# **Spain – Spring Flowers of Western** Andalucía

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 - 27 March 2018







Ophrys bombyliflora

Report & photos by Paul Harmes



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Tour Participants: Paul Harmes (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

### Day 1

# **Tuesday 20th March**

Fly London to Malaga – Transfer to Ronda

Two tour group members arrived at Malaga Airport on the Easyjet flight, EZY8605, from Gatwick North Terminal, and two group members arrived from Bristol on Easyjet flight, EZY6051. Two further group members arrived from Sweden and the final two had been in Spain for a couple of days. Upon our collective arrival, we made our way to our vehicle, in the multi-storey car park.

We left Malaga airport, a north-easterly direction, on the main Seville Road, and turned north on the A357, the Malaga to Campillos road. We continued north-west, passing the 'white village' of Ardales on our left, and on to the junction with the A367, the Ronda road. Overhead, Barn Swallow and House Martin were seen. We stopped for a late lunch at the El Meson de Diego. After eating, we continued south-west on the A367, we passed through Cuevas del Becerro, before reaching the outskirts of Ronda. Along the way we had a quite heavy sleet, which settled for a very short time. At Ronda, we joined the A374, Seville road south-west for about eight kilometres to our final destination, the Hotel Cortijo Las Piletas, our accommodation for the week. We were met by Elisenda, our host, who quickly settled us into our rooms.

At 7.30pm we met up for drinks, and Paul outlined some of the activities we would be undertaking during our stay, before we went into dinner.

### Day 2

# Wednesday 21st March

Villaluenga del Rosario – Sierra del Pinar – Gargante Verde

After a superb breakfast, we met in the hotel car park, where we recorded a large number of Griffon Vultures and a Short-toed Snake Eagle, as well as Serin. Setting off, we drove towards village of Grazalema, turning south on the road to Ubrique, pausing at our first stop just before the town of Villaluenga del Rosario. Along the way we saw a number of Corn Buntings. Here we explored a scrubby roadside field, finding Romulea bulbocodium (a Sand Crocus), Narcissus bulbocodium (Hoop-petticoat Daffodil), the leaves of Carduus cardunculus (Cardoon) and the very common Ulex parviflora (Small-flowered Gorse). On the cliffs above us, Red-billed Chough could be heard calling.

Retracing our steps, we drove back towards Grazalema, making a second stop on a verge by some rough pasture. Here we saw a fine display of *Narcissus flavus*, which was spread across the fields and along the roadside

We now made our way through Grazalema, and onwards, a short distance from the town, to the car park at the start of our walk in the Sierra del Pinar. Along the way we added Black Redstart, which flew across in front of the vehicle. Leaving the car park, we began to make our way up through *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine), *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine) forest, mixed with *Quercus* species (Oaks). *Daphne gnidium* (Mediterranean Daphne), the leaves of *Ptilostemon hispanicum* (Spanish Thistle), *Bupleurum spinosum*, *Bellis sylvestris* (Southern Daisy) and emerging *Teucrium polium* agg (Felty Germander) were seen, as we made our way up to a Saddle, just below Cerro de San

Christobel. The views in all directions were spectacular, as was one of the few remaining native colonies of *Abies pinsapo* (Spanish Fir), which could be clearly seen from our vantage point. In addition, we also found, *Berberis hispanicus* (Spanish Barberry) and *Draba hispanica* (Spanish Whitlow-grass). Birds included Black Redstart, Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit and clear views of Crested Tit

After our picnic lunch, we drove over the 'Puerto de las Palomas' (Pass of the Doves), and began the descent towards Zahara, stopping at the car park at the 'Gargana Verde'. Here, we saw *Ophrys fusca* subsp. *fusca* (Sombre Bee Orchid), *Myrtis communis* (Myrtle), *Ophrys tenthredinifera* (Sawfly Orchid), *Narcissus assoanus* (Rush-leaved Jonquil), Ceratonia siliqua (Carob) and *Fritillaria lusitanica* (Portuguese Fritillary). Sardinian Warbler, Griffon Vulture and Black Redstart and Blackcap were also seen.

The penultimate stop for the day was on a roadside by an arable margin, just below the town of Zahara. Here we found Echallium elaterium (Squirting Cucumber), Ophrys hombyliflora (Bumblebee Orchid), Mandragoria autumnalis (Mandrake), Cynoglossum clandestinum (a Hound's-tongue) Scrophularia sambucifolia (Elder-leaved Figwort) and Calendula suffruticosa (a Marigold). We made our final stop of the day at a very rough grazing field, by the turning to Las Mezas. Here we found Himantoglossum robertianum (Giant Orchid), Ophrys omegaifera (Omega Orchid) and Aristolochia paucinervis (a Birthwort).

From here, we set off back towards our hotel, in time to go out to dinner at the Hostal venta la Vega.

### Day 3

# **Thursday 22nd March**

### El Burgo - Ardales - El Chorro

Today we travelled in the opposite direction, towards Ronda and taking the road towards the village of El Burgo. Our first stop was to the east of the 'Puerto del Viento' (Pass of the Wind). Here, we stopped to look at *Iris planifolia* (Broad-leaved Iris). Fortunately, there were still quite a few plants in flower. Some adjacent rocks had *Hornungia petraea* (Hutchinsia), *Viola demetria* and several clumps of the endemic *Biscutella frutescens* (Perennial Buckler Mustard), and some *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn) bushes had been infested with *Viscum cruciatum* (Redberried Mistletoe). Griffon Vulture was seen, and Red-billed Chough was heard.

Our next stop of the morning was at the Mirador del Guarda Forestal. Here the plants kept the group busy for some time, and included *Hyacinthoides hispanicus* (Spanish Bluebell), *Microthlaspi perfoliata* (Perfoliate Pennycress), *Erodium primulaceum* (a Stork's-bill), the leaves of *Phlomis purpurea* (Purple Phlomis), *Clematis cirrhosa* (Maidens Bower) and *Geranium purpureum* (Little Robin). Birds here included Blue Rock Thrush, Blackbird, Peregrine Falcon, Blue Tit, Crossbill and Black Redstart.

Continuing on to El Burgo, we made good time, before turning right and on towards Ardales. Along the way we saw Barn Swallow and Goldfinch. In Ardales, we noted *Nicotiana glauca* (Shrub Tobacco) on some waste ground and *Hyoscyamus albus* (White Henbane) on a wall.

We now took the road along the eastern shore of the Embalse del Conde de Guadalhorce lake, to our main objective, the 'Mirador de las Embalsas', where three reservoirs meet. Here we parked and began an exploration of the *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine) woodland, while Paul prepared our picnic. We found *Cistus albidus* (Grey-

leaved Cistus), Narcissus cantabricus (White Hoop-petticoat Daffodil), the Fumitory-like Rupicapnos africana, Chaenorhinum villosum, Anthyllis cystoides (Shrub Kidney Vetch). Birds here included Great Tit, Rock Bunting, Common Chaffinch and a pair of Crested Tit.

After our picnic lunch, we explored further afield, adding *Echium albicans* (a pink Viper's-bugloss), *Ranunculus spicatus* subsp. *blepharicarpos* (Rock Buttercup), *Fritillaria lusitanica* (Portuguese Fritillary), *Ophrys speculum* (Mirror Orchid), *Ophrys tenthredinifera* (Sawfly Orchid), *Muscari neglectum* (Grape Hyacinth), *Orchis anthropophora* (Man Orchid) and *Lathyrus clymenum*. The pleasant sunshine had brought out three butterfly species: Red Admiral, Small White and Western Dappled White.

We now made our way towards El Chorro, through a spectacular gorge, to the cafe by the Caminito del Rey (The King's Little Walk), to admire the geology of the gorge, and the precipitous 'walk-way' on the other side. Here we enjoyed refreshments and some botanising. We found *Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maidenhair Fern), *Crambe filiformis* (Thin Sea Kale) and *Richardia intermedia*. Griffon Vultures were also present in good numbers.

It was now time to make our way back to base for dinner.

# Day 4

# Friday 23rd March

#### Sierra de Grazalema

This morning, we returned to the Grazalema area, beginning with three stops in the *Quercus* woodlands to the east of the town. At the first there was *Cistus monspeliensis* (Narrow-leaved Cistus), *Lavandula stoechas* (French Lavender), *Quercus faginea* (Beech-leaved Oak) and *Quercus suber* (Cork Oak), as well as another fine display by Griffon Vultures. At the second we added *Phillyrea angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Phillyrea), *Cistus populifolius* (Poplarleaved Cistus) and *Lithospermum arvense* (Corn Gromwell). The final stop produced *Cistus laurifolius* (Laurel-leaved Cistus), *Teucrium fruticans* (Shrub Germander), *Lonicera implexa* (a Honeysuckle) and *Cistus crispus* 

Moving on, we parked on the south side of Grazalema. The plan was to explore the broad road verges. Above our heads, the occasional Griffon Vultures, Red-billed Chough were soaring. As we explored, *Narcissus papyraceus* (Paper-white Daffodil), *Ophrys tenthredinifera* (Sawfly Orchid), *Cerinthe major* var. *purpurescens* (Greater Honeywort) and *Arisarum vulgare* (Friar's Cowl) were all seen. The boulder-strewn fields produced Spotless Starlings and Stonechat.

By now cloud was rolling in and there was a rather chilly wind, so we made a stop in Grazalema for warm refreshments, before driving on up to the Mirador de las Acebuches and down to the Gargante Verde, for lunch. While Paul set up the picnic, we went to explore, finding Sardinian Warbler and Black Redstart.

With our meal complete, and the start of the rain, we went north towards Zahara, where we found *Orchis olbiensis* (an Early Purple Orchid), *Himantoglossum robertianum* (Giant Orchid) and *Rhamnus alaternus* (Mediterranean Buckthorn) on a verge bank. Blackcap and Garden Warbler were heard and Short-toed Treecreeper and Firecrest were seen.

Beginning our return journey, we stopped briefly below the Mirador de las Acebuches to see *Astragalus lusitanicus* (a Milk-vetch) and *Viburnum tinus* (Laurustinus), and above Grazalema, we encountered a group of Spanish Ibex.

Our final stop of the day was to the west of Montecorto, along a disused section of road. *Narcissus papyraceus* (Paper-white Daffodil), *Ophrys bombyliflora* (Bumblebee Orchid) and *Ophrys omegaifera* (Omega Orchid) were all present.

We now re-joined the vehicle and set off back to the Hotel, for dinner.

### Day 5

# Saturday 24th March

Sierra de las Nieves - Ronda

After breakfast, we headed off in a south-easterly direction towards San Pedro, and into the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park. Our objective was the Los Quejigales recreation area, situated some 8km from the road. Along the way, we recorded a small group of Lesser Kestrels. The park road took us, initially, through *Quercus* woodland and shrubby scrub below, then on up through a mixture of *Pinus halepensis* and *Pinus pinaster* (Aleppo and Maritime Pine) woodland, before emerging above the tree line into an exposed limestone area. Our first stop was on a rocky, limestone road edge. Here we saw *Orchis olbiensis* (an Early Purple Orchid), *Gagea foliosa* (a Yellow Star of Bethlehem) and *Narcissus assoanus* (Rush-leaved Jonquil). The second stop we made was close to the Area Recreativa Los Quejigales. This is a wet grassy area which has a good colony of *Narcissus hispanicus* (Long-spathed Daffodil), scattered among small bushes. Also growing here was *Daphne laureola* (Surge Laurel).

Parking the vehicle at Los Quejigales, we had planned to walk from hear, but, due to the rain and a strong cold wind, Paul decided it was not a good plan, so we retraced our steps, and explored another area on the descent. Very little birdlife was active, but we did see Rock Bunting, Mistle Thrush and Black Redstart.

After our descent, Paul decided that it would be rather unpleasant to have a picnic in the cold wind, so we visited a roadside Venta for our lunch.

After lunch, we had some time in Ronda. We parked in the car park on the north side of the town. We then walked down though the pedestrian precinct to the cliff-edge walk. Unfortunately, however, the walk way was closed, but we did see Red-billed Chough from the new bridge. At this point, Paul left us to explore Ronda at our leisure, before collecting us from a pre-arranged spot to return to the hotel for dinner.

# Day 6

# Sunday 25th March

El Torcal – Laguna Dulce – Tajo del Molino

Following an early breakfast, we left the hotel in heavy rain. Our route took us on the road north from Ronda towards Campillos. After about an hour, we joined the main Malaga to Antequera road, and continued via Campillos. Passing through Antequera, we made our way up to the summit of El Torcal, the highest point in the El Torcal de Antequera National Park, and parked by the Visitor Centre. We arrived in low cloud, sleet and rain, but it was evident that there had also been snow. It was rather atmospheric, and we were able to appreciate this

stunning 'Karst' limestone landscape. After we had had coffee, we set off to explore. We walked the shorter of the two circular walks, finding *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *characias* (Mediterranean Spurge) and two local endemics: the beautiful *Linaria anticaria* (a Toadflax), and the leaves of *Saxifraga biternata* (El Torcal Saxifrage). Continuing, we added *Rhamnus alaternus* (Mediterranean Buckthorn) and *Acer monspeliensis* (Montpelier Maple), as well as Rock Bunting, Robin and Black Redstart.

On our return to the visitor centre, we indulged in either coffee of soup, before re-joining our vehicle to begin our return journey towards Campillos, where we stopped at the Laguna Dulce for our picnic. During our lunch, we heard Cetti's Warbler and Greenfinch and saw Hoopoe, Crested Lark and Goldfinch. After eating, we scanned the lake finding, Greater Flamingo, Shoveler, Mallard, Coot, Little Grebe, Black-necked Grebe and Marsh Harrier. In the immediate area around the picnic site, we added *Carduus pycnocephalus* (Plymouth Thistle), *Nonea vesicaria* (Nonea), *Calendula suffruticosa* (a Marigold) and *Platycapnos spicatus*.

We now moved on to our last destination on the day near Teba, Tajo de Molino, where we explored the hillside, verge rocks and narrow gorge. *Mercurialis tomentosa* (Woolly Mercury), *Helichrysum stoechas* (Curry Plant), *Antirrhinum graniticum, Asphodelus fistulosa* (Small Asphodel) and *Ferula communis* (Giant Fennel) were all seen. In the gorge, Rock Dove, Red-billed Chough, Alpine Swift, Griffon Vulture and Corn Bunting were also added.

Dinner tonight was taken at the Bar – Restaurant "El Tropezon", at Montecorto.

### Day 7

# **Monday 26th March**

Cueva de la Pileta - Hidden Valley - Cerro de Tavizna

Today dawned bright and sunny, after overnight frost. Following another fine breakfast, we left the hotel and drove down towards Montejaque and on to Benaojan, joining the MA 549 to the 'Cueva de la Pileta' caves. After a brief look at the information board, we walked up the path and steps to the entrance, where tickets were purchased for our visit. The car park produced emerging *Calycotome villosa* (Prickly Broom) and *Linaria platycalyx*. Serin, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Blackcap and Sardinian Warbler were also recorded, as well as a group of five Black Storks.

Our route now took us back to the small town of Montejaque, where we took a back road up to the 'Los Llanas de Libar', known to Paul as the 'Hidden Valley', in the Sierra de Montalata. A slow drive up the valley produced, male and female Stonechat, Rock Bunting and Cirl Bunting, as well as solitary Black Wheatear.

We parked at the top of the valley. Whilst Paul prepared lunch, the group explored some rocky outcrops, finding Narcissus cuatrecasasii (Rock Jonquil), Orchis olbiensis (an Early Purple Orchid) and Asplenium ceterach (Rustyback). Overhead, Griffon Vultures drifted on thermals, and Red-billed Chough, Great Tit and Goldfinch were also present, and Raven was heard. After our picnic, we began a slow walk down the valley. We made a stop, at the bottom of the track to examine a high cliff, which produced Saxifraga bourgaeana (a Saxifrage), Ornithogalum reverchonii (an endemic Star of Bethlehem), Narcissus cuatrecasasii (Rock Jonquil), and, Fedia cornucopiae (Fedia). A second stop on a verge, just outside the village, produced emerging Antirrhinum barrelieri (a Snapdragon), Anagyris foetida (Bean Trefoil), Reseda undata subsp. gayana (a Mignonette) and Cytisus baetica (a Broom). The warm sun had

encouraged butterflies to emerge, and we recorded Large White, Western Dappled White, Cleopatra, Spanish Festoon, Brimstone and Clouded Yellow.

Our final stop was below the Cerro de Tavizna, to explore a quiet rocky verge. On the outcrops, we found *Orchis olbiensis* (an Early Purple Orchid), *Vinca difformis* (Intermediate Periwinkle), *Saxifraga granulata* (Meadow Saxifrage), *Linaria tristis* (a Toadflax) and *Ranunculus macrophyllus* (Large-leaved Buttercup). Griffon Vulture and Red-billed Chough were also present.

It was now time to make our way back to the hotel, in time for dinner.

### Day 8

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# **Tuesday 27th March**

### Transfer from Ronda to Malaga - Fly to UK

After an early breakfast, we said out farewells to Elisenda and thanked her and Pedro for a wonderful stay in this beautiful area. We set off, in light cloud, for Malaga Airport in good time for our flights back to the UK, except Carol and James, who were staying on for another day in Spain.

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Setting up a personal profile at <a href="www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a> is quick, free and easy. The <a href="Naturetrek Facebook page">Naturetrek Facebook page</a> is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Western Dappled White

# **Species Lists**

Plants (\* indicates a plant is endemic; [] = Indicates a plant is introduced/planted)

Please Note: Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.

Scientific name	Common name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Lycophytes	Clubmosses & Quillworts	
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family	
Selaginella denticulata	Mediterranean Clubmoss	Between El Burgo & Ardales
Calamophytes	Horsetails	
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
Equisetum hyemale	Dutch Rush	El Chorro
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
Asplenium ceterach	Rustyback	Between Ronda & El Burgo
Asplenium trichomanes subsp. quadrivalens	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Sierra de las Nieves
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
Polypodium cambricum	Southern Polypody	Mirador Guada Forestal
Pteridaceae	Ribbon Fern Family	
Adiantum capillus-veneris	Maidenhair Fern	El Chorro
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family	
[Cupressus macrocarpa]	Monterey Cypress	Below Grazalema
[Cupressus sempervirens]	Italian Cypress	Planted
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
Abies pinsapo	Spanish Fir	Sierra del Pinar
[Cedrus deodara]	Deodar Cedar	Naturalised - Sierra de las Nieves
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine	Sierra del Pinar
Pinus pinaster	Maritime Pine	Sierra del Pinar
Pinus pinea	Stone or Umbrella Pine	N of Malaga

ANGIOSPERMS FLOWERING PLANTS

Pre-dicots Primitive Angiosperms

Aristolochiaceae Birthwort Family

Aristolochia baetica a Birthwort Near El Chorro

Aristolochia paucinervis a Birthwort Las Mezas

Lauraceae Laurel Family

Laurus nobilis Bay

Eu-dicots True Dicotyledons

Adoxaceae Moschatel Family

Viburnum tinus Laurustinus S of Zahara

Anacardiaceae Sumach Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Bush Gargante Verde

Apiaceae Carrot Family

Berula erectaLesser Water-parsnipEl ChorroBupleurum spinosumSpiny Hare's-earSierra del PinarEryngium campestreField EryngoHidden ValleyFerula communisGiant FennelTajo del Molino

Foeniculum vulgare Fennel Gargante Verde (leaves)

Scandix pecten-veneris Shepherd's Needle Tajo del Molino

Smyrnium olusatrum Alexanders Between Ronda & El Burgo

Thapsia garganica Thapsia E of Grazalema

Apocynaceae Periwinkle Family

Nerium oleanderOleanderNaturalisedVinca difformisIntermediate PeriwinkleS of Zahara

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix agg. Ivy El Torcal

Berberidaceae Barberry Family

Berberis hispanica Spanish Barberry Sierra del Pinar

Boraginaceae Forget-me-not Family

Borago officinalisBorageEl ChorroBuglossoides arvensisCorn GromwellE of GrazalemaCerinthe major var. purpurescensGreater HoneywortBelow Zahara

Cynoglossum clandestinum a Hound's-tongue Below Zahara

Echium albicans-Near El Chorro (leaves)Echium boissieriBoissier's Viper's-buglossCommon on roadsidesEchium plantagineumPurple Viper's-buglossNear El Chorro

Nonea vesicaria

Nonea

Nonea

Nonea

Laguna Dulce

Pardoglossum (Cynoglossum) cheirifolium a Hound's-tongue Mirador Guada Forestal

Brassicaceae Cabbage Family

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Arabis verna Early Rock-cress Gargante Verde

Biscutella frutescens\*Perennial Buckler MustardBetween Ronda & El BurgoCapsella bursa-pastorisShepherd's PurseHotel Cortijo Las PiletasCardamine hirsutaHairy Bitter-cressHotel Cortijo Las PiletasClypeola jonthlaspiClypeolaBetween El Burgo & Ardales

Crambe filiformis Thin Sea-kale El Chorro

Draba hispanica Spanish Whitlow-grass Sierra del Pinar (leaves)

Location

#### Scientific name

Erophila verna subsp. praecox Eruca vesicaria

Hornungia petraea

Iberis sp.

Lobularia maritima

Microthlaspi (Thlaspi) perfoliatum Moricandia moricandioides

Sinapis arvensis

#### Cactaceae

[Opuntia ficus-indica]

#### Caprifoliaceae

Centranthus calcitrapa Fedia cornucopiae Lonicera arborea Lonicera implexa

#### Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium tomentosum

Dianthus sp.

Paronychia capitata Silene colorata

#### Cistaceae

Cistus albidus
Cistus crispus
Cistus laurifolius
Cistus monspeliensis
Cistus populifolius
Cistus salvifolius
Fumana ericoides

Helianthemum origanifolium

Tuberaria echioides

#### Compositae (Asteraceae)

Anthemis chia
Bellis sylvestris
Calendula arvensis
Calendula suffruticosa
Carduus pycnocephalus
Centaurea calcitrapa
Centaurea clementei\*
Centaurea pullata
Cynara cardunculus
Dittrichia viscosa

Glebionis coronarium var. coronarium Glebionis coronarium var. discolor

Helichrysum stoechas Hyoseris radiata Hyoseris scabra

Galactites tomentosa

#### Common name

Whitlow-grass Sierra del Pinar Rocket Below Zahara

Hutchinsia Between Ronda & El Burgo

Candytuft Near El Chorro

Sweet Alison Mirador Guada Forestal

Perfoliate Penny-cress Gargante Verde

Purple Cabbage Between El Burgo & Ardales

Charlock Las Mezas

#### **Cactus Family**

Barbary Fig or Prickly Pear Planted

#### Honeysuckle Family

Annual Valerian Ronda
Fedia Below Zahara
Tree Honeysuckle El Torcal

E of Grazalema

#### **Pink Family**

Snow-in-Summer Between Ronda & El Burgo (leaves)

a Pink Cerro de la Tavizna
a Paronychia Tajo del Molino
a Catchfly Near El Chorro

#### **Rock-rose Family**

Grey-leaved Cistus Near El Burgo

a pink Cistus E of Grazalema (leaves) - E of Grazalema (leaves)

Narrow-leaved Cistus E of Grazalema

Poplar-leaved Cistus E of Grazalema (leaves) Sage-leaved Cistus E of Grazalema (leaves)

- Near El Chorro
Marjoram-leaved Rock-rose Near El Chorro
a Spotted Rock-rose W of Montecorto

#### **Daisy Family**

- Near Ardales
Southern Daisy Sierra del Pinar
Field Marigold Common
- Below Zahara
Plymouth Thistle Laguna Dulce

Red Star Thistle El Torcal (not in flower)

Clemente's Knapweed Grazalema
- Below Zahara

Cardoon Villaluenga del Rosario

Woody Fleabane El Chorro
Galactites Below Zahara
Crown Daisy Near Tajo del Molino
Crown Daisy Malaga Airport
Curry Plant Tajo del Molino

Hyoseris El Chorro
- Near El Chorro

Location

#### Scientific name

Phagnalon saxatile Ptilostemon hispanica Reichardia intermedia

Sencio vulgare Silybum marianum Sonchus oleraceus

#### Crassulaceae

Crassula tilaea
Sedum album
Sedum brevifolium
Sedum forsterianum
Sedum sediforme
Sedum sexangulare
Umbilicus rupestris

#### Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia dioica Ecballium elaterium

#### Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia characias subsp. characias Euphorbia helioscopia Euphorbia nicaeensis

Euphorbia peplus
Euphorbia sulcata
Mercurialis annuus
Mercurialis tomentosa
[Ricinus communis]

#### Fagaceae

Quercus coccifera Quercus faginea Quercus ilex Quercus suber

#### Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium
Erodium malacoides
Erodium moschatum
Erodium primulaceum
Erodium recoderi\*
Geranium dissectum
Geranium lucidum
Geranium purpureum
Geranium rotundifolium

#### Lamiaceae

Ballota pseudodictamnus Lamium amplexicaule Lavandula lanata\* Lavandula multifida

#### Common name

Phagnalon Tajo del Molino

Spanish Thistle Sierra del Pinar (not in flower)

Reichardia El Chorro

Groundsel Hotel Cortijo Las Piletas Milk Thistle Gargante Verde (leaves)

Smooth Sow-thistle Ardales

#### **Stonecrop Family**

Mossy Stonecrop Tajo del Molino

White Stonecrop
Short-leaved Stonecrop
Between Ronda & El Burgo (leaves)
Between Ronda & El Burgo (leaves)
Between Ronda & El Burgo (leaves)

Large Stonecrop Gargante Verde (leaves)

Tasteless Stonecrop El Torcal

Navelwort Between Ronda & El Burgo (leaves)

#### **White Bryony Family**

White Bryony Las Mezas
Squirting Cucumber Below Zahara

#### **Spurge Family**

Annual Mercury Gargante Verde
- Sierra de las Nieves
Castor Oil Plant Malaga Airport

#### Oak & Beech Family

Kermes Oak Sierra del Pinar
Beech-leaved Oak E of Grazalema
Holm oak Sierra de las Nieves
Cork Oak E of Grazalema

### **Geranium Family**

Common Stork's-bill Tajo del Molino Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill El Chorro

Musk Stork's-bill Hotel Cortijo Las Piletas a Stork's-bill Villaluenga del Rosario a Stork's-bill Mirador Guada Forestal

Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Laguna Dulce

Shiny Crane's-bill Mirador Guada Forestal Little Robin Mirador Guada Forestal

Round-leaved Crane's-bill Near El Chorro

#### **Dead-nettle Family**

Garden Horehound Gargante Verde (not in flower)

Henbit Deadnettle E of Grazalema
Woolly Lavender Sierra de las Nieves
Cut-leaved Lavender Near El Chorro

Lavandula stoechas subsp. stoechasFrench LavenderNear El ChorroMentha x verticillataApple MintEl Chorro

Phlomis purpureaPurple PhlomisCommon (not in flower)Rosmarinus officinalisRosemaryBelow ZaharaSalvia verbenacaWild ClaryLas Mezas

Teucrium fruticansShrub GermanderE of GrazalemaTeucrium polium agg.Felty GermanderDierra del pinar (leaves)

Thymus capitatus Capitate Thyme Gargante Verde

Leguminosae (Fabaceae) Pea Family

Acacia retinodesSwamp WattleN of MalagaAnagyris foetidaBean TrefoilS of ZaharaAnthyllis cystoidesShrub Kidney-vetchNear El Chorro

Astragalus lusitanicus a Milk-vetch Below Mirador de las Acebuches

Bituminaria bituminosa Pitch Trefoil Hidden Valley

Calycotome villosa Prickly Broom Cueva de la Pileta (not in flower)

Ceratonia siliquaCarobGargante VerdeCytisus baeticus-Hidden ValleyLathyrus cicera-Tajo del MolinoLathyrus clymenum-Near El ChorroMedicago polymorphaToothed medickNear El ChorroRetama (Lygos) monospermaBridal Veil BroomLas Mezas

Retama (Lygos) sphaerocarpa - Las Mezas (not in flower)

Spartium junceumSpanish BroomN of MalagaTrifolium dubiumLesser Yellow TrefoilTajo del MolinoTripodion tetraphyllum (Anthyllis tetraphylla)Bladder VetchTajo del MolinoUlex (Stauracanthus) bovinii-Sierra del Pinar

Ulex parviflorusSmall-flowered GorseCommon[Vicia faba]Broad BeanBelow Zahara

Malvaceae Mallow Family

Malva neglectaDwarf MallowGrazalemaMalva sylvestrisCommon MallowGrazalema

Moraceae Fig Family

[Ficus carica] Fig El Chorro

Myrtaceae Myrtle & Gum Family

[Eucalyptus camaldulensis]River Red GumRoadsides[Eucalyptus globulus]Tasmanian Blue GumRoadsides

Myrtis communis Myrtle Gargante Verde

Oleaceae Olive Family

Fraxinus angustifoliaNarrow-leaved AshBelow GrazalemaOlea europaeaWild OliveW of MontecortoPhillyrea angustifoliaNarrow-leaved PhyllyreaE of Grazalema

Phillyrea latifolia (P. media) Broad-leaved Phillyrea Mirador Guada Forestal

Oxalidaceae Wood-sorrel Family

[Oxalis pes-caprae] Bermuda Buttercup Very Common

Paeoniaceae

Paeonia broteri a Peony

Papaveraceae

Fumaria capreolata Fumaria muralis Fumaria officinalis Papaver rhœas Platycapnos spicatus Rupicapnos africana

Plantaginaceae

Antirrhinum barrelieri Antirrhinum graniticum Chaenorhinum villosum Linaria anticaria\* Linaria platycalyx\* Linaria tristis Plantago lagopus

Plantago lanceolata Plantago serraria Veronica cymbalaria Veronica hederifolia agg.

Veronica persica

Polygalaceae

Polygala rupestris

Polygonaceae

Rumex scutatus

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis (Red & Blue)

Samolus valerandi

Ranunculaceae

Clematis cirrhosa

Ficaria verna subsp. ficariiformis Helleborus foetidus

Ranunculus macrophyllus

Ranunculus spicatus subsp. blepharicarpos

Resedaceae

Reseda alba Reseda phyteuma

Reseda undata subsp. gayana (R. gayana)

Rhamnaceae

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Rhamnus alaternus

Rhamnus lycioides\*

**Peony Family** 

Between El Burgo & Ardale (NIF)

**Poppy Family** 

White Ramping Fumitory El Chorro

Common Ramping Fumitory Mirador Guada Forestal Common Fumitory Below Grazalema Common Poppy Tajo del Molino Laguna Dulce Near El Chorro

**Plantain Family** 

a Snapdragon Hidden Valley a Snapdragon Tajo del Molino Near El Chorro

a Toadflax El Torcal

a Toadflax Cueva de la Pileta a Toadflax Cerro de la Tavizna Hare's-tail Plantain Mirador Guada Forestal

Ribwort Plantain El Torcal Las Mezas White Speedwell Common Ivv-leaved Speedwell

Ronda Field Speedwell Ronda

**Milkwort Family** 

Rock Milkwort El Chorro

**Dock Family** 

French or Shield Dock Tajo del Molino

**Primrose Family** 

Scarlet Pimpernel Below Zahara Brookweed El Chorro

**Buttercup Family** 

Virgin's Bower Mirador Guada Forestal Lesser Celandine Below Grazalema Stinking Hellebore Sierra de la Nieves Large-leaved Buttercup Cerro de la Tavizna a Buttercup Near El Chorro

**Mignonette Family** 

White Mignonette El Chorro Corn Mignonette Tajo del Molino a Mignonette Hidden Valley

**Buckthorn Family** 

Mediterranean Buckthorn S of Zahara

Prostrate Buckthorn Mirador Guada Forestal

Rosaceae Rose Family

Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn Between Ronda & El Burgo

Prunus aviumWild CherryE of Grazlema[Prunus dulcis]AlmondW of Montecorto

Prunus prostrata Prostrate Plum Between Ronda & El Burgo

Prunus spinosaBlackthornW of MontecortoSanguisorba minor subsp. minorSalad BurnetSierra del Pinar

Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family

Galium aparine Cleavers E of Grazalema

Galium verrucosum - Between Ronda & El Burgo

Rubia peregrinaWild MadderE of GrazalemaSherardia arvensisField MadderBelow Zahara

Rutaceae Rue Family

[Citrus aurantium]Bitter OrangePlanted[Citrus limon]LemonPlanted[Citrus sinensis]OrangePlanted

Ruta montana Fringed Rue Hidden Valley

Santalaceae Sandalwood Family

Viscum album Mistletoe S of Zahara

Viscum cruciatum Red-berried Mistletoe Between Ronda & El Burgo

Sapindaceae Maple Family

Acer monspessulanum Montpelier Maple El Torcal

Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family

Saxifraga biternata\*El Torcal SaxifrageEl Torcal (leaves)Saxifraga bourgaeana\*a SaxifrageHidden ValleySaxifraga granulataMeadow SaxifrageGrazalema

Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family

Scrophularia sambucifolia Elder-leaved Figwort Below Zahara

Verbascum sinuatum - Tajo del Molino (leaves)

Simaroubaceae Tree of Heaven Family

[Ailanthus altissima] Tree of Heaven Common on Roadsides

Solanaceae Nightshade Family

Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane Ardales

Mandragoria autumnalis Mandrake Gargante Verde

Nicotiana glauca Shrub Tobacco Ardales

Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family

Daphne gnidiumMediterranean MezereonSierra del PinarDaphne laureolaSpurge LaurelSierra de las Nieves

Urticacae Nettle Family

Parietaria judaicaPellitory-of-the-wallLas MezasParietaria officinalisLarge Pellitory-of-the-wallEl Chorro

Urtica membranacea Membranous Nettle Between Ronda & El Burgo

Urtica urens Small Nettle Hotel Cortijo Las Piletas

Violaceae Violet Family

Viola demetrei - Between Ronda & El Burgo

Monocots Monocotyledons

Amaryllidaceae Amaryllis Family

Allium ampeloprasum Wild Leek Below Zahara
Narcissus assoanus (N. requienii) Rush-leaved Jonquil Gargante Verde

Narcissus bulbocodium Hooped-petticoat Daffodil Near Villaluenga del Rosario

Narcissus hispanicus (N. longispathus, N. bujei)Long-spathed DaffodilSierra de las NievesNarcissus cantabricusWhite Hoop-petticoat DaffodilNear El Chorro

Narcissus cuatrecasasii\* (N. rupicola)Rock JonquilHidden ValleyNarcissus flavus (N. fernandesii)-S of Grazalema

Narcissus papyraceus Paper-white Daffodil Below Grazalema

Araceae Arum Family

Arisarum vulgareFriar's CowlBelow GrazalemaArum italicum subsp. neglectumItalian ArumTajo del Molino

ArecaceaePalm FamilyChamærops humilisDwarf Fan PalmGargante Verde

Asparagaceae Asparagus Family
[Agave americana] Century Plant Commonly Naturalised

[Agave americana] Century Plant Commonly Naturalised
Asparagus acutifolius Sharp-leaved Asparagus Las Mezas

Asparagus albus White-stemmed Asparagus Mirador Guada Forestal

Dipcadi serotinumBrown BluebellNear El ChorroDrimia (Urginea) maritimaSea SquillSierra del (leaves)Hyacinthoides hispanicaSpanish BluebellMirador Guada Forestal

Muscari neglectumGrape HyacinthNear El ChorroOrnithogalum reverchonii\*a Star of BethlehemHidden Valley

Ruscus aculeatus Butcher's Broom El Torcal

Cyperaceae Sedge Family

Carex halleriana - Sierra del Pinar

Dioscoreaceae Black Bryony Family

Dioscorea (Tamus) communis Black Bryony Mirador Guada Forestal

Iridaceae Iris Family

Crocus nevadensis Sierra Nevada Crocus El Torcal (leaves)

Iris foetidissima Stinking Iris El Torcal

Iris planifolia Broad-leaved Iris Between Ronda & El Burgo

Romulea bulbocodium a Sand Crocus Gargante Verde
Romulea ramiflora subsp. gaditana a Sand Crocus Hidden Valley

Juncaeae Rush Family

Scirpoides holoschoenus Round-headed Clubrush Gargante Verde

Liliaceae Lily Family

Fritillaria lusitanicaPortuguese FritillaryGargante VerdeGagea foliosaa Yellow Star of BethlehemGargante Verde

Gagea lacaitae a Yellow Star of Bethlehem Between El Burgo & Ardales

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

Anacamptis collina (Orchis collina)Fan-lipped orchidNear El ChorroHimantoglossum robertianumGiant OrchidBelow ZaharaOphrys bombylifloraBumblebee OrchidBelow ZaharaOphrys fusca subsp. fuscaSombre Bee OrchidSierra del Pinar

Ophrys omegaifera (O. fusca subsp. omegaifera) Omega Orchid Las Mezas

Ophrys scolopaxWoodcock OrchidBetween El Burgo & ArdalesOphrys speculumMirror OrchidNear El ChorroOphrys tenthrediniferaSawfly OrchidGargante VerdeOrchis anthropophoraMan OrchidNear El ChorroOrchis olbiensisan Early Purple OrchidS of Zahara

Poaceae Grass Family

Giant Reed Arundo donax Common Bromus rubens Red Brome El Chorro Cynosurus echinatus Rough Dog's-tail S of Grazalema Cock's-foot Dactylis glomerata S of Grazalema Hordeum murinum Wall Barley Below Grazalema Hyparrhenia hirta Tajo del Molino Common Reed Phragmites australis El Chorro Poa annua Annual Meadow Grass Ronda

Smilacaceae Smilax Family

Smilax aspera Common Smilax Mirador Guada Forestal

Typhaceae Reedmace Family

Typha angustifolia Lesser Bulrush Hidden Valley

Xanthorrhoeaceae Asphodel Family

Asphodelus aestivusCommon AsphodelBelow ZaharaAsphodelus albusWhite AsphodelGargante VerdeAsphodelus fistulosusSmall AsphodelTajo del Molino

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; LO = leader only)

				March								
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
1	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna						✓				
2	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	✓					✓				
3	Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata						✓				
4	Common Pochard	Aythya farina						✓				
5	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis						✓				
6	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis						✓				
7	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus						✓				
8	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia					✓					
9	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra							✓			
10	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea						✓				

						Ма	rch			
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	✓							✓
12	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus		✓						
14	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus						✓		
15	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus						✓		
16	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra						✓		
17	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus						✓		
18	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus						✓		
19	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis						✓		
20	Rock Dove	Columba livia						✓		
21	Rock Dove [Feral]	Columba livia feral	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓
22	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus		✓	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>			
23	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	<b>✓</b>			✓	✓	<b>✓</b>		✓
24	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba						<b>✓</b>		
25	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops						<b>✓</b>		
26	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major				Н				
27	European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis				Н				
28	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni					<b>✓</b>			
29	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus			<b>√</b>					
30	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus			<b>✓</b>					
31	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax		<b>√</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>✓</b>	
32	Northern Raven	Corvus corax		Н					Н	
33	Coal Tit	Periparus ater		• • •				<b>✓</b>		
34	European Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus		<b>✓</b>						
35	Great Tit	Parus major		<b>✓</b>	Н	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	
36	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		·	<b>√</b>	✓		,	·	
37	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata		,	· ✓	✓		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>
38	Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis						Н		
39	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
40	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	ľ		ļ •	•	•	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	•
41	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	<b>/</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>1</b>			· /	./	
42	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	V	<b>V</b>	V			Н	<b>V</b>	
				<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	Н		Н	Н	
43	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		<b>V</b>				П	П	
44	Garden Warbler Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia borin Sylvia melanocephala		<b>✓</b>	<b>V</b>	H ✓			<b>✓</b>	
45		•		<b>V</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>V</b> ✓			<b>V</b>	
46	Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla			•	<b>V</b>			<b>✓</b>	
47	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes				1			<b>V</b>	
48	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla			<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>		<b>✓</b>		
49	Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor	<b>√</b>	✓ ✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>		<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	✓
50	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	✓	· ·	<b>V</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	· ·	✓	
51	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus					✓			
52	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>				<b>√</b>		
53	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros		<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	
54	European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola		✓		<b>√</b>			<b>√</b>	
55	Black Wheatear	Oenanthe leucura							✓	
56	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius			✓			<b>√</b>		
57	European Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca						<b>✓</b>		
58	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓
59	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea					✓			
60	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba				✓		✓		

						Ма	rch			
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
61	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
62	European Serin	Serinus serinus	✓	✓	✓	✓	Н	✓	✓	
63	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Н		Н		Н	Н	✓	
64	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		Н	✓			✓	✓	
65	Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra			✓					
66	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
67	Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia					✓	✓	✓	
68	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus			Н				✓	

### Mammals (S = Signs Of)

1	Greater Mouse-eared Bat	Myotis myotis					✓	
2	Spanish Ibex	Capra pyrenaica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Wild Boar	Sus scrofa	S	S	S		S	
4	Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus					✓	
5	Rabbit	Oryctologus cuniculatus					✓	

# Amphibians & Reptiles (T = Tadpole)

1	Fire Salamander	Salamandra salamandra	Т				
2	Iberian Wall Lizard	Podarcis hispanica		✓			

### Butterflies

1	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon				٠,	/		
2	Spanish Festoon	Zerynthia rumina						✓	
3	Large White	Pieris brassicae						✓	
4	Small White	Pieris rapae		✓					
5	Western Dappled White	Euchloe crameri		✓				✓	
6	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea		✓				✓	
7	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni						✓	
8	Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra						✓	
9	Provence Hairstreak	Tomares ballus	✓	✓					
10	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta		✓					
11	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		✓	✓				
12	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		✓				✓	

### Macros Moths (B = Bivouac)

# Other Invertebrates (D = Dead)

1	a Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa sp.					✓	
2	Honey Bee	Apis millifera		✓			✓	
3	Rhino' Dung Beetle	Copris lunaris	D					
4	Oil Beetle	Meloe proscarabaeus			✓			
5	Giant Centipede	Scolopendra cingulatus		✓				
6	Centipede	Lithobius sp.					✓	