

# Butterflies and Botany of the French Alps

Holiday Report for the Mercantour 25 June – 2 July 2016

Led by Roger Gibbons, David Moore, Yiannis Christofides and Nick Bowles



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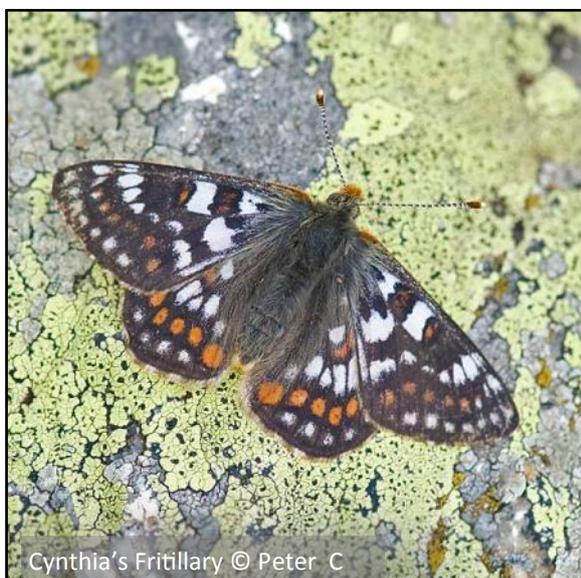
## Introduction

This butterfly and botanical holiday was set in the beautiful Alpes-Maritimes in France, one of the best areas in Europe for butterflies. Our butterfly guide, Roger Gibbons, actively researches the butterflies of the PACA (Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur) and submits data to French national and regional conservation databases. Roger was ably assisted by David Moore, veteran of tours here in 2014 and 2015 and Nick Bowles, Chair of Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation. Yiannis Christofides was our botanical guide.

Group members Sandy, Tony, Seàn, Caroline, Lin, Martin, Geoff, Robert, Adrian, Peter C, Peter K, Jeff, and Nigel joined us for this promising week of observing lots of wonderful butterflies in this beautiful part of France.



Alpine Landscape © Jeff



Cynthia's Fritillary © Peter C



Mountain Alcom Blue (f) © Geoff

## Day 1, Saturday 25 June

Seàn and Caroline had travelled from Dublin to Nice on the Friday, and, as Nick Bowles, (Chairman of the Upper Thames branch of Butterfly Conservation) had also arrived at Nice on the Friday, he was able to transport Seàn and Caroline to the first location in the Alpes-Maritimes on the Saturday morning. Roger had stayed at the hotel on the Friday night, so when the “advance party” reached our hotel at lunchtime on the Saturday, we were able to explore the area nearby.

The remaining guests were met at Nice Airport by David Moore and Yiannis Christofides, and transported to the Hotel. We were by our charming hosts Stéphane and Ludovine who had taken over the hotel some five years earlier.

As a preface to the tour, Roger explained that the mountain season was rather late in 2016, so some species which we may have expected to see in normal years may not emerge in time for us to see them. The upside is that there were a number of species which we would not have expected as we would be too late, were still on the wing. Swings and roundabouts, but the list of prospective species had to be adjusted to reflect this.

In 2015, just prior to the arrival of the guests, Roger had explored the area which passes close to the hotel and had seen a Southern Comma (*Polygonia egea*), quite a rarity in France. In 2015, everyone had been granted a view of egea, so this was a first call for this year’s group, although we were not so fortunate this year.

However, there was ample compensation in the form of a female Chequered Blue (*Scolitantides orion*), an iconic and rather localised species of southern France. Given that this species normally emerges in April (maybe a little later at an altitude of 1000m), and the individuals (we saw more on later visits) seen were very fresh, it would appear very likely that this was a second generation.

During the short walk we were able to observe the following plants. Red Valerian was particularly common everywhere. Interesting plants seen included *Campanula macrorhiza*, a relative of the Harebell, *Campanula trachelium* and *Campanula speciosa*, the Pyrenean Bellflower. *Saxifraga callosa* was particularly common on rock faces. Several *Sedum* species were growing on rock faces, such as *Sedum album*, *S. sediforme*. and *S. dasyphyllum*

We enjoyed the excellent evening meal provided by our hosts, including a complimentary aperitif. The pre-prandial period afforded an opportunity to study the photos taken during the day and to hopefully identify some of the more tricky species. This became a regular feature



of the week, and frequently threw up some interesting surprises.

Other species seen today: Mallow, Marbled, Large, Red-underwing, Essex and Small Skipper; Brown Argus, Geranium Bronze, Holly, Small, Osiris, Adonis, Mazarine, Escher's and Common Blue; Purple-shot Copper, Green Hairstreak, Silver-washed, Weaver's, Marsh, Glanville and Spotted Fritillary, Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Orange Tip, Black-veined White, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Wood, White, Large, Green-veined and Bath White, Pearly and Small Heath, Wall and Large Wall, Meadow Brown and Marbled White.

## Day 2, Sunday 26 June

As the group had been travelling on the Saturday, it was decided to stay local to the hotel on day 1 proper, to avoid the need for travelling in vehicles.

Stop 1: One of the main butterfly hotspots in the region is the track that leads in a zigzag fashion down behind the hotel for about one kilometre and then stops abruptly. The track tends to be in shade until 10.00 am and so the group set off at around 9.15 in the expectation of seeing species warming up in the early sun and being more amenable for photography. Heath Fritillary (*Mellicta athalia*) was very common here (and at most other locations) and its numbers and variability both of markings and degree of wear made it challenging to identify other similar-sized fritillaries also flying. A total of 46 species were seen on the track during this visit, a testament to the advantages of seventeen pairs of eyes, although not all species were seen by all members of the group. The fact that the group had to be encouraged to return to the Hotel for lunch at 13.00 was indicative of the diversity and number of species being noted on the track. As had become clear from numerous visits to the track, different species could be found at different spots, often where the larval hostplants were growing, so our interest continued for the entire length of the track.

Male Purple-shot Coppers (*Lycaena alciphron*) were in evidence on the upper part of the track, these being of the southern subspecies *gordius* with less apparent purple than the nominate form, but still with a lovely bright sheen. On the return back up the track a female *gordius* was seen, very fresh, perhaps just emerged, and large enough to appear in flight to be a small fritillary.

At the mid-point of the track, a large patch of Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) grew, and this being the larval hostplant of Amanda's Blue (*Polyommatus amandus*), it was not surprising to find both males and females here. The lateness of the season meant that a few Marsh Fritillaries (*Euphydryas aurinia*) were still flying. This is a species we had not expected to see, and the checklist was amended to include this, as it had been for Chequered Blue earlier.





Provençal Fritillary © Martin



Linaria repens © Yiannis

Another bonus of the late season was that a female Provençal Fritillary (*Melitaea deione*) was seen and photographed by Martin, and we discovered that Jeff had also photographed a fresh male.

Plants seen today down this track included *Silene alba*, White-flowered Campion, *Himantoglossum hircinum*, *Coronilla varia*, *Bupthalmum salicifolium* (Yellow Ox-eye Daisy), *Polygala nicaeënsis*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Trifolium campestre*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Lilium bulbiferum*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Papaver rhoeas* and *P. dubium*, *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Linaria repens*.

After lunch, the group meandered up to the ancient hill fort that overlooks the village. The flowery verges were home to a number of butterflies, and had not been so recently and severely strimmed as they had been in 2015. The most interesting finds were at the summit of the hill, where Adrian and Peter C had discovered several Dusky Heaths (*Coenonympha dorus*) on a heap of discarded wood. A Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*) entertained us with its hilltopping behaviour and a single Blue-spot Hairstreak (*Satyrion spini*) was seen here.

More *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Himantoglossum hircinum* and *Sedum acre* were seen. Two attractive umbellifers were the masses of *Orlaya grandiflora* and the stately *Laserpitium gallicum*. Large Yellow Rest-harrow, *Ononis natrix* was also common here.

To round off the day, the group revisited the GR5 track. There were now a male and a female Chequered Blue and a couple of Marbled Skippers (*Carcharodus lavatherae*)



Dusky Heath © Adrian

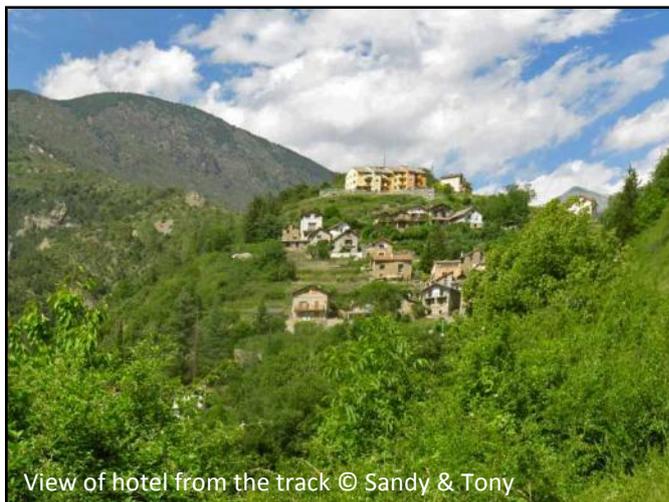
showed why they are relatively easy to identify in flight as they appear very white. No sign of the Southern Comma, though. Peter C, who arrived at the GR5 track a little later was more fortunate, more so in that egea posed for a photograph. Several members of the group revisited that spot, but sadly egea did not put in a reappearance. Male and female Bath Whites (*Pontia daplidice*) were seen on this track.

Other species seen today: Mallow, Dingy Large, Red-underwing, Essex and Lulworth Skippers, Brown Argus, Mazarine, Small, Adonis, Escher's, Common and Chapman's Blues, Green, Ilex and Sloe Hairstreaks, High Brown, Weaver's, Marbled, Spotted and Knapweed Fritillaries, Southern White and Red Admirals, Painted Lady, Scarce Swallowtail, Orange Tip, Black-veined, Green-veined, Small and Bath Whites, Great Banded Grayling, Pearly and Small Heaths, Wall and Large Wall, Meadow Brown and Marbled White.

It had been a great day in the field.



Marbled Skipper © Martin



View of hotel from the track © Sandy & Tony



Southern Comma © Peter C

### Day 3, Monday 27 June

The plan for the day was to visit the higher reaches of Isola, stopping off at various spots on the way, increasing in altitude, and continuing up the Col de la Lombarde at 2360m. Butterflies tend to become active earlier at lower altitudes, so the plan was to work our way up.

Stop 1: The first stop was at a bridge over the river, where the first of several Apollos (*Parnassius apollo*) were seen, plus the first of several Large Blues (*Phengaris* - previously *Maculinea* - *arion*). We also saw the first Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*) of the tour, this one being reasonably fresh as a testament to the lateness of the season. Plants seen included *Trifolium pratense*, *Vicia cracca*, *Lathyrus latifolius*, *Astragalus glycyphyllos* with accompanying Small Blue, *Digitalis lutea* and *Anthericum liliago*.

Stop 2: The next stop was at the curvature of a hairpin bend, where the old road exited. These are ideal locations for butterflies as they are wide tracks now unused by traffic and the flowery verges are generally less strimmed. The number of butterflies seen here, especially Apollos, was significantly less than last year, although a single each of Large Blue, Purple-



Apollo © Peter C

shot Copper, Duke of Burgundy, and Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclidides podalirius*) maintained the interest levels. New plants seen were *Tolpis staticifolia*, *Lactuca perennis* and *Digitalis ambigua*.

Stop 3: From there we moved up to another previously disused road loop. Large Blue was seen here, and we had our first sighting of the high altitude form of Sooty Copper (*Lycaena tityrus subalpinus*). Purple-edged Coppers (*Lycaena hippothoe*) were becoming more frequent, including females, which sometimes had a plain but warm

brown upperside, and sometimes an orange flush on the forewing. We saw our first of the few Scarce Coppers (*Lycaena virgaureae*) seen on the tour, similarly the first of three de Prunner's Ringlets (*Erebia triaria*), the latter being yet further evidence of the lateness of the season as normally this species would have been finished by now, and it was another that was sufficiently unexpected to have been omitted from the checklist. Plants seen were *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Lychnis flos-jovis*, *Lilium bulbiferum*, *Phyteuma nigrum* and *Veronica alpina*.

Stop 4: The weather was starting to move against us, with cloud cover increasing, so we decided to miss out the next two planned stops to move up to the Col de la Lombarde while the weather was still butterfly-friendly, as this location provided some very high altitude species on previous trips. Little was flying at the Col, although diligent searching revealed several male Cynthia's Fritillaries (*Euphydryas cynthia*) and a single female, all of which were sufficiently torpid in the cool weather to allow everyone a perfect photographic opportunity. The few sightings of other species at Lombarde included a Swallowtail and a near-certain Peak White (*Pontia callidice*) that, although it did not settle, was seen sufficiently clearly in flight to be included in the records. A host of mostly Alpine plants at this level, including *Rhododendron ferrugineum*, *Astragalus alpinus*, *Meum athamanticum* - umbellifer with fine, scented foliage, *Antennaria dioica* and *Viola bertolonii* were seen.

Stop 5: Conditions had not continued to deteriorate as once appeared likely, so we were able to make another stop on the descent from Lombarde, where a healthy population of Geranium Argus (*Aricia eumedon*) had been seen on an extensive patch of its larval hostplant Wood Cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*) a few days previously. Some twenty eumedon were flying at that spot, this being a species that is almost always seen on its larval hostplant, and the numbers ensured that they were photographable from the edge of the patch.



Large Blue © Sandy & Tony



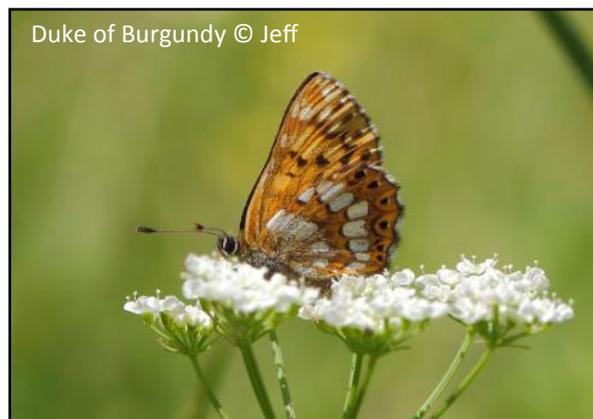
Geranium Argus © Geoff

Some of the group demonstrated their indefatigability by making another visit to the hill fort on our return to the hotel, where the only Chapman's Blue (*Polyommatus thersites*) of the tour was seen by Adrian and Peter C.

Other butterfly species today: Mallow, Dingy Large, Grizzled, Red-underwing, Lulworth, Essex and Small Skippers, Mountain Argus, Small, Mazarine, Silver-studded, Amanda's, Turquoise and Escher's Blues, Small Copper, Green and Blue-spot Hairstreaks, Pearl-bordered, Queen of Spain, Heath, Spotted, Knapweed and Glanville Fritillaries, Small Tortoiseshell, Southern White and Red Admirals, Comma, Painted Lady, Swallowtail, Orange Tip, Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Wood, Black-veined and Small Whites, Ringlet, Great Banded Grayling, Pearly, Dusky and Small Heaths, Almond-eyed Ringlet, Wall, Large Wall, Marbled White and Meadow Brown.



Red-underwing Skipper © Nick



Duke of Burgundy © Jeff

#### Day 4, Tuesday 28 June

The intention for day 4 was to travel north along the valley, making a stop at Le Bourguet before making the ascent toward the Col de la Bonnette where several stops had been planned en route, possibly to the Col itself. However, the lateness of the season suggested that the emergence of species at the very high altitudes (of 2000m and above) was somewhat retarded, so it was decided to take a view as we ascended, and to add an extra stop at around 1500m.

Stop 1: Our first stop was as we went north along the valley at a meadow just north of the hamlet of Le Bourget, not far from the road that leads to the major ski station Auron. The spot was a damp meadow alongside the "old road" – so often a source of good butterfly locations. There we saw a number of False Heath Fritillaries (*Melitaea diamina*), and a few Ringlets (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), this latter species being rather scarce and localised in the PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) region. We did not see the Scarce Coppers (*Lycaena virgaureae*) that had been seen at this location on previous trips, and it later transpired that our only sighting of this species would be the ones we saw at Isola. The riverside meadow provided a few new plants including *Allium vineale*, *Centaurea montana*, *Listera ovalis*, *Ajuga genevensis* and *Melampyrum nemorosum*.



False Heath Fritillary © Nigel

Stop 2: The second stop was at around 1500m, where several tracks led west through flowery meadows. This "contingency" location, given the uncertainty

of Bonnette, turned out, as often seems to be the case, to be a star performer, and the group spent some four hours here, exploring the locality. There were a number of species “puddling” – taking salts from damp ground, an exclusively male activity, although females can sometimes be seen taking moisture in dry conditions – including our first sighting of the ubiquitous Safflower Skipper (*Pyrgus carthami*), a large *Pyrgus* species seen at most higher altitude locations, often in significant numbers.



Soon after arrival, Geoff spotted a Camberwell beauty (*Nymphalis antiopa*), its outline being unmistakable in flight as it crossed the river. It was also seen by Roger but unfortunately not by any other member of the group as they had dispersed by that time. Despite waiting at that spot, it did not return.

A total of 37 species were seen at this location, including the first of several Mountain Alcon Blues (*Phengaris* - previously *Maculinea* - *alcon rebeli*), also seen by Geoff. Adrian saw a Small Apollo (*Parnassius phoebe*) here, the only sighting of this species on the trip. This is a species that is almost always seen very close to rushing water. Other species seen for the first time here included Idas Blue (*Plebejus idas*), very similar to the more familiar Silver-studded Blue (*P. argus*), although there are several clear distinguishing features, and Lesser Marbled Fritillary (*Brenthis ino*), this also being a species that is nearly always found near water.

This area was particularly rich in fritillaries and Heath, Weaver’s, False Heath, Knapweed, Glanville, Spotted, Marbled, Queen of Spain, and High Brown were seen here, in addition to Lesser Marbled.

A very flowery meadow full of species, most of which we had looked at before included *Thalictrum foetidum*, Stinking meadow rue and *Potentilla argentea*.

Stop 3: We began our ascent of the slopes leading to Bonnette by stopping off at a track at 1980m. Clearly, butterflies were becoming thin on the ground as we increased in altitude, but a female Peak White was seen here, and a female blue that was a highly probable Eros Blue (*Polyommatus eros*); females of the high altitude blues are much more rarely seen than the males, although the fact that a male Eros was seen nearby was more circumstantial evidence.



The alpine meadow had a fine display of many new plants including *Oxytropis jacquinii*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Phyteuma orbicularis*, *Asphodelus albus*, *Veratrum album* and *Paradisea liliastrum*.

Other butterflies today: Dingy, Large, Large Grizzled, Red-underwing, Essex and Small Skippers, Sooty Copper, Small, Mazarine, Large, Adonis, Turquoise and Escher’s Blues, Marbled and Knapweed Fritillaries, Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail Orange Tip, Apollo, Berger’s and Clouded Yellows, Wood,

Peak and Mountain Green-veined Whites, Ringlet, de Prunner's and Almond-eyed Ringlets, Pearly and Small Heaths, Wall and Large Wall Browns and Marbled White.



### Day 5, Wednesday 29 June

This was the day of transferring from the first base to the second base at Saint-Martin-d'Entraunes in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence which was approximately equidistant from our two target areas of the Col des Champs and the Col de la Cayolle. This entailed an interesting journey along the narrow winding roads towards Roubion and Roure.

Stop 1: We decided to stop at a small private road leading off a hairpin bend not far from the Col de la Couillole. We had previously seen female Mountain Alcon Blue egg-laying on Cross Gentian (*Gentiana cruciata*) at this spot on the two previous tours, but the verges had been seriously strimmed, and relatively little was flying here. We did see what was highly likely a rebel in flight, identification being aided by the elimination of any other candidate. Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*) was seen higher up the verges. Strimming of verges seems to be the national pastime in France and it is often undertaken with such zeal that they strim the living daylights out of all the flora and fauna; however, a glimmer of hope is that in many regions, strimming is carried out on roadside verges only to a depth of one metre, or is carried in cycles or rotation. Several woodland orchids were seen here including Lesser Butterfly, Common Spotted, Fragrant, Narrow-leaved Helleborine and Twayblade.



Stop 2: This was at a location north of the town of Beuil. It is a particularly rich area of tracks adjacent to a small river, with flower meadows and several patches of damp ground which attracted many butterflies for puddling. The main attraction, however, was a manure heap which had existed there for many years and produced liquid manure at the edges which was an absolute magnet for puddling blues, skippers and fritillaries. Photography was quite viable as the subjects were largely still, although care in where one's feet were located was an equally important consideration. Roger had visited this spot every year for the past ten years and curiously had never had any competition for the photographic rights to this manure heap. 32 species were seen in total at this location.

In one patch of the manure heap there were around thirty butterflies puddling in a small group, including our first sighting of the normally-high-altitude Eros Blue (*Polyommatus eros*) which has a very similar underside to Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) but has a pale shimmering blue upperside. There were numerous species of blues, the most evident being Amanda's Blue (*Polyommatus amandus*) on account of its greater size. Common Blue was conspicuous by its absence. We also had our first sighting here of Mountain Argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*), an avid puddler, and Chalk-hill Blue (*Polyommatus coridon*).

We also had our first sighting of Chestnut Heath (*Coenonympha glycerion*) which was distinguishable in flight from the commoner Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and Pearly Heath (*Coenonympha arcania*) by its chestnut brown colouring; both the nominate form of *glycerion* and the form *bertolis* that does not have hindwing ocelli, were present.

We also saw at least one further Mountain Alcon Blue here, rather belying its status as uncommon. As is often the case, even a limited search showed the larval hostplant Cross Gentian (*Gentiana cruciata*) nearby, peppered on the higher leaves with many clearly-visible white eggs.



Chestnut Heath © Jeff

In the *Pyrgus* domain, we saw many Safflower Skippers, now becoming common at most higher altitude locations, and some Large Grizzled (*Pyrgus alveus*) and Carline Skippers (*P. carlinae*).

As the diversity of species here kept everyone occupied for a while, it was a good opportunity to take lunch. As we were preparing to leave for the next location, David indicated he had found numerous blues puddling at the sandy edges of the river. Departure was put on hold for a while as most of the group (those that were prepared to clamber over the rocks to get there) came to investigate. Blues seen here included Eros, Silver-studded, Escher's, Mountain Argus, Chalk-hill, Adonis, Mazarine, Small and Amanda's.



Dung heap © Sandy & Tony

Plants for the site included *Linaria repens*, *Galium verum*, *Isatis tinctoria*, *Cynoglossum officinale*, *Lychnis flos-jovis* and *Ononis cristata*, small pink rest-harrow forming mats by riverside.



Safflower Skippers dung puddling © Nick



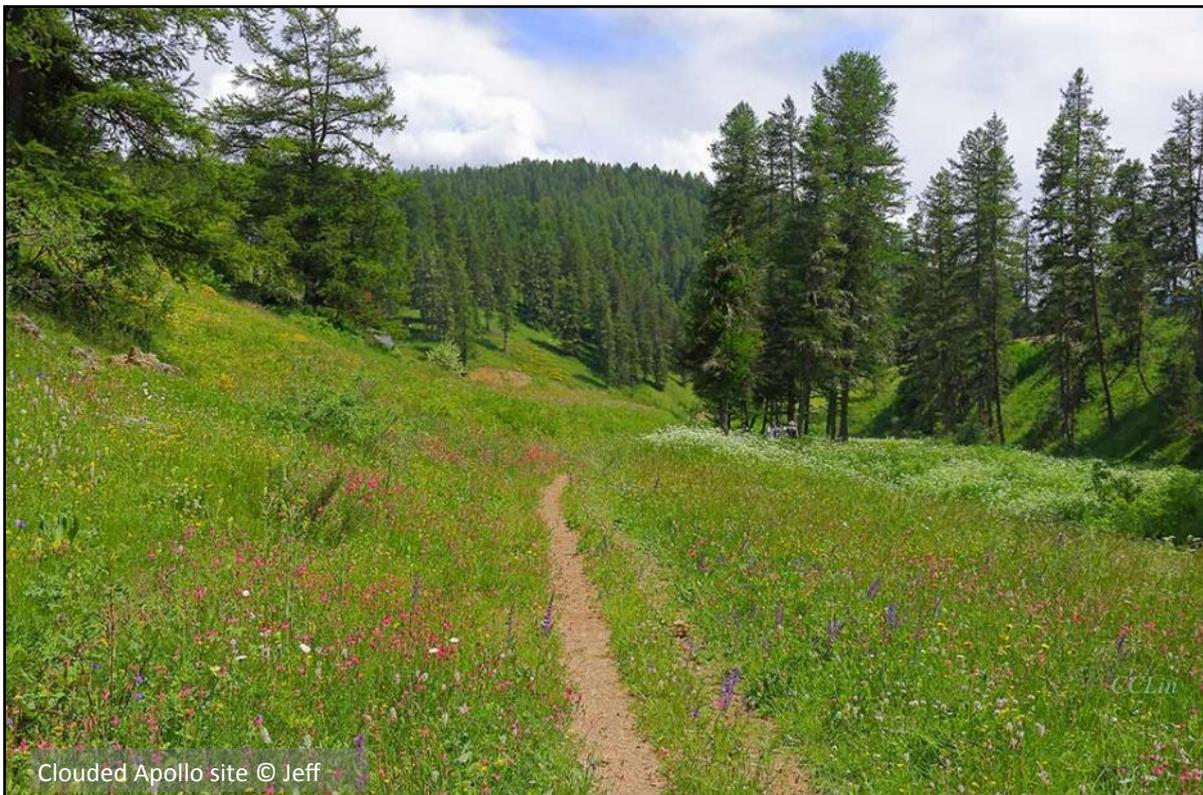
Amanda's & Common Blue © Yiannis



River bed © Tony & Sandy

Between Beuil and the next hotel, we planned to stop at a site where Clouded Apollo (*Parnassius mnemosyne*) had been known to fly, although neither Roger nor the previous tours had visited the site before. Parking for four vehicles was not known for certain, so Roger went on ahead to check out the parking spaces and whether there were tracks in the location that could be walked without damage. All proved to be fine, and when the group arrived, we split into two groups, one being very successful in seeing several *mnemosyne* settled, while the other group had only managed to see them in flight. However, eventually, all members of the group had the opportunity to photograph this interesting species which is very similar to the ubiquitous Black-veined White (*Aporia Crataegi*).

New flowers for the site included *Vicia lathyroides* and *Vicia sepia*.



Clouded Apollo site © Jeff

A short while later we arrived at our hotel in St Martin and were greeted by our charming hosts Karine and Jean-Louis. On arrival at the hotel, David mentioned that on the previous tours in 2014 and 2015 he had seen High Brown Fritillary (*Argynnis adippe*), Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*), and Niobe Fritillary (*Argynnis niobe*) - nicknamed "the Holy



Clouded Apollo © Nick

Trinity” - in the flowery patch adjacent to the hotel. The result of this was that the depositing of suitcases was rather quicker than usual (and even usual is fairly quick) and the keener members of the group soon enjoyed the sighting of at least Niobe and Marsh Fritillary. Flowers for the meadow by the hotel included *Serratula tinctoria*, Sawort and *Saussurea discolor*.

Other butterflies seen today: Dingy and Small Skippers, Turquoise Blue, Purple-edged and Small Coppers, Green

Hairstreak, Heath, Glanville, False Heath, Meadow and Knapweed Fritillaries, Small Tortoiseshell, Southern White and Red Admirals, Comma, Clouded Yellow, Brimstone, Wood and Small Whites, Almond-eyed Ringlet, Wall and Speckled Wood.

### Day 6, Thursday 30 June day 6

As we had two complete days in this region and planned to spend a day at each of the Col des Champs and the Col de la Cayolle, we decided to spend the first day at Cayolle as this was expected to deliver the greatest diversity.



Purple-edged Copper © Tony & Sandy



Marsh Fritillary © Tony & Sandy

Stop 1: In the 2015 tour, after visiting various sites around Cayolle, and the butterflying being effectively over for the day, we stopped at a roadside café at Estenc and enjoyed coffee or soda according to taste. The indefatigable David had been exploring the adjacent region, and returned to say he had found a boardwalk through a damp area and some butterflies were still present. It proved to be such a rich area that dinner on that occasion had to be delayed, and so in 2016, it became the first stop. It did not disappoint. Although it is relatively low in altitude (compared to the Col at 2360m), many of the high altitude species came down to puddle here, especially at a small spot where there was trickling water and where some works were being carried out, producing disturbed ground, so often attractive to puddling blues and skippers.

The *Pyrgus* grizzled skippers here included, inevitably, Safflower, plus Olive Skipper (*P. serratulae*) and Large Grizzled. We also saw our only sighting of Tufted Marbled Skipper (*Carcharodus flocciferus*) here, very similar to Mallow Skipper (*C. alceae*) but much larger and markedly different to the similarly-named Marbled Skipper.

We also had our first sighting of “pure” Darwin’s Heath (*Coenonympha darwiniana*) here – on the France/Italy border they are known to hybridise with Pearly Heath (*Coenonympha arcania*) and *darwiniana* may actually be a stabilised hybrid of Pearly and Alpine Heath (*Coenonympha gardetta*). Darwin’s Heath is principally characterised by the narrow and non-dentate white band on the hindwing, together with other supporting characteristics.

We also saw, rather unexpectedly, Northern Wall (*Lasiommata petropolitana*), which is very similar to the Large Wall (*L. maera*) but can be differentiated by the clear transverse line across the discal area of the upperside hindwing, which *petropolitana* has but *maera* does not. Some of these identification clues seem rather unexceptional, but for the difficult species (such as these two), a constant and reliable feature is invaluable. *Petropolitana* was rather unexpected because it would have gone over in a normal season.

Fritillaries here included Lesser Marbled, always found near water, and our first sighting of Titania’s (*Boloria titania*) where Adrian was able to get good shots of upper and undersides of both male and female. The diversity here meant that we stayed until 13.00.



Titania’s Fritillary © Nick



Northern Wall Brown © Tony & Sandy

Alpine meadow flowers included *Geranium sylvaticum*, *Persicaria bistorta*, *Geum rivale*, *Silene vulgaris*, *Asphodelus albus*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Centaurea montana*, *Thalictrum aquilegifolium*, *Paradisea liliastrum* (St. Bruno’s lily), *Phyteuma nigra* and *P. orbicularis*.

The weather suggested that there may not be too much of the day remaining in terms of butterfly weather, so we elected to head for another area. This location proved very fruitful for the true montane species. Here we saw the high altitude fritillaries, Shepherd’s (*Boloria pales*) and Mountain (*B. napaea*), plus male and female Mountain Green-veined White (*Pieris bryoniae*), Mountain Dappled White (*Euchloe simplonia*), Glandon Blue (*Plebejus glandon*), and the less commonly encountered and rather iconic Alpine Blue (*Plebejus orbitulus*). Mountain Clouded Yellow (*Colias phicomone*) was also seen here, while the *Erebia* ringlets included Common Brassy (*E. cassioides*), Mountain (*E. epiphron*), and a further de Prunner’s. A new *Pyrgus* was seen here, at least by Nigel, Alpine Grizzled



*Gentiana lutea* © Yiannis

Skipper (*P. andromedae*).

The area seemed rich for mating pairs, with Escher's Blue (*Polyommatus escheri*), Mountain Alcon Blue, and Darwin's Heath, the latter two photographed by Peter C. Perhaps even greater surprises here were Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) and Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*), not often seen nearly into July.



New plants seen included *Geum pyrenaicum*, *Viola bertolii*, *Silene acaulis*, *Dryas octopetala* and *Ranunculus pyrenaicus*.

Other butterflies seen today: Dingy, Grizzled and Red-underwing Skippers, Mountain and Geranium Arguses, Small, Osiris, Mazarine, Large, Idas, Adonis, Eros and Common Blues, Purple-edged, Sooty and Small Coppers, Pearl-bordered, Marsh, Queen of Spain, Heath and Marsh Fritillaries, Painted Lady, Swallowtail, Clouded and Berger's Clouded Yellows, Wood White, Small White, Chestnut Heath, Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood.

## Day 7, Friday 1 July

Our plan was to work our way slowly up to the Col des Champs, stopping at various places on the way.

Stop 1: We stopped first at a flowery where twelve species were found, perhaps because it was still early in the day. Chestnut Heaths were relatively common here, plus several Meadow Fritillaries (*Melitaea parthenoides*). Alpine meadow with *Acer campestre*, *Anthyllis montana*, *Onobrychis saxatilis*, *Astragalus sempervirens* and *Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort).



Stop 2: Working our way up toward the Col, we next stopped at a sloping meadow with a track on the level which led eventually into a wooded area. We followed the track, which ran alongside meadows that had been intensively sheep-grazed in the past, but not recently. Here we found yet another Mountain Alcon Blue – we will soon be classifying these as common – plus Meadow Fritillaries and a Turquoise Blue (*Polyommatus dorylas*) or two. New plants seen were *Cerinthe glabra* (Smooth Honeywort), and *Aquilegia bertolonii*.

Stop 3: We had intended to stop also at a flowery meadow at 1800m, but as we approached it, it was clearly heavily sheep-grazed and fenced off, so we continued to the Col at 2080m. This is a relatively unknown Col with magnificent scenery in all directions. It had not been considered to be particularly rich in butterfly numbers or species, but we did see a number of interesting montane species, including Shepherd's and Mountain Fritillaries, Marsh Fritillaries – which are very different to the lowland subspecies and those found in the UK – and at least one male Cynthia's Fritillary found by Jeff. The males of Shepherd's and Mountain are notoriously hard to separate, but the females are very different, the female Mountain Fritillary having a purplish sheen.

Diligent searching revealed mating pairs of Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*) and not far away, a mating pair of Osiris Blues (*Cupido osiris*). These two closely-related species are superficially very similar although there are clues to identification. The Osiris Blues made a short flight so that the bright blue of the male became visible, removing any possibility of doubt as the



Small Blue male upperside is quite a dull blue. Glandon Blue and Large Blue were seen here, and another male Alpine Blue, plus – thanks to the sharp eyesight of David – the only Green Underside Blue (*Glaucopsyche alexis*) of the tour; again, seeing this species at such an altitude was further testament to the lateness of the season.

A male Mountain Dappled White was seen and photographed by Nigel, quite an achievement as the males of this species fly non-stop and rarely afford a photographic opportunity.



A host of Alpine plants were present, including *Trollius europaeus*, *Veratrum album*, *Anemone baldensis*, *Viola biflora*, *Gentianella campestris*, Frog Orchid, *Botrychium lunaria*, *Globularia cordifolia* and *Stipa pulcherima*.

We had our picnic lunch in the small car parking area at the Col against the backdrop of distant mountain peaks in all directions, with no sign of human activity or influence anywhere.

Stop 4: On the way back down from the Col stopped off at what had become known as “Ed’s bridge” as Ed Hutchings - our birding guide on the 2015 tour - was observing birds from this bridge and happened to notice large numbers of puddling blues on the sandy soil adjacent to the river. Relatively little was puddling here as the weather was rather in and out, the blues including Glandon and our first sighting of Damon Blue (*Polyommatus damon*), which tends to emerge later than other blues and can sometimes be seen in large numbers in mid-July.

The stop provided a number of new plants including *Linum suffruticosum* (Pyrenean Flax), *Linaria alpina*, *Ononis cristata* and beautiful *Campanula alpestris*.

Stop 5: As there was still some time left, it was decided to pay another visit to Estenc, so we descended from Champs and headed toward Cayolle. The number of species and species density was, if anything, greater than our visit here the day before, with many more blues and *Pyrgus* grizzled skippers puddling here at the damp edges of the boardwalk. Numerous Olive Skippers were seen and Nick and Martin were able to take definitive underside photos that enabled confident identification.

Given that *Erebia* ringlets were rather thin on the ground as they tend to emerge a little later, and that most were Almond-eyed (*E. alberganus*), it was a surprise when a rather darker, blacker *Erebia* was spotted by Roger, which was most likely to be a de Prunner's Ringlet of which we had seen a few previously, but on closer inspection appeared strongly to be a Piedmont Ringlet (*E. meolans*); Roger did not have a camera, and a species had to be seen by at least one member of the group in order to be included in the sightings, but fortunately Sandy (who was understandably startled by the decibel level of the request for a camera) was nearby and a photographic record was made.

Other butterfly species today: Dingy, Carline, Safflower, Essex, Red-underwing, Grizzled and



Large Grizzled Skippers, Mountain Argus, Mazarine, Osiris, Cranberry, Silver-studded, Amanda's, Chalkhill, Escher's and Common Blues, High Brown, Pearl-bordered, Titania's, Heath, Glanville, False Heath and Knapweed Fritillaries, Scarce Swallowtail, Swallowtail, Apollo, Black-veined and Wood White, Clouded. Mountain and Berger's Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, Darwin's Heath, Marbled White and Meadow Brown.

### **In conclusion**

117 species were seen and identified with a high degree of certainty during the week. This is one greater than the number originally recorded, as a photo of a *Satyrion* hairstreak by Jeff was subsequently identified as a False Ilex hairstreak (*S. esculi*). We did not, however, see even one Peacock despite great vigilance; one member did report seeing it on return to the UK, but for obvious reasons we cannot reveal the location. Perhaps even more surprising was that we did not see one Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*). Given that the season was rather late, 117 species can be considered an excellent total.

### **Species lists and photo gallery overleaf**

Appendix A  Maritime Alps 25 Jun - 01 July 2016  Butterfly species list	25 - Jun	26 - Jun	27 - Jun	28 - Jun	29 - Jun	30 - Jun	01 - Jul
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	<b>Family Hesperidae</b>						
1. Mallow Skipper ( <i>Carcharodus alceae</i> )	✓	✓	✓				
2. Tufted Marbled Skipper ( <i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i> )						✓	
3. Marbled Skipper ( <i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i> )	✓	✓					
4. Dingy Skipper ( <i>Erynnis tages</i> )		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Large Skipper ( <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
6. Large Grizzled Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus alveus</i> )				✓	✓		✓
7. Alpine Grizzled Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus andromedae</i> )						✓	
8. Carline Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus carlinae</i> )					✓		✓
9. Safflower Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus carthami</i> )				✓	✓	✓	✓
10. Grizzled Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> )			✓			✓	✓
11. Olive Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus serratalae</i> )						✓	✓
12. Red-underwing Skipper ( <i>Spialia sertorius</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
13. Lulworth Skipper ( <i>Thymelicus acteon</i> )		✓	✓				
14. Essex Skipper ( <i>Thymelicus lineola</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
15. Small Skipper ( <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i> )	✓		✓	✓	✓		
<b>Family Lycaenidae</b>							
16. Brown Argus ( <i>Aricia agestis</i> )	✓	✓					
17. Mountain Argus ( <i>Aricia artaxerxes</i> )			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18. Geranium Argus ( <i>Aricia eumedon</i> )			✓			✓	
19. Geranium Bronze ( <i>Cacyreus marshalli</i> )	✓						
20. Holly Blue ( <i>Celastrina argiolus</i> )	✓						
21. Small Blue ( <i>Cupido minimus</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22. Osiris Blue ( <i>Cupido osiris</i> )						✓	✓
23. Mazarine Blue ( <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24. Green-underside Blue ( <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> )							✓
25. Mountain Alcon Blue ( <i>Phengaris alcon (rebeli)</i> )				✓	✓	✓	✓
26. Large Blue ( <i>Phengaris arion</i> )			✓	✓		✓	
27. Silver-studded Blue ( <i>Plebejus argus</i> )				✓	✓		✓
28. Glandon Blue ( <i>Plebejus glandon</i> )						✓	✓
29. Idas Blue ( <i>Plebejus idas</i> )				✓		✓	
30. Cranberry Blue ( <i>Plebejus optilete</i> )							✓
31. Alpine Blue ( <i>Plebejus orbitulus</i> )						✓	
32. Amanda's Blue ( <i>Polyommatus amandus</i> )		✓	✓		✓		✓
33. Adonis Blue ( <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i> )	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
34. Chalk-hill Blue ( <i>Polyommatus coridon</i> )					✓		✓
35. Damon Blue ( <i>Polyommatus damon</i> )							✓
36. Turquoise Blue ( <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i> )			✓	✓	✓		✓
37. Eros Blue ( <i>Polyommatus eros</i> )				✓	✓	✓	
38. Escher's Blue ( <i>Polyommatus escheri</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39. Common Blue ( <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
40. Chapman's Blue ( <i>Polyommatus thersites</i> )		✓	✓				
41. Baton Blue ( <i>Pseudophilotes baton</i> )		✓					
42. Chequered Blue ( <i>Scolitantides orion</i> )	✓	✓					
43. Purple-shot Copper ( <i>Lycaena alciphron</i> )	✓	✓	✓				
44. Purple-edged Copper ( <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i> )			✓		✓	✓	✓
45. Small Copper ( <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> )		✓	✓		✓	✓	

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	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
46. Sooty Copper ( <i>Lycaena tityrus</i> )			✓	✓		✓	
47. Scarce Copper ( <i>Lycaena virgaureae</i> )			✓				
48. Green Hairstreak ( <i>Callophrys rubi</i> )	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
49. Sloe Hairstreak ( <i>Satyrum acaciae</i> )		✓					
50. Ilex Hairstreak ( <i>Satyrum ilicis</i> )		✓					
51. Blue-spot Hairstreak ( <i>Satyrum spini</i> )		✓	✓				
<b>Family Nymphalidae</b>							
52. High Brown Fritillary ( <i>Argynnis adippe</i> )		✓		✓			✓
53. Niobe Fritillary ( <i>Argynnis niobe</i> )					✓		
54. Silver Washed Fritillary ( <i>Argynnis paphia</i> )	✓						
55. Weaver's Fritillary ( <i>Boloria dia</i> )	✓	✓		✓			
56. Pearl-bordered Fritillary ( <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i> )			✓			✓	✓
57. Mountain Fritillary ( <i>Boloria napaea</i> )						✓	
58. Shepherd's Fritillary ( <i>Boloria pales</i> )						✓	
59. Titania's Fritillary ( <i>Boloria titania</i> )						✓	✓
60. Marbled Fritillary ( <i>Brenthis daphne</i> )		✓		✓			
61. Lesser Marbled Fritillary ( <i>Brenthis ino</i> )				✓		✓	
62. Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> )	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
63. Cynthia's Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas cynthia</i> )			✓				✓
64. Queen of Spain Fritillary ( <i>Issoria lathonia</i> )			✓	✓		✓	
65. Heath Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea athalia</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66. Glanville Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea cinxia</i> )	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67. Provençal Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea deione</i> )		✓					
68. False Heath Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea diamina</i> )			✓	✓			✓
69. Spotted Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea didyma</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓			
70. Meadow Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea parthenoides</i> )					✓		✓
71. Knapweed Fritillary ( <i>Melitaea phoebe</i> )		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
72. Small Tortoiseshell ( <i>Aglais urticae</i> )			✓		✓		✓
73. Southern White Admiral ( <i>Limenitis reducta</i> )		✓	✓		✓		
74. Camberwell Beauty ( <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> )				✓			
75. Comma ( <i>Polygonia c-album</i> )			✓		✓		✓
76. Southern Comma ( <i>Polygonia egea</i> )		✓					
77. Red Admiral ( <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> )		✓	✓		✓		
78. Painted Lady ( <i>Vanessa cardui</i> )		✓	✓			✓	✓
<b>Family Papilionidae</b>							
79. Scarce Swallowtail ( <i>Iphiclydes podalirius</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
80. Swallowtail ( <i>Papilio machaon</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
81. Apollo ( <i>Parnassius apollo</i> )			✓	✓			✓
82. Clouded Apollo ( <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i> )					✓		
83. Small Apollo ( <i>Parnassius phoebus</i> )				✓			
<b>Family Pieridae</b>							
84. Orange Tip ( <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
85. Black-veined White ( <i>Aporia crataegi</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
86. Berger's Clouded Yellow ( <i>Colias alfacariensis</i> )	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
87. Clouded Yellow ( <i>Colias crocea</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88. Mountain Clouded Yellow ( <i>Colias phicomone</i> )						✓	✓
89. Mountain Dappled White ( <i>Euchloe simplonia</i> )						✓	✓

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	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
90. Cleopatra ( <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> )	✓	✓	✓				
91. Brimstone ( <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> )	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
92. Wood White ( <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93. Large White ( <i>Pieris brassicae</i> )	✓	✓					
94. Mountain Green-veined White ( <i>Pieris bryoniae</i> )				✓		✓	
95. Green-veined White ( <i>Pieris napi</i> )	✓	✓					
96. Small White ( <i>Pieris rapae</i> )		✓	✓		✓	✓	
97. Peak White ( <i>Pontia callidice</i> )			✓	✓			
98. Bath White ( <i>Pontia daplidice</i> )	✓	✓					
<b>Family <i>Riodinidae</i></b>							
99. Duke of Burgundy ( <i>Hamearis lucina</i> )			✓		✓		
<b>Family <i>Nymphalidae</i> (<i>Satyridae</i>)</b>							
100. Ringlet ( <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i> )			✓	✓			
101. Great Banded Grayling ( <i>Brintesia circe</i> )		✓	✓				
102. Pearly Heath ( <i>Coenonympha arcania</i> )	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
103. Darwin's Heath ( <i>Coenonympha darwiniana</i> )						✓	✓
104. Dusky Heath ( <i>Coenonympha dorus</i> )		✓	✓				
105. Chestnut Heath ( <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i> )					✓	✓	✓
106. Small Heath ( <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
107. Almond-eyed Ringlet ( <i>Erebia alberganus</i> )			✓	✓	✓		✓
108. Common Brassy Ringlet ( <i>Erebia cassioides</i> )						✓	
109. Mountain Ringlet ( <i>Erebia epiphron</i> )						✓	
110. Piedmont Ringlet ( <i>Erebia meolans</i> )							✓
111. de Prunner's Ringlet ( <i>Erebia triaria</i> )			✓	✓		✓	
112. Large Wall ( <i>Lasiommata maera</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓			
113. Wall ( <i>Lasiommata megera</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
114. Northern Wall ( <i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i> )						✓	
115. Meadow Brown ( <i>Maniola jurtina</i> )	✓	✓	✓				✓
116. Marbled White ( <i>Melanargia galathea</i> )	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
117. Speckled Wood ( <i>Pararge aegeria</i> )			✓		✓	✓	

Appendix B  
Plant species list  
Maritime Alps List 25 Jun -01 July 2016

<b>Pteridophyta</b>		
1	Asplenium ceterach Rusty-back Fern	on wall outside hotel
2	Asplenium trichomanes Maidenhair Spleenwort	on wall outside hotel
3	Botrychium lunaria Moonwort	alpine meadows
<b>Angiospermae</b>		
<b>Dicotyledons</b>		
<b>Aceraceae</b>		
4	Acer campestre Field Maple	
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>		
5	Cotinus coggyria Smoke Tree	common, roadsides
<b>Apiaceae</b>		
6	Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley, everywhere
7	Laserpitium gallicum	
8	Meum athamanticum	
9	Orlaya grandiflora	at the fort
<b>Asclepiadaceae</b>		
10	Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Swallowwort	relatively common, everywhere
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
11	Achillea millefolium Yarrow	common, meadows
12	Antennaria dioica Cat's Foot	Alpine meadows
13	Aster alpinus Alpine Aster	Alpine meadows
14	Aster bellidiastrum	
15	Buphthalmum salicifolium Yellow Ox-eye	Rimplas
16	Carduus defloratus	pink thistle, roadsides
17	Centaurea montana Mountain Cornflower	Alpine meadows
18	Erigeron alpinus Alpine Fleabane	
19	Erigeron atticus	
20	Leucanthemum vulgare Ox-eye Daisy	common everywhere
21	Matricaria discoidea Pineapple Weed	
22	Saussurea discolor	meadow by hotel St. Martins
23	Serratula tinctoria	meadow by hotel St. Martins
24	Solidago virgaurea Goldenrod	
25	Tragopogon pratensis Goat's-beard	common, meadows
<b>Berberidaceae</b>		
26	Berberis vulgaris	
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
27	Cerintho minor Lesser Heywort	alpine meadows
28	Cynoglossum officinale Hound's-tongue	riverside meadow
29	Echium vulgare Viper's Bugloss	common, meadows
30	Myosotis alpestris Alpine Forget-me-not	alpine meadows
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
31	Arabis alpina	meadows

32	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i> Winter-cress	common, roadsides
33	<i>Biscutella laevigata</i> Buckler Mustard	meadows
34	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	riverside
35	<i>Kernera saxatilis</i> Kerneria	rocky outcrops
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
36	<i>Campanula alpestris</i>	alpine meadows
37	<i>Campanula macrorhiza</i>	Rimplas
38	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i> Peach-leaved Bellflower	Rimplas
39	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> Creeping Bellflower	Rimplas
40	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Harebell	meadows
41	<i>Campanula speciosa</i> , Pyrenean bellflower.	Rimplas, steep banks
42	<i>Campanula spicata</i> Spiked Bellflower	Rimplas, steep banks
43	<i>Campanula trachelium</i> Nettle-leaved Bellflower	Rimplas
44	<i>Jasione montana</i> Mountain Sheepsbit	
45	<i>Phyteuma humile</i>	alpine areas on rocky outcrops
46	<i>Phyteuma nigrum</i>	alpine meadows
47	<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	alpine meadows
48	<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	alpine meadows
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
49	<i>Dianthus sylvestris</i> Wood Pink	
50	<i>Dianthus pavonius</i>	alpine meadows
51	<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	
52	<i>Silene flos-jovis</i>	
53	<i>Silene latifolia</i> ssp. <i>alba</i>	common
54	<i>Silene rupestris</i>	common
55	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
56	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	common
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
57	<i>Sedum acre</i>	common
58	<i>Sedum album</i>	common
59	<i>Sedum ochroleucum</i>	common
60	<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	alpine areas
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>		
61	<i>Knautia arvensis</i> Field Scabious	
62	<i>Knautia integrifolia</i> a scabious	
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
63	<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i> Alpenrose	
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
64	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
65	<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	alpine area
66	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> Kidney Vetch	common
67	<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	
68	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	

69	Lathyrus latifolius	common
70	Lathyrus pratense	common
71	Lotus alpinus Alpine Bird's-foot Trefoil	common, a;pine meadows
72	Lotus corniculatus Bird's-foot Trefoil	common
73	Oxytropis jacquini	alpine areas
74	Onobrychis montana Mountain Sainfoin	common
75	Onobrychis supina	common
76	Onobrychis viciifolia	common
77	Ononis cristata	low growing, riverside
78	Ononis natrix	common
79	Trifolium alpinum	common
80	Trifolium campestre	common
81	Trifolium montanum	common
82	Trifolium pratense	common
83	Vicia cracca Tufted Vetch	common
84	Vicia lathyroides	
85	Vicia sepium Bush Vetch	forest areas
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
86	Quercus ilex Holm Oak	
87	Quercus pubescens Downy Oak	
<b>Gentianaceae</b>		
88	Gentiana acaulis Trumpet Gentian	
89	Gentiana campestris Field Gentian	
90	Gentiana lutea Yellow Gentian	
91	Gentiana verna Spring Gentian	
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
92	Geranium pyrenaicum Hedgerow Cranesbill	common
93	Geranium robertianum Herb Robert	common
94	Geranium sanguineum Bloody Cranesbill	Rimplas
95	Geranium sylvaticum Wood Cranesbill	common
<b>Globulariaceae</b>		
96	Globularia cordifolia	
97	Globularia repens	
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
98	Acinos alpinus Alpine Calamint	
99	Ajuga genevensis	
100	Lamium garganicum	common
101	Lavandula angustifolia	common, Rimplas
102	Prunella vulgaris	common
103	Salvia pratensis Meadow Clary	common
104	Scutellaria alpina Alpine Skullcap	
105	Stachys recta Yellow Woundwort	common
106	Thymus vulgaris	common
<b>Linaceae</b>		
107	Linum suffruticosum	large-flowered, common
<b>Lythraceae</b>		

108	Lythrum salicaria Purple Loosestrife	
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
109	Malva sylvestris Mallow	Rimplas
<b>Oleaceae</b>		
110	Olea europaea Olive	Rimplas
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>		
111	Orobanche alba Thyme Broomrape	Rimplas
112	Orobanche gracilis	alpine meadows
<b>Papaveraceae</b>		
113	Papaver dubium	ruderal
114	Papaver rhoeas	ruderal
115	Chelidonium majus Greater Celandine	Rimplas
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>		
116	Armeria alpina Mountain Thrift	Alpine meadows
<b>Polygalaceae</b>		
117	Polygala alpestris	
118	Polygala nicaeensis	
119	Polygala vulgaris	
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
121	Polygonum bistorta Bistort	common
122	Polygonum viviparum Viviparous Bistort	common
123	Polygonum alpinum Alpine Knotgrass	common
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
124	Primula veris Cowslip	common
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
125	Anemone baldensis	
126	Aquilegia bertolii	
127	Clematis vitalba Traveller's Joy	
128	Ranunculus pyrenaicus	
129	Thalictrum foetidum Foetid Meadow-rue	meadow
130	Trollius europaeus Globeflower	alpine areas
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
131	Reseda lutea	
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>		
132	Rhamnus alaternus Mediterranean Buckthorn	
<b>Rosaceae</b>		
133	Alchemilla alpina Alpine Lady's Mantle	
134	Dryas octopetala Mountain Avens	
135	Filipendula vulgaris	
136	Geum montanum Alpine Avens	alpine meadows
137	Geum rivale Water Avens	forest areas
138	Potentilla argentea Hoary Cinquefoil	alpine meadows
139	Rosa pendulina Alpine Rose	
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
140	Gallium album	common

141	Gallium verum	common
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>		
142	Saxifraga callosa Thick-leaved Saxifrage	Rimplas, common on rock faces
143	Saxifraga aizoides	
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
144	Antirrhinum latifolium Snapdragon	
145	Bartsia alpina Alpine Bartsia	
146	Cymbalaria muralis Ivy-leaved Toadflax	
147	Digitalis grandiflora Large Yellow Foxglove	
148	Digitalis lutea Small Yellow Foxglove	
149	Linaria alpina	
150	Linaria repens	
151	Pedicularis verticillata Verticillate Lousewort	
152	Rhinanthus alectrolophus	
153	Rhinanthus minor	
154	Scrophularia canina	
155	Verbascum nigrum	
156	Veronica alpina Alpine Speedwell	
<b>Violaceae</b>		
158	Viola biflora	Gulley, alpine area
<b>Monocotyledons</b>		
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
159	Allium vineale	common
160	Allium schoenoprasum Chives	Alpine meadows
161	Allium sphaerocephalon Round-headed Leek	Common
162	Anthericum liliago St. Bernard's Lily	Alpine meadows
163	Asphodelus albus	Alpine meadows
164	Lilium bulbiferum	Alpine meadows
165	Lilium martagon Martagon Lily	Alpine meadows
166	Paradisea liliastrum St. Bruno's Lily	Alpine meadows
167	Paris quadrifolia	Forest areas
168	Veratrum album White False Helleborine	Alpine meadows
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
169	Anacamptis pyramidalis Pyramidal Orchid	Rimplas
170	Coeloglossum viride Frog Orchid	Alpine meadows
171	Dactylorhiza fuchsii Common Spotted Orchid	Forest edges
172	Dactylorhiza majalis Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid	
173	Gymnadenia conopsea Fragrant Orchid	Alpine meadows
174	Himantoglossum hircinum Lizard Orchid	Rimplas
175	Listera ovata Twayblade	Forest areas
176	Neottia nidus-avis Bird's-nest Orchid	Forest areas
177	Nigritella corneliana	Alpine meadows
178	Orchis ustulata Burnt-tip Orchid	Meadows
179	Platanthera bifolia Lesser Butterfly Orchid	Forest edges
180	Platanthera chlorantha Greater Butterfly Orchid	Forest edges



Glanville Fritillary © Peter C



Alpine Blue © Martin



Adonis Blue © Nick



High Brown Fritillary © Sandy & Tony



Red-underwing Skipper © Jeff



Sooty Copper © Sandy & Tony



Painted Lady ©Nick



Gt. Banded Grayling © Peter C



Clouded Apollo © Peter C

Mazarine Blues © Nick



Heath Fritillary © Peter K



Almond-eyed Ringlet © Jeff



Apollo © Nick



Southern White Admiral © Sean



Mountain Ringlet © Jeff



Dingy Skipper © Tony & Sandy



Ilex Hairstreak © Geoff



Alcon Blue (rebeli) © Nick



Purple-shot Copper © Robert



False Heath Fritillary © Nick



Almond-eyed Ringlet © Peter K



Titania's Fritillary © Nigel





False Ilex Hairstreak © Jeff



Bath White © Martin



Alcon Blue (rebeli) Robert



Scarce Swallowtail © Tony & Sandy



Knapweed Fritillary © Martin



Mountain Fritillary © Jeff



Lesser Marbled Fritillary © Jeff



Eros Blue © Tony & Sandy



Lesser Marbled Fritillary © Nick



Purple-shot Copper © Seàn

Large Wall © Peter C



Marbled White © Tony & Sandy



Cynthia's Fritillary © Robert

Shepherd's Fritillary © Peter C



Large Blue © Nick



Owlfly © Martin



Southern White Admiral © Martin



Spotted Fritillary © Martin

*Campanula alpestris* © Yiannis



*Thlaspi rotundifolium* © Yiannis



*Campanula alpestris* © Martin



*Scutellaria alpina* © Yiannis



*Allium sphaerocephalon* © Yiannis

*Androsace vitaliana* © Yiannis



*Ranunculus glacialis* © Yiannis



*Nigritella corneliana* © Yiannis



*Digitalis grandiflora* © Yiannis



*Rhododendron ferrugineum* © Yiannis



*Trifolium badium* © Yiannis



St Bruno's Lily © Tony & Sandy



*Anemone baldensis* © Yiannis

Lilium Martagon © Yiannis



Houseleek © Nick





Lilium bulbiferum © Yiannis



Ononis cristata © Yiannis