

Pollino National Park - Italy

8th – 11th October 2023



Introduction

This was a short break mainly touristy but with one wildlife target the Calabrian Black Squirrel. We flew with Jet 2 to Naples which was fine, hired a car with B Rent also fine and stayed at Agriturismo Terra Verde, nr Rotonda which was excellent. There were no early starts or late finishes.



Friday 6th October

After a very early flight we spent the day at the famous tourist sites of Herculaneum and Pompeii, we had a few incidental wildlife sightings – Italian wall lizards, red admiral, house sparrow, ring necked parakeet and a couple of very nice blue rock thrushes. The drive to Pollino National Park was uneventful.



Herculaneum



Pompeii

Saturday 7th October



Cyclamen

We explored the national park for the whole day not doing very much but kept an eye out for squirrels, one crossed the road in front of us but it vanished before I could get the camera out and we had a brief view of one high in a pine tree but again it eluded the camera. Other incidental sightings were Italian wall lizards, and Autumn Ladies Tresses.

The woods were carpeted in Cyclamen a really great sight.

We ate in the Agriturismo, a really nice traditional Italian meal before checking the moth trap, It was set next to a small wooded area by the Agriturismo, I could hear sounds in the trees and with the aid of thermal imaging they were clearly dormice not Edible dormice I know their calls, eventually I managed to spotlight one and confirm Garden Dormouse.

The moths of note were *Hypsopygia glaucinalis*, dotted chestnut, *Agrochola nitida*, *Anania verbascalis*, Brindled Green, Flounced Chestnut, light brocade, *Mecyna asinalis*, scarce bordered straw.

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Sunday 8th October

We explored the high plateau south of Rotonda for most of the day, it was very picturesque, we made lots of stops and short walks. Incidental sightings were a hare sp, green woodpecker, willow tit a nice selection of butterflies, spurge hawkmoth caterpillar and a Western Green lizard.

We ate in the Agriturismo and finally had some spaghetti in what was another excellent meal.

I ran the moth trap next to the hotel, it attracted lots of field crickets and a soprano pipistrelle made plenty of visits, moths of interest were Vestal, oak hooktip, small mottled willow, mint moth, *Palpita vitrealis*.



Vestal

Monday

Red fox was the only thing of note on the way back to the airport.



Queen of Spain Fritillary



Agrochola nitida

Birds - 25

White Wagtail	Tawny owl	Magpie
Grey Wagtail	Hooded Crow	Ring Necked Parakeet
House Sparrow	Buzzard	Blue Rock Thrush
Wren	Blackcap	Chiffchaff
Coal Tit	Great Tit	Marsh Tit
Blue Tit	Sardinian Warber	Magpie
Jay	Rock Dove	Woodpigeon
Crossbill	Chaffinch	Great Spotted Woodpecker
Nuthatch		



Mammals - 5

Garden Dormouse	Red Fox	Calabrian Black Squirrel
Hare sp	Common Pipistrelle	
Wild Boar*	Common Hedgehog*	

* Dead

Herps - 3

Western Green Lizard	Italian Wall Lizard	Common Wall Lizard
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Common Wall Lizard

Others - 3

Two Spotted Cricket	Southern Sickle Bush Cricket	Corizus hyoscyami
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Two Spotted Cricket

Butterflies and Moths - 57



Pale Clouded Yellow

Common Blue	Red Admiral	Large White
Wood White	Brown Argus	Southern Small White
Clouded yellow	Pale Clouded yellow	Large White
Agrochola nitida	Anania verbascalis	Brimstone
Brindled Green	Common Carpet	Common rustic agg
Small Heath	Common Pug	Dot Moth
Dotted Chestnut	Double Striped Pug	Duponchelia fovealis
Flounced Chestnut	Grayling	Hoary Footman
Hypsopygia glaucinalis	Large Skipper	Large Wall Brown
Large yellow underwing	Lesser Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing	Lesser Yellow Underwing
Light Brocade	Light Emerald	Meadow Brown
Mecyna asinalis	Mesotype parallelolineata	Mint Moth
Mother of Pearl	Oak Hooktip	Oak Lutestring
Olive	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Rosy Minor
Rusty Dot Pearl	Scarce Bordered Straw	Silver Spotted Skipper
Small Copper	Small Dusty Wave	Small Mottled Willow
Snout	Southern Brown Argus	Speckled Wood
Straw Dot	Striped Twin Spot Carpet	Twenty Plume
Vestal	Vine's Rustic	Wall brown
White Speck	Willow Beauty	Yellow Shell
Pyrausta despicata	Parsnip Webworm	Palpita vitrealis,

Selected Plants.

Tunic flower	Cyclamen	Meadow Saffron
Autumn ladies Tresses	Italian eryngo	Wood Calamint
Pennyroyal	Brown Knapweed	Red Bartsia
Loricati pine	Chicory	Carlina hispanica



Tunic Flower