum murinum

Lagurus ovatus Hare's Tail Dry places, coastal dunes

Mountain Melick Melica nutans **Forests** Mat Grass **Mountains** Nardus stricta

Phragmites australis Common Reed Liamone estuary

Iridaceae **Iris Family** *Iris pseudacorus* Yellow Flag

Crocus corsicus Widespread. Endemic

Romulea columnae Sand Crocus Sand dunes

Juncaceae **Rush Family**

Juncus maritimus Behind dunes. Biguglia

Foret d'Aitone Southern Wood-rush Luzula forsteri

Liliaceae **Lily Family**

Allium pendulinum Open forest. Verghello,

Restonica.

Liamone

Three-cornered Leek Damp banks Allium triquetrum Allium ursinum Wild Garlic Foret d'Aitone Common Asphodel Asphodelus aestivus Common

Maquis at low altitude Asparagus acutifolius Maquis at low altitude Asparagus albus

Brimeura fastigiata Spelunca. Col de Vergio. Endemic Brimeura

Colchicum neapolitanum Verghello. Leaves only

Gagea soleirolii A Yellow Star of Bethlehem Col de Vergio, Restonica

Muscari comosum Tassle Hyacinth Occasional Narcissus tazetta Polyanthus Daffodil Liamone

Wet areas in mountains. Endemic Narthecium reverchonii

Herb Paris Foret d'Aitone Paris quadrifolia Polygonatum odoratum Angular Solomon's-seal Foret d'Aitone Ruscus aculeatus Butcher's Broom Spelunca

Common Smilax Smilax aspera Common in maquis Urginia maritima Sea Squill Dry rocky areas Orchidaceae **Orchid Family** Aceras anthropophorum Man Orchid Soveria Narrow-leaved Helleborine Cephalanthera longifolia Verghello Dactylorhiza sambucina Elder-flowered Orchid Restonica Dactylorhiza saccifera Verghello Epipactis helleborine Broad-leaved Helleborine Soveria Violet Bird's Nest Orchid Limodorum abortivum Verghello Neotinia maculata Dense-flowered Orchid Spelunca Bee Orchid Soveria Ophrys apifera **Bumble Bee Orchid** Ophrys bomyliflora Uncommon. Maquis Ophrys fusca Sombre Bee Orchid Occasional. Maquis Ophrys incubacea Dark Ophrys Occasional. Maquis Orchis lactea Milky Orchid Occasional. Maquis Orchis laxiflora Lax-flowered Orchid Water-meadows. Liamone Orchis morio Green-winged Orchid Occasional. Maquis Orchis papilionacea Pink Butterfly Orchid Locally common. Maquis Provence Orchid Orchis provincialis Occasional. Maquis Orchis purpurea Lady Orchid Soveria Spelunca. Verghello Lesser Butterfly Orchid Platanthera bifolia Heart-flowered Orchid Verghello Serapias cordigera Serapias lingua Tongue Orchid Water-meadows. Liamone Serapias vomeracea Long-lipped Serapias Occasional Posidoniaceae **Posidonia Family** Posidonia oceanica Posidonia Sub-marine

Typhaceae Bulrush Family

Typha latifolia Greater Reedmace Liamone estuary

Birds

Little Grebe – Tachybaptus ruficollis 1 at Liamone estuary

Great Crested Grebe – Podiceps cristatus 2 on Biguglia lagoon

Little Egret – Egretta garzetta 7 at Liamone estuary

GreyHeron – Ardea cinerea 1 at Liamone estuary

Greater Flamingo – *Phoenicopterus ruber* 3 on Biguglia lagoon

Mallard – *Anus platyrhynchos* Singles on both coasts

Lammergeier – *Gypaetus barbatus* 1 seen on 13/5

Golden Eagle – *Aquila chrysetos* Seen on several days

Red Kite – *Milvus milvus*Singles seen daily in the lowlands

Black Kite – *Milvus migrans* 2 seen on 10/5 and 1 on 17/5

Common Buzzard – *Buteo buteo* Several occasionally on several days

European Honey Buzzard – *Pernis apivorus* 4 seen on 13/5

Eurasian Sparrowhawk – *Accipiter nisus* Singles on 12/5 and 16/5

Northern Goshawk – Accipiter gentilis Single on 16/5

Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus* Seen most days

Peregrine Falcon – Falco peregrinus 2 seen on 13/5 and1 on 16/5

Red-legged Partridge – *Alectoris rufa* Seen near Venaco

Common Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus* Singles on coasts

Eurasian Coot – *Fulica atra* 6 on Biguglia lagoon

Avocet – *Recurvirostra avosetta* Flock of 9 at Liamone estuary

Common Ringed Plover – *Charadrius hiaticula* 4 on Liamone estuary

Common Sandpiper – *Actitis hypoleucos* 1 on Liamone estuary

Audouin's Gull – *Larus audouinii* 3 on Liamone estuary

Yellow-legged Gull – *Larus cachinnans michahellis* Large numbers on coasts

Wood Pigeon – *Columba palumbus* Singles, most days in lowlands

Feral Pigeon / Rock Dove – *Columba livia* Seen daily

Common Wood Pigeon – *Columba palumbus* Seen most days

Eurasian Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocto* Seen most days in lowlands

European Turtle Dove – *Steptopelia turtur* Singles seen rarely

Common Cuckoo – *Cuculus canorus* Heard and seen regularly

Scops Owl – *Otus scops* Heard nightly

European Nightjar – *Caprimulgus europaeus* 1 seen on 10/5

Common Swift – *Apus apus* Many seen on several days

Pallid Swift – *Apus pallidus* Seen daily

Alpine Swift – *Apus melba* 2 seen over Col Vizzavona

Eurasian Hoopoe – *Upupa epops* Seen on 15/5 and 17/5

European Bee-eater – *Merops apiaster* Occasional and 10 at La Canonica

Great-spotted Woodpecker – *Dendrocopus major* Seen, regularly, in early morning near both hotels

Eurasian Wryneck – *Jynx torquilla* Heard each morning in Evisa and once near Vecchio river

Skylark – *Alauda arvensis* Singles on 14/5 and15/5

Wood Lark – *Lullula arborea* Small numbers most days

Eurasian Crag Martin – *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Common in rocky valleys

Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica* Occasional singles and 10+ near east coast

Common House Martin – *Delichon urbica* Seen daily with flock of 400+ over Col Vizzavona

Tawny Pipit – *Anthus campestris* Singles on12/5 and17/5

White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba* Singles seen on 3 days

Grey Wagtail – *Motacilla cinerea* Singles seen on most days

Winter Wren – *Troglodytes troglodytes* Seen or heard on most days

White-throated Dipper – *Cinclus cinclus* Seen on Vecchio river, near hotel

Alpine Accentor – *Prunella modularis* 1 seen at Lac de Melo European Robin – *Erithacus rubecula* Occasional most days

Common Nightingale – Luscinia megarhynchos Heard most days

Common Stonechat – *Saxicola torquata* Up to 4 seen on several days

Blue Rock Thrush – *Monticola solitarius* Seen occasionally

Mistle Thrush – *Turdus viscivorus* 2 seen in Verghello valley

Common Blackbird – *Turdus merula* Seen daily

Subalpine Warbler – *Sylvia cantilans* Single on 4/5 and 8/5

Blackcap – *Sylvia atricapilla* Seen most days

Sardinian Warbler – *Sylvia melanocephala* Seen most days

Subalpine Warbler – *Sylvia cantillans* Seen occasionally

Dartford Warbler – *Sylvia undata* Singles seen on 13/5, 14/5 and 15/5

Marmora's Warbler – *Sylvia sarda* 3 pairs in Tavignano valley

Zitting Cisticola – *Cisticola juncidis* 2 heard on 17/5

Cetti's Warbler – *Cettia cetti* Several heard in coastal reeds

European Reed Warbler – Acrocephalus scirpaceus 1 seen at Liamone estuary

Olivaceous Warbler – *Hippolais pallida* 1 in farmland at La Canonica

Chiffchaff – *Phylloscopus colybita* 3 heard on 12/5

Goldcrest – Regulus regulus Frequent in pine forest

Firecrest – Regulus ignicapillus Heard most days in forest

Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata* Seen most days

Blue Tit – *Parus caeruleus* Daily in small numbers

Great Tit – *Parus maj*Daily in small numbers

Coal Tit – *Parus ater* Daily in small numbers

Long-tailed Tit – *Aegithalos caudatus* Foret d'Aitone and Verghello valley

Corsican Nuthatch – *Sitta whiteheadii* Seen on early morning walks in Evisa

Eurasian Treecreeper – *Certhia familiaris* Singles seenon5 days

Red-backed Shrike – *Lanius collurio* Singles on 14/5 and17/5

Woodchat Shrike – *Lanius senator* 1 seen at roadside on 16/5

Magpie – *Pica pica* 1 seen on 13/5

Eurasian Jay – *Garrulus glandarius* Seen daily

Alpine Chough – *Pyrrhocorax graculus* Several at Lac de Melo

Hooded Crow – *Corvus corone cornix* Seen daily, at low altitudes

Carrion Crow – *Corvus corone corone* Seen occasionally

Common Raven – *Corvus corax* Seen on most days

Spotless Starling – *Sturnus unicolor* Occasional and flock of 30 around archaeological site on 17/5

House (Italian) Sparrow – Passer domesticus (italiae) Seen daily near habitation, often in large numbers

Chaffinch – Fringilla coelebs Common, seen daily

Common Linnet – *Acanthis canabina* 1 seen on12/5

European Goldfinch – *Carduelis carduelis* Small flocks daily

European Greenfinch – *Carduelis chloris* Small numbers seen on most days

Corsican Citril Finch – *Serinus citrinella corsicanus* Seen daily in small numbers

European Serin – Serinus serinus Seen or heard daily in small numbers

Common Crossbill – *Loxia curvirostra* Seen on 4 days in the forests

Cirl Bunting – *Emberiza cirlus* Seen daily in small numbers

Corn Bunting – *Miliaria calandra* 6 seen on 12/5 and 3 on 17/5

Mammals

Weasel Mustela nivalis
Mouflon Ovis orientalis

Reptiles

Bedriaga's Rock Lizard
Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard
Italian Wall Lizard
Moorish Gecko
Western Whip Snake

Archaealacerta bedriagae
Podarchis tiliguerta
Podarchis sicula
Tarentola mauritanica
Coluber viridiflavus

Amphibians

Corsican Fire Salamander Salamandra corsica Italian Pool Frog Rana bergeri Tyrrhenian Tree Frog Hyla sarda

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail
Corsican Swallowtail
Wood White
Large White
Small White
Pieris prassicae
Small White
Pieris napi

Papilio hospiton
Leptidea sinapsis
Pieris prassicae
Pieris rapae
Pieris napi

Orange Tip Anthocharis cardamines

Clouded Yellow Colias crocea Green Hairstreak Callophris rubi Small Copper Lycaena phlaeus Holly Blue Celastrina argiolus Glaucopsyche alexis Green-underside Blue Baton Blue Pseudophilotes baton Brown Argus Aricia agestis Common Blue Polyommatus icarus Southern White Admiral Limenitis reducta Large Tortoiseshell Nymphalis polychloros

Peacock Inahis io

Red Admiral
Painted Lady
Speckled Wood
Wall Brown
Corsican Heath
Coenonympha pamphilus
Canada Vanessa atalanta
Cynthia cardui
Pararge aegaria aegaria
Lasiommata megera
Coenonymhpa corinna
Coenonympha pamphilus

Meadow Brown Maniola jurtina

Moths

Giant Peacock Moth Saturnia pyri

Pine Processionary Moth Thaumetopoea pitocampa

Cream Spot Tiger Arctia villica

Hummingbird Hawkmoth Macroglossum stellatarum

Poplar Hawkmoth

Spurge Hawkmoth

Privet Hawkmoth

Peach Blossom

Laothoe populi

Hyles euphorbiae

Sphinx ligustri

Thyatira batis

Small Emerald Hemistola chrysoprasaria

Other Insects

Egyptian Grasshopper Anacridium aegyptium Violet Carpenter Bee Xylocopa violacea