



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Autumn in Menorca
4 – 11 October 2013**

Holiday Participants

Will Warham
David and Steph Bennett
Margaret Dixey
David Nind and Shevaun Mendelsohn

Shirley Awcock
Mike and Mary Price
Mary Shepperd
John and Ann Titchmarsh

Leaders

Chris Gibson and Judith Poyser

All the photos in this report were taken during the holiday.

Cover compilation: top row – dawn at Matchani Gran by David Bennett, *Argiope trifasciata* by Chris Gibson;
middle row – Hermann's tortoise hatchling, Italian wall lizard, Lang's short-tailed blue, all by Chris Gibson;
bottom row – merendera by Chris Gibson, Menorcan gate by Shevaun Meldelsohn.

Photos in the main body of this report edged green are by Chris Gibson,
edged blue by David Bennett, and elsewhere as indicated.

Below – BBQ lunch at the top of Algendar Gorge.

Our base at Matchani Gran: <http://menorcacountryhouse.com>

Report and lists by Judith Poyser and Chris Gibson.



This holiday, like every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £580 given to The Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa (GOB – the Balearic Ornithological Group) This year's donation brings the total given to GOB since the first Honeyguide holiday in Mallorca in 1992 to £9,805 (about €10,980 at present exchange rates).

As at November 2013, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £91,220.

Daily Diary

Day 1: 4 October: the way there, and a local walk around Matchani Gran

After an early flight from a rainy Luton, it was a humid Friday when the first batch of Honeyguiders arrived at Matchani Gran, St Climent, on the beautiful Balearic island of Menorca.

Once we were *in situ*, owner and manager Lawrence allocated rooms and gave us a quick tour of the extensive gardens which included pool area and hot tub (with instructions to press only one of the gadget buttons at a time or the house lights may fuse!). During this first ramble we spotted a number of butterflies – common blue, Cleopatra, large white, southern speckled wood (somewhat different from our own version) and red admiral. A red kite performed overhead and Mary S spotted a medium-sized Hermann's tortoise near the pool, all accompanied by the soon-to-be familiar flourish of a Cetti's warbler.

Meanwhile Chris returned to the airport for the second minibus and the remainder of the group, on three flights from Manchester, Birmingham and Gatwick. Once we were all safely gathered in, we were treated to a delicious lunch of paella and salad in the canopied open dining area, giving friends old and new a chance to acquaint themselves.

A leisurely walk in the fields beyond the gardens followed, accompanied by the resident donkeys, Jordi and Consuelo, who appeared to be enjoying our company until spooked by Chris's collapsing telescope and galloped off! The landscape was parched, even more than might have been expected had the autumn rains arrived – indeed, it had been the second severe drought summer in a row, the effects of which became all too apparent during the week, particularly in the almost total lack of any 'second spring' of flowering bulbs.

Hanging on from the summer, a few late common swifts drifted overhead, along with a larger number of migrating hirundines, mainly swallows with just a few house martins. Other birds were few and far between, given the by now oppressive heat, but the group spied a good range of the commoner species – a booted eagle (magnificent in flight, but rather less impressive and distinctive at rest on a distant pylon); numerous chattering house sparrows and flocks of tinkling goldfinches; a couple of northern wheatears and a recently-fledged Balearic woodchat shrike on the stone walls and in distant fig trees; and numerous, though elusive, Sardinian warblers and Thekla larks. As we approached the final field before the airport, a stone-curlew flew up and away – a typically fleeting view, but one which gave us the promise of their eerie contributions to the nocturnal soundscape.



Crimson speckled moth and large brown shield bug.

October may not be the best month for flowers, especially at the tail end of a drought, but the same is not true of the bugs and beasties, which soon forced their way into the consciousness of the group. First and foremost, Chris noticed a weakly-flying, whitish moth disappearing into a low bush. To his evident delight, when optics were trained upon it, it proved to be a crimson speckled, a most attractive little creature (which does what it says on the tin, and was rapidly renamed the 'hundreds and thousands moth'...), something he had always wanted to see.

Red-winged grasshoppers jumped away from our every step, and the dead stems of asphodel revealed numerous large brown shield bugs *Carpocoris mediterraneus*, remarkably well camouflaged among the old seed-heads. A closer search led to the discovery of a full range of developmental stages ('instars'), including newly-emerged, bright orange early instars.

With the clouds gathering, and the humidity rising still further, we ambled back to the farmhouse. In the luxuriant watered gardens, meadow brown and holly blue butterflies were feeding on the flowering ivy, along with numerous wasps, mostly the paper wasp *Polistes gallicus*, with a few potter wasps *Eumenes coarctatus* and dramatic, smoky-winged *Anoplius viaticus*. Some of the group then chose to cool off in the pool (being watched by a baby Turkish gecko) whilst others potted around or relaxed until dinner, served *al fresco* and enjoyed by all. The choosing of dessert proved a hilarious nightly event, with Paul, our waiter, demonstrating exemplary customer service and patience as the 'raising of hands' to choose options inevitably totalled more than the required 14! Those that selected the 'orange ice-cream' option were very happy (deliciously creamy, flavoured ice-cream in a frozen orange skin), while Will, hoping for something similar with his banana option, was somewhat disappointed with his plain banana on a plate...

Day 2: 5 October: Es Grau, Sa Roca, Monte Toro and Binidali Cove

We awoke to rain-soaked grounds and a fresher feel – yesterday's humidity had culminated in an overnight thunderstorm although not all the group actually heard it... The first of a week of good breakfasts followed – local breads, jams and cheeses, and eggs to our own specification, the waitress coping admirably with our various requests in an unfamiliar language.

We first took a 'tour of the lights' to see what moths and other creatures had been lured by Matchani Gran's external lights overnight. A number of species were seen – pygmy footman, holm oak beauty and small Mediterranean emerald amongst others, some of which not surprisingly remain unidentified. Chris and Judith then prepared the minibuses for the first day's outing, with David B the driver on the second bus and Judith as navigator/spotter, in charge of walkie-talkie contact with Chris's bus.

The first stop was at the Es Grau visitor centre, a fairly new building with interesting interpretation of the surrounding wildlife, leaflets in abundance and clean 'facilities'. A number of insects (rapidly becoming one of the focuses of the holiday) were discovered by various group members, including a large, white-chevronned weevil *Coniocleonus nebulosus*, *Spilostethus pandurus* (a red-and-black ground bug), blue-tailed damselfly, and a couple of dramatic spurge hawk-moth caterpillars feeding on tree spurges in the surrounding garden. The garden also contained planted example of the various 'vegetable hedgehogs' or *socarrels* which are so characteristic of the windswept rocky peninsulas of Menorca, and a single flowering spike of sea squill, well past its best, springing from its huge, protruding, poisonous bulb. Overhead we were treated to a fly past by seven night herons, two grey herons and a kestrel, all battling against a blustery wind.

And so to the resort of Es Grau itself, where unfortunately Mary P stumbled, hurting her leg, and she had to retire to the bus with husband Mike and Judith who administered some first aid and TLC. In the event, due to Saturday morning crowds, Chris decided to abandon the planned walk around the rather birdless lagoons, deferred to a quieter day, and we drove on to Sa Roca, nestled in the pine-clad hills, for a walk and picnic lunch. Matchani Gran had done us proud with rolls of our choosing, with accompaniments of nuts, fruit and cakes, after which the general gathering of our own rubbish included the removal of coke cans abandoned by previous uncaring picnickers.

In an attempt to attract the two-tailed pasha butterfly, a feature of this site given the abundance of its food-plant the strawberry-tree, Chris laid a trail of juicy fruit. While this cooked in the warm sun, we explored up into the forest, and found a lot of butterfly activity, especially wall browns, common and holly blues, and what he assumed to be a Lang's short-tailed blue, although examination of photos after the event showed it to have been the geranium bronze. A relatively recent colonist of southern Europe from pelargoniums ('gardeners' geraniums') imported from South Africa, this individual was in very atypical habitat, normally being strongly associated with its food-plant in gardens. The butterflies were being attracted to the abundant nectar sources in the area, especially stink aster and the autumn-flowering tree heath *Erica multiflora*.



Arbutus unedo or strawberry tree, and a caterpillar of the two-tailed pasha butterfly feeding on the leaves. Butterflies take nectar from the ripe fruits.

Robins, chaffinches and a few goldcrests provided vocal accompaniment to our walk, as woodpigeons (largely winter visitors to these parts) flew above the tree canopy. While Chris was waxing lyrical about the fruiting strawberry-trees and their dubious edibility to humans, Judith was scouring the leaves and soon came upon a tiny, but exquisite, pasha caterpillar, its 'helmet' and single blue spot making it most distinctive. And as if to underline the quality of the habitat for this lovely large butterfly, along came an adult, which flew around us several times, though without settling. Several migrant hawk dragonflies hawked around us in the warm sunlight, as blue- and red-winged grasshoppers basked on the track, and we disturbed a large moth *Ophiusa tirhaca*, a species with a remarkably wide distribution, from southern Europe, throughout much of Africa, Australasia and southern Asia. A lovely large metallic ground beetle *Calosoma sycophanta* and a large churchyard beetle trundled along the track, while a migratory locust and southern green shield bugs tried hard (but unsuccessfully!) to hide from the eagle eyes of Judith within the foliage.

The other main understory tree, holm oak, was examined closely for galls, and the delightful flask-shaped mud nest of a potter wasp was located; other plants which completed the picture included fruiting *Asparagus acutifolius* and flowering smilax, *Micromeria filiformis* and large daisy.

Fully replete and well-walked, we all piled back on to the buses for a drive to Monte Toro, the highest point of the island – a large hill with monastery, tea room and telecoms clutter at the top. From here we enjoyed a panoramic view of the island and a well deserved cuppa, while some went into the church for a few moments quiet and cool contemplation.

The small but scenic cove of Binadali was our last stop before returning home. Other visitors (some in advanced states of undress) were there before us, but we managed to avert our eyes and enjoyed the bird life on display – yellow-legged gulls, a pair of blue rock thrushes, a fly-over purple heron and a towering peregrine – plus the coastal plant life, of which sea-lavender, sea rocket and rock samphire were still in flower, the last attracting a clouded yellow (for nectar) and a red-veined darter dragonfly (for potential prey insects attracted to the nectar).

Our evening meal, the first of two at the local restaurant The Casino, was an opportunity to sample the various tapas dishes for starters and other local specialities. Some of us were too full for a dessert, but not Mike who managed an enormous chocolate cake and cream dish whilst the rest of us looked on in admiration.

Once back home, Chris decided that some 'batting' was called for, being a wonderfully clear and warm night. The bat detector was duly brought into operation and picked up several different species: Kuhl's pipistrelle, greater mouse-eared, and serotine. Their different echolocation frequencies allowed them to be identified without actually being properly seen – all accompanied by the calls of stone-curlews, with a backdrop of amazingly bright stars in the firmament.

Day 3: 6 October: Son Bou and Torre d'en Gaumes

The day began with a walk for the early birds to witness other early birds – hoopoes were the most enjoyed, while a male whinchat and a couple of honey buzzards drifting over provided welcome evidence of ongoing migration. Shevaun saw a black rat scuttling in the trees – this was no surprise as we had previously seen evidence of rats in the form of chewed pine cones (there being no squirrels on the island).

Our first destination was the south-coast resort of Son Bou, to enjoy the sand dunes, parts of which are cordoned off to try to prevent further erosion. It was interesting to see some of the specially-adapted plants in this hostile environment including sea-holly and, a particular favourite, the beautiful sand daffodil. Most of the daffodils had finished flowering, and were releasing their large, black, shiny, beetle-like seeds onto the sand, but sufficient were still in flower to satisfy the photographers. Other interesting plants included the silky-flowered hare's-foot grass, sweet Alison (a familiar bedding plant back home), *Scabiosa maritima* and the apple-of-Sodom, an alien nightshade with unpleasantly spiny leaves and fruit-like small apples.



Sand daffodils.



Audouin's gull.

A few birds were enjoying the remnant patches of water in the lagoon – moorhens, coots and a variety of mallards – and two marsh harriers and a peregrine hunted over the marsh, while stonechats perched prominently on the bushes and fence-posts. A female clouded yellow and painted lady, nectaring and basking respectively, hinted at the insect riches, and a more detailed look amongst the clumps of sharp rush (taking care to avoid making eye contact with the leaf tips) revealed a Balearic bloody-nosed beetle and a most peculiar cylindrical grasshopper on a twig which was eventually identified as *Pyrgomorpha conica*. Shevaun and David located a clump of sea rocket which was heaving with *Codophila varia* shield bugs.

The dune walk ended on the shore where an Audouin's gull sat patiently for photography and admiration. It bore a colour-ring inscribed with the code AD25 clearly visible; back home Chris looked into its history –

ringed as a chick in June 2002 in the extreme south of Mallorca, it was next reported in April 2008 on the Illa de l'Aire just off the coast of Menorca. Then from July 2010 it has been reported at least nine times, always at Son Bou. Also on the beach we discovered several nun's farts, the fibrous balls made up of the roots and dead leaves from Neptune-weed sea-grass beds offshore, and compacted by wave action, and endless source of amusement to Honeyguide leaders at least!

After a rest and recuperation stop in the beach café, the second walk of the morning took us to the back of the marsh area, along part of the Cami de Cavalls path which goes around the entire island, and is open to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The sun was getting hotter as midday arrived and went – but the views over the marshes to see cattle egrets, booted eagles and a hoopoe made the effort worthwhile. Plants included a field full of fruiting thorn-apples, and the sunny lane proved an ideal spot for Odonata – we saw common darter, lesser emperor, scarlet darter, Mediterranean demoiselle, and western willow emerald, the last trapped fast in a spider's web. Spiders were catching our attention too: the huge, three-dimensional webs of *Cyrtophora citricola* (with a string of egg sacs and usually a female with white warty protuberances in the centre) and a couple of examples of the dramatically-coloured wasp spider at the heart of their large orb-webs. While we had seen them before, usually in ungainly flight, an Egyptian locust posed well for photos, demonstrating its striped eyes.

Lunch followed in a welcome shady picnic area back in Son Bou, then off to one of the most important archeological sites of the island – Torre d'en Gaumes. Although the primary reason for the visit was to see at first hand some of the amazing structures, thousands of years old, of course we were also on the look out for resident wildlife – the most impressive being a huge female praying mantis. Butterflies were in abundance: several southern brown argus (feeding on *Heliotropium*), swallowtail, painted lady, red admiral, Bath white and much to Chris's delight, another crimson specked moth. A small Hermann's tortoise was trying to burrow its way into one of the *talaiots*, and David B spotted a spotted flycatcher on a post, where it was duly captured on camera. Unfortunately our party experienced its second casualty – David N misjudged the height of a lintel as he entered one of the ancient dwellings and hurt his head. Luckily Steph was on hand with an antiseptic wipe and a plaster which Shevaun expertly administered. Meanwhile back at the ranch, our previous casualty Mary had decided she really needed medical attention, and we managed to get that sorted out, with grateful thanks to Lawrence, such that she was able to carry on valiantly for the rest of the week.



Female praying mantis (left), and Egyptian locust (right).

Our evening meal was enjoyed by all, with Paul the waiter joining in the banter. Unfortunately by now Chris was sniffing, along with Mary S and Ann. Our impeccable logic concluded that as these three had been in the window seats on the Luton flight, they must have all caught a most unpleasant cold from their journey. However, they all coped uncomplainingly, despite their obvious discomfort at times. As dinner was concluding an excited call from Paul summoned us outside to see an enormous green toad. It was duly temporarily deprived of its nocturnal feeding activities whilst Chris held it for close inspection and photos (notwithstanding the copious defensive drenching, much to the chef's dismay given his belief in its toxicity), before hopping off to continue the night's foraging (as did the toad...).



Stripeless tree frog.

Day 4: 7 October: Cap de Cavallería and Mahón Harbour

After yesterday's exertions there was no formal early morning walk. There was some rain first thing anyway, but this dampness breathed life into the tree frogs in the ivy near the pool – two were heard making their inimitable croak and Judith spotted one on a leaf. All of the group had a chance to see him, despite his wonderful camouflage.

Our trip today was to Cap de Cavallería, the long approach road being gated to contain flocks of goats, with Margaret nimbly carrying out the gatekeeping duties. As we drove we could see the increasing effect the salt spray and windy conditions had on the plant life – the bushes becoming more sculpted and the plant life becoming increasingly smaller, and spicier. Here we were among the vegetable hedgehogs which we had last seen outside the Es Grau visitor centre. Our first walk to the lighthouse and cliff edge enabled us to see some of them, albeit mostly now finished flowering, with the exception of the locally endemic form of rosemary.

As elsewhere, sea squill which is so abundant here was only very sparsely in flower, many of the bulbs having missed a year as a result of drought. While there was little to be seen out at sea, the cliffs still held breeding pallid swifts, despite the advancing autumn, which gave unparalleled views. Other birds included the expected blue rock thrushes, linnets and Thekla larks, together with a forlorn, tired spotted flycatcher below the lighthouse, presumably a recently-arrived migrant. After the short drive back to the cove at the narrowest point of the headland, we disembarked to the sight of an osprey (probably one of the local cliff-breeders) circling low overhead and giving outstanding views all round. Down at the beach in the bay opposite our parking area a few low shrubs harboured several migrant birds, with at least two willow warblers and a wood warbler, albeit spending most of their time out of sight, together with several small flocks of apparently genuine rock doves. Overhead, the almost ever-present booted eagles were joined by a couple of Egyptian vultures, another of the resident raptors on the island.



Booted eagle.



Egyptian vulture.



Osprey.

The resident goat population provided us with some amusement as their daily feed arrived via a tractor: with one accord and much bleating they assembled to jostle for the food scattered and the old bathtub which was filled with water from a tanker. This reminded us that it was time for our lunch. The ecomuseum being shut deprived us of the 'facilities' we had been hoping for, but as ever the Honeyguiders were adaptable, and settled for lunch in the nearby car park, with access to *al fresco servicios!* As usual, Matchani Gran had filled the cool boxes to the brim with our pre-ordered sandwiches and a host of other goodies.

Our afternoon trip began with an enjoyable drive to Mahón harbour, where we had a free half hour to allow Chris time to park the buses in an appropriate place. Some took this opportunity to explore the beautiful old city, or enjoy a relaxing coffee, while others (Mary and Mike!) opted for an enormous chocolate ice-cream sundae.... The calm, warm day was just perfect for our boat trip, the hour long circular voyage taking us around the harbour, with a multi-lingual commentary pointing out various historic landmarks. Once further out in the bay we were given a chance to view the fish and sea-grass beds through the glass bottom, with reports coming in of jellyfish and groups of fish with black-and-white tails, probably a type of sea-bream. Around the harbour, yellow-legged gulls were abundant, with several Audouin's gulls, Mediterranean shags and grey herons, the last resting on the fish-farming structures.

Back at Matchani Gran, a most unusual sight to enthrall us in the early evening was a newly emerged adult Egyptian locust, green, wet and vulnerable, hanging upside down in a bush. We watched, hardly daring to breathe, as it pumped blood into its wings which gradually became stronger and more coloured by the minute.

Before our evening meal we were able to partake in one of the events of each Honeyguide holiday which makes it a truly unique experience – the handing over of a cheque to a local wildlife charity. Menorca is very fortunate to have the GOB (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*) working there, safeguarding the landscape by being alert to potential destructive development, offering rehabilitation to injured wildlife and educating school children in the wonders of their own island, among a host of other activities. Such breadth of activity encompasses part of the role of several different UK organizations and manages to achieve considerable success on a relative shoestring, with the support of only a small membership base. Montse Bau talked passionately about their work, and we also had the chance to meet Chita, her English volunteer. Of particular concern at the moment are advanced plans to improve the island's road system, though why that is necessary on the scale proposed is very unclear, as is the evidence that the environment has been given appropriate weight in developing these plans. Significantly, Montse was talking to us just one day short of the 20th anniversary of Menorca's declaration as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and she left everyone with the desire to try and make sure that accolade is not forgotten at times of economic turbulence. All were delighted that GOB went away €650 richer as a result of our group's holiday conservation contribution, bringing the total contributed to GOB over many years to £9805 (nearly €11,000) – though sadly we are still the only tour company which has ever made any donation to them and their essential work.

Dinner was as ever a chance to discuss the events of the day, and anything else come to that; for those that wanted it was followed by an optional 'batting experience'.

Day 5: 8 October: Addaia Lagoons and Cap Favaritx

A cloudy day dawned, though with the promise of improvement, and a number of the group enjoyed a pre-breakfast walk. Six hoopoes were observed on the telegraph wires, positioned like notes on a stave, the bursts of sunlight bringing their beautiful colours to life. A calling wryneck managed to avoid being seen, and alas most of us missed the pine marten which ran across the track.

Out on the road we paused to view the impressive geology on the approach to Montgofre, the dramatic rocks showing millions of years of wind erosion, exposing shades of pink, grey, brown, with seams of yellow harder rock, while booted eagles, raven and a kestrel flew above the cliffs. A stroll along the Cami towards Addaia then took us past the 'Giraffe Rocks', pigmented and patterned just like the hide of a giraffe, to the lagoons, which were surprisingly almost devoid of birds. However, with a little searching we managed to locate a greenshank, grey herons and several dabchicks, and heard a kingfisher. But the highlights were very obvious when we reached the furthest point – four greater flamingos in the middle of the water, all young birds and so lacking any pink pigment. We learned later from a local birder that these birds arrived the week before, presumably from a mainland colony in Spain or the Camargue. Three praying mantises and a large wasp spider completed the picture, along with (for Chris at least, as he was enjoying a quiet moment behind a bush) a two-tailed pasha...

A picnic at the car park followed, and our ever observant crew spotted a red kite and several Cleopatras and clouded yellows, while those who opted to eat close to the almost-dry stream were kept entertained by numerous damselflies, including at least a few winter damselflies.

Ever onwards to Cap Favaritx, another rocky promontory with a lighthouse, which continued the geological theme of the day. The walk out to the end of the point took us through a wonderful geological story, including shales bearing the trace fossils of burrowing marine worms and snails (which presumably ended up in that state as a result of some geo-environmental cataclysm) and a striking three-dimensional tracery of quartzite seams and intrusions. As we contemplated one of the most important parts (in legal terms) of the peninsula, the ephemeral saline lagoon which is classed as a Priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive, a slightly confused and tired migrant robin flew in and around us, as it gathered its thoughts and found a place to rest.



Cap Favaritx and the surrounding 'vegetable hedgehog garden'.

A final walk to part of the surrounding 'vegetable hedgehog garden', now thankfully largely cleared of invasive Hottentot-fig, proved exciting for the birders in the group when a male spectacled warbler emerged from the salt-pruned *Phillyrea* bushes for a whole ten seconds...

Being a very hot afternoon and with the group rapidly tiring, a majority decision resulted in us heading back early to enjoy the pool and other relaxing areas at Matchani Gran, via a brief stop in St Climent for Shirley, Will and others to buy some local cheese. But given the early finish, we offered a pre-dinner stroll around the gardens and fields to see what insect life we could find. Our search was rewarded with the discovery of several huge webs of the spider *Cyrtophora citricola*, as seen earlier at Son Bou. The largest contained a triple-decker egg sac which on close inspection was surrounded with a myriad of minute spiderlings, while Mum sat protectively at the base of the egg sac minding her offspring. Another highlight was a set of beautiful golden eggs glued to a leaf of a *Pistacia* bush. The precision of their perfect equidistance on the leaf was truly astounding, and Steph was particularly moved by the sight, to the extent that she made several trips back there over the next two days to check on their progress. On the same bush we found various developmental stages of a squash bug *Gonocerus insidiator*, first instars right through to adults, and having researched them on our return home, we believe the eggs to be those of the same creature.

As usual our post-day meeting preceded another enjoyable, and amusing, dinner, further enlivened by a calling scops owl, doing its thing in the garden by the pool.

Day 6: 9 October: Cala Galdana, Naveta d'es Tudons and the upper Algendar Gorge

The main focus of the pre-breakfast walk was the overnight arrival of dozens of robins and the ongoing dawn passage of similarly numerous song thrushes – migration in action! A lone, late common swift also headed over. Meanwhile, a valiant moth rescue effort was underway – unfortunately, the pool light had been left on overnight, so it had acted as a giant trap for moths and other insects. Although struggling, many were still alive as their valiant rescuers John and Mary S, armed only with a plastic garden spade, set about their task.

Our first outing of the day was to the resort of Cala Galdana. A couple of lofty look-out spots provided stunning views of the bay below, a 'chocolate-box' panorama, complete with incredibly deep blue water with bed of seagrass clearly visible. Good places to observe birds too, with peregrine, grey heron, Mediterranean shag and pallid swift seen and a scops owl heard.



Thekla lark.

The second archaeological attraction of our holiday was the next stopping point – the Naveta d'es Tudons, a large prehistoric burial tomb, shaped like an upturned boat, hence its name. As ever we were on the lookout for anything remotely alive and kicking – Chris found a cave spider in a crevice of the stone wall, and Shirley drew our attention to a hoopoe in an adjoining field. A pair of Thekla larks put on a good show atop a low wall, while red kite and Egyptian vultures flew over. Judith, to her delight, found mummy-, daddy- and baby-sized spurge hawk-moth caterpillars and we all heard a field cricket which Chris successfully 'potted up' for a few moments so that we could also see it at close quarters. A beautiful brown mantis rested serenely in the shadow of an overhanging rock – although the same species as those we had seen earlier, it was a very different colour form – and we all stood and watched a procession of large black ants, working so busily carrying pieces of vegetation into their nest. Some were carrying enormous pieces of grass akin, as John noted, to a man carrying a tree trunk.

The weather was by now quite warm, though with patchy cloud. Lunchtime was approaching and we were all looking forward to what turned out to be a highlight of the holiday. Lawrence's father has a fruit farm at the top of the imposing Algendar Gorge, and a BBQ lunch there had been suggested – needless to say we were happy to oblige! The drive to the top of the gorge was bumpy to say the least, but the sturdy minibuses and passengers coped very well. Once at the top, we enjoyed a potter down to the farm, stopping and admiring the abundant wildlife spectacular views of the rocky ravine. A Cleopatra rested conveniently in front of its admirers, while meadow browns and painted ladies flittered and fluttered, particularly around the abundant nectar source of flowering ivies. Mary, meanwhile, had been kindly collected and driven down by Lawrence – and so she was there first, with ample opportunity to sit and enjoy the splendid views. When we worked out exactly which path we had to follow, we arrived at the farm ourselves to be met by a smiling Lawrence and a huge table, adorned with bowls and plates of the most amazing food. More and more dishes of every sort were brought out to us - he had catered for us all, including the vegetarians, non-pepper-eaters and the gluten-intolerant amongst us with the utmost generosity. We ate and drank, enjoyed the sunshine, the views and each others' company for some considerable time.

Then, as all good things come to an end, we departed, but not before a brief walk around the farm, looking at the interesting fruits being grown, and we stood in awe as a pair of Egyptian vultures put on circling displays for us. Some chose a different route back to the buses, through a secondary gorge, quite rocky underfoot, though considerably drier and less treacherous than last year – another worrying indication of what an incredibly dry two years Menorca has had. This recently-restored route comes with convenient interpretation panels which drew our attention to the Balearic endemic plant *Sibthorpia africana* and the Mediterranean hart's-tongue fern *Asplenium sagittatum*. Back at the car park, whilst preparing to climb back on board we spotted an enormous female wasp spider. Later identified as the large wasp spider *Argiope trifasciata* from its distinctive yellow, white and black stripes, her tiny husband was also perched on the web, trying to look inconspicuous – and succeeding! The female then gave us a demonstration that she was a force to be reckoned with as a hapless fly flew into the web – it was instantly pounced on, sedated and wrapped up in a silken shroud in about five seconds.

A brief stop on the way home gave a chance for photos of the windmill at Es Mercadal, and views of a pair of blue rock thrushes on the churches, then it was back in time for a quick shower before our second meal of the holiday at The Casino.

Day 7: 10 October: Es Grau and Cales Coves

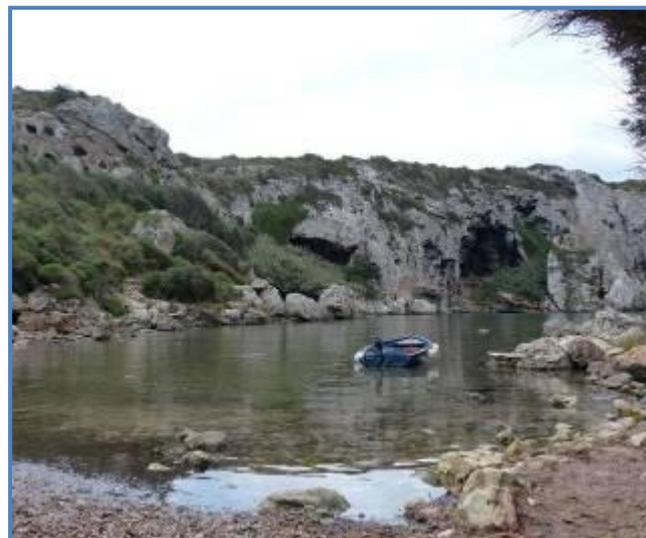
Our final full day was all too soon upon us – and determined to make full use of it most of the group assembled early for a pre-breakfast walk. The early start was rewarded with another strong passage of song thrushes, an incredible 48 ravens flying past in just half an hour (presumably a post-roost dispersal) but only a solitary hoopoe. Round the lights, a few other species of moth had emerged, including yellow belle and *Palpita vitrealis*.

Our first destination today was Es Grau, the tour of which had been abandoned on Saturday. Mary and Judith chose to drink coffee in the beach-side café and there were entertained by some local expats, a large churchyard beetle and the ubiquitous yellow-legged gulls. The rest of the group enjoyed a walk and some serious bird-watching via the lagoons, through the woods and out onto the sandy beach. The main lagoon was heaving with waterbirds, mainly coot and mallard, with three dense packs of little grebes, and smaller numbers of pochard, wigeon, shoveler and red-crested pochard. Several greenshanks fed in the shallows, and a couple of kingfishers included one which gave prolonged, albeit distant views at rest. From the *mirador*, the extensive views over the whole lagoon revealed several cormorants and, among the numerous little egrets, four towering, stately great white egrets. While we were there an English birder showed us a photo he had taken there the day before of a purple gallinule, but we alas could find no sign of it, perhaps not surprising given the incredible ability of this ‘large purple chicken with huge, bright red beak and feet’ to hide behind a clump of rushes!

Down in the salt-marshes, we encountered a botanical mix of the familiar and not-so-familiar: most obvious being the large clumps of sharp rush, and patches of yellow-flowered golden-samphire and the pinky-purple of sea aster, here in its delicate south-eastern form, subspecies *pannonicus*. Both providing nectar, the flowers were attracting butterflies, especially clouded yellows, and other insects, including a dramatic male scarlet darter dragonfly waiting for meals to come to it.



Es Grau.



Cales Coves.

Wandering on through the Aleppo pine woods, it became apparent that there was now an almost continuous overhead passage of song thrushes, at or around tree-top height, with maybe 300 going through in 30 minutes. Once we had a clear view of the sky, the reason was quite apparent – a big bank of very dark cloud approaching from the north. Undaunted we completed our walk, back along the beach, where among the dune flora we saw a hatchling tortoise and a fully-fed spurge hawk-moth caterpillar, the latter needing rescue from the feet of unseeing beach users.

And so back to the café to regroup, before we headed round to the southern shore near the Visitor Centre and a welcome lunch-break. Just as everyone had located their sandwich, the heavens opened, so for the first and only time we were forced into the vans to eat them.

Our final outing was to a special, serene place – the necropolis of Cales Coves, a small bay with ancient burial chambers cut into the rocks: the perfect opportunity for a few moments’ quiet – accompanied by a robin’s soliloquy and the gentle splashing of the waves, the only distractions being a young lady wearing just a snorkel, and an Eleonora’s falcon which scythed its way over the tranquil scene. The walk to and from the cove revealed only a few of the hoped-for autumn flowering bulbs, another sign of the extreme drought: a few pretty pink merenderas and a lonely autumn daffodil. Some of the insects were on good form though, with red-winged grasshoppers showing off to each other, plus a small heath butterfly, the first of the holiday.

Just as we got back to the vans, a long-threatened heavy shower set in, and the weather resumed the high humidity of our very first day.

And so to our last meal... as per Honeyguide tradition, each member of the group was asked for their favourite bits. Chris spoke for us all by saying that the gorge/BBQ lunch was without doubt going to be on everyone's list, so we were not allowed that one!

The best bits:

- David B** the company, and the driving; the glass-bottomed boat trip, and the wonder of bugs to which he had had his eyes opened on the holiday, together with the photographic opportunities all around.
- Steph** 'beautiful jewels' of the eggs on the leaf; the thrilling call of the scops owl; and the fact that the group all got on so well, with humour and general silliness!
- Ann** the tree-frog, green toad and tortoises with which we shared Matchani Gran. And the massive wasp spider at the gorge, something which will stay long in her memories of the holiday.
- John** the white sand daffodil seen on the sand dunes – he had never seen it in flower before; the single autumn daffodil at Cales Coves and that wasp spider!
- Mary P** the overwhelming kindness shown to her since her accident – by members of the group, Lawrence, the boat trip organiser who had offered her a lift, and those at the hospital. On the wildlife side of things, she too was impressed by the large wasp spider and the wild tortoises and geckos around Matchani Gran.
- Mike** the birds of prey, particularly the osprey at Cap de Cavalleria, and the Egyptian vultures. He also had a vote of thanks for all who had helped Mary, allowing him to go and enjoy most of the walks.
- Shevaun** was moved by seeing the emerging Egyptian locust in the tree outside her room, and the greenshanks on the lagoon walk at Es Grau.
- David N** admired the 'unselfconscious' Audouin's gull which posed for us on the beach at Son Bou, and how beautiful and photogenic it was; also the flowering sand daffodil there.
- Margaret** the dramatic geology in places; and the views at Es Grau, while the male scarlet darter there had delighted her.
- Shirley** thoroughly enjoyed watching the circling osprey, while the wasp spider was also on her favourites list!
- Will** was impressed by the various spurge hawk-moth caterpillars seen on the trip, and he too ranked highly the large wasp spider and the day at Es Grau.
- Mary S** enjoyed all of the things we had seen, particularly Es Grau, and the praying mantises.

And finally the leaders:

- Judith** loved the Honeyguide experience (this being her first); the various creatures attracted by night to the white walls of Matchani Gran (and the bats investigating them); and the beautiful and surprising two-tailed pasha caterpillar (size isn't everything!); while
- Chris** never quite got over the thrill of his first ever crimson speckled moth....although the privilege of witnessing the wonders of migration as they happen never fails to impress him.

Day 8: 10 October: Homeward bound...

Fittingly it was a dull, damp start to the day, just to prepare us for being plunged back into autumn. After breakfast, there was just time for a group photo, before the Luton contingent had to depart. The rest, with an hour or two to spare, opted to make the most of it with a local walk. With both of us long gone, David B picks up the story:

After you left Matchani Gran, a few of us went for a wander down the lane. By a collaborative effort, we managed to spot and identify a red-legged partridge on a wall (pictured right).

I had spotted a hoopoe on the ground, and while the others were searching for it, Steph saw what she described as a round blob which moved into the shade of a bush. Then I heard the clickety-clack sound of a train. As there are no trains on the island (that we know of), David N said it must be a red-legged partridge. A short while later, Shevaun spotted it on the wall, and pointed it out to Shirley and the rest of us.



An enduring theme of the trip – teamwork all round! Thanks for helping to make it such fun.

Chris & Judith

LISTS

KEY TO LOCALITIES: given only when seen at one or a very few locations.

MG Matchani Gran	SB Son Bou	CF Cap Favaritx
EG Es Grau	TG Torre d'en Gaumes	CG Cala Galdana
SR Sa Roca	CdC Cap de Cavallería	NT Naveta d'es Tudons
MT Monte Toro	M Mahón Harbour	AG Algendar Gorge
B Binidali Cove	AL Addaia Lagoons	CC Cales Coves

BIRDS

Little grebe	3 on AL; c200 EG.
Great crested grebe	c10 EG.
Cormorant	c20 EG.
Mediterranean shag	Small numbers M, CG, SB, EG(on the sea).
Night heron	7 in flight at EG
Cattle egret	Feeding groups at SB (c30), CdC, AL, NT and various inland locations while travelling.
Little egret	EG (c80) and M.
Great white egret	EG (4).
Grey heron	Small numbers SB, M, AL,CG, EG.
Purple heron	Singles at B and near CdC.
Greater flamingo	3 AL, two first year and one second year.
Wigeon	6 EG.
Gadwall	c50 EG.
Mallard	SB (many with signs of domesticity), AL (c10), EG (c200).
Shoveler	c20 EG.
Pochard	c100 EG.
Red-crested pochard	4 EG.
Red kite	Small numbers widespread across the island.
Egyptian vulture	Groups of up to 3 widespread across the island.
Marsh harrier	3 SB.
Honey buzzard	2 migrants over MG.
Booted eagle	Widespread – the commonest large raptor.
Osprey	Excellent views of one over CdC.
Common kestrel	Widespread.
Eleonora's falcon	1 over CC.
Peregrine	Single birds at B, SB, CdC, CG.
Red-legged partridge	1 at MG.
Moorhen	SB, EG.
Coot	SB, EG(several hundred).
Stone-curlew	Heard regularly and seen occasionally in flight MG.
Redshank	1 EG.
Greenshank	1 AL, 3 EG.
Common sandpiper	2 EG.
Audouin's gull	SB, M.
Black-headed gull	1 EG.
Yellow-legged gull	Frequent at sea, especially M.
Rock dove/feral pigeon	Feral pigeons in most towns and villages; wild Rock doves CdC, AL.
Woodpigeon	Very small numbers MG, SR, SB, AL, AG.
Collared dove	Common, especially around villages.
Scops owl	Heard at MG, and by day CG.
Kingfisher	Singles at M and AL, 2 at EG.
Hoopoe	Regular at MG (up to 7); NT; SB; occasional elsewhere while travelling.
Wryneck	1 heard MG.
Common swift	Small numbers moving over on the first day.
Pallid swift	Still around breeding cliffs at CdC and CG.
Thekla lark	Common.
Swallow	Small numbers moving south, particularly in the early part of the week.
House martin	Very small numbers moving during the first half of the week.
Meadow pipit	1 flying over MG.
Grey wagtail	1 flying over MG.
White wagtail	Small numbers moving over MG.
Balearic woodchat shrike	1 juvenile at MG.
Robin	Small numbers in many areas of trees and scrub; significant fall at MG towards the end of the week. 1 arriving migrant at CF.

Whinchat	1 at MG.
Stonechat	Small numbers SB, EG, CdC, CF.
Northern wheatear	2 at MG, 1 at NT.
Blue rock thrush	2-3 at B, M and Es Mercadal.
Blackbird	Widespread in small numbers.
Song thrush	Migrants flying over from midweek becoming significant movements in the last two days, with eg c200 over EG in 30 minutes, ahead of bad weather.
Cetti's warbler	Widespread, many in dry scrubland.
Zitting cisticola	1 at EG.
Sardinian warbler	Widespread and common.
Spectacled warbler	1 male at CF.
Blackcap	Widespread and frequent.
Chiffchaff	A few birds around MG.
Willow warbler	2 at CdC.
Wood warbler	1 at CdC.
Goldcrest	Several in the pines at SR.
Spotted flycatcher	MG (2-3), TG, CdC (presumed recent migrant amid bare rocks).
Blue tit	Common.
Great tit	Common.
Raven	Widespread singly and in small groups; 48 moved over MG in 30 minutes one morning, presumably post-roost dispersal.
Jay	1 at SR.
House sparrow	Common around towns, villages and farms.
Chaffinch	Widespread but scarce.
Greenfinch	Widespread.
Goldfinch	Flocks of up to 20 seen frequently.
Linnet	Flocks of up to 10 seen regularly.
Corn bunting	Seen and heard throughout the island.

TOTAL = 79 species

PLANTS IN FLOWER

<i>Ampelodesmus mauritanicus</i>		
<i>Artemisia caerulescens</i>		EG
<i>Artemisia gallica</i>		B
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	
<i>Aster tripolium ssp. pannonicus</i>	Sea Aster	EG
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-purslane	SB AL EG
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Large daisy	
<i>Calamintha sylvatica ascendens</i>		AG
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock samphire	
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass	SB
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>		
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink aster	
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	Mediterranean heath	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>		MG TG
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden samphire	SB AL EG
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush	SB AL EG
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician juniper	SB
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-foot grass	SB
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i>		
<i>Limonium ferulaceum</i>		SB EG
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison	
<i>Merendera filifolia</i>		CC
<i>Narcissus serotinus</i>	Autumn daffodil	CC
<i>Pancreatium maritimum</i>	Sand daffodil	SB EG
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed	AG
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea knotgrass	SB
<i>Reichardia picroides</i>		SB
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	SR
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis var. palaui</i>		CdC
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly saltwort	SB
<i>Salsola soda</i>		EG
<i>Scabiosa maritima</i>		SB NT
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	Sea club-rush	EG

<i>Smilax aspera</i>		
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>		
<i>Sporobolus pungens</i>		SB
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser reedmace	AG
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea squill	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>		MG

PLANTS IN FRUIT

<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry-tree	SR
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	White asphodel	
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>		MG
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		
<i>Asparagus albus</i>		
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>		
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Dwarf fan-palm	CdC
<i>Clematis flammula</i>		
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>		
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thorn-apple	SB
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea-holly	SB EG
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly juniper	
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenicean juniper	
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>		
<i>Pancreatium maritimum</i>	Sand daffodil	SB EG
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed	AG
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Umbrella pine	B
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>		
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	B
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak	
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>		
<i>Solanum sodomaeum</i>	Apple-of-Sodom	SB



Erica multiflora.



Clematis flammula.



Mediterranean hart's-tongue fern.

OTHER INTERESTING PLANTS

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern	AG
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>		
<i>Asparagus horridus</i>		
<i>Asplenium sagittata</i>	Mediterranean hart's-tongue fern	AG
<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		CdC CF
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	
<i>Dorycnium fulgurans</i>		CdC CF
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>		SB
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great horsetail	
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree spurge	
<i>Launaea cervicornis</i>	Hedgehog lettuce	CdC CF
<i>Limonium echioides</i>		CdC
<i>Limonium minutum</i>		CdC CF
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune-weed	

<i>Salicornia ramossissimum</i>	Glasswort	SB AL EG CF
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> ssp. <i>magonica</i>		CdC
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	Shrubby glasswort	SB AL EG
<i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>	Perennial glasswort	SB AL EG
<i>Sibthorpia africana</i>		AG

NOTABLE CULTIVATED PLANT SPECIES (INCOMPLETE)

<i>Aptenia cordifolia</i>	<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>
<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	<i>Jacaranda ovalifolia</i>	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	<i>Lantana camara</i>	<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>

FUNGI

<i>Colletotrichum trichellum</i>	Brown patches on ivy leaves
<i>Diplocarpon rosae</i>	Rose black spot, on cultivated roses
<i>Septoria unedonis</i>	Strawberry-tree leaf spot

BACTERIA

<i>Pseudomonas savastanoi</i> pv. <i>nerii</i>	Knot gall on oleander
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BUGS AND BEASTIES – LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

Swallowtail		
Large white		
Small white		
Bath white		TG
Clouded yellow		
Cleopatra		
Wall		
Meadow brown		
Small heath		CC
Speckled wood	South-western form <i>aegeria</i>	
Red admiral		
Painted lady		
Two-tailed pasha		SR AL
Lang's short-tailed blue		HT EG
Geranium bronze		SR MG
Common blue		
Holly blue		
Southern brown argus		TG CdC

Macromoths

Vestal		
Small Mediterranean emerald		MG
Portland ribbon wave		MG
Small blood-vein		MG
Small dusty wave		MG
Iberian wave		MG
Coppery taupe	<i>Charissa mucidaria</i>	MG
Red-green carpet		MG
Striped twin-spot carpet		MG
Fern		MG
Shaded beauty	<i>Peribatodes umbraria</i> – a holm oak feeder	MG
Holm oak beauty	<i>Peribatodes ilicaria</i> – another holm oak feeder	MG
Willow beauty		MG
Scalloped barred	<i>Gerinia honoraria</i> – yet another holm oak feeder	MG
Yellow belle		MG
Hummingbird hawk-moth	Small numbers by day	
Spurge hawk-moth	Caterpillars at several locations on various spurges	
Crimson speckled	Several locations, by day	
Pygmy footman		MG SR
Shuttle-shaped dart		MG
<i>Cryphia ochsi</i>		MG
Silver Y		
<i>Zebeeba falsalis</i>	An <i>Asparagus</i> feeder	MG:
Clouded brindle		MG
<i>Ophiusa tirhaca</i>		SR

Micromoths

<i>Acalyptis minimella</i>	Mines on the leaf of <i>Pistacia</i>	
<i>Phyllocnistis citrella</i>	Mines on leaves of cultivated <i>Citrus</i>	MG
<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>		MG
<i>Choreutis nemorana</i>		MG
Rush veneer		MG
Rusty-dot pearl		MG
<i>Agdistis neglecta</i>		MG
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>		MG

OTHER INVERTEBRATES Dragonflies & Damselflies

Lesser emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	SB EG
Southern migrant hawk	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>	SB EG
Migrant hawk	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	SR
Scarlet darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	SB EG
Keeled skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	SB
Common darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	SB
Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>	MG SB EG
Western willow emerald	<i>Lestes viridis</i>	SB EG AL
Mediterranean demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>	SB
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	ED AL
Winter damselfly	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>	EG



Scarlet darter.



Emerging adult Egyptian locust.

Grasshoppers & Crickets

Egyptian locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptiacum</i>	
Migratory locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	SR
Red-winged grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda miniata</i>	
Blue-winged grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulescens</i>	
	<i>Calliptamus barbarus</i>	
Rattling grasshopper	<i>Psophos stridulus</i>	CdC
Mole-cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>	MG
Field cricket	<i>Gryllus bimaculatus</i>	
	<i>Gryllomorpha dalmatina</i>	MG

Mantises

Praying mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	MG (egg case) TG NT AL
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True Bugs

<i>Carpocoris mediterraneus</i>	A brown shield-bug	
<i>atlanticus</i>		
<i>Nezara viridula</i>	Southern green shield-bug	
<i>Acrosternum millierei</i>	A green shield-bug	MG
<i>Codophila varia</i>	A brown shield-bug on <i>Cakile</i>	SB
<i>Graphosoma lineatum italicum</i>	A shield bug. Nymphs only – these don't have the red-and-black stripe of the adult	
<i>Gonocerus insidiator</i>	A squash bug on <i>Pistacia</i>	
<i>Spilostethus pandurus</i>	A red-and-black ground bug	
<i>Aphis nerii</i>	Orange aphid on oleander	MG
<i>Aploneura lentisci</i>	Aphid bean gall on <i>Pistacia</i>	

<i>Forda marginata</i>	Aphid twisted leaf gall on <i>Pistacia</i>	
<i>Ceroplastes rubens</i>	Pink wax scale-insect on <i>Pistacia</i> and <i>Solanum</i>	
<i>Dactylopius cossus</i>	Prickly-pear scale-insect	
<i>Saissetia oleae</i>	Olive scale-insect	
<i>Metcalfa pruinosa</i>	Citrus flatid planthopper. Native of North America, first seen in Europe 1980, now widely naturalized around the Mediterranean.	MG



Life cycle of *Gonocerus insidiator*, a squash bug on *Pistacia* – from egg, to nymph, to adult.

Beetles

<i>Coniocleonus nebulosus</i>	A big weevil with chevrons	EG
<i>Scarabaeus laticollis</i>	A dung beetle	MG
<i>Timarcha balearica</i>	Balearic bloody-nosed beetle	SB
<i>Blaps lusitanica</i>	Churchyard beetle	
<i>Blaps gigas</i>	Large churchyard beetle	
<i>Thorectes balearicus</i>	A scarab beetle	CdC
<i>Chrysolina americana</i>	Rosemary beetle	
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot ladybird	
<i>Calosoma sycophanta</i>	A large ground beetle	SR
<i>Ochrosis ventralis</i>	A flea-beetle on <i>Pistacia</i>	

Flies

<i>Clogmia albipunctata</i>	An owl-midge	
<i>Ceratitis capitata</i>	A fruit-fly with iridescent eyes	MG
<i>Dryomyia lichtensteinii</i>	A gall on holm oak leaves	SR
<i>Phytomyza phillyreae</i>	Mines on the leaves of <i>Phillyrea</i>	
<i>Machimus cf rusticus</i>	A robber-fly	

Bees & Wasps

<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Violet carpenter-bee	
<i>Sceliphron spirifex</i>	Thread-waisted wasp	
<i>Anoplius viaticus</i>	A smoky-winged, red-spotted wasp	MG
<i>Polistes gallicus</i>	Paper wasp	
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honeybee	
<i>Eumenes coarctatus</i>	A potter wasp	
<i>Colletes</i> sp.	A plasterer bee	
<i>Messor barbarus</i>	A black, seed-eating ant	
<i>Silliana lhommei</i>	Sawfly mine on <i>Phillyrea</i>	

Others

<i>Thermobia domestica</i>	Firebrat	MG
<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	Garden spider	
<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>	3D-orb-web spider	MG SB EG
<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>	Wasp spider	MG AL SB
<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>	Large wasp spider	AL AG
<i>Meta</i> sp.	Cave spider	NT
<i>Carrhotus xanthogramma</i>	A jumping spider	
<i>Menemerus semilimbatus</i>	Another jumping spider	MG
<i>Tachypodiulus</i> sp.	A millipede	
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	Pill woodlouse	



Menemerus semilimbatus, a jumping spider with a hapless fly, by Judith Poyser.



Potter wasp nests.



Spilostethus pandurus, a ground bug.

MAMMALS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, FISH

Mammals

Black rat	Evidence everywhere under pines; seen at MG
House mouse	MG
Rabbit	MG
Pine marten	MG
Serotine	MG
Long-fingered bat	MG
Kuhl's pipistrelle	MG
Greater mouse-eared bat	MG

Reptiles

Hermann's tortoise	MG TG EG
European pond terrapin	EG
Italian wall lizard	widespread
Moorish gecko	MG

Amphibians

Green toad	MG
Stripeless tree-frog	MG

Fish

Grey mullet	EG
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