

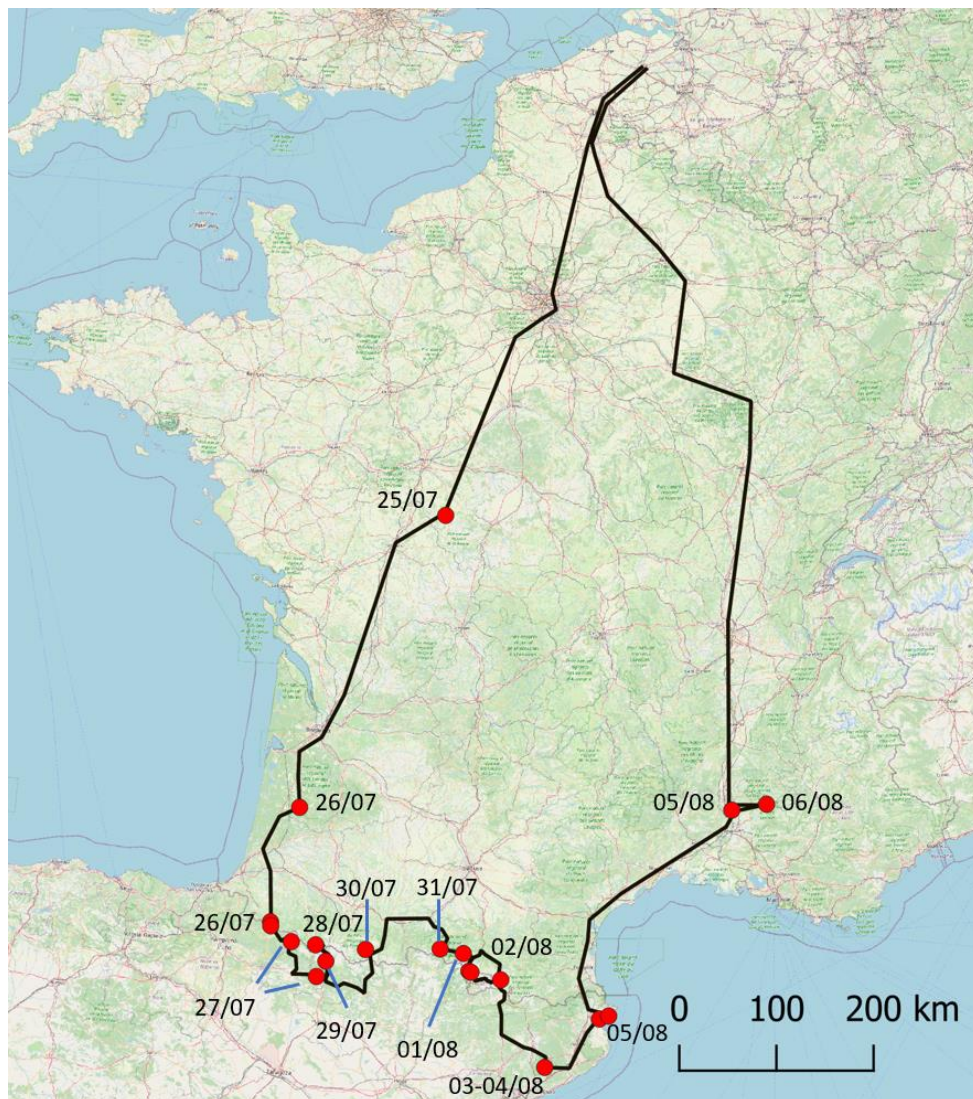
Pyrenees (25 July – 6 August 2022)

Crew: Bart, Hans & Willem

Report: Willem

Photos: Hans & Willem

We went on a trip to the Pyrenees, to enjoy the landscapes, the food and the endemics. This report handles our day-to-day experiences and the species that were observed. For readability, species groups are colour-coded as **Birds**, **Amphibians & Reptiles**, **Butterflies** and **Mammals** the first time a species is mentioned. In particular for birds, we might not have written down some common species, so the species list is probably not exhaustive.



Visited locations during the trip

25 July: Departure & Brenne

We all met at Hans' place in Gent to leave from there in his newly built camper van. We originally planned to start early in the morning and to spend an afternoon in the Brenne in Central France, but unfortunately, NMBS had other ideas and messed up the trains between Brussels and Gent in the morning, delaying our departure to the early afternoon. After a supermarket stop in France, including buying a 1.5 m dried sausage, we crossed Paris and by the evening we arrived in the Brenne at a good spot to look for Marbled newt.

We started turning logs, which yielded us several **Slow worms** (*Anguis fragilis*) and around the ponds, we found **Edible frog** (*Pelophylax kl. esculenta*). Additionally, we saw some **Roe deer** (*Capreolus capreolus*), but since it was getting late and we were hoping to get a little closer to the Pyrenees already, we decided to move on for a long, nighty ride. Still in the Brenne, we spotted some **European hares** (*Lepus europaeus*). We decided to drive to an area in the Landes that looked promising for amphibians, with Gestapo Knallmuzik helping us through the night, and finally arrived at the spot at 03:00.

26 July: Landes & Forêt d'Iraty

Despite the late-night driving, we got up early and checked a marshy area in the heathland. We did see our first **Wall lizards** (*Podarcis muralis*) here, and found **Common frogs** (*Rana temporaria*), but not really any interesting species. **Dryad** (*Minois dryas*) and **Gatekeeper** (*Pyronia tithonus*) were the first butterfly species of the trip. A hide for bird watching, looking out on a small lake was also present. From here, we saw **Grey heron** (*Ardea cinerea*), **White wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*), **Common starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*), **Green sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*) and **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Not exactly the most exciting species, so we decided to move on. On the road we saw a group of **Cattle egrets** (*Bubulcus ibis*) and **Red kites** (*Milvus milvus*).



Forêt d'Iraty (W)

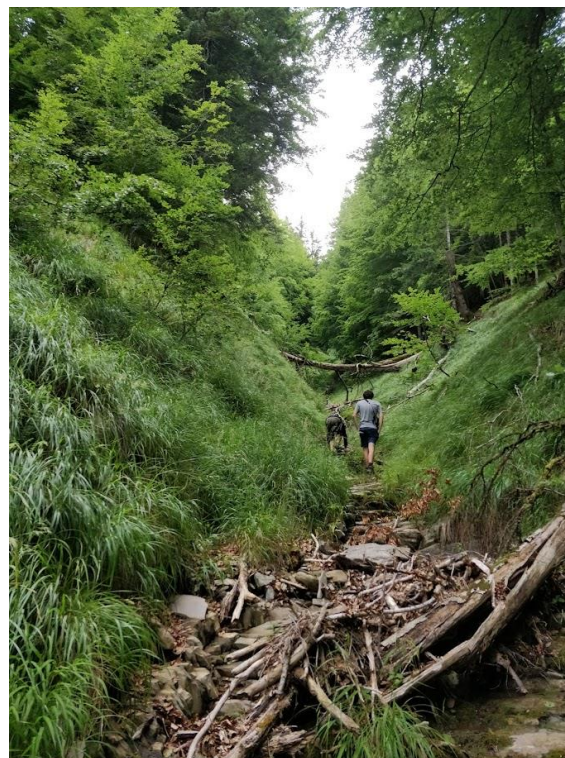
Around noon, we arrived at Forêt d'Iraty and parked the car near Chalet de Pedro. Unfortunately, Hans did not feel too well, so he took some rest in the back of the van, while Bart and I went out to look for **Seoane's viper (*Vipera seoanei*)**, a beautiful viper endemic to the Northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, which reaches the easternmost edge of its range here. The weather was grey, with a bit of rain at times but not too cold, so not bad for vipers. We decided to try our luck on the hillside near the car park and started looking in the vegetation and flipping stones. I soon found two juvenile **Smooth snakes (*Coronella austriaca*)**, but other herps refused to show up. Bart also found a **Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)** and a few very big **Spiny toads (*Bufo spinosus*)**. The birds recorded were **Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*)**, **Crag martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)**, **Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)** and **Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)**. Despite the weather, we were able to find a few butterflies, including **Rock grayling (*Hipparchia hermione*)**, **Wall brown (*Lasiommata megera*)** and **Mountain alcon blue (*Phengaris rebeli*)**.

Several hours of stone flipping without any real result started to become frustrating. After a well-deserved meal, Hans had recovered sufficiently to reinforce our team. We now wanted to try our luck in the meadow a bit further, which contained more stones to turn. It did not take long for Bart to become the hero of the day, by first finding a juvenile Seoane's viper, and a few minutes later a beautiful adult *bilineata* morph! Turning more stones only yielded a Slow worm, Spiny toad and Wall lizard, so we decided to take the gravel road south until we were near the Spanish border. At a small creek, we parked for the night.



Juvenile (L) and adult (R) Seoane's viper (H,W)

After a pastis-break, we walked up the creek. We found some larvae of **Pyrenean stream frog** (*Rana pyrenaica*) and the local subspecies of **Fire salamander** (*Salamandra salamandra fastuosa*). Later during the evening, when flipping some stones inside the creek, I also found the first **Pyrenean brook newt** (*Calotriton asper*). After a successful day, we all retreated to the van for a good night sleep.



Evening excursion (H)



Camping spot (W)

27 July: Ansó and a blessing from San Benito

I got up early in the morning, and while walking along the creek, I found a very nice adult Fire salamander. After showing this to the rest, we started the ride along the road, stopping a few times to check brooks, but without finding anything new. When moving deeper into the mountains, we saw our first **Griffon vultures** (*Gyps fulvus*) and a **Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*). We then crossed into Spain along a beautiful mountain pass (the first of many). Shortly before reaching our next stop, we paused in Izaba to buy some groceries and a few bottles of very nice Basque cider. In the village, we saw some **Black redstarts** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), **House sparrows** (*Passer domesticus*), **Pallid swifts** (*Apus pallidus*) and **House martins** (*Delichon urbicum*). Along the way we also noticed a **Red-backed shrike** (*Lanius collurio*).



Adult Salamandra salamandra fastuosa (W)



Vulture break (H)

After a short ride, we arrived in a beautiful valley, where we started checking out butterflies, yielding **Iberian scarce swallowtail (*Iphiclides feisthamelii*)**, **Clouded yellow (*Colias crocea*)**, **Large skipper**

(*Ochlodes sylvanus*), Marbled white (*Melanargia galathea*), Silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), Great banded grayling (*Brintesia circe*), Chalk hill blue (*Lysandra coridon*), Large white (*Pieris brassicae*), Wood white (*Leptidea sp.*), Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), Pearly heath (*Coenonympha arcania*), Speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*), Large wall brown (*Lasiommata maera*), Meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Small white (*Pieris rapae*) and Silver-spotted skipper (*Hesperia comma*). We did not really look for birds, but found **European goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*). In between all the butterflies, we spent some time checking a lovely creek, which was full of larvae of Pyrenean stream frog, and we succeeded in finding several adult individuals. We also saw dozens of Pyrenean brook newts, some of them in copula.



Frog valley (H)



Adult Pyrenean stream frog (W)



The brook was filled with Pyrenean brook newts and tadpoles of Pyrenean stream frog (H)

It was now early afternoon, and since we were satisfied with the location, we decided to move on, and try our luck more inland in Spain. On the way, we saw several more Griffon vultures, a few **Egyptian vultures** (*Neophron percnopterus*) and about a dozen **Black kites** (*Milvus migrans*). Between all the agriculture, it was not easy to find additional herping spots worth visiting, but in the end, we found a nice hill near Orante. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the weather had become very hot, and any biological activity was limited, but I managed to find **Tree grayling** (*Hipparchia statilinus*), **Swallowtail** (*Papilio machaon*) and **Southern gatekeeper** (*Pyronia cecilia*). On the top of the hill, there was an old chapel dedicated to San Benito, which was manned by an old guy, who showed us some photographs of the miracles of San Benito on his tablet computer (including the absence of snow around the chapel after a snowstorm and a crow humping the crucifix on top of the building). He insisted that we all, one by one, would let ourselves be locked up in the chapel for 5 minutes to meditate and find rest. The chapel was nice and cool compared to the outside, but unfortunately the blessing of San Benito did not yield us any new species: when leaving, we were only able to add **Carrion crow** (*Corvus corone*) and **Magpie** (*Pica pica*) to our list. San benito: 2/5, would not pray to again!



San Benito's Crib (W)

We drove back towards the French border, but decided to have dinner in one of the last Spanish villages. This proved to be an excellent idea, and after a good meal, we moved on to the French side,

spotted a **Red fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*)** on the way, and drove the van as far uphill as possible before going to sleep.

28 July: Lacs d'Ayous

No herping today, but mammalling (if that's a verb...). We left early for a well-known location of Pyrenean desman. It was a long, but pleasant walk, first along a brook with a nice population of **White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)**, and later over small mountain trails with good views of **Alpine marmots (*Marmota marmota*)**. On the way, we saw **Northern wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)** and a lone Alpaca. New butterfly species were **Scarce copper (*Lycaena virgaureae*)**, very abundant **Common brassy ringlets (*Erebia arvernensis*)**, **Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*)**, a dead **Woodland ringlet (*Erebia medusa*)**, **Small tortoiseshell (*Aglaia urticae*)**, **Mountain ringlet (*Erebia epiphron*)** and **Piedmont ringlet (*Erebia meolans*)**.



The hike to the desman-spot (W)

At early noon we arrived at the creek and we saw that it was an excellent spot for desman, with some good vantage points and really beautiful habitat (and some experimental setups to monitor desmans). After a nice bottle of cider, we spent the rest of the afternoon looking for desman. Unfortunately, the

only thing we saw in the river were several Common frogs. When scanning the mountainsides in the evening, we were able to find some consolation by finding some [Pyrenean chamois \(*Rupicapra pyrenaica*\)](#) and **Raven (*Corvus corax*)**. With distant thunder sounding in nearby valleys, we decided to pitch up our tents and to call it a day.



Looking out for desman (W)

29 July: Ibón de Pietrafita

Unfortunately, by midnight the thunderstorm had reached us. For the rest of the night, the rain was pouring on our tents, and the lightning kept us awake. By sunrise, the rain was briefly substituted by a hailstorm with rather big balls of hail. When the weather calmed down a bit, we saw that the river had turned into a muddy torrent, rendering any further desman-hunting impossible. We decided to break down the tents, and to move back to the car as fast as possible. Since we were now going downhill, this went pretty fast, and with the rain still pouring, we quickly reached the van.



Mountain weather (W)

We then backtracked to Spain to visit the surroundings of Ibón de Pietrafita. After a brief stop for more cider and bread, we drove back into the mountains. We saw that the road going further was off limits except for people who visited a local zoo, or wanted to pay €10 for parking. Luckily, the rain meant that no one was there to block the road, so we were able to continue towards the lake 😊

When we arrived, some time before noon, the sun finally showed up. After a few sandwiches, we started exploring the surroundings of the lake. Hans found one of our goals: about 15 **Catalonian midwife toads** (*Alytes almogavarii*) under a single stone. Near and in some creeks we also found Spiny toads, a Common frog and a Pyrenean brook newt, but again the rain had made the water rather muddy, so no Pyrenean stream frogs here... For the bird list, we were able to add **Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*). When driving back, we saw that the parking guy had taken his place and was stopping cars from the other direction for a parking fee. Lucky for us, we were driving on the other side of the road, and we could pass freely.



Lunch break at the lake (W)



Catalonian midwife toad (W)

We now had a long journey ahead, past long, narrow, winding Spanish roads, which nearly got us killed more than once. Near the French border we restocked again on food and we entered France, drove up the mountains again to end up at the top of Col Cap de Long. This was a big, rather busy free camping place for caravans, vans, cars, mobile homes,... but it was nicely equipped and free. The best thing, however, was the presence of a nice population of **Pyrenean rock lizard (*Iberolacerta bonnali*)**, of which I found a first specimen while peeing at the edge of the parking lot.



Drying our stuff on the parking lot (W)

After one of the better camping dinners, we decided to make an evening walk along the lake. By pure coincidence, we found that Sam, just like us an ex-JNM member, was camping at the same spot with his girlfriend. Bottles of alcohol were collected from the van, and it became a long, very enjoyable night.

30 July: Col Cap de Long

Heavy alcohol use and advancing age had taken their toll, and my companions were not in a state to get up early in the morning, so I went on a little morning excursion on my own. Past the parking lot, things looked more interesting, and I was able to observe several Pyrenean rock lizards, and a few additional butterflies, of which the new species were **Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)** and **Shepherd's fritillary (*Boloria pales*)**.



Poor picture of a beautiful Pyrenean rock lizard (W)



Yet another beautiful mountain valley (W)

By noon, Bart had recovered sufficiently to go on a longer excursion, while Hans still needed some rest. Together we were able to catch a Pyrenean rock lizard, but unfortunately it escaped before we could

take some more detailed pictures. We then walked along the lake towards a very pretty valley, finding some additional butterflies on the way: **Gavarnie ringlet (*Erebia gorgone*)**, **Mazarine blue (*Cyaniris semiargus*)** and once arrived in the valley **Pyrenees brassy ringlet (*Erebia rondoui*)**. After spending some time in the valley, we walked back to find that Hans was back among the living. The weather had become cloudy, so we decided to have dinner and go to sleep.

31 July: Col de la Core

After a brief morning excursion to show Hans the lizard and spotting a few Pyrenean chamois, we left for a long ride towards our next species. Along the way, we saw a dead **Western hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)**, and after a few hours we finally arrived at the Col de la Core, where we parked the car. After lunch, still at the parking, we found our first butterfly: the local, melanistic subspecies of **Yellow-spotted ringlet (*Erebia manto constans*)**. During the walk uphill, we also added **Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)** and we found a few species that we already had seen before, including Pyrenees brassy ringlet and hundreds of Chalk hill blues and we met a group of French guys who were monitoring the local butterfly fauna. At last, we arrived at a little lake, where I caught a potential (but obviously uncertain) **Northern brown argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*)**. While Hans and Bart went for a swim, I moved up a bit higher to look between the rocks for our next find. After a few minutes, I found a rather shy **Aran rock lizard (*Iberolacerta aranica*)**. Unfortunately, it was very skittish, and I did not manage to take any pictures, so I returned to the others. I was really happy to see that along the lake, they had found another Aran rock lizard who did love the camera. We took some time to observe it, and then, after adding **Red-billed chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)** and **Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)** to the list, we started moving back to the car. Just downstream of the lake, in a brook we also found some Common frogs and Pyrenean brook newts.



Swimming in Lake Aranica (W)



Aran rock lizard keeping watch (W)



Close-up of Aran rock lizard (W)

We decided to move on, observing **Common blackbird (*Turdus merula*)**, **Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)** and **Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)** during the ride. A brief stop on a col, including some futile stone-flipping also yielded **Water pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)**. We then entered an area where Brown bear was known to occur (made obvious by the graffiti on the road calling for its extermination), and stopped along the road, where a guy was checking a hillside with fancy Swarovski-gear. He showed us some Roe deer and we saw a **Short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)**, but he did not seem very willing to share any more intel, so we just acted like we believed that people scan hillsides with expensive telescopes just to see Roe deer.

Moving on, we passed by the Etang de Lers, where we found the only desman of the trip, which unfortunately was only a statue. We then moved on to a river where we did another short desman attempt, but then decided that the place where we met the mammal-spotting guy was the best spot to park the van for the night.



Bart posing with giant desman (W)



Camping spot (H)

1 August: Soulcem

I went on a little morning excursion, while Hans and Bart went out to check a cave for bats (unfortunately without any result). In the vicinity of the lake, I was able to find a few nice butterflies, including **Autumn ringlet (*Erebia neoridas*)**, **Small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*)**, **Provencal fritillary (*Melitaea deione*)** and **Dark green fritillary (*Speyeria aglaja*)**. While having breakfast at the same river that we checked the evening before, we also found **White admiral (*Limenitis camilla*)**, **Comma butterfly (*Polygonia c-album*)** and **Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)**. We were close to our next destination, so we moved there, and parked the car at the Etang de Soulcem.



Soulcem valley (W)

By the time we started moving, it had already become very hot, and we still had quite a distance to hike. Luckily, butterfly activity was still high, and in addition to several species that were found already in other places, we observed **Silky ringlet (*Erebia gorge*)**, **Silver-studded blue (*Plebejus argus*)**, **Meadow fritillary (*Melitaea parthenoides*)** and **Bath white (*Pontia daplidice*)**. It was a very easy walk in a beautiful valley, with a short climb in the end, in a lovely, marshy surrounding dominated by Bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), which were visited by several butterflies, including **Purple-edged copper (*Lycaena hippothoe*)**. When arrived on the spot for our target species, Aurelio's rock lizard, it seemed that the afternoon heat had reduced the species' activity, and we were not able to find one between dozens of wall lizards. On the other hand, we did find some extra butterflies, including **Lefèbvre's ringlet (*Erebia lefebvrei*)** and **Peacock (*Aglais io*)**. In a creek, we also found two Pyrenean brook newts. After some time, we decided to give up on the species and try again at a different spot.

On the way back, after a refreshing swim, we were able to see **Viviparous lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)** and **Western black-eared wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*)**.



Futile searches (W)

Our failure at Soulcem forced us to add an unplanned stop to try again. We decided to try the other side of the valley, in Andorra. While this was only 4 km in a straight line, it was a 125 km drive, but since we were planning to visit Andorra anyway to refuel, it was not such a terrible detour. We soon noticed that Andorra is a ... peculiar place. As it is basically the biggest duty-free shop in Europe, towns look more like a crossover between theme parks and shopping malls, and the little farmland that exists is mostly used to grow tobacco. By the time we arrived at the location (over perfectly maintained asphalt roads up to 2300 m), it had already gone dark and we quickly made some dinner. We spotted

another Red fox, who was very interested in our food and during the night spent some time inspecting our dirty dishes.



Late dinner (W)

2 August: Andorra

As the main reason for our failure the day before was probably the high temperatures, we decided to get up early, and take a short walk into the mountains. After first spotting some Wall lizards, we finally found about a dozen **Aurelio's rock lizards** (*Iberolacerta aurelioii*). We caught one to check it from up close, had breakfast at this location and spotted another Marmot. After a brief swim in the nearby lake, we returned to the car. We found several butterflies along the way, among which **Painted lady** (*Vanessa cardui*) was the only new one for the trip.



Aurelio's rock lizard (W)



The mountains of Andorra (W)

After refuelling, the time had come to do some shopping. Bart was looking for a new set of binoculars, but unfortunately all shops were focused on hunters and only sold a limited selection of Bushnell binoculars. Luckily, there were other things to buy, and Andorra made true its promises of cheap

alcohol. After buying a nice stash, we looked up how much alcohol you are allowed to take outside Andorra, and we discovered that we *might* have been about ten times over the limit. We discussed the possibility of one person taking the mountain trail with a backpack filled with contraband, but in the end tried our luck by just stashing everything away. At the borders, the customs picked out the car in front of us, but let us pass, lucky us ☺



Pas de la Casa is not the most idyllic part of the Pyrenees... (W)



...but it is quite nice do do some shopping (W)

We then stopped a few kilometres further, on the Col de Puymorens, to look for the local subspecies of Sand lizard. Because of the high temperatures, we did not really have high hopes, and indeed we did not manage to find it. On the other hand, we did see a few butterflies: **Black satyr (*Satyrus actaea*)**, **Turquoise blue (*Polyommatus dorylas*)**, **Idas blue (*Plebejus idas*)**, and several other species that we had seen in the days before including several Apollos. In the creeks, we could only find common frogs. On the way back to the car, we also spotted some **Common linnets (*Linaria cannabina*)**. We then left the Pyrenees and moved to Catalonia. We paused in Latour de Carol to buy some cheese and sausage, and to check the local fauna, and then drove a few hours through some welcome rain, to have a break in Vic, where we had a really nice dinner. We then drove onwards to Montseny, where we arrived a little past midnight. The goal species here was Montseny brook newt (*Calotriton arnoldi*), but since we were tired and the creek where we parked had completely dried out, we decided to call it a night, and try to focus on the next two days to find the species.



Another mountain lake, unfortunately without any nice herps (W)

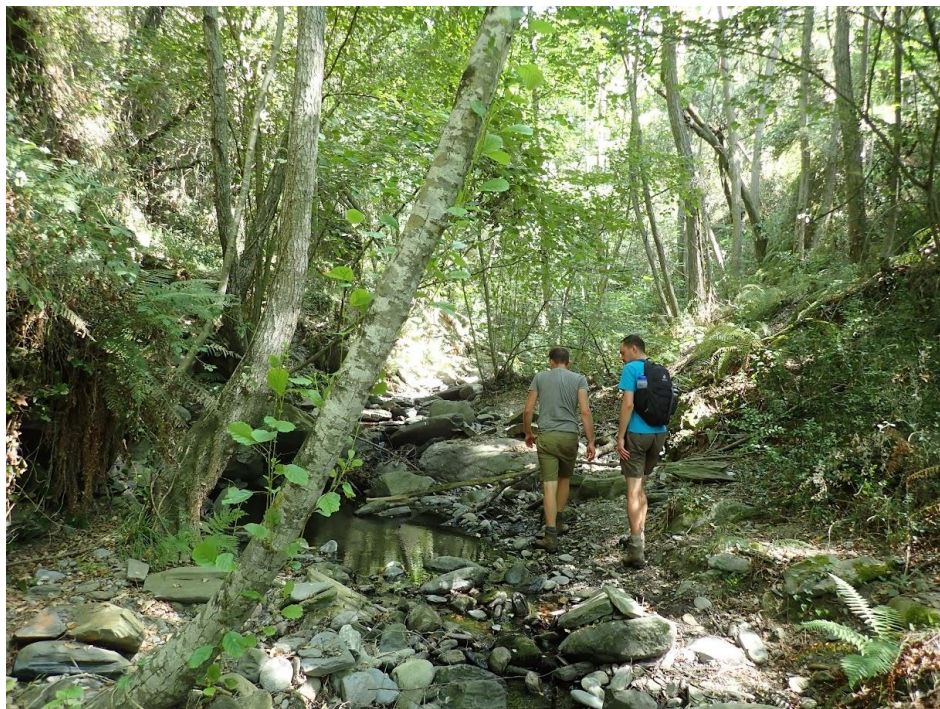
3 August: Montseny Part I

We started the day in a calm pace. I searched the road verges along the car for butterflies, yielding **Holly blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)**, **Purple hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*)** and **Spotted fritillary (*Melitaea didyma*)**. We then drove to a parking with a water source, where we prepared a Vikron S-solution to disinfect our shoes against chytridiomycosis and moved on to a small village to buy bread, wine and

other essentials. In the village, we saw **Two-tailed pasha (*Charaxes jaisius*)**. We then started following one of the creeks at relatively low altitude. Luckily plenty of water here, but except for several dragonflies and very high numbers of Purple hairstreaks nothing to see here. We then drove a bit higher and found a nice location. We spent the whole afternoon in the river without finding anything interesting.



Virkon S-preparation (W)



Expedition along the brook (W)

At sunset, we walked up a bit higher, and decided to follow the river downstream back to the car. On the way, we saw **Stock dove** (*Columba oenas*). The stream was really nice, and we saw several measures that had been taken for the local LIFE project to protect the newts. We found dozens of larvae of the local **Fire salamander** (*S. s. terrestris*) subspecies, Common frog, Spiny toad, and two Catalanian midwife toads. When trying to get past an overgrown part of the river, we also encountered a **Beech marten** (*Martes foina*). Unfortunately, after a few hours walking down the stream still no newts, so we got back to the car and decided to give it another try the next day.



Another Catalanian midwife toad (W)

4 August: Montseny Part II

After a late morning, we readied ourselves for another afternoon of newt-searching. While we did spend some time at the same spot, we changed our tactic and spent part of the day scouting other streams at daylight and planning a nightly route. While some brooks had dried out, others looked very promising. We also found a jar with a bee (*Megachile* sp.), collected by some Dutch guys who passed by a few days earlier. Thanks to the miracles of the internet and online observation databases, we were able to contact them and when back in Belgium sent the specimen back to its rightful owner. Along with the scouting came observations of **Catalonian wall lizard** (*Podarcis liolepis*) and **Short-toed treecreeper** (*Certhia brachydactyla*). By the evening we had a good plan, and while waiting for the dark, we had a nice dinner in Montseny, which turned out to be a beautiful little town.

Our nightly tour yielded some adult Fire salamanders, several Spiny toads and Common frogs, but unfortunately again no newts. When driving between brooks, we almost hit a **Wild boar** (*Sus scrofa*) that crossed the road just in front of us. Around midnight, we decided to move on in the direction of the French border. *Calotriton arnoldi*, we'll be back!

5 August: Aiguamolls de l'Empordà and the beach

While the others tried to compensate some sleep from the nightly excursions of the past few days, I explored the Aiguamolls. The interesting species here were mostly birds: **Sardinian warbler** (*Curruca melanocephala*), **Great reed warbler** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*), **Zitting cisticola** (*Cisticola juncidis*), **Common wood pigeon** (*Columba palumbus*), **Barn swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*), **Water rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*), **Black-winged stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*), **Common ringed plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*), **Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*), **Green sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*), **Common moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*), **Great crested grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*), **Tree sparrow** (*Passer montanus*), **Marsh harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*) and **European serin** (*Serinus serinus*). Not too bad for a horrible birdwatcher like me, so I suppose this area is really a gem for the experts! I also saw some **Fallow deer** (*Dama dama*).

Back at the car around 10:00 it became clear to us that it was going to be an extremely hot day. Not only way too hot for amphibians, but also for us. We decided that we deserved a break from all this and spent the afternoon on a beach at the Costa Brava, which is as ugly as you could expect from the touristic Spanish costas, but the water was nice and we saw some **European shags** (*Gulosus aristotelis*) and some Great tits (*Dikkus tettus*).

We still had one last trick up our sleeve: on the way back to Belgium, we could stop on the Mt. Ventoux to check the local population of Meadow viper. We said goodbye to Spain and drove to Orange, where we combined dinner with a very short city-trip. When we walked back to the car, after dark, we saw that all houses had **Moorish geckos** (*Tarentola mauritanica*) on their walls. After a short ride, we arrived at the right spot on the Ventoux and we went to sleep.

6 August: Mt. Ventoux and return home

We got up at first light, hoping to benefit from the short period of not-too-extreme-heat to find active meadow vipers. Unfortunately, after 4 hours of intensive searching, we were unable to find any vipers. We did, however, find **Western green lizard** (*Lacerta bilineata*) and Autumn ringlet, **Hermit** (*Chazara briseis*) and **Grayling** (*Hipparchia semele*). Around noon, we left and drove directly to Gent. Near Lyon I noted **Mute swan** (*Cygnus olor*) and **Black-headed gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). By the evening

we were in Gent, and after a well-deserved visit to the frituur, we unloaded our bags and finished another nice journey.



Viper habitat without vipers (W)

Species lists

Amphibians & reptiles

Scientific name	English name	Dutch name
<i>Alytes algrovavarii</i>	Catalonian midwife toad	Catalaanse vloedmeesterpad
<i>Bufo spinosus</i>	Spiny toad	Westelijke pad
<i>Calotriton asper</i>	Pyrenean brook newt	Pyreneeënbeeksalamander
<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>	Palmate newt	Vinpootsalamander
<i>Pelophylax kl. esculenta</i>	Edible frog	Bastaardkikker
<i>Rana pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean stream frog	Pyreneeënbeekkikker
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common frog	Bruine kikker
<i>Salamandra salamandra fastuosa</i>	Fire salamander ssp. fastuosa	Vuursalamander ssp. fastuosa
<i>Salamandra salamandra terrestris</i>	Fire salamander ssp. terrestris	Vuursalamander ssp. terrestris
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow worm	Hazelworm
<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Smooth snake	Gladde slang
<i>Iberolacerta aranica</i>	Aran rock lizard	Aranberghagedis
<i>Iberolacerta aurelioi</i>	Aurelio's rock lizard	Andoraberghagedis
<i>Iberolacerta bonnali</i>	Pyrenean rock lizard	Pyreneeënberghagedis
<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>	Western green lizard	Westelijke smaragdhagedis
<i>Podarcis liolepis</i>	Catalonian wall lizard	Catalaanse muurhagedis
<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	Wall lizard	Muurhagedis
<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	Moorish gecko	Muurgekko
<i>Vipera seoanei</i>	Seoane's viper	Cantabrische adder
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Viviparous lizard	Levendbarende hagedis

Mammals

Scientific name	English name	Dutch name
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Roe deer	Ree
<i>Dama dama</i>	Fallow deer	Damhert
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> (DOR)	Western hedgehog (DOR)	Westelijke egel (DOR)
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	European hare	Haas
<i>Marmota marmota</i>	Alpine marmot	Alpenmarmot
<i>Martes foina</i>	Beech marten	Steenmarter
<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean chamois	Pyreneeëngems
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Wild boar	Everzwijn
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red fox	Vos

Birds

Scientific name	English name	Dutch name
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great reed warbler	Grote karekiet
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Wilde eend
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny pipit	Duinpieper
<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Water pipit	Waterpieper
<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Pallid swift	Vale gierzwaluw

<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey heron	Blauwe reiger
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle egret	Koereiger
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard	Buizerd
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European goldfinch	Putter
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common ringed plover	Bontbekplevier
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed gull	Kokmeeuw
<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	White-throated dipper	Waterspreeuw
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed eagle	Slangenarend
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Marsh harrier	Bruine kiekendief
<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Zitting cisticola	Graszanger
<i>Columba aenas</i>	Stock dove	Holenduif
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common wood pigeon	Houtduif
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven	Raaf
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion crow	Zwarte kraai
<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	Sardinian warbler	Kleine zwartkop
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute swan	Knobbelzwaan
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House martin	Huiszwaluw
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	Geelgors
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common kestrel	Torenavalk
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	Vink
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common moorhen	Waterhoen
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Eurasian jay	Gaai
<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>	European shag	Kuifaalscholver
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Griffon vulture	Vale gier
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged stilt	Steltkluut
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn swallow	Boerenzwaluw
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed shrike	Grauwe klauwier
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Common linnet	Kneu
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black kite	Zwarte wouw
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red kite	Rode wouw
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White wagtail	Witte kwikstaart
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian vulture	Aasgier
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Western black-eared wheatear	Westelijke blonde tapuit
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern wheatear	Tapuit
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow	Huismus
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree sparrow	Ringmus
<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	Black redstart	Zwarte roodstaart
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	Ekster
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great crested grebe	Fuut
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Duncock	Heggenmus
<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Crag martin	Rotszwaluw
<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Red-billed chough	Alpenkraai
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Water rail	Waterral
<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European serin	Europese kanarie
<i>Short-toed treecreeper</i>	Certhia brachydactyla	Boomkruiper
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared dove	Turkse tortel

<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common starling	Spreeuw
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green sandpiper	Witgat
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common blackbird	Merel
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	Kievit

Butterflies

Scientific name	English name	Dutch name
<i>Aglais io</i>	Peacock	Dagpauwoog
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small tortoiseshell	Kleine vos
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet	Koevinkje
<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	Silver-washed fritillary	Keizersmantel
<i>Aricia artaxerxes/agestis</i>	(Northern?) brown argus	(Vals?) bruin blauwtje
<i>Boloria pales</i>	Sheperd's fritillary	Herdersparelmoervlinder
<i>Boloria selene</i>	Small pearl-bordered fritillary	Zilveren maan
<i>Brintesia circe</i>	Great banded grayling	Witbandzandoog
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly blue	Boomblauwtje
<i>Charaxes jasius</i>	Two-tailed pasha	Pasja
<i>Chazara briseis</i>	Hermit	Heremiet
<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	Pearly heath	Tweekleurig hooibeestje
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small heath	Hooibeestje
<i>Colias crocea</i>	Clouded yellow	Oranje luzernevlinder
<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	Mazarine blue	Klaverblauwtje
<i>Erebia arvernensis</i>	Common brassy ringlet	Westelijke glanserebia
<i>Erebia epiphron</i>	Mountain ringlet	Bergerebia
<i>Erebia gorge</i>	Silky ringlet	Gewone zijde-erebia
<i>Erebia gorgone</i>	Gavarnie ringlet	Pyreneeënzijde-erebia
<i>Erebia lefebvrei</i>	Lefèbvre's ringlet	Cantabrische erebia
<i>Erebia manto constans</i>	Yellow-spotted ringlet ssp. constans	Geelvlekerebia ssp. constans
<i>Erebia medusa</i> (dead)	Woodland ringlet (dead)	Voorjaarserebia (dood)
<i>Erebia meolans</i>	Piedmont ringlet	Donkere erebia
<i>Erebia neoridas</i>	Autumn ringlet	Herfsterebia
<i>Erebia rondoui</i>	Pyrenees brassy ringlet	Pyreneeënglanserebia
<i>Favonius quercus</i>	Purple hairstreak	Eikenpage
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	Citroenvlinder
<i>Hesperia comma</i>	Silver-spotted skipper	Kommavlinder
<i>Hipparchia hermione</i>	Rock grayling	Kleine boswachter
<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	Grayling	Grote boswachter
<i>Hipparchia statilinus</i>	Tree grayling	Kleine heivlinder
<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>	Iberian scarce swallowtail	Spaanse koningspage
<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	Large wall brown	Rotsvlinder
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall brown	Argusvlinder
<i>Leptidea</i> sp.	Wood white sp.	Boswitje sp.
<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	White admiral	Kleine ijsvogelvlinder
<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>	Purple-edged copper	Rode parelmoervlinder
<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>	Scarce copper	Morgenrood

<i>Lysandra coridon</i>	Chalk hill blue	Bleek blauwtje
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow brown	Bruin zandoogje
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Marbled white	Dambordje
<i>Melitaea deione</i>	Provencal fritillary	Spaanse parelmoervlinder
<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	Spotted fritillary	Tweekleurige parelmoervlinder
<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>	Meadow fritillary	Westelijke parelmoervlinder
<i>Minois dryas</i>	Dryad	Blauwoogvlinder
<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Large skipper	Groot dikkopje
<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Swallowtail	Koninginnenpage
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled wood	Bont zandoogje
<i>Parnassius apollo</i>	Apollo	Apollovlinder
<i>Phengaris rebeli</i>	Mountain alcon blue	Berggentiaanblauwtje
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large white	Groot koolwitje
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small white	Klein koolwitje
<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Silver-studded blue	Heideblauwtje
<i>Plebejus idas</i>	Idas blue	Vals heideblauwtje
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma butterfly	Gehakkelde aurelia
<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>	Turquoise blue	Turkooisblauwtje
<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	Bath white	Westelijk resedawitje
<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>	Southern gatekeeper	Zuidelijk oranje zandoogje
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper	Oranje zandoogje
<i>Satyrus actaea</i>	Black satyr	Kleine saterzandoog
<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	Dark green fritillary	Grote parelmoervlinder
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red admiral	Atalanta
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted lady	Distelvlinder
