

Sicily

Orchids of the Ible Mountains

A Greentours Trip Report

28th March – 4th April 2009

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Daily report written by Amanda Borrows. Systematic lists by Paul Cardy.

Day 1 Saturday 28th March Arrival & transfer to Masseria degli ulivi

Although the day started with sunny spells, the weather turned grey and wet for the evening drive to our accommodation Masseria degli ulivi, south of Siracusa. Despite the weather many of the group saw the snow covered towering peaks of Monte Etna as the plane came into land at Catania airport. The group were met by Paul and Amanda who had arrived on earlier planes. Once all the introductions were made, we were soon on our way south, and regardless of the overcast and drab weather, spirits were high.

On arrival at the hotel, there was time to unpack before making our way to the dining area for an eagerly awaited evening meal. Paul reminded people that the clocks go forward another hour tonight, on top of the extra hour difference from Britain.

Day 2 Sunday 29th March Testa del Acqua road

The day started quite cool, with bright white cloud covering the morning sky. However, this was soon moved to one side when the sun broke through, and prepared us for the type of weather we would experience for the rest of the week. The distinct song and call of Cetti's and Fan-tailed Warblers mixed in with the jingling keys of the Corn Buntings, a familiar sound throughout the week.

Our hotel, Masseria degli ulivi, is situated in an idyllic location surrounded by ancient olive and carob trees. The surrounding area is rich in historical and architectural Sicilian culture; and the natural splendour of the Iblean countryside. The hotel is carved from an antique country home of the late 1800's and is built around a baglio (internal courtyard), which is characteristic of the rural Sicilian architecture. The oldest olive tree of the hotel dominates the courtyard, and provides a picturesque quality to the baglio. The rest of the buildings have been renovated in the old traditional style, using local materials – dark wood for the ceiling beams and Sicilian cotto for the floor tiles.

Hybrid sparrows between the Spanish and Italian species cheeped cheerfully as we entered the courtyard and went for breakfast. Breakfast was continental style sat at tables in front of patio

windows, which viewed onto a small enclave garden. A beautiful male Sardinian Warbler flitted about in the small bushes, while the Sparrows and Great Tits, made much noise as they could from the olive trees.

The plan of the day was to stay local, firstly undertaking a circular route around the hotel, exploring the grassy verges and local fields, before moving on to several other spots by vehicle. Thus, once assembled, we walked outside the gates of the hotel and were greeted with an assortment of species and colours that adorned the limestone verges that were typical of the area, such as *Cerintho major*, *Silene colorata*, *Anemone hortensis*, *Olea europaea*, *Linaris triphylla*, *Fedia cornucopiae*, *Erica multiflora*, *Anthyllis vulneraria* (pink sub-species), *Borago officinalis* and *Pistacia lentiscus*. The spurges ranged in size from *Euphorbia characias* down to *Euphorbia peplus*. There were good numbers of the Widow iris *Hermodactylus tuberosus* and both yellow and purple forms of *Iris pseudopumila*. Several diminutive plants were also of interest, such as *Theligonium cynocrambe*, as it is one of the few members of its family worldwide. Of the orchids there were some fine examples of the blousy *Ophrys tenthredinifera*, spikes of *Barlia robertiana* were just going over, and good numbers of the *Ophrys* genera, *Ophrys lupercalis*, *Ophrys sicula*, *Ophrys incubacea*, *Ophrys oxyrhynchus*, and *Ophrys panormitana* for people to get enthused about. The morning was becoming quite overwhelming.

We continued walking among the mosaic patchwork of colour that coated the stark white limestone, while people discussed the various flora found. Butterflies, such as Orange-tips and Small Whites started to emerge as the weather got warmer, but were unwilling to stop for any photographer. In the midst of it all Paul found some porcupine quills, something that he hadn't found before.

Arisarum vulgare were found in flower among a group of boulders, while several spikes of the Sicilian endemic *Ophrys lunulata* were found on the rocky outcrops. Later during the week, Karen found a spike of *Aceras anthropophorum* in the same area. A male Subalpine Warbler sang from the nearby trees, while Serin, Cirl Bunting and Blackcap sang in the distance. This was our first site and over 13 different species of orchid had already been recorded, and this did not include some of the hybrids that had been discovered along the verges.

It was a quick drive to the next site, which was a grassy slope, rock-strewn with limestone boulders. A beautiful black Western Whip Snake disappeared over the stony wall as the party started to scale it, as they entered the meadow making sure they did not tread on the little party of *Ophrys speculum* congregated next to the wall. The group ambled slowly around the field, pointing out the various species, which littered the meadow, as well as discussing the merits of some of the more dubious orchid species found; as an observer this would look rather funny as most the group were top ending to get better views of the minute detail that would separate one species from the other; or getting the best angle for a camera shot, particularly when a splendid patch of *Ophrys tenthredinifera* were found. New orchid species included *Orchis longicornu*, the Sicilian endemic *Ophrys biancae* and a rather superb large specimen of *Orchis lactea*, which was the only really good spike we found all week. A little goodie was the lovely *Ajuga chamaepitys*, the only patch we had for the trip and a single *Anemone coronaria* was also found among the *Anemone hortensis*. Walking back towards the vehicle the graceful *Gynandris sisyrinchium* was out in the midday sun, while Italian lizards started to emerge from the cervices of the stone walls.

Moving on for a lunch spot, the group enjoyed an explorative potter around a rocky knoll, while Crested Larks and Blackcap were heard or seen flying over the party. Orange-tips bounced up and over the walls, while we sat and ate our lunch.

The remaining sites were similar geologically with protruding limestone outcrops or stone terraced meadows, where a budding *Muscari comosum* was emerging. Wandering further along the path, a large show of the purple form of *Iris pseudopumila* was getting everyone excited, while discussions of various *Ophrys* was providing a lively debate. We ended the day overlooking a river bed and listening to the call of frogs along the water. This site was also greeted with enthusiasm, as the group explored the different rocky levels. People were getting their eye in to find the orchids.

Today was quite overwhelming with the diverse array of plants, but an exciting taster of what the rest of the week was going to produce. In total 18 species of orchid were recorded, not including hybrids. From the vehicles the group could also enjoy the Sicilian landscape and the colourful array of species that decorated the roadside edges.

Day 3 Monday 30th March Monte Lauro

The morning started a bit grey, as we wound our way along the mountain road to Monte Lauro, but the dampness soon lifted as the sun came out, when we reached the top. Along the route, we stopped off briefly for *Carduncellus caeruleus*, the spot also included *Bellevalia romana*, *Scirpus holoschoenus* and the attractive flowering *Pyrus amygdaliformis*, which was common along the roadsides, and seen most days brightening up the route. Crested Larks and Corn Buntings called from the agricultural meadows.

Monte Lauro is a rock-strewn plateau, with scattered patches of wet marsh areas, surrounded by coniferous forests. It is the highest point of the Hyblaean mountain range (Monte Ible), which stretches across this part of south-eastern Sicily, at an altitude of 986 metres. Antenna installations for radio stations and television transmitters are located within the area, due to the height of this peak.

From the mountain side we admired the vista below into the valleys, before exploring the area. We found out that the pink carpet we had been passing was the lovely *Geranium lucidum*. We slowly spread out over the plateau examining the protruding rocks splattered over the top, scrutinizing the various plants found, particular *Gagea*, *Crassula* and *Sedum* species that encrusted the rock faces. The exquisite little *Romulea bulbocodium* were found in good numbers around the marsh areas, as well as spikes of *Orchis longicornu*, but *Orchis lactea* spikes were short on the ground compared to last year. The site also had some nice patches of *Saxifraga tridactylites*, *Sedum stellatum*, *Sarcopoterium spinosum*, *Galium verrucosum* (in fruit), *Hermodactylus tuberosus* and the bright Lesser Celandine.

Woodlark and Stonechat sang from or around the nearby bushes of the stunted *Prunus spinosa*, while Sicilian and Italian Wall Lizards were spotted darting in and out of the holes scattered underneath the shrubby vegetation. A Western Whip Snake was seen basking on top of the rocks.

From here we made a stop to look for the orchid *Orchis provincialis*, but unfortunately no spikes were found. Although the stop did produce a nice male Rock Thrush, more quality spikes of *Orchis longicornu* and *lactea*, *Ornithogalum collinum* and a lovely patch of *Linaria reflexa*.

Lunch was an interesting affair, as we attracted the attention of some of the locals, who stopped to find out what we were up to. After some friendly banter and a couple of photographs they went on their way, and left us to eat our lunch under the shade of the wild olive tree. The woodland spot provided more fine examples of *Ophrys lunulata*, *phryganae* (lutea type), *lupercalis* (fusca type), *Orchis italica*, and the divine *Tetragonolobus purpureus*.

Our next stop was the Necropoli di Pantalica viewpoint. This is an amazing archaeological site dating back to the 13th to the 7th centuries BC, and it has over 5,000 tombs spread over the gorge. The tombs have been excavated into the rock faces, and the numerous square rock-cut tombs can be seen as you look across the valley. Pantalica is located on a plateau surrounded by canyons formed by the Anapo and Calcinara rivers. This afternoon, it was a riot of colour, which lifted any spirit as you wandered down the old steps towards the viewpoints, passing the remains of some of these tombs, and wondering how bad life must have been to force people to live in this hostile and near inaccessible area. The riotous splashes of colour were caused by *Silene colorata*, *Lobularia maritime*, *Lathyrus clymenum*, *Lathyrus setifolius*, *Hippocrepis unisiliquosa*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Hymenocarpus circinnatus*, *Convolvulus elegantissimus*, *Linaria triphylla*, and *Ononis inutissima* with a dash of orange from *Chrysanthemum coronarium*. The lime green global balls that were scattered on the cliff faces were that of the tree spurge *Euphorbia dendroides*.

There was one last surprise for today, as we started to make our way back to the hotel. There clinging on to a small ledge on a roadside cliff, were four spikes of *Neotinea maculata*. Near to the spikes were some nice flowering *Cyclamen repandum*, *Viola alba denhardii* and the endemic *Arabis rosea*.

Day 4 Tuesday 31st March Vendicari – Isole delle Correnti

The morning looked promising with blue skies, which continued for the whole day, with temperatures rising to 25° C at one point. Our first stop would be the fabulous Vendicari Nature Reserve, before heading to the southern most tip of the island.

Vendicari Nature Reserve was established in 1984, to preserve its habitat of salt pans, saltmarshes, and brackish lagoons, for the vast numbers of birds that passed through the area on migration; as well as affording some protection for the unusual ecosystem of its sand-loving Mediterranean vegetation. There are a set of hides allowing views over the lagoons as you approach the reserve. The track then briefly skirts the edge of the Pantano Grande before leading off towards the so-called Torre Sveva, actually erected in the 15th Century by Peter of Aragon, and the chimney that rises from among the ruins of the tonnara (tuna-fishery) which functioned until the Second World War. Nearby, set back against the rocks where the waves break over the shore, sit the vestiges of a Hellenistic fish-processing plant. The tanks were used to steep the excess fish before salting them (tarichos) or using the by-products to make garum or fish paste by breaking down the fish gut and off-cuts in sea-water – a highly lucrative commodity that was traded right across the Mediterranean from Phoenician to Roman times.

Walking down the path we saw the birthwort, *Aristolochia rotunda*, before entering the hides to see what were on the lagoons. We were greeted by a feeding flock of the elegant Greater Flamingo. Several birds flew in to join the group, displaying the beautiful salmon pink in their wings. Other birds included Little Egret, Great White Egret, and a few ducks such as Shoveler, Tufted Duck,

Mallard, and Shelduck. Moving on from the hides, the area opened out into typical low-lying saltmarsh flora dominated by *Arthrocnemum perenne* and *Halimione portulacoides*. *Limonium narbonense* was found in flower; further investigation found *Inula crithmoides* and the leaves of *Triglochin bulbosa* ssp. *barrelieri*, along the path edge. The yellowy-lime green globes of *Ferula communis* towered over the low lying vegetation, providing perching points for Sardinian and Cetti's Warbler as they flitted between the shrubby layers.

Looking towards the beach, the tide line was awash with the unusual plant *Posidonia oceanica*. This is a species of seagrass endemic to the Mediterranean. This marine plant forms large underwater meadows that are considered to be of high importance to the environmental conservation of the region. The fruit is free floating and known in Italy as 'the olive of the sea'. These are balls of fibrous material from the foliage of the plant, known as *egagropili*, and are washed up along the shore-lines.

Botanising continued along the sandy trail, where *Juniperus oxycedrus* frequently occurred. Other species across the sandy areas included *Silene colorata*, *Lotus cytisoides*, *Echium parviflorum*, *Sideritis romana*, *Thymelaea hirsuta* and a stupendous blinding yellow display of *Acacia cyanophylla* before reaching another hide. On arriving a female Marsh Harrier was quartering over the lagoon, regularly being mobbed by Yellow-legged Gull, or various waders that were feeding in the water. An Osprey was found in a tree, and could be seen very clearly through the telescope. Black-winged Stilts were calling as they flew over head, with their delicate long red legs trailing behind, while Avocets and Spoonbills were resting on the small islands in the lagoon. There were also a variety of ducks, Wigeon and Teal were new to the trip, and while Paul and Malcolm were getting on to a couple of Wood Sandpipers a Great Snipe (!) flew out from the vegetation.

We took a slow amble back disturbing the Italian Wall Lizards and various invertebrates as they basked in the morning heat on the sandy ground. A Cetti's Warbler perched on the wooden fence allowing Lorraine and Karen superb views of this otherwise, sulky species.

For lunch we drove to the southern end of the reserve, stopping briefly for a stunning presentation of colour from the red of *Adonis annua*, the yellow of *Adonis microcarpa*, and the blue of *Borago officinalis*, contrasted against a multitude of green shades. A few Field Gladiolus *Gladiolus italicus* were found in flower and several spikes of what was probably *Ophrys panormitana* but we couldn't rule out some hybridisation with *Ophrys incubabea* as the petals were dark pink. A Buzzard flew overhead.

Lunch was next to a rocky limestone outcrop typical of the coastal area. Wall lizards of both the Italian and Sicilian variety were seen scurrying around, and one sighting of Western Whip Snake was also reported. Several large spikes of *Orobanche gracilis* and some grand spikes of *Ophrys oxyrhynchos* were found, as the group enjoyed exploring the rocky habitat.

The view from the top was quite impressive as we looked down on to Vendicari Nature Reserve. Making our way back to the vehicle we realised we were missing Helen, who had gone for a long walk, so as Amanda went to find her, the others wandered back and got to see the beautiful Moorish Gecko, along the boundary wall of the reserve.

Once we had found Helen, we made our way to the extreme southern point of the island. Situated at the tip of the island is a lighthouse, which marks the point at which the Ionian Sea meets the Canale di Sicilia, a natural channel separating the islet of Cap Passero from the mainland. A little side fact, the islet has been subject to a compulsory purchase so that the colony of dwarf palms

growing there might be protected. However, this has forced the fish-rearing tanks that were there to be jettisoned at sea, and has decimated tuna fishing in the area; as a result, the place is no longer the centre of activity it used to be.

We undertook a circular walk along the beach, which produced a typical coastal flora, including *Euphorbia paralias*, *Euphorbia peplus* and *Ononis variegata*. Paul scoped a Cory's Shearwater in the distance out to sea, while more of the sea balls *Posidonia oceanica* showed us where high tide had been. Walking through the sand dunes produced a mixture of species, such as *Cakile maritima*, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, *Euphorbia pinea*, *Plantago crassifolia* and a splendid show of *Medicago marina*, while the leaves of *Pancratium maritimum*, *Otanthus maritimus* and *Eryngium maritimum*, were dotted among the dunes. It was quite quiet for birds, but, we saw a male Northern and Black-eared Wheatear, posing nicely on various wooden poles in the sand dunes for everyone to get a good look through the telescope. There also seemed to be a small influx of Swallowtails and Painted Ladies coming in from the sea.

We followed the cheerfully colourful flower track back to the vehicles, stopping to admire the building skills of a species of masonry bee. A small colony had built their nests underneath the eaves of a tin roof, Malcolm was very brave and stood amidst the busy colony studying them attentively, and thought there were possibly at least two other species of hymenoptera living or preying on the other species.

The group ended on a small headland near the parking area, which had some fine flowering stands of *Lavatera arborea*. *Lavatera cretica* and *Malva sylvestris* were also recorded with the latter species quite widespread, other species included *Evax pygmaea*, *Plantago coronopus* and a lovely patch of *Matthiola sinuata*.

Day 5 Wednesday 1st April Monte Etna

The skies were threatening this morning, with some thunder rolling over the hotel, was this a good day to spend on the southern side of Monte Etna, but as we descended towards Catania, the impressive towering peaks of the mountain were in full view to enjoy, no threat as yet of any dark clouds. The highest point of Etna is 3,329 metres (10,922 ft). It was quite magnificent with a white table cloth covering its shoulders, against the blue sky, looking down on the harbour city of Catania. We still had another hour to get to our first location, let's hope that the cloud would stay off.

We made a brief stop to stretch our legs, and take some shots of the picturesque peaks of the mountain, before the cloud would shroud the peak, and glimpses would become limited. Carrying on up the mountain our first stop was at the tourist area (approx. 1,750 – 1,800 metres) to stock up on postcards and lava made souvenirs. After which was a short journey to escape the crowds, towards a coniferous woodland area. We were still around the 1,700 metre mark, and patches of snow could be found in the rocky gullies, as we walked by. The endemic broom *Genista aetnensis* was found scattered around, but unfortunately was not in flower. Goldcrest and Nuthatch were heard, but no Crossbills.

Unfortunately, as we moved on to enjoy the picturesque views of the mountain landscape, the heavy cloud had crept in and obscured any chance that we might have had. We twisted and turned

along the wooded ravine as we carried on down the side of the mountain, passing various orchards of almonds or peach but it was hard to tell which one, as none of the trees were in flower. However the floor of the orchards were awash with the pinks of *Erodium acaule*, and looking over the wall at our lunch stop, blue from *Anchusa cretica*, and *Alkanna tinctoria*.

Lunch was served in the vehicles due to the sudden burst of hailstone and rain, which had caused the group to make a mad dash from their botanising. The shower soon passed over, and we soon found ourselves looking at a dark form of *Dactylorhiza romana*. Nearby were *Polypodium cambricum*, *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, *Ceterach officinarum*, and a small sedum. Some leaves of *Cyclamen hederifolium* were also found, but none in flower.

After lunch, a stop was made for some fine spikes of another endemic orchid *Orchis brancifortii*, while *Lupinus angustifolius* and *Vicia villosa*, garnished the roadsides along this area. The peony stop only found a bud of *Paeonia mascula*, but the stop was worth it for the striking flowering spikes of *Barlia robertiana*. It was then the long journey home with a quick stop at a supermarket to replenish supplies.

Day 6 Thursday 2nd April Valle del'Anapo

What a fantastic morning with birds singing, and various species of oak, ash and plane bursting into leaf giving the valley a lush spring feel as you looked down on the flowing river below. This morning we were spending it in the Valle del' Anapo valley, walking along the disused railway track that transported various materials from Siracusa to Vizzini, until its closure in 1956. There are a few abandoned buildings along the route presumably they were connected to the railway when it was in operation.

However, before we reached the valley our attention was distracted by the stunning views of Monte Etna, providing a quick photography opportunity. We have been really lucky with the views of the mountain, and weather for this time of the year.

This was a delightful walk following the winding course of the Anapo River. Various tree species lined the river banks below, where a variety of passerines could be heard singing, such as Blackcap, Robin, Chiffchaff and Cetti's Warbler. The path led through a wooded gorge with various open areas. The damp mossy stone banks were home to a variety of ferns and spleenwort's including the clubmoss *Selaginella denticulata*.

A Buzzard soared from the heights of the cliffs, while a Raven's rasping 'broc' was heard in the distance, a couple of Blue Rock Thrushes were briefly observed but otherwise bird activity was quiet. This was a far cry from the plants.

Most people were either bending down photographing or writing down the various names of the species seen, which seemed to be every footstep, 'car park botanising' at its best. Orchids were abundant here with a mixture of the usual suspects, *Ophrys lupercalis*, *Ophrys lunulata* and *Ophrys biancae*. A new orchid for the trip was *Ophrys phryganae*, a small lutea-like species. There was also a nice photographable spike of *Aceras anthropophorum*. Other plants to name but a few that caught

attention included *Ajuga orientalis*, *Veronica arvensis*, *Coronilla emerus*, *Calicotome spinosa*, various *Lathyrus* species, and *Scrophularia peregrina*.

It was also a good morning for butterflies, with a variety of whites bouncing along the path most of the morning. Little and Holly Blues, could be found in the various shrubby areas, where a Green Hairstreak was also spotted. Larger butterflies included Cleopatra and Clouded Yellow which were making a dash around the various plants, while a pair of Green-underside Blues flounced along, not sure whether to settle or not. However, it was the lizards that caused the great excitement, a large Italian Lizard had got hold of a smaller Italian Lizard above the tail, so it couldn't escape, not really sure what it was going to do with it, but the smaller one eventually got free after a bit of a struggle. A marvellous male Green Lizard, ran up one of the grassy slopes, the blue under the neck shown off very well by the vivid green of its body.

Lunch was under the shade of the trees, before moving on. Another grassy rocky outcrop was our next destination, and one that the group felt was the best yet, they were so enthralled with the various species of orchid, that it was really hard for them to return to the vehicles. In total about 16 species of orchid were found on this one site, with two new species for the trip, *Ophrys bertoloni* and the fusca type *Ophrys flammeola*, another endemic for Sicily.

Our last stop for the day was near Buscemi looking over the gorge. The town of Buscemi over looks the gorge, and has a past that dates back to the Bronze Age. The earthquake of 1693, flattened the whole town, and it was entirely rebuilt on the same site with remarkable examples of religious and civic architecture in the Baroque Style. We followed the road along the gorge, observing the remarkable architecture of the buildings, before reaching the viewpoint. Here *Orchis commutata* and *Orchis tridentata* were found, giving people a chance to discuss the differences of these near identical species. There were also some lovely spikes of *Orchis longicornu*, some having a purple lip rather than the normal white.

The evening skies had been wonderful over the past days, so Helen, Lorraine and Amanda went out for a walk to enjoy the night, as well as looking for porcupine. The night was clear with a bright crescent moon, and twinkling stars, but no porcupine. This may have because of the local dog that joined us, or rather that the porcupines preferred to wander around the small village down the road, as we found out later. However, Tawny Owl and tree frogs could be heard in the distance, adding to the surreal atmosphere of the night.

Day 7 Friday 3rd April Cassibile

Some of the group woke early today, to take photos of the parasite *Cytinus ruber* found underneath a cistus bush in the shrubby meadow, behind the tennis courts at the hotel. The plant was still in bud, but if we were lucky we might find one in flower this afternoon, at one of the limestone meadows we would be visiting. The beginning notes of a Nightingale song could be heard in the bushes in the gorge below, while a Wryneck called from a nearby bush, among the songs of the local residents, Serin and Fan-tailed Warbler. Although there was dew on the ground, the promising morning of clear blue skies was spreading overhead, and the sun was slowly warming up the day.

Today we were visiting a mixture of sites, but first a brief stop locally as Malcolm had found some *Serapias* in flower next to the hotel. The area around the hotel was proving to be a very fruitful place for orchids. The *Serapias* turned out to be *Serapias vomeracea* and *Serapias bergonii*. There were also some good examples of the usual suspects of orchids we had been seeing during the week. However Margaret, found a new fusca type for the trip *Ophrys lucifera*. When the group could eventually be prised away from this very lovely site, we headed towards the rocky meadow outcrops that were going to be just as prolific and as rewarding as the rest of the sites we had been visiting all week.

Our next stop was next to a disused quarry, with the noise of a used quarry not far away. We made a circular walk around the shrubby knoll, again another good site for orchids, plenty of *Ophrys panormitana*, *Ophrys lutea*, *Ophrys sicula*, and *Aceras anthropophorum*. The swards of Common Asphodels gave away the signs of grazing, but still *Evax pygmaea*, *Linum bienne*, *Alkanna tinctoria* and *Anemone hortensis* persisted.

However, it was *Ophrys bertoloni*, and *Ophrys explanata*, an endemic to Sicily, that was causing much discussion. To the untrained eye, *explanata* is the same as *Ophrys bertoloni*. Apparently, it is to do with the height of the stigmatic cavity that separates them.

The next stop extended to lunch as it was a lovely area to take in the surrounding countryside, and enjoy the midday sun. First we took a walk along the old stone walls fencing off the grassy meadows beyond, stopping to admire the flamboyant flowers of *Prunus webbii*. These walls were host to a variety of species, new to the list was, *Asterolinon linum-stellatum*, while Rustyback Fern *Ceterach officinarum*, *Polystichum setiferum* and *Anogramma leptophylla* could be found in the damp areas. The walk finished at an amber sea meadow created by *Chrysanthemum coronarium* and *Chrysanthemum segetum*. The naturalised *Iris germanica sub florentina* was found in small clumps across the meadow and a few flowering heads of *Anemone hortensis* and *Anemone coronaria* were found. An attractive Southern Festoon butterfly rested on one of the flower heads long enough for everyone to get a look. Wandering back for lunch, Italian Wall Lizard's scurried in and out of the crevices of the dry stone walls, Cleopatra, Orange-tip and a Red Admiral floated over head, while a Western Whip Snake darted over the wall as it was flushed from the verge.

Our next spot at Salinas Siracusa looked over a large reedbed of *Arundo donax*. Coot were the predominate bird on the water, with a few Shoveler roosting on the islands. A Marsh Harrier floated effortlessly over the reeds, while Swallows and Sand Martins wheeled and whirled low, feeding on the small flies that the afternoon attracts. Yellow-legged Gulls formed a raft out in the harbour, while a Mediterranean Gull flew towards the brackish inlet. The chords of a Nightingale starting up made the group stand and listen to see if it would burst into full song. An Emperor dragonfly whizzed by, while the smaller *Sympetrum* species hawked in short bursts, along the path. On the opposite side, one looked across the bay to an outstanding panoramic view of the old quarter of Siracusa.

On the plant front, there were some lovely heads of *Gynandrisis sisyrinchium*, next to a large patch of the parasite *Orobanche ramosa*. The unusually named Squirring Cucumber *Ecballium elaterium*, and *Carpobrotus edulis*, were found next to the derelict house, probably introduced from the house's former residents. Other species included nice stands of *Antirrhinum siculum*, *Linaria reflexa*, *Trifolium arvense*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Oxalis pres-caprae* which decorated the path in a trail of yellow. Paul kept the group guessing with *Kundmannia sicula*, found next to the spiny *Acacia retinoides*. Leaving the

area, there was an incredible lovely spread of *Convolvulus elegantissimus* climbing the chain link fence.

Our final stop was at the spectacular geological gorge formation of Cava Grande di Cassibile. This was our last stop for the trip and what a way to end a spectacular week taking time out to view the magnificent ravine, parts of which we had been visiting during the week. There was also time to have a potter for anything new in the plant species, or find a Blue Rock Thrush, which Malcolm did with great exuberance, as the afternoon light intensified the blue of the bird creating a breathtaking moment. A group photo was taken before we departed back to the hotel for a last walk around the area, before packing.

The landscape over the past week had been unforgettable. The country lanes had been lit up by the spectrum of colours, from the various flowering species we had found throughout the week. Looking across the landscape, between the ramshackle houses, and broken walls, Dwarf palms, Agave sp. and *Opuntia ficus-indica* were plentiful, and old olive trees of twisted bark were found scattered among rock-strewn meadows, creating the characteristic Sicilian scenery that is often shown in coffee table books.

Day 8 Saturday 4th April Transfer to Catania and Departure

Before breakfast some of the group had a last wander around the grounds of the hotel, to enjoy the surroundings, and catch a last glimpse of any new bird species or get that last photo of an orchid. Malcolm found a nice Short-toed Treecreeper feeding in the trees behind the hotel, a new bird for the trip.

The journey to Catania airport was relatively uneventful; Hoopoes and Little Egrets were spotted flying past the *Eucalyptus camuldulensis* that lined the road towards the airport. The landscape was a mixture of greens and yellow as the sun shone over head, reminding us of the lovely weather that had graced us for the duration of our stay.

The weather had stayed bright, the views were outstanding and the plants were bountiful. In total 32 different species of orchid were recorded, not counting the hybrids. Everyone had plenty to keep them occupied, and were armed with plenty of photos to identify when they get back home.

Itinerary Summary

Day 1	28 th March 2009	Arrival and transfer to Masseria degli ulivi
Day 2	29 th March 2009	Masseria area – local limestone fields – Testa del Acqua road
Day 3	30 th March 2009	Monte Lauro – Ferla area – Pantalica
Day 4	31 st March 2009	Vendicari – Isole delle Correnti
Day 5	1 st April 2009	Monte Etna
Day 6	2 nd April 2009	Val del'Anapo – Cassaro – Buscemi
Day 7	3 rd April 2009	Cannicattini to Cassibile road – Salinas Siracusa – Cava Grande di Cassibile
Day 8	4 th April 2009	Transfer to Catania – Departure

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

The listing is alphabetical within each family. Some records from previous years of species not recorded in 2009 are retained together with the year in which they were last seen on the tour. 2009 indicates a species recorded for the first time this year.

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Selaginella Scattered records, e.g. Val d'Anapo

Pteridophyta

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Pantalica
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	Roadside rocks along Cannicattini to Cassibile road. Also West Etna. The only annual fern in the region.
[<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	Recorded in previous years]
<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	Forked Splpenwort	Mt.Etna 2009
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Mt.Etna
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	West slope of Mt.Etna
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	Widespread, e.g. west slope of Mt.Etna, Val d'Anapo, Cannicattini to Cassibile road
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Mt.Etna
[<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male Fern	Recorded 2008]
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	Scattered, e.g. Val d'Anapo, west Etna
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield Fern	Cannicattini to Cassibile road
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Local, e.g. Etna and Val d'Anapo

Pinaceae

<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	Widespread
<i>Pinus laricio</i>	Corsican Pine	Upper slopes of Mt.Etna
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	Monte Lauro
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone Pine	Scattered plantations

Cupressaceae

<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	Val d'Anapo, Syracuse area, Monte Lauro
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Higher slopes of Mt.Etna
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	Vendicari dunes

Ephedraceae

<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	a joint pine	South coast
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Betulaceae

<i>Betula aetnensis</i>	a beech	A few on Mt.Etna, 2009
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Fagaceae

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Mount Etna, not yet in leaf
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Scattered

<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	Widespread, e.g. around hotel
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	Mount Etna, just coming into leaf
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Holly Oak	Widespread, e.g. Val d'Anapo
<i>Quercus dalechampii</i>	an oak	Probably this species along Val d'Anapo

Rafflesiaceae

<i>Cytinus ruber</i>		Cannicattini to Cassibile road and near hotel, parasitic on <i>Cistus</i> .
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Salicaceae

<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Val d'Anapo
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	Val d'Anapo
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	Val d'Anapo, Testa del Acqua road
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	Val d'Anapo, Testa del Acqua road

Juglandaceae

<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Scattered
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Ulmaceae

<i>Ulmus canescens</i>	Mediterranean Elm	Val d'Anapo
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Moraceae

<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Widespread and common
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Santalaceae

<i>Osyris alba</i> [<i>Thesium humile</i>]	Osyris a bastard toadflax	Scattered, e.g. near hotel Syracusa area 2008]
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Loranthaceae

<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Mistletoe	On a few trees on west slope of Mt.Etna
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Urticaceae

<i>Parietaria diffusa</i>	Pellitory of the Wall	Widespread
<i>Parietaria lusitanica</i>	a pellitory of the wall	Val d'Anapo
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	Common Pellitory	Scattered, e.g. Pantalica
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	Scattered
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membraneous Nettle	Pantalica
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle	Pantalica

Aristolochiaceae

[<i>Aristolochia altissima</i>]	a birthwort	Cannicattini to Cassibile road 2004]
[<i>Aristolochia clusii</i>]	a birthwort	West slope of Mt. Etna 2008]
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>	a birthwort	A few in flower at Vendicari

Polygonaceae

[<i>Emex spinosa</i>]	Emex	Vendicari 2008]
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea Knotgrass	South coast
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	a dock	Widespread and locally common

<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	
<i>Rumex scutatus</i> f.aetnensis	French Sorrel	Growing on lava flows on Mt.Etna
<i>Rumex thyrsoides</i>		Cannicattini to Cassibile road 2009

Chenopodiaceae

<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachya</i>	Perennial Glasswort	Vendicari
[<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Sea Beet	South coast
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Nettle-leaved Goosefoot	South coast
<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane	Scattered coastal records
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Seablite	Scattered coastal records
<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	Glasswort	South coast

Nyctaginaceae

<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	Salinas Syracuse, coming into flower
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Aizoaceae

<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	Red Hottentot Fig	South coast
[<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig	South of Syracuse 2008]
[<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Ice Plant	South Coast 2005]

Caryophyllaceae

<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	Scattered records
[<i>Cerastium brachypetalum</i>	Grey Mouse-ear	Mount Etna 2008]
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	Syracusa region etc.
[<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Fine-leaved Sandwort	Cannicattini to Cassibile road 2005]
[<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	Upright Chickweed	Possibly this species on Monte Lauro 2008]
[<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	Recorded 2004]
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Annual Pearlwort	Cannicattini to Cassibile road etc.
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Perennial Pearlwort	Scattered, e.g. at hotel
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Annual Knawel	Syracusa area
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion	Val d'Anapo
[<i>Silene armeria</i>	Sweet William Catchfly	Syracusa 2005]
[<i>Silene behen</i>	a catchfly	Syracusa 2005]
<i>Silene colorata</i>	a catchfly	Widespread and very common
[<i>Silene fuscata</i>	a catchfly	En route to Monte Lauro 2008]
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	Scattered, e.g. near hotel
<i>Silene sedoides</i>	a catchfly	South Venicari 2009
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Scattered
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey	Scattered
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	Scattered
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>	Great Chickweed	Val d'Anapo, Testa del Acqua road

Ranunculaceae

[<i>Adonis annua</i>	Pheasant's-eye	A few near the hotel, and Testa del Acqua road 2008]
<i>Adonis microcarpa</i>	Yellow Pheasant's-eye	Several at Vendicari, most red flowered, a few yellow
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemome	Scattered records in very small numbers, with fewer than ten in total
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	an anemone	Widespread and very common
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Virgin's Bower	In leaf in Val d'Anapo
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	Widespread in leaf
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist	In fruit near hotel
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Scattered
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine	Local, Monte Lauro and Val d'Anapo
<i>Ranunculus flabellatus</i>	Jersey Buttercup	Scattered records, mostly in leaf (<i>paludosus</i>)
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	a buttercup	Locally common, finely pinnate leaves
[<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	a buttercup	Near the hotel (Fattoria) 2007]
<i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>	a buttercup	Syracusa area, e.g. Testa del Acqua road

Paeoniaceae

<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	a peony	Several in bud on the west slope of Mount Etna, whereas usually in bloom at this time
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Capparaceae

<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	In leaf at Pantalica and Val d'Anapo
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Papaveraceae

<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy	Scattered records
[<i>Papaver setigerum</i>	an opium poppy	South coast 2008]

Fumariaceae

[<i>Fumaria bastardii</i>	Tall Ramping Fumitory	South coast 2005]
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping-Fumitory	Widespread and common
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	Near the hotel
<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Fumitory	Pantalica

Cruciferae

[<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	Mount Etna 2008]
[<i>Allysum</i> sp.		A small yellow flowered annual species on Mount Etna, 2007]
[<i>Arabis alpina</i>	Alpine Rockcress	Syracusa and Buscemi 2005]
[<i>Arabis collina</i>	a rockcress	Slope near Don Bosco 2005]
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rockcress	Near Buscemi
[<i>Arabis pseudoturritis</i>	a rockcress	Possibly this species seen on day 4, 2007]
<i>Arabis rosea</i>	a rockcress	Near Pantalica, in fine flower and fruit
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rockcress	Local, e.g. near hotel, and Pantalica

<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress	Recorded
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Common Wintercress	Scattered, e.g. Val d'Anapo
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Biscutella	This and the following species widespread
<i>Biscutella lyrata</i>		
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard	Scattered
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Noted on the shore in the south
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	Widespread and abundant
<i>Capsella rubella</i>	a shepherd's purse	Scarce
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	Near Catania
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Common Whitlow-grass	In flower on Monte Lauro
<i>Eruca sativa</i>	Eruca	Widespread and common
[<i>Erysimum</i> sp.]	a treacle mustard	West slope of Mt.Etna, one of three endemic species, not in Flora Europaea 2008]
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad	Abundant on roadsides near Catania
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison	Widespread
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	Hoary Stock	Salinas Syracuse
<i>Matthiola sinuata</i>	Sea Stock	South coast dunes
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard	Scattered
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	Widespread
[<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London Rocket	South coast 2005]
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Roadsides
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish	Scattered
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Water-cress	Testa del Acqua road

Resedaceae

<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	Widespread, e.g. near hotel
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	Scattered records
[<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette	Syracusa area 2008]

Crassulaceae

[<i>Crassula tillaea</i>		Monte Lauro 2004]
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	a stonecrop	South coast, in fine flower
<i>Sedum caespitosum</i>	a stonecrop	Noted in leaf
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	In leaf in Syracuse area
<i>Sedum ochroleucon</i>	a stonecrop	In leaf, Testa del Acqua road
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	a stonecrop	In leaf in Syracuse area
<i>Sedum stellatum</i>	Starry Stonecrop	Scattered records in leaf , e.g.Vendicari and Monte Lauro
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	a navelwort	West slope of Mt.Etna
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	Widespread

Saxifragaceae

<i>Saxifraga graeca (carpetana)</i>		Monte Lauro, in leaf only
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	Noted in various localities

Platanaceae

<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Tree	Val d'Anapo
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Rosaceae

<i>Crataegus azarolus</i>	Medlar	A few noted
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Midland Hawthorn	Noted occasionally
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Scattered
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Quince	A few naturalised
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	Val d'Anapo
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	Val d'Anapo
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	Commonly cultivated
<i>Prunus persica</i>	Peach	Cultivated
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Locally common
<i>Prunus webbii</i>	a wild almond	In good flower and fruit along the Cannicattini to Cassibile road
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved Pear	Widespread and very common
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	Scattered, e.g. Val d'Anapo
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Locally common
<i>Potentilla hirta</i>	a cinquefoil	In leaf at Vendicari
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	In leaf at Pantalica
<i>Rosa</i> spp.	rose species	Several species not identified
<i>Rubus</i> spp.	bramble species	Several species not identified

Fabaceae

<i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Blue-leaved Wattle	Vendicari, in fine flower
<i>Acacia retinoides</i>	a wattle	Vendicari, in fine flower
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	Scattered records, common near hotel
<i>Anthyllis tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch	Pantalica
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	Widespread and common, represented by one or more of the red flowered subspecies
<i>Astragalus boeticus</i>	a milk-vetch	Near the hotel
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	a milk-vetch	Val d'Anapo
<i>Astragalus sicularis</i>	a milk-vetch, spina santa	Mt.Etna, dense cushions at high altitudes
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	Thorny Broom	Widespread and common
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob Tree	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Scattered, in flower
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna	Val d'Anapo and Syracuse area
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Annual Scorpion Vetch	Widespread
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	a scorpion vetch	Near the hotel
[<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>]		South coast 2008]
<i>Genista aetnensis</i>	Mt.Etna Broom	Dominant on the slopes of Mt.Etna but not in flower
<i>Hippocrepis multisiliquosa</i>	a horseshoe vetch	Scattered
<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i>	a horseshoe vetch	Widespread
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	Roadsides near Catania
<i>Hedysarum glomeratum</i>	a sainfoin	A few on the south coast
<i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i>	Disc Trefoil	Near Pantalica, and Val d'Anapo
[<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>]		Near Solarino 2004]
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>		Widespread and reasonably common
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>		Widespread and very common
[<i>Lathyrus hirsutus</i>]	Hairy Vetchling	Val d'Anapo 2008]
[<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>]		Testa del Acqua road, Vendicari, 2008]

<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>		Scattered
<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>		Recorded
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Widespread
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	a bird's-foot trefoil	South coast dunes
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i>	a bird's-foot trefoil	Syracusa area
<i>Lotus preslii</i>	a bird's-foot trefoil	Vendicari, this was the tall robust bird's foot trefoil in the marsh
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	Scattered, Monte Lauro and west Etna
<i>Lupinus varius</i>	a lupin	Near Monte Lauro
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	Val d'Anapo
[<i>Medicago intertexta</i>	a medick	South coast 2008]
<i>Medicago littoralis</i>	a medick	South coast dunes
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Syracusa area
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	South coast dunes
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Bur Medick	Recorded
[<i>Medicago murex</i>	a medick	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large Disk Medick	Near the hotel
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick	Locally common
<i>Medicago praecox</i>	a medick	Pantalica
[<i>Medicago scutellata</i>	a medick	Near the hotel 2008]
[<i>Medicago tornata</i>	a medick	Pantalica 2008]
<i>Medicago turbinata</i>	a medick	Vendicari
[<i>Melilotus elegans</i>	a melilot	South coast 2005]
[<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	Near the hotel 2008]
<i>Melilotus italicus</i>	a melilot	Probably this species near the hotel, not in fruit
[<i>Melilotus messanensis</i>	a melilot	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Melilotus sulcatus</i>	Furrowed Melilot	Scattered
[<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	a sainfoin	Near Don Bosco 2007]
[<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin	1 plant at Vendicari]
<i>Ononis minutissima</i>	a restharrow	Widespread, some in flower
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Restharrow	South coast, some in flower
[<i>Ononis pendula</i>	a restharrow	Near Cassara 2004]
[<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small Restharrow	Testa del Acqua road and Vendicari 2008]
<i>Ononis variegata</i>	a restharrow	South coast dunes
[<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	2008]
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wild Pea	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Local, some in flower
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia	Val d'Anapo and south coast
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus	Scattered, e.g. Val d'Anapo
<i>Scorpiurus vermiculatus</i>		Val d'Anapo
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides near Catania
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus Pea	Widespread and very common
[<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	2008]
<i>Trifolium bocconeii</i>	Twin-headed Clover	West slope of Etna
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	Scattered
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	a clover	Scattered records
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	Val d'Anapo

[<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	Local, 2008]
<i>Trifolium micranthum</i>	Slender Trefoil	Near hotel
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Widespread
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	Scattered
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Star Clover	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Subterranean Clover	Monte Lauro
[<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil	Vendicari 2008]
[<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian Vetch	Val d'Anapo 2008]
[<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Vetchling	Syracusa area 2004]
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetchling	Widespread and abundant
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Spring Vetch	Local
<i>Vicia leucantha</i>	a vetch	In flower and fruit, west Etna
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch	Local
<i>Vicia melanops</i>	a vetch	West Etna 2009
[<i>Vicia narbonensis</i>	a vetch	Recorded 2004]
<i>Vicia peregrina</i>	a vetch	Scattered
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	Scattered
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Scattered
[<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	Syracusa 2005]
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	Widespread in small numbers

Oxalidaceae

[<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	Syracusa 2005]
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Widespread and very common

Geraniaceae

<i>Erodium acaule</i>	Stemless Stork's-bill	Monte Lauro and west Etna
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Scattered
<i>Erodium laciniatum</i>	a stork's-bill	South coast dunes
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	Widespread
<i>Erodium maritimum</i>	a stork's-bill	South coast
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill	<i>Carduncellus caeruleus</i> site
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Cranesbill	Val d'Anapo etc.
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot Cranesbill	Widespread
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Scattered, e.g. Val d'Anapo
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Cranesbill	Syracusa area

Linaceae

<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	Very few seen, e.g. near hotel
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Euphorbiaceae

[<i>Andrachne telephioides</i>	Andrachne	Near the hotel 2007, also on ruins in Syracusa in 2005]
<i>Euphorbia ceratocarpa</i>	a spurge	This is the common medium sized spurge in dry rocky pastures
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Widespread and common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Locally numerous, as at Pantalica
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge	Scattered
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Widespread and common

<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	South coast dunes
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	Local
<i>Euphorbia pinea</i>	a spurge	South coast dunes
<i>Euphorbia pithyusa</i> ssp.cupanii	a spurge	South coast etc
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Widespread and common
[<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	South coast 2004]
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Roadsides

Rutaceae

<i>Citrus aurantiacum</i>	Seville Orange	Cultivated
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Cultivated
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	Cultivated
[<i>Ruta angustifolia</i>	a rue	Near Don Bosco 2004]
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	Scattered, e.g. Pantalica

Polygalaceae

[<i>Polygala monspeliaca</i>	a milkwort	Recorded in 2004]
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Anacardiaceae

<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Widespread and abundant
<i>Pistachia terebinthus</i>	Terebinth	Certainly present at Pantalica, but not noted this year!

Rhamnaceae

<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	Widespread
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Malvaceae

<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	South coast
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Small Tree Mallow	South coast
[<i>Malva cretica</i>	a mallow	Syracusa area 2008]
[<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	Recorded 2008]
[<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Least Mallow	Recorded 2004]
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Widespread

Thymelaeaceae

<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	West slope of Mt.Etna, in leaf
<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	a daphne	Scattered in leaf
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		South coast, where locally common

Violaceae

<i>Viola alba</i> ssp.dehnhardtii	White Violet	Near Pantalica. This subspecies is violet not white flowered.
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy	Locally common on west slope of Mt.Etna
<i>Viola</i> sp.		A violet in flower along Val d'Anapo was not identified

Guttiferae

<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-Wort	Noted in leaf
<i>Hypericum triquetrifolium</i>	Crisped St.John's-wort	In bud at Vendicari

Cistaceae

<i>Cistus creticus</i>	a cistus	Widespread, not in flower
<i>Cistus crispus</i>	a cistus	Syracusa region, not in flower
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Widespread, not in flower
<i>Fumana thymiifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana	Cannicattini to Cassibile road, in bud
<i>Helianthemum aegyptiacum</i>	a rockrose	Widespread, e.g. near hotel
<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>	Willow-leaved Rockrose	Scattered records

Tamaricaceae

<i>Tamarix africana</i>	a tamarisk	Scattered. Probably other species seen too.
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Frankeniaceae

[<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath	Priolo and south coast 2008]
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Cucurbitaceae

<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Salinas Syracuse
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Cactaceae

<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	Widespread
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Lythraceae

[<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Grass-poly	1 plant at Vendicari 2004]
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Myrtaceae

<i>Eucalyptus camuldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	Widely planted, as at Vendicari
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Vendicari and near hotel

Araliaceae

<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Scattered
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Apiaceae

<i>Anthriscus nemorosus</i>	a hedge parsley	Val d'Anapo
<i>Bupleurum fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Hare's-ear	Roadside near Noto, and Val d'Anapo
<i>Chaerophyllum temulem</i>	Rough Chervil	Peony site on Mt.Etna
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	Scattered
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	South coast, in leaf
<i>Daucos carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Scattered records
<i>Daucus spp.</i>	carrot species	Other species probably present
<i>Echinophora spinosa</i>	Echinophora	South coast dunes
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	Widespread in leaf
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	South coast dunes in leaf
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Widespread and common

<i>Ferulago nodosa</i>	Ferulago	Locally common, swollen nodes on stems distinctive, mostly dead stems seen
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Locally common
<i>Kundmannia sicula</i>	Kundmannia	Salinas Syracuse
<i>Opopanax chironium</i>	Opopanax	The large lobed pinnate leaves of this species were seen in the south
<i>Opopanax hispidus</i>	an Opopanax	Scattered in leaf. Large leaves with oval-lanceolate lobes, hispid.
<i>Pimpinella</i> sp.	Burnet Saxifrage	Noted in flower. 4 species occur.
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's-needle	Widespread and locally common
<i>Seseli tortuosum</i>		Dunes at Vendicari
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Greater Water-parsnip	Leaves noted
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Widespread, e.g. Testa del Acqua road
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Widespread and locally common
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	Scattered, in leaf
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Tordylium	Widespread and locally common
Ericaceae		
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	a heath	Locally common. A calcicole.
Primulaceae		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	Widespread and common, blue flowered form much commoner than the red
<i>Asterolinon linum-stellatum</i>	Asterolinon	Cannicattini to Cassibile road
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Ivy-leaved Sowbread	Leaves noted, west Etna
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread	Locally still in flower
Plumbaginaceae		
<i>Limonium narbonense</i>	a sea lavender	Vendicari, one in flower
<i>Limonium vulgare</i>	Common Sea-Lavender	South coast?
<i>Limonium</i> spp.	sea lavender species	Other species were not identified. 47 occur on the island.
Oleaceae		
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash	Val d'Anapo and near the hotel, just coming into leaf
<i>Olea europea</i>	Olive	Widely cultivated, some wild too
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		Vendicari
Apocynaceae		
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Locally numerous on roadsides
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	Locally common
Gentianaceae		
[<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	In leaf at Vendicari 2008]
[<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	a few at Vendicari 2008]

Rubiaceae

<i>[Asperula arvensis]</i>	Blue Woodruff	Near Don Bosco 2007]
<i>Crucianella maritima</i>	Coastal Crucianella	Several on south coast dunes
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Scattered records
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	Widespread but not in flower
<i>Galium verrucosum</i>	a bedstraw	Widespread, distinctive warty fruits
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	Scattered
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Sherardia	Widespread and common
<i>Valantia hispida</i>	Valantia	Picnic site near Pantalica etc.
<i>Valantia muralis</i>		Common

Theligiaceae

<i>Theligonium cynocrambe</i>	Theligonium	Local on walls and stones
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Convolvulaceae

<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Great Bindweed	South coast and Pantalica
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Scattered
<i>[Convolvulus arvensis]</i>	Field Bindweed	Scattered records 2005]
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	a bindweed	Pantalica
<i>[Convolvulus siculus]</i>	Small Blue Convolvulus	Vendicari 2007]
<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i>	Dwarf Convolvulus	Catania Airport
<i>[Cuscuta epithymum]</i>	Common Dodder	On <i>Thymus</i> , near Don Bosco, 2004]
<i>[Cuscuta palaestina]</i>	a dodder	Possibly this species at Pantalica 2008]

Boraginaceae

<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Alkanet	Widespread and common
<i>Anchusa cretica</i>	an alkanet	West slope of Mt. Etna
<i>[Anchusa italica]</i>	Large Blue Alkanet	Near the hotel 2008]
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Common and widespread
<i>[Buglossoides arvensis]</i>	Corn Gromwell	Buscemi road 2005]
<i>Buglossoides purpureocaerulea</i>	Purple Gromwell	Val d'Anapo
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Honeywort	Widespread and locally abundant
<i>Cynoglossum clandestinum</i>	a hound's-tongue	Syracusa area
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-Tongue	Scattered records
<i>Echium arenarium</i>	a Viper's-Bugloss	South coast dunes
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pyramidal Bugloss	Previous year's spikes noted, and some leaf rosettes
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	Small-flowered Viper's-Bugloss	Pantalica
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-Bugloss	Common
<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Early Forget-me-not	Monte Lauro
<i>Symphytum bulbosum</i>	a comfrey	Testa del Acqua road, riverside

Verbenaceae

<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	Roadsides in the south
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Lamiaceae

<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Very local, e.g. near the hotel
<i>Ajuga orientalis</i>	Oriental Bugle	Val d'Anapo
<i>Corydanthus capitatus</i>	a thyme	Locally common in leaf
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Deadnettle	West slope of Mt.Etna
[<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	a deadnettle	Val d'Anapo 2008]
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	Scattered in leaf
[<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Recorded 2005]
<i>Mentha</i> sp.		Pantalica, in leaf
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>		Pantalica
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	Scattered, a few in flower
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	Widespread
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	South coast etc.
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Three-leaved Sage	Rather common, locally in flower
<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Sage	Scattered
<i>Salvia verbenacea</i>	Wild Clary	Widespread and common
[<i>Satureja hortensis</i>	Summer Savory	Slope near Don Bosco 2005]
<i>Sideritis romana</i>		Vendicari
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Tree Germander	Widespread
<i>Teucrium polium</i>	Felty Germander	In leaf
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Large Thyme	In leaf

Solanaceae

<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	Roadsides
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Pantalica 2009
[<i>Solanum sodomaeum</i>	Apple of Sodom	South coast 2008]
[<i>Solanum villosum</i>	Hairy Nightshade	Recorded 2005]

Scrophulariaceae

<i>Antirrhinum siculum</i>	Sicilian Snapdragon	Widespread and common, seen daily
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	Local, mainly far south
[<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	Noted on two days 2008]
<i>Linaria reflexa</i>	a toadflax	Widespread
<i>Linaria triphylla</i>	Three-leaved Toadflax	Locally very common
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	Seen in leaf at south Vendicari
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel's Snout	2 only, Pantalica
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	Locally common
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	Vendicari, very few, whereas numerous there in 2008
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort	In leaf on Etna
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	1, Val d'Anapo
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	a mullein	Widespread in leaf
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Aaron's Rod	Old spikes noted
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell	Val d'Anapo and near hotel
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell	Widespread
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	Mt.Etna
[<i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field-Speedwell	Recorded 2007]
<i>Veronica verna</i>	Spring Speedwell	Near the hotel 2009

Orobanchaceae

[<i>Orobanche canescens</i> <i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	a broomrape Clove-scented Broomrape	Syracusa area, on composites, 2007] Roadside en route to Monte Lauro, in bud, on <i>Galium</i>
<i>Orobanche gracilis</i> <i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i> [<i>Orobanche lutea</i>	Slender Broomrape a broomrape a broomrape	Vendicari, some fine spikes, on legumes Val d'Anapo, on <i>Psoralea bituminosa</i> Probably this species noted on Fabaceae on day 4, 2007]
[<i>Orobanche minor</i> <i>Orobanche pubescens</i> <i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Common Broomrape a broomrape Branched Broomrape	Noted in the south, 2008] Val d'Anapo Scattered records, e.g. Val d'Anapo and Vendicari
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	Previous year's spikes of this species associated with <i>Genista aetnensis</i> on Mt.Etna

Myoporaceae

<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Ngaio	In flower in the south. Native of New Zealand.
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Acanthaceae

<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's Breech	Widespread
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Plantaginaceae

<i>Plantago arenaria</i>	Branched Plantain	Widespread
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	South coast
<i>Plantago crassifolia</i>	a plantain	South coast, linear fleshy leaves
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	a plantain	Widespread
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Scattered
<i>Plantago macrorhiza</i>	a plantain	South coast
<i>Plantago serraria</i>	a plantain	Locally common

Caprifoliaceae

<i>Lonicera etrusca</i> <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle Elder	Near the hotel and south coast, in leaf Val d'Anapo and Testa del Acqua road
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Valerianaceae

<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i> <i>Centranthus ruber</i> <i>Fedia cornucopiae</i> <i>Valerianella</i> spp.	a valerian Red Valerian Fedia corn salad species	Vendicari Widespread Locally common Scattered, none in fruit so positive identification difficult. 11+ species occur.
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Dipsacaceae

<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> <i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Wild Teasel Mournful Widow	Old seed heads Occasionally noted, mostly in leaf
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Campanulaceae

<i>Campanula erinus</i> [<i>Legousia hybrida</i>]	a bellflower Venus's Looking Glass	Vendicari, a small annual Cannicattini to Cassibile road 2004]
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Asteraceae

<i>Anthemis aetnensis</i>	a chamomile	In leaf on Mt.Etna
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile	Near Buscemi
<i>Anthemis maritimus</i>	a chamomile	South coast
<i>Anthemis secundiramea</i>	a chamomile	South coast 2009
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	a wormwood	Local on roadsides
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy	Locally common, e.g. Monte Lauro
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Widespread
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	Val d'Anapo
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Very common
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Pot Marigold	Pantalica etc.
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	a thistle	Pantalica
<i>Carduncellus caeruleus</i>	Carduncellus	One plant, with 1 flower, on a verge en route to Monte Lauro
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	Flat-topped Carline Thistle	Scattered old flowering heads
<i>Carlina nebrodensis</i>	a carline thistle	Old flowering heads on Mt.Etna
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	a star thistle	In bud
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	a star thistle	In bud at Pantalica etc.
<i>Centaurea nicaeensis</i>	a star thistle	In bud
[<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow-star Thistle	In flower near the hotel 2007]
<i>Centaurea sphaerocephala</i>	a knapweed	South coast, in flower
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	Widespread and abundant
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	Scattered
<i>Coleostephus myconis</i>		Cannicattini to Cassibile road
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian Fleabane	Val d'Anapo
<i>Crepis</i> spp.	Hawksbeards	Several species not identified.
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina	Noted in leaf
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	Local in leaf
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	a stink aster	Widespread
[<i>Evax astericifolia</i>		Recorded 2005]
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		Vendicari, Pantalica, etc.
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	Broad-leaved Cudweed	Vendicari
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed	Pantalica
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Widespread and abundant
<i>Hedypnois rhagadioloides</i>	Hedypnois	Near Pantalica
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		Scattered
<i>Helichrysum</i> spp.		Several other species present but not identified. Several endemic species on Sicily.
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		Widespread
[<i>Hypochoeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's-ear	Near hotel 2005]
<i>Hypochoeris achyrophorus</i>	Mediterranean Cat's-ear	Vendicari
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	South coast, not in flower
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	Scented Mayweed	Scattered

<i>[Onopordum illyricum</i>	Illyrian Scotch Thistle	Magnisi peninsula 2007]
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	South coast, not in flower
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		Pantalica
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>		Scattered
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		Pantalica etc.
<i>[Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawk-bit	Syracusa area 2008]
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton	In leaf
<i>[Scolymus grandiflorus</i>		An impressive yellow flowered thistle, in flower at Vendicari and Syracuse 2008]
<i>Senecio gallicus</i>		Sands at Vendicari
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	Widespread
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Often abundant
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Common
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-Thistle	Widespread
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>	a sow-thistle	Local
<i>[Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Mt.Etna 2004]
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	Recorded
<i>[Tragopogon crocifolius</i>	a goat's-beard	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	Near the hotel
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	Salinas Syracuse
<i>[Urospermum dalechampi</i>	Urospermum	Local 2008]

Monocotyledons

Posidoniaceae

Posidonia oceanica Posidonia Leaves and other debris abundant on southern shores

Juncaginaceae

Triglochin bulbosa Bulbous Arrow-grass Venticari
ssp.barrelieri

Liliaceae

[*Allium ampeloprasum* Wild Leek Noted in bud 2008]
Allium roseum Rosy Garlic On roadsides near hotel
 [*Allium subhirsutum* a garlic Venticari 2008]
 [*Allium subvillosum* a garlic Scattered records 2004]
Asparagus acutifolius an asparagus Widespread
Asparagus albus an asparagus South coast
Asparagus aphyllus an asparagus Pantalica
Asparagus tenuifolius an asparagus Venticari
Asphodeline lutea Yellow Asphodel Widespread in small numbers
Asphodelus fistulosus Hollow-stemmed Asphodel Common and widespread
Asphodelus microcarpus Common Asphodel Widespread and abundant
Bellevalia romana c.30 at *Carduncellus caeruleus* site, several on Monte Lauro, 1 near Buscemi
Gagea granatellii 2 plants on Monte Lauro 2009. Basal leaves flat. Leaves, stems, and petals, hairy.
Gagea saxatilis Numerous on Monte Lauro 2009. Basal leaves long and filiform, stems hairless.
Muscari commutatum a grape hyacinth Testa del Acqua road
Muscari neglectum Common Grape Hyacinth Venticari
Muscari comosum Tassel Hyacinth Scattered records
Ornithogalum collinum a star of bethlehem Reasonably common. Leaves linear with a white stripe.
Ornithogalum montanum a star of bethlehem Widespread. Leaves broad with no white stripe.
 [*Ornithogalum narbonense* a star of bethlehem 1 spike near the hotel 2004]
Ruscus aculeatus Butcher's Broom Local
 [*Ruscus hypoglossum* Large Butcher's Broom Syracuse 2005]
Smilax aspera Common Smilax Widespread
Urginea maritima Sea Squill Widespread in leaf

Amaryllidaceae

Pancratium maritimum Sea Daffodil Leaves noted on south coast

Agavaceae

Agave americana Century Plant Scattered

Dioscoraceae

Tamus communis Black Bryony Scattered

Iridaceae

Gladiolus italicus Field Gladiolus Scattered, e.g. Vendicari
Hermodactylus tuberosus Widow Iris Many in fine flower this year, e.g. Monte Lauro. A few in seed.
Iris germanica Tall Bearded Iris Locally naturalised, including the white ssp. *florentina*
Iris pseudopumila an iris Many in flower this year. Purple and yellow/purple forms seen.
Gynandiris sisyrinchium Barbary Nut Local, not many in flower this year
Romulea bulbocodium Many on Monte Lauro, also Etna
Romulea columnae 2 at picnic site near Pantalica
Romulea ramiflora A few on Monte Lauro, all with very small white flowers

Palmae

Chamaerops humilis Dwarf Fan Palm South coast
Phoenix dactylifera Date Palm Widespread

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare Friar's Cowl 2 in flower in Val d'Anapo
Arum italicum Italian Lords-and-Ladies Mainly in Val d'Anapo
Arum orientale Noted in leaf

Juncaceae

Juncus acutus Sharp Rush South coast
Juncus articulatus Jointed Rush South coast
Juncus bufonius Toad Rush Vendicari
Juncus maritimus Sea Rush Vendicari

Cyperaceae

Schoenus nigricans Black Bog-rush Vendicari dunes
Scirpus holoschoenus Round-headed Club Rush Roadside en route to Monte Lauro
Carex caryophyllea Spring Sedge Widespread on limestone
Carex flacca Glaucous Sedge Limestone hills
[*Carex otrubae* False Fox Sedge Vendicari, near the hides, 2008]
Carex remota Remote Sedge What appears to be this species in Val d'Anapo
Carex sp. A different species near the hides at Vendicari was not identified

Poaceae

Agrostis stolonifera Creeping Bent Scattered
Aegilops geniculata Scattered
Aira caryophyllea Silver Hair-grass Vendicari etc.
Alopecurus pratensis Meadow Fox-tail Scattered

<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>		This large stately grass was widespread
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	Widespread
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Widespread
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-oat	Widespread
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large Quaking-grass	Scattered, e.g. Vendicari
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Great Brome	Widespread
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome	Scattered, e.g. Vendicari
<i>Bromus rigidus</i>	Stiff Brome	Local
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass	Scattered
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	Rough Dog's-tail	Scattered
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Widespread
<i>Desmazenia rigida</i>	Fern Grass	Vendicari and Pantalica
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	Widespread
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	Locally common, e.g. Vendicari
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Golden Dog's-tail	Syracusa
<i>Lygeum spartum</i>	Albardine	Roadside en route to Monte Lauro
<i>Melica arrecta</i>	a melick	Val d'Anapo and near the hotel
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Forming dense reed beds around wetlands
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	Ubiquitous
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass	Viviparous grass scattered, e.g. Val d'Anapo
<i>Stipa capensis</i>	Mediterranean Needle-grass	Widespread

Orchidaceae

<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid	Scarce. Near the hotel, Val d'Anapo, and Cannicattini to Cassibile road.
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant Orchid	Dead spikes widespread. Several still in flower including on south west slopes of Mt. Etna, and near hotel.
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>	Roman Orchid	1 red flowered spike on south-west slope of Etna, a few more in early bud.
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	A few fine examples near Pantalica.
[<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	2007:- 1 in good flower in the dunes at Vendicari was a surprisingly early record]
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	Monte Grosso and Cannicattini to Cassibile road. Several fine examples.
<i>Ophrys biancae</i>		Scarce, e.g. near the hotel and Cannicattini to Cassibile road. Endemic to Sicily.
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	In small numbers on three days.
<i>Ophrys caesiella</i>		Noted on one day. A small ' <i>fusca</i> ' endemic to Sicily and Malta.
<i>Ophrys exaltata</i>		Widespread in small numbers. Endemic to Sicily and Calabria.
<i>Ophrys explanata</i>		At one site on the last full day. Stigmatic cavity wider than tall. Endemic to Sicily.
<i>Ophrys flammeola</i>		This ' <i>subfusca</i> ' type was identified on Monte Grosso. Endemic to Sicily.

<i>Ophrys lucifera</i>		This <i>fusca</i> type was identified near the hotel. Clear transverse red line in stigmatic cavity, although speculum perhaps longer than it should be!
<i>Ophrys lupercalis</i>		A rather widespread and common <i>fusca</i> type.
<i>Ophrys incubacea</i>		Noted on three days.
<i>Ophrys lunulata</i>		A Sicilian endemic, local and quite rare. Scattered records in the Syracuse area with often only very few at a site. e.g. near the hotel and picnic site near Pantalica.
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	Widespread and common.
<i>Ophrys oxyrhynchos</i>		Local but widespread. Endemic to Sicily and southern Italy.
<i>Ophrys panormitana</i>		Widespread. Some fine colonies seen.
<i>Ophrys passionis</i> var. <i>garganica</i>		Testa del Acqua road and Val d'Anapo. The taxonomy of this taxon is very confused, but this is what it's called in edition 3 of Delforge!
<i>Ophrys phryganae</i>		Local. A small flowered 'lutea' relative. e.g. Val d'Anapo.
<i>Ophrys sicula</i>		Widespread and locally common.
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	Local in the Syracuse area.
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid	Widespread. Some fine colonies seen.
<i>Orchis brancifortii</i>		Several fine patches in one small area on Mount Etna. Endemic to Sicily and Sardinia, and one site in Calabria. 1+ near Buscemi.
<i>Orchis commutata</i>		Widespread and common.
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian Man Orchid	Widespread in small numbers, with several going over. e.g. Monte Lauro.
<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	Monte Lauro, also at Val d'Anapo, near Buscemi, etc.
<i>Orchis longicornu</i>		Widespread and reasonably common. c.10 plants at one site near Monte Lauro, 2008]
<i>Orchis papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	Val d'Anapo.
[<i>Orchis provincialis</i>		1 found near the hotel
<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid	Buscemi area 2007]
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>		Only 1 near Solarino in 2004]
[<i>Serapias cordigera</i>	Tongue Orchid	ssp. <i>siciliensis</i> . 1 found on the last full
[<i>Serapias lingua</i>		Day, 2008]
[<i>Serapias orientalis</i>		1 at Vendicari, 2008]
[<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Ploughshare Orchid	Only a few this year, near the hotel.

Systematic List Number 2 Butterflies

The taxonomy and systematic order follows that found in 'Butterflies of Britain and Europe', a HarperCollins guide, by Tolman.

Papilionidae

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Masseria and south coast
[Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Only seen on one day, 2008]
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	1 along Cannicattini to Cassibile road at a site where <i>Aristolochia altissima</i> has been seen in the past, presumably a foodplant. Not seen in 2008.

Pieridae

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Scattered records
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Scattered records
[Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	Only at Priolo, 2008]
Orange-Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Widespread in small numbers
[Eastern Orange-Tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>	A colony on the west slope of Mt.Etna, which is the type locality. Not seen 2009 due to poor weather.]
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Widespread in small numbers
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Widespread in small numbers
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	1 along Cannicattini to Cassibile road

Lycaenidae

Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Noted on two days
[Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Noted on one day only, 2008]
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	1 in Val d'Anapo
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	A few in Val d'Anapo, also near Masseria
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	A few at Pantalica
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	1 at Salinas Syracuse
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	1 on the south coast

Libytheidae

[Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	2008, 1 in Val d'Anapo was the most interesting butterfly record of the tour]
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Nymphalidae

[Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Near Don Bosco; Mt.Etna; and c.10 in Val d'Anapo in 2004. A few in 2005. 2006, 3 on west slope of Mt.Etna]
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	On only 2 days
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Widespread and rather common
[Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	1 on west slope of Mount Etna 2007]
[Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Scarce, noted on only 1 day 2004]
[Queen-of-Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	1 on west slope of Mount Etna 2007]

Satyridae

Small Heath
[Speckled Wood
Wall Brown
[Large Wall Brown

Coenonympha pamphilus
Pararge aegeria
Lasiommata megera
Lasiommata maera

Widespread and reasonably common
Widespread in suitable habitat, 2008]
Only noted on two days
Cannicattini to Cassibile road 2004]

Hesperiidae

Mallow Skipper

Carcharodus alceae

1 at Pantalica

Systematic List Number 3

Birds

The taxonomy and systematic order follow 'The Birds of Sicily, An annotated checklist' by Iapichino and Massa, 1989, BOU Checklist No.11.

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	A few at Syracuse
[Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Seen at Vendicari and Syracuse, 2008]
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	A few from the south coast, rather distant!
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen at Vendicari
[Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	12 at Vendicari, 2008]
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Several at Vendicari, a few elsewhere
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1 at Vendicari
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Vendicari and a few other records
[Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2 at Vendicari, 2008]
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	6 at Vendicari
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus phoenicopterus</i>	c.100 this year at Vendicari
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Vendicari
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A few at Vendicari
[Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	A pair at Salinas Syracuse, 2008]
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A few at Vendicari
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Vendicari etc.
[Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Vendicari 2008]
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Vendicari and Salinas Syracuse
[Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	A male at Vendicari, 2008]
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	A male at Vendicari
[Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	A very interesting record of one seen very well over Val d'Anapo, 2008]
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Scattered records
[Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	A male north of Syracuse, 2008]
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Masseria
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen on 3 days
[Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1 in Val d'Anapo, 2008]
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Singles at Vendicari, and low on Etna
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Scattered records
[Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Heard along the Cannicattini to Cassibile Road, 2008]
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Heard only
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Vendicari and Syracuse, common. Also at the 'bull pond'
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	A few at Vendicari
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	10+ at Vendicari
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	1 at Vendicari seen by Amanda & others
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1 at Vendicari
[Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	4 at Vendicari, 2008]
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	2 at Vendicari
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1 at Vendicari
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1 at Vendicari
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	1+ at Syracuse

[Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	A few at Vendicari, 2008]
Yellow-legged Herring Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Scattered coastal records
[Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	From the south coast, 2008]
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Widespread
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common in the forested hills
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen on 2 days around habitation. The 1989 BOU checklist lists only 2 records up till that date!
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Noted on three days
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard often, seen around the hotel
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Heard on one night from hotel
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard on several nights from hotel
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread and very common
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Several positively identified, others surely overlooked
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Several sightings and often heard, seen on 6 days, with a daily maximum of 5
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Seen and heard around the hotel (PC)
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	Heard often, sometimes seen
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Near the hotel, and heard elsewhere
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common and widespread
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Monte Lauro, and Cannicattini to Cassibile road
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Local
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	A few over Salinas Syracusa
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread and common
[Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Near the hotel 2008]
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Around the hotel
[Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	South coast lakes etc. ssp. <i>thunbergi</i> and possibly other ssp. present too, 2008]
[Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Val d' Anapo, 2008]
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	A few around the hotel
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Heard often, sometimes seen
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Scattered records
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Masseria, and heard at Salinas Syracusa
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Seen on only one day
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Noted on one day
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Scattered records
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	South coast and Monte Grosso
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	A male on the south coast
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	A male near Ferla
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Anapo gorge and Cassibile gorge
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread and common
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard daily and often seen too
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Widespread and common
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Heard at the 'bull pond'
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	Scarce, only near the hotel
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Widespread and common
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Widespread

Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Noted on 2 days, e.g. Val d'Anapo
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Calling, and seen briefly, in conifers on Etna
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Conifers on Mount Etna
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Widespread
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Widespread
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Heard on Mt.Etna
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Around the hotel (M.E.)
[Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1 at Salinas Syracuse, 2008]
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Widespread
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Very common and widespread
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Noto etc.
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Widespread and common
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A few records
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Widespread and common
House Sparrow x Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer x maltae</i>	Widespread and very common. The correct identity of the sparrows on Sicily is controversial, but they are treated under this taxon in Birds of the Western Palearctic.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Scattered records
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Scattered records
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Widespread and common
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Scattered records
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>	Widespread in small numbers, daily around the hotel
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Widespread and reasonably common

Systematic List Number 4 Amphibians and Reptiles

Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Tadpoles along Testa del Acqua road
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	belonged to one of these two species
Italian Pool Frog/Hybrid Frog	<i>Rana bergeri</i> / <i>R. hispanica</i>	Val d' Anapo
[Italian Tree Frog	<i>Hyla intermedia</i>	Seen briefly at Vendicari, 2008]
[Painted Frog	<i>Discoglossus pictus</i>	Heard at 'lupin stop' 2005]
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretanic</i>	1 at the Vendicari lunch site
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>	Several records
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>	Seen on at least three days
Western Whip Snake	<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i>	One caught by Stefano on south-west slope of Etna 2007. 2008 one recent road kill not far from the hotel. 2009 seen on at least 4 days.
[Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	1 in Val d' Anapo 2007]

Systematic List Number 5 Mammals

Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	A few road casualties
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Around the hotel
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Several road casualties
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	Droppings of probably this species seen at several sites
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Droppings noted
Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	The remains of one near the hotel, mostly quills. Reputedly introduced into Sicily and parts of mainland Italy, from north Africa by the Romans.
Savi's Pine Vole	<i>Pitymys savii</i>	The holes seen on Monte Lauro must have been caused by this species
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Seen on a few days
[Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	1 from hotel, 1 on Mt.Etna, 2008]