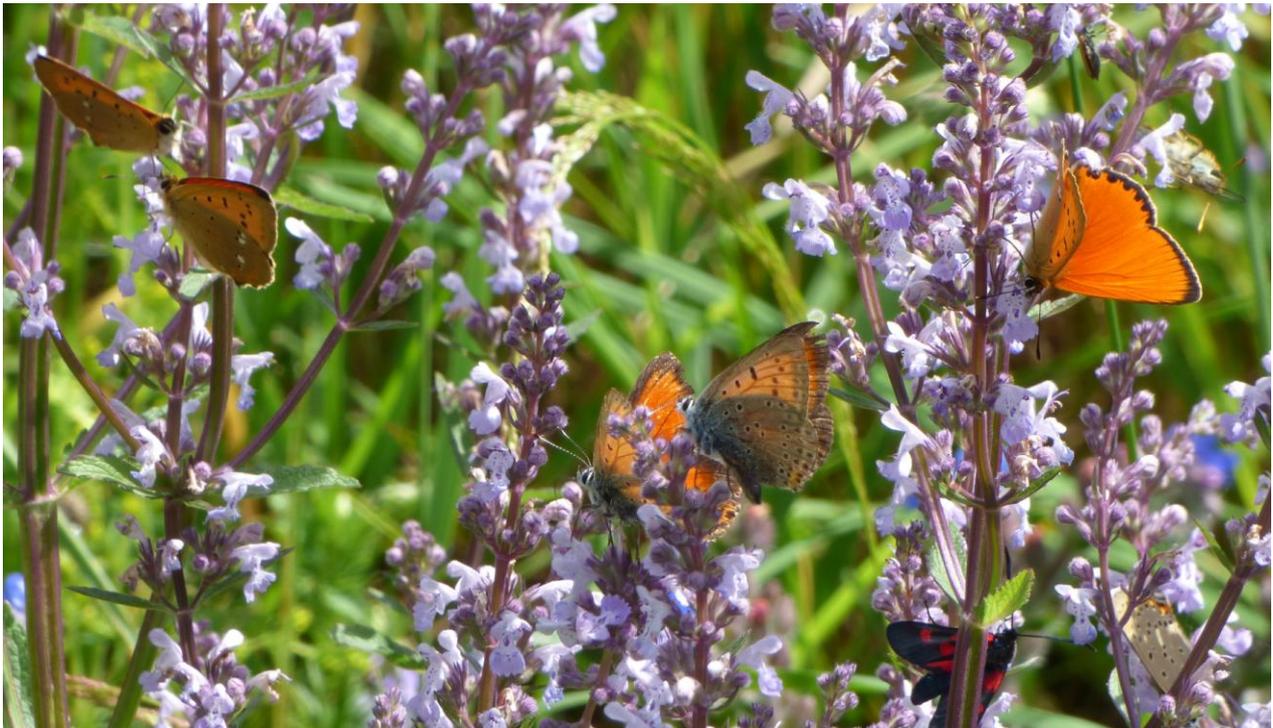




Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Western Rhodope Mountains
Bulgaria
22 – 29 June 2016**

Holiday participants

Gerald and Janet Turner
Jill Jordan
Jean Dunn
Monica Taylor

Monica and Peter Douch
Christine Pain
Wendy Corben
Mary Shepperd

Leaders

Vladimir (Vlado) Trifonov and Tim Strudwick

Our hosts at the Hotel Yagodina are Mariya and Asen Kukundjivi – www.yagodina-bg.com

Report by Tim Strudwick.

Photos in this report were taken during the holiday by Tim Strudwick and Jean Dunn.

Cover: landscape near Kozhari (JD); Rhodope lily (TS); and various copper butterflies on *Nepeta nuda* (hairless catmint) (JD, see day 7).



Above: the group at lunch on day 4.

Below: Tim and Vlado discuss an identification.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards local conservation work. The conservation contributions from this holiday raised £500, namely £40 per person topped up by Gift Aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust.

That money goes towards the protection of *Lilium rhodopaeum*. The Rhodope lily is a scarce endemic flower of the Western Rhodopes, found on just a handful of sites in Bulgaria and just over the border in Greece, about half of which have no protection. Honeyguide group leader Vlado Trifonov is recognised as the leading authority on the Rhodope lily and our funds cover Vlado's monitoring and management for both 2016 and 2017 on the site visited by the Honeyguide group. We have an additional sum earmarked for *Lilium rhodopaeum* ready for when the need arises.

The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 as at the end of September 2016 was £110,879.

DIARY

Day 1, 22 June: Plovdiv to Yagodina

The group arrived from Stansted to a hot, sunny evening at Plovdiv airport and soon found our Bulgarian leader Vlado and driver Iliyan. With the minibus conveniently parked just outside the terminal building, luggage was stowed with remarkable speed, and with the sun setting our journey beckoned. Driving out of the airport, a few crested larks, Spanish and house sparrows were noted on the roadside fence. Heading south across the flat landscape of the Thracian plain, the Rhodope mountains abruptly rose ahead of us, and driving into the mountains darkness fell quickly.

The late hour, winding roads and Iliyan's careful driving were soporific, but a few eyes at the front of the bus remained open long enough to spot eastern hedgehog and brown hare crossing the road. A petrol station loo stop provided a chance to listen to the sounds of the night – the distant 'poo-poo-poo' of red or yellow bellied toad and the ubiquitous chorus of field crickets. Just before midnight, as we turned into Yagodina village, a firefly landed on the windscreen, its pulsating light welcoming the group to the base for the week ahead.

Day 2, 23 June: Trigrad Gorge and Valley

With the late arrival, no early walk was planned, and the group met for breakfast. Breakfast at the Hotel Yagodina was a spread of local products: yogurts, cheese, butter, jams and honey with local breads, pancakes and toast. Tea was the local mountain tea, made from the herb *Sideritis scardica*, though there was also 'normal' tea and coffee for the unadventurous.

After breakfast the group gathered at the bus in glorious sunshine, and started to take note of the birdlife in the village. Low overhead were house martins, red-rumped swallow and both pallid and common swifts, and serin, black redstart and tree sparrow called from rooftops and wires. But it was time to head off to our destination for the day: Trigrad Gorge and the valley beyond. Our driver Iliyan negotiated the twisting roads and potholes with great care and the fast-flowing stream provided frequent sightings of grey wagtails and dipper from the moving bus.

The road wound its way through the gorges until we pulled in at the well-known lay-by where a pair of wallcreepers had nested close to the road for many years. However, hopes were not high as, Vlado told us, no wallcreepers had been seen in the gorge at all since April. We still spend a good half hour, scanning the towering rock faces, and enjoying the aerobatics of crag martins and flocks of alpine swifts as consolation. But there was plenty of botanical interest here, with dwarf and common valerian growing side by side, the stately *Heracleum sibiricum* somehow more decorative than our hogweed, and on the rock face the local endemic *Haberlea rhodopensis* (not flowering), *Campanula lingulata*, black spleenwort and limestone fern.



Trigrad Gorge and Trigrad Valley.

We walked on up the gorge towards the 'Devil's Throat' cave and out of the shade into the sunshine, and immediately the gorge was alive with butterflies. Painted lady, comma, scarce swallowtail, black-veined white, wall brown and numerous blues. Scabious flowers attracted the distinctive black and red large scabious mining bee. A tall blue flower on a sunny rock face momentarily had Vlado stumped, but later it was named as the atypical bellflower *Asyneuma limonifolium*.

As we drank coffee at the café, alpine swifts and crag martins streamed low overhead. We walked on up the road past stalls selling honey, preserved fruit, fridge magnets and other holiday essentials, and then the more agile of the group took a small path down from the road to the point where the river plunges into an underground cavern. Here in the deep shade and wet with spray from the waterfall we found a wall of *Haberlea* in full flower.



Haberlea rhodopensis; crag martins.

A little way up the road we caught up with the bus and drove on a few more miles to a rather gaudy collection of buildings which was our lunch stop. It was by now a scorching day and cold drinks in the shade of the restaurant terrace were just what was needed. After a leisurely lunch of salad, chips and fried cheese, followed by ice-cream, a little exploration around the building revealed nesting crag martins and red-rumped swallows, and two freshly fledged young martins sat confidently just above our heads. The first red-backed shrike of the trip was soon spotted on a nearby fence and a couple of ravens flew over. A boldly-marked butterfly fluttering around the terrace proved to be a woodland grayling.

We drove on yet farther up the valley, decamped from the bus and spent the next couple of hours pottering back down the road, botanising and enjoying the insect life. The abundance and diversity of butterflies was stunning and bewildering, with heath, pearl-bordered, lesser spotted and dark green fritillaries, blues including silver-studded, mazarine and blue argus, woodland ringlet and dingy skipper among the many identified. Day-flying moths were also very conspicuous, with narrow-bordered five-spot, slender scotch and chalk burnets, nine-spotted moth and hummingbird hawkmoth adorning the roadside flowers. A hyperactive ascalaphid *Libelloides macaronius* provided typically fleeting views, and the colourful *Poecilimon* bush-crickets were everywhere.



Bush crickets.

Along the roadside botanical delights included maiden pink, clustered carline thistle, white sainfoin, matted globularia, the pale blue *Campanula moesiaca* and, not quite in flower, the impressive *Morina persica*. In a damp meadow, complete with gushing spring, were fragrant orchid, marsh helleborine and some gone-over *Dactylorhiza*.

In the heat of the afternoon birdlife was unsurprisingly quiet, though red-backed shrikes remained active and some of the group spotted a sombre tit moving through roadside trees. Eventually time caught up with us and we headed back to the hotel. After an hour to cool down and freshen up, we reassembled for the evening routine of drinks, daily log and then dinner.

Day 3, 24 June: Trigrad to Yagodina

The early morning walk took us to the edge of the village, where we found the forest remarkably quiet, though typical of woodlands in summer with many small birds, having finished nesting, keeping a low profile. Crossbill, bullfinch and lesser whitethroat were heard but not seen, though fleeting views of two red squirrels playing hide and seek in the pines were a treat. Arriving back at the hotel, news of the EU referendum results had arrived and a sombre mood pervaded the Europhile Honeyguiders' breakfast.

But on with the holiday, and we took the bus back to Trigrad Gorge where a 15 minute stop at the now abandoned wallcreeper nest site allowed us at last to identify the umbellifer laserwort which we somehow missed the day before. We drove on a couple of miles and Iliyan dropped us off at the edge of the village of Trigrad to start our trek back to the hotel. Walking out of the village, we disturbed serin, linnets and tree sparrows feeding among the small cultivated fields, and then an enormous violet carpenter bee grabbed Jean's attention. A scarce swallowtail was the first of many butterflies to pose for the cameras, followed by marbled white, scarce copper, black-veined white, Glanville fritillary and, biggest and best of all, an Apollo.

Just outside the village in a fallow field a magnificent stand of *Morina persica* was in full flower and a rocky roadside bank was ablaze with pink salvia, white and yellow yarrow – *Achillea crithmifolia* and *clypeolata* – and the delicate *Centaurea triumfettii*. As we followed the track into the forest of spruce, silver fir and juniper, gently gaining altitude, other botanical delights appeared: *Digitalis lanata*, *Marrubium frivaldskyanum*, white-flowered *Prunella laciniata*, yellow flax, hoary cinquefoil, *Hieracium petrovae*, *Aster alpina* and the unmistakable leaves of *Hepatica nobilis*. Quite literally standing out among a few broad-leaved helleborine, pyramidal and burnt tip orchids was, in a damp flush, an impressive group of fragrant orchids almost 1m tall.

During the morning, the peace of the mountain forest was shattered more than once by a convoy of five 4x4 vehicles laden with young tourists, music blaring, racing past us. Later we found a dead song thrush on the track, an apparent casualty of this heavy traffic. As we had found earlier, birds in the forest were rather secretive, and family parties of five species of tit were identified more by sound than sight. A probable grey-headed woodpecker skulking in the thick spruce foliage was, frustratingly, not seen quite well enough to rule out the more common green. An unfamiliar bird song was eventually traced to a rock bunting, glimpsed briefly by Tim and Christine before it flew out of sight.

A broad-bodied chaser was found holding territory at a flooded section of the track, and the muddy edges of this pool provided evidence of some of the more elusive forest inhabitants: footprints of brown bear (a large male, Vlado thought), wolf and probable wild cat. As we moved through the forest we saw other signs of bears – turned-over logs and rocks and dug-over ant nests – though Vlado emphasised our chances of encountering one were close to zero. Brief glimpses of red squirrel and, a little unexpected in the dense woods, a brown hare were our only mammalian sightings.



Red-backed shrike; brown bear footprint; fragrant orchids.

Reaching the highest point of our walk, we stopped for lunch in a clearing, before continuing down through the forest. As we descended, with a more extensive view of the sky we managed brief views of honey buzzard, buzzard, kestrel and hobby. The sun was breaking through again sparking a flush of insect activity, with Glanville fritillary, scarce copper and woodland grayling quickly spotted, the last choosing to bask on Wendy's leg. An impressively large bumblebee robberfly also landed on one or two passing Honeyguiders, perhaps mistaking them for dead wood.

Coming out of the forest into the rolling meadows, red-backed shrikes were numerous and vocal, apparently still feeding young in the nest. At the trackside, large numbers of silver-studded and other unidentified blues were visiting damp soil for minerals. It was now hot, and the prospect of cold drinks at the hotel focussed minds and legs on completing the last mile or so. Some of the group found the energy for a detour to the Orthodox chapel. The chapel was once derelict but had been recently restored, largely by our hosts Mariya and Asen at the Hotel Yagodina, and in the absence of a church was the only place of worship for the Orthodox Christians of the village. Vlado pointed out a stand of *Cirsium ligulare* growing in abundance close to the chapel. Reaching the hotel, the returning Honeyguiders celebrated with a well-earned ice cream, cold beer or chilled wine.

Day 4, 25 June: St. Ilyia Peak

An early morning walk around the south side of the village was pretty uneventful birdwise, but three elderly builders teetering around on a roof (no safety measures in sight) and an axe seller in the square provided a little anthropological interest.

Today's destination was St. Ilyia mountain, the 1560m peak which looms above the village, and after breakfast the group were swiftly packed into and onto two 4x4 vehicles and soon on our way up the mountain. The journey via rutted dirt tracks was certainly exhilarating, frequently uncomfortable and occasionally frightening but soon we were at the summit and none the worse for wear.

Arriving at the top to perfect weather, we were greeted by spectacular views in all directions. One of our drivers pointed out the highest peak in the Rhodopes to the east, the snow capped Pirin mountains to the west and the Greek mountains less than 10km away. We walked down the slope to a platform, cantilevered out over the cliff face, where many of the group found the courage to pose for photos.



Two group members without vertigo ...

After an hour or so at the peak, the group were given the option of taking the 4x4 back down or walking down, and two opted for the quick way. The rest of us set off on foot, following the ridge of the mountain. The rocky grassland with scattered trees and scrub supported a varied and colourful flora, with *Carlina acanthifolia*, *Thalictrum minus*, Solomon's seal, dropwort, blue-matted globularia, *Marrubium frivaldskyanum*, *Dianthus cruentus*, *Potentilla argentea*, sainfoin and impressive stands of *Campanula persicifolia*.

All these flowers attracted plenty of bees, including conspicuous red-tailed and common carder bumblebees and many smaller solitary species including the sainfoin specialist *Melitta dimidiata*. Small heath, pearly heath and large wall brown were among the showier marbled whites and clouded yellows. Among the trees a few small birds including willow and crested tit were a bit less secretive than usual.



Campanula persicifolia.



Dianthus cruentus.

Saturday was peak day for the 4x4 trips and the noise and dust from the passing vehicles was an unwanted irritation, but there was an upside to this traffic. We found footprints of wild boar, wolf, deer, chamois and marten/polecat in the muddy ruts created by the 4x4s.

We stopped for our picnic lunch at a conveniently located shelter. Our driver Iliyan, with no driving to do, had chosen to join us for the day and with lunch, in local tradition, he produced a bottle of his home-made Rakia. This was offered around the group and several tried it with no apparent ill effects.



Identifying footprints on the way down Mt. Ilyia.

Moving on after lunch, the descent became steeper and steadying arms were needed to help some of the group down the most difficult bits. Towards the bottom, the long descent and loose ground had taken its toll on Wendy's legs and she accepted a lift in a 4x4, diverted from the shuttle service up and down the mountain, for the last stretch of the descent. The walk had tested the physical abilities of many in the group, and I think we were all surprised that only one of the group asked for assistance.

Back at the hotel, cold drinks soon washed away the dust of the day, and dinner and a good night's sleep revived tired legs.

Day 5, 26 June: Devin Gorge and town

The pre-breakfast walk out of the village towards the chapel was exceptionally productive with good views of crossbill, a hobby and a black-woodpecker that briefly perched in full view. Arriving back at the hotel, Gerry spotted a group of six or seven chamois on the skyline below Mt. Ilyia. Assembling at the bus after breakfast, a raptor was spotted drifting overhead, a short-toed eagle. With the thin end of a snake dangling from its bill it appeared to be digesting its own breakfast. Less exciting, but closer and another new bird for the trip, a family of long-tailed tits moved through the adjacent garden.

Soon we were on the road heading for the small spa town of Devin. Along the route a dead stone marten on the road and several dippers were spotted from the bus. Arriving at Devin we parked near the fast flowing Devinski river and set off upstream. The level path and dappled shade provided a contrast to the heat and exertion of the last two days, and the next two hours were spent slowly exploring the beautiful riverside. The diversity of deciduous trees here was remarkable, with three hornbeam species (common, hop and oriental), beech, Delchamp's oak, common and green alder, oriental plane, Montpellier and Norway maples and small-leaved and large-leaved lime, some of the former draped in webs of the small eggar moth.



Bee-fly *Anthrax anthrax* (how's that for a scientific name?); green lizard.

Initially the tree cover was broken and the sunny, scrubby grassland was filled with flowers including white laceflower, aster, forked catchfly, and both *Genista carinalis* and *G. rumelica*. The tall yellow flowers of *Telekia speciosa* sprouted from the riverside rocks. As the morning warmed up it was the insect life that attracted attention with Glanville fritillary, purple-shot and scarce copper among the familiar orange-tip and common blue butterflies. Firebug, southern beautiful demoiselle, European hornet, bee-beetle, angulate orb-weaver and the bee-fly *Anthrax anthrax* were among the bugs that could be named. Lizards were conspicuous, with both common and Balkan wall lizards and several green/Balkan green lizards basking on pathside rocks.

As we progressed and the tree cover began to close up, woodland butterflies including poplar and white admirals, large wall brown and large ringlet were added to our list. Where the path crossed the river on a footbridge there were very obvious otter spraints on rocks, and sharp eyes spotted a Balkan stream frog in the shallows. The river now entered a gorge and the path continued for a while on a timber and steel walkway, and here in deep shade we found martagon lily, touch-me-not balsam and on shady boulders *Haberlea rhodopensis*. A little farther on were red and white helleborines and lesser butterfly orchid.



Martagon lily.

Lunch was beckoning so we turned back and regrouped at a pre-arranged picnic spot. Birdlife along the river was mainly restricted to fleeting glimpses of dippers, grey wagtails, and kingfishers, but a pile of feathers by our lunch spot (most likely a sparrowhawk kill) provided a mystery to solve. The pinkish-buff feathers with some oddly shaped blue-black wing feathers eventually identified the meal as a hawfinch.

After lunch, it became overcast, warm and humid, and we retraced our steps to the car park. A few spots of rain fell as we approached the bus. We drove the short distance into the town, and decamped to a café for coffee, juice and ice cream. After refreshment, we walked through the quiet town centre (it was Sunday afternoon), Vlado pointing out some of the urban trees including the extremely aromatic silver lime *Tilia tomentosa*, festooned with honey bees and wasps, and a heavily fruiting morello cherry.

Back in Yagodina, after Gerry and Jan's success the previous night, many of the group joined them in an after-dinner hunt for fireflies.

Day 6, 27 June: Yagodina to Yagodinska ... and a surprise encounter

The pre-breakfast birders came back with tales of a red-backed shrike pair mobbing a weasel, confiding red-rumped swallows and the briefest glimpse of a black woodpecker.

This morning our walk started at the hotel, and the sun was shining strongly as we set off on the short steep climb out of the village. We walked through pasture, too well-grazed for botany, but butterflies were active with heath fritillary and woodland grayling on dung, bright-eyed ringlet and false eros blue along the woodland edge. With the heat and the climb, many of the group were already flagging, but the route soon turned downhill and entered the welcome cool of the spruce forest. Alongside the narrow path were shade-loving plants including red, white and broad-leaved helleborines and common and serrated wintergreens. In more open areas we found fragrant and burnt-tip orchids. Several dug-over anthills reminded us that brown bears were active throughout this area. Small birds were again secretive in the dense forest, but with a bit of patience some of the group has good views of crested tit, willow tit and firecrest.

As we descended, the spruce gave way to beech and the ground flora became sparse, but with specialities including herb paris and the remarkably broad-leaved *Lathyrus vernus*. As the river and road came into sight an enormous ground beetle, *Carabus intricarius* (a rarity in UK), scuttled across the path. Eventually our path met the road and a short walk took us to the Yagodinska cave and a convenient café where we ordered tea and coffee. This café stop was well-timed, since as the stragglers arrived a few spots of rain developed into a downpour, trapping the group at the café for the next hour or more. Iliyan heroically braved the downpour to collect our lunches from the bus and the café owners kindly allowed us to eat our packed lunches inside.



Geum coccineum; agile frog; red helleborine.

The rain eventually eased off and we left the cafe, stopping briefly to watch a juvenile dipper in the adjacent river, before boarding the bus and driving a few miles up the valley. It was still raining lightly as we stopped on the edge of the village of Kozhari but in true Honeyguide spirit we opted for some roadside botanising anyway. Walking along the road, there was plenty to see with meadows full of *Armeria rumelic* and *Dianthus cruentus*, and the beautiful orange-red *Geum coccineum* and purple *Dactylorhiza cordigera* on the roadside bank. Roman snails, enjoying the rain, were everywhere and an agile frog sat in a roadside ditch.

The rain had now almost stopped, and gazing up to the grassy slope our driver Iliyan spotted something moving – a bear! About 200m away, a brown bear slowly moved through the long grass, foraging (on snails perhaps?) and then a second bear appeared nearby. The two bears soon noticed our excitement, looking straight at us before quickly moving right into the trees. A few minutes later, one bear reappeared farther right and slowly crossed another meadow before finally disappearing into the forest, and then the second bear followed. In all we watched one or both bears for several minutes – a remarkable chance encounter.



Never mind the weather when there are bears to watch.

This was the first time any of the group, including Vlado and Ilyian, had seen a brown bear away from a feeding station, emphasising just how lucky we had been. Later Vlado spoke to local hunters who confirmed they had seen these bears, and thought they were probably three year old siblings.

Bears are a hard act to follow, but the sun came out and with it plenty of butterflies including Glanville, heath and pearl-bordered fritillaries and mazarine blue (all visiting what Vlado felt was probably polecat scat), and a broad-bodied chaser was hawking along the stream. A quail started calling in the streamside meadow but kept well hidden. After another half hour pottering in the sunshine we called it a day and drove back to Yagodina.



Fritillaries and silver-studied blues on a scat.

After a celebratory beer or two, and dinner of trout, the group were treated to the traditional local entertainment of the 'Yagodina grannies'. Some of the group were drawn into the dancing. Karaoke followed but that was an entertainment too far, and tactical exits were made to watch fireflies, or England vs Iceland.

Day 7, 28 June: Borino, Dospat and Chala

The early morning birders braved a cool and misty start but were rewarded with good views of nutcracker and serin at the edge of the village.

After breakfast, we drove north-west to Borino and beyond to a wooded valley. The weather was now brighter but still pleasantly cool as we walked along the roadside, the verges and meadows spectacular with the now familiar array of assorted bellflowers, scabious and pinks, catchflies and other flowers. The temperature was providing perfect conditions for close observation and photography of the abundant butterflies, with small, large and chequered skipper, marbled white, ringlets, Balkan, purple-shot and scarce copper among others, posing for the group. As the temperature increased, insect life became more active and diverse, with southern skimmer and beautiful demoiselle dragonflies, giant horseflies and assorted bees all capturing our attention. A raucous chorus from a disused fish farm revealed a group of marsh frogs. When a few drops of rain developed into a shower, Ilyian arrived with impeccable timing and we were all inside the bus before it became torrential.

We drove on to Dospat where we arrived at our pre-arranged lunch spot at a restaurant overlooking the reservoir. After a tasty lunch of omelette, chips and salad, washed down with orange juice or beer, we moved to the terrace for coffee and took in the view. As we watched yellow-legged gulls, little egrets and cormorants loitering around the floating trout farm cages on the reservoir, and crag martins buzzing overhead, a white stork, the only one of the trip, flew low over our heads.

Heading back towards Yagodina, we took a detour to the village of Chala, high up among alpine meadows at 1400m. This was a spectacular spot providing breathtaking views down to Yagodina and across to Mt. Ilyia. Yellowhammer and cirl bunting were both noted around the farm buildings. Our plan had been to explore the alpine meadows but unfortunately the hay crop had been taken early, leaving us with little to look at. After a short stroll in the chilly wind, we decided to call it a day and head back to base.

Day 8, 29 June: Shiroka Laka, Stoykite, Bachkovo and Plovdiv

Bags were packed and after breakfast the van was loaded and farewells bidden to our hosts Mariya and Asen. The sky was firmly overcast as we left Yagodina and drove north and then east to the historic village of Shiroka Laka. Here we spent an hour visiting the icon-filled church, taking coffee and souvenir hunting. We then drove on to a hilltop near the village of Stoykite for our main wildlife stop of the day. Vlado pointed out our destination a few hundred metres across the valley, and we set off down, following a stony track that wound among the tall meadows filled with false helleborine, *Stachys alpina*, scabious, pink salvia and meadowsweet. It was still cool with little insect activity, but the song of corn buntings drifted on the breeze and a male whinchat perched prominently in one meadow.

Reaching the bottom of the valley, we then set off up the grassy slopes, a physical challenge for some of the group but all made it far enough to see our target, the botanical emblem of the Rhodope mountains – *Lilium rhodopeum*! Vlado has been monitoring this threatened species at its few known sites for several years, and last year numbers here had been worryingly low with evidence of theft of some of the few remaining plants. But now the story was a happier one, and we were pleased to find a substantial increase in the number of plants, the most here for several years. Vlado explained that it was the abandonment of traditional hay-making rather than plant theft that was the real enemy of the Rhodopean lily, and looking around it was evident that there was little management at all in this vast landscape other than a group of horses grazing.



The village of Shiroka Laka; Rhodope lilies; false helleborine.

With rain threatening, the group drifted back towards the bus and took refuge in the van to eat packed lunches. The light rain soon eased off and a corncrake started calling in the distance, luring some of the group away to get closer. Meanwhile a second corncrake called from much nearer, though typically stayed well hidden in the tall grass. A honey buzzard and crossbills added to the tally for the day. We moved a short distance for a last roadside stop, where the highlights were a mating pair of marbled whites, subdued by the cool weather, posing perfectly for the cameras, and nutcrackers calling from the nearby forest.

Moving on, we drove north until we reached Bachkovo Monastery. It was still overcast but now at lower altitude it felt warm and muggy. Most of the group took advantage of this opportunity to relax, rest weary legs and take in the cultural offerings, but a few walked uphill to explore the wooded hillsides (part of an extensive protected area). The highlights here were a female stag beetle, cicadas, red helleborines and Vlado pointed out a new plant for the trip, a Pontic fritillary, although sadly the flowers had gone over. A short walk through the barrage of stalls selling honey, jam, crockery and other potential souvenirs took us to a restaurant overlooking the river for our last dinner. We dined on salads, bread and a copious selection of grilled meats followed by ice-cream with green fig jam and chocolate (a local speciality). After dinner (and with doggie bags loaded with excess meat) it was time to press on and after a 20 minute drive we found ourselves at the airport, where we bade farewell to Vlado and Iliyan, negotiated the airport formalities and waited for our evening flight home.

HIGHLIGHTS

In the Honeyguide tradition, at our last dinner the group all shared their personal highlights of the trip.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Jill | The scenery, Apollo, birds, crossbills, black woodpecker, flowers, especially the two lilies, and chicory everywhere. |
| Monica D | High meadows, rock gardens, bears. |
| Wendy | Alpine meadows, swathes of wild flowers. |
| Christine | Bears, nutcracker, black woodpecker, red-backed shrikes, black redstarts, lovely flowers and good company. |
| Jean | Swathes of flowers, bears, fireflies, Apollos, all the insects, the fantastic group. |
| Mary | The variety of flowers, crossbill by the stream, fireflies and bears. |
| Peter | The Rhodope lily, swifts and spectacular views. |
| Gerry | Iliyan spotting the bears, short-toed eagle, fireflies, nutcracker, red helleborine, lily. |
| Monica T | The abundance and diversity of flowers, Vlado's skill and patience, the good spirit and humour of the group. |
| Jan | Fireflies, cuddly bears, the variety of butterflies. |
| Tim | The unexpected bears and diversity and sheer abundance of flowers and butterflies. |
| Vlado | The valley of the bears. |
| Iliyan | Everything! But especially the bears. |

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Cormorant | Around 40 roosting on fish farming cages at Dospat reservoir. |
| White stork | One flew over at Dospat. |
| Honey buzzard | Seen over forest above Yagodina and at Stoykite. |
| Common buzzard | Seen daily throughout the area. |
| Short-toed eagle | One over Yagodina. |
| Kestrel | Seen daily around Yagodina |
| Hobby | One seen above Yagodina on two days. |
| Corncrake | Two calling at Stoykite. |
| Quail | One calling near Kozhari. |
| Yellow-legged gull | Several near Plovdiv airport and at Dospat Reservoir. |
| Tawny owl | Heard calling at night from the Hotel in Yagodina and one found dead on St. Ilyia. |
| Feral pigeon | Small numbers around Yagodina and elsewhere |
| Common swift | Common, nesting in Yagodina. |
| Pallid swift | 2 seen with common swifts in Yagodina. |
| Alpine swift | Common around gorges. |
| Green woodpecker | Heard daily and seen occasionally. |
| Grey-headed woodpecker | Possibly seen near Trigrad. |
| Great spotted woodpecker | Heard or seen daily around Yagodina and elsewhere. |
| Black woodpecker | One seen closely at the edge of the village at Yagodina on two days. |
| Skylark | Several at Plovdiv Airport. |
| Crag martin | Common near cliffs, nesting on houses near Trigrad. |
| Barn swallow | Around most villages but less numerous than red-rumped swallow. |
| Red-rumped swallow | Common around villages. |
| House martin | Common around villages. |
| Tree pipit | One singing near Borino. |
| Grey wagtail | Very common along rivers and streams. |
| White wagtail | Common around villages. |
| Dipper | Very common along the mountain rivers. |
| Wren | Frequently heard in the gorges and forest. |
| Duncock | Commonly heard at the forest edge near Yagodina. |
| Robin | Common in the forest. |
| Black redstart | Very common around all kinds of buildings. |
| Whinchat | A male at Stoykite. |
| Blackbird | Common. |
| Song thrush | Seen or heard on two mornings around Yagodina and one dead near Trigrad. |
| Mistle thrush | Common at the edge of forest. |
| Blackcap | Common. |
| Lesser whitethroat | Heard in song in the forest near Trigrad and Yagodina. |
| Whitethroat | One seen at the roadside near Borino. |
| Chiffchaff | Common. |
| Goldcrest | Near Trigrad. |
| Firecrest | In the forest between Yagodina and Yagodinska. |
| Long-tailed tit | A family party seen in Yagodina. |
| Marsh tit | Common in the forest and around the village at Yagodina. |
| Willow tit | Frequently heard and occasionally seen in the forest around Yagodina and Trigrad. |
| Crested tit | Frequently heard and occasionally seen in the forest around Yagodina and Trigrad. |
| Sombre tit | One seen briefly upstream from Trigrad. |
| Coal tit | Common. |
| Blue tit | Common. |
| Great tit | Common. |
| Golden oriole | A female seen briefly in flight from the moving bus near Devin. |
| Red-backed shrike | Common around Yagodina and elsewhere. |
| Jay | Very common in the forest. |
| Magpie | Seen daily around Yagodina. |
| Nutcracker | One seen well at Yagodina and also heard at Stoykite. |
| Hooded crow | Common everywhere. |
| Raven | Common in the mountains. |
| Starling | At Plovdiv Airport. |
| House sparrow | At Plovdiv Airport and Shiroka Laka. |
| Spanish sparrow | A few at Plovdiv Airport. |
| Tree sparrow | Common around Yagodina. |
| Chaffinch | Common. |
| Serin | Common around Yagodina. |
| Greenfinch | Common. |
| Goldfinch | Common. |
| Linnet | One seen at Yagodina. |
| Bullfinch | Heard daily in forest but only occasionally seen. |
| Crossbill | Small numbers seen on most days around Yagodina; also at Stoykite. |
| Yellowhammer | Seen daily at the forest edge and in cultivated areas. |
| Cirl bunting | Heard singing near Yagodina. One seen at Chala. |
| Corn bunting | Several in song at Stoykite. |
| Rock bunting | A male singing between Trigrad and Yagodina. |

MAMMALS

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|---------------------|---|
| Red squirrel | Seen at Yagodina, between Trigrad and Yagodina and on the way down to Yagodinska gorge. |
| Brown bear | Two 2-3 year olds seen feeding in meadows at the edge of the forest near Kozhari were an unexpected highlight of the trip; fresh footprints were seen between Trigrad and Yagodina on St. Iliya and several raided ant nests in the forest. |
| Brown hare | Two seen on the nocturnal drive to Yagodina; also in the forest near Trigrad and droppings frequently seen in open grassland. |
| Wolf | Tracks between Trigrad and Yagodina and on St. Iliya. |
| Mole | Hills seen here and there in pastures. |
| Wild boar | Abundant rootings on the edge of the forests. |
| Stone marten | One dead on the road to Devin. |
| Otter | Sprints at Devinska River. |
| Chamois | 6 seen below St. Iliya peak from Yagodina. |
| Polecat | Probable scats in several places. |
| Weasel | One watched hunting above Yagodina. |
| Eastern hedgehog | One seen on the nocturnal drive to Yagodina. |
| White-toothed shrew | A corpse found below St. Iliya peak. |
| Wild cat | Probable fresh footprints in mud between Trigrad and Yagodina. |

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

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|--|--|
| Balkan Green/Green Lizard | Several in Devin Gorge (the large size of some suggested Balkan but none could be conclusively identified from photographs). |
| Balkan Wall Lizard | One in Devin Gorge. |
| Common Wall Lizard | Seen frequently on roadsides and tracks. |
| Balkan Stream Frog | Devinska River and near Kozhari. |
| Agile Frog | Near Kozhari. |
| Yellow-bellied Toad/ Red-bellied Toad | Heard somewhere between Asenograd and Yagodina. |

BUTTERFLIES

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Apollo | Small Tortoiseshell | Large Wall Brown | Mazarine Blue |
| Scarce Swallowtail | White Admiral | Wall Brown | Brown Argus |
| Large White | Poplar Admiral | Woodland Ringlet | Blue Argus |
| Small White | Queen of Spain Fritillary | Bright-eyed Ringlet | Balkan Copper |
| Green-veined White | Pearl-bordered Fritillary | Large Ringlet | Purple-shot Copper |
| Orange-tip | Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary | Ringlet | Scarce Copper |
| Black-veined White | Glanville Fritillary | Pearly Heath | Large Skipper |
| Clouded Yellow | Lesser Spotted Fritillary | Small Heath | Small Skipper |
| Brimstone | Spotted Fritillary | Eastern Large Heath | Essex Skipper |
| Red Admiral | Dark Green Fritillary | Marbled White | Chequered Skipper |
| Painted Lady | Heath Fritillary | Common Blue | Dingy Skipper |
| Peacock | Speckled Wood | Idas Blue | |
| Comma | Woodland Grayling | Silver-studded Blue | |

MOTHS

(Scientific names given only for non-British species)

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Hummingbird Hawk-moth | Chimney Sweeper | Latticed Heath |
| Magpie Moth | Black-veined Moth | Cream-spot Tiger |
| Silver Y | Burnet Companion | Spotted Sulphur |
| Beautiful Burnet | Small Eggar (larvae and nests) | Narrow-bordered Five-spotted Burnet |
| Six-spotted Burnet | Transparent Burnet | Woodland Burnet <i>Zygaena osterodensis</i> |
| Slender Scotch Burnet | Chalk Burnet <i>Zygaena fausta</i> | Forester |
| Scarce Forester | Nine-spotted Moth <i>Syntomis phegea</i> | Small Magpie |

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Southern Beautiful Demoiselle | Broad-bodied Chaser | Southern Skimmer |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|

PLANTS

| FERNS | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i> | Black Spleenwort |
| <i>A. ruta-muraria</i> | Wall-rue |
| <i>A. trichomanes</i> | Maidenhair Spleenwort |
| <i>A. septemtrianale</i> | Forked Spleenwort |
| <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> | Male Fern |
| <i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i> | Branched Horsetail |
| <i>E. sylvestre</i> | |
| <i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i> | Limestone Fern |
| <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> | Bracken |
| <i>Polypodium vulgare</i> | Common Polypody |
| CONIFERS | |
| <i>Abies alba</i> | Silver Fir |
| <i>A. borisii-regis</i> | Bulgarian Fir |
| <i>Picea abies</i> | Norway Spruce |
| <i>Juniperus communis</i> | Juniper |
| <i>Pinus nigra</i> | Black Pine |
| <i>P. sylvestris</i> | Scots Pine |
| HIGHER PLANTS | |
| Aceraceae – Maple family | |
| <i>Acer hyrcanum</i> | Balkan Maple |
| <i>A. monspessulanum</i> | Montpellier Maple |
| <i>A. pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| Apiaceae – Carrot family | |
| <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> | Ground-elder |
| <i>Angelica sylvestris</i> | Wild Angelica |
| <i>Chaerophyllum aureum</i> | Golden Chervil |
| <i>Eryngium campestre</i> | Field Eryngo |
| <i>Heracleum sibiricum</i> | Hogweed |
| <i>Laserpitium siler</i> | Laserwort |
| <i>Orlaya grandiflora</i> | White Laceflower |
| <i>Pastinaca hirsuta</i> | Hairy Parsnip |
| <i>Sanicula europaea</i> | Sanicle |
| <i>Seseli rhodopaeum</i> | Rhodopean Moon-carrot |
| <i>Trinia glauca</i> | Honewort |
| Aristolochiaceae – Birthwort family | |
| <i>Asarum europaeum</i> | Asarabacca |
| Asteraceae – Daisy family | |
| <i>Achillea clypeolata</i> | Yellow Yarrow |
| <i>A. crithmifolia</i> | |
| <i>A. grandiflora</i> | |
| <i>A. nobilis</i> | Noble Yarrow |
| <i>Arctium minus</i> | Lesser Burdock |
| <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | Mugwort |
| <i>Aster alpinus</i> | Alpine Aster |
| <i>Aster amellus</i> | European Michaelmas Daisy |
| <i>Carlina acanthifolia</i> | Acanthus-leaved Carlina-thistle |
| <i>C. corymbosa</i> | Clustered Carlina-thistle |
| <i>Centaurea affinis</i> | |
| <i>C. nigra</i> | Black Knapweed |
| <i>C. triumfettii</i> | Squarrose Knapweed |
| <i>Cirsium appendiculatum</i> | Balkan Thistle |
| <i>C. ligulare</i> | |
| <i>Hieracium petrovae</i> | |
| <i>Inula oculus-christi</i> | |
| <i>Jurinea mollis</i> | |
| <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> | Ox-eye Daisy |
| <i>Mycelis muralis</i> | Wall-lettuce |
| <i>Petasites hybridus</i> | Butterbur |
| <i>Scorzonera laciniata</i> | |
| <i>Tanacetum corymbosum</i> | |
| <i>Tragopogon balcanicus</i> | Balkan Goat's-beard |
| <i>T. pratensis</i> | Goat's-beard |
| <i>Telekia speciosa</i> | Large Yellow Ox-eye |
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | Colt's-foot |
| Betulaceae – Birch family | |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Alnus viridis</i> | Green Alder |

| Boraginaceae – Borage family | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Anchusa barrelieri</i> | False Alkanet |
| <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> | Hound's-tongue |
| <i>Echium vulgare</i> | Viper's Bugloss |
| <i>Onosma arenaria</i> | Golden Drops |
| <i>O. rhodopaea</i> | |
| <i>Lithospermum officinale</i> | |
| <i>Symphytum ottomanum</i> | Turkish Comfrey |
| Brassicaceae – Cabbage family | |
| <i>Arabis turrata</i> | Towercross |
| <i>Descurainia sophia</i> | Flixweed |
| Campanulaceae – Bellflower family | |
| <i>Asyneuma limonifolium</i> | |
| <i>Campanula glomerata</i> | Clustered Bellflower |
| <i>C. lanata</i> | |
| <i>C. lingulata</i> | |
| <i>C. moesiaca</i> | |
| <i>C. orphanidea</i> | |
| <i>C. patula</i> | Spreading Bellflower |
| <i>C. persicifolia</i> | Peach-leaved Bellflower |
| <i>Trachelium rumelianum</i> | Throatwort |
| Caprifoliaceae – Honeysuckle family | |
| <i>Sambucus ebulus</i> | Dwarf Elder |
| <i>S. nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Viburnum lantana</i> | Wayfaring Tree |
| Caryophyllaceae – Campion family | |
| <i>Arenaria rhodopaea</i> | Rhodope Sandwort |
| <i>Cerastium decalvans</i> | |
| <i>Dianthus armeria</i> | Deptford Pink |
| <i>Dianthus deltoides</i> | Maiden Pink |
| <i>D. cruentus</i> | |
| <i>D. petraeus</i> | Rock Pink |
| <i>Gypsophila muralis</i> | |
| <i>Herniaria glabra</i> | Smooth Rupturewort |
| <i>Lychnis coronaria</i> | Rose Campion |
| <i>L. viscaria</i> | Sticky Catchfly |
| <i>Scleranthus perennis</i> | Perennial Knawel |
| <i>Petrorhagia prolifera</i> | |
| <i>Silene dichotoma</i> | Forked Catchfly |
| <i>S. italica</i> | Italian Catchfly |
| <i>S. noctiflora</i> | Night-flowered Catchfly |
| <i>S. otites</i> | Spanish Catchfly |
| <i>S. vulgaris</i> | Bladder Campion |
| Celastraceae – Spindle family | |
| <i>Euonymus latifolius</i> | |
| Cistaceae – Rock-rose family | |
| <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> | Rock-rose |
| Clusiaceae – St. John's-wort family | |
| <i>Hypericum linarioides</i> | |
| Cornaceae – Dogwood family | |
| <i>Cornus mas</i> | Cornelian Cherry |
| <i>C. sanguinea</i> | Dogwood |
| Corylaceae – Hazel family | |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam |
| <i>C. orientalis</i> | Eastern Hornbeam |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> | Hop-hornbeam |
| Crassulaceae – Stonecrop family | |
| <i>Sedum acre</i> | Biting Stonecrop |
| <i>S. album</i> | White Stonecrop |
| <i>S. hispanicum</i> | Glaucous Stonecrop |
| Cyperaceae – Sedge family | |
| <i>Carex hirta</i> | Hairy Sedge |
| Dipsacaceae – Teasel family | |
| <i>Knautia arvensis</i> | Field Scabious |
| <i>K. drymeia</i> | Hungarian Widow-flower |
| <i>Morina persica</i> | Prickly Whorlflower |

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| Euphorbiaceae – Spurge family | |
| <i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> | Wood Spurge |
| <i>E. cyparissias</i> | Cypress Spurge |
| <i>E. myrsinites</i> | Rock Spurge |
| <i>E. polychroma</i> | |
| <i>Mercurialis ovata</i> | |
| Fabaceae – Pea family | |
| <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>bulgarica</i> | Kidney-vetch |
| <i>Astragalus angustifolius</i> | Spiny Milk-vetch |
| <i>A. glycyphyllos</i> | Wild Licorice |
| <i>Chamacytiscus hirsutus</i> | Clustered Broom |
| <i>Coronilla emerus</i> | Scorpion Vetch |
| <i>C. varia</i> | Crown Vetch |
| <i>Genista carinalis</i> | |
| <i>G. januensis</i> | Genoa Broom |
| <i>G. rumelica</i> | |
| <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> | Horseshoe Vetch |
| <i>L. laxiflorus</i> | |
| <i>L. nissolia</i> | Grass Vetchling |
| <i>L. pratensis</i> | Meadow Vetchling |
| <i>L. vernus</i> | Spring Pea |
| <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | Bird's-foot Trefoil |
| <i>Medicago lupulina</i> | Black Medick |
| <i>Melilotus albus</i> | White Melilot |
| <i>Onobrychis alba</i> | White Sainfoin |
| <i>O. viciifolia</i> | Sainfoin |
| <i>Ononis spinosa</i> | Spiny Restharrow |
| <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> | False Acacia |
| <i>Trifolium aureum</i> | Large Hop Trefoil |
| <i>T. hybridum</i> | Alsike Clover |
| <i>T. incarnatum</i> ssp. <i>molineri</i> | Long-headed Clover |
| <i>T. medium</i> | Zig-zag Clover |
| <i>T. pratense</i> | Red Clover |
| <i>Vicia cracca</i> | Tufted Vetch |
| <i>V. onobrychoides</i> | Sainfoin Vetch |
| Fagaceae – Beech family | |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ssp. <i>moesiaca</i> | Beech |
| <i>Quercus dalechampii</i> | Dalechamp's Oak |
| Gentianaceae – Gentian family | |
| <i>Centaurium erythrae</i> | Common Centaury |
| Geraniaceae – Cranesbill family | |
| <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> | Rock Cranesbill |
| <i>G. pyrenaicum</i> | Pyrenean Cranesbill |
| <i>G. robertianum</i> | Herb-Robert |
| <i>G. sanguineum</i> | Bloody Cranesbill |
| Gesneriaceae – African-violet family | |
| <i>Haberlea rhodopensis</i> | Rhodopean Haberlea |
| Globulariaceae – Globularia family | |
| <i>Globularia cordifolia</i> | Matted Globularia |
| <i>G. aphyllathes</i> | Globe-flower |
| Juglandaceae – Walnut family | |
| <i>Juglans regia</i> | Walnut |
| Lamiaceae – Mint family | |
| <i>Acinos alpinus</i> | Alpine Basil-thyme |
| <i>Ajuga laxmannii</i> | Laxmann's Bugle |
| <i>A. pyramidalis</i> | Pyramidal Bugle |
| <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> | Henbit Dead-nettle |
| <i>Marrubium frivaldskeyanum</i> | |
| <i>Mentha aquatica</i> | Water Mint |
| <i>Nepeta nuda</i> | Hairless catmint |
| <i>Prunella laciniata</i> | |
| <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> | Self-heal |
| <i>Salvia argentea</i> | Silver Sage |
| <i>S. verticillata</i> | Whorled Clary |
| <i>Sideritis scardica</i> | Mountain Tea |
| <i>Stachys alpina</i> | Alpine Woundwort |
| <i>S. germanica</i> | Limestone Woundwort |
| <i>S. officinalis</i> | Betony |
| <i>Thymus</i> sp. | Thyme |

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| Liliaceae – Lily family | |
| <i>Colchicum autumnale</i> | Meadow Saffron |
| <i>Lilium martagon</i> | Martagon Lily |
| <i>L. rhodopaeum</i> | Rhodope Lily |
| <i>Muscari comosum</i> | Tassel Hyacinth |
| <i>Paris quadrifolia</i> | Herb Paris |
| <i>Polygonatum odoratum</i> | Angular Solomon's-seal |
| <i>Veratrum lobelianum</i> | False-helleborine |
| Linaceae – Flax family | |
| <i>Linum bienne</i> | Pale Flax |
| <i>L. capitatum</i> | Yellow Flax |
| Lythraceae – Purple-loosestrife family | |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Purple-loosestrife |
| Moraceae – Fig family | |
| <i>Ficus carica</i> | Wild Fig |
| Oleaceae – Olive family | |
| <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> | Manna Ash |
| <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> | Lilac |
| Onagraceae – Willowherb family | |
| <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> | Rose-bay Willowherb |
| <i>Epilobium montanum</i> | Broad-leaved Willowherb |
| Orchidaceae – Orchid family | |
| <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> | Pyramidal Orchid |
| <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> | Narrow-leaved Helleborine |
| <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> | White Helleborine |
| <i>C. rubra</i> | Red Helleborine |
| <i>Dactylorhiza cordigera</i> | Heart-flowered Marsh-orchid |
| <i>Epipactis helleborine</i> | Broad-leaved Helleborine |
| <i>Epipactis palustris</i> | Marsh Helleborine |
| <i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> | Fragrant Orchid |
| <i>Listera ovata</i> | Common Twayblade |
| <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i> | Birdsnest Orchid |
| <i>Ophrys insectifera</i> | Fly Orchid |
| <i>Orchis coriophora</i> | Bug Orchid |
| <i>O. mascula</i> | Early Purple-orchid |
| <i>O. ustulata</i> | Burnt Orchid |
| <i>Platanthera bifolia</i> | Lesser Butterfly-orchid |
| Orobanchaceae – Broomrape family | |
| <i>Orobanche alba</i> | Thyme Broomrape |
| Papaveraceae – Poppy family | |
| <i>Chelidonium majus</i> | Greater Celandine |
| <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> | Common Poppy |
| Plantaginaceae – Plantain family | |
| <i>Plantago media</i> | Hoary Plantain |
| <i>P. subulata</i> | Awl-leaved Plantain |
| Platanaceae – Plane family | |
| <i>Platanus orientalis</i> | Oriental Plane |
| Plumbaginaceae – Sea-lavender family | |
| <i>Armeria rumelica</i> | |
| Poaceae – Grass family | |
| <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> | False Oat-grass |
| <i>Briza media</i> | Quaking-grass |
| <i>Milium effusum</i> | Wood Millet |
| <i>Stipa pennata</i> | Feather-grass |
| Polygalaceae – Milkwort family | |
| <i>Polygala vulgaris</i> | Common Milkwort |
| Polygonaceae – Dock family | |
| <i>Polygonum bistorta</i> | Bistort |
| Primulaceae – Primrose family | |
| <i>Lysimachia punctata</i> | Dotted Loosestrife |
| <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | Primrose |
| Pyrolaceae – Wintergreen family | |
| <i>Orthilia secunda</i> | Serrated Wintergreen |
| <i>Pyrola minor</i> | Lesser Wintergreen |
| Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family | |
| <i>Hepatica nobilis</i> | Hepatica |
| <i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> | Greater Meadow-rue |
| <i>T. minus</i> | Lesser Meadow-rue |

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| Rhamnaceae – Buckthorn family | |
| <i>Frangula alnus</i> | Alder-buckthorn |
| Rosaceae – Rose family | |
| <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i> | Agrimony |
| <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> | Meadowsweet |
| <i>F. vulgaris</i> | Dropwort |
| <i>Fragaria vesca</i> | Wild Strawberry |
| <i>Geum coccineum</i> | |
| <i>G. montanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Potentilla argentea</i> | Hoary Cinquefoil |
| <i>P. borisii-regis</i> | King Boris's Cinquefoil |
| <i>P. erecta</i> | Tormentil |
| <i>Prunus padus</i> | Bird Cherry |
| <i>Rubus idaeus</i> | Raspberry |
| <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> | Salad Burnet |
| <i>Sorbus aria</i> | Whitebeam |
| <i>S. aucuparia</i> | Rowan |
| <i>S. torminalis</i> | Wild Service-tree |
| <i>Spiraea salicifolia</i> | Bridewort |
| Rubiaceae – Bedstraw family | |
| <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> | Crosswort |
| <i>Galium verum</i> | Lady's Bedstraw |
| Salicaceae – Willow family | |
| <i>Populus nigra</i> | Black poplar |
| <i>Populus tremula</i> | Aspen |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | White Willow |
| <i>S. caprea</i> | Goat Willow |
| <i>S. fragilis</i> | Crack Willow |
| <i>S. purpurea</i> | Purple Willow |

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| Saxifragaceae – Saxifrage family | |
| <i>Saxifraga ferdinandi-coburgii</i> | |
| <i>S. sempervivum</i> | Evergreen Saxifrage |
| <i>S. sibirymii</i> | |
| Scrophulariaceae – Figwort family | |
| <i>Digitalis lanata</i> | Grecian Foxglove |
| <i>D. viridiflora</i> | Green Foxglove |
| <i>Euphrasia</i> sp. | Eyebright |
| <i>Linaria arvensis</i> | Common Toadflax |
| <i>L. genistifolia</i> | Balkan Toadflax |
| <i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i> | Wood Cow-wheat |
| <i>Rhinanthus rumelicus</i> | |
| <i>R. wagneri</i> | |
| <i>Scrophularia aestivalis</i> | |
| <i>S. scopolii</i> | Italian Figwort |
| <i>Verbascum nobile</i> | Noble Mullein |
| <i>V. beccabunga</i> | Brooklime |
| <i>V. urticifolia</i> | Nettle-leaved Speedwell |
| Solanaceae – Nightshade family | |
| <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> | Henbane |
| Tiliaceae – Lime family | |
| <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Small-leaved Lime |
| <i>T. platyphyllos</i> | Large-leaved Lime |
| Urticaceae – Nettle family | |
| <i>Parietaria officinalis</i> | Large Pellitory-of-the-wall |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Stinging Nettle |
| Valerianaceae – Valerian family | |
| <i>Valeriana montana</i> | Dwarf Valerian |
| <i>V. officinalis</i> | Common Valerian |
| Violaceae – Violet family | |
| <i>Viola biflora</i> | Yellow Wood Violet |
| <i>V. tricolor</i> | Wild Pansy |



Yagodina.