# **Corsica - The Scented Isle**

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 - 30 September 2007



Scilla autumnalis



Grass Eggar - Lasiocampa trifolii



Southern Greyling



Geotrupes stercorarius - Dor Beetle

Report and photos compiled by Paul Harmes



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Tour Report Corsica - The Scented Isle

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### Day 1

## **Sunday 23rd September**

Weather: Stansted – Misty. Calvi – Fine warm and sunny.

Eight tour group members met Paul at the check-in at Stansted Airport, for Titan Airways flight ZT8701 to Calvi. Upon our arrival, we soon cleared passport control, customs and baggage reclaim, before we crossed the road, outside the terminal, and collected our minibus. As we drove out of the airport, a Red Kite flew over.

Initially, we drove into Calvi and parked on the seafront near the harbour. While Paul went off to buy our picnic lunch, the rest of us explored the imposing citadel, reporting Yellow-legged Gulls, Italian Sparrows and a couple of Hummingbird Hawk Moths. We drove back in the direction of the Airport and on south to Suare, where we turned right onto the road to Galeria, where we parked and prepared our picnic.

After lunch we explored the coastal habitats, finding the endemic Limonium corsicum (Corsican Sea Lavender), Erodium corsicum (Corsican Stork's-bill), and Euphorbia pithyusa subsp. cupanii (A Spurge). The nearby road verge yielded a good show of Leucojum roseum (Rose Snowflake), Scilla autumnalis (Autumn Squill) and several spikes of Spiranthes spiralis (Autumn Ladies Tresses), as well as the stark white flowers of the wonderfully aromatic Myrtis communis (Myrtle). Southern Grayling and Clouded Yellow butterflies, Whitethroat and Sardinian Warbler were both also recorded.

Continuing on, via the Bocca de Palmarella, we made a couple of stops in order to photograph the splendid scenery, before stopping just above the town of Porto. As we got out of the bus there were several patches of *Heliotropium europaeum* (Heliotrope), and one sharp eyed group member spotted a distant Blue Rock Thrush. From here we continued on up to the village of Evisa, and the Hotel Aitone, our base for the next three nights. After dinner, several of the group heard Scops Owl calling.

## Day 2

# Monday 24th September

Weather: Showers occasionally, cloudy but brightening later.

An early morning bird walk, in the village, produced the call of Corsican Nuthatch, but the bird remained tantalizingly elusive. However, we did see Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Coal Tit and Blackcap, and a very fine Cirl Bunting. After breakfast, we boarded the bus and left Evisa, in an easterly direction. A short while after leaving we made a stop in the Foret d'Aitone. Here we took a walk through the towering *Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio* (Corsican Pine) and *Abies alba* (Silver Fir). Great Tit, Blue Tit and Coal Tit were all recorded, and Goldcrest was heard. We also had some splendid views of a feeding Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Paul turned over some wet rocks and found a young Corsican Salamander. Plants included *Viscum album var.* austricum, curiously on the Corsican Pine, Sambucus ebulus (Danewort), Gentiana asclepiadea (Willow-leaved Gentian) and Mentha requienii (Corsican Mint). It was soon time to begin our journey down to the west coast. We took our picnic on the harbour side at Sagone, whilst enjoying the Sea Urchins and Garfish in the clear water. During lunch, a magnificent Two-tailed Pasha was spotted by Jessica.

After completing our picnic, we drove on a short way to the mouth of the Liamone River, where we parked on the coastal sand. We spent the next two hours exploring the stable dune system ands the waters edge. A good sized Wasp Spider, Praying Mantis, Blue and Red-winged Grasshoppers, Brown Argus, Small White, Scarlet Darter Dragonfly and the endemic Island Blue-tail Damselfly were all recorded, together with Cetti's Warbler, Hooded crow and Linnet. After refreshments, we retraced our steps back toward Evisa. We did make a stop on the Col de Sevi to seek out Marmora's Warbler, without success. We did, however, disturb a flock of fifty or so Citril Finch. After dinner some of the group walked down through the village seeing a Scops Owl and six Nightjars.

## Day 3

## **Tuesday 25th September**

Weather: Fine, warm and sunny.

An early morning excursion in Evisa proved disappointing with little to report, although we were surprised at the enormous flocks of ravens overhead. The main objective for the day was to take a walk along 'Le Sentier de la Spelunca', a spectacular gorge. So, following breakfast, the group made its way down to the bottom of the gorge, by a river bridge, where we parked the vehicle. As we stopped to shop for lunch, in the village, a Black Redstart and a Cardinal butterfly were seen. Upon our arrival, we distributed the lunch between us before setting off into the gorge. Several Sand Martins were wheeling around and Beautiful Demoiselle and Red-veined Darter were seen patrolling over the water. At the start of the path, some wet rocks had a good colony of *Adiantum capillusveneris* (Maidenhair Fern) growing under a canopy of *Pistacia lentiscus* (Mastic Tree).

We continued at a leisurely pace as we talked the track. As we progressed Common Hornet and Purple Hairstreak were seen on *Hedera helix* (Ivy) and some members of the group had fleeting glimpses of Dipper. In addition, Blackcap and Common Buzzard were seen, as well as *Acer monspessulanum* (Montpelier Maple), *Teucrium marum, Odontites lutea* (Yellow Odontites), *Cyclamen hederifolium*, and *Phillyrea angustifolius*. Lunch was taken at the Ponte Vechio, dated 1712, where it formed a crossing point on the river. While lunch was being prepared, some of the group chose to explore a little further on up the gorge. By the river at our picnic site, there were some substantial stands of *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern).

With lunch completed, we set off back down the path. It was not very long before our attention was taken by a particularly faint call from a Firecrest. Some perseverance was required, by eventually most of the Group got a reasonable view of it. On our descent, we added Silver-washed Fritillary, Wall Brown and another Cardinal. There we also further sightings of Dipper. When we rejoined our vehicle, we made our way down to the coast for some refreshments, at Porto. Whilst indulging ourselves in ice cream or coffee, we noticed an Egyptian Grasshopper on the fence outside the café, and on the verge opposite, we found Lang's Short-tailed Blue. We elected to make a short excursion down the cliff road to the south of Porto.

Here we found more *Leucojum roseum* (Rose Snowflake) and *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Ladies Tresses), as well as extensive colonies of *Cyclamen hederifolium* (Sowbread). From here we made our way back to Evisa. After dinner we all made our way down to the village to marvel at the antics of two Nightjars.

### Day 4

## Wednesday 26th September

Weather: Cold at first with low cloud at high altitudes. Becoming warmer later

A final early morning walk proved little better than the previous day. Today we departed the Hotel Aitone and set off north eastwards in the direction of the Col de Vergio. Here we were to take a walk up to the ridge, hoping to see Water Pipit and Citril Finch and possible distant views of Mouflon. However, the cloud was very low, as was the visibility and there was a biting wind. We did stop long enough to see *Berberis aetnensis* (Etna Barberry), *Juniperus communis* (Juniper) and two of Woodlark. Continuing on, we made a couple of stops in the woodland, still hoping for a sight of Corsican Nuthatch, but to no avail. The bright green clumps of *Euphorbia hibernica* subsp. *insularis* (a Spurge), *Atropa belladonna* (Deadly Nightshade), and the occasional Buzzard was all we could muster.

We made our first stop in the Scala di Santa Regina, by a bridge over a tributary of the Gulo River. Crag Martins and Common Swift were seen as well as *Xanthium spinosum* (Spiny Cocklebur) and *Ononis spinosa* (Spiny Restharrow). Another stop in the gorge provided excellent views of a Blue Rock Thrush. Continuing our journey towards Corte, we decided to stop near Francardo, for our picnic. The site is low scattered scrub, and has been know to be home to Marmora's Warbler in the past. Whilst Paul was preparing the picnic, we set off to search the surrounding area, finding several spikes of *Colchicum neopolitanum* (an Autumn Crocus), *Quercus coccifera* (Kermes Oak) and *Phillyrea angustifolius*.

With our lunch complete, we set off for the far side of the railway line, to look for the Warbler and insects. Unfortunately, the wind was rather strong, and no birds or butterflies were active. We therefore decided to continue on to Corte and Venaco, where we planned to take a walk after booking in to our hotel. However, as we approached Corte, we became aware of a huge pall of smoke somewhere to the south and east of Corte. This proved to be an extensive forest fire, and, after several unsuccessful attempts where the Gendarmes turned us back, we were unable to reach our scheduled hotel.

We stopped off in a coffee shop in Venaco, from where we could see the flames, whilst Paul went off in search of an alternative hotel. He was only able to find a one star hotel locally. He had been advised that there was a hotel in the next village some ten kilometres to the south, so we set off to check it out. This too proved unsuccessful, so, reluctantly, we returned to the hotel that Paul had found, and checked in for the night.

### Day 5

# **Thursday 27th September**

Weather: Cloudy with Showers.

Overnight rain had dampened down the fire that had raged the day before, so, after breakfast, we were able to go straight to the Paesotel E Caselle Hotel, to book in. Our host, Christof, informed us that the fire had come very close to the hotel, and that the authorities had prepared the guests and staff to evacuate. However, a change in the wind direction and the over night rain, prevented this.

After ensuring our baggage was in our rooms, we set out for the coast near Bastia. Driving north, on the back road towards Corte, we were suddenly aware of a large number of hirundines circling over the town. We stopped to check these birds and were astonished to find that most of them were Alpine Swifts, with a few Common Swift and several Sand Martins. As we continued on north of Corte, and Francardo, the occasional Red Kite drifted over.

We continued on to the outskirts of Bastia, and turned down past the southern end of the Airport. We did note that most of the planes we saw were fire fighting appliances, capable of carrying and dropping large quantities of water. We made a stop on the east side of the Airport, near a commercial sandpit. Our objective was to look for Raptors, which often hunt in this area. Sadly, this was not the case today. However, we did see Fan-tailed Warbler and some splendid specimens of *Verbascum sinuatum* (Mullein), Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard and Painted Lady.

A second short stop by a local archaeological site yielded *Echallium elaterium* (Squirting Cucumber) and *Sambucus ebulus* (Danewort). In the grass we also found a delightful Vestal moth. We now made our way down onto the coast and into the sand dunes, where we set up our picnic. While Paul was preparing lunch, we explored the immediate area. Sanderling were seen in the distance on the shoreline and a Grass Eggar Moth and Italian Wall Lizard were also found.

After lunch we took a walk through the dunes. Birds recorded included Fan-tailed Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and a single juvenile Kentish Plover. This part of the coast has some interesting plants, not least of all *Pancratium maritimum* (Sea Daffodil). The curious pods of this plant reminded us of a Chinese puzzle. Unfortunately, we could only find buds and fruits, no blooms. *Inula crithmoides* (Golden Samphire), *Otanthus maritimus* (Cottonweed), *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge), *Echinophora spinosa* (Echinophora) and *Limonium dubium* (a sea lavender) were also seen in the, by now, ever increasing drizzle.

The final stop of the day was at the northern end of a freshwater coastal lake adjacent to Biguglia. Here we spotted a large number of Grey Heron, Little Egret, Great Crested Grebe, Black-headed Gull and the rare Audouin's Gull. Growing near where we were bird watching were *Limonium narbonense* (another endemic Sea lavender) and several fruiting *Pittosporum tobira* trees. It was now time to make our way back to Venaco for dinner.

## Day 6

# Friday 28th September

Weather. Cloudy and cold with lying snow at high altitudes.

With breakfast complete, we set of for Corte and a supermarket for our picnic requirements. With our shopping complete, we made our way to the west side of Corte, and on to the narrow road that would take us along the Gorges de la Restonica, some seven kilometres to the high level car park. Our objective for the day was to walk up to the top end of the valley to a point below the Lombarduccio and a lake called the Lac de Melo. Some group members also had desires on reaching the upper lake, Lac de Capitello, Alpine bird species were high on the list as well as a number of endemic or specialised plants. There was a biting wind at the car park, but we were all keen to give the track a go. A flock of distant Alpine Chough were spotted moving along a ridge. Having distributed all the necessary for everyone to have an individual picnic, we set off.

As we started out, Italian Sparrow and Blackbird were in evidence. Soon we found *Petrorhagia saxifraga* subsp. *gasparini* (A Tunic Flower), the leaves of *Pinguicula corsica* (Corsican Butterwort) and *Alnus alnobetula* subsp. *suaveolens* (Alder) all of which are endemic to the island. The path was steadily becoming more and more snow-bound, and, when the advanced party were just below the first lake, it had become so deep it was not obvious where the path went and what was impassable. At this point it was decided to abandon the rest of the walk. Some people began to descend, and other chose to have their picnic and enjoy the atmosphere. Chaffinch and a solitary Water Pipit were all that moved high up.

We all reconvened at the Refugio café, for well earned, and welcome, hot refreshments. From here we made our way back Venaco. After a short while, some of the group met for a short walk into what remained of a scrubby hillside, opposite the hotel. Along the roadside, we were rather surprised to see a good number of spikes of *Colchicum neopolitanum*, adorning the freshly scorched earth, left by the recent fire. The wind was, once again, against us, and we only managed to find Chaffinch and a small group of Red-legged Partridge.

## Day 7

## Saturday 29th September

Weather: Fine warm and sunny.

At breakfast, we were greeted by two jubilant group members, who had ventured out early in search of Marmora's Warbler, and had been successful.

We made the short journey into Corte in order to visit the supermarket to do two days picnic shopping, as tomorrow would be Sunday. From Corte, we motored south down the N193 in the direction of the village of Vivario. When we reached the railway bridge designed by Gustav Eiffel, we turned right and drove up Verghello Valley through the Foret Communuale de Venaco, for some five kilometres, to where the road turned into a track, where we parked. Here we had spectacular views of the Petra Niella ridge, and a huge flock of some 200 Alpine Chough cruising along it.

We followed the track through the forest, hoping against hope, that we would be able find the elusive Corsican Nuthatch. Along the way we saw *Polytricum setiferum* (Soft Shield Fern), *Petrorhagia saxifraga* subsp. *gasparini* (A Tunic Flower), *Saxifraga rotundifolia* subsp. *insularis* (Round-leaved Saxifrage) and by a stream, the fruiting heads of *Doronicum corsicum* (A Leopard's Bane). Birds included Jay, Coal Tit and Raven. At the head of the forest, we stopped by a stream and marvelled at the Bryophyte strewn rocks. A large Dor Beetle was seen by the path as we began to descend and Pine Processionary Moths were seen busily egg-laying. As we neared the vehicle, some of the group were aware of an argument among a group of birds. This turned out to be a family of five Corsican Nuthatches. It had taken us seven days to find them, but the wait was well worth it. We took lunch by the vehicle, before beginning our descent of the road.

We stopped at the lower end in order for some folk to take pictures of the Eiffel Bridge and the scenery. This was very warm spot, out of the wind, and it proved very rich. Baton Blue and Corsican heath butterflies were both identified. It was now mid afternoon, and some members of the group had expressed a desire to walk from Venaco back to the hotel. Other elected to visit the ancient Citadel in Corte. Upon our return to the hotel, a female Pied Flycatcher was seen in the car park.

After yesterday's winter-like weather, it was completely opposite this evening, and a number of moth species were attracted to the lights in the sitting area. These included Beautiful Hooktip, Silver-ground Carpet and Cymbalophora pudica.

## Day 8

## **Sunday 30th September**

Weather: Fine warm and sunny.

Several early morning birders saw Dipper in the river by the hotel. After a fairly leisurely breakfast and a little last minute birding, we loaded our luggage into the minibuses and set off back via Corte and Ponte Leccia, where we followed the N1197 towards Ogliastro. At this point we left the main road, and parked up overlooking the Plage de l'Ostriconi and the estuary of the Ostriconi River. Here we added Dabchick, Kingfisher, Common Sandpiper and, another Marmora's Warbler, together with Lesser Emperor Dragonfly. Plants included *Smilax aspera* (Smilax), *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary) and *Pistacia lentiscus* (Mastic Tree). Continuing on through Algajola and Lumio, we made our way back into Calvi Airport for the Titan Airways flight to Stansted.

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## **Species Lists**

Plants [NIF = Not In Flower]

Group/Species English Name(If any) Location

Pteridopsida Ferns and their Allies

Selaginellaceae Lesser Clubmoss Family

Selaginella denticulata Toothed Clubmoss Spelunca Gorge

Adiantaceae Maidenhair Ferns

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern Spelunca Gorge
Cryptogramma crispa Parsley Fern Gorges de la Restonica

Aspleniaceae Spleenwort Family

Asplenium adiantum-nigrumBlack SpleenwortWalls in EvisaAsplenium onopterisSharp-leaved SpleenwortSpelunca GorgeAsplenium trichomanesMaidenhair SpleenwortSpelunca GorgeCeterach officinarumRusty-backed FernWalls in Evisa

Blechnaceae Hard Fern Family

Blechnum spicant Hard Fern Foret d'Aitone

Dennstaedtiaceae Bracken Family

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken Foret d'Aitone

Dryopteridaceae Buckler Fern Family

Dryopteris filix-masMale FernVerghello ValleyPolystichum aculeatumHard Shield FernVerghello ValleyPolystichum setiferumSoft Shield FernVerghello Valley

Osmundaceae Royal Ferns

Osmunda regalis Royal Fern Spelunca Gorge

Polypodiaceae Polypody Family

Polypodium australe (P.cambricum)Southern PolypodySpelunca GorgePolypodium vulgareCommon PolypodyVerghello Valley

Woodsiaceae Lady-fern Family

Athyrium filix-femina Lady-fern Spelunca Gorge

Pinopsida (Gymnosperms) Conifers

Cupressaceae Cypress Family

Cupressus sempervirensItalian CypressPlantedJuniperus communis subsp. alpinaJuniperCol de Vergio

Juniperus oxycedrus Prickly Juniper Spelunca Gorge

Pinaceae Pine Family

Abies albaEuropean Silver FirForet d'AitonePicea abiesNorway SpruceForet d'AitonePinus nigra subsp. laricioCorsican PineForet d'Aitone

Pinus pinaster Maritime Pine Gorges de la Restonica

Pseudotsuga menziesii Douglas Fir Foret d'Aitone

Group/Species

English Name(If any) Lo

Flowering Plants

Location

Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)

Aizoaceae Dewplant Family

Carpobrotus acinaciiformis Red Hottentot Fig Galeria

Carpobrotus edulis Yellow Hottentot Fig Low Cliffs, Sagone

Aceraceae Maple Family

Acer monspessulanum Montpelier Maple Scala di Santa Regina

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore Evisa

Anacardiaceae Sumache Family

Pistacia lenticus Mastic Tree Spelunca Gorge

Apiaceae (Umbelliferae) Carrot Family

Bupleurum fruticosum Shrubby Hare's-ear Roadside Rocky places

Crithmum maritimumRock SamphireSagoneDaucus carotaWild CarrotEvisa

Echinophora spinosa Echinophora Biguglia Beach

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo Venaco

Eryngium maritimumSea HollyBiguglia BeachFoeniculum vulgareFennelLiamone Beach

Oenanthe crocata Hemlock Water-dropwort Biguglia

Sanicula europaea Sanicle Verghello Valley

Apocynaceae Oleander Family

Nerium oleander Oleander Occasionally naturalised

Aquifoliaceae Holly Family

Ilex aquifolium Holly Foret d'Aitone

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Ivy Spelunca Gorge

Asteraceae (Compositae) Daisy Family

Achillea ligustica Anthemis maritimus - Sea Chamomile Biguglia

Bellis perennisDaisyLiamone BeachBellis sylvestrisWood DaisySpelunca GorgeCarduus tenuiflorusSeaside or Slender ThistleLiamone Beach

Carlina corymbosa A Carline Thistle Spelunca Gorge Centaurea sphaerocephala A Knapweed Biguglia

Chrysanthemum segetum
Corn Marigold
Liamone Beach

Chicorium intybus Chicory Roadside, Biguglia
Dittrichia viscosa - Galeria

Doronicum corsicumA Leopard's-baneVerghello ValleyHelichrysum italicumA Curry PlantSpelunca Gorge

Hypochoeris glabraSmooth Cat's-earSpelunca GorgeHypochoeris radicataCommon Cat's-earBiguglia

Inula crithmoides Golden Samphire Biguglia Beach
Lapsana communis Nipplewort Biguglia

Mycelis muralis Wall Lettuce Foret d'Aitone
Otanthus maritimus Cottonweed Biguglia Beach

Group/Species

Ptilostemon casabonae Senecio leucanthemifolius

Senecio vulgaris Silybum marianum Solidago virgaurea Sonchus asper Sonchus oleraceus

Soncous overaceus Taraxacum spp Xanthium italicum Xanthium spinosum

Asclepiadaceae

Gomphocarpus fruticosus

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria

Berberidaceae

Berberis aetnensis

Betulaceae

Alnus alnobetula subsp. suaveolens

Alnus cordata Alnus glutinosa Betula pendula

Boraginaceae

Echium italicum

Heliotropium europaeum

Arabidopsis thaliana

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

Cakile maritima Capsella bursa-pastoris Capsella rubella Cardamine hirsuta Hirschfeldia incarna Lobularia maritima Matthiola sinuata

Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritimum

Sisymbrium officinale

Buddlejaceae

Buddleja davidii

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens

Cactaceae

Opuntia ficus-indica

Cannabaceae

Humulus lupulus

English Name(If any) Location

Ptilostemon (endemic) Behind temp hotel

a sea groundsel Biguglia

Grounsel Roadside, Bastia Milk Thistle Roadside, Biguglia Goldenrod Spelunca Gorge

Prickly Sow-thistle Biguglia

Smooth Sow-thistle Roadside, Bastia
Dandelions Common
A Cocklebur Liamone Beach

Spiny Cocklebur Scala di Santa Regina

Milkweed Family

Bristle-fruited Silkweed Galeria

Swallow-wort Gorges de la Restonica

A Barberry Col de Vergio

Birch Family

Corsican Alder Gorges de la Restonica

Italian Alder Biguglia

Common Alder Spelunca Gorge Silver Birch Verghello Valley

**Borage Family** 

Italian Viper's-bugloss Roadsides Heliotrope Roadsides

**Cabbage Family** 

Thale Cress Evisa

Sea Rocket Liamone Beach

Evisa Shepherds Purse Shepherds Purse Col de Sevi Hairy Bittercress Evisa Biguglia Hoary Mustard Sweet Alison Biguglia Sea Stock Biguglia Beach Sea Radish Biguglia Beach Hedge Mustard Spelunca Gorge

**Butterfly Bush Family** 

Butterfly Bush Waste places

**Box Family** 

Box Spelunca Gorge

Cacti Family

Barberry Fig Biguglia

Hop Family

Hop Liamone Beach

Group/Species

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera implexa Sambucus ebulus Sambucus nigra Viburnum tinus

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium fontanum Cerastium glomeratum Paronychia argentea

Petrorhagia saxifraga subsp. gasparini

Sagina procumbens Silene latifolia Spergularia marina Stellaria media

Chenopodiaceae

Arthrocnemum macrostachyum Atriplex portulacoides (Halimione p.) Chenopodium album

Chenopodium bonus-henricus Beta vulgaris ssp.maritima

Salsola kali

Cistaceae

Cistus creticus Cistus monspeliensis Cistus salvifolius Helimium halimifolium

Clusiaceae

Hypericum perforatum

Convolvulaceae

Calystegia soldanella Convolvulus arvensis

Crassulaceae

Sedum album Sedum brevifolium Sedum dasyphyllum Umbilicus rupestris

Cucurbitaceae

Echallium elaterium

Cuscutaceae

Cuscuta epithymum

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus fullonum

English Name(If any)

Honeysuckle Family
A Honeysuckle Foret d'Aitone
Danewort Foret d'Aitone
Elderberry Spelunca Gorge
Laurustinus Spelunca Gorge

Location

Pink Family

Mouse-eared Chickweed Evisa

Sticky Mouse-ear Spelunca Gorge Silvery Paronychia Liamone Beach

A Tunic flower Gorges de la Restonica

Pearlwort Col de Sevi White Campion Evisa

Lesser Sea Spurrey Liamone Beach Chickweed Spelunca Gorge

Goosefoot Family

A perennial Glasswort Biguglia
Sea Purslane Biguglia
Fat Hen Biguglia

Good King Henry Verghello Valley

Sea Beet Biguglia

Prickly Saltwort Liamone Beach

**Rockrose Family** 

Cretian Cistus Roadside, Sagone (NIF) Narrow-leaved Cistus Near Francardo (NIF)

Sage-leaved Cistus Evisa (NIF) A Helimium Biguglia Beach

St.John's-wort Family

Perforate St.John's-wort Biguglia

**Bindweed Family** 

Sea Bindweed Liamone Beach

Field Bindweed Biguglia

Stonecrop family

White Stonecrop Liamone Beach

Short-leaved Stonecrop Gorges de la Restonica

Fat-leaved Stonecrop Walls in Evisa

Wall Pennywort Evisa

**Cucumber Family** 

Squirting Cucumber Near Bastia Airport

**Dodder Family** 

Common Dodder Foret d'Aitone

**Teasel Family** 

Teasel Casual

#### Group/Species

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo Erica arborea V accinium myrtillus Erica terminalis

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia characias ssp.characias Euphorbia dendroides Euphorbia helioscopia

Euphorbia hibernica subsp. insularis

Euphorbia lathyris Euphorbia paralias

Euphorbia pithyusa subsp. cupanii

Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Lotus corniculatus
Lupinus angustifolius
Medicago arabica
Medicago lupulina
Medicago marina
Medicago polymorpha
Melilotus indicus

Ononis (spinosa) variegata
Psoralia bituminosa
Robinia pseudacacia
Scoparius muricatus
Spartium junceum
Trifolium arvense
Trifolium campestre
Trifolium cherleri

Trifolium dubium Trifolium micranthum Trifolium repens Trifolium stellatum

Vicia cracca

Vicia sativa ssp. nigra

Fagaceae

Castanaea sativa Fagus sylvatica Quercus coccifera Quercus ilex Quercus pubescens Quercus suber

Fumariaceae

Fumaria capreolata

Gentianaceae

Gentiana asclepiadea

English Name(If any) Location

Heather Family

Strawberry Tree Spelunca Gorge
Tree Heather Spelunca Gorge
Bilberry Col de Vergio
Verghello Valley

Spurge family

Large Mediterranean Spurge Common
Tree Spurge Porto
Sun Spurge Evisa

An Irish Spurge Foret d'Aitone

Caper Spurge Evisa

Sea Spurge Liamone Beach

A Spurge Galeria

Pea Family

Bird's-foot Trefoil Near Francardo Narrow-Leaved Lupin Biguglia Spotted Medick Evisa

Black Medick Liamone Beach Sea Medick Liamone Beach

Toothed Medick Biguglia

Small Melilot Liamone Beach Spiny Restharrow Scala di Santa Regina

Pitch Trefoil Galeria
False Acacia Planted (NIF)
Scorpion vetch Venaco

Spanish Broom Common on roadsides

Hare's-foot Clover Spelunca Gorge
Hop Trefoil Spelunca Gorge
Liamone Beach
Lesser Yellow Trefoil Spelunca Gorge

Least Yellow Trefoil Venaco White Clover Venaco

Starry Clover Liamone Beach

Tufted Vetch Venaco

Narrow-leaved Vetch Spelunca Gorge

Oak Family

Sweet Chestnut Foret d'Aitone
Beech Col de Vergio
Kermes Oak Near Francardo
Holm Oak Spelunca Gorge

Downy Oak Venaco

Cork Oak Verghello Valley

**Fumitory Family** 

White Rampling Fumitory Evisa

**Gentian Family** 

Willow-leaved Gentian Foret d'Aitone

Group/Species

Geranium Family

English Name(If any)

Location

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium
Erodium corsicum
Geranium lucidum
Geranium molle

Geranium pyrenaicum Geranium robertianum Common Stork's-bill Spelunca Gorge

Corsican Stork's-bill (endemic) Galeria

Shining Crane's-bill Spelunca Gorge
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Liamone beach
Hedgerow Crane's-bill Roadside, Evisa
Herb Robert Verghello Valley

Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

Lavendula stoechas Mentha aquatica Mentha requienii Rosmarinus officinalis Salvia verbenaca Stachys corsica Stachys glutinosa Teucrium morum

Teucrium scorodonia Thymus herba-barona

Lentibulariaceae

Pinguicula corsica

Loranthaceae

Viscum album ssp. austriacum Viscum album ssp. abietis

Lythraceae

Lythrum salicaria

Malvaceae

Lavatera arborea Malva cretica Malva sylvestris

Mimosaceae

Acacia dealbata

Moraceae

Ficus carica

Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus camaldulensis Eucalyptus globulus Myrtus communis

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Fraxinus ornus Olea europaea Phillyrea angustifolia Dead-nettle Family

French Lavender
Water Mint
Foret d'Aitone
Corsican Mint
Foret d'Aitone
Rosemary
Ogliastro
Wild Clary
Near Francardo
Corsican Woundwort
Spelunca Gorge

A Woundwort Spelunca Gorge
A Germander (NIF) Spelunca Gorge
Wood Sage Col de Sevi
Verghello Valley

**Butterwort Family** 

Corsican Butterwort Gorges de la Restonica (NIF)

Mistletoe Family

Mistletoe Foret d'Aitone
Mistletoe Foret d'Aitone

Loosestrife Family

Purple Loosestrife Biguglia

**Mallow Family** 

Tree Mallow Biguglia
Cretian Mallow Biguglia
Common Mallow Biguglia

**Australian Blackwood Family** 

Silver Wattle Biguglia

Fig Family

Fig Biguglia

Myrtle Family

River Red Gum Biguglia
Tasmanian Blue Gum Biguglia
Common Myrtle Galeria

Olive Family

Ash Foret d'Aitone
Manna Ash Spelunca Gorge
Olive Spelunca Gorge
- Near Francardo

Location

Group/Species English Name(If any)

Oxalidaceae Wood-Sorrels

Oxalis pes-caprae Bermuda Buttercup Common Oxalis articulata Pink Oxalis Sagone

**Papaveraceae** Poppy Family

Liamone Beach Glaucium flavum Yellow Horned Poppy

Evisa Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy

Phytolaccaceae **Pokeweed Family** 

Phytolacca acinos Pokeweed Roadside, Porto

Pittosporaceae Pittosporum Family

Pittosporum tobira Biguglia - Planted Pittosporum

Plantaginaceae **Plantain Family** 

Buck's-horn Plantain Plantago coronopus Biguglia Ribwort Plantain Evisa Plantago lanceolata Plantago major Greater Plantain Biguglia

Platanaceae Plane Family

Platanus x hispanica Plane Commonly Planted

Thrift Family Plumbaginaceae

A Thrift Armeria leucocephala Scala di S. Regina (NIF)

Limonium corsicum Sea Lavender Galeria

A Sea Lavender Limonium dubium Biguglia Beach A Sea Lavender Limone narbonense Biguglia

Polygalaceae Milkwort Family

Polygala nicaeensis subsp.corsica Corsican Milkwort Gorges de la Restonica

Polygonaceae **Dock Family** 

Polygonum aviculare Knotgrass Biguglia Rumex conglomeratus Clustered Dock Biguglia Curled Dock Rumex crispus Biguglia Fiddle Dock Biguglia Rumex pulcher

Wood Dock Foret d'Aitone Rumex sanguineus

Primulaceae **Primrose Family** 

Foret d'Aitone Anagallis arvensis (Red and Blue) Scarlet Pimpernel Sowbread Cyclamen hederifolium Common

Ranunculaceae **Buttercup** family Clematis flammula Biguglia Beach Clematis vitalba Traveller's Joy Near Porto

Foret d'Aitone Helleborus argutifolius Corsican Hellebore Ranunculus flammula Biguglia Lesser Spearwort Foret d'Aitone Ranunculus ophioglossifolius Adder's-tongue Spearwort

Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup Biguglia

Resedaceae Mignonette Family

Reseda alba White Mignonette Calvi Reseda lutea Mignonette Biguglia

English Name(If any)

Group/Species

Alchemilla alpina

Potentilla reptans

Rubus ulmifolius

Sanguisorba minor

Fragaria vesca

Crataegus monogyna

Rosaceae

Rose Family

Alpine Lady's-mantle
Hawthorn
Wild Strawberry
Creeping Cinqufoil
Spelunca Gorge
Verghello Valley
Spelunca Gorge

A Blackberry Biguglia

Salad Burnet Spelunca Gorge

Corsican Mountain Ash Gorges de la Restonica

Location

Rubiaceae

Sorbus aucuparia subsp. praemorsa

Galium aparine Cleavers Evisa

Galium odoratumSweet WoodruffVerghello ValleyGalium scabrumRound-leaved bedstrawForet d'AitoneRubia perigrinaWild MadderSpelunca GorgeSherardia arvenseField MadderForet d'Aitone

Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family

Saxifraga pedemontana subsp.cervicornus Peadmont Saxifrage Verghello Valley (NIF)
Saxifraga rotundifolia subsp. insularis Round-leaved Saxifrage Verghello Valley (NIF)

**Bedstraw** family

Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family

Cymbalaria muralis Ivy-leaved Toadflax Evisa Digitalis purpurea subsp. Gyspergerae Foxglove (NIF) Evisa

Odontites luteaYellow OdontitesSpelunca GorgeScrophularia canina-Foret d'AitoneVerbascum sinuatumWavy MulleinNear Bastia Airport

Veronica arvensis Wall Speedwell Evisa

Veronica officinalis Heath Speedwell Foret d'Aitone

Veronica persica Common Speedwell Evisa

Solanaceae Nightshade Family

Atropa bella-donna Deadly nightshade Vergio forest

Vincetoxicum hiriundinaria subsp. contiguum Swallow-wort Foret d'Aitone (NIF)

Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family

Daphne gnidium Mediterranean Mezereon Francardo,

Tiliaceae Lime Family

Tilia platyphyllos Broad-leaved Lime Evisa - Planted

Urticaceae Nettle Family

Parietaria officinalis Large Pellitory-of-the-Wall Spelunca Gorge

Urtica atrovirensA NettleEvisaUrtica dioicaCommon NettleBiguglia

Valerianaceae Valerian family

Centranthus ruber Red Valerian Evisa

Verbenaceae Vervains

Lantana camara Lantana Roadside Calvi

Violaceae Violet Family

Viola arvensis Field Pansy Spelunca Gorge

Group/Species English Name(If any) Location

Viola riviniana Common Dog Violet Spelunca Gorge

Liliidae (Monocotyledons)

Agavaceae Agaves

Agave americana Century Plant Biguglia

Alismataceae Water Plantains

Alisma plantago-aquatica Water Plantain Foret d'Aitone (NIF)

Cyperaceae Sedges

Carex pendula Pendulous Sedge Verghello Valley

Dioscoriaceae Yams

Tamus communis Black Bryony Spelunca Gorge

Juncaceae Rushes

Juncus acutus Sharp Rush Biguglia Beach

Liliaceae Lilies

Asparagus acutifoliusSpiny AsparagusBigugliaColchicum neapolitanum-VenacoLeucojum roseumRose SnowflakeGaleria

Pancratium maritimumSea Daffodill (NIF)Biguglia, BeachRuscus aculeatusButcher's BroomSpelunca Gorge

Scilla autumnalisAutumn SquillGaleriaSmilax asperaCommon SmilaxOgliastro

Orchidaceae Orchids

Spiranthes spiralis Autumn Ladies Tresses Galeria

Poaceae (Gramineae) Grasses

Ammophila arenaria Marram Liamone Beach
Anisantha diandra Great Brome Liamone Beach

Anisantha sterilisBarren BromeEvisaArrhenathrum elatiusFalse Oat-grassBigugliaArundo donaxGiant ReedBigugliaAvena barbataBristle OatEvisaAvena sterilisBarren OatCol do Sovie

Avena sterilis Barren Oat Col de Sevi Briza maxima Large Quaking Grass Spelunca Gorge

Cynodon dactylonBurmuda GrassBigugliaCynosurus echinatusRough Dog's-tailBiguglia BeachElytrigia pycnanthesSand CouchBiguglia Beach

Holcus lanatus Yorkshire Fog Biguglia
Hordeum murinum Wall Barley Biguglia

Lagurus ovatusHare's-tail GrassBiguglia BeachPhragmites australisCommon ReedBiguglia

Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass Biguglia

Posidoniaceae

Posidonia oceanica (Fruits only) Posidonia or "sea-balls" Sagone beach

## Birds

				1	1	Sept	T	1		
	Common name	Scientific name	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus					•			•
2	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		•						•
3	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		•			•			<u> </u>
4	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		•			•			
5	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea					•			•
6	Mallard	Anus platyrhynchos								
7	Red Kite	Milvus milvus	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
8	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus							•	
9	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
10	Peregrine Falcon	F. pererinus ssp. brookeri							•	
11	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus				•	•	•	•	•
12	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa						•		
13	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus					•			•
14	Coot	Fulica atra					•			•
15	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula		•						
16	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus					•			
17	Sanderling	Calidris alba					•			
18	Dunlin	Calidris alpine		•						
19	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos								•
20	Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibundus					•			
21	Audouin's Gull	Larus audouinii					•			
22	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus cachinnans	•	•	•		•			•
23	Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
24	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
25	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
26	Scops Owl	Otus scops	Н	•	Н				Н	
27	Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus		•	•					<del>                                     </del>
28	Alpine Swift	Apus melba					50			
29	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis								•
30	Great-spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopus major (parroti)		•	•	•		•	•	•
31	Woodlark	Lullula arborea				•				<del>                                     </del>
32	Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	•			•	•		•	
33	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia		•	•	•	•		•	$\vdash$
34	Swallow	Hirundo rustica		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
35	House Martin	Delichon urbica			•	•	•			
36	Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta						Н		+-
37	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		•	•	•	•		•	•
38	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		•	•	•	•		•	•
39	Dipper	Cinclus cinclus			•				•	•
40	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes(koenigi)		•		Н		Н	Н	•
41	Robin	Erithacus rubecula(sardus)		•		•	•		•	-
42	Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus		LO			+		_	+
43	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros		•						
44	Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		•			•			•
45	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius				•	-			+
46	Blackbird	Turdus merula		•		•	•		•	•
47	Mistle Thrush	Turdus riierula  Turdus viscivorus(deichle)	+	•		Н				+
48	Fan-tailed Warbler	Cisticola juncidis				11	•			Н
49	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti		•		-	Н			Н

**Tour Report Corsica - The Scented Isle** 

							September								
	Common name	Scientific name	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
50	Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scripaceus													
51	Mamora's Warbler	Sylvia sarda							•	•					
52	Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	•												
53	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla(koenegi)		•	•	•									
54	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	•				Н	Н		•					
55	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus		Н											
56	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus			•										
57	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata		•											
58	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca							•						
59	Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
60	Great Tit	Parus major		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
61	Coal Tit	Parus ater(sardus)		•	•	•		•	•	Н					
62	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus		•	Н			•	•	•					
63	Corsican Nuthatch	Sitta whiteheadi		Н					5						
64	Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor	•	•	•	•	•		•	•					
65	Jay	Garrulus glandarius(corsicarnus)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
66	Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus						50	200						
67	Raven	Corvus corax	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
68	Hooded Crow	Corvus corone cornix	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
69	House (italian) Sparrow	Passer domesticus (italiae)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
70	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		•	•	•		•	•	•					
71	Citril Finch (Corsican finch)	Serinus citrinella corsicanus		50		•									
72	Serin	Serinus serinus		•	•	•	•	•		•					
73	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	•							•					
74	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis(tschusii)	•	•	•	•	•		•	•					
75	Linnet	Acanthis cannabina		•											
76	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra								•					
77	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		•											

## Butterflies

Battorinos		
Species	Scientific Name	Location
Swallowtail	Papilio machaon	Galeria
Large White	Pieris brassicae	Calvi
Small White	Pieris rapae	Liamone Beach
Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea faillae	Galeria
Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	Spelunca Gorge
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	Syntarucus pirithous	Porto
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	Spelunca Gorge
Baton Blue	Pseudophilotes baton	Verghello
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis	Liamone Beach
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	Porto
Two-tailed Pasha	Charaxes jasius	Sagone and Spelunca
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	Evisa
Painted Lady	Cynthia cardui	Biguglia
Cardinal	Pandoriana pandora	Evisa and Spelunca Gorge
Silver-washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia	Spelunca Gorge
Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia	Francardo
Southern Grayling	Hipparchia aristaeus	Galeria
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	Galeria
Corsican Heath	Coenonympha corinna	Verghello
Southern Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria	Liamone Beach

Species Scientific Name Location

Wall Brown Lasiommata megera Spelunca Gorge

Moths

Hummingbird Hawk MothMacroglossum stellatarumCalviBeautiful HooktipLaspeyria flexulaVenacoPine Processionary MothThaumetopoea pityocampaVerghelloGrass EggarLasiocampa trifoliiBiguglia Beach

Silver Ground Carpet Xanthorhoe montanata Venaco

Vestal Rhodometra sacraria Biguglia Beach
- Cymbalophora pudica Biguglia Beach

Other Insects and Archnids

Dor BeetleGeotrupes stercorariusVerghelloDevils Coach-horseStaphylinus olensVerghelloLadybirdEpilachna crysomelinaBiguglia Beach

2 Spot Ladybird Adalia bipunctata Evisa
7 Spot Ladybird Coccinella 7-punctata Biguglia
10 Spot Ladybird Adalia 10-punctata Venaco
Fire Bug Pyrrhocoris apterus Foret d'Aitone

Shield Bug

Eurydema ornatum

Verghello

Hornet

Vespa crabro

Spelunca gorge

Ant Lion (Imago)

Myrmeleon formicarius

Liamone Beach

Banded Damoiselle

Calopteryx splendens

Spelunca Gorge

Blue-tailed Damselfly

Liamone Beach

Lesser Emperor DragonflyAnax parthenopeOgliastroRed-veined Darter DragonflySympetrum fonscolombiiLiamone BeachScarlet Darter DragonflyCrocothemis erythraeaLiamone Beach

Bush Cricket
Speckled Bush Cricket
Leptophyes punctatissima
Egyptian Grasshopper

Crocoinems eryinraea

Tylopsis liliifolia
Biguglia Beach
Verghello
Porto

Red-winged Grasshopper Oedipoda germanica Liamone Beach
Blue-winged Grasshopper Oedipoda caerulescens Liamone Beach
Nosed Grasshopper Acrida ungarica Liamone Beach

Grasshopper Calliptamus italicus Corte

Praying mantis Mantis religiosa Liamone Beach and Bastia

Wasp Spider Agriope bruennchii Liamone Beach Spider Linyphia sp Verghello

Reptiles & Amphibians

Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard Podarcis tiliguerta Spelunca gorge Italian Wall Lizard Podarcis sicula Biguglia Beach Corsican Fire Salamander Salamandra corsica Foret d'Aitone

Common Tree Frog Hyla arborea sarda Evisa

Pool Frog Rana lessonae Liamone Beach

Mammals

Stoat Mustela erminea Restonica Gorge

Wood Mouse Apodemus sylvaticus Verghello

Marine

Gar Fish Belone belone Sagone Sea Urchin Arbacia lixula Sagone