

Field Guide to Parco Nazionale del Pollino's

Flora, Fauna, and Funga



DISCLAIMER

This field guide is intended for educational and recreational purposes only. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, species identification should always be verified through multiple sources, especially for:

- Edible or medicinal plants
- Mushrooms (many species are toxic)
- Wildlife encounters (maintain safe distances)

Safety Notice:

- Never consume any wild species without expert verification
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance
- Follow local regulations regarding protected species

FLORA



Elder-Flowered Orchid

Dactylorhiza sambucina

A common herbaceous orchid found in Europe, it features colorful flowers, distinctive tubers, and thrives in meadows and grasslands.



Donkey Tail

Euphorbia myrsinites

A succulent perennial from the spurge family, it features bluish-green leaves and yellow bracts, but its sap can cause irritation.



Bosnian Pine

Pinus heldreichii

An evergreen tree native to the Balkans and southern Italy, it grows up to 35 m tall and thrives in harsh alpine conditions.



Silver Fir

Abies alba

A large evergreen conifer, it thrives in humid climates and forms mixed forests. Notable for its tall stature and distinctive cones.



Lavandula Austroapennina

Lavandula austroapennina

A large evergreen conifer, it thrives in humid climates and forms mixed forests. Notable for its tall stature and distinctive cones.



Spring Crocus

Crocus neapolitanus

A large evergreen conifer, it thrives in humid climates and forms mixed forests. Notable for its tall stature and distinctive cones.

FAUNA



Eurasian Griffon

Gyps fulvus

A large Old World vulture, it has a wingspan of 7-9 ft and is known for soaring efficiently while scavenging for carrion.



Common Wall Lizard

Podarcis muralis

A small, variable lizard found in rocky habitats across Europe and introduced to North America, displaying diverse color morphs and behaviors.



Niobe Fritillary

Argynnis niobe

A medium-sized butterfly found in Europe and parts of Asia, it features a bright brown-orange color with distinctive markings.



Grayling

Hipparchia semele

This butterfly thrives in warm, dry habitats, exhibiting cryptic coloring for camouflage and engaging in complex mating behaviors.



Woodland Dor Beetle

Anoplotrupes stercorosus

This earthboring dung beetle features two keels on its tibia, is found in diverse forests, and lays eggs in soil corridors.



Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

A medium to large raptor, commonly found across Europe, it thrives in forest edges and open areas, often seen perched or soaring.

FUNGA



Tree Lungwort

Lobaria pulmonaria

A large, lobed epiphytic lichen, sensitive to pollution, thriving in damp habitats. Its presence indicates old-growth forests and declining populations.



Porcelain Mushroom

Oudemansiella mucida

A slimy white fungus found on beech wood, it appears in clusters during autumn, often with caps held horizontally from tree trunks.



Shaggy Mane

Coprinus comatus

A distinctive fungus with a shaggy, white cap that darkens and dissolves into ink. Found in grasslands from June to November.



Bushy Lichens

Ramalina

Fruticose lichens with flattened, strap-like branches, often tufted. They feature lecanorine apothecia and a range of reproductive structures.



Fly Agaric

Amanita muscaria

This iconic mushroom features a bright red cap with white spots, found in temperate and boreal regions, often under conifers.



Slippery Jacks

Suillus

This genus includes fungi associated with pine trees, featuring slimy caps, tubular hymenia, and mycorrhizal relationships.