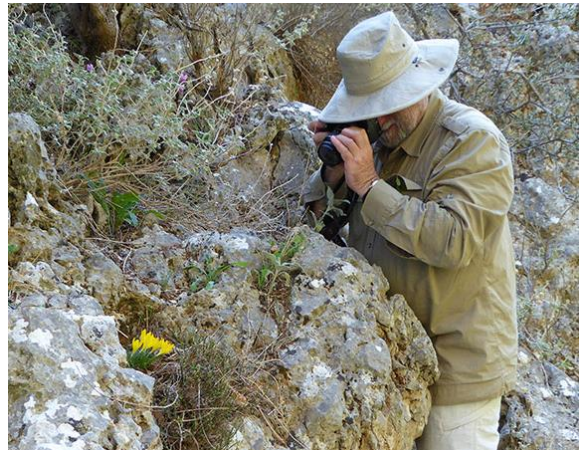


Crete in Autumn 2017

A Greentours Trip Report

Daily Report by Fiona Dunbar, Species Lists by Oron Peri



Day one Saturday 14th October Arrival in Crete

An afternoon flight from Gatwick for most of the group, met by Oron at the Airport, and over to the hotel at Spilia after a brief tussle with the back streets of Hania thanks to the sat nav. Straight to bed!

Day two Sunday 15th October
Marathokefala and the Rhodopou Peninsula

Even as we approached the nearby village of Marathokefala we could catch glimpses of pink in the phygana by the roadside. Just by the parked vans were a profusion of *Cyclamen graecum ssp graecum*, clumps of varying pink hues, vibrant to palest pink. *Allium chamaespathum* heads stood out, and the first of the magnificent flowering Smilax vines clambered over the olives and *Pistacia lentiscus*. Four elegant spikes of Sea Squill *Drimia numidica* forced their way through the tarmac on the bend of the road. As we walked on, it was a pleasure to see the thousands of Cyclamen that frequently covered the ground amongst the spiny bushes of *Genista acanthoclada* and Spiny Burnet. Other notable plants were *Euphorbia dermophoticaulon* and the Compass Salad *Lactuca serriola*. An immature Honey Buzzard being mobbed by



a Kestrel went past low and slow allowing time to get the books out to check id. A pleasantly shaded track under the shade of a grove of Calabrian Pine quickly sported the first *Narcissus obsoletus* found by Ann and Walter, *Allium tardens* seed heads, and wild asparagus *Asparagus aphyllus*. The red soil was clearly damp, a good sign for us. Walking on the *Narcissi* were dotted and clumped everywhere, and looking rather larger than I remembered from the year before. The first diminutive Autumn Squills *Prospero autumnalis* were seen. The breeze meant that passing Swallowtails landed to be photographed. Oron and most of the group were drawn off the path by a particular density of cyclamen under olives draped with long strands of *Ephedra foeminea*, and made their way up to the next bend of the little tarmac road where they came across a stand of perfect white Cyclamen amongst the pink. Incidentally, the Ephedra, or Joint Pine, is the only known plant to rely on the lunar cycle for survival, releasing gobules of pollinator attracting sap during the night of the full moon. The autumn flowering *Ranunculus bullatus* were to be seen, and a little *Clematis cirrhosa*, but not in flower. Walking on into an un-tended olive grove there were some great clumps of palest pink *Colchicum pusillum*, and the undergrowth opened out to reveal views stretching down to a very blue sea. The sweeping spiny plants of asparagus were particularly fine here, covered all over in small yellow flowers. A boulder nestled into an olive tree was the furthest point of our walk; it had several large *Cyclamen graecum* emerging from holes or cracks in the limestone, topped with dark pink flowers. On the way back we examined the shrubs a little more – fruiting *Quercus coccifera*, and Wild Olive, some clearly sprouting root stocks to which domestic olives had been grafted.

From here a second very short drive over to the arid peninsula of Rhodopou. We pulled over to examine a road cutting through the limestone where large fossilised bony starfishes could be seen clearly in the rock – a *Clypiaster* species. Again as we drove here the pink of Cyclamen could frequently be seen. Roadside plants included heavily flowering *Ditrichium viscosa* and *Carlina corymbosa*. We made our way down the narrow hairpin bends above a blue blue sea, reaching the



peaceful taverna where we were to have lunch at the very end. Under the shade of a White Mulberry we ate an excellent meal, of many different dishes including the local speciality of Sea Urchin roe, just to try. The vegetation here has some excellent examples of large Tree Euphorbias, as well as myrtle, *Cirsium cretense* and *Picnomon arcana*. We were in no rush to leave but eventually headed off to explore a circuit of the peninsula. One area I would have very much liked to try was

now fenced off with a new vineyard planted, and we spent some time searching a promising area of yellow soil, spiny shrubs including *Thymelea tartonraira*, for *Crocus cartwrightianus*, but found only the newly split Autumn Squill *Prospero minimum*, tiny and pink.

Our last stop of the day was on the small dunes at the back of Kolymbari. This rather scruffy area has some excellent plants – a large area of *Pancretium maritimum*, almost all in fruit but a few late flowers, and the black seeds blowing everywhere like little bits of charcoal. Persistent spikes of broomrape long over were a puzzle and there were some lovely plants of *Otanthus maritimus*, Beach Euphorbia *Euphorbia peplis*, Rock Samphire and Squirting Cucumber, demonstrated with enthusiasm by Oron. Holes in the sand were home to a tiny parasitic wasp, photographed by David which dragged its victims into said holes to lay their eggs in.

The group were dropped off and Oron and I went picnic shopping. Supper was at the hotel at 7, and although generally a good meal, the lamb chops were definitely a disaster, and were taken off the bill with apologies from the management.

Day three Monday 16th October. Elaphonisi Island and Topolia



We drove to the western side of the island today via the beautiful gorge of Topolia, and on through a forest of predominately Chestnut and Oriental Plane. Further on the woodland gave way to phrygana dominated by the endemic mullein *Verbascum spinosum* and purple flowered *Thymus capitatus*. Parking in the sun-worshippers' car park, we headed out across the sand bar to the island. Even in the carpark we had found Sea Holly and Golden Samphire *Crithmum maritimum* and purple flowered *Limonium oleifolium*. Walter spotted a long-nosed cricket on the sand, and the breeze wafted numerous migrating butterflies past. Once on the island proper, the dunes were covered in *Pancratium maritimum*. There were still some lovely examples flowering with buds still to come, most had elegant bulging seed pods. *Juncus maritimus* was quite common along with the yellow-flowered succulent-like *Limbarda cretimoides*. There were numerous domes of scented thyme, and dried but still interesting *Centaurea pumilio*. We circled round to some of the ancient slow growing spiny leaved *Juniperus oxycedrus*, and I was pleased to see healthy seedlings too. This was the coastal subspecies *macrocarpa* and the largest must have been many hundreds of years old. There were tracks from Erhard's Wall Lizards over the dunes. The shades of lapis and turquoise of the sea were fantastic against the twisted shapes of the limestone outcrops.

Lunch was under a grove of Calabrian Pine. David and Walter kept a couple of interested goats away while we prepared the picnic, bread, tzatziki, spinach pies, juices, fruit, leader-prepared Greek salad, local cheeses, salami, chocolate, crisps etc etc. The riverbed nearby was full of Oleander, but this year the flowers were largely over.

On the return we passed many luxuriously fruiting trees – Strawberry tree, Lemon, Orange, Pomegranate, even Papaya. I tried a stop in the Chestnut woodland but there was little but some rather fine Maidenhair Fern and a couple of Harriers overhead.

The path to the impressive stalagmite-filled cave of Agia Sofia was more interesting, a few *Cyclamen confusum* and our first Autumn crocus *Stenbergia sicula* growing on a smooth rocky outcrop. It was very dry. Our last stop of the day was below a church at the end of Topolia village. Even as we parked the minibuses *Cyclamen confusum* could be seen in clumps all around the steps up to the church. It is sturdier than *Cyclamen graecum*, and the shape of the flower is 'waisted'. The top part of the path was strewn also with *Narcissus obsoletus* (split from *serotinus* now) on either side. The church itself had a pleasant stone paved area around with an ossuary, and a fine scented Myrtle bush by the wall. There was lots of Mastic Tree *Pistacia lentiscus* and Turpentine Tree *Pistacia terebinthus*, both in fruit and with strange pod-like galls on. *Lavatera bryonifolia* and the *Styrax officinalis* were covered in rather attractive yellow fruit.



Day 4 Tuesday 17th October Agia Lake and the Omalos Plateau

Having topped up with picnic supplies we were off to Agia Reservoir, set in a valley of orange groves. The water was dominated by Coots and Dabchicks, but as we strolled along there were also Cettis' Warblers, a Little Egret perched beautifully in a tree and a more distant tree full of Cormorants. Kingfisher was seen and often heard, and we had good views of a very obliging Sedge Warbler. Plant wise there was plentiful Squirting Cucumber the narrow leaved bulrush *Typha domingensis*, *Persicaria salicifolia*, and lush watercress and fools watercress. Dragon and Damselflies were numerous and we identified Keeled Skimmer and tiny jewel-like *Ischunia elegans*. Strolling back we were pleased to see Pintail and Pochard, and some of the group had excellent views of a Little Crake.

We drove up to the Omalos plateau through a fine valley of Sweet Chestnut/Plane Tree woodland, with also Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Fig *Ficus carica*. We re-joined the main route in for the Samaria Gorge coaches, and after a number of hairpin bends drove over the pass until we were looking down onto the plateau. A group of Chough drifted past. We stopped not long after and took a footpath into a beautiful wooded area consisting of Cretan Maple *Acer sempervirens*, *Zelkovia abelicea*, (endemic and the only representative of this Asiatic genus in Europe) and *Quercus coccifera*, the latter both as trees and goat-topiaried shrubs.

After a steep start we quickly found many *Colchicum pusillum*, much pinker than on the first day, and scattered star-like *Crocus laevigatus*. Following the path brought us round to a small plateau where goat herds were getting ready to move the herd. The young goat herd stopped to tell us that they were about to start calling them, so we were well positioned out of the way to watch and hear a hundred or more belled goats come hurtling down the road and hillsides towards the enclosed fields on the small plateau. Returning to the minibus, Oron and I and helpers prepared the picnic, and the group had lunch, with a coffees and teas in the taverna (complete with a range of stuffed wildlife including Lammergeier) afterward.

One more stop to look at the plateau found it very dry and exceptionally heavily grazed. Everything was either prickly or spiny – *Carlina corymbosa* dominated the verges and was joined by *Cirsium idaeum* and Red Star Thistle *Centaurea calcitrapa*. We had frequent excellent views of the many Goldfinches feeding on seeds. There was Spiny Burnet, Spiny Chicory *Cichorium spinosum* (which we had as a dish at many suppers over the week), Spiny Verbascum *Verbascum spinosum*, and



Restharrow *Ononis spinosa* with pink pea flowers – and spines. The scattered trees were *Pyrus spinosa*, Hawthorn, a few scattered, very large and ancient *Zelkovia*, and a number of planted orchards of Persimmons, dripping with dark red fruit. But it was too dry for anything but a scattering of *Colchicum*, so on we drove. Oron was in the lead and pulled over at the edge of the plateau – a long line of Griffon Vultures were gliding up the valley

past us, very low down – there must have been a carcass nearby. We had fantastic views of at least eleven individuals, some circling above and some sitting in trees.

Then the drop down back towards the coast along the winding roads. The next impromptu stop was for a small waterfall that Oron spotted dripping with ferns – large, glossy *Woodwardia radicans*, lime-green Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*, Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris* and Pale Buckler Fern *Dryopteris pallida*. A lovely spot! I was sorely tempted by the ancient ladder going up beside it, but the bottom three rungs were missing and it stopped well before the top of the cliff so I gave it a miss. All along this road there were huge Chestnut and Plane trees, as well as Strawberry Tree and a mixture of other species – nice old mixed woodland. We felt we had to stop in a pretty village with the most magnificent displays of *Stenbergia lutea* between the road and the river. As a bonus there was a Bonelli's Eagle and five or six buzzards overhead.

This evening we dined out in Kolymbari; an excellent meal at a little taverna overlooking the tiny harbour.

Day Five Wednesday 18th October Sirikari Gorge and Polyrhinia Village



A plan was hatched at breakfast. Having driven up the Polyrhinia via a very scenic road we dropped one minibus at the end of the walk, we all squeezed in to the other van and drove the winding backroads to the top of the Sirikari gorge at the Constantine Church above the village of the same name. Boots donned and waterbottles checked, we set off. The first stretch is steep and we took our time through the Strawberry and Turpentine trees. Reaching a small farm (which having been abandoned for some time is now being restored, and is the only building to be in view for quite some time) we found our first *Cyclamen confusum* clumps in the old wall. The very first rather perfect clump clearly could be seen to all be emerging from the same squashed-ball-of-dough shaped coum half exposed in the wall. Cretan Graylings and Wall Browns were common, and there were half a dozen Cleopatras, a Cretan Festoon, and a couple of Red Admirals. The track follows a contour down the right side of the gorge, and David

was the first to spot Griffon Vultures flapping inelegantly onto a cliff ledge nest to re-join a hulking teenager in a nest. We saw three such nests, all quite easily visible, and numerous groups of Griffons overhead. As the track dropped down to the ancient twisted Plane and Oleander lined dry river bed, we took a break in the shade of the trees. There were thousands of Cyclamen pushing up through the golden brown plane tree leaves in the valley bottom, a truly gorgeous sight. Not long after, Graham spotted the first *Stenbergia sicula* right by the path, and a few metres on was a fabulous clump at head height ideal for photography. In the stream bed on our left, huge boulders the size of small cottages had detached themselves from the cliffs and come to rest in the valley bottom. One



was topped with a superb display of Stenbergias and Cyclamen and Plane leaves. In a few places the delicate white stars of *Narcissus obsoletus* bloomed. In the top part of the gorge *Colchicum pusillum* was flowering, lower down what seems like a colony of *Colchicum creticum*, smaller, more delicate and star-like with yellow anthers. A wet flush on a cliff face had an excellent show of flowering *Origanum dictamnus* from which the mountain tea is made, with felty white leaves and pretty pink/purple flowers. We were nearing the bottom of the walk, and I

went ahead to put the picnic out on the purpose built outdoor picnic table at a little chapel. I think we all felt we deserved a good spread!

Oron then drove us all up to Polyrhinia, (Graham in the boot) and the group were left to recuperate at the lovely old cafeneon and/or explore the many and various Roman and Greek ruins around the village with Roman cisterns, and ancient houses carved into the rock. A cave church is still in regular use now. The short walk up to the site of ancient Polyrhinia is well worth it and has the most magnificent panoramas. The cafeneon is a gem of a place with teas or home-made lemonade, home-made cakes, beer etc., for which one is asked to leave a donation in a box. There are shady seats in a tiny garden overlooking the gorge. One reached the W.C. though the well-stocked library. Most of the group had got no further by the time Oron and I had done the 45 minute round trip to collect the other minibus.

For our last supper in this part of the island, we drove down to Wave on the Rock for a glorious, peaceful sunset by the sea, a great meal, and a bit of star gazing before heading back to the hotel.

Day six Thursday 20th October Georgiopolis, The Niatos Plateau, Anapolis and on to Spili

It was time to leave the lovely Spilia Village. Our first stop was at the spring fed wetland at Georgiopolis. Numerous Coots fed on water weed in the clear turquoise waters, the odd Moorhen, Dab Chick and four Pochard which glowed in the sunlight. One Shoveler could be seen, and a Kingfisher flashed past. On the other side of the road, we found numerous spikes of Autumn Ladies Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, tiny glittering white flowers tightly spiralled round a straight green stem.



The next stop was an exploratory one to the Niatos Plateau, on a tip-off from a contact of Oron's. A series of hairpin bends, first tarmac, then a farmers track quickly gained altitude. My van got to the communications tower and I had to stop. The plus side of this was that we found a few *Cyclamen graecum* ssp. *candicum* – very short stems and small flowers, a high altitude subspecies and new for the trip. There was *Daphne* species and good patches of Prostrate Cherry *Prunus prostrata* on the weathered limestone. There were around twenty Ravens playing in the sky, and a good number of Griffon Vultures, too.

We were in fact only a few minutes from the top, and Oron came back to take us up to the plateau, where they had already found *Crocus pumilus*, similar to *Crocus laevigatus* (a tiny, relatively new species, and new for the trip,) and thousands of *Colchicum cretensis*, new to the trip again. This beautiful, quiet little plateau was much less grazed than we had seen on the Omalos, and the ground by the vans was thickly covered with flowering Spiny Chicory.

We ate our picnic lunch on a convenient, shady wall back down near the village on the main road, and then headed off towards Anapolis. More hairpin bends, twenty three to be precise, this time on amazingly wide tarmac for the size of village that the road services, and populated with herds of sheep and goats in shady spots. More close fly-bys by Griffons and Ravens and Buzzards. On reaching the plateau, we drove only a few minutes before we could see the pink of Colchicums by the road. What a show. Large, delicate clumps of *Colchicum macrophyllum* extended over several small fields and terraces, and we spent some time wandering, admiring and photographing. Then on to the abandoned village of Arendaina, crossing the noisy metal and wood bridge over the gorge to get there. Meg was dropped off at the top of the gorge first, and walked in on the fantastic donkey track that was the only access to the village until the bridge was built in the '60s. It zig zags straight down one side of the gorge and straight up the other, a stunning short but taxing walk! The rest of us had coffees and cold drinks in the kiosk by the old village and some had a quick look round the old buildings. It really was well gone time to leave, but Meg tempted us with stories of Stenbergias at



the start of her walk. Oron thought they might be *Sternbergia greuteriana*, and we went to see. In fact they were lovely *Sternbergia sicula*, but then Oron spotted the easily overlooked but fascinating *Biarum davisii*, a tiny yellow cowl emerging directly from the red earth. We found a few others scattered, most going over, and then made our way back to the van. Meg had managed to crop a few tiny cherries from the Prostrate Cherry which Graham had been after. Good luck with propagating, Graham!

The long and winding coast road took us through stunning scenery before we turned up the Kotsifou gorge towards Spili. We were met by Heracles and his family, our hosts, had a quick turn around and were in Costas and Marias taverna by seven thirty, for some truly excellent food, before heading for a good nights' sleep.

Day seven, Friday 20th October Gious Cambos (Spili bumps), Kali Sikia, Kotsifou and Kourtaliotis

After one of Heracles' fabulous breakfast, (fresh orange juice, really fresh bread, home-made preserves, boiled egg, Greek yoghurt and honey) we set off for the plateau just above Spili. It was another sunny, calm day and views of the surrounding hills and rocky mountains were lovely. There were a few more birds around today, a Black Redstart at Heracles', Crested Lark, Kestrels, Stonechat and Whinchat on the plateau. Small flocks of Goldfinches were feeding on the thistle seeds. It looked very dry here and there was only a scattering of *Colchicum pusillum* and one creamy *Crocus laevigatus* and Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*. A second stop found good numbers of *Narcissus obsoletus* amongst the Colchicums, but no more crocus. They will probably come after the rain forecast for next week! Around 10.30 the Griffon Vultures finally felt it worth their while to take to the skies and a line of them swept silently overhead before reaching a thermal over the plateau and circling higher and higher.

Having picked Ann up from Spili we were on our way to a spot along a beautiful valley above Kali Sikia. Scattered Mastic tree with round red fruits and the endemic *Acer sempervirens* offered the only shade. Here were a better selection of the beautiful *Crocus laevigatus*, with long red-orange anthers against the cream petals. Not for the first time there was a scattering of Mandrake plants, in bud.

Lunch was in a very good taverna nearby, with stunning views down over the gorge; we had salads and omelettes and the odd beer.

Next came the short but lovely walk down the dramatic Kotsifou Gorge. Draping mats of *Origanum dictamnus*'s pink flowers could be seen on the cliffs, Tree Eurphobias flourished, and the *Sternbergia sicula* were stunning. The endemic sub species *Allium callimischon* ssp. *haemostichum*, with red spots on the petals were very lovely. The tiny chapel in the rock was our end point, a tranquil spot. A couple of English botanists we met that morning had been worried about signs of digging here, but we were very glad to see two fresh *Biarum davisii* and a number of gone-over spadices.

My van headed back to Spili from here, Oron's van went back via the magnificent Kourtaliotis Gorge Where few more Griffon vultures been seen . We were back in Spili for around 4, with time to explore the village, and shop for bits and pieces. Our last supper was again at Costas and Marias, and very good it was too.



Day eight, Saturday 21st October The return home

Our flights were in the middle of the day, so we had a very reasonable departure time of 9 am to say goodbye to Herakles and his family before heading to the airport at Heraklion.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1 – PLANTS

PTERIDOPHYTA

Adiantaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern damp shaded cliffs

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium ceterach Rusty-back Fern common in rocky crevices
Asplenium onopteris Irish Spleenwort Topolia

Blechnaceae

Woodwardia radicans Chain Fern Going down from The Omalos plateau

Dryopteridaceae

Dryopteris villarii (a buckler-fern) Topolia, Going down from The Omalos plateau

Equisetaceae

Equisetum ramosissimum Branching Horsetail Topolia
Equisetum telmateia Giant Horsetail Agia reservoir

Hypolepidaceae

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken scattered near acid soils

Polypodiaceae

Polypodium cambricum Southern Polypody shady rocks, gorges

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Clubmos Common in wet, shady places

SPERMATOPHYTA

GYMNOSPERMAE

Araucariaceae

Araucaria heterophylla Norfolk Island Pine planted in urban areas

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens var. *horizontalis* Cypress common, scattered
Cupressus sempervirens var. *sempervirens* Funeral Cypress common in urban areas
Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. *macrocarpa* Sea Juniper Elafonisi & Agios Pavlos
Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. *oxycedrus* Prickly Juniper Omalos plateau

Ephedraceae

Ephedra foeminea (a joint pine) Scattered in Medit. scrub and abandoned olive groves.

Pinaceae

Pinus halepensis subsp. *brutia* Calabrian Pine common
Pinus pinea Umbrella pine planted around coastal areas

**ANGIOSPERMAE
DICOTYLEDONES**

Acanthaceae

<i>Acanthus spinosus</i>	Spiny Bear's Breech	dead heads on roadside
<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>	Bengal Clock Vine	planted in gardens

Aceraceae

<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple	Omalos plateau, Kotsifu
--------------------------	--------------	-------------------------

Anacardiaceae

<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	common
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	common

Apiaceae

<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Watercress	Agia reservoir
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Elafonisi & Agios Pavlos
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	dead heads common
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	rocky fields, roadside
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	sand dunes
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>piperatum</i>	Fennel	common ,roadsides

Apocyanaceae

<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	common along roadsides
<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Frangipani	common in urban areas

Araliaceae

<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	common in shaded areas
---------------------	-----	------------------------

Aristolochiaceae

<i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Dutchman's Pipe	In fruit in Medit. scrub
----------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

Asteraceae

<i>Aster squamatus</i>		Agia reservoir
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	scattered
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	Flat-topped Carline Thistle	scattered
<i>Carlina gummifera</i>	Pine Thistle	phrygana & fallow fields
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Downy Safflower	Omalos Plateau
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	roadsides
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chicory	scattered
<i>Conyza</i> spp.	(unidentified fleabanes)	common on roadsides
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Stink Aster	Topolia
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Aromatic Inula	very common
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		roadsides
<i>Helichrysum italicus</i> ssp. <i>microphyllum</i>	[an everlasting]	Niatus plateau
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Elafonisi & Agios Pavlos
<i>Onopordon bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>		
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	Elafonisi
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur	along roadsides

Berberidaceae

<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Omalos Plateau
-------------------------	-----------------	----------------

Boraginaceae		
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	along roadsides
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope	scattered in disturbed areas
Brassicaceae		
<i>Brassica cretica</i>		Kotsifou gorge
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Elafonisi
Cactaceae		
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	common in rocky places
Campanulaceae		
<i>Campanula cretica</i>		Orthouni, leaves only
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan Wall Lettuce	Kotsifou Gorge
Capparaceae		
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	cliffs, and rocks near the coast, Elafonisi Island
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Dianthus juniperinus</i>	(a pink)	Polyrhinia
<i>Petrorhagia dianthoides</i>		Anapoli close to the bridge
<i>Silene succulenta</i> subsp. <i>succulenta</i>	(a campion)	Elafonisi Island
Chenopodiaceae		
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort	coastal beaches
Cistaceae		
<i>Cistus creticus</i> subsp. <i>creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	leaves only, phrygana
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	leaves only, phrygana
Convolvulaceae		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Agia reservoir
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	(a morning glory)	urban areas
Crassulaceae		
<i>Rosularia serrata</i>		leaves only, rocky revices
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	Mediterranean Stonecrop	rocky crevices & gorge scree
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	(a pennywort)	crevices & walls
Cucurbitaceae		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	waste areas
Dipsacaceae		
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	(a scabious)	waste areas & roadsides
Ericaceae		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	common in gullies
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	cliffs & gorges
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	Autumn Heather	frequent throughout the trip

Euphorbiaceae

<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	common
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	maritime cliffs
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>		rocky & phrygana areas
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	coastal areas
<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Purple Spurge	Kolymbari beach
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	sandy & dry areas

Fagaceae

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	scattered, SW of Topolia
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	common
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	frequent
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	scattered

Juglandaceae

<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Cultivated
----------------------	--------	------------

Lamiaceae

<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	Garden Horehound	wet areas
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	False Dittany	rocky phrygana
<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	Lesser Calamint	roadsides
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse Mint	Agia reservoir
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>		rocky phrygana
<i>Nepeta melissifolia</i>		roadsides
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i>	Cretan Dittany	cliffs, Sirikari Gorge
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	rocky phrygana
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>	Cretan Jerusalem Sage	Spili
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	common
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Shrubby Woundwort	Spili
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	roadside verges
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	(a sage)	leaves shrubby areas
<i>Salvia pomifera</i>	(a sage)	Topolia
<i>Teucrium divaricatum</i>		in phrygana
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	Shrubby Thyme	in phrygana, rocky areas

Lguminosae

<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	common along roadsides in leaves
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	rocky & phrygana areas
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	common
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Agia reservoir
<i>Dorycnium rectum</i>		Agia reservoir
<i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby Sainfoin	cliffs
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Spiny Broom	phrygana areas
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	maquis & cliff areas

Malvaceae

<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Hibiscus	cultivated
<i>Lavatera bryonifolia</i>		scattered on roadsides
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	common

Meliaceae <i>Melia azedarach</i>	Persian Lilac	on roadsides
Moraceae <i>Ficus carica</i> <i>Morus alba</i>	Fig White Mulberry	frequent cultivated
Myrtaceae <i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Topolia and Almiros River, near Georgiopoulos
Nyctaginaceae <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Bougainvillea Marvel of Peru	urban areas common on roadsides
Oleaceae <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>oleaster</i>	Wild Olive	scattered in phrygana
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	common
Papaveraceae <i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	roadside and coastal
Phytolaccaceae <i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeweed	roadsides
Pittosporaceae <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>		Planted by roadside
Platanaceae <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	along streams
Plumbagiaceae <i>Limonium elaphonisicum</i>	(a sea-lavender)	Elafonisi
Polygonaceae <i>Persicaria salicifolia</i> <i>Polygonum equisetiforme</i>	(a knotgrass)	Agia reservoir Agia reservoir
Primulaceae <i>Cyclamen confusum</i> <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>Candicum</i> <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i>	Greek Sowbread	Topolia, Sirikari Gorge Niatus plateau common
Punicaceae <i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	cultivated
Ranunculaceae <i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> <i>Delphinium staphisagria</i>	Virgin's Bower	Spili village, Almiros River, near Georgiopoulos Dry, Anapoli

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus lycioides subsp. *oleoides* in phrygana

Rosaceae

Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn frequent
Eriobotrya japonica Japanese Loquat cultivated
Prunus dulcis Almond cultivated
Prunus ursinuss cultivated
Pyracantha coccinea Firethorn planted on roadsides
Pyrus spinosa Wild Pear scattered
Rubus sanctus (a bramble) common
Sarcopoterium spinosum Thorny Burnet common

Rubiaceae

Rubia peregrina Wild Madder common

Rutaceae

Citrus limon Lemon cultivated
Citrus sinensis Orange cultivated

Salicaceae

Populus alba White Poplar common along road
 verges
Populus tremula Aspen scattered

Santalaceae

Osyris alba Osyris Marathakefala

Scrophulariaceae

Antirrhinum majus Snapdragon village walls
Verbascum arcturus Shrubby Mullein cliffs & gorges
Verbascum sinuatum Wavy-leaved Mullein scattered road verges
Verbascum spinosum Spiny Mullein scattered

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima Tree of Heaven on roadsides and urban

Solanaceae

Mandragora autumnalis Mandrake leaves only
Solanum nigrum Black Nightshade cliff edges & path verges

Styracaceae

Styrax officinalis Storax in gorges, in fruit

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix parviflora (a tamarisk) coastal areas
Tamarix smyrnensis (a tamarisk) coastal areas, often
 planted

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne sericea
Thymelaea hirsuta Hairy Thymelaea Omalos Plateau
 coastal areas

Ulmaceae

Zelkova abelicea

Omalos plateau

Urticaceae

Parietaria cretica

Cretan Pellitory

walls and urban places

Urtica pilulifera

Roman Nettle

goated area near Kali Sikea

Verbenaceae

Lantana camara

Lantana

urban areas

Verbena officinalis

Vervain

urban areas & villages

Vitex agnus-castus

Chaste Tree

cliffs & stream-beds

MONOCOTYLEDONES

Amaryllidaceae

Allium ampeloprasum

solitary, Scattered, dry seed heads

Allium callimischon subsp. *haemostictum*

Kotsifou Gorge

Allium chamaespathum

occasional

Allium commutatum

Scattered, dry seed heads

Allium tardans

Scattered, in Pyrgana

Narcissus serotinus

Late Daffodil

Topolia

Pancratium maritimum

Sea Daffodil

coastal beaches, Elafonisi and Kolymbari

Sternbergia lutea

Common Sternbergia

cultivated, in villages

Sternbergia lutea sicula

Slender Sternbergia

cave of Agia Sophia, many in Kotsifou Gorge

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare

Friar's Cowl

leaves frequent, in flower near Orthouni

Arum concinatum

scattered leaves in gorges

Biarum davisii subsp. *davisii*

Kotsifou Gorge, Anapoli

Asparagaceae

Agave americana

Century Plant

scattered

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. *orientalis*

Leafless Asparagus

scattered

Drimia numidica

Sea Squill

very common

Ornitogalum divergens

Lesser Star of Bethlehem

Sirikari gorge, leaves

Prospero autumnale

Autumn Squill

common

Prospero minimum

scattered

Ruscus aculeatus

Butcher's Broom

frequent in wooded areas

Colchicaceae

Colchicum cretense

Omalos plateau

Colchicum pusillum

Marathakefala

Colchicum macrophyllum

Anapoli

Smilax aspera

Smilax

common

Cyperaceae

Schoenus nigricans

Black Bog-rush

Elafonisi

<i>Scirpioides holoschoenus</i>	Clustered Club-rush	Elafonisi
Dioscoreaceae		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	woodland & scrub
Iridaceae		
<i>Crocus laevigatus</i>		Omalos Plateau, near Kali Sikea and Gious Kambos
<i>Crocus pumilus</i>		Niatos plateau
<i>Iris unguicularis ssp. Cretensis</i>		Scattered in rocky areas, eaves
Juncaceae		
<i>Juncus littoralis</i>	Shore Rush	Elafonisi
Orchidaceae		
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Lady's Tresses	scattered
Poaceae		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	common
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass	sand dunes
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	wet areas
Smilacaceae		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	common
Typhaceae		
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	(a reedmace)	Agia reservoir
Xanthorrhoeaceae		
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	dead stems scattered, some leaves
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Branched Asphodel	scattered leaves

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2 – BIRDS

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	ten at Agia reservoir, a few at Almiros River
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Agia reservoir
Great Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Agia reservoir
Little egret	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Agia reservoir
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferrugines</i>	two, Agia reservoir
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	few Agia reservoir
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Agia reservoir
Shoveler	<i>Anas clipeata</i>	Agia reservoir
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	one at Agia reservoir
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gypus fulvus</i>	common, seen every day
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	one at Agia reservoir
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	one seen on day 4
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	common and widespread seen everyday
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	one near Rhodopou
Bonelli's eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciantus</i>	one on day 2
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	seen few times
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	few
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	one at Almiros River
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	near Kolymbari, Agia reservoir
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	many at Agia reservoir
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	coastal areas
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	common & widespread
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	common around urban areas
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	heard in the evening at Spili
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	one at Agia reservoir and one at Almiros River
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	common around dry rocky areas
Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	regularly at gorges
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	a few seen
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	seen everyday
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	common across wooded habitats
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	common recorded everyday
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	one at Anapoli
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	common recorded everyday
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	seen one on day 3
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	one seen on day 3
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	frequently recorded most habitats, everyday
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	recorded at Omalos and near Spili
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	recorded near Spili

Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornis</i>	recorded every day
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	frequently heard then seen everyday
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	two seen near Kolymbari
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	few on day 3
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	small flocks at Kolymbari and Spili
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	recorded everyday
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	small flocks recorded everyday

SYSTEMATIC LIST 3 - BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	seen every day
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	seen a couple
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	seen every day
Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>	one seen by Richard on day five
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	seen on days 1 and 2
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	one on Agios Pavlos on day 8
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	one seen on day 2 near Ravdoucha
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	two on day 4
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	Spili
Little Blue	<i>Cupido carswelli</i>	Kolymbari
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Seen near Spili
Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>	Polyrhinia
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	seen everyday
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	seen most days
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	two at Elafonisi
Cretan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia cretica</i>	seen most days
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	seen most days
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	at least one at Elafonisi

SYSTEMATIC LIST 4 – OTHER FAUNA

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	3 dead on road
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	9 dead ! side of roads
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	2 dead on road near Topolia

Dragonflies

Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Couple at Agia reservoir
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans.</i>	Many at Agia reservoir

Reptiles & Amphibians

Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	Elafonisi
Cretan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis cretensis</i>	scattered sightings around rocky areas

Invertebrates

Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda coerulescens</i>	common on dry rocky area
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>	common around dry rocky area
Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	scattered
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	few seen

