

## Moth holidays at Finca La Molina



Finca La Molina, near Casares in Andalucia, is a paradise for lepidopterists and birders. A large number of interesting bugs and other insects appeal to the entomologist, whilst over 200 wildflower



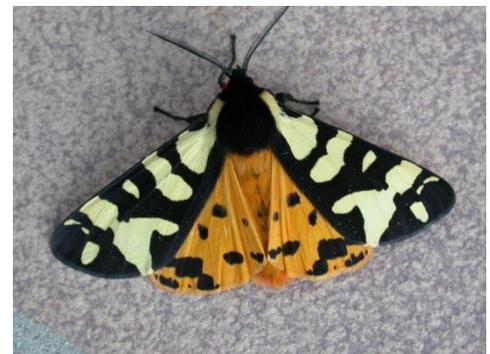
species are found for the botanist. To date, May 2014, 930 moth species have been identified, including at least 6 new to Spain and one to Europe *Euphyia vallantinaria*, whilst



*Meganola kolbi* was an extension in range from Eastern to Western Europe. Two species not seen for 100 years have been re-found on Finca La Molina, *Eublemma candicans* and *Nemapatogon stenochlora*, the latter from Algeria. Species rare in the UK, regularly recorded here include the Goldwing, Striped Hawkmoth and Flame Brocade. However these are just an example of the wide range of rare species. Each night different species are recorded even in



winter. 3 traps



are run, a small Actinic, a Skinner and a Robinson trap both with MV lights. I have never opened a trap to find it empty! The traps are moved to vary the habitats as we have mountain, woodland and

meadow on our 6 acre finca. The rich environment is thanks to the numerous wildflowers and native trees, as well as the absence of insecticides or herbicides in more than 30 years, probably much longer.

Griffon Vultures soar overhead or land on the crags adjoining the house, together with 3 Eagle species and occasionally an Eagle Owl. As well as assisting in identification each morning at the traps, I am happy to act as guide to other beautiful and varied areas both up into the mountains as well as to local rivers and the Atlantic coast. A number of varied habitats are within just over an hour's drive from the house, or sometimes only minutes. A contribution to fuel costs or an occasional lunch is welcome, but I am happy also to bring a picnic! We can arrange to meet you at either Malaga or Gibraltar airports at cost, or you can hire a car and fly into either these airports or Jerez or Sevilla which is sometimes cheaper. (A week's car hire from Sevilla this Whit weekend was quoted at 70 euros. A number of well known lepidopterists could give us a recommendation!

The casita is self-contained, with twin bedded accommodation, large shower room, small kitchen area and two big comfy leather armchairs plus a terrace. A welcome meal is served on arrival as part of the cost and breakfast things are provided. There are 6 acres in which to wander and a 12 metre salt water swimming pool. Views from our terrace extend to the Mediterranean and the neighbouring village of Casares and on clear days even to Africa, just 48km distant.

Rates as at May 2014 are £325 for a week's mothing with assistance at identification or pro rata for a shorter stay. We have an extensive library, including 30+ identification books on moths, a large library of bird identification guides, field guides to butterflies, dragonflies, wildflowers etc. A telescope is available for use, all so that you can travel hand luggage as bathroom requisites are also provided. We limit our visitors to a total of 10 weeks a year so that we always enjoy your arrival, as does Gordo our Golden retriever. We enjoy sharing our beautiful finca and its exceptional diversity with you.

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