

The Flowers of Crete

Holiday Report 15-22 April 2015

Compiled by Sotiris Alexiou



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Introduction

The base for our holiday was a small, family run hotel just outside of Chania, on the western end of the island. It is the most verdant part of Crete, with a dramatic backdrop of the White Mountains! The variety and quality of habitats and altitude make it a great place for observing wildlife and particularly flowers.

Our aim was to spend a relaxing week exploring the area for flowers and any other wildlife of interest,

The guests joining Sotiris Alexiou from Greenwings were Brian, Rayleene, John and Lynne

The weather throughout most of the week was superb and typical of southern Greece in spring - generally warm and with plenty of sunshine.



Below is the programme for the week, followed by a description for each day, a gallery and a species list.

Day 1, Wednesday 15th April: arrival at Chania, Akrotiri peninsula and transfer to the hotel

Day 2, Thursday 16th April: Falasarna and Polirinnia acropolis

Day 3, Friday 17th April: Topolia Gorge and Kandanos area

Day 4, Saturday 18th April: Gious Kampos plateau

Day 5, Sunday 19th April: Imbros Gorge, Asfendou village

Day 6, Monday 20th April: Kournas Lake, Akrotiri peninsula

Day 7, Tuesday 21th April: Omalos plateau

Day 8, Wednesday 22th April: Return to UK

Day 1, Wednesday 15th April: Akrotiri peninsula

Our guests arrived at Chania airport at 12:15 with the same flight. There would be plenty of time for the group on that first day...but things didn't go exactly well for all. Rayleene felt unwell during the flight, so after landing was taken to Chania Hospital, accompanied by her husband Brian! After a discussion with Brian on the phone and with the rest of the group, we decided that the rest of the group should proceed with the plan for the day and meet up with Rayleene & Brian later.

Stop 1: Chania airport is situated at Akrotiri peninsula, a place worth a visit, situated very close to the town of Chania. We took the road that leads from the airport to Tsagarolon and Gouverneto Monasteries, two of the oldest monasteries in Crete, built during the 16th century. After we passed Tsagarolon monastery, surrounded by beautiful orange and olive tree groves and vineyards, we made our first stop in a nice field with scattered Carob *Ceratonia siliqua* and Kermes Oak, *Quercus coccifera*, trees. Among them we found large numbers of the impressive Dragon Arum, *Dracunculus vulgaris* in flower and also all three *Cistus* shrubs. We also noted *Lavandula stoechas*, *Nepeta scorditis*, the very aromatic *Satureja thymbra*, the endemic *Adonis cretica*, *Tolpis barbata*, *Silene gallica*, *Galactites tomentosa*, some violet Crown Anemone, *Anemone coronaria* and many more. On the rocks of a small ravine we found the not so common Hairy Fern *Cosentinia vellea* and the tiny Annual Bellflower, *Campanula erinus*. Several butterflies were present too, the most common species being Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*.



Stop 2: Moving on and just before we reached Gouverneto Monastery, we stopped at a small gorge leading to the monastery. A beautiful breeze was passing through it so we decided to walk inside the gorge. This proved to be a very good choice since a lot of interesting plants were observed. These included beautiful stands of white-flowering Turban Buttercup *Ranunculus asiaticus*, *Papaver purpleomarginatum*, *Gagea graeca*, *Anthemis chia*, *Dracunculus vulgaris* and just one plant of Mandrake, *Mandragora autumnalis*, with its big rosette of leaves and the yellow fruits from the previous autumn when the plant was in flower. John reminded us all of superstitious practices that this plant was associated throughout the history of mankind, mainly because of their roots resembling human figures.



Adonis cretica, *Papaver purpleomarginatum*, *Gagea graeca*, *Anthemis chia*, *Dracunculus vulgaris* and just one plant of Mandrake, *Mandragora autumnalis*, with its big rosette of leaves and the yellow fruits from the previous autumn when the plant was in flower. John reminded us all of superstitious practices that this plant was associated throughout the history of mankind, mainly because of their roots resembling human figures.

Gouverneto monastery is situated at the very end of the peninsula. In the old stony walls one can see the impressive Mullein, endemic to the island, *Verbascum arcturus* and the poisonous *Hyo**scyamus albus*. The view to the sea was

brehtaking! Several Plantain species, *Plantago*, were observed, as well as the Rayless chamomile *Anthemis rigida*. Several butterflies were flying, among them Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*. We had our lunch wandering around in the gardens of the monastery, where several aromatic plants were cultivated, such as *Origanum dictamnus*.

Stop 3: Last stop for the day was an olive grove. Inside we found our first orchids: *Serapias bergonii* was plentiful as well as some *Serapias lingua*. Also a few *Ophrys heldreichii* were found and a single specimen of *O. episcopalis*. The first impression we had was that spring was late this year.



Moving outside the olive trees and inside the phrygana, we found a group of *Ophrys cretica*. And, an excellent find: a superb hybrid between *Serapias bergonii* and *Serapias lingua*! In order to confirm our find we investigated the base of the lip of the flower. John also found a couple of white flowering *Cytinus hypocistis*, parasitizing on the roots of *Cistus creticus* and we all enjoyed the Golden drops *Onosma graeca* that we found.

By now it was time to check into our hotel! Calypso hotel, at one of the most famous sandy beaches, Agii Apostoli, was expecting us. After that, Lynne and John had a nice dinner at the harbour of Chania, at a restaurant of Cretan traditional food, baked in a wood oven. This would be our restaurant almost every night, a truly excellent choice! Brian and Rayleene had by now left the hospital and were taken back to the hotel. Their unexpected adventure was finally over and happily they were both in excellent health and ready to enjoy the holiday.

Day 2, Thursday 16th April: Falasarna and Polirinnia acropolis

Stop 1: After a hearty breakfast at our hotel, we headed to the western coast of Crete, Falasarna beach. It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining upon the snowcapped peak of Lefka Ori. Falasarna is an ancient town, half lost to the sea today! The sandy beach is one of the most popular of the island...but at this time of year it was all ours, although a few people were already swimming! On the path leading to the sea we observed some interesting flowers, like the endemic *Muscari spreitzenhoferi*. Also Crown Daisy *Glebionis coronarium*, with the big, bi-coloured flowering heads, Salsify *Tragopogon sinuatus*, the beautiful pink *Silene colorata*, *Pallenis spinosa*, the Centaurea-like *Crupina crupinastrum* and *Phagnalon graecum*. A Raven was heard and after a while

a flock of Bee-Eaters came our way, above our heads and soon to join them were some wonderful Alpine Swifts! We stayed there for a while, watching them eating small flying insects and enjoying their impressive and acrobatic flight. But the main target of our visit here was found on the sandy beach: *Centaurea pumilio* in full flower, half-buried in the sand. This is a beautiful Eastern Mediterranean species, with only a handful of populations in Greece, legally protected and included in the Red List of Plants. We were pleased to have found it and readily took photos of such a fine plant.



Some *Tamarix* trees were also noted and among them *Euphorbia paralias*, *Hyoseris lucida*, *Calystegia soldanella* (in leaves), Sea Medick *Medicago marina* and *Pseudorlaya pumila*. On the rocks we found the endemic *Inula candida*, not in flower yet, and *Paronychia macrosepala*. A small blue butterfly was seen flying and when it landed it proved to be Eastern Baton Blue *Pseudophilotes vicrama*. Also a worn *Lasiommata megera* was present and the endemic Cretan Festoon *Zerynthia (Allancastria) cretica* also treated us to a view as it flew by.

The Bee-Eaters were still there! Lynne was overwhelmed by their colors which she could see clearly through her binoculars!



Stop 2: We drove back to Kissamos and from there drove south for a few kilometres to the ancient Polirinnia acropolis. We had our lunch at the beginning of the path that leads up to the acropolis. A very fresh *Lasiommata megera* was nectaring from the flowers. The endemic lizard *Podarcis cretensis* was basking in the sun and Brian stood still as the lizard was passing just next to his foot! A Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* was also observed.

The sun was shining and the weather was excellent as we started to follow the path. We found the first few plants of the localized endemic



Dianthus xylorrhizus © S. Alexiou

Dianthus xylorrhizus, just starting to flower. This is one out of just two known localities of this species and we managed to find only two flowers open in this late spring!

We passed the church of the 99 Saints and started to ascend. Cleopatra was flying as well as Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius* and European Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*. Both *Vanessa*'s were also observed, Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* and Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*. The Cretan Festoon *Zerynthia cretica* was rather common here and we were happy to observe it in good numbers.

Phlomis cretica and *Euphorbia dendroides* were the dominant shrubs. Several other plants were observed, like *Stachys spinulosa*, *Silene behen*, *Silene cretica*, Pink Hawksbeard *Crepis rubra*, *Adonis cretica*, *Moraea sisyrinchium*, *Asphodelus ramosus*. The only red form of *Ranunculus asiaticus* of the trip was observed here, inside a field. After about an hour we reached the top of the hill, the acropolis. The view was stunning all around 360°! Ravens were flying and also some *Falco*. We sat there contented and enjoyed the view for a while. Refreshment at Kissamos was in order! Fresh orange juice for everyone plus the first Greek beer ever for Brian!



Papilio machaon © S. Alexiou



Ranunculus asiaticus © S. Alexiou

After a short rest at our hotel, we walked down to the beach of Agii Apostoli. We enjoyed the sunset from there and walked to a very interesting tavern for our evening meal.

Day 3, Friday 17th April: Topolia Gorge and Kandanos area.

The weather was excellent again this morning as we headed south towards Topolia Gorge. As we approached the gorge, Griffon Vultures made their appearance above us in the sky and we all stood with our eyes fixed skyward to watch for a while. After Topolia village the road continues through the gorge so we made the first stop at the entrance just to see the amazing view down to the river running through the gorge. The whole area was wild and the vertical walls of the gorge seemed to reach the sky! We drove through the tunnel and parked the minibus at the Agia Sophia cave.

Stop 1: Before we followed the steps up to the cave, we walked along the road to explore the chasmophytic flora hanging from the rocks. Two endemic *Centaureas* were recorded, *Centaurea argentea* and *Centaurea redempta*, just a few days away from flowering. Also the Cretan endemics *Scutellaria sieberi* and *Verbascum arcturos* as well as the south Aegean endemic *Linum arboreum*, with the impressive large yellow flowers. White Bryony *Bryonia cretica* was flowering in big numbers.



Podarcis cretensis © S. Alexiou

We started to climb up the steps to the cave. We spotted some *Orchis italica*. *Lasiommata megera* was flying around and the *Podarcis cretensis* lizard was running around the rocky steps. The cave of Agia Sophia is very impressive, a big cave, with plenty of stalagmites and stalactites and a large opening. An old church is situated inside. Rock Doves and Crag Martin were flying in and out the cave. Huge Fig trees were hanging from the rock and also *Verbascum arcturos*. A beautiful specimen of *Ranunculus creticus* was observed on the rock.

On the way down we stopped for refreshments at the café-restaurant, which was an excellent bird-watching spot, as at any time Griffon Vultures could pass through the gorge, just in front of our eyes. We could see their nesting place just on the opposite side of the gorge, covered by the characteristic white droppings on the rock. As usually happens in Crete, the owners of the cafe came up to us with a treat, homemade *raki* that everyone enjoyed! On our way out they also kindly offered us some very sweet oranges! Typical and wonderful Greek hospitality!

Stop 2: Our next stop was at a field filled with Jersey Orchid *Anacamptis laxiflora*! There were also thousands of *Serapias lingua*. John found just one *Orchis collina* and there were also just a few *Ophrys grammica*. The beautiful *Zerynthia cretica* was flying in good numbers. We had our lunch at this beautiful place and then moved on to Kandanos.



Serapias lingua © S. Alexiou

Stop 3: Kandanos is a big village, known mostly by the destruction that happened here during World War II. The village was burnt to the ground and dozens of its citizens were executed. Nowadays, the village, which was fully rebuilt, is well worth a visit. We drove up to a hill and made the way back to the village by foot, along a shady road. In full flower we found the sweet scented endemic *Cyclamen creticum*. Thousands of Nettle-Leaved Figwort *Scrophularia peregrina* were also flowering by the road and in a shady and wet place we enjoyed the presence of a big group of *Saxifraga chrysopleniifolia*. A female Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* was observed laying eggs on the twigs of Spanish Broom *Spartium junceum* and a Scops Owl was singing at this mid-day hour from a nearby Oriental Plane tree!

A house just outside of the village had an excellent example of the modern folk art of Crete: colorful paintings on the outside wall with themes from the recent history of the island, like the fight with the Germans and the much appreciated prime-minister Eleutherios Venizelos. Even better was the genealogical tree of the family living in the house, in a form of an actual tree with the names written on the tree branches!



On the way to Chania, we made one last short stop and then arrived at our hotel. A beautiful dinner with Cretan traditional food was waiting for us at Chania harbour!

Day 4, Saturday 18th April: Gious Kampos plateau

Gious Kampos plateau is a well-known place for any visitor of Crete that loves orchids and tulips! But in this very late spring it was a challenge to be there on time to see all there was to see. However we made it and everything was here! Just a week ago this place was affected by heavy rain and wind. After a drive of about 1.5 hours from Chania we arrived at the plateau, just above Spili. We were the first to arrive, the place was all for us only! By mid-day more than a hundred people could be seen wandering around this heavenly place!



The orange-red flowers of the endemic *Tulipa doerfleri* could be seen into the agricultural fields next to the road. Many thousands of tulips propagated vegetatively by the bulbs, were scattered inside this cereal-fields, in what was the biggest known population of this species. We spent plenty of time wandering among them, photographing and enjoying the moment.

We then moved to the phrygic areas around to search for orchids and other flowers. Everything was here! We started with *Anacamptis boryi*, *Ophrys heldreichi* and *Ophrys episcopalis*. Four-spotted Orchid *Orchis quandripunctata* and Naked Man Orchid *Orchis italica* were plentiful. Many yellow-flowering *Orchis pauciflora* as well as many *Neotinea lactea* were also noted.

Brian had at last an opportunity to enjoy his beloved endemic Anemones *Anemone hortensis* subsp. *heldreichii*. More Ophrys then followed: *Ophrys ariadnae*, Bumble Bee Orchid *Ophrys bombyliflora* and *Ophrys phaidra*.

Griffon Vultures had started to fly above us too. We counted at least four at the same time. A Hen Harrier was also seen a few times. First the male, gently flying close to us and later a female landed for a while before taking off again.

We kept moving by foot, always amazed by what we found. More orchids: *Ophrys iricolor*, *Ophrys cretensis*, *Ophrys kedra*, Sawfly Orchid *Ophrys villosa*, *Anacamptis laxiflora*, Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora* and Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertianum*.



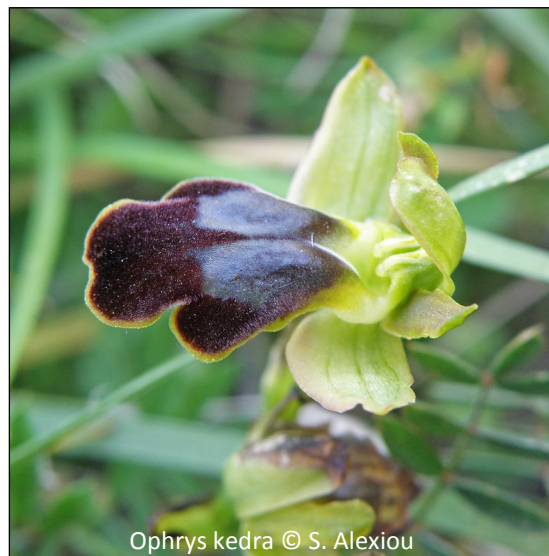
Anemone hortensis subsp. *heldreichii* © B. Rose

On a rocky hill we found the endemics *Erysimum raulinii* and *Valeriana asarifolia*, some nice *Ranunculus creticus* and Yellow Asphodele *Asphodeline lutea*.

We made our way home after a really magnificent day! One more quick stop was made to show Brian a rare yellowish colour form of Turban Buttercup *Ranunculus asiaticus*. At the same place there were also some Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.



Ophrys cretensis © S. Alexiou



Ophrys kedra © S. Alexiou

Day 5, Sunday 19th April: Imbros Gorge, Asfendou village

Today, it was time to meet one of the gorges of Crete. Many hundreds of gorges occur on the island, so in order for someone to have a true feeling of Crete, one needs to walk in at least one gorge! So, we choose Imbros, a relatively small and easy to cross gorge, filled with interesting plants. The entrance is at the Imbros village and the length is about 8 km.

The group were left at the entrance and started to walk at a lazy tempo. After driving the minibus down to Komitades village, at sea level, where the exit of the gorge is, they were met about halfway.



The main trees found inside the gorge are Italian Cypress *Cupressus sempervirens* and Cretan Maple *Acer sempervirens*. The latter had just started to flower and every tree was packed with bees, feeding on the nectar! The buzz was very loud and filled the air!

Among the first plant we observed was the Cretan endemic *Petromarula pinnata*. In fact, the genus itself is endemic to the island. We had seen the plant elsewhere but not in flower. Here, the very long spikes were packed with the bluish flowers! On the rocks, which rose to 300m, we also saw hanging the endemics *Sanguisorba cretica*, *Symphytum creticum* and *Verbascum arcturos*. *Centaurea argentea* and *Centaurea raphanina* were still in bud. The white variety of Turban Buttercup *Ranunculus asiaticus* in thousands made up a beautiful rock garden that, we all agreed, no human hand could have ever made!

The violet flowers of the endemic *Ricotia cretica* were there and spectacular sight was the rounded bushes with the big yellow flowers of *Linum arboreum* hanging from the vertical walls. Tuberos Hawkbit *Leontodon tuberosus* was the commonest yellow composite there.

A nice breeze kept us cool during the hottest hours of the day so we more than happy to spend quite a few hours in the gorge. When we finally reached the lowest end of the gorge, a much deserved fresh orange juice was served to the group to top up our energy levels! Shrubs of the beautiful endemic *Ebenus cretica* were common there, but the flowers were not open yet in this late spring. Many plants of Dragon Arums *Dracunculus vulgaris* were in flower here and Brian and Rayleene, who were not with us at the first day had the chance to see them for the first time.



After lunch we moved to higher altitudes again. We drove to Asfendou, a very old semi-abandoned village that is mostly known for the Asfendou gorge, whose entrance is nearby. The village is a good example of how Crete was before the mass touristic wave of the last 50 or so years. So, at this old farming village we spent a couple of relaxing hours, drinking coffee and raki on the house and to partake in some leisurely bird watching!

Day 6, Monday 20th April: Kournas Lake, Akrotiri peninsula

Stop 1: Bad news this morning. Heavy black clouds, very low upon Chania! We already knew that this spring was rainy for Crete and we also knew that, so far during this trip, we had luck on our side with excellent weather conditions. But not this morning!

After our breakfast we headed to Kournas Lake, the only freshwater lake on Crete and an ideal place for a gentle walk and some bird watching. We parked the vehicle and walked along the road by the coast. The landscape was beautiful - the water was calm, the air still and the hills surrounding the lake mirrored on the water's surface! The frogs were making a lot of noise, but we strangely we could not see a single one anywhere! But we could see and hear the many Sardinian Warblers! And the very distinctive loud call of Cetti's Warbler from the reeds! Stonechats were also present as well as Coots, being very noisy and aggressive to each other! On the other side of the lake we observed a couple of Grey Herons. Later John was certain of a Purple Heron flying over our heads! Close to the coast we saw a few Sliders *Trachemys scripta*, an invasive American freshwater turtle.



Moraea mediterranea © S. Alexiou

Stop 2: The clouds were starting to clear so we headed for Akrotiri peninsula again. The spring being much more advanced now since our visit five days ago and also, Brian and Rayleene were able to enjoy the site, the one they missed on the first day.

The search for orchids didn't give turn up anything particularly different or interesting but we did find the beautiful and rare *Moraea mediterranea* in good numbers. Plus, a Scops Owl from the Gouverneto Monastery welcomed us with his distinctive voice! A handsome Black-eared Wheatear was flying from tree to tree inside the monastery's yard and a lot of butterflies were enjoying the nectar from the many flowers in the garden!

Day 7, Thursday 21th April: Omalos Plateau



Tulipa saxatilis © B. Rose

This would be our last full day at Crete and it proved to be maybe the most enjoyable! We drove up to Lefka Ori (White Mountains) and the famous Omalos Plateau. We were very lucky as the higher we went the more sun we got! The cloud disappeared completely and we enjoyed the fantastic view down to Chania. We passed through Lakkoi, a village connected with Omalos Plateau by important recent historical events. We shouldn't forget that Crete played a very important role in recent Greek and regional history. After a while we entered the plateau, welcomed by one of the favourite and often present birds of the week, a Griffon Vulture, flying above us.

The magnificent Omalos Plateau, at 1,200m, was surrounded by the snowy mountain tops! We immediately saw the tulips. We were overjoyed to see the Rock Tulip *Tulipa saxatilis* here, in millions and in full flower! The purplish or pinkish tepals with the yellow throat spreading under the strong Mediterranean sun! It is often very difficult to be up here at just the right time to see this tulip in full flower so our luck was certainly in with this trip!



John managed to find an opening in a fence and we entered into botanical heaven! We spent a couple of hours wandering around inside closed fenced areas, admiring the beauty of these plants. Lynne decided to lie down in order to get some nice pictures. And we all followed her lead, lying down several times, but worth it for some great photos! Brian and Rayleene enjoyed the Crown Anemones that accompanied the tulips just as much. All of them were of the violet variety, with just one of the red type. Just a few *Romulea bulbocodium* were also found.



Very pleased, we decided to move to the south side of the plateau, the Xiloskalo, where the entrance of the famous Samaria Gorge is. There, at the balcony of the restaurant, surrounded by the high peaks and the snow, under the sun, we had some refreshments. Our eyes were searching the sky for Griffon Vultures or Lammergeiers and the rocks for *aegagrus*, the wild goats. The rocky places around the Xiloskalo were painted by the violet color of *Aubrietia Aubrieta deltoidea*.

After we had lunch and very pleased with the day we had so far, we decided to return early to our hotel in order to spend some time at the old town of Chania before dinner. And so we did! We walked around the narrow streets of this wonderful town, visited the Agora, one of the most famous landmarks of Chania, for some shopping of local products and headed for our restaurant for our last Cretan dinner on this trip!

Day 8, Wednesday 22th April: Return to UK

After breakfast we left for Chania airport for our various flights home. It had been a fantastic and flower filled week on one of Greece's best and most welcoming of islands. We were all sorry to leave but took with us plenty of happy memories and photographs of our adventures together.



Acknowledgements:

Greenwings would like to thank all the guests on this trip for their wonderful support, good humour and enthusiasm throughout the holiday, and also for their help in compiling species lists and for the use of their photographs. Special thanks must also go to Sotiris for his expert guiding and to Hotel Calypso, for their wonderful hospitality.

Gallery and species lists overleaf

Gallery



Orchis lactea © S. Alexiou



Ophrys bombyliflora © S. Alexiou



Orchis pauciflora © S. Alexiou





Ophrys thraidra © S. Alexiou



Orchis anthropophorum © S. Alexiou



Ophrys villosa © S. Alexiou



Anacamptis boryi © S. Alexiou



Serapias lingua © S. Alexiou



Anacamptis boryi © S. Alexiou

Group shot © S. Alexiou



Brian & John botanising by the beach © S. Alexiou





Ophrys episcopalis © S. Alexiou



Ophrys ariadne © S. Alexiou



Cretan Festoon © S. Alexiou

Centaurea pumilio © R. Rose



Muscari comosum © B. Rose



Cyrtus ruber © B. Rose

Rush hour traffic © B. Rose



Goat © B. Rose



Species List

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis boryi
Anacamptis collina
Anacamptis laxiflora
Anacamptis pyramidalis
Himantoglossum robertianum
Neotinea lactea
Ophrys ariadnae
Ophrys bombyliflora
Ophrys cretensis
Ophrys cretica
Ophrys episcopalis
Ophrys grammica
Ophrys heldreichii
Ophrys iricolor
Ophrys kedra
Ophrys phaidra
Ophrys phryganae
Ophrys sicula
Ophrys tenthredinifera
Orchis anthropophora
Orchis italica
Orchis pauciflora
Orchis quadripunctata
Serapias bergonii
Serapias lingua

Gymnosperms

Cupressus sempervirens
Juniperus phoenicea
Juniperus oxycedrus
Pinus brutia

Monocots

Agavaceae

Agave americana

Alliaceae

Allium trifoliatum
Allium subhirsutum

Araceae

Dracunculus vulgaris
Arisarum vulgaris

Asparagaceae

Asparagus aphyllus

Asphodelaceae

Asphodeline lutea
Asphodelus ramosus
Asphodelus fistulosus

Hyacinthaceae

Muscari comosum
Muscari spreitzenhoferi

Iridaceae

Gladiolus italicus
Moraea sisyrrinchium
Moraea mediterranea
Iris unguicularis
Romulea bulbocodium

Liliaceae

Gagea graeca
Tulipa saxatilis
Tulipa doerfleri

Aceraceae*Acer sempervirens***Anacardiaceae***Pistacia lentiscus**Pistacia terebinthus***Apiaceae***Daucus carota**Eryngium campestre* (in leaves)*Eryngium maritimum**Ferula communis**Foeniculum vulgare**Lagoecia cuminoides**Oenanthe pimpinelloides**Orlaya daucooides**Pseudorlaya pumila**Scaligeria napiformis**Scandix australis**Scandix pectin-veneris**Tordylium apulum***Apocynaceae***Nerium oleander**Vinca major***Araliaceae***Hedera helix***Asteraceae***Anthemis chia**Anthemis rigida**Artemisia arborescens**Atractylis cancellata**Bellis annua**Bellis perennis**Calendula arvensis**Carduus pyncocephalus**Centaurea argentea* (in bud)*Centaurea idaea* (in bud)*Centaurea pumilio**Centaurea raphanina* (in bud)*Centaurea redempta* (in bud)*Crepis rubra**Crupina crupinastrum**Galactites tomentosa**Geropogon hybridus**Glebionis coronaria**Glebionis segetum**Hedypnois cretica**Helichrysum barrelieri**Hyoseris lucida**Inula candida* (in bud)*Lamyropsis cynaroides* (in bud)*Leontodon tuberosus**Matricaria recutita**Notobasis syriaca**Pallenis spinosa**Phagnalon graecum**Picnomon acarna**Ptilostemon chamaepeuce**Reichardia picroides**Rhagadiolus stellatus**Senecio vulgaris**Silybum marianum**Sonchus asper**Sonchus bulbosus**Sonchus oleraceus**Tragopogon sinuatus**Urospermum picroides***Berberidaceae***Berberis cretica***Boraginaceae***Echium italicum**Echium plantagineum**Anchusella variegata**Borago officinalis**Symphytum creticum**Cynoglossum creticum**Cynoglossum columnae**Onosma graecum***Brassicaceae***Arabis verna**Aurinia saxatilis**Biscutella didyma**Brassica cretica**Brassica geniculata**Cakile maritima**Capsella bursa-pastoris**Clypeola jonthlaspi**Erophila verna**Eruca vesicaria**Erysimum raulinii**Lunaria annua**Malcolmia flexuosa**Matthiola tricuspidata**Raphanus raphanistrum**Ricotia cretica**Sinapis alba**Sisymbrium irio**Sisymbrium officinale***Campanulaceae***Petromarula pinnata**Campanula erinus***Capparaceae***Capparis spinosa***Caprifoliaceae***Lonicera etrusca***Caryophyllaceae***Dianthus xylorrhizus**Petrorrhagia dubia**Silene behen**Silene cretica**Silene gallica**Silene colorata*

Silene sedoides
Silene vulgaris
Paronychia macrosepala
Cistaceae
Cistus creticus
Cistus parviflorus
Cistus salviifolius
Fumana arabica
Fumana thymifolia
Helianthemum syriacum
Helianthemum salicifolium
Helianthemum aegyptiacum
Helianthemum sanguineum
Tuberaria guttata
Convolvulus
Convolvulus althaeoides
Convolvulus arvensis
Convolvulus elegantissimus
Convolvulus oleifolius
Crassulaceae
Rosularia serrata (in bud)
Sedum album
Sedum rubens
Sedum sediforme
Umbilicus horizontalis
Cucurbitaceae
Bryonia cretica
Ecballium elaterium
Cytinaceae
Cytinus hypocistis
Dipsacaceae
Knautia integrifolia
Lomelosia brachiata
Pterocephalus plumosus
Ericaceae
Arbutus unedo
Erica arborea
Euphorbiaceae
Euphorbia acanthothamnus
Euphorbia characias
Euphorbia dendroides
Euphorbia helioscopia
Euphorbia paralias
Mercurialis annua
Fabaceae
Anagyris foetida
Anthyllis hermanniae
Anthyllis vulneraria
Bituminaria bituminosa
Calicotome villosa
Ceratonia siliqua
Chamaecytisus creticus
Coronilla scorpioides
Ebenus cretica (in bud)
Genista acanthoclada
Lotus tetragonolobus
Scorpiurus muricatus
Spartium junceum
Tripodion tetraphyllum

Fagaceae
Quercus coccifera
Quercus ithaburensis
Quercus pubescens
Gentianaceae
Blackstonia perfoliata
Centaurium sps.
Geraniaceae
Erodium cicutarium
Erodium gruinum
Erodium laciniatum
Erodium malacoides
Geranium columbinum
Geranium dissectum
Geranium lucidum
Geranium molle
Geranium purpureum
Geranium rotundifolium
Hypericaceae
Hypericum empetrifolium
Lamiaceae
Coridothymus capitatus
Lamium amplexicaule
Lavandula stoechas
Marrubium vulgare
Micromeria juliana
Micromeria nervosa
Nepeta scorditis
Phlomis cretica
Phlomis fruticosa
Prasium majus
Salvia fruticosa
Salvia verbenaca
Salvia viridis
Satureja thymbra
Scutellaria sieberi
Stachys cretica
Stachys spinulosa
Linaceae
Linum arboretum
Linum bienne
Linum strictum
Malvaceae
Lavatera bryoniifolia
Lavatera cretica
Malva cretica
Malva sylvestris
Myrsinaceae
Anagalis arvensis
Cyclamen creticum
Oleaceae
Olea europaea
Phillyrea latifolia
Orobanchaceae
Orobanche crenata
Orobanche ramosa
Orobanche pubescens
Oxalidaceae
Oxalis pes-carpae
Oxalis corniculata

Papaveraceae*Glaucium flavum**Hypocoum procumbens**Papaver rhaeas**Papaver purpureomarginatum***Plantaginaceae***Plantago cretica**Plantago lagopus**Plantago lanceolata**Plantago major**Plantago weldenii***Platanaceae***Platanus orientalis***Polygalaceae***Polygala venulosa***Portulacaceae***Portulaca oleracea***Ranunculaceae***Adonis cretica**Anemone coronaria**Anemone hortensis* subsp. *heldreichii**Ranunculus asiaticus**Ranunculus creticus**Ranunculus cypreus**Ranunculus ficaria***Rhamnaceae***Rhamnus lycioides***Rosaceae***Crataegus monogyna**Prunus webbii**Pyrus spinosa**Rosa sempervirens**Rubus sanctus**Sanguisorba cretica**Sanguisorba minor**Sarcopoterium spinosum***Rutaceae***Ruta chalepensis***Salicaceae***Salix alba***Santalaceae***Osyris alba***Saxifragaceae***Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia***Scrophulariaceae***Bellardia trixago**Scrophularia peregrina**Verbascum arcturus***Solanaceae***Hyoscyamus albus**Mandragora autumnalis***Styracaceae***Styrax officinalis***Tamaricaceae***Tamarix parviflora***Thymelaeaceae***Daphne sericea**Thymelaea hirsuta**Thymelaea tartonraira*

Ulmaceae

Zelkova abelicea

Valerianaceae

Centranthus calcitrapae

Valeriana asarifolia

Butterflies

Iphiclides podalirius

Papilio machaon

Zerynthia cretica

Pieris brassicae

Pieris rapae

Pontia edusa

Euchloe ausonia

Colias crocea

Gonepteryx cleopatra

Lycaena phlaeas

Celastrina argiolus

Pseudophilotes vicrama

Aricia agestis

Polyommatus icarus

Vanessa atalanta

Vanessa cardui

Pararge aegeria

Lasiommata megera

Reptiles & Amphibians

Pelophylax cretensis

Lacerta trilineata

Podarcis cretensis