

Wild Flowers of Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

1 – 8 May 2019



Beaked Ophrys



Glanville Fritillary



Honeywort



Iris pseudopumila

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Summary

This year spring has come unusually late to the fascinating island of Sicily, especially in the mountains. There was still quite a lot of lying snow round Piano Battaglia, in the Madonie mountains, and the weather was generally cool with a persistent wind. However, the plus side of this for us were the carpets of early spring flowers (especially *Iris pseudopumila*), still very fresh, with *Crocus caeruleus* and *Tulipa sylvestris* completely new for the trip. The orchids were particularly fine in the Bosco di Ficuzza, being slightly further forward than in some other locations. The weather meant that birds, reptiles and insects were generally rather sparse, but we enjoyed those we did see. With delicious food and local wine, and good company, we all enjoyed an excellent week.

Day 1

Wednesday 1st May

Gatwick to Catania; transfer to Madonie Mountains

Six group members met Jessica at Gatwick Airport for our 7am flight to Catania. We made good time, and could see the summit of Mount Etna above the clouds as we came in to land. There was time for a coffee while Jessica organised the vehicle, but we soon loaded up and were on our way across the island, on the A19 Palermo road. Cloud obscured most of Mount Etna but, elsewhere, the sky was blue, with only a few clouds. We passed through a lot of orange groves, but these gradually gave way to grassy meadows, as the landscape became more undulating. House Martins were nesting in the airport buildings and Spotless Starlings, Hooded Crows, Jackdaws and a few Swifts were seen along the way.

We stopped for a break at Enna Services, before continuing to the west side of the Madonie massif, where we drove in, towards Castellana Sicula. We started to note the presence of crimson Italian Sainfoin (*Hedysarum coronarium*), both on the verges and as a fodder crop, and also the beautiful *Lathyrus odoratus*, the original, wild Sweet Pea, endemic to Sicily, from which all garden cultivars come. We stopped at a field entrance to look more closely at the Sainfoin and Sweet Peas along the roadside, also noting Borage (*Borago officinalis*), Yellow Asphodel (*Asphodeline lutea*), a spike of Field Gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*) and yellow-and-purple bells of Honeywort (*Cerintho major*), among other species. Corn Buntings were singing their characteristic 'jangling keys' song, and butterflies included Large and Small Whites, the southern form of Speckled Wood, Wall Brown, and an unusual colour variant of Common Blue, bright blue but with the orange bands of the female on the upper wings. We also noted the fascinating seed-pods of some of the smaller plants, including Large Disc Medick (*Medicago orbicularis*), with spiral 'Chinese Lantern' pods, *Medicago minima*, with spiny pods, and the swollen, curved pods of the milk-vetch *Astragalus hamosus*.

Moving on, we made another stop just beyond Petralia Sottana. Here we started to find a few orchids: Long-spurred (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*), Early Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *sphogodes*), which we were able to compare with a single spike of Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*), a spike of Provence Orchid (*Orchis provincialis*) and few just-emerging Pink Butterfly Orchids (*Anacamptis papilionacea*). We also noted other species, such as Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge (*Euphorbia rigida*), Hairy Thorny Broom (*Calycotome infesta*), Almond-leaved Pear (*Pyrus amygdaliformis*), Bulbous Saxifrage (*Saxifraga bulbosa*) and the tiny

Rue-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*), Fedia (*Fedia graciliflora*), and the endemics *Anthemis cupaniani*, and *Genista cupanii*, the latter not yet in flower.

We continued to climb through the mountains, enjoying the fantastic views, especially over to the Aeolian Islands, and the bright green of new leaves on the Beech Trees (*Fagus sylvatica*). Soon we could see our destination, the Hotel Pomieri, perched in the midst of the trees, and our base for the first four nights. We received a warm welcome from the owner, Ezio, and Giacomo, his 'number one' and soon settled into our rooms, with views across the mountains. A Cuckoo was calling nearby. We met up with our other two group members, who had already been here several days, exploring the area on foot. After discussing plans for the following days and updating our checklists, we enjoyed a delicious dinner, before retiring for some welcome rest.

Day 2

Thursday 2nd May

Vallone Madonna degli Angeli and Piano Battaglia

We woke to a beautiful morning, with Cuckoo and Nuthatch calling and Fallow Deer grazing on the slopes opposite. After a good breakfast, we set off at 8.30am to drive up over Piano Battaglia, noting snow patches even by the road. We took the road towards Polizzi Generosa, stopping to look at a fairly small patch of both colour forms of *Iris pseudopumila*, which was just coming out. However, as we descended through the stony meadows under Monte Quacella, there were carpets of the *Iris*, with enormous patches of both lemon and purple, possibly the finest display seen during this Naturetrek week, and a sign of the late season. We continued on to Polizzi Generosa to buy supplies for the picnic; meanwhile, Swifts were screaming overhead, and Milk Thistle (*Silybum marianum*) and Squirting Cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium*) were seen.

Our main objective was to visit the Vallone Madonna degli Angeli, below Monte San Salvatore, which holds the last remaining site for the very rare Nebrod or Sicilian Fir (*Abies nebrodensis*). About 40 or so mature trees remain in the world, although there are a number of seedlings (all carefully tagged and recorded). We parked in an area of Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*), by the gates marking the start of the walk. We paused to look at the stony mound near the gates, finding several variants of the Small Yellow Bee Orchid (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea*), with a wider yellow margin to the lip (probably the endemic variants recognised by some as *Ophrys flammeola* and *O. archimedeae*) and Sombre Bee Orchid types (*Ophrys fusca* agg.), with a very narrow yellow margin to the lip (probably the variant sometimes recognised as *Ophrys lucifera*). The *Ophrys* here are extremely difficult as there are many variants held by some to be endemic species, but DNA studies show few differences. They hybridise readily, and show, in effect, evolution in action. We also found 'true' Yellow Bee Orchids and the form of *Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea* known as *O. sicula*, with its 'bunny-ear' brown markings on the lip.

Other plants were more straightforward, with beautiful pink *Anemone hortensis*, Dark Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari neglectum*), a single-flowered, white-and-orange Toadflax *Linaria reflexa* and Bulbous Saxifrage (*Saxifraga bulbosa*) among the species seen. A Coal Tit showed itself. We walked through the trees, up the stony path, stopping to explore a more open area, with a large-flowered form of Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium* var. *grandiflora*), more *Iris pseudopumila*, emerging Brancifort's Orchids (*Orchis brancifortii*), and a single Sawfly Orchid (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*), just unfurling. The relative paucity of orchids this year is also testimony to the late season. Chiffchaff and Tree Pipit were singing, and Orange Tip and Small Heath were flying.

The track began to rise, becoming stonier, and with scree and cliffs to the sides. In this apparently very dry habitat, we found, among other species, Golden Drops (*Onosma echioides* subsp. *canescens*), the tiny, pink Burnt Candytuft (*Aethionema saxatile*), the larger-flowered, white, 'true' Candytuft (*Iberis carnosa*, formerly *I. pruitii*), mauve Sicilian Stock (*Matthiola fruticulosa* var. *sicula*), and the stunning blue flax, *Linum punctatum*. Amelanchier (*Amelanchier ovalis*) was still in bud, while an endemic Alison, *Abyssum nebrodense*, and the Everlasting *Helicbrysum nebrodense* were just coming out. There was also an endemic subspecies of Hoary Rock-rose (*Helianthemum oelandicum* subsp. *nebrodense*) and the cushion-plants of spiny Nebrod Milk-vetch (*Astracantha nebrodensis*) which flowers later. Patches of Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) were growing under the scattered trees and bushes on the otherwise steep and gravelly slopes. Where the path divided, we took the right hand 'Sentiero Abies', finding a couple of Man Orchids (*Orchis anthropophora*) flowering by the steps. Several beautiful pink Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*) were flowering in the shade of trees. We soon found a specimen Sicilian Fir and several seedlings, although surrounding vegetation made photography quite challenging. The cloud was coming and going, enhancing the views, and a Tree Pipit was photographed on a rock. Little Blue was added to the butterfly list, and a few lizards were seen, probably Italian Wall Lizard.

Retracing our steps, exploration allowed more specimens of orchids already seen to be enjoyed. We ate our delicious picnic on the low walls by the start of the walk, before driving back up the road. We stopped in the open, rocky meadows under Monte Quacella, where we found more Yellow Bee Orchids, some Brancifort's Orchids further out, and also added Mirror Orchid (*Ophrys speculum*).

We moved on to explore Piano Battaglia, seeing swathes of mainly white but also some pale blue *Anemone apennina*, and clumps of Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) flowering under the Beech trees. The top of Piano Battaglia is an area of boulder-strewn hillsides, at 1600 metres above sea level, with streams leading to a sink hole. We found Sprawling Milk-vetch (*Astragalus depressus*) near the minibus, then walked through the Daisies (*Bellis perennis* var. *strobliana*) and *Prangos ferulacea*, which covers the rockier areas. We soon found many delicate purple and mauve stars of *Romulea bulbocodium*, and Yellow Stars-of-Bethlehem, the latter being mainly *Gagea liotardii* with a single, semi-cylindrical basal leaf, but with a few *Gagea foliosa*, with a pair of flat leaves. There were fine displays of the deep blue Alpine Squill (*Scilla bifolia*) and pink Bird-in-a-bush (*Corydalis solida*), and we also found Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna* agg.) The couple of large patches of Tazetta or Bunch-flowered Narcissi (*Narcissus tazetta*) by a stream were still in fine flower, and some Crocuses (*Crocus caeruleus*, recognised by some as a distinct endemic species, *Crocus siculus*) were found by a snow patch. We wandered back to the minibus and set off to drive back to the hotel, stopping just under Piano Battaglia to admire patches of Aubrieta (*Aubrieta deltoidei*) on a rock face and Caucasian Rock-cress (*Arabis caucasica*) more accessibly.

We returned to the hotel, with time for a break before meeting to go through our lists, discuss plans, and enjoy another excellent meal. We agreed it had been an excellent first day in the field.

Day 3

Friday 3rd May

Bosco della Ficuzza

Today, we set out to explore the Bosco della Ficuzza, some distance from Pomieri, but known to be a good place for orchids. We set off over Piano Battaglia and down towards Piano Torre. We stopped to admire some fine Naked Man Orchids (*Orchis italica*) growing on a verge near the Collesano road junction, also finding a dark-red Broomrape *Orobanche variegata*, Hairy Garlic (*Allium subhirsutum*) and Dragon's-teeth (*Lotus*

biflorus). After a brief stop in Collesano to buy picnic supplies and then fuel, we stopped by a rough field, often good for flowers. However, this year, the amount of grazing and the late season meant that hoped-for species did not look obvious, so we decided to move on, although we heard a brief snatch of Nightingale song there.

We continued down to Campofelice and towards Palermo, before continuing on to the Villabate exit, shortly before the outskirts of the city. From here we drove south-west down as far as Bolognetta, where we joined the SS118. After the town of Marineo, with its imposing rock and plenty of Sweet Peas on the verges, we passed the Lago dello Scanzano, and turned up towards Ficuzza, where King Fernando III (of Sicily, but IV of Naples) had a grand hunting lodge. Although it was grey, the rain had stopped, and we could see the imposing Rocca Busambra which towers above the wood. Making the most of the interlude, we explored a patch of open woodland just above the village, finding a wealth of orchids and other species. There were plenty of Sombre Bee Orchid types, mainly with a relatively wide red-brown lip with blue markings, of the form that has been identified by some as *Ophrys obaesa* or *O. × ficuzzana*, although now considered a variant of *Ophrys fusca*. We also found the distinctive Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertolonii*), with its 'ski-slope' lip and large speculum, Bumblebee Orchid (*Ophrys bombyliflora*), Small Yellow Bee Orchids (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea*), some fine Sawfly Orchids, showing why some have called the Sicilian race var. *grandiflora*, plenty of Provence Orchids (*Orchis provincialis*), Long-spurred Orchids, mainly going over, and Naked Man Orchids. There were many Tongue Orchids (*Serapias lingua*), showing a range of shape and lip colour, and one Plough-share Tongue Orchid (*Serapias vomeracea*). We also found our target species, Pale Ophrys (*Ophrys fusca* subsp. *pallida*), of which most of the world population grows only in this area, and Beaked Ophrys (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *oxyrrhyncos*). Other species included the velvety, dark-red Asparagus Pea (*Lotus tetragonolobus*), hybrid forms of Pink Hawk's-beard (*Crepis rubra*), probably with the yellow Smooth Hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), and the very white-marked leaves of the thistle-like *Scolymus maculata*.

The rain re-started just as we began our picnic, but it was light, and we managed. We then drove further up the hillside, as the rain stopped again, giving wonderfully clear views of the countryside beyond. There were plenty of beautiful white Peonies, mainly still in bud or closed up with the weather, but a few were open. Exploring the slopes where cattle grazed, we found similar species to below, but new was a spike of Violet Limodore (*Limodorum abortivum*) and a surprise was a magnificent yellow Wild Tulip (*Tulipa sylvestris* subsp. *australis*). As well as the usual Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), there was *Crataegus orientalis*, with larger flowers and less-lobed leaves.

Back in the village, we enjoyed genuine 'gelati' and coffee as the rain came again, and then took the long road back to the hotel, getting back at 6.30pm and meeting for another excellent dinner before updating our lists. We all agreed that it had been a long but very enjoyable day.

Day 4

Saturday 4th May

Isnello, Isnello Gorge, Gibilmanna

Today, the morning was grey, with some rumbles of thunder, although they didn't come to much, and showers. After a good breakfast, we set off to climb up and over Piano Battaglia, before dropping towards the north of the island. Just below Piano Battaglia, we paused to look at some purple on the verge, which we discovered were a mass of Sweet Violets (*Viola odorata*), not very scented in the cool weather. As we explored

here, we found Peonies in bud, Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), Cyclamen and a few Provence Orchids. However, a real delight was finding a couple of spikes of the green-and-black Widow Iris or Snake's-head Iris (*Iris tuberosa*, formerly *Hermodactylus tuberosus*), which is another very early flowerer. A little further down, near Piano Zucchi, we paused briefly to look at some large, woody based clumps of white flowers growing out of a sheer cliff, discovering that they were the Candytuft *Iberis carnosa*, that we'd previously seen in the rocky gravel of the Vallone Madonna degli Angeli. Another violet here was probably *Viola alba* subsp. *debnadtii*. Blue Tit, Coal Tit and a Spotted Flycatcher were in the Corsican Pines. Below Piano Torre, another stop revealed some beautiful Birthwort (*Aristolochia rotunda*) on the verge, together with a single stem of Lacaita's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *lacaitae*), which is a relatively late flowerer, so we were fortunate to see it.

We stopped at Isnello to do some shopping, while Swifts screamed overhead. Salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*) and the Christmas-tree-like Pale Bugloss (*Echium italicum*) were near the car park. Outside Isnello, we stopped by the road bridge across a large gorge. There were many House Martins swooping around. On the rock faces were Cretan Scabious (*Scabiosa cretica*), with beautiful seedheads, while other plants above the gorge included Tree Spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*), Shrubby Wormwood (*Artemisia arborescens*) and Mediterranean Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*). Along the road edge and nearby, we added both Lentisk (*Pistacia lentiscus*) and Terebinth tree (*P. terebinthus*), the latter with reddish new leaves, Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), a Spiked Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum narbonense*), three species of Bindweed, Mallow-leaved (*Convolvulus altheoides*), Pink (*C. cantabrica*) and Field (*C. arvensis*), and Blue Stonecrop (*Sedum caeruleum*) in flower. We also noted Pitch Trefoil (*Bituminaria bituminosa*), some being parasitised by a beautiful mauve Broomrape *Orobanche lavandulacea*. A Ragusa's Nine-spotted moth was resting on a stem, giving great photo opportunities. We then explored the rocky faces above the layby, adding, amongst other species, an endemic grey-leaved Knapweed (*Centaurea busambarensis*), Crupina (*Crupina crupinastrum*), Bladder Vetch (*Tripodion tetraphyllum*), the yellow form of Bellardia (*Bartsia trixago*, with narrower leaves than the similar Yellow Bartsia), and Dodder (*Cuscuta epithimum*), together with an endemic Genista (*Genista demarcoi*, split from the similar *G. ephedroides*). A puzzle was a white-flowered, small, branched Broomrape, which was eventually decided to be a pale colour form of *Orobanche mutelii*.

Eventually, we moved on towards Gibilmanna, seeing Golden Drops (*Onosma echioides* subsp. *canescens*) flowering well and the white-and-yellow Snapdragon *Antirrhinum siculum* by the roadside. We had our picnic (in the dry!) in a grassy meadow with some large Downy Oak trees (*Quercus pubescens*), the ground under which showed extensive damage by Wild Boar. A walk down a lane opposite gave us several spikes of Violet Limodore (*Limodora abortivum*), with some flowers fully open. The scent from the Hairy Thorny Broom (*Calicotome infesta*) was almost overpowering, and several bushes hosted large spikes of dark-red *Orobanche variegata*, a very robust Broomrape.

We then drove up to the Sanctuary, parking below the church and taking a small path nearby. This wound down through some woodland, where we found Black and Maidenhair Spleenworts (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and *A. trichomanes*), then opened into more Mediterranean vegetation. As well as the three species of Cistus, the pink flowered Cretan Cistus (*Cistus creticus*), Sage-leaved Cistus (*Cistus salvifolius*), with larger white flowers, and Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*) with smaller white flowers, and the Thorny Broom, we added Hairy Broom (*Cytisus villosus*), French Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*) and Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*). Two particular delights here were Sword-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*) and the strange slightly punkish-red parasitic flowering plant *Cytinus ruber*, which only parasitizes pink Cistus species. Sardinian

Warbler was singing but remained elusive. Unfortunately, this Mediterranean habitat was not matched by the weather, as there was thick cloud obscuring the views to the sea, which soon covered us, resulting in a damp walk back and a very foggy drive back to the hotel. However, considering the forecast had been for rain all day, we agreed that, again, we had done extremely well.

Day 5

Sunday 5th May

Portella di Mandarinini; near Petralia Sottana; near P. Soprana; transfer to Sant' Alfio

Although it was still grey and foggy when we woke, the cloud soon lifted, and the sun appeared. After a final breakfast being so well looked after by Giacomo, we packed our bags, said our thanks and farewells to Mr Gangi and the others, and drove up the road. After a short distance we pulled in, to look for the endemic Comfrey *Symphytum gussonei*, which Marc, out running, had reported by the road. We soon found some, with its lemon-cream flowers. Here, we also found Roman Orchids (*Dactylorhiza romana*), both magenta and pale-yellow forms, and a spike of *Bellevalia romana*, with white flowers.

We then moved on, dropping down to the road bridge where we had stopped briefly on day 1, but at the other end of it. We spent some time exploring the verges here, finding scattered spikes of Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*), Early Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *sphgodes*), Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertoloni*), and Pink Butterfly Orchids (*Anacamptis papilionacea*), among others. We also added two Lupins: Narrow-leaved (*Lupinus angustifolius*) and a low-growing hairy one *Lupinus varius*, both with dark-blue flowers. We also noted Wild Pear (*Pyrus pyraster*), not in flower, and a number of spikes of pale-blue *Bellevalia dubia*. Insects were appreciating the warmer sun, and we recorded Orange Tip, Small White, Common Blue, Glanville Fritillary, Small Heath, Green Hairstreak and Painted Lady butterflies, and a number of bees. Blackcap and Subalpine Warbler were singing.

We moved on next to the local supermarket, at Madonnuzza, returning through Petralia Soprana, and stopping at an area of grass enclosed by a bend in the road. Serins were singing and many hirundines swooped low. Here were more of the orchids we'd seen earlier, with many, fresh Sombre Bee Orchids (*Ophrys fusca* agg.), and Plough-share and 'ordinary' Tongue Orchids (*Serapias vomeracea* and *S. lingua*). While we were a little early for the best show, we still had to be careful where we trod! As well as orchids, there was a bright-blue form of Fodder Vetch (*Vicia villosa*), a small-flowered orange-red and a larger-flowered deep red Pea (*Lathyrus setifolius* and *L. cicer*) and large patches of Yellow Asphodel (*Asphodeline lutea*). We added Little Blue here, plus clusters of caterpillars of Franconian Lackey.

Having to move on, with a long journey ahead, we continued on the road up to Petralia Soprana. We dropped down into the valley and took the road to a new motorway junction, although the quality of the access road was as poor as other roads in the area. Before we reached the autostrada, we saw a couple of Common Buzzards, hanging in the wind, and had a frustratingly brief glimpse of two Bee-eaters on a wire which flew as soon as we saw them. We also said our farewells to the wonderfully scented Sweet Peas in the verges. We stopped for a break near Enna, heading on towards Catania and then north on the A18 towards Messina. We left at Giarre exit, taking a route via Zafferana Etnea to approach our hotel from the north-west. We wanted to avoid going through Sant'Alfio, as today was the feast of the town's saint and, with processions and other festivities, the roads were busy or closed.

We soon reached the Case Perrotta on the outskirts of Sant'Alfio, where we received a warm welcome from Agatha. The hotel was once a monastery, then a winery, and has some fascinating and quite quirky buildings. We settled into our rooms and, after a short break, met to discuss the day and future plans, before an excellent, leisurely dinner. The end of the day was punctuated by fireworks in honour of the local saint.

Day 6

Monday 6th May

Eastern slopes of Etna

Today we woke to a sunny morning, with early views of the summit of Mount Etna. Hoopoe was calling nearby. After a delicious breakfast, we set off to explore the range of habitats on the eastern flanks of Etna, from summit to sea. The volcanic habitat is very different from the Carboniferous and Dolomitic limestone of the Madonie Mountains where we had been.

We drove up the road from Case Perrotta, stopping by a little chapel above Milo. Here, we noted the lava from the 1971 eruption, which was starting to be colonised by vegetation. The Mount Vesuvius lichen (*Stereocaulon vesuvianum*) is the first coloniser, followed later by plants such as Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), Etna Sorrel (*Rumex scutatus* forma *aetnensis*) and Woad (*Isatis tinctoria* subsp. *canescens*). Etna Broom (*Genista aetnensis*) was common, although not in flower. We also found the tiny pink *Petrorhagia dubia*, and one which was multi-flowered (*P. prolifera*), a pale form of Fodder Vetch (*Vicia villosa* subsp. *ambigua*), Hare's-foot Clover (*Trifolium arvensis*) and the pale form of Crimson Clover (*Trefoilium incarnatum* subsp. *molinieri*). We moved on higher, passing through woodland first composed mainly of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), often showing evidence of coppicing, then of Downy Oak (*Quercus pubescens*). As we went higher, we started to see the white trunks of Etna Birch (*Betula aetnensis*), and deciduous trees were replaced by Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*).

We stopped at Piano Provenzana (about 1750 metres), where the wind was strong and cold, and tiny flurries of fine snow were in the air. We could see here the 2002/3 lava flow which destroyed all the previous buildings, now being replaced by small wooden huts holding bars and shops. The lines of the flow, and the surviving woodland to the sides were very obvious, and the lava is only just starting to be colonised. Here, in an area not affected by the 2002/3 flow, we found many of the specialised and endemic species that survive in these conditions, including Etna Barberry (*Berberis aetnensis*), a fairly prostrate form of Juniper (*Juniperus communis* subsp. *hemisphaerica*), Etna Milk-vetch (*Astracantha sicula*), Etna Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* subsp. *siculum*), Etna Pansy (*Viola aethnense*) in shades of deep purple, through mauve to cream, the leaves of Etna Bedstraw (*Galium aetnense*), the Perennial Knawel *Scleranthus perennis* subsp. *vulcanicus*, and the Cinquefoil *Potentilla calabra*, although not yet in flower. As well as the Corsican Pines, there were also some Beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) here. We soon retreated to a bar to warm up with a hot drink.

We then descended to a lower altitude, above Linguaglossa, where we parked on a stony track in mainly deciduous woodland of Sweet Chestnut and Downy Oak. Here we found the form of Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio* subsp. *picta*, with quite sparse flowers, the labellum (lip) folded back on itself, Toothed Orchids (*Neotinea tridentata*), Roman Orchids (*Dactylorhiza romana*), Dense-flowered Orchid (*Neotinea maculata*), and Pink Butterfly Orchid (*Anacamptis papilionacea*) only in bud. A shady quarry held carpets of Spring Sowbread (*Cyclamen repandum*), and other plants included Perfoliate Alexanders (*Smyrniium perfoliatum* subsp. *rotundifolium*), Cornflower (*Cyanus segetum*), Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum orientale*) and emerging spikes of a large

maroon Broomrape *Orobanche variegata*. Butterflies were enjoying a sheltered bank, and included Orange Tip, Painted Lady, Small Copper, Green-underside Blue, Common Blue and the southern form of Speckled Wood. A caterpillar resting in a fir cone was a Discreet Chaperon, a form of Tiger Moth in which the mature caterpillars do spend much time sheltering under rocks etc. before pupation, to escape from summer heat. We had our picnic here, in relative shelter, although it was still cool when the sun went in.

We reached the coast at Cottone, where the Fiumefreddo River enters the sea; Fiumefreddo means 'cold river', and the river carries the snow-melt from Etna. The low water temperature allows a number of different species to thrive which are rare elsewhere in Sicily, and we noted the very lush growth of vegetation as we crossed a little bridge. At the end, we explored the much drier beach-edge. Among the coastal species, we found Three-horned Stock (*Matthiola tricuspidata*) and Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*). Other species here included Reversed Clover, (*Trifolium resupinatum*), Yellow Bartsia (*Parentucellia viscosa*), some spikes of Ploughshare Tongue Orchid and a Small-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias vomeracea* and *S. parviflora*), while many of the numerous Galactites (*G. tomentosa*) were being parasitized by a broomrape, possibly *Orobanche pubescens*. A Cetti's Warbler gave its explosive call from the Giant Reeds (*Arundo donax*), and a couple of Sicilian Wall lizards were seen.

Next, we moved inland a short distance, to the Fiumefreddo Nature Reserve. We parked by a wall which bore many plants of Phagnalon (*Phagnalon rupestre*), the tiny Annual Bellflower (*Campanula erinus*), Weasel-snout (*Misopates orontium*) and several ferns. We walked down the new path to the visitor centre, only to be told that the first section of reserve path was closed due to the high winds, with a large dead branch of White Poplar (*Populus alba*) overhead, that might fall at any time. We also learnt that another section has suffered in a bad fire the previous year. However, from the limit where we were allowed access, we could see the tall vegetation, with Dwarf Elder (*Sambucus ebulus*) and Stinging Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) being taller than us, and the towering clumps of Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*) more distantly. We also noted White Willow (*Salix alba*) and False Fox Sedge (*Carex cuprina*). We looked round the displays in the visitor centre, enjoying its structure as an old mill.

Disappointed at not being able to look round further, we decided to return to Sant'Alfio, where we visited the 'Chestnut of a hundred horses', an ancient, coppiced Sweet Chestnut in which a queen and her army are supposed to have sheltered. In the late 18th century, its girth was 190 feet, but above ground it has now split into separate trunks, sharing the same roots. Smaller plants included Oriental Bugle (*Ajuga orientale*) and Bifid Dead-nettle (*Lamium bifidum*). A Hoopoe flew across the road in front of us, but did not stop, and a Nightingale was singing in the hotel grounds this evening.

We met later to update our lists and enjoy another excellent, leisurely meal.

Day 7

Tuesday 8th May

Mount Etna

Today dawned fine, with the summit of Etna clear, and the elusive Hoopoe again calling. After a delicious breakfast, we set off through Zafferana, where we stopped top up supplies for the picnic. We then continued westwards, climbing the southern slopes of the volcano, to reach the Rifugio Sapienza, the starting point for our ascent. Here, at 1900 metres, it was rather more chilly than at lower altitudes.

The first part of our journey was by cable car, climbing through a cloud and out into the sun, to reach the Piccolo Rifugio at 2500 metres. Here we transferred to the 4-wheel drive buses for the climb further, to about 2900 metres, the summit currently being 3340 metres, but changing with any eruption. We climbed through banks of permanent snow and ice, seeing the interspersed layers of ash which are evidence of previous volcanic activity. Etna has been quiet this spring, so we were able to walk round the 2002/3 rupture in the mountain, and could see a fumarole above, steaming away. It was cold and windy, as expected, and we enjoyed the wind-carved ice crystals on boulders and, even more, the warmth of the laval rock and ash, just under the surface. We had hazy but amazing views in all directions. Eventually we made our way down, heading for coffee at a bar at the Crateri Sylvestri (of 1972 origin). We agreed it had been a fascinating experience.

We then drove down south-westwards, finding a slightly sheltered picnic spot by the Astrophysics Observatory. Exploring the area, we saw again species we'd seen the previous day such as Etna Tansy (*Tanacetum siculus*) and Etna Barberry (*Berberis aetnensis*) adding *Potentilla calabra* in flower, the leaves of the Ragwort *Jacobaea ambigua*, and the Perennial Knawel (*Scleranthus perennis* subsp. *vulcanicus*). Forked Spleenwort (*Asplenium septentrionale*) was found on a boulder, a just-emerging lemon-yellow Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*) was found in an area of woodland, while butterflies included a Small Copper. After our final picnic, we moved on, stopping by an area of scrubby trees in a lava flow, where we found a number of spikes of Elder-flowered Orchid in shades of magenta with lemon, more salmon-pink, and mixtures of these. An Italian Wall Lizard was seen briefly, but the differences from Sicilian Wall Lizard could be seen.

We drove back past Rifugio Sapienza, stopping by an area of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) woodland at about 1250 metres above sea level. The woodland floor was carpeted with bright-yellow Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum orientale*). Here we found a couple of very robust spikes of Brancifort's Orchid (*Orchis brancifortii*), and more Elder-flowered Orchids, with colours ranging from pure lemon to deep red-purple, through a complete range of intermediate shades. We also found some clumps of emerging spikes of Greater Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*) parasitising the Etna Broom (*Genista aetnensis*), one of which was bright-yellow.

Just above Zafferana Etnea, we stopped for a final visit to some more mature, coppiced Sweet Chestnut and Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*) woodland. On the restraining wall of laval blocks, we found Flat-leaved Stonecrop (*Sedum cepaea*), Summer Savory (*Satureja hortensis*) and a couple of spikes of the beautiful *Campanula dichotoma*, with its strange calyx. There were also plenty of Tassel Hyacinths (*Leopoldia comosa*), Yellow Vetch (*Vicia lutea*) and the two-toned *Lathyrus clymenum*. In the copse there were quantities of Birthwort (*Aristolochia rotunda*), Bloody Crane's-bill (*Geranium sanguineum*) and Black Bryony (*Dioscorea communis*) and a fine spike of Plough-share Tongue Orchid, but the Roman Orchids at this altitude were well over.

Eventually, we returned to Case Perrotta where, after a break, we met to complete our lists and enjoy our last dinner together, comparing notes on the highlights of an excellent week.

Day 8

Wednesday 8th May

Case Perrotta to Catania, and onwards to the UK

We had a slightly earlier start this morning, in order to be at Catania for our morning flight back to Gatwick. After another lovely breakfast, we said our farewells and thanks, dropping down to the autostrada where we faced some busy morning traffic. We said our goodbyes at the airport as we were travelling on two different flights back to the UK. The journeys went smoothly and we made good time, returning home with many memories and photos of an enjoyable week, exploring the Wild Flowers (plus birds, butterflies and other insects, and reptiles!) of Sicily.

A group is only as good as its members, so my thanks to you all for your enthusiasm and good company – I hope we meet again!

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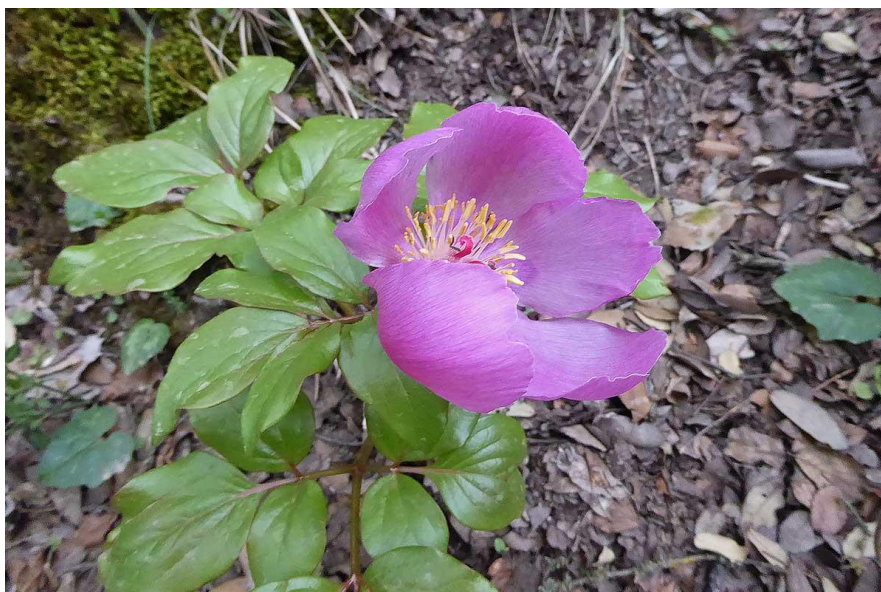
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Peony

Species Lists

Plants (** = Endemic to Sicily; * = Endemic to Italy and Sicily)

The layout of the plant list, and plant names have been updated in line with current taxonomy (mainly based on DNA studies).

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
PTERIDOPHYTES		FERNS & ALLIES	
Lycophytes			
Selaginellaceae		Lesser Clubmoss Family	
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	4	Gibilmanna
Calamophytes			
Equisetaceae		Horsetail Family	
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail	6	Fiumefreddo
Leptosporangiate Ferns		True Ferns	
Aspleniaceae		Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	Forked Spleenwort	7	Below Etna
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Athyriaceae		Lady-fern Family	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern	6	Above Linguaglossa
Cystopteraceae		Bladder-fern Family	
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	4	Gibilmanna
Dennstaedtiaceae		Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	1	Roadsides
Polypodiaceae		Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	4	Gibilmanna
Pteridaceae		Ribbon Fern Family	
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	6	Above Milo
GYMNOSPERMS		CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae		Juniper Family	
<i>Juniperus communis</i> (ssp. <i>hemisphaericum</i>)	Juniper	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Pinaceae		Pine Family	
<i>Abies alba</i>	Silver Fir	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Abies nebrodensis</i> **	Sicilian Fir (Nebro Pine)	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>laricio</i>	Corsican Pine	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine	1	Roadsides

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
ANGIOSPERMS		FLOWERING PLANTS	
Pre-dicots		Primitive Angiosperms	
Aristolochiaceae		Birthwort Family	
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>	Birthwort	4	Piano Torre
Eu-dicots		True Dicotyledons	
Acanthaceae		Bear's-breech Family	
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech	3	Roadsides
Adoxaceae		Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	1	Roadsides
Amaranthaceae		Amaranth Family	
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Horse-whip	6	Fiumefreddo
Anacardiaceae		Sumach Family	
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Lentisk	4	Isnello Gorge
Apiaceae		Carrot Family	
<i>Anthriscus nemorosa</i>	A Cow Parsley	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	3	Roadsides
<i>Elaeoselinum asclepium</i>	Elaeoselinum	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	2	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Ferula communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Giant Fennel	1	Roadsides
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	6	Cottone
<i>Laserpitium siler</i> subsp. <i>garganicum</i>	A Sermountain	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Oenanthe globulosa</i>	Round-headed Water-dropwort	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Opoponax chironium</i>	Hercules All-heal	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli (leaves)
<i>Prangos (Cachrys) ferulacea</i>	-	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needles	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	1	Roadsides
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	6	Cottone
Apocynaceae		Periwinkle Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	3	Roadsides
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	4	Roadsides
Aquifoliaceae		Holly Family	
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Araliaceae		Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	4	Gibilmanna
Berberidaceae		Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	Etna Barberry	6	Piano Provenzana
Betulaceae		Birch Family	
<i>Betula aetnensis</i> **	Etna Birch	6	Piano Provenzana

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	6	Above Linguaglossa
Boraginaceae			
Borage Family			
<i>Anchusa cretica</i>	Cretan Alkanet	6	Above Milo
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Cerintho majus</i>	Honeywort	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale Bugloss	4	Isnello
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	6	Above Linguaglossa (leaves)
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	Corn Gromwell	7	Below Etna
<i>Myosotis incassata</i>	a Forget-me-not	4	Gibilmanna and below Etna
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forget-me-not	4	Nr Piano Zucchi
<i>Onosma echioides</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>	Golden Drops	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pulmonaria</i> sp.	A Lungwort	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Symphytum gussonei</i> **	A Comfrey	5	Portella di Mandarinini
Brassicaceae			
Cabbage Family			
<i>Aetheonema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Alyssum nebrodense</i> **	An Alyssum	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	an Alpine Rockcress	2	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Tower Cress	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rockcress	4	Nr Piano Zucchi
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	an Aubrieta	2	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Barbarea bracteosa</i>	A Wintercress	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	A Buckler-mustard	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	6	Cottone
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	4	Isnello
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Whitlow Grass	7	Below Etna
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i> **	A Treacle-mustard	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iberis carnosa</i> (formerly <i>pruitii</i>)	A Candytuft	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>	Woad	5	Etna area
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress	5	Roadsides
<i>Lepidium hirtum</i> subsp. <i>nebrodense</i>	-	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i> var. <i>sicula</i> **	Sad Stock	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock	6	Cottone
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	2	Below Piano Battaglia
Campanulaceae			
Bellflower Family			
<i>Campanula dichotoma</i>	a Bellflower	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	Annual Bellflower	6	Fiumefreddo
Caprifoliaceae			
Honeysuckle Family			
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	5	Widespread, especially on Etna
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Fedia graciliflora</i>	Fedia	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	1	Near Petralia Sottana (leaves)
<i>Scabiosa cretica</i>	-	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Valeriana tuberosa</i>	A Valerian	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Valerianella lacustris</i>	Common Cornsalad	5	Piano Soprana

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
Caryophyllaceae			
Pink Family			
<i>Arenaria grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Sandwort	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Little Mouse-ear	7	Below Etna
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-Summer	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli (leaves)
<i>Petrorhagia dubia (velutina)</i>	A Childing Pink	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Petrorhagia prolifera</i>	Tunic Flower	6	Above Milo
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	7	Below Etna
<i>Saponaria sicula</i>	Sicilian Soapwort	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Scleranthus aetnensis**</i>	a Knawel	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i> subsp. <i>vulcanicus**</i>	a Perennial Knawel	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Silene fuscata</i>	A Catchfly	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Cistaceae			
Rockrose Family			
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	3	Near Collesano road junction
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	3	Near Collesano road junction
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>H. nummularium</i> ssp. <i>grandiflorum</i>	Rock-rose	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i> ssp. <i>nebrodense</i>	An endemic Hoary Rock-rose	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Compositae (Asteraceae)			
Daisy Family			
<i>Anthemis aetnensis**</i>	Etna Daisy	7	Below Etna
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	A small Chamomile	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Anthemis cupaniana**</i>	-	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Artemisia alba</i>	A Wormwood	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	A Wormwood	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Bellis perennis</i> (var. <i>strobliana**</i>)	Daisy	1	Common
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>	A Marigold	5	Roadsides
<i>Carduus macrocephalus</i> (subsp. <i>siculus</i>)-		5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Carlina nebrodensis**</i>	Nebrodi Carlina Thistle	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Carthamus (Carduncellus) pinnatus</i>	-	2	Below Monte Quacella (leaf rosettes)
<i>Centaurea busambarensis**</i>	a grey-leaved Knapweed	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star-thistle	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Centaurea napifolia</i>	a Knapweed	6	Cottone
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Crepis capillaris</i> x <i>C. rubra</i>	a hybrid Hawk's-beard	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	4	Near Piano Battaglia
<i>Cyanus segetum</i>	Cornflower	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	a Leopard's-bane	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Filago (Evax) astericifolia</i>	Greater Evax	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Filago (Evax) pygmaea</i>	Evax	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed	7	Below Etna
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	1	Widespread at lower altitudes
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	1	Widespread at lower altitudes
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	An Everlasting	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Helichrysum nebrodensis</i> **	An Everlasting	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant	6	Above Milo
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	Hyoseris	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Jacobea ambigua (Senecio ambiguus)**</i>	A Ragwort	7	Below Etna
<i>Jacobea candida (Senecio candidus)**</i>	A Ragwort	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	6	Cottone
<i>Logfia (Filago) minor</i>	Small Cudweed	7	Below Etna
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	-	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Ptilostemon stellatus</i>	Annual Ptilostemon	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>	Oyster Plant	3	Roadsides
<i>Scolymus maculata</i>		3	Bosco di Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Senecio squalidus</i> subsp. <i>aethnensis</i> **	A Ragwort	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Senecio squalidus</i> subsp. <i>squalidus</i>	Rock / Oxford Ragwort	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	2	Polizzi Generosa
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Rough Sow-thistle	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>siculum</i>	Etna Tansy	6	Piano Provenzana & Madonie
<i>Taraxacum</i> spp.	Dandelion		Various
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	4	Isnello
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	-	6	Fiumefreddo
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	Pink Bindweed	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	-	6	Cottone
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	4	Isnello Gorge
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
<i>Sedum aetnense</i> **	Etna Stonecrop	7	Below Etna
<i>Sedum amplexicaule</i>	A Stonecrop	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue Stonecrop	3	Roadsides
<i>Sedum cepaea</i>	Flat-leaved Stonecrop	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	Rock Stonecrop	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>	Spanish Stonecrop	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Red Stonecrop	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Sedum stellatum</i>	Starry Stonecrop	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Wall Pennywort	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family		
<i>Ecballium etaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	2	Polizzi Generosa

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
Cytinaceae			
<i>Cytinus ruber</i>	Cytinus Family Cytinus	4	Gibilmanna
Ericaceae			
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Heather Family Strawberry Tree	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	A heather	4	Isnello Gorge
Euphorbiaceae			
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Spurge Family Wood Spurge	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	2	Roadsides
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	6	Cottone
Fagaceae			
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Beech Family Sweet Chestnut	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	1	Widespread
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	2	Piano Pomieri
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	2	Piano Pomieri
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	4	Collesano road junction
Geraniaceae			
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Geranium Family Common Stork's-bill	2	Widespread
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	4	Isnello
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Small-flowered Crane's-bill	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	7	Zafferana Etnea
Hypericaceae			
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	St. John's Wort Family Tutsan	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	4	Gibilmanna (leaves)
Lamiaceae			
<i>Ajuga orientalis</i>	Dead-nettle Family Oriental Bugle	6	Sant'Alfio
<i>Clinopodium (Acinos) alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	6	Sant'Alfio
<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	Bifid Dead-nettle	6	Sant'Alfio
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	4	Isnello Gorge

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Satureja hortensis</i>	Summer Savory	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Sideritis romana</i>	Common Sideritis	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander	6	Above Linguaglossa (leaves)
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Wild Thyme	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)			
Pea Family			
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> agg.	Kidney Vetch	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>	Sprawling Milk-vetch	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	-	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Astracantha (Astragalus) nebrodensis</i> **	Nebrodi Milk-vetch	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Astracantha (Astragalus) sicula</i> **	Etna Milk-vetch	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Calycotome infesta</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Cercis silquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	3	Planted
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	Scorpion-vetch	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cytisus villosus</i>	Hairy Broom	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Genista aetnensis</i> **	Etna Broom	6	Widespread on Etna
<i>Genista cf aristata</i> **	an endemic Greenweed	3	Collesano road junction
<i>Genista cupanii</i> **	an endemic Greenweed	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Genista demarcoi</i> **	an endemic Greenweed	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	1	Roadsides
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i> subsp. <i>emeroides</i>	A Scorpion-vetch	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i>	-	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling	4	Nr Piano Zucchi
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	-	5	Below Piano Sporana
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Lathyrus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Vetchling	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> **	Sweet Pea	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Red Vetchling	5	Below Piano Sporana
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Vetchling	5	Portella di Mandarinì
<i>Lotus (Tetragonolobus) biflorus</i>	Dragon's Teeth	3	Collesano road junction
<i>Lotus creticus</i>	Southern Bird's-foot Trefoil	6	Cottone
<i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i>	-	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Lotus tetragonolobus (T. purpureus)</i>	Asparagus Pea	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Lupinus cosentinii (varius)</i>	a hairy Lupin	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	6	Cottone
<i>Medicago disciformis</i>	a Medick	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Least Medick	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Melilotus italicus</i>	a Melilot	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Onobrychis caput-gallii</i>	Cock's-comb Sainfoin	6	Cottone (seed pods)
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	1	Roadsides
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	1	Roadsides
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	6	Above Milo
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	6	Cottone
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	-	6	Above Milo

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> subsp. <i>molinieri</i>	-	6	Above Milo
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	A white clover (smaller flowers)	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	6	Sant'Alfio
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	6	Cottone
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	Soft Clover	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Burrowing Clover	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	6	Sant'Alfio
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetch	6	Cottone
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Spring Vetch (tiny flower)	7	Below Etna
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Fodder Vetch	6	Above Milo
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>ambigua</i>	Fodder Vetch (pale)	6	Above Linguaglossa
Linaceae	Flax Family		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Linum punctatum</i>	A Flax	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow	6	Cottone
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
Moraceae	Mulberry Family		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	1	Castellana Sicula
Oleaceae	Olive Family		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering or Manna Ash	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive (wild)	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family		
<i>Bartsia (Bellardia) trixago</i>	Bellardia	4	Isnello Gorge (yellow form)
<i>Odontites bocconii</i> **	A perennial Bartsia	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli (lvs)
<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	A Broomrape on Pitch Trefoil	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	6	Cottone
<i>Orobanche mutelii</i>	a Branched Broomrape	4	Isnello Gorge (a white form)
<i>Orobanche pubescens</i>	Hairy Broomrape	6	Cottone
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	7	Below Etna
<i>Orobanche variegata</i>	A Broomrape	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	6	Cottone
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family		
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	6	Cottone
Paeoniaceae	Peony Family		
<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Peony	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
Papaveraceae			
Poppy Family			
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	1	Roadsides
Plantaginaceae			
Plantain Family			
<i>Antirrhinum siculus</i>	a Snapdragon	4	Roadsides
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	6	Above Milo (leaves)
<i>Linaria reflexa</i>	a white & orange Toadflax	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Linaria viscosa (heterophylla)</i>	a yellow Toadflax	6	Above Milo
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel-snout	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Plantago cupani</i>	A Plantain (pinnatisect leaves)	2	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-tail Plantain	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Plantago serraria</i>	A Plantain (toothed leaves)	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell	6	Above Milo
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell	5	Enna Services
Polygonaceae			
Dock Family			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	6	Above Milo
<i>Rumex bucephaliflorus</i>	Horned Dock	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rumex scutatus forma aetnensis**</i>	Etna Sorrel	6	Above Milo
Primulaceae			
Primrose Family			
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Anagallis arvensis (var. caerulea)</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel (Blue-flowered)	6	Cottone
<i>Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina</i>	Blue Pimpernel	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread / Cyclamen	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	2	Piano Battaglia
Ranunculaceae			
Buttercup Family			
<i>Anemone apennina</i>	Blue Anemone	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	An Anemone	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ficaria verna</i> agg.	Lesser Celandine	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Ranunculus trilobus</i>	Three-lobed Buttercup	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Great Meadow-rue	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Resedaceae			
Mignonette Family			
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	1	Castellana Sicula
Rhamnaceae			
Buckthorn Family			
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	4	Isnello Gorge
Rosaceae			
Rose Family			
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Juneberry / Amelanchier	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Crataegus orientalis (C. laciniata)</i>	A Hawthorn	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Potentilla calabra</i>	A Cinquefoil	7	Below Etna

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinqufoil	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved Pear	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Pyrus pyraister</i>	Wild Pear	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
<i>Galium aetnicum</i> **	Etna Bedstraw	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	6	Sant'Alfio
<i>Galium mollugo</i> agg.	Hedge Bedstraw	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Salicaceae	Willow Family		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	6	Fiumefreddo
Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family		
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>album</i>	Mistletoe	4	Roadsides
Sapindaceae	Maple Family		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family		
<i>Saxifraga bulbifera</i>	Bulbous Saxifrage	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	1	Near Petralia Sottana
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family		
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>			
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein		
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Simaroubaceae	Tree of Heaven family		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	1	Roadsides
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	4	Gibilmanna
Urticaceae	Nettle Family		
<i>Parietaria judacea</i>	Pelitory-of-the-Wall	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	4	Gibilmanna
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	1	Near Petralia Sottana
Verbenaceae	Verbena Family		
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	5	Roadsides

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
Violaceae			
<i>Viola aethnensis</i> **	Etna Pansy	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Viloa alba</i> subsp. <i>dehnadtii</i>	A violet (purple)	4	Nr Piano Zucchi
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	4	Nr Piano Battaglia
Monocots			
Amaryllidaceae		Monocotyledons	
Daffodil Family			
<i>Allium nigrum</i>	-	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	Hairy Garlic	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	4	Near Piano Battaglia
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Bunch-flowered Narcissus	2	Piano Battaglia
Araceae			
Lords and Ladies Family			
<i>Arum italicum</i> subsp. <i>italicum</i>	Large Cuckoo Pint	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Arum italicum</i> subsp. <i>neglectum</i>	Large Cuckoo Pint (plain leaves)	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Asparagaceae			
Asparagus Family			
<i>Agave americana</i>	Agave or Century Plant	3	Roadsides
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	Sisal	3	Roadsides
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Prickly Asparagus	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Bellevalia dubia</i>	(blue)	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Bellevalia romana</i>	(white)	5	Portella di Mandarinini
<i>Drimia (Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea Squill	4	Isnello Gorge (leaves)
<i>Leopoldia comosa</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	5	Below Piano Sporana
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Alpine Squill	2	Piano Battaglia
Cyperaceae			
Sedge Family			
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring Sedge	7	Below Etna
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Carex cuprina (otrubae)</i>	False Fox Sedge	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Cyperus papyrus</i> (subsp. <i>siculus</i> **)	Papyrus	6	Fiumefreddo
Dioscoraceae			
Yam Family			
<i>Dioscorea (Tamus) communis</i>	Black Bryony	7	Zafferana Etnea
Iridaceae			
Iris Family			
<i>Crocus caeruleus</i> (<i>C. siculus</i> **)	A Crocus	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Italian Gladiolus	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Iris (Hermodactylus) tuberosus</i>	Snake's-head Iris	4	Nr Piano Zucchi
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Purple form)	An Iris	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Yellow two-tone form)	An Iris	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	a Romulea	2	Piano Battaglia
Juncaceae			
Rush Family			
<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	Southern Woodrush	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Liliaceae			
Lily Family			

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Gagea foliosa</i>	A Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Gagea liotardii</i> (G. <i>fragifera</i> , G. <i>fistulosa</i>)	A Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> subsp. <i>australis</i>	A Wild Tulip	3	Bosco di Ficuzza

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

Note: The Orchidaceae are an evolving group, and subject to debate between 'splitters' (eg. Delforge) and 'lumpers' (eg Kew). This list follows the Kew classification.

<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>longicornu</i>	Long-spurred Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>picta</i>	a Green-winged Orchid	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> (var. <i>grandiflora</i>)	Pink Butterfly Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>A. morio</i> subsp. <i>longicornu</i> x subsp. <i>morio</i>	a hybrid Orchid	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>A. papilionacea</i> x <i>A. morio</i> ssp. <i>longicornu</i>	a hybrid Orchid	5	Below Piano Sporana
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i> subsp. <i>romana</i>	Roman Orchid	5	Portella di Mandarinì
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	7	Below Etna
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	5	Near Petralia Sottana (in bud)
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid	5	Portella di Mandarinì
<i>Limodora abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i> (formerly <i>commutata</i>)	a Toothed Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>lacaitae</i>	Lacaita's Ophrys	4	Nr Piano Zucchi
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>oxyrrhynchos</i>	Beaked Ophrys	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> agg.	Sombre Bee Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>fusca</i> (<i>flammeola</i>)**	a Sombre Bee Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>fusca</i> (<i>lucifera</i>)	a Sombre Bee Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>pallida</i>	Pale Ophrys	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (formerly <i>sicula</i>)	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>O. lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (formerly <i>archimedeae</i>)**	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> subsp. <i>lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys speculum</i> subsp. <i>speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	2	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>atrata</i> (<i>incubacea</i>)	Dark Ophrys	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>O. sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>sphogodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i> (formerly <i>grandiflora</i> **)	a Sawfly Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis anthroporhiza</i>	Man Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis brancifortii</i> *	Brancifort's Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	6	Cottone
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	3	Bosco di Ficuzza

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
Poaceae		Grass Family	
<i>Aegilops ovalis</i>	Aegilops	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	Silver Hair-grass	6	Above Milo
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>	Mauritanian Grass	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Anthoxanthum odorata</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	2	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-oat	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Great Quaking-grass	7	Zafferana Etnea
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass	6	Above Milo
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Fescue	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Phalaris canadensis</i>	Canary Grass	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	6	Cottone
<i>Poa bulbosa</i> var. <i>vivipara</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Poa violacea</i> subsp. <i>aetnensis</i> **	-	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Sesleria nitida</i>	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Smilacaceae		Smilax Family	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	4	Gibilmanna
Xanthorrhoeaceae		Asphodel Family	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	1	Castellana Sicula
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	1	Castellana Sicula
FUNGI			
Lecanoromycetes		LICHENS	
<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	Mount Vesuvius Lichen	6	Above Milo

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	H	H	H	H	H	H	
3	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					✓	✓	✓	
6	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓		✓	✓		
7	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		H	H		H	H	H	
8	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓			
9	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H			✓			
10	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
11	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓		
14	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓						
16	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	
17	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
18	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	H	H		H	H	H	✓	
19	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>					H			
20	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>					✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			
23	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>							H	
24	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>								H
25	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
26	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H		H	H	H	H	H	
27	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>		H			H			
28	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>				H		H		
29	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>								H
30	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H					H	H
31	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		H		H	H			
32	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
35	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				LO				
36	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓						
37	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			H				H	H
38	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>								✓
39	Italian Sparrow (poss x Spanish)	<i>Passer italiae (x hispaniolensis)</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓				✓			
41	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓						H
42	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>					✓			
45	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	H	✓		✓			
46	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓	H						H

Butterflies

1	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓				✓			
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓				✓	✓		
3	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	✓	✓			✓			
5	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						✓	✓	
6	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓			✓			
7	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>						✓		
8	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓				✓	✓		
9	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>					✓	✓	✓	
10	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>					✓			
11	Southern Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>	✓					✓		
12	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓							
13	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		

Mammals (S = signs of; LO = Leader Only)

Fallow Deer, *Dama dama*,

Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*, S

Feral 'Wild' Pig, LO

Reptiles

Italian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis sicula*,

Sicilian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis wagleriana*,

Western Whip Snake, *Hierophis viridiflavus*,

Moths (C = caterpillar; T = Tent)

cf Dock Forester (early flyer), *Adscita mannii*,
 Franconian Lackey, *Malacosoma franconica*, C
 Ragusa's Nine-spotted Moth, *Amata kruegeri*,
 Pine Processionary Moth, *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*, C/T

Grass Eggar, *Lasiocampa trifolii*, C
 Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, *Hemaris fuciformis*,
 Discrete Chaperon, *Cymbalophora pudica*, C

Other Invertebrates

Stone Grasshopper sp., *Pamphagidae*,
 Ascalaphid, *Libelloides coccajus*,
 Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa violacea*,
 Red-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus lapidarius*,
 Buff-tailed Bumblebee (white tail), *Bombus terrestris*,
 Ground Beetle, *Carabeus* sp.,
 Soldier Beetle, *Rhagonycha cf fulva*,
 Crab Spider, *Synaema globosum*,

A Red-&-black Froghopper, *Cercopis sanguinolenta*,
 A 'long-horned' bee, cf *Eucera longicornis*,
 Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*,
 White-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus lucorum* agg.,
 Common Carder Bee, *Bombus pascuorum*,
 A red-and-black beetle, *Trichodes* sp.,
 A Sand Beetle, *Pimelia grossa*,

Galls caused by

Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*,

Oak-apple-type gall caused by, *Andricus quercustozae*,



Iberis carnosa