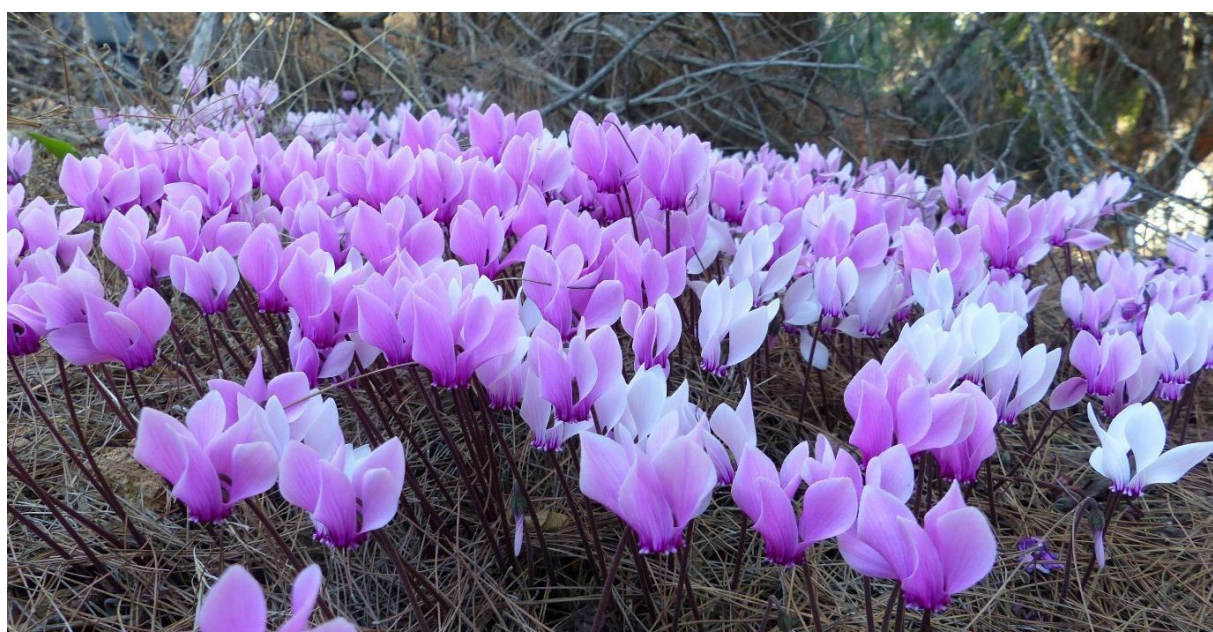


Crete in Autumn

A Greentours Trip Report

Lead by Fiona Dunbar and Amanda Borrows

Daily report by Fiona Dunbar Species Lists by Amanda Borrows



Friday 13th of October Day 1 London – Chaina – arrival at Spilia Village

Having collected the minibus we were at Spilia village within the hour, by 4pm. We had time to unpack and shower, and at 5.30 we boarded the minibus for the 2 mile drive to Kolymbari. Here Graham and Cathy enjoyed a drink at the taverna while the rest of the of us stretched our legs on the beach near a small area of dunes, sadly a habitat uncared for on Crete. Despite this, we saw a good population of fruiting *Pancratium maritimum* (Sea Daffodil), and 1 delightful single flowering head, with their seeds littering the sand like chips of charcoal, *Salsola kali* (Prickly Saltwort) *Cacile maritima* (Sea Rocket) *Crithmum maritimum* (Rock Samphire) and *Thymelaea hirsuita* were also recorded. There were 4 sea turtle nests marked with sticks and cages by the conservation group Archelon. Although hatchlings would be long gone at this time of year, I found the neck of the egg chamber filled with loose sand and was able to show the group a couple of empty eggshells like deflated ping pong balls by digging down 30 or so cms. Another nest with a protective metal cage still had remnants of hatchling tracks and the dip left by 100 or so emerging hatchlings could clearly be seen. The skies were clear, the temperature pleasant and we moved onto the taverna, sitting outside to enjoy the sunset over the meal. We ordered a range of traditional Greek dishes and shared them. The tzatziki and rooster in red wine sauce were particularly good.

Saturday 14th October Day 2 Marathocephala, Ravdouka and the Rhodopou Peninsula

A lovely late breakfast in the garden before meeting to board the vehicles. The trees around the pool are interesting, with Norfolk Pine, and fruiting lemon, orange and something which must be huge grapefruit or pomelo. Amanda and Mary appeared looking surprisingly well after Amanda had a midnight run to the airport to collect Mary from her much-delayed flight.



Our first stop was in nearby Marathokefala. Even as we approached there were clumps of very fresh *Cyclamen graecum* under the *Pinus brutia* (Calabrian Pine). Our hostess in the taverna last night mentioned localised rain 6 days ago and this was in our favour here. In between many, numerous photos of the glorious cyclamen, which carpeted the ground in large patches, you just couldn't help yourself, we acquainted ourselves with the shrubs and trees - wild olive, *Quercus coccifera* (Kermes Oak), *Pistacia lentiscus*

(Mastic Tree) *Sarcopoterium spinosum* (Thorny Burnet), flowering *Smilax aspera* and *Ephedra campylopoda* (Jointed Pine) – unusual in being the only plant to release scent to attract pollinators regulated by the full moon. Moving up the track, we later saw large areas of flowering and simultaneously fruiting *Smilax* swathed over olive trees. Spikes of *Drimia maritima* littered the stoney ground, with some still in flower, whilst *Asparagus aphyllus* scrambled throughout. At one point, a lovely, Red-veined Darter, caused quite a stir as it alighted on a dead spike of this species. A Buzzard gave us excellent views circling close overhead, while Sardinian Warblers chattered from the bushes, while Graham C spotted a lovely Clouded Yellow, and later on our first Swallowtail. After which we visited a hidden clump of gorgeous pure white *Cyclamen graecum* forma *album*.

Making our way along a shady track through the pines we were delighted when Cathy found our first *Narcissus obsoletus*, rosettes of *Mandragora autumnalis* (Mandrake) and a Graham S spotted our first couple palest pink *Colchicum pusillum*. All of these were outshone by the prolific displays of *Cyclamen graecum* carpeting the ground in a whole range of shades of pink, and often exposed corms could be seen jutting out from tortured looking pieces of limestone. Along the track itself were cyclamen leaves as well as flowers, showing a fantastic variety of markings on heart-shaped leaves. Being Autumn of course there were many golden, dried species of plant to be seen and admired for their architectural beauty – pyramidal *Echium italicum*, *Carlina corymbosa*, and lovely grasses such as *Bromus sterilis* (Sterile Oat), *Lagopus ovatus* Hares tail and *Briza media* (Quaking Grass) all added to the look. We found the blue flowers of stemless *Atractylis gummifera* (Pine Thistle), and Cathy pointed out the round green heads of *Allium chamaespathum* and the tiny red *Euphorbia dimorphicaulon*, a species that is often overlooked. A very demure species, but on closer inspection, the mixture of red, pink, and yellow make it very attractive. The stroll ended in a small



olive grove, by a lone boulder which was home to two plants of Cyclamen. It seems so unlikely that they can grow emerging from holes in a soil-less boulder and yet they thrive. I was tempted on a small (badger?) path downhill to further displays of cyclamen, and a really gorgeous cyclamen corm growing impossibly exposed on a boulder. Richard pointed out the cryptic camouflage Mediterranean Skipper resting on a rock. Although it is just a plain colour, it was very hard to spot, and a lot of shadow fingering was made to try and point out the species without

disturbing it. Walking back Blue-winged Grasshoppers flitted across the path. Amanda brought the car up the hill to give Mary and John a lift down and in the process they spotted a sea of purple *Prospero autumnalis* amongst the cultivated olive groves.

Driving a short way onto the Rhodopou Peninsula we stopped for some extraordinary fossils in the cutting at the side of the road – a Clypiaster species of hard-exo-skeleton starfish. These double-fist sized fossils are very well preserved! Lunch was at a lovely traditional taverna by a remote bay, with an excellent spread of fried egg plants, Greek salads and tzatziki, cold drinks and the odd beer under the shade of a white mulberry canopy tree, looking out over the rocky cliffs and tiny peaceful cove. Ravens called around us. After a leisurely and delicious lunch, a brief stroll on the beach followed, (swim for me) before continuing round the arid peninsula head. We stopped for some wonderful tall seed heads of *Allium ampeloprasum* (Wild Leek) and more displays of *Cyclamen graecum*, access was not easy, due to the establishment of a new vineyard. Magnificent patches of cyclamen could be seen around the bases of the vines, but we could not access the field for photographs! There was a fresh patch of squirting cucumber with flowers and fruit, and a huge green Praying Mantis! Graham C found a Swallowtail caterpillar and



adults were flying but typically not settling. Crested Larks and Stonechats sang throughout the tall bushes.

A stop was made for cold drinks and locally made sheep's milk ice-cream, (one of the flavours was kataifi – the shredded wheat baklava!) at a little café with stunning views of the sea, as the temperature was in the high twenties (28°C). The waiter seemed quite put out that we had come and stressed over which tables we sat at in the almost empty café. The much more cheerful cook was lovely though and on leaving we photographed an amazing *Stapelia* cactus flower.

Jean, Cathy, Graham C and Hilary joined us for a trip to the supermarket for picnic shopping before supper in the taverna by the hotel.

Sunday 15th October Day 3 Agia Lake, Omalos and the scenic route back to Tavronitis



Another hearty breakfast set us up for the 25-minute drive to Agia Lake. Immediately on reaching the dam we were seeing the dazzling turquoise of Kingfishers as they flashed by. A beautiful, Red-veined Darter posed for the photographers while Emperor Dragonflies patrolled the reed edges. The lake was quiet, mainly coot and moorhen. A Grey Heron stood stealth-like in the reeds, while the odd Ferruginous and Tufted Ducks swam around. Hilary set off left in search of Autumn Ladies Tresses, with the rest of us turned right

heading along the dam, towards the weir, passing flowering *Verbascum sinuatum* and scrambling *Clematis cirrhosa*. The Carob trees were in flower, creating quite a noise with the bees, and there were 3 pink flowers on *Cercis siliquastrum* (Judas tree), which was very unusual. Reaching the small bridge Graham (S) was calmly watching a juvenile Night Heron perched on the weir below the bridge, before pointing out a long-billed bird – a gorgeous sunlit foraging Snipe, a highlight of the trip for me. Soon to be almost topped by a pair of Kingfishers chasing in circles below us, sunlight flashes of turquoise and green. Walking a little further along the track, trying to get a better view of the snipe, Mary beckoned me over to tell me she had been watching a Ballion's Crake! Walking back, Richard pointed out Pygmy Cormorants and a Honey Buzzard flew in across the reeds and over our heads.

Onward to the Omalos. Buzzards and a couple of Griffon Vultures were in the skies as we gained height. Dropping through impressive limestone peaks we came into sight of the plateau, and having circumnavigated a number of flocks of goats and sheep, we pulled over by a grassy area and cave where a local chap was gathering *Chicorium spinosum* (Spiny Chicory), and *Reichardia picroides* for



the table. We could see the odd *Colchicum* and got out of the vehicles to stretch our legs. There was a scattering of nice clumps of *Colchicum creticum* with long petals and blackish anthers, and flowering *Verbascum spinosum* (Spiny Verbascum) *Ononis spinosa* (Spiny Restharrow) and *Cichorium spinosum* (Spiny Chicory). Raven and Chough were calling overhead.

Unfortunately, John took a spectacular tumble into a *Berberis cretica* bush stumbling on getting up from ground level photography session, and not long after, Hilary's walking stick gave way causing her to take a tumble too. Fortunately, no major injuries, and the friendly local chap gathering spiny chicory gave a helping hand with righting John.

We drove slowly on round the plateau checking for crocus and colchicum in the fields as we went, with clumps of

flowering *Scolymus hispanicus* (Spanish Oyster Plant) along the roadside. The trick is to find an area that the sheep have not grazed recently. We pulled over to check out some yellow flowers that Richard had spotted and found our first *Crocus laevigatus* too, fresh white flowers with purple streaked outer petals and orange-yellow anthers, fully open in the sun. *Colchicum creticum* were scattered throughout. The architectural, dried thistles were noteworthy with a few still in flower, most dried to a golden yellow. The trees were a mix of *Acer creticum*, and *Zelkovia abelicea*, endemic to the White Mountains, as well as the heavily fruiting *Pyrus spinosa*. Amanda and I prepared the picnic, and we ate our bread and graviera, Greek salad, Cretan oranges, chocolate cigars, fruit juice in the welcome sunshine. Flocks of Goldfinches fed on the thistles, and we eventually located the noisy chattering of Alpine Chough, high above our heads, around 75. From here it was a quick check at the reservoir for Eleanor's Falcon, but no joy. The scenery was magnificent, and the continuing journey took us through some lovely mixed pine forest, areas of Plane Tree forest and Sweet Chestnut groves. We pulled over and walked under the huge trees, picking up massive rich coloured chestnuts off the ground. There were a few *Solanum nigra* in flower, and a large flowering *Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry tree). Driving on Strawberry trees were frequent, and at our next stop we spotted one in heavy fruit above us. A gully had Royal Fern and Maidenhair Fern, and there

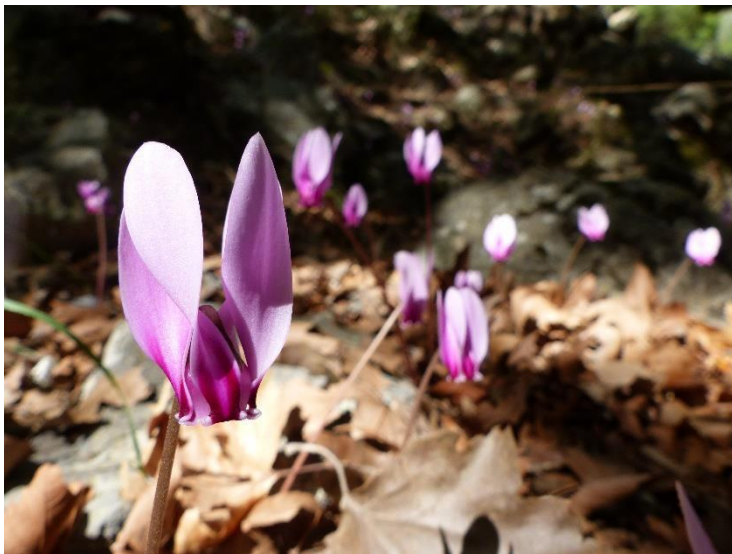


was a good amount of the rarest of the three cistus on the island, *Cistus parviflorus*, with a few scattered pink flowers. Shortly after we stopped again for a magnificent display of *Woodwardia radicans* fern cascading down a rockface. The rocks were also dripping with maidenhair and royal fern, and on closer examination of the back of the little waterfall amongst a mass of liverwort was *Sibthorpia europaea* a bit of a rarity, very nice find. By the car were some *Dittrichia viscosa*, and *D. graveolens* which was very sticky on touch.

A perfect patch of *Sternbergia lutea* by some rural houses made us stop again. Opposite a farmer was washing and sorting his harvest of chestnuts by hand before sending to the markets of Athens or Thessoloniki. On we drove through winding valleys and little villages back down to the coast and our hotel. We squeezed in the plant list before revisiting the local taverna for another good supper.

Monday 16th October Day 4 Sirikari Gorge and Polyrhinia

After our buffet breakfast outside in the garden we were on our way to the Sirikari Gorge. The drive takes us through winding roads and little villages, and the views are full of limestone outcrops towering over gorges below. Beginning of course at a small chapel, we exited the van. Amanda drove round the end of the walk with John, who was to have a more restful morning in the tiny cafe in Polyrhinia.



The track begins by dropping steeply into the gorge through an area of mixed woodland with *Quercus pubescens* (White Oak), *Pistacia terebinthus* (Turpentine Tree), *Quercus coccifera* and *Pyrus spinosa*. All along the trail tall flowers of *Bellis sylvestris* and purple *Prospero autumnalis* grew. *Calamintha cretica* and a small flowered *Thymus leucotrichus*, and *Satureja thymbra* grew amongst the phrygana dominated by *Ballota pseudodictamnus*, *Phlomis fruticosa*,

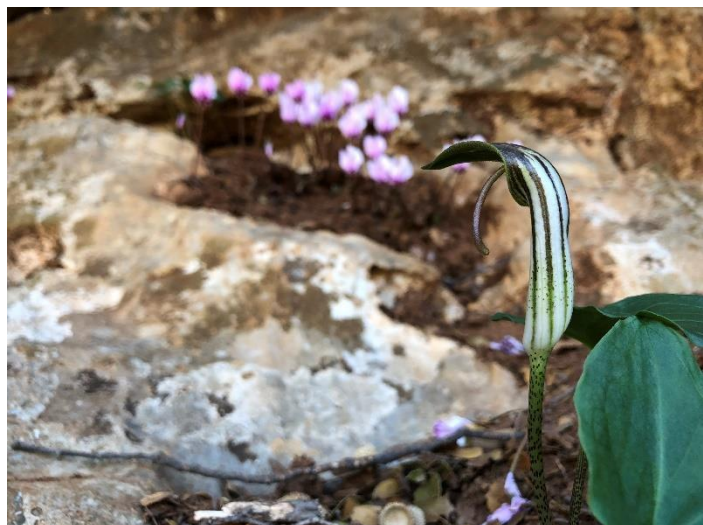
Sacopoterium spinosum and *Thymus capitatus*. We reached a farm house in ruins though the fields are still farmed, and the track takes us through trees with edible offerings; olive, lemon, orange and walnut. The derelict buildings had carved stone alcoves and a large bread oven. Birds – Richard . The first clumps of beautiful *Cyclamen hederifolium* appeared in the walls of the farm, and were to be with us for the rest of the walk. Very varied in colour, from palest pink to pale streaked with magenta, and many dark pink forms, the displays were a delight. Butterflies were frequent, with Red Admiral, Clouded Yellow, many Cretan Graylings, Small White, European form of Speckled Wood, Common Blues. *Narcissus obsoletus* (a recent split from *serotinus*) were scattered, with some denser patches and one double-headed flower. The path follows along the phrygana of side of the gorge before dropping down to the edge of the dry riverbed filled with ancient Plane trees. Here

Mary, Hilary and I rested in the shade, and I took the opportunity to photograph the cyclamen clumps growing in the beautiful curled plane leaves filling the riverbed, or growing in improbable spots such as the boles of trees or from tiny fissures of rock.

The views change constantly as we progressed, and we photographed our first *Sternbergia sicula*, a group of three at head height by the path. Further on the sides of the gorge rose impressively around us and we watched Griffon Vultures gliding along the edge of the cliffs and landing on ledges. Raven, Chough and a Bonelli's Eagle also circled above us. A darker, damper area of cliff was covered in pink flowered *Origanum dictamnus*, far overhead.

Huge boulders filled the riverbed, some the size of small cottages. One hosted a rock garden *Sternbergia sicula* mixed with *Cyclamen hederifolia*, tantalisingly out of reach. The last stretch of the walk looked like it had suffered in last winter's storms and been rebuilt, and a newly waymarked trail lead several of the group astray as there was no differentiation in colour of markers at the un-signposted fork to Polyrhina, but we all got to the chapel and picnic benches and chapel in the end! Thanks to Richard and Graham S for help tracking Mary who had taken the wrong turn. Amanda nipped everyone up in the car to the cafe before running me back to the start to collect the minibus. Richard impressed all by walking up the steep hill to the village! The tiny cafe is run by an English expat called Jane, who took good care of us and makes the cakes and lemonade. Our group were ushered into 'the back garden' which was reserved for us as a large group of walkers had also arrived. This consisted of an ancient walled room open to the skies with an impressive stone arch and edged with flowers. John and Hilary were at the front having arrived earlier, with a view over the gorge and outcrops. The welcome loo was accessed up stone steps and through 'the library'. There was time for a quick look round the village with its roman artefacts before began to wind our way back to Spilia. We were quite taken by an impressive patch of Heliotrope by the trackside.

The village of Polyrhinia has a long history, once being very important and the antagonist to the wealthy port of Falasarna. The name means many lambs referring to the richness of the settlement who collaborated with the occupying Romans. There are large Roman aqueducts in the centre of the village full of clear water and verdant populations of maidenhair fern, ancient arches and further up plentiful remains of dwellings carved out of the rocks and enormous vase – shaped aquifers. Typical of a Greek village, every tree and bush was useful – walnut, pomegranate, fig, prickly pear, orange, lemon, olive, vines of grape, gourds and clambering marrow.



After an hour back at the hotel, we drove out as the sun set for a meal in the peace and tranquillity of Ravthouka. The fresh local fish was excellent, and Scops Owl was calling on our return to the hotel.

Tuesday 17th October Day 5 Elafonissi and Topolia

Another glorious day and we were on our way to the south coast through some fantastic scenery. Olive groves gave way to deciduous forest with Sweet Chestnut, Plane and White Oak, then colourful maquis with Strawberry tree. The road passes along the stunning Topolia Gorge, and then we began the descent to the coast. Here was classic spiny phrygana dominated by endemic *Thymus capitatus* (synonym for *Thymbra capitata*), *Verbascum spinosum* and *Satureja thymbra*. On nearing the coast we dropped into an arid open area with scattered Calabrian Pine woodland.



On reaching Elafonissi, things had changed since last year, what used to be the carpark is now a protected area. We donned hats and suncream and followed the wave of sunworshippers towards the beach. Butterflies flitted past but rarely settled in the heat – Cardinal Fritillary, Plain Tiger, Clouded Yellow. Once over the intact sand bar, we walked round the edge of the island of next to dunes dominated by *Pancratium maritimum* largely in fruit, but with plenty enough still in flower to get

good photos. Jean and I examined the many shells on the beach as one does, and the pink sand that Elafonissi is famous for. Also impressive were large mats of *Inula crithmoides* (Golden Samphire) and *Crithmum maritimum*, *Euphorbia paralias* (Beach Euphorbia) and gorgeous large purple cushions of *Thymus capitatus*. We circled round past the magnificent endemic *Juniperus oxycephalus ssp macrocarpa*, finding the footprints of endemic Cretan Hare and Hedgehog. Around these were seedlings of the same, the pretty little crucifer *Cakile maritima*, the sticky, sand-covered leaves of rare the *Silene succulenta* with dead flowers in situ, endemic *Limonium elaphonisum* and the more widespread *Limonium graecum*. Birds included Blue Rock Thrush, nice views of a female Redstart and Turnstones. On the xxx side of the island were drifts of Santorini pumice pebbles and the sea was a wonderful dark blue against the limestone rocks and sand dunes.

Back to the minibus and in for a 10 minute drive to our picnic spot under a grove of Calabrian Pine and we sat in much appreciated shade to quench our thirst and feast on a picnic of spinach cheese and ham pies with Greek salad. Fi pointed out a Spotted Flycatcher.

We broke our journey back at the top of Topoli gorge, taking a short well-made track up to, yes, a small church. At the edge of the path we saw our first *Cyclamen hederifolium ssp confusum*, subtly different to yesterday's *greacum*, more delicate with shorter, wider flowers.

There was a very good show of *Narcissus obsoletus* by and in the path, including a double head. Behind the church the hillside was defined by *Euphorbia dendroides* (Tree Euphorbia), Turpentine Tree with its unusual inflated pods, and *Quercus pubescens*. *Styrax officinalis* were covered with small yellow fruit and a large scented *Myrtus communis* was next to the wall of the church compound. The bottom of the wall had some lovely patches of tantalisingly inaccessible cyclamen. Dried but still attractive were Spiny Bear's Breeches and Yellow Star Thistle. There were Griffons high overhead and coming into land behind the hill above us.

For our final evening we returned to the seafront taverna in Kolymbari, sitting outside in a very pleasant temperature for a cheerful meal.

Wednesday 18th October

Day 6 Transfer to Anopolis via Georgiopolis and Kotsifou Gorge



Having loaded the minibus after breakfast we were off to Georgiopolis. Looking out over the turquoise spring fed river there was plenty of Moorhen action, several Little Grebes and Amanda spotted Little Crake, while Richard had spied Kingfisher, female Garganey, Reed Warbler, and Teal further to the back. Graham S spotted the first Autumn Ladies Tresses, around 9 in total, and near the van was some gorgeous flowering *Clematis cirrhosa* and a single head of *Knautia integrifolia* was poking out along the verge. A party of well behaved local school children arrived, and a large flotilla of Griffon Vultures (25+) high above our heads, including a Bonelli's Eagle, and Marsh Harrier.

Moving on, our next stop was Kotsifou Gorge. Unfortunately we could not walk down it as workmen were repairing/improving the road, but as we drove down we could see lots of *Stenbergia lutea* on the cliff right next to us and on the opposite side of the narrow

gorge. Instead we parked by a little chapel and walked up a little way. Chasmophytes such as flowering *Origanum dictamnus*, *Linum arboretum*, *Ptilosemnon chaemopeace* grew amongst the gnarled *Juniperus oxycedrus* clinging to the sheer sides of the gorge. At our feet were numerous *Prospero autumnalis*, *Phlomis cretica*, and *Staelhelia petiolata*. Red-billed Chough were echoing throughout the gorge, with the occasional cough of a Raven, Craig Martins, darted around the cliff faces, along with numerous Blue Rock Thrush. Amanda's car missed the turning and reappeared around now having done a circuit down to Plakias, picking up the endemic palm *Phoenix theophrasti*.



We turned back before the roadworks because of the dust, and explored round the little chapel built into a cave and overhung by the wall of the gorge. Inside candles were lit, outside were *Verbascum arcturus* and Crag Martin nests. A small path and area of soil yielded a number of fresh *Biarum davisii* despite some digging, possibly a combination of optimistic planting of shrubs and some digging up of corms. Amanda and I prepared the picnic and we sat on the wall/bench by the church to eat. Cathy spotted flowering

Linum arboreum (Shrubby Flax) with large, pale yellow flowers on the gorge wall as we drove on towards the coast.

The coast road winds through villages with arid gorges and mountains above and blue sea below. We stopped in Frankocastello for lemonades and to use the facilities at a taverna, sitting in breezy shade overlooking a tiny harbour. A bonus for Hilary was some flowering *Pancratium maritimum*.

Onwards and upwards, via the bottom of the Imbros gorge and 23 hairpin bends which take you up to Anapolis. In some tiny fields near the village we could see numerous pink splashes, and as there was a large flock of sheep moving through, we stopped in case they were grazed before we could visit them. In fact the flock moved off, and the shepherd was quite happy for us to enter the fields so we wandered from clump to clump of *Colchicum macrophyllum* photographing the variety of huge flowers of every



shade of pink, tessellated with darker shades emerging from the deep red soil patches between gnarled white limestone. They were everywhere in these ancient tiny fields dotted with ancient olive trees and budding lupins. Graham (S) spotted two spectacular white specimens which we all photographed before returning to the vehicles and making our way to the village square and Popi's taverna. There was time to unpack and relax before gathering to go through the plant list and then eating an excellent meal with Mousakka, veggi lasagne and goat.

Thursday 19th October Day 7 Aradaina Gorge and Anopolis



At this altitude it was quite cool for breakfast and fleeces were out for the first time on the trip. Scops Owl, Tawny Owl and possibly Barn Owl were all heard the evening before. We drove the 3 km to the top of Aradaina Gorge in two trips in the bus as Amanda was unwell, and began pottering along the track. *Colchicum pusillum* were still in tight bud waiting for the sun, and there were some really fantastic clumps of 4 or 5 or even 6 dewy Biarums clearly coming from the same corm, as well as a flowering *Verbascum spinosa*. Overhead were Griffon Vultures, Ravens, and Kestrels.

Dropping into the gorge, the path we were taking is an old donkey trail, an amazing feat of ancient endeavour, and the only way into the village of Aradena until the 60's when the Bailey bridge was built. Sternbergias were tucked into every crevice, with lots of *Ranunculus bulbosus*, large numbers of tiny *Prospero minima* and a few *Narcissus obsoletus*. Delphinium seedlings were

common, leaves of *Anchusa variegata*, and endemic *Petromarula pinnata*, and sparse *Thymus leucotrichus* with tiny bright pink flowers all over. Towards the bottom of the gorge the vegetation changed as we reached cooler, shadier areas. There were rosettes of sedums, *Rosularia* and *Cheilanthes*, Rustyback, maidenhair and Maidenhair Spleenwort ferns. Shrubby chasmophytes included *Verbascum arcturus*, *Ptilostemmon*. Figs and *Quercus*, Juniper grew from the cliffs, with *Clematis cirrosus* clambering over. There was much to stop and look at with views and plants, and it took us an hour and a half to reach the bottom of the gorge. Griffons and Bonellis Some of the group

walked a little way down the gorge to admire the views further down, and we began the ascent of the other side, aided by clouds which kept things relatively cool. There was a fine leaved *Petrorhagia dianthoides*. Even greater numbers of *Prospero autumnalis*, numerous Erhard's Wall Lizards, flashing their iridescent blues and green, while Small Copper, Common Blue and Brown Argus were basking on the sunny side of the gorge. Reaching the top, our walk took us through the largely abandoned village of





Aradena, which was clearly a prosperous village in its time with large stone houses which commonly featured impressive stone arches. Now, other than one or two buildings which are renovated, the ruins are home to a herd of goats. The ancient olive groves are still tended of course, and bee hives set out.

Cold drinks at the tiny café next to the bridge, and time to look at the *Colchium macrophyllum* growing on the rocks at the top of the gorge. I brought the minibus over the bridge, and we

returned to Popi's for a lunch of hearty home-made lentil soup. Richard, Graham, and Cathy walking most of the way back to Anapolis.

After a bit of a rest, and some fresh wet walnuts from the tree near my room, we were back out walking to some of the small, ancient field systems of ancient Anapolis. Thousands of *Colchium macrophyllum* were in flower and we wandered up through the terraces photographing them under old olive trees growing out of the terra rosa. Walking up a small road we passed threshing circles and square structures of unknown purpose, but possibly linked to wheat storage as near threshing circles? We entered a small field further up as the density of *Colchicums* was spectacular. There was a strange plant growing, *Chrozophora tinctoria* which was attracting lots of butterflies including a number of Lang's Short-tailed Blues. Behind the small church at the top of our walk the land is very barren looking and bouldery, but had more Biarum and Narcissus, as well as a Sparrowhawk being mobbed by a Raven overhead. We admired some tall thistles with a net of yellow spines round the seed heads. Clearly visible were ancient field systems and ruins of ancient Anapolis. A little warm shower reached us and we headed back to Popi's. Most people took the time to relax and pack, but Cathy and Graham had the energy to be dropped off at Ekklisia Ekatarina which has amazing views over the cliffs, sea and village of Loutro below before walking back. Cold beers and plant list and our last excellent supper of the trip, with pomegranate and lettuce salads, Greek Meatballs, roast vegetables and briam, where Amanda joined us. Amanda's face was a picture as she watched us tucking into the spread of food prepared for us,



particularly when the meatballs turned up. Her meal was plain rice soup as she was still recovering from a virus.

Friday 20th October

Day 8 Return to the UK

The group were very prompt on getting bags to the minibus and we were away by 8.30 am. The journey was uneventful, and we arrived in good time at the airport. The Gatwick Flight was delayed, thus a decision was made to visit the monastery of Agia Triada for an hour, where we admired the buildings, icons and superb succulents growing in wonderful pithoi in the stone courtyards. Back at the vehicles, a lovely Plain Tiger butterfly floated by.



Itinerary

Day 1	Fri 13 th Oct	London – Chania – Spilia – Kolymbari Dunes
Day 2	Sat 14 th Oct	Marathokefala – Rodopos Peninsula
Day 3	Sun 15 th Oct	Agias Lake – Omalos Plateau
Day 4	Mon 16 th Oct	Sirikari Gorge – Polyrinia
Day 5	Tue 17 th Oct	Elafonissi – Topolia Gorge
Day 6	Wed 18 th Oct	Georgioupolis Pools – Kotsifou Canyon – Frangokastello – Anopolis
Day 7	Thur 19 th Oct	Aradena Gorge – Anopolis environs
Day 8	Fri 18 th Oct	Anopolis – Holy Trinity (Agia Triada) – London

Systematic Lists

Systematic List – Vascular Flora

The numbers indicate the day on which a species was seen. The list is presented with *Pteridophyta* (Ferns) first, and then *Spermatophyta* with *Gymnosperms* (Conifers) followed by *Angiosperms* (Flowering Plants) the latter is split into Dicotyledones and Monocotyledones. In each of these, families and species are arranged alphabetically rather than taxonomically to make the checklist easier to use.

PTERIDIOPHYTA – (Ferns & Fern Allies)

Adiantaceae

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	(3,7) shaded and/or damp habitats
<i>Cheilanthes acrostica</i>		(7) Aradena Gorge

Aspleniaceae

<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern	(4,5,6) fairly common throughout stony areas
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	(7) Aradena Gorge, rocky crevices

Blechnaceae

<i>Woodwardia radicans</i>	Chain Fern	(3) route back from Omalos, damp wet area
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Dennstaedtiaceae

<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	common, seen everyday
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Dryopteridaceae

<i>Dryopteris villarii</i>	(a buckler-fern)	(3)
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Equisetaceae

<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Branching Horsetail	(3) damp wet areas
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail	(3) damp wet/shaded areas

Osmundaceae

<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	(3) lovely examples of this species with the <i>Woodwardia</i>
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Polypodiaceae

<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	(3,4)
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Selaginellaceae

<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Selaginella	(3,7) Rocky crevices
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SPERMATOPHYTA – GYMNOSPERMAE

Araucariaceae

Araucaria heterophylla Norfolk Island Pine common cultivated tree throughout

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens Funeral Cypress familiar tall column style cypress, common around urban areas

Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. *macrocarpa* Sea Juniper (5) wonderful old and gnarled specimens at Elafonissi

Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. *oxycedrus* Prickly Juniper (3,6,7) prostrate bushes around mountainous areas

Ephedraceae

Ephedra campylopoda Joint Pine (2,6)

Pinaceae

Pinus halepensis subsp. *brutia* Calabrian Pine commonest of the pines, recorded everyday

Pinus pinea – Umbrella Pine (5,6) Specimens recorded were planted

ANGIOSPERMAE – DICOTYLEDONES

Acanthaceae

Acanthus spinosus Spiny Bears Breaches scattered dead spikes throughout cultivated/rough areas

Thunbergia grandiflora Bengal Clock Vine although cultivated it did produce a wonderful display

Aceraceae

Acer sempervirens Cretan Maple (3) small 3-lobed acer style leaves at Omalos

Aizoaceae

Carpobrotus edulis Hottentot-fig mats of this species near coastal areas

Anacardiaceae

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree common throughout the trip

Pistacia terebinthus Turpentine Tree regularly encountered with above species with some excellent inflated pods near the chapel (5)

Apiaceae

Crithmum maritimum Rock Samphire (1,5,6) coastal areas

Daucus carota Wild Carrot frequent deadheads throughout roadside, & waste grounds, with 1 or 2 still in flower

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo 7) dead heads only recorded on the one day

Eryngium maritimum Sea Holly (1,2,5) common on dunes & coastal areas, dead heads

Eryngium creticum Cretan Eryngo common, dead heads throughout

Ferula communis Giant Fennel mainly recorded in the first half of the trip, roadsides & waste areas

Foeniculum vulgare Common Fennel roadsides and abandoned land

Apocynaceae

Nerium oleander Oleander very common cultivated species seen everyday

Berberidaceae

Berberis cretica **Cretan Barberry** (3,7) mountainous areas

Boraginaceae

Echium angustifolium **Narrow-leaved Bugloss** scattered dried dead spikes, throughout waste, rough & terraced areas

Echium italicum **Italian Bugloss** dried dead flower spikes, common & widespread throughout waste ground & olive groves

Heliotropium europaeum **Heliotrope** (4,5,6) mat forming in places

Brassicaceae

Cakile maritima **Sea Rocket** (1,5) sandy beaches

Matthiola tricuspidata (a stock) (1,5) cliffs, rocky crevices

Cactaceae

Opuntia ficus-barbarica **Prickly Pear** common & widespread

Campanulaceae

Petromarula pinnata **Cretan Blue-lettuce** leaves, common & widespread on cliff faces

Capparidaceae

Capparis spinosa **Caper** common & widespread throughout the trip

Caryophyllaceae

Petrorhagia dianthoides (a pink) (7) gorge walk, cliff face

Silene succulenta subsp. ***succulenta*** (a campion) (5) Elafonissi mainly dead flower heads

Chenopodiaceae

Chenopodium album **Fat Hen** (5) Elafonissi coastal environs

Salsola kali **Prickly Saltwort** (1,5) coastal areas

Cistaceae

Cistus parviflorus **Small-flowered Cistus** (3) Fi spotted a lovely little bush surprisingly with some late flowers if what a bit bedraggled

Convolvulaceae

Ipomea indica **Morning Glory** planted in gardens

Crassulaceae

Rosularia serrata (no common name) (7) cliffs and ledges

Umbilicus horizontalis (a wall pennywort) (3,7) rock ledges & crevices

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia cretica **White Bryony** (5,6) only leaves recorded in rubble rocky areas

Ecballium elaterium **Squirting Cucumber** regularly encountered across stoney waste ground, often in flower & with fruit

Dipsacaceae

Knautia integrifolia (a scabious) (6) Rocky phrygana

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo **Strawberry-Tree** (3,4,5,6). Maquis & common in pine woods, in both fruit &

flower, nice

<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	(3,6). Omalos & Anopolis
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	Autumn Heather	(3,5,6) some lovely bushes in flower along roadside banks

Euphorbiaceae

<i>Chrozophora tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Croton	(7) Richard had this species while photographing a butterfly
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny-spurge	(5,6,7) phrygana, often coastal
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	widespread across scrub and rocky slopes
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	(2,4,5)
<i>Euphorbia dimorphicaulon</i>	(a spurge)	(2,5) lovely delicate small red spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	(1,5) coastal dunes
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	(3,6,7) olive groves & walls
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	(3) waste ground & roadsides

Fabaceae

<i>Acacia</i> sp.	(an acacia)	planted by roads
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	scattered leaves throughout olive groves & verges
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Spiny Broom	(2) common throughout the garigue
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	fruiting, mainly located by the gentle humming from the feeding insects, scattered sightings throughout
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas-tree	(3) Omalos plateau
<i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Ebony	(5,6) seen hanging from the roadside cliffs
<i>Genista acanthocloda</i>	(a greenweed)	(2,5). Phrygana
<i>Lupinus pilosus</i>	Hairy Blue Lupin	(6,7) leaves amongst the stoney terrain
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> subsp. <i>diacantha</i>	Spiny Restharrow	(2,3)
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	planted/naturalised by coastal roads

Fagaceae

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	(3,5) displays of magnificent groves, fruiting
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	common & widespread throughout the trip
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	(3,4) occasionally
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	(4)

Geraniaceae

<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	3) leaves near the bottom of the waterfall
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Juglandaceae

<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	planted and widespread
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Lamiaceae

<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	False Dittany	(4,6), in flower on gorge cliff faces
<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony	(7) Fi found this lovely species Aradena Gorge
<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	Lesser Calamint	(3) Omalos plateau
<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i> subsp. <i>meridionale</i>	Alpine Calamint	(7)

<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	around the grounds of Spilia hotel
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>	(a Micromeria)	(7) Aradena gorge
<i>Micromeria hispida</i>	(a Micromeria)	(7) Aradena gorge
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i>	Dittany (diktamus)	(4,6) limestone cliffs, mainly in gorges in flower
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	(3) Omalos plateau
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	common, one of the dominant species on rocky slopes, non-flowering
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	scattered sightings throughout the trip
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	(2) disturbed ground near roadsides
<i>Sideritis syriaca</i> subsp. <i>syriaca</i>	Mountain Tea	(3)
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	Shrubby Thyme	common & widespread spiny dome shrub with pink flowers
<i>Thymus leucotrichus</i>	(a thyme)	(7) Aradena Gorge
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Tree Germander	(5) along the path leading up to the chapel
Linaceae		
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Flax	(6) limestone gorge cliffs, from the road near the lunch stop
Malvaceae		
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Hibiscus	planted along roadsides
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	(2,5,7) shrubby vegetation & open coniferous woodland
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Least Mallow	(7)
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	(8) roadside at the airport
Moraceae		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	common and widespread throughout
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	the typical tree planted around tavernas, & villages for shade
Myrtaceae		
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	(5) growing behind the chapel wall
Nyctaginaceae		
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	planted in gardens
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Marvel of Peru	common around urban areas & rough ground
Oleaceae		
<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>oleaster</i>	Wild Olive	(2) several individual trees on the rocky slopes of the wooded area near the cyclamen spot in the morning
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	cultivated, everywhere
Onagraceae		
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	(3)
Orobanchaceae		
<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape	(5) a dry spike hosting on <i>Thymus</i> at Elafonissi
Oxalidaceae		

<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	leaves common & widespread, particularly in olive groves
Phytolaccaceae		
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeweed	(3) naturalised
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	(3)
<i>Sibthorpia europaea</i>	Cornish Moneywort	(3) damp wet areas
Platanaceae		
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane Tree	Common & widespread, lining streams/rivers, forming groves
Plumbaginaceae		
<i>Limonium elaphonicum</i>	(a sea-lavender)	(5) Elaфонissi, this was the first sea lavender seen with the single pink flower, most of the lavender was the following species
<i>Limonium graecum</i>	(a sea lavender)	(5) Elaфонissi
Polygonaceae		
<i>Polygonum equisetiforme</i>	(a knotgrass)	(5,7)
Primulaceae		
<i>Cyclamen confusum</i>	(a cyclamen)	(5) Omalos & route back
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Ivy-leaved Sowbread	(4,5) rocky areas
<i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i>	Greek Sowbread	(2) wonderful displays throughout
Punicaceae		
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	common around urban and terraced fields
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Virgin's Bower	(3,6,7) there were some fantastic hanging bowers of this species
<i>Delphinium staphisagria</i>	(a delphinium)	(7)
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist	(7)
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>	(a buttercup)	(3,6,7) scattered & widespread, within phrygana
Rhamnaceae		
<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>	(a buckthorn)	(4) Sirikari Gorge
Rosaceae		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	widespread throughout
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	(2,3) planted
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	(7).
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	frequent throughout highway coastal areas, fruiting
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Spiny Pear	common & widespread, amongst rocky slopes, in fruit
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble	common & widespread throughout

<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Spiny Burnet	dominant bush of phrygana, the characteristic bush of the Cretan landscape
Rubiaceae		
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	(3,4,5) shaded wooded areas
Rutaceae		
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Cultivated
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	Cultivated
Salicaceae		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	(6,7,8) planted Anopolis
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	(3,6,7,8) planted Omalos, & Anopolis
Santalaceae		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	(3) roadsides particularly along roadsides of recently created
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	(a figwort)	(7) Aradena Gorge
<i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	(a mullein)	(6,7) cliffs in gorges, mainly leaves and dead spikes
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein	mainly in leaf, common & widespread
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i>	Spiny Mullein	(3,5,7) large domes, not in flower common across rocky, dry areas
Simaroubaceae		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	1,4,5) planted
Solanaceae		
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	(4,5,6)
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	common, mainly in leaf
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	naturalised, & frequently seen along the highway
Styracaceae		
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	(5)
Tamaricaceae		
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	(a tamarisk)	planted along the highway, non-flowering
<i>Tamarix smyrnensis</i>	(a tamarisk)	in flower, mainly found planted along the coastal areas
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Hairy Thymelaea	(1,4) Scattered sightings
Ulmaceae		
<i>Zelkova abelicea</i>	Zelkova	(6) Omalos, several tall trees near the crocus
Urticaceae		
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle	(6,7) Frequent in areas frequented by goats, Anopolis
Verbenaceae		
<i>Lantana comosa</i>	Lantana	frequently encountered around urban and rough ground throughout

<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	roadsides and waste ground
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree	fairly common & seen most days throughout the trip
Zygophyllaceae		
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Maltese Cross	A small clump of this delicate plant at the Spilia hotel car park

MONOCOTYLEDONES

Agavaceae

<i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant	occasionally along roadsides mainly seen in the latter part of the trip
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Alliaceae

<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Wild Leek	frequently encountered dry seed heads throughout dry & rocky areas
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<i>Allium chamaespauthum</i>	(an allium)	commonest of the allium, seen most days in flower
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Amaryllidaceae

<i>Narcissus serotinus</i>	Autumn Narcissus	(2,4,5,6,7) a lovely delicate small narcissus
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<i>Pancretium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	(1,5,6) although mainly in seed, the flowers that were out were quite striking, coastal sands
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<i>Sternbergia lutea</i>	Common Sternbergia	(3) route back on the roadside from Omalos
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<i>Sternbergia sicula</i>	Slender Sternbergia	(4,6,7) rocky terrain
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Araceae

<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	(4,7) scattered sightings on gorge walk, among the rock crevices
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<i>Arum creticum</i>	Cretan Arum	mainly leaves seen occasional throughout rocky areas
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<i>Biarum davisii</i>	(an arum)	(6,7) what a delightful species, & wonderful display at the top of Aradena gorge
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Asparagaceae

<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	Leafless Asparagus	Scattered leaves throughout rocky terrain
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<i>Urginea (Drimia) maritima</i>	Sea Squill	widespread & very common with a mixture of dead & flowering heads
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<i>Prospero autumnale</i>	Autumn Squill	Common throughout rocky & cliff environs blue – lilac flowers, compared to following species
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<i>Prospero minimum</i>	(an autumn squill)	common & widespread, flowers pink with middle rib rust brown on outer petals, recently been split from above species
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<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	(4) wooded areas
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Colchicaceae

<i>Colchicum cretense</i>	(a colchicum)	(3) Omalos plateau
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<i>Colchicum pusillum</i>	(a colchicum)	(2,3,4,7) common, the most widespread of this family
<i>Colchicum macrophyllum</i>	(a colchicum)	(6,7,8) amazing displays of this species at Anopolis

Cyperaceae

<i>Scirpioides holoschoenus</i>	Clustered Club-rush	(6) coastal areas
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Dioscoreaceae

<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	(3,5,6) frequently encountered, with amazing strands of berries
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Graminaceae (Poaceae)

<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Common tall reed, everywhere
<i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	Fern-grass	common & widespread, particularly at the Spilia hotel
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass	(4)
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail	common & widespread in waste and rough ground

Iridaceae

<i>Crocus laevigatus</i>	(a crocus)	(3,4)
<i>Crocus boryi</i>	(a crocus)	(3)

I am noting this species which we possibly saw on (3), for the following reason.

Alpine Garden Society, distinguish the difference between the two species, *C. laevigatus* (having a hard, coriaceous corm), whilst *C. boryi* (has a papery corm), and just to add to the debate, *C. tournefortii*, which can apparently be also found with them, has the corm tunic finely fibrous, and the flowers stay open at night!

Juncaceae

<i>Juncus littoralis</i>	Shore Rush	(1,5) around brackish/shoreline areas
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Orchidaceae

<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Ladies Tresses	(6) at least 9 spikes were found of this lovely, but often hard species to find
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Palmae

<i>Phoenix theophrasti</i>	Cretan Date-Palm	(6)
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Potamogetonaceae

<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Poseidon's Balls	(1,5) recorded along the shoreline
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Smilacaceae

<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax	(1,2,4) clambering on scrub
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Typhaceae

<i>Typha domingensis</i>	(a reedmace)	(3) marsh and ditches by road
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Xanthorrhoeaceae

<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	mainly leaves throughout heavily grazed areas
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Zosteraceae

<i>Zostera marina</i>	(eel-grass)	(1,2) Recorded along the shoreline
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Lichen

Myriolecis (Lecanora) dispersa

(a lichen)

(7) Richard IDed this species found in the Ardena Gorge

Systematic List – Birds

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of Collins: Bird Guide 3rd edition. The numbers indicate the day on which a species was seen, and 68 species were recorded.

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	(3)	
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Georgiopolis pools	(6)
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Richard had a female at the pools	(6)
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	several individuals at Agias Lake	(3)
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	several individuals recorded on water bodies	(3,6)
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	several individuals seen the one day at Georgiopolis	pools (3,6)
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1 or 2 individuals seen	(3)
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	1 or 2 individuals recorded flying, and basking on trees	(3,5)
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	excellent views of a juvenile standing near the weir	(3)
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	frequent sightings near water bodies	(3,5,6)
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gypus fulvus</i>	common seen every day often in large numbers	
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>	odd individuals seen over the course of the week	(4,6,7).
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	an individual recorded	(6)
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	common & widespread seen everyday	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Richard recorded an individual on the gorge walk	(4)
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	an individual flew across the lake as we were starting to	leave (3)
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Richard recorded this species	(7)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	scattering sightings the week	(1,2,6)
Ballon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Mary was the only one to see this secretive species	(3)
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>	The crake at Georgiopolis pools was actually this species, not Ballon's as mentioned for list	(6)
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	individuals seen around water bodies	(3,6)
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	individuals seen around water bodies	(3,6)
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1 or 2 individuals along the shoreline	(5)
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	individuals along the shoreline	(5)
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	individuals along the shoreline and flying around	(5)
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	fantastic views of this species feeding along the weir	(3)
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	only gull recorded	(2,5)
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	common & widespread seen most days	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	common around urban areas	
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1 or 2 sightings of this lovely bird	(2,3)
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	an individual calling near the hotel twilight at Anopolis	
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Cathy heard this species calling late evening at Anopolis	(6)
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	2 heard calling to each other in the evening at Anopolis	
Kingfisher	<i>Alecedo atthis</i>	the group had fantastic views of a pair swooping, and chasing each other around the weir at Agias (3); and 1 seen perched at Georgiopolis Pools	(6)
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	common around agricultural fields, seen or heard most days	

Crag Martin *Hirundo ruestris* recorded around cliff crags & rocky outcrops (4,6)

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* occasionally (2,3,5)

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* occasionally around urban areas

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Agias Lake (3)

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (4,5)

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* mainly heard throughout the week (2,4,5)

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* a female flittering around the rocks at Elaфонissi

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* surprisingly only seen the once (2)

Blackbird *Turdus merula* regularly encountered or heard throughout the trip

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* regularly recorded around rocky outcrops across the trip

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* usually a common species, but only heard the once (4)

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* very common species recorded everyday

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* common around riparian vegetation

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* seen around reedbeds (3,6)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (2,5)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* one seen flittering amongst the trees at lunch (5)

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Richard recorded this lovely species one (7)

Great Tit *Parus major* frequently recorded most habitats, everyday

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* recorded everyday

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* an individual seen at Omalos (3)

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* recorded around rocky outcrops with other corvids (4)

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* only recorded around mountainous areas (6)

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* recorded at high altitude, with over 70+ birds flying overhead at Omalos (3,6,7)

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornis* common, recorded every day in various habitats

Raven *Corvus corax* common, recorded everyday

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* common around urban areas.

Italian Sparrow *Passer italiae* these were the sparrows at Anopolis rather than House.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* common species recorded everyday

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* only Richard saw this lovely species (1,4)

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* regular seen throughout the holiday

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* only the one sighting (6)

Serin *Serinus serinus* only Richard saw this lovely species (3)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* recorded around agricultural areas at Omalos (5)

Systematic List - Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Butterflies of Europe, Tolman & Lewington*. A total of 18 species were recorded. The numbers indicate the day on which a species was recorded.

Papilionidae

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* frequently seen over the trip

Pieridae

Large White *Pieris brassicae* regularly recorded throughout the trip

Small White *Artogeia rapae* Richard had this species (6)

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* regularly encountered throughout

Lycaenidae

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* Anopolis environs (7)

Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithouse* Sirikari Gorge & environs (4,5,7)

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* Sirikari Gorge (4)

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* Aradena Gorge (7)

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* odd sightings throughout the week

Nymphalidae

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* several sightings of this large butterfly (4,6)

Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui* mainly seen in the latter part of the trip

Cardinal *Argynnis pandora* Elafonissi (5)

Satyridae

Cretan Grayling *Hipparchia cretica* regularly encountered around sunny rocky areas

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* sightings mainly around wooded areas

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* regularly encountered basking on rocky areas

Danaidae

Plain Tiger *Danus chrysippus* Elafonissi & monastery (5,8)

Hesperiidae

Mediterranean Skipper *Gegenes Nostrodamus* Richard pointed this species out to the group, (2)

Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae* Richard had a nice picture of this species basking (7)

Systematic List – Dragonflies

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* recorded around water bodies on the trip

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* recorded around water bodies on the trip (3,6)

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* a lovely specimen perched at Agias Lake, again found around water bodies

Systematic List – Reptiles & Amphibians

Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica* Agias Lake (3)

Erhard's Wall Lizard *Podarcis erhardii* occasionally throughout the trip on rocky terrain

Cretan Wall Lizard *Podarcis cretensis* scattered sightings of this lovely lizard

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* the large green lizard in Sirikari Gorge, & Richard had a juvenile at Anopolis (4,7)

Systematic List – Other Invertebrates

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium* this large species was occasionally seen in all habitats

Praying Mantis *Mantis religiosa* the species is the largest of the European mantis, & gave some very obliging views, including the individual that bit Graham (S)

Honeybee *Apis mellifera* Very common, often heard before being seen, particularly noticeable feeding on the flowering Carob. (4)

Swallowtail Caterpillar *Papilio machaon* Graham (C) found this lovely species resting on a dead spike

Blue-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda caerulescens* abundant throughout rocky terrain

Red-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda germanica* var. *germanica* only seen at Sirikari Gorge (4)