

Crete in Spring

A Greentours Trip Report by Fiona Dunbar

Species Lists by David Sales and Fiona Dunbar

Day 0 Friday 5th April

An evening walk on the Gious Cambos



Jean and I had an early start from Gatwick Airport, taking off at 8 am and landing late lunchtime. We arrived safely, were first away from the luggage carousel, collected the hire car and were in Spili by 3. Our hostess Christina met us and showed us to our rooms, and we decided to nip up to the nearby Gious Cambos for an hour to stretch our legs. Roadside vegetation included clumps of flowery Jerusalem Sage *Phlomis fruticosa*, Yellow and Spring Asphodels *Asphodeline lutea* and *Asphodelus aestivus*, purple-flowered

Summer Savoury *Salvia triloba*, clumps of magenta *Silene colorata* and white drifts of the little annual chamomile *Anthemis chia*. Craggy limestone escarpments rose above us and then after a few hairpin bends we reached the plateau. I had chosen a little track for a short walk with a lovely backdrop of a snowy Psiliritis. Jean and I spotted our first few orchids – showy *Orchis italica* and yellow *pauciflora*. There were spikes of *Ophrys gortinia*, the brown lipped small endemic with many flowers per stem, and our first *Tulipa doefluri* glowing in the sun. Thick grassy tufts of the beautifully marked *Iris cretica* were common, and there was one or two scented *Daphne laureolus*. Our track lead promisingly over a stream and up a hill, but a couple of noisy dogs made us choose a different route.

Returning to Spili, we wasted no time in heading for Costas and Maria's taverna across the road from our rooms, but for the first time ever they were not open! Opening tomorrow though. He pointed us up the street to a diner with a very limited menu of gryos, souvlaki, chips pitta bread and salad. We ordered our souvlaki and red wine. He brought white wine, that's all he had. Then the food arrived. It was delicious. The meat was tender and well cooked, the salad made from the best tomatoes, the pitta breads fresh and soft. An excellent first meal in Spili. Scops Owls called as we walked back to our rooms.

Day 1 6th Saturday April

A day on the Gious Cambos

A relaxed 9 am breakfast after our long day. Jill and David were now to join us this evening, so Jean and I set off to spend a day on the plateau.

Our first of many stops on this flowery place. Along the roadside were Perforate Alexanders, *Tulipa doefluri*, *Tragopogon porrifolius* or Goatsbeard and *Vicia sativa*. Grassy turf was thickly scattered with Lax-flowered orchids, Milky orchids and more *Orchis italica* mixed with thousands of *Crepis* flowers.

In the track were Sand crocuses – *Romulea bubcodium*, unusual to see them at this low an altitude. On the top of a small rocky outcrop was a large stand of *Orchis italica* with one very fine white individual.



Crossing over the road and the stream there were scattered *Tulipa doefluri* in the fields, and a couple of flaxes, the more restrained *Linum bienne* and the cultivated flax *Linum usitatissimum*

Working our way up a small knoll, the turf was thickly scattered with flowers, very often *Gagea graeca* and Cretan Camomile, and many pea family including *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Coronilla valentina* or Shrubby Crown Vetch, *Lotus orthithopodiodes* or Bird's-foot trefoil. We found *Orchis boryi*, *Aceras anthropomorphum* or Man Orchid

was more subtle, green, and brown, delicate *Orchis quadripunctata* and then our first bee orchids of the day with *Ophrys bombyliflora* and *sicula*, A large area of pink *Tulipa saxatilis* was well gone over, but we found a few nice, shaded individuals further up. Also by the limestone outcrop were a few *Cyclamen creticum*, Butchers Broom and showy yellow *Alyssum saxatile* or Golden Alyssum. The Barbary nuts were opening and although we had seen many plants all day the four o'clock plant was beginning to open. The wind was quite gusty despite a clear blue sky, at one point filled with at least 30 Griffon Vultures. Corn Buntings and Linnets called continuously. The primrose-like rosettes were *Pulicaria ordora*.

We picnicked at a small chapel with purpose-built walls for sitting and a stone table for local gatherings, next to a spring and an ancient plane tree. A friendly English couple joined us briefly for a chat; I did not relinquish my Monkey Orchid sites though. We walked and stopped at various points on the plateau. Totting up more and more species of orchid scattered in the flowery turf, Neapolitan ice cream coloured *O tenthredinifera* striking brown and white *O. cretica* and blousy *heldrichii*. A little white Speedwell was *Veronica cymbalaria* and watercress grew in the shallow ditch. In this little clearing were *Allium subhirsutum*, and the cliffs had *Valeriana asarifolia*. Maquis shrubs included attractive *Euphorbia spinosa* forming impressive hemispherical cushions., bright green with the hexagonal grid of prickles, Summer Savoury or *Salvia triloba*, *Satureja spinosa* and shiny-leaved *Prasium majus* with pairs of white flowers.

The nearly last stop was with fields of Orange Tulips; we would come back here so it was not to be a long stop, but it was the perfect sunlit afternoon to see a multitude of Barbary nuts wide open in flower mixed with tulips and *Chrysanthamum coronarium*.

We began to make our way down off the plateau, stopping at a little side gorge where Procopiana or *Symphytum creticum* grew plentifully with *Linum*



arboreum, the shubby yellow flax flowered heavily on the cliffs as well as the endemic cliff dwelling *Brassica cretica* and endemic *Origanum pseudodictamnus*. We wended our way back to Spili through olive groves and verges sporting gladioli.

Supper was eaten out of doors at Maria and Costas's, and as finished Jill and David arrived early from their delayed flight, tucking into home-made moussaka before turning in.

Day 2 Sunday 7th April Mourne and Agios Yorgos



Today we had another relatively local day, beginning in the village of Mourne for some super 13th Century frescos of heaven and purgatory in a small church. David spotted Dappled and Bath Whites and before even that David showed us a Ruby Tiger moth his moth light and sheet set overnight.

Parking at the top of a little track we took poles and picnic and began our morning's walk into a valley full of bird song and no sound of traffic. A Cirl Bunting put in a brief appearance and on the ground were patches of orange (rather than scarlet) Scarlet Pimpernel. Strolling along with the odd Griffon and Chough overhead we were soon stopping for plants – Hop trefoil and Star Clover, our first flamboyant Monkey Orchid, and the ever beautiful *Iris cretica*. Jill spotted our first *Ophrys spruneri* with a glowing blue pattern on its velvety black lip. Female Cleopatra and Clouded Yellow butterflies were seen.

Reaching a particular favourite spot of mine we left the main track in search of the rare creamy *Orchid provincialis*, which we found one spike of this year. In the same small area were many species of orchid, sometimes 6 species within a metre squared – *Orchis italica*, *provincialis*, *simia*, *collina*, *boryi*, *Serapias bergonii*, *Ophrys sicula* and *phrygana*, *cretensis* and *cretica*. There was a gorgeous white Monkey Orchid and some lovely if slightly small *Ophrys iricolor*, *Barlia robertiana* and *Anacamptis anthropomorphum*. Growing in the limestone outcrops were *Valeriana officinalis*, *Cyclamen cretica*, and *Ranunculus bullatus*.

More butterflies were spotted by David and Jill - Clouded Yellow, Comma, Holly Blue, Short-tailed Blue.

Our lunch stop was by a tiny Byzantine chapel, where we tried to find a shady spot and avoid the numerous *Ophrys cretica* whilst consuming our salad and spinach pies fresh from the bakers.

Working our way back up the hill was quite hot, but there were plenty of sights to distract us including a yellow spider which had just captured an ant – these are yellow so they can sit in wait on yellow flowers to pounce anything that flies in for the nectar.

Our final stop of the day was on the metamorphic green and black serpentine rock. An apparently barren slope had many tiny flowers on it, including the endemic *Tulipa cretica* with curling leaves and pale pink flowers, Viper's Grass *Scorzonera cretica*, *Rumex bucephalophorus* and a tiny rayless chamomile *Anthemis rigida*. Walking down into some small terraces below the grassy turf was full of flowers including *Erodium cicutarium* or Common Stork's-bill *Ophrys sphegodes subsp. gortynia* Peas, hundreds of *Orchis anatolica/sitiaca* (hybrid swarm) and more nice Giant Orchids. David spotted more *Tulipa cretica*.

Day 3 Monday 8th April

Triopetra and the Gious Cambos

Today was forecast very windy and with a little rain so we headed down to the coast. Indeed here it was warm and almost sunny but still windy, but quite acceptable for pottering through the dune vegetation. The sand was populated with *Cakile maritima*, and beautiful sprawling mats of silver foliated *Medicago marina*. Moving further into the dune area we found *Convolvulus oleifolius* and nice things included *Tragapogon hybridus*, clovers such as Star Clover and Hop Trefoil, tarry-smelling Pitch Trefoil, Bug Orchid and *Ophrys herae* *Silene sedoides* and we examined with pleasure the seeds of *Pancratium maritimum* like little chips of charcoal. The rare but understated *Muscari spreitzenhoferi* was common, and we found our first few scattered Turban Buttercups. We picked our way up to the top of the promontory which ends with three rock pillars emerging from a turquoise sea. Buntings and larks sang and flew evasively, both proving difficult to get a good look at, but we decided Short-toed Lark and Ortolan Bunting. Jill spotted flowering Caper. The shrubby Mastic tree broke up the quite bare ground which supported tens of thousands of yellow composites, patches of *Helichrysum conglobatum*, *Fumana arabica* and *thymifolia*, and Wild Clary or *Salvia verbanacea*. A strange little yellow flower was *Neatotema apulum*. This is a great place to look at seed pods, with *Tordilium Disc Medic*, Strawberry Clover, *Plantago lagopus* and *afra*.

We drove back to Spili to eat lunch back at Heracles, very nice to have table and chairs and the facilities of our rooms as well as hot drinks! After feeding Heracles' chickens with scraps from lunch we headed up hill to the Gious Cambos. It was hard to drive past all the flowers but we got a little way round the plateau before stopping for a Harrier, possibly a female Marsh. Corn buntings sang all around.

Having exited the car we were drawn quickly into the fields by the flowers next to an ancient threshing circle - lots of *Orchis lactea*, *Serapias lingua* with a whole range of colour forms from almost white with blackish shoulders to bright pink.

The wind was cool and we moved on a few hundred metres to a side track. I had seen a white *Orchis italica* and we vaguely headed in that direction, discovering a large patch of *Lupinus albus* on the way. A short sharp shower caught us but was very brief before we moved the car a little further to where Jean and I had visited an area with thousands of tulips and barbery nuts. Still there of course but closed because of the weather. Our last stop was at the side gorge, it was very windy by now so having noted some nice chasmophytes we headed back to Spili.



We had a fun evening in the souvlaki place, a limited menu but cooked to perfection.

Day 4 Tuesday 9th April Patsos Gorge, the road to Alioni and Viglotopi

After many years of being closed on a Monday (still the case on their website) Armeni cemetery now closes on a Tuesday so we went instead to Patsos Gorge. As we got out of the car there were flowering *Linum arboreum*, *Petromarula pinnata* and *Procopiana*.

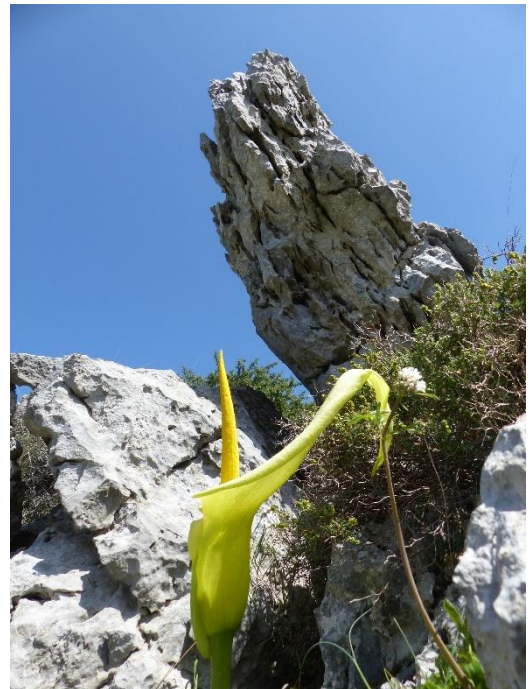
Heading down the gorge the sound of water in the stream below was always with us. Maidenhair fern edged the rocks at the water's edge and *Cyclamen creticum* was scattered everywhere. Furry

Origanum dictamnus was seen a few places. Reaching the cave chapel of St Antony the cave walls are hung with punched metal images of things visitors came to have cured – legs, babies, eyes. A stack of crutches attests to those who were ‘cured’ by the sacred water here Before Christianity reached Crete the Romans worshipped Pan here, leaving votive offerings and before that this spring was a place of worship for Hermes. Moving further on the sides of the track sported little purple *Viola odorata* and the Tree Linum flowered in profusion. From the view point we looked out over the gorge below, now a UNESCO site. Ravens, Jackdaws and a few Crag Martens were on the wing, and one of the pine-like bushes of *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce* which dominated the sides of the gorge was in flower, covered with large purple thistle flowers.

We continued down to a further turn of the gorge. Jill spotted Meadow Saxifrage or *Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia* and Pennywort. David spotted a Small White and there were a number of Speckled Woods, but generally butterflies were scarce. On the return journey we found a nice stand of *Arum coccinatum* with nice display of the saxifrage.

Back to Spili for a comfortable picnic at Heracles’s with hot drinks.

Time for a quick wash and brush up and then out again towards the Kourtalotis Gorge which was impressively shut with a bulldozer blocking the road following winter rock falls. A small and meandering road took us into a beautiful valley. Climbing out of a village stately yellow *Arum creticum* became increasingly common and we pulled over to take a closer look. Yesterday’s winds had left open ones rather tattered but more buds were on the way. Moving on I parked at a corner of the road where I knew we could find *Paeonia clusii*. If they were in flower here at this altitude, they will likely be in tight bud in the White Mountains. David and I explored and found leaves only. I took a track to a less accessible area and found one lovely flowering bush. Jean and David followed with caution on the rocky hillside to see this beautiful endemic, Jill erred on the side of caution and sat in the sun. *Cyclamen cretica* and Friars Cows were prolific, and a huge gnarled *Quercus coccifera* was a magnificent sight.



Our last stop was for a short walk along a quiet road. Almost immediately Jean spotted Pyramidal Orchids, and walking along we found a good number of other orchid species including Pink Butterfly Orchids, as well as Purple Vipers Bugloss.

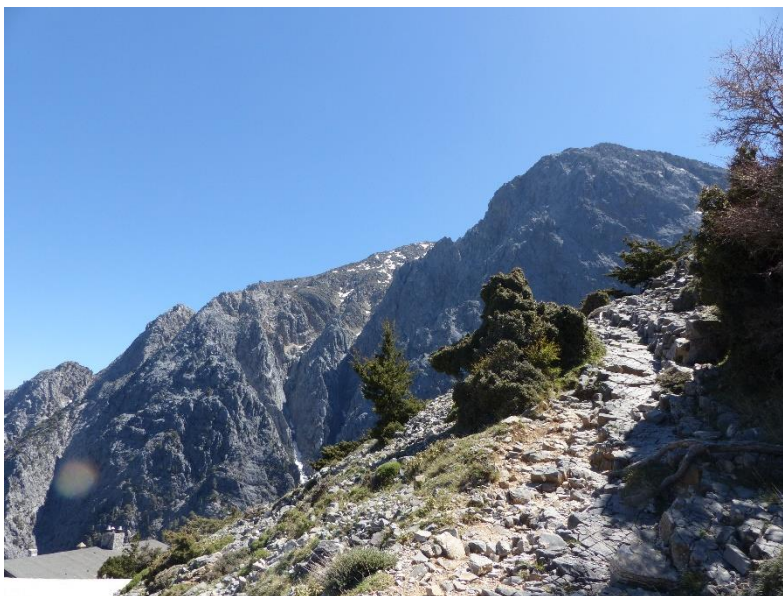
Back to Spili and time for a rest and showers before walking to the taverna for supper. Saganaki and Aubergine salad were very good today. David had spotted and photographed Red-rumped Swallows on the phone wires outside our rooms and I followed suit this evening. Thanks David 😊



Day 5 Wednesday 10th April Omalos and Agia Lake

David's moth trap produced a few moths overnight, the Oriental Mark was particularly nice, looking like a blob of bird droppings. A Robin and Chetti's Warblers were in the trees by our rooms. A slightly early breakfast and we were away before 9 for the two-hour drive to the Omalos. Thanks to Jill for google mapping round the turning off the national road, and we broke the journey at Agia Lake. This pretty little reservoir was quite quiet, coots, moorhens and dabchicks only on the water, no ducks! A Black Kite circled overhead, Blackcaps were frequent and other warblers glimpsed or heard were Cetti's and Bonelli's. The Yellow flags were in good flower along with borage.

We continued on the ever more scenic drive up to the Omalos. Buzzards were fairly frequent. Reaching the plateau, we drove slowly past the small fields and orchards. Jean spotted the first few pink *Tulipa bakeri*. The plateau is surrounded by green hills, partially wooded with a mixture of Cretan maple in fresh green leaf, darker Juniper and Cedar. On the plateau, the trees are a scattered mix of flowering Hawthorn, Cretan Maple and endemic *Zelcova abelicea*. Many of the fields had flowering *Tulipa bakeri*, a pink haze in places, mixed with blue purple splashes of *Anemone coronaria* and swathes of white *Anthemis chia*. I checked out a more accessible hillside, but the tulips were rather over here so we moved back to a stretch with fresh flowers and pulled over for lunch. I prepared the picnic while the group wandered and photographed. The anemones, as well as the gorgeous deep blue had deep pink colour variants. Scarce and common Swallowtails were on the wing. More wandering found a small group of another of my favourites, the black and green Widow Iris *Iris tuberosa*. A yellow *Gagea*, probably *peduncularis* was here too. A couple of Griffon Vultures and Ravens were seen. Driving on round the plateau a slight wrong turn took us near a small reservoir with a number of wading birds feeding at the grassy edge – around 5 Ruff and also Redshank, Common and Wood Sandpiper We got the scope out and had a leisurely time watching them.



We moved on to the start of the Samaria Gorge, admiring the magnificent view down the top part of the gorge. *Aubretia deltoidea* decorated crevices in the limestone as we walked up the steep path that eventually leads to the summit of Gigilos. Burnt Candytuft and a tiny alpine chickweed were also common. Wrens called, but we did not find an Alpine Accentor for David, but the walk and the scenery were very enjoyable.

A very civilised coffee was had at the lovely Omalos Hotel, and then we began our journey home, making good time.

For supper we tried a new taverna, which proved to be excellent. For coffees we moved to the zakaroplasteo, a traditional Greek cake shop, where we chose baklava and other madly sweet things from a dazzling selection. The scops owls were calling as we walked back.

Day 6 Thursday 11th April Armeni Cemetery, Agios Ioannis, Gious Cambos

A second attempt to visit the post Minoan Cemetery started our day. Two coaches of school children arrived at the same time as us but they were well behaved. We went straight to the largest burial crypt and David found the endemic Cretan Cave Crickets *Dolichopda paraskevi* all clustered together. It was very pleasant to wander the site in the shade of the grove of Valarian Oak.s Above ground we found *Serapias bergonii* and *lingua*, and some nice patches of *Convolvulus elegantissimus* and Cretan Houndstongue or *Cyanoglossum creticum*. Lots of pea family brought colour, *Hippocrepis biflora*, *Coronella parviflora*, *Vicia villosa*, large patches, and tall spikes of the very common, but pretty *Bituminaria bituminosa*, *Securigera securidaca*, red *Lathyrus cicera*, Star *Trifolium stellatum*, and Strawberry Clover *Trifolium fragiferum*. A small *Allium nigrum* was next to a number of *Ornithogalum collinum* and *divergens* and David was after a philos warbler – probably a Sardinian. Cretan Festoons were flying.



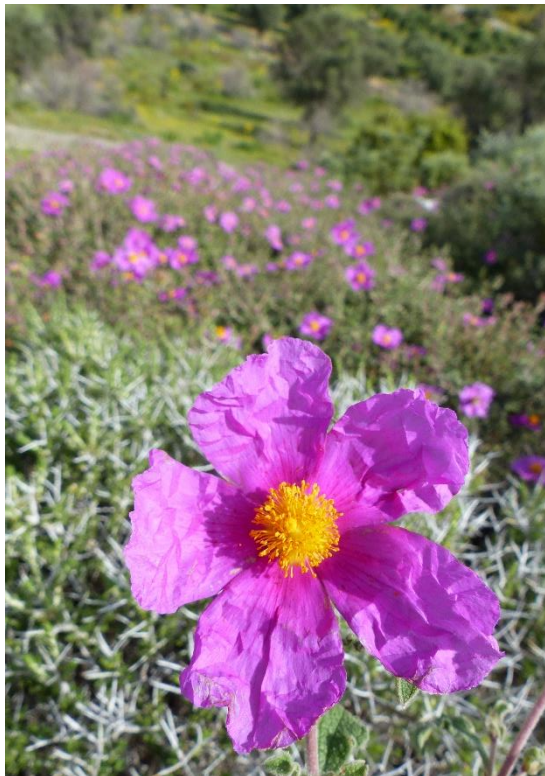
Not too far away is the village of Agios Ioannis. We wandered up through the streets admiring the village houses and archways, finding our way to the track above the village. Almost our first sight on this track that passes through mixed woodland with an understory of Sage-leaved Cistus was pair of mating Cretan Festoons. At the wash house – a line of spring-fed troughs for washing clothes – David pointed out the tunnelled nest of a Red-rumped Swallow. Moving on, the vegetation became a mix of Tree Heather and Strawberry Tree or *Arbutus edulus* before we entered an

area of pine woodland. Under the pines were tens of thousands of *Cyclamen creticum*, as well as Friars Cows, a pretty fern *Asplenium onopteris* and two red basket fungi *Clathrus ruber*. We reached the top of the woodland path in good time to have our picnic on the shady steps of a small new chapel with a stunning view out to the sea through the Kotsifou gorge. The small terraces below had recently been rotovated and we found only a few *Dactylhoriza romana* suffering from lack of water, but we found a group of fresh ones on the walk back down, along with a flowering spike of Violet Limadore. Red Admiral and Comma brought the count of butterfly species at this site to 10.

We headed for our last site up on the Gious Cambos. A steep and prickly walk took us to an area with the newly separated endemic subspecies *Fritillaria messanensis* ssp *sphaciotica*. There were many orchid species here as well as *Daphne ceracea*. New orchid species for the trip was *Ophrys fusca* ssp *creberrima* (the individual that I found and the one David and Jill found)

Day 7 Friday 12th April A roadside stop and Festos

On the way to Festos we pulled in at one of my favourite roadside stops. By the car were both Goats beards, *Erodium gruinum* and a thick scattering of Turban buttercups (mainly white but many with various amounts of pink). Flowering shrubs were dominated by heavily flowering *Cistus creticus*, *Helichrysum conglobatum*, *Phaglalon rupestre*. The air was scented with Thyme or *Thymbra capita* and *Satureja thymbra* or Summer Savory. A farm track lead off down the valley, and after the herd of sheep had crossed over we strolled on. On the top of a knoll there a short-toed Lark was displaying and there were some fine Pyramidal orchids and a lone blue *Anemone coronaria*. David found a lovely solitary wasp building it's nest and later both snout-nosed and another species of grasshoppers. The very numerous Giant Fennels were attracting a great variety of bees wasps and beetles, and a common Swallowtail and Common Blues were seen.



Moving down through Timbaki we reached the archaeological site of Festos. On entering the site Jill spotted a couple of Mediterranean skippers on the Rosemary, and later a Cretan Argus. Festos was the home of Radamanthis, the brother of the legendary king of Minos and is the second largest palace of Crete after Knossos. The site was inhabited since the late neolithic era, and the first palace was built around 2000 BC. The builders of Phaistos took great care to create a functional as well as an aesthetically pleasing environment, which accommodated the spectacular views from the hill of the Messara plain and Mount Idi to the south and North respectively. My favourite part is the underground storage room with huge terra cotta pithoi or storage jars still in situ. Common Centuary or *Centaurium erythraea* grew between the cracks of the stones along with *Onobrychis caput-galli* or Cockscomb Sainfoin.

I found a shady spot and we had an excellent picnic, whilst enjoying the breeze.

After lunch we took the small road to the summer palace, Agia Triada. Buzzards were quite frequent, and we pulled over by a large area of the stunning shrub *Ebonus cretica*, an endemic covered with large, pink, furry flowers. Another Skipper, Lulworth this time. Jean found us a huge Common Swallowtail. The burnt off vegetation was alive with stick insects, crickets, grasshoppers and beetles. My favourite beast of the day was a female Cockchafer that David found, large and iridescent green.

There were some nice *Allium nigrum* flowers and smaller, white *Allium subhirsutum*. Two new orchids – a large flowered *Serapias orientalis* and a single spike of *Ophrys mammosa*. Jill spotted a pair of Alpine Swifts flying erm, swiftly past at low level. It was hot, and after wandering down a track with a couple of random garden plants amongst the phrygana and olives – Persian Lilac and something like a Hibiscus, we started the journey home.

Having regained some altitude and entered into the area of the Turban Buttercups we took a side road parallel to the main road and had a few stops in the cooler air. Wheatear , Griffons, one with

nesting material in its beak and a pair of Sardinian warblers also with nesting material were the result.

Our final meal at Spili was over the road at Costas and Marias, sitting outside in their lemon garden.

Day 8 Saturday 13th April Transfer to Plakias, Kourtaliotis Gorge, Damnoni and Plakias Cliffs



Had a lovely goodbye from Heracles. Although there was not a breath of wind in Spili, the wind was whistling through the Kourtaliotis. We saw a couple of Griffon Vultures at the top of the cliffs and Crag Martins near the caves across the river. A male Blue Rockthrush was seen, also Swifts and Alpine Swifts. We stopped for the ceramics shop in the village where we had Greek coffees and did a little shopping before moving on to Damnoni Headland. This is one of the most arid spots on Crete and some of the Tree Euphorbias were looking red-

leaved and stressed for water. There was a gentle popping of their seed cases around us. I had a brief glimpse of a Cardinal Fritillary. The Yellow Asphodels looked lovely against the blue sea and sky. Around the craggy limestone we got really good views of Northern and Black-eared Wheatears, and also close views of a well-lit male Blue Rockthrush. Growing on the rocks were *Campanula saxatilis* and Vipers Grass or *Scorzonera cretica*.

We lunched at a seafront taverna in Plakias which did great salads and was attracting Speckled Woods which we released outside. At the other side of the bay was our hotel for the next three nights, our rooms had balconies directly overlooking the sea. After an hour to settle in and unpack we headed for the track below the smooth, vertical cliff of Plakias. *Vebascum acturus*, the cliff-dwelling mullein grew and flowered improbably on the cliff face. Making our way through the Tree Euphorbias and Jerusalem Sage we noted quite a number of Pyramidal Orchids. A pretty little thistle was *Tyrimnus leucographusatus*. The path is somewhat challenging in places but we made it to the tunnel blasted by the Germans in the Second World War where we found *Aristolochia cretica* with large brown 'dutchmans pipe' flowers covered with white hairs, and several Cretan Festoons; the former is the food plant for the caterpillars of the latter.



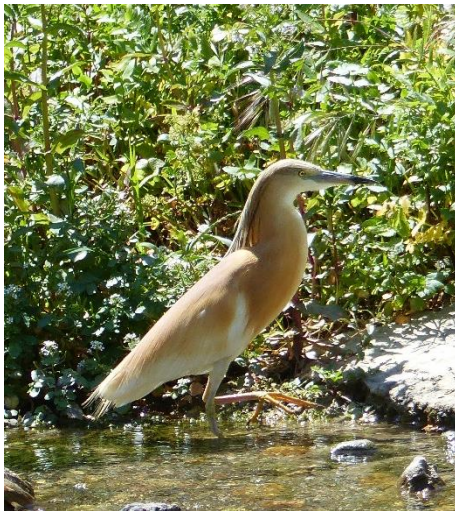
Walking down to a taverna for supper we ate outside overlooking the sea as the sun set.

Day 9 Sunday 14th April Preveli Monastery, monument and Venetian Bridge. Ammoudi Beach and the back of the headland

Before breakfast David had been exploring and seen a small flock of Little Egrets, I had seen a lovely Collared Flycatcher.

Setting off for Plakias the Egrets circled past again, and a stop at the war monument proved very fruitful, with flowering *Verbascum sinuatum*, two Collared Flycatchers, Stonechats, Goldfinches and Sardinian Warbler.

We spent an hour exploring Preveli Monastery and the excellent little museum there. Many of the magnificent succulents and cacti in pithoi



were in flower, and David found us a wolf spider. Lunch was by the Megalo Potamo or Big River, the one that flows down to the palm forest of Preveli Beach, by the Venetian Bridge. Migrant Hawkers were common and Gill spotted the first of 6 Wood Sandpipers. A Squacco Heron in beautiful breeding plumage joined them. Walking down the streamside track Jill spotted a Semi-collared Flycatcher. We explored a grove of very old olives before returning to the bridge for our picnic. A regular Greentours customer, Richard, stopped to say hi to us, he was on a birdy week with a few friends. A serpentine road took us to Amoudi Beach, from where we took the path round to Preveli Beach. Richard found a stunning red black and white Wolf Spider on the way up to the view point from which we could look down on the river

mouth and the grove of endemic Palm Trees before heading for the beach taverna for White Wagtails and cold beers.

A final walk for the afternoon explored the back of the headland. A Small Skipper and an Eastern Baton Blue were new for the trip. One of the little fields was edged with a wide swathe of gladioli, and a fine felty *Stachys cretica* grew there too.

Day 10 Monday 15th April Souda Bay and Mirthios village walk

Leaving the hotel at the usual time we drove a couple of kilometres to a spot where a stream lined with *Phoenix threoplasti* crosses the coast road, I had seen a collared Flycatcher here yesterday, today the winds were gusting strongly so three raptors were difficult to identify as they were fighting to make headway against the wind, possibly Booted Eagles. David noted Bath White. Where the stream came down to the beach we stopped again, finding a couple of Wood sandpipers, White Wagtails and some very pale sparrows. A Red Chaser and beautiful Migrant Hawkers flew over the water and on one rock were stacked five or six Stripe-necked Terrapins varying in size from 10 to 25 cm shell lengths.

Next, driving up a small road out of Plakias we parked and continued on foot up the path which follows the course of the river up towards Kotsifou Gorge. Giant Reed grew by the river with Carob trees and mature olive groves were frequently on our left. We passed the first of two ancient watermills. Trackside vegetation was dominated by both colour forms of *Chrysanthemum coronatum* and red and blue Scarlet Pimpernel were noted. Butterflies were good with Clouded Yellows, Large and Dappled Whites and numerous Speckled Woods. A Woodchat Shrike sat in brilliant sunlight in the top of a small tree and shortly after David drew our attention to a calling Hoopoe, who flew out of a tree shortly after. Our track took us through an olive grove and we stopped at the end of it for a rest and a drink on some shaded rocks. The habitat was becoming much more natural with *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce* and *Petromarula pinnata* on the rocks. There were many butterflies, Meadow Brown, Mediterranean Skipper, large White, Holly Blue and female Common Blue. A couple of other nice plants were *Aristolochia sempervivens* scrambling and flowering over the Jointed Pine or *Ephedra foeminea* and a tall, dark purple, narrow flowered broomrape – a rare *Orobanchia lavandulacea*. The track continued and before too long we had reached a second water mill with a small bridge over the stream. These mills can be hard to date but many are three hundred years old. Shrubby St John's wort *Hypericum empetrifolium* was flowering heavily and the little fern *Cheilanthes acrostica* grew on the walls of the mill.

On the return we added more species of butterflies – Scarce Swallowtail, Painted Lady and Southern Comma.

Reaching our car we realised there was a problem when it would not start! Fortunately, a fifteen minute walk took us back to the hotel and we broke the journey with fresh juices in a taverna.

Our slightly late picnic lunch was taken in the hotels breakfast area while I found a mechanic to help me sort out the car, which he did.

It was a fine, hot afternoon and Gill and David opted to walk down the seafront of Plakias and Jean to enjoy the surrounds of the hotel rather than a trip to Kourtaliotis.



Day 11 Tuesday 16th April Transfer to Anapolis via Frankocastello

Grey Heron with breakfast. We were packed and on our way by 9.30 via the Kourtaliotis Gorge. Our first stop near the top of the gorge was very productive with Blue Rock Thrush, Northern Wheatear, Griffons, Crag Martins, Swifts and Alpine Swifts in good numbers. etc. We could hear a Chukar calling and I found him on the opposite side of the gorge- we got great views through the scope of a male strutting his funky stuff. A second stop seemed quieter, until we saw a

pair of small accipiters mobbing ravens. On round the coast road to the other side of Plakias with great views looking back down the coast. Our second stop was by a wet flush, which after a little looking and help from Jean we found a wall of Maidenhair Fern topped with *Pteris vittata*. A very pretty plant with white flower spikes was *Scutillaria seiberi*. Here and all along the roadsides the

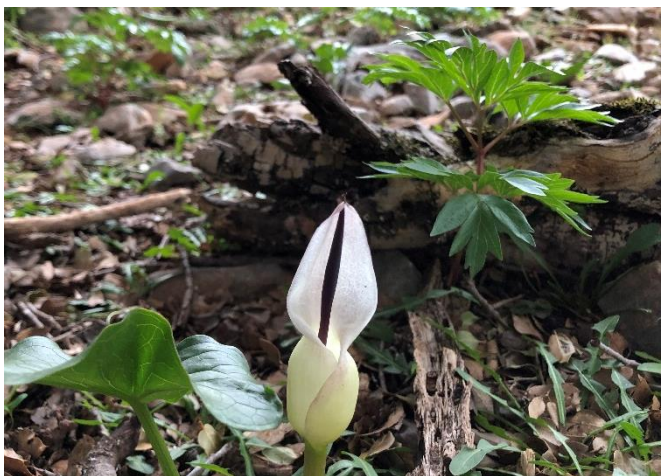
Verbascum macrurum were in fine flower. A small side track proved very good for *Arum coccineum*, with Polypody and *Cyclamen creticum* too.

Stop number three was for an initially barren looking set of fields . However, on entering the ground was thick with poppies and crepis flowers, camomile and *Gagea graeca*. A small orange poppy was *Papaver purpureomarginatum*. Magnificent velvety Dragon Arums or *Dracunculus vulgaris* were everywhere and David and Jill found a Small Copper. We also had nice views of a couple of Semi-collared Flycatchers. Our stops had all been very productive, so we skipped Frankocastello and made our way straight to Anopolis where we had an excellent salad and lentil soup before getting into our rooms and resting and unpacking for an hour. A Collared Flycatcher perched by our balcony.

At around 3 we walked out of the village for an explore. The small fields and stony olive groves had lots of flowers, A towering thistle was *Onopodium tauricum*. There were large pink *Allium nigrum*, *Coronilla parviflora* with three colour forms, pink Weasel's Snout (like an antirrhinum) or *Mysopates orontium*, large *Papaver rhoeas* and gladioli. Reaching a more natural area of pine trees we had some great birding with Hoopoe and Turtle Dove calling, nice views of Wood Warbler, more Collared Flycatchers, Alpine swifts overhead. David found a couple of moths and Scarce Swallowtail flew past. I searched a small field and was very pleased to find a stand of fantastic *Ophrys spruneri*. We began our walk back, when the calls of Orioles delayed us again. David and Jill suggested joining them for a glass of beer which was an excellent idea.



Day 12 Wednesday 17th April Paknes

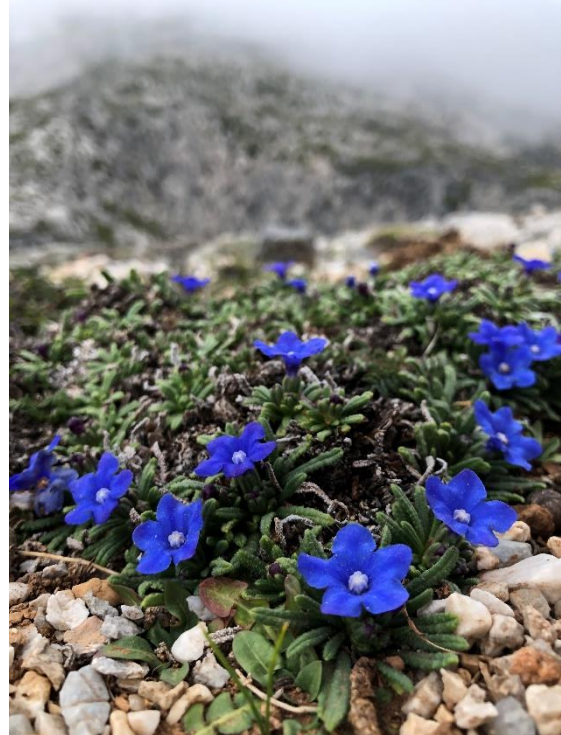


Bee-eaters were hunting quite low over the village from around 7 am, and Spanish Sparrows were in the trees by the balcony. Davids moth trap got a few more macro moths, and at 7.30 we took a very short drive out to the area we visited yesterday afternoon. The trees were busy with little birds, highlights were very nice views of a Wood Warbler, calling Hoopoe, and two or three Orphean Warblers, Collared Flycatcher and Wood Pippits.

Back for breakfast, and at 9.30 we climbed aboard our 4wd farmers' truck and headed up towards the snow line. The olive groves of the plateau gave way to *Pinus brutia* above, before it gave way in turn to mixed *Acer creticum*, huge flowering Almond-leaved Pear (*Pyrus spinosa*) *Quercus coccifera* and *pubescens*. As altitude was gained on the rough track we moved into shrubby *Juniperus*

oxycedrus and Cretan Cyprus (*Cupressus sempervirens* var *horizontalis*). These ancient, twisted trees are very impressive in the stark landscape.

Stopping in a small 'valley', there was a good number of *Paeonia clusii* plants putting out leaves, but the buds were all still tight. The rocky ground was scattered with alpines – *Cerastium scaposum* and *Crepis sibthorpiana* dominated with *Lepidium hirtum* like a tiny candy tuft, and *Myosotis refracta*. Best of all, the *Arum ideum* were in fine flower, and patches of Prostrate Cherry or *Prunus prostrata* were showing a few pink blossoms too. Our truck took us higher, towards patches of snow. We pulled up at a likely looking spot and were soon finding more alpines. The dense blue flowers of *Anchusa caespitosa* will always be my favourite, often a ring of flowers edging a flat mat of linear, matt green leaves. There were hundreds of *Scilla nana* and many flat cushions of *Astragalus angustifolius* and lots of Burnt Candytuft, *Bellis longifolia*, a *Hypericum* species and *Cerastium scaposum*. The cloud cover dropped lower and sometimes we could see very little, and then it would clear again. Birds included Chukar, Wren, Northern and Black-eared Wheatear and Chough. We walked up the road a few hundred metres to a large patch of snow by the track, where 50 or more *Crocus seiberi* were emerging from ground only recently uncovered by snow. White and purple flowers were everywhere but needed sun to open and display the yellow anthers. The tiny borage *Lithospermum incrasatum*, yellow crucifer *Allyssum fragillimum* (very rare and localised) and both blue and cerise colour forms of *Veronica thymifolia* dotted the ground. *Corydalis uniflora*, *Erodium ciconium* and *Muscari neglectum* were seen too. We were at a height of around 1860 m.



I prepared a picnic from the back of the van. When we had eaten our fill began to walk downhill towards the magnificent ancient Cypress trees. There were some lovely patches of Prostrate Cherry covered in blossom. We got back in our truck and rattled down the track to lower altitudes – an eagle was a nice find on the way down.

After an hour's break we walked out from the village at 3.45, passing small fields, one with hundreds of *Allium nigrum*, and more with large leaves from many *Colchicum macrophyllum* plants. A small group of Serrins were pleasing, and a surprise Feldigg race Yellow Wagtail. There were some nice flowers of *Lupinus pilosus*, and a couple of interesting thistles including *Carduus pycnocephalis*. After a little work we got a decent view of an Orphian Warbler from the small graveyard of a little church.

Jill and David walked further up the hill to a small church, Jean and I walked back to the taverna. Lists before supper, where Jean spotted a moth later identified Eastern Bordered Straw (*Heliothis nubigera*) A truly excellent supper of salads, slow cooked goat, artichokes, stuffed aubergine... A pair of Scops Owls were calling.

Day 13 Thursday 18th April Arendaina

A second pre-breakfast walk with Jill and David proved very productive! David had a Spotted Flycatcher female on the tree next to our balcony before we had left and we quickly added numerous Collared, Semi-collared and Pied flycatchers, Tree Pippits and a Wood Warbler. Bee-eaters were calling and not long after we watched as a flock of around 15 hawked over the trees and landed briefly in the pines. I spotted our first Lammergeier overhead in the beautiful morning sun and an Oriole called. it was so exciting I fell over. Another gorgeous Feldigg race of Yellow Wagtail found by Gill was special too. I went to fetch the car while David and Jill followed the call of a hoopoe, which they had found by the time I got back to them. It walked down the track catching insects as we rolled the car down slowly behind, making us late for breakfast.



After breakfast we drove the short distance to Arandaina. Taking the path to the top of the gorge we admired the Kaliderma (translates as good road, = historic pack horse track which probably dates back to Hellenic times) before beginning our descent along it into the gorge. Griffons and Ravens were often overhead. There were many flowers of note; *Delphinium staphisagria* nearly in flower, Small-flowered Pennywort or *Umbilicus parviflorus* with a spike of yellow flowers, *Anchusa variegata* with spots of colour on the petals. Loads of *Malva sylvestris* and one *Malva cretica* found by David. We could hear a Hoopoe calling, and strangely, a Scops Owl!

At the bottom of the gorge was a rare little lemon-scented thyme *Thymus leucotrichus* a furry mint xxx flowering *Linum arboretum* and *Verbascum arcturus* as we walked down towards the bailey bridge a little way.

On our ascent of the other side the crag martins were having a fine time and we heard (and I saw) the hoopoe again. Lots of Cretan Wall Lizards were sunning themselves. Jean spotted our first Mallow Skipper of the trip.



Reaching the fine houses of the village of Arendaina we had more Flycatchers of various species and this is where Richard and his birding friends found us for the second time



this week. They claim not to be following us around... They had just seen two Bonellis eagles over the gorge.

Jean stood us a round of Coffees and cold drinks in the little café/shack by the bridge before walking back to the car and having a lunch of salads and mizithra cheese pies that we watched being skilfully made.

After a break for an hour, and some plant ID David and I were back out for a walk. Jill and Jean declined, the cloud had descended rather. This seemed to work for us though as there were numerous tree Pippits and Flycatchers! A cuckoo was calling but we did not manage to see it. A flock of 100 or so Bee-eaters was rather easier to hear and spot! The Griffons were flying low because of the low cloud. Making our way back to Anopolis David spotted something different (ie not another



flycatcher) which turned out to be a Tree Pippit – feeding with a Wryneck. I was so excited. We watched this beautiful bird feeding on the ground for a minute or two. Just before it flew it assumed the head up posture that imitates a piece of wood – fantastic. We attempted to find it again, but instead had fantastic views of a male Collared Flycatcher and a male Whinchat.

A small celebratory beer was called for.

Day 14 Friday 19th April Home

Time to head off to the airport! A 9am leave after breakfast saw us on our way. There were time for a few little stops. As we drove along the spectacular Imbros Gorge we stopped to walk a little way into a scenic side gorge where we saw a Redstart. Another stop was dropping back down towards the coast, for a stand of the gorgeous pink dandelion *Crepis rubra*.



Itinerary

Day 0	Friday 7th April	London – Chania – Spili	An evening walk on the Gious Cambos
Day 1	Saturday 6th April		A day on the Gious Cambos
Day 2	Sunday 7th April		Mourne and Agios Yorgos
Day 3	Monday 8th April		Triopetra and the Gious Cambos
Day 4	Tuesday 9th April		Patsos Gorge, the road to Alioni and Viglotopi
Day 5	Wednesday 10th April		Omalos and Agia Lake
Day 6	Thursday 11th April		Armeni Cemetery, Agios Ioannis, Gious Cambos
Day 7	Friday 12th April		A roadside stop and Festos
Day 8	Saturday 13th April		Transfer to Plakias, Kourtaliotis Gorge, Damnoni and Plakias Cliffs
Day 9	Sunday 14th April		Preveli Monastery, monument and Venetian Bridge. Ammoudi Beach and the back of the headland
Day 10	Monday 15th April		Souda Bay and Mirthios village walk
Day 11	Tuesday 16th April		Transfer to Anapolis via Frankocastello
Day 12	Wednesday 17th April		Paknes
Day 13	Thursday 18th April		Arendaina and Agia Katarina
Day 14	Friday 19th April		Anapolis – Chania - UK

Systematic Lists

Systematic List – Vascular Flora

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

Adiantum capillus-veneris – **Maidenhair Fern** Always on shaded and/or damp places, Arendaina Gorge

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium onopteris – **Irish Spleenwort** Rare, on bank in woodland below the chapel above Agios Ioannis [Frond broad, black lower stem]

Asplenium trichomanes – **Maidenhair Spleenwort** Arendaina [Small singly pinnate tufted fern, very distinctive with black stem and opposite pinnae]

Asplenium ceterach (= *Ceterach officinarum*) – **Rusty-back Fern** Fairly common throughout the trip [Small pinnately-lobed fern with underside covered in overlapping rusty scales]

Aizoaceae

Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum **Slender-leaf Iceplant** A small succulent in the dunes at Triopetra

Equisetaceae

Equisetum arvense – **Common Field Horsetail** Sterile branches branched, only seen once in open damp area, surprisingly rare, Jill noted this and we called it Mares Tail on the day, Patsos I think

Hypolepidaceae

Pteridium aquilinum – **Bracken** Common

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulate – **Mediterranean Selaginella** Common, creeping on rocks or over moss on shaded cliffs [Adpressed to ground like a big branched moss]

Cheilanthes

Cheilanthes acrostica [Attractive fern in crevices on shaded but dryish limestone cliffs]

SPERMATOPHYTA – GYMNOSPERMAE

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens – **Italian Cypress** Some lovely old and gnarled specimens along the journey up the mountain [Large conifer with tiny paired scale leaves - native form broad (as along track to Kakovoli/Paknes); introduced are columnar]

Juniperus oxycedrus – **Prickly Juniper** Prostrate bushes around the mountain area [Frequent above tree line; greyish shrub with awl-like leaves in 3's]

Ephedraceae

Ephedra campylopoda – **Joint Pine** Strange leafless things with not pleasant smelling small green flowers, Walk to the mills Plakias, with the *Aristolochia* scrambling over it [Small, opposite, or whorled, linear leaves that possess parallel veins, often fuse into a sheath at the base. The pollen cones are often in whorls of 1-10, and furrowed, each consisting of a series of intersected or crossed bracts].

Pinaceae

Pinus halepensis subsp. *brutia* - **Calabrian Pine** [Tall conifer with 1mm wide needles, 11-16cm long and in pairs, has a characteristic black bark]

Pinus nigra – **Black Pine** Replaces Calabrian Pine at higher altitudes.

ANGIOSPERMAE – DICOTYLEDONES

Aceraceae

Acer sempervirens – **Cretan Maple** Widespread, on this trip this tree was coming into bright green leaf [Small tree with 3-lobed leaves, and yellowish-green flowers]

Aizoaceae

Carpobrotus edulis – **Hottentot-fig** near coast by roads, on sand and rocks [Mats of succulent leaves and pink daisy-like flowers]

Anacardiaceae

Pistacia lentiscus – **Mastic Tree** Forming dense thickets along coast, regularly encountered throughout the first week. [Evergreen shrub whose pinnate leaves normally have no terminal leaflet]

Pistacia terebinthus – **Turpentine Tree** Scrub very similar to above, and regularly encountered [Small deciduous tree, whose pinnate leaves have a terminal leaflet; branched brownish flower-panicles]

Schinus molle – **Californian Pepper-tree** [Small tree with pendulous branches, pinnate leaves, many narrow leaflets]

Apiaceae

Apium nodiflorum – **Fool's Watercress**

Berula erecta **Lesser Water Parsnip**. Wet areas near Plakias

Conium maculatum – **Hemlock**

Daucus carota – **Wild Carrot** Frequent throughout along roadside, & waste grounds [Familiar herb, divided bracts, bur fruit]

Eryngium campestre – **Field Eryngo** Common dead heads throughout phrygana [Wide branched greenish spiny perennial, heads 10-15mm]

Ferula communis - **Giant Fennel** Common & widespread throughout along roadsides and abandoned land [Striking big herb with feathery leaflets and many yellow umbels]

Foeniculum vulgare – **Common Fennel** Roadsides and abandoned land.

[*Lecokia cretica* Woods, groves and moist waysides [Robust perennial with 1-2 pinnate triangular leaves; large warty asymmetric fruit]]

Nastertium officinale – **watercress** In the ditch by the Gious Cambos lunch chapel

Oenanthe pimpinelloides – **Callous-fruited Water-dropwort** Frequent along ditch/stream edges, seasonally wet turf, fallow [White perennial with parts of umbel distinct from one another]

Scandix pecten-veneris – **Shepherd's-needle** Common & widespread throughout disturbed or cultivated sites, rough grass [Stout widely branched with divided glossy leaves and rounded umbels of yellow green flowers]

Smyrniium olusatrum – **Alexanders**

Smyrniium perfoliatum – **Perfoliate Alexanders** Scattered sightings throughout the trip. [Differs from *S. olusatrum* in brighter yellow flowers; upper leaves simple, oval and clasping]

Tordylium apulum – (a hartwort) Disturbed ground [Annual with singly pinnate leaves, outer petal much larger; fruit disk-like with beaded margin (“false-teeth plant”)]

Apocynaceae

Nerium oleander – **Oleander** Planted along the north coast road, clearly native by streams and wet gullies, mainly in leaf, but a few flowers on the last day [Shrub with long leathery leaves, and gaudy pink flowers]

Vinca major - **Greater Periwinkle** (Se). Naturalised by road [Scrambling plant with opposite leathery leaves and blue flowers]

Araliaceae

Hedera helix – **Ivy** Common [Familiar evergreen climber with lobed leaves]

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia cretica – **Cretan Birthwort** Often found with attendant Cretan Festoon butterflies, Plakias Cliff [Low scrambling plant with heart-shaped leaves and large brown flowers like “Dutchman’s Pipe”, (Endemic)]

Aristolochia sempervirens – **Climbing Birthwort**. Seen on the walk to the old mills, Plakias

Asteraceae

[*Anthemis arvensis* – **Corn Chamomile** [Scented branched chamomile, with leaves woolly beneath]]

Anthemis chia – **Chian Chamomile** Common & widespread. Locally abundant in rocky or fallow land [Similar to latter, but generally unbranched and hairless]

Anthemis rigida – **Rayless Chamomile** Near sea, gorge; and by tracks from 1200-1850m above Anopoli and Omalos [Short, often mat-forming annual, with yellow heads bearing no rays]

Asteriscus spinosus – **Pallenis** Near coast in sandy and rocky sites [Like a yellow-flowered marigold or fleabane with spine-tipped bracts around the heads]

Bellis annua – **Annual Daisy** Common. Bare (seasonally damp) clay [Very like common daisy, but tiny, annual and with heads only 5-15mm across]

Bellis perennis – **Daisy** Moist grassland [The familiar lawn daisy]

Bellis sylvestris

Bellis longifolia

Calendula arvensis – **Field Marigold** Common & widespread. Stony land [Like small-flowered orange Pot Marigold]

Carduus argentatus subsp *argentina* (a thistle). (13) Rocky ground, often below cliffs [Prickly thistle with silver undersides to leaves, and long-stalked heads very variable in size]

Carduus pycnocephalus - **Plymouth Thistle** Waste land [Typical tall slender leafy thistle with many small rose-purple heads]

Carlina corymbosa – **Flat-topped Carline Thistle** (3,5,7). Phrygana [Like *Atractylis*, but branched leafy stems and remains of previous year’s head, subsp. *graeca*]

Centaurea calcitrapa – **Red Star-thistle**. This was the main thistle along the roadsides during the first half of the trip, although mostly in leaf, and, thus could not rule out following species [Softly-leafy below (pinnately cut) but with heads of straw-coloured spines]

Centaurea idaea – **Cretan Star-thistle** Mainly seen in the latter part of the trip at Anapoli, frequent on stony ground [Grey leaved star-thistle, young heads with straw-coloured spines, (Endemic)]

Centaurea raphanina subsp. *raphanina* – **Stemless Knapweed** Common throughout the trip, found on cliffs and rocky phrygana from sea-level to above tree line [Distinctive rosette of pinnate leaves, with pinkish thistle-like stemless heads (Endemic)]

Chrysanthemum coronarium – **Crown Daisy** Fairly common throughout at lower altitudes, and wonderful yellow hillside patches [Tall 2-pinnately leaved herb with yellow (or yellow and white) heads 3-6cm wide]

Chrysanthemum coronarium var. *bicolor* – **Crown Daisy** Scattered across rocky fields, giving lovely roadside displays

Chrysanthemum segetum – **Corn Marigold** Common across rocky & fallow meadows in the first half of the trip, with scattered sightings during the second. [Greyish annual with toothed (or lobed) leaves and large yellow daisy-like heads]

Crepis species various!

Crepis rubra – **Pink Hawksbeard** Stopped for this on the drive to the airport

Crepis sibthorpiana – Paknes

Cynara scolymus – **Globe Artichoke** (11-13). Roadsides - almost certainly cultivated [Big non-prickly pinnately-cut leaves]

Dittrichia viscosa – **Sticky Fleabane** Common along roadsides

Galactites tomentosa – **Galactites, Milk Thistle**. Very common throughout, the lovely pink thistle like plant along waste ground & roadsides [Thistle-like annual with white veined leaves, and purple-lilac rayed heads]

Geropogon hybridus – **Goatsbeard** Few petaled, sepals longer than the petals, smaller flowered than *Tragopogon porrifolius*

Helichrysum barrelieri - (an everlasting) Phrygana, quarries, stabilised sand, and rocks [Tufted, woody-based; whitish stems, linear leaves, clustered small golden-yellow globular heads]

Helichrysum italicum subsp. *microphyllum*- (an everlasting) In leaf up on Paknes, identified after the event by the smell! [Smells of curry]

Notobasis syriaca – **Syrian Thistle**. Stony, rocky ground

Onopodium tauricum – a very tall thistle around Anapolis

Phagnalon graecum – (a phagnalon) Rocky phrygana [Dwarf shrub, with narrow leaves white-felted beneath, and with long-stalked yellowish button-like heads]

Ptilostemon chamaepeuce – **Shrubby Ptilostemon**. Frequent on cliffs in gorges throughout the trip, Flowering at the viewpoint at Patsos [Small, rather pine-like, shrub with white undersides to leaves]

Scolymus hispanicus – **Spanish Oyster-plant** Roadside [Thistle-like, very leafy, winged stems]

Scorzonera cretica – **Cretan Vipers-grass** (3,5,8) Cliffs coastal [Many linear cottony leaves, and dandelion-like heads]

Senecio vulgaris – **Common Groundsel** Bare soil [Familiar weed]

[*Silybum marianum* – Milk Thistle]

Stachelina fruticosa Frequent on cliffs [Small tufted shrub, lanceolate green leaves, remains of last year's thistle-like flowers]

Stachelina petiolata – **Cretan Gorge Laurel** Common throughout the gorges & limestone cliffs [1m shrub, with oval leaves, white beneath, (Endemic)]

Tragopogon sinuatus (= *porrifolius*) - (a salsify) Common on rocky or sandy sites [Like leek with lilac dandelion-like heads, forming large "clock"]

Berberidaceae

Berberis cretica – Cretan Barberry On mountains [Low shrub with 3 spines at each node, and leaves emerging]

Boraginaceae

Anchusa caespitosa (an alkanet). Stony ground from 1500-1900m on Kakovoli above Anapoli [Cushion of strap-shaped leaves and bright blue flowers, (Endemic)]

Anchusa italica (azurea) – **Large Blue Alkanet** Frequent & widespread across the first part of the trip. Frequent by roads and in disturbed areas [Large bristly herb with open panicle of big bright blue flowers]

Anchusa variegata Arandaina Gorge, flowers with purplish spots

Borago officinalis – **Borage** . Waste ground [Blue, star-like and almost nodding flowers, oval bristly leaves]

Cerintho major – **Honeywort** Roadsides. Noted on the walk back to the hotel at Plakias [Patch-forming, grey with white swellings, and nodding yellow flowers with reddish-purple base]

Cynoglossum columnae – **Cretan Hound's Tongue** [herb with grey soft-hairy leaves, smelling of mice and small pinkish-maroon flowers]

Cynoglossum creticum - **Blue Hound's-tongue** . Pathsides and rough ground [As latter but with larger dark-veined pale blue flowers]

Cynoglossum sphacioticum – (a hound's-tongue). (12) Stony ground [Slender with purple-maroon flowers, oblong leaves, (Endemic)] Above 1800 m easily confused with *Paracaryum lithospermifolium*

Echium angustifolium – **Narrow-leaved Bugloss** Scattered sightings across the first half of the trip along Verges [Typical bugloss, but with narrow leaves and red flowers]

Echium italicum – **Pale Bugloss** Widespread along verges and waste ground [Distinctive pyramidal inflorescence of bluish-white flowers]

Echium plantagineum – **Purple Viper's-bugloss**. Verges, good shows in Arandaina abandoned village [Big violet-blue funnel-like flowers]

Lithospermum incrassatum Tiny blue borage flowers up high on Paknes

Myosotis refracta Tiny forget-me-not on Paknes

Neostema apuilum Yellow Gromwell A yellow borage on the top of the headland at Trioptra

Onosma graecum - **Greek Golden-drop**. Rough ground [Erect, very bristly - orange/purple tinged yellow flowers]

Paracaryum lithospermifolium Rocky ground at 1900m Paknes/Kakovoli [Low, grey with narrow leaves; tiny violet-blue flowers, subsp. *carriense*]

Symphytum creticum – **Procopiana** On and below gorge cliffs [Like a small white comfrey, but with divided flowers, lobes recurved]

Brassicaceae

Aethionema saxatile – **Burnt Candytuft** On the serpentine 'slag heap', Paknes. [Short herb, crowded oval grey untoothed leaves, dense head of pink & white flowers, subsp. *creticum*]

Alyssum foliosum - (an alison). Gravel at 1900m in Kakvoli pass [Dwarf herb with narrow crowded ciliate leaves and dense heads of tiny yellow flowers]

Arabis alpina – (a rockcress) Small white flowers, Paknes

Alyssum fragillimum A little yellow alyssum with glaucous leaves Paknes

Aubrieta deltoidea – **Aubrietia** . Some lovely displays in the rocky cervices at the top of the Samaria Gorge [Low straggling grey cress with big purple flowers and long-beaked fruit]

Biscutella didyma – **Buckler Mustard** Common & widespread amongst gravel verges & stony land [Hairy annual with yellow flowers and distinctive pods comprising two joined disks]

Brassica cretica – **Cretan Cabbage** . Gorge cliffs, Gorge below Gious Cambos [Tall cabbage with pale yellow flowers]

Cakile maritima – **Sea Rocket** Sandy beaches [Decumbent succulent annual, with pinkish flowers and lanceolate pods]

Capsella bursa-pastoris – **Shepherd's-purse** (12,13). Disturbed areas, fine scree to 1700m on Kakvoli [Familiar white cress with triangular fruit]

Clypeola jonthlaspi – **Disk Cress**

Draba sp

Eruca sativa (*versicaria*) – **Eruca or Wild Rocket**. Common across fallow ground [Weedy annual with large creamy flowers veined in purple]] Gathered as horta

Erysimum raulinii – (a wallflower) (Se) Craggs, above Gious Cambos [Similar but more densely tufted than *E. mutabile*, (Endemic)]

Lepidium hirtum ssp *oxyotum* A little white crucifer like a candytuft, Paknes, near the paeonies

Malcolmia chia – **Chian Stock** Arandaina gorge, pink, 4 petals

Matthiola sinuata – **Sea Stock**. [Large hairy stock with coarse toothed leaves and pinkish flowers]

Ricotia cretica - **Ricotia** (Se). Scree/rubble in Arandaina gorge [Low pink cress, distinctive pods like “purple mange-tout”, (Endemic)]

Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum – **Water-cress** Stream/ditches [Familiar aquatic with pinnate leaves and white flowers]

Sisymbrium officinale – **Hedge Mustard** Common & widespread, on the track in Arandaina Gorge [Erect yellow cress with pinnately-lobed leaves and pods appressed to stem]

Cactaceae

Opuntia ficus-barbarica – **Barbary-Fig, Prickly Pear** (Common). Verges and olive groves [Large cactus, made up of flattened jointed stems]

Campanulaceae

Campanula saxatilis In bud at Damnoni and Plakias Headland [typical campanula, leaves leathery, +- glabrous. Very rare Cretan endemic, found near the coast]

Petromarula pinnata – **Cretan Blue-lettuce** Common & widespread on cliff faces, an excellent specimen next to the fountain in Spili (Endemic) [Pinnate leaves (toothed leaflets) and spikes of pale blue flowers with recurved lobes]

Capparidaceae

Capparis spinosa – **Caper** . Scattered sightings around cliffs, Jill spotted this in flower at Tripetra [Decumbent, purplish stems with round leaves and paired stems; probably both subsp. *rupestris* and *spinosa* present)

Caprifoliaceae

Sambucus nigra – **Elder** Common along rough verges [Familiar shrub with heads of creamy-white flowers]

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium scaposum - (a mouse-ear) Common in stony places, through and above forest By the paeonies on Paknes [Compact mouse-ear with large white flowers on long stalks, (Endemic)]

Paronychia macrosepala [numerous papery bracts]

Petrorhagia velutina - (an annual pink) Disturbed ground and rocks [Slender pink, brown papery bracts]

Petrorhagia dubia – (a pink) Arandaina

Silene colorata Seen fairly frequent across the first half of the trip, & last day, across rocky ground

Silene cretica – **Cretan Catchfly**. Widespread in rocky and disturbed places, across the trip [Slender sticky annual with rose-pink flowers]

Silene dichotoma - **Forked Catchfly** Gravel verges [Widely fork-branched herb, spike-like inflorescences of white notched petals, subsp. *racemosa*]

Silene vulgaris – **Bladder Campion**

Spergularia rubra – this rare little pink *Spergularia* identified from photos, growing next to the Paeony spot above Anapolis

Stellaria media – **Common Chickweed** Disturbed ground

Chenopodiaceae

Salsola kali – Prickly Saltwort Triopetra

Cistaceae

Cistus creticus – **Cretan Cistus** Common in phrygana and garigue [Short shrub with oval crinkly leaves and rose-pink flowers 4-6cm]

Cistus salvifolius – **Sage-leaved Cistus** Roadsides [Sage-like leaves and white flowers 3-5cm wide]

Fumana arabica – **Arabian Fumana** Open phrygana, the one we saw fairly regularly [Like a narrow-leaved yellow rockrose, with 12-18mm flowers, all leaves alternate]

Fumana thymifolia – **Thyme-leaved Fumana** Triopetra [Similar, but most leaves opposite, and flowers only 9-14mm wide]

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus elegantissimus – (a **bindweed**) Gorge edge, waste grounds, often bush forming Triopetra [Form of *C. althaeoides*, differing in its finely-divided silvery leaves]

Convolvulus oleifolius – Olive-leaved Bindweed. (4,5) Rocky slopes by roads [Low erect woody, with narrow silvery leaves and pink flowers]

Cuscuta epithymum – **Common Dodder** Scattered sightings whilst driving Phrygana & verges [Parasite with reddish thread-like stems, globular clusters of 5-lobed flowers]

Cuscuta palaestina (a dodder) [Similar to above but with yellow stemmed]

Ipomea indica – **Morning Glory** Planted in gardens, distinctive blue flowers

Crassulaceae

Rosularia serrata - (no common name) Cliffs and ledges, Patsos and Arendaina [Rosettes like neat grey houseleek]

Sedum amplexicaule – (a stonecrop) This is the small stonecrop with yellow flowers

Sedum laconicum – (a stonecrop) Arandaina Gorge

Umbilicus horizontalis – (a wall pennywort) Fairly common throughout, although most were not in flower – walls & and rocks [Typical small navelwort, with reddish-green flowers]

Umbilicus parviflorus – **Small-flowered Navelwort** Walls by track also on rocks, in flower at Arendaina Gorge [Typical navelwort with large yellow flowers]

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia cretica – **White Bryony** Mainly recorded in the latter part of the trip Scrub/rubble in gorges [Climber with mottled maple-like leaves opposite tendrils, greenish-white flowers]

Ecballium elaterium – **Squirting Cucumber**. Waste ground [Coarse bristly scrambler with heart-shaped leaves, yellow flowers and 4-5cm long fruit]

Dipsacaceae

Knautia integrifolia – (a scabious). Rocky phrygana [Tall typical scabious, variable leaves]

Scabiosa atropurpurea subsp *martima* (Sweet Scabious) [Tall scabious, pink flowers]

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo – **Strawberry-tree** . Maquis and common in pine woods, the walk up from Agios Ioannis [Evergreen tree with lanceolate leaves and warty berries]

Erica arborea – **Tree Heath** the walk up from Agios Ioannis [1-4m tall, but otherwise a typical white-flowered heather]

Erica manipuliflora – (a heath) [Shorter species, in fruit, with longer leaves]

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia acanthothamnus – **Greek Spiny-spurge** (common). Phrygana, often coastal [Intricately branched and domed, spiny shrubby spurge]

Euphorbia characias – **Large Mediterranean Spurge** common. Scrub and rocky slopes [Tall tufted hairy perennial]

Euphorbia dendroides – **Tree Spurge** (common) Often red from drought this year

Euphorbia helioscopia – **Sun Spurge** . Disturbed ground [Familiar weedy spurge, toothed leaves]

Mercurialis annua – **Annual Mercury**. Olive groves and walls [Like neat nettle, with erect green spikes]

Ricinus communis – **Castor Oil Plant** Waste ground [Coarse purplish shrub, with palmate leaves]

Fabaceae

Anthyllis vulneraria – **Kidney Vetch** Common throughout rocky phrygana across the trip [Typical kidney vetch, but here red-flowered subsp. *rubriflora*]

Astragalus angustifolius – **Spiny milk-vetch** Open rocky slopes of Paknes [“Vegetable hedgehog”, pinnate leaves with 6-10 pairs of leaflet, large flowers white tinged with purple]

Bituminaria bituminosa – **Pitch Trefoil** (very common). Olive groves and verges [Dull green, often tall trefoil, flower-heads violet-blue, and smelling of bitumen]

Calicotome villosa – **Spiny Broom** Common throughout the garigue [Like elegant gorse, scenting the air with honey]

Ceratonia siliqua – **Carob** Scattered throughout the first week. Olive groves and scrub, with young green pods [Evergreen tree with coarse pinnate leaves and big hanging pods]

Cercis siliquastrum – **Judas-tree** At this time of year this tree is very noticeable, scattered. Planted [Small tree, heart-shaped leaves, and pink flowers on stems]

Coronilla parviflora Scattered sightings throughout the trip of this lovely little plant in both colour forms (yellow, pink & white)

Coronilla velutina glauca A circle of flowers, both colour forms of yellow and pink often together at Anapolis

Ebenus cretica – **Shrubby Sainfoin** Cliffs and steep banks, Phaestos and Plakias [Shrub, palmate leaves, and silky heads of pink flowers, (Endemic)]

Genista acanthocloda –. Phrygana, [Similar to Cretan Dwarf-broom, but with tiny leaflets, and coming into flower]

Hedysarum spinosissimum – **Spiny Sainfoin**. Open ground [Low hairy annual, pinnate leaves, pinkish flowers and jointed spiny fruits]

Hippocrepis biflora – (a horseshoe vetch) . Scattered throughout the trip around bare ground among rocks [Short annual with pinnate leaves, single yellow flowers, and pods like a string of horseshoes]

Hymenocarpus circinnatus – **Disk Trefoil**. Common & widespread [Pinnate-leaved; big terminal leaflet, flowers orange-yellow; fruit a toothed disc 1-15cm across]

Lathyrus aphaca – **Yellow Vetchling** Common & widespread across fallow and waste ground

Lathyrus cicera Grassy or shrubby places, waste ground eg Armeni cemetery [brick red flowers, legume with 2 dorsal keels]

Lathyrus clymenum – (a vetchling) Rough grass [with 2-tone flowers (crimson/violet)]

Lathyrus setifolius – (a vetchling) Tracksides [Similar but narrow-winged with orange-red flowers]

Lens culinaris – Lentil in the olive groves at Plakias

Lotus ornithopodioides – (a bird's-foot-trefoil) . Trackside [2-5 yellow flowers stacked in a semi circle]

Lupinus albus ssp graecus pale flowers on the Gious Cambos

Lupinus pilosus – **Hairy Blue Lupin** Striking patches by roads, and fallow areas, scattered & widespread throughout the trip [Bright blue and white hairy lupin]

Medicago arabica – **Spotted Medick** Olive groves and fallow [Bur-fruited yellow trefoil, dark blotches on leaflet]

Medicago lupulina – Black Medick

Medicago marina - **Sea Medick**. Sandy beaches, low dunes [White-downy creeping perennial trefoil with yellow heads]

Medicago orbicularis – **Large Disk Medick** Waysides [Typical yellow medick with large smooth spiral disc fruit]

Onobrychis caput-gallii – **Cockscomb Sainfoin** (Common throughout the first week and at Festos). [Similar, flowers smaller and bur fruit]

Robinia pseudoacacia – **False Acacia** Planted/naturalised by coast road etc [Spiny tree with pinnate leaves, pendent white racemes]

Pisum sativum - **Wild Pea** Pretty two tone red and white pea flowers under the olives around Anapolis, probably planted

Spartium junceum – **Spanish Broom** (Scattered sightings). Roadsides [Shrub with many rush-like branches and large yellow flowers]

Tetragonolobus purpureus – **Dragon's Blood** Groves and disturbed ground [Hairy trefoil herb, crimson flowers, big-winged pods]

Trifolium angustifolium – **Narrow-leaved Crimson Clover** Gious Cambos, very long flowering head, inconspicuous pink flowers

Trifolium arvense – **Hare's-foot Clover**

Trifolium boissieri – **Brown Trefoil** Rocky slope [Low annual yellow clover, turning brown with age]

Trifolium campestre – **Hop Trefoil** (Scattered). Rocky places

Trifolium fragiferum – **Strawberry Clover** Moist turf of paths [Creeping clover with pink flowers, and inflated fruit heads, resembling raspberries!]

Trifolium repens – **White Clover** (Common). Phrygana and damp turf [Familiar clover creeping, rooting at nodes]

Trifolium stellatum – **Star Clover** Very common in places throughout the two weeks. Stony areas [Hairy annual clover with round leaflets, globose pink heads, calyx teeth spreading star-like, reddish]

Trifolium tomentosum – **Woolly Trefoil**. Stony turf [Like *T. resupinatum*, but flowers “right way up”, fruit heads like balls of cotton]

Trifolium uniflorum - (a single-flowered clover) Locally common on rocky turf and phrygana to 1600m [Mat or cushion-forming perennial, with stalkless white flowers in ones (-3) not heads]

Tripodion tetraphyllum – **Bladder Vetch** Very common, white and yellow flowers with inflated calyx

Vicia hybrida – **Hairy Yellow-vetch** Banks in groves and by roads (especially by spring) [Large yellow-flowered vetch, hairy standard]

Vicia villosa – **Fodder Vetch** Olive groves [Like a bright red-purple Tufted Vetch; subsp. *varia*]

Fagaceae

Quercus coccifera – **Kermes Oak** (common). Scrub and garigue, [Shrub or tree with evergreen, holly-like leaves]

Quercus ilex – **Holm Oak** (quite common,). [Evergreen tree with lanceolate leaves paler (downy) beneath] The magnificent tree near the paeony site on the Alones road was this

Quercus ithaburensis (macrolepus) – **Valonia Oak** . Scattered trees but Armeni Cemetery is wooded with them [Tree with large leaves, lobed with pointed teeth; huge acorn-cup; subsp. *macrolepis*]
Quercus pubescens – **Downy Oak** Woodland and scrub [Small tree/shrub, typical oak-leaves, downy]

Fumariaceae

Fumaria macrocarpa white flowered fumitory, Gious cambos

Corydalis uniflora Paknes

Gentianaceae

Centaureum erythraea – **Common Centaury** Phaestos

Geraniaceae

Erodium gruinum – **Long-beaked Stork's-bill** Arendaina and Scattered sightings Verges, and disturbed ground [Large annual with lobed leaves, violet flowers 4cm wide, and very long (6-11cm) fruit]

Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill terraces above Vatos near the serpentine

Geranium molle **Dove's-foot** Cranes-bill Above Anapolis

Guttiferae (Hypericaceae)

Hypericum empetrifolium – **Shrubby St John's-wort** Top of Arendaina Gorge Garigue and phrygana [Dwarf heather-like shrub with many yellow flowers. Mostly subsp. *oligathum*, (Endemic)]

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia – **Walnut** . Widespread, planted [Trees with fragrant pinnate leaves and coarse catkins]

Lamiaceae

Ajuga

Ballota pseudodictamnus – **False Dittany** , possible overlooked [Woody-based perennial, woolly-felted, oval, almost untoothed leaves]

Cardiothymus capitatus – **Thyme** (common)

Lamium amplexicaule – **Henbit** Common throughout disturbed ground, [Annual pink dead-nettle, long flowers]

Lavandula stoechas – **French Lavender** Rocky verges [Linear-leaved shrub, flower spikes with purple tassel]

Origanum dictamnus – **Dittany** (diktamus) Limestone cliffs, mainly in gorges, eg below the Gious Cambos [White-woolly round-leaved, with overlapping bracts (Endemic)]

Phlomis cretica – (a Jerusalem Sage) Common around rocky slopes [Much shorter and more orange flowers]

Phlomis fruticosa – **Jerusalem Sage** Common, and one of typical dominants of rocky slopes [Grey-felted shrub, with leaves like a sage; and dense heads of 23-35mm long flowers]

Prasium majus – **Shrubby Woundwort** Fairly common throughout Banks in groves etc and on rocks [Evergreen shrub, with paired white flowers and aroma similar to a Stachys]

Rosmarinus officinalis – **Rosemary** [Familiar shrub]

Salvia fruticosa – **Three-leaved Sage** Common & widespread throughout the garigue [Typical lilac-flowered shrubby sage with 3-lobed leaves]

Salvia verbenaca - **Wild Clary** Trioptera Disturbed ground [Herb with wrinkled leaves, and spike of dense purple whorls]

Satureja thymbra – **Satureja** Scrub and phrygana [Like a large-leaved, very aromatic, pink thyme]

Sideritis curvidens Tiny white whorls of flowers, Arendaina

Stachys cretica – **Mediterranean Woundwort**. Plakias, also Rocky slopes, often by roads [Like a slender white-felted pink “Lamb’s-ears”]

Thymus leucotrichus In leaf at the bottom of Arendaina, lemon-scented

Linaceae

Linum arboreum - **Shrubby Flax** Limestone gorge cliffs [Small shrub, spatulate leaves, yellow flowers]

Linum bienne – **Pale Flax** Roadsides, rough grass [Slender pale blue flax]

Malvaceae

Lavatera bryonifolia – **Tree Mallow**

Lavatera cretica – **Small Tree-mallow**. Scattered sightings around disturbed & waste ground, [Like Common Mallow, but broad epicalyx lobes]

Malva cretica – **Cretan Mallow**. Rocks near sea also in gorges Arendaina [Like a dwarf, delicate Musk Mallow – pale pink flowers]

Malva sylvestris – **Common Mallow** Frequent & widespread throughout [Familiar pink-purple biennial/perennial]

Moraceae

Ficus carica – **Fig** Common throughout first part of trip, scattered after. [Familiar shrub/tree with large palmately-lobed leaves]

Morus alba – **White Mulberry** Widespread throughout the trip, the typical tree around the taverna’s. Planted [Tree with oval and cordate leaves, dense flower spikes]

Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus sp. – (a gum) Planted by roads [Large trees with flaking bark, grey leaves]

Nyctaginaceae

Bougainvillea glabra – **Bougainvillea** Planted in gardens [Familiar ornamental climber with bright purple bracts]

Oleaceae

Olea europaea - Olive Abundantly cultivated [Evergreen tree with greyish narrow leaves]

Orobanchaceae

Orobanche crenata) White, on the walk above Agios Ioannis [Tall broomrape with purple veined white flowers, stigma white, yellow or pinkish]

Orobanche lavandulacea – **Lavender Broomrape**. Plakias, walk to the mills - usual host *Bituminaria bituminosa* [Small darkish purple broomrape, anthers hairy, stigma white or yellowish]

Orobanche pubescens – **Downy Broomrape** Olive groves, Plakias. On various hosts (often umbellifers) in phrygana [Medium yellow to purple-flowered broomrape, flowers hairy, stigma violet]

Orobanche ramosa – **Branched Broomrape** The commonest of the broomrapes, common & widespread (often on *Oxalis pes-caprae*) [Small prolific broomrape, with pale purple flowers contrasting with light brown stems]

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis pes-caprae – **Bermuda Buttercup** Common & widespread, often abundant in olive groves and by roads everywhere, rarely phrygana [Trefoil leaves, and umbels of yellow flowers]

Paeoniaceae

Paeonia clusii subsp. *clusii* – **Clusius's Peony** Alones road in flower and Paknes in leaf and bud only [White flowers 7-12cm across and narrowly-divided leaves (Endemic)]

Papaveraceae

[*Corydalis uniflora* – Cretan Corydalis. Sparse on bare clay among stones 1600-1900m [Short herb with greyish lobed leaves, whitish flowers tipped in maroon (Endemic)]]

Fumaria capreolata - Ramping Fumitory. Clambering on coarse vegetation by streams etc. [Large fumitory, greyish divided leaves, pale flowers tipped reddish-black]

Fumaria officinalis - **Common Fumitory**. Scattered throughout the trip around fallow ground [Typical non-climbing fumitory]

Glaucium flavum - Yellow Horned-poppy Coastal rocks and sand [Big grey-leaved poppy with yellow flowers and long pods]

Papaver purpureomarginatum – small, orangy flower, Arendaina

Papaver rhoeas – **Corn Poppy** Rocky and disturbed ground [Typical red poppy, sometimes with black blotches, globular pods]

Plantaginaceae

Plantago afra - (a plantain) Scattered throughout along verges to 1500m; coastal rock and sand [Typical plantain flowers, but branched leafy stem] I was sometimes confusing this with *Plantago lagopus*

Plantago coronopus – **Stag's-horn Plantain**

Plantago lagopus – **Hare's-foot Plantain**

Plantago lanceolata – **Ribwort Plantain**. Common & widespread Olive groves and grasslands [Familiar plantain]

Plantago major – **Greater Plantain** Common & widespread

Veronica thymifolia **Thyme-leaved forget-me-not** Paknes, two colour forms blue and magenta

Platanaceae

Platanus orientalis – **Plane Tree** Common & widespread Lining streams/rivers, forming groves [Tree with alternate palmate leaves, scaling bark]

Polygalaceae

Polygala venulosa – **Eastern Milkwort**. Phrygana [Typical milkwort, with pale mauve veined flowers, rather pea-like]

Polygonaceae

Rumex bucephalophorus - **Bull's-head Dock**. Common & widespread around rocky ground [Small annual, distinctive recurved fruit; subsp. *gallicus*]

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis – **Scarlet Pimpernel** Common & widespread across the trip, around phrygana and fallow land [Familiar weed]

Anagallis foemina – **Blue Pimpernel** Often found with the above, widespread [As latter but bright blue]

Cyclamen creticum – **Cretan Cyclamen** Some lovely posing shots for people of this shy species, rocky outcrops, scree, and crevices [White cyclamen]

Punicaceae

Punica granatum – **Pomegranate** Naturalised (presumably originally planted) [Tree with shiny opposite untoothed leaves]

Ranunculaceae

Anemone coronaria – **Crown Anemone** Scattered & widespread [Distinguished from Turban Buttercup by absence of green sepals]

Anemone hortensis (heldreichii) – (**an anemone**) Frequent & widespread throughout the trip, on phrygana and rocky places [Short anemone, white flushed pink; subsp. *heldreichii*]

Clematis cirrhosa -**Virgin's Bower**. Scattered & widespread, Rocky places [Typical Clematis, but evergreen and in fruit]

Delphinium staphisagria – (**a delphinium**) Abundant in the ruins and groves at Aradena, rarer in the gorge [Typical hairy delphinium] *Ranunculus asiaticus* – **Turban Buttercup** (2-4,8) Drifts of white on phrygana and rocky road-sides [The only big white or red buttercup here, red separated from Anemone by presence of green sepals]

Ranunculus bullatus – (a buttercup) Scattered & widespread Open areas within phrygana. Early flowering, large [All leaves basal, ovate, and warty]

Ranunculus creticus – **Cretan Buttercup** Cliffs (often shady) of gorges [Big buttercup with shallowly lobed leaves, mostly in fruit]

Ranunculus gracilis – (a buttercup) . Abundant in rocky phrygana [Neat buttercup, leaves 3-lobed mostly basal), sepals recurved]

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea – **Wild Mignonette** Rocky ground [pale yellow flowers]

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alaternus – **Mediterranean Buckthorn** Possibly overlooked [Evergreen shrub with glossy thick leaves and reddish berries]

Rhamnus saxatilis ssp prunifolia Shrub, Arandaina

Rosaceae

Crataegus monogyna – **Hawthorn** Widespread By streams and in woodland [Familiar shrub, but here the densely hairy subsp. *azarella*]

Eriobotrya japonica – **Loquat** Planted [Robust shrub, large (to 30cm) ribbed and brown-felted leaves]

Prunus domestica – **Wild Plum** Naturalised [Familiar fruit tree]

Prunus dulcis – **Almond** Naturalised by roads [Spiny shrub with narrow leaves, pale flowers, and oval velvety fruit]

Prunus prostrata – **Prostrate Cherry** Frequent on rocky upper slopes of 1500-1900m [Prostrate shrub, with bright pink flowers]

Pyrus spinosa – **Almond-leaved Pear** Common & widespread. Rocky slopes and woodland (also in pine grove) [Somewhat spiny shrub with narrow elliptical leaves, white flowers]

Rubus sanctus – **Bramble** Common, [Typical bramble, but with small trefoil leaves]

Sanguisorba minor – **Salad Burnet** Grass slopes and olive groves In fruit at Anapolis [Familiar herb, represented by subspp. *muricata* and *verrucosa*]

Sarcopoterium spinosum – **Spiny Burnet** Common. Often dominant in phrygana [Intricate spiny shrub ("barbed wire plant"), pinnate leaves, globose flower-heads]

Rubiaceae

Galium aparine – **Cleavers** [Familiar coarse clambering weed]

Galium odoratum – **Sweet woodruff**

Sherardia arvensis – **Field Madder**. Common & widespread throughout disturbed ground [Like a compact bedstraw with pink flowers]

Salicaceae

Populus alba – **White Poplar** Possible this species at the entrance of Armeni cemetery, or hybrid

Populus nigra – **Black Poplar** Planted [Tall tree with fluttering leaves shaped like ace of spades]]

Populus tremula - **Aspen** . Planted [Medium-sized tree with roundish leaves, slender stalks]

Santalaceae

Osyris alba – **Osyris** Often common in rocky sites [Broom-like shrub, with three-lobed yellowish flowers and narrow leaves - usually short but up to 2m tall in the last two sites]. This was what the *Aristolochia semperivivans* was scrambling over , I may have misnamed it Ephedra at the time

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga rotundifolia subsp. *chryso-splenifolia* - (a saxifrage) . Shaded gorge rocks, Arendaina [Round-leaved saxifrage, white flowers, spotted yellow or red]

Scrophulariaceae

Bellardia trixago – **Bellardia** Rough grass coastal sand [Erect opposite-leaved annual; 4-sided spike of white flowers flushed pink/yellow]

Cymbalaria muralis – **Ivy-leaved Toadflax** Common [Trailing plant with ivy-like leaves; spurred violet and yellow flowers]]

Misopates orontium – **Weasel's-snout** Rough ground [Slim annual pink snapdragon]

Parentucellia latifolia – **Red Bartsia** Common & widespread through bare areas in phrygana [Short erect herb, opposite leaves, red-purple flowers]

Scrophularia peregrina – **Nettle-leaved Figwort**. Scattered sightings [Typical figwort, shiny nettle-like leaves]

Verbascum arcturus – (a mullein) Cliffs in gorges [Lower leaves lobed (densely soft-hairy), short spikes of yellow flowers, violet filament hairs (Endemic)]

Verbascum macrurum – (a mullein) Mainly rosettes, but common across stony ground [Typical mullein, with ovate leaves and tall spikes]

Verbascum sinuatum – **Wavy-leaved Mullein** Mainly in leaf, common & widespread [Differs from other mulleins in pinnately lobed undulate leaves]

Verbascum spinosum – Spiny Mullein. Gorges and phrygana, common plant in and around Arendaina [Small spiny domed shrub with narrow white-downy, toothed to lobed leaves (Endemic)]

Veronica cymbalaria – **White Speedwell**. Gious Cambos. Scattered sightings Paths/walls [Decumbent annual, lobed leaves and white flowers]

Veronica persica – Common Field-speedwell (Se) Groves [Familiar annual weed]

Veronica thymifolia - (a speedwell). (Se) Open soil in scree, treeline to 1900m, Kakvoli [Woody-based perennial, oblong leaves and few-flowered clusters of blue or pink flowers]

Solanaceae

Mandragora autumnalis – **Mandrake** Mainly in leaf Rocky turf [Violet flowers on stalks in centre of big crinkly rosettes]

Nicotiana glauca – **Shrub Tobacco** Naturalised by roads, several seen on the last day back to the airport [Tall slender shrub, with scattered glaucous leaves and tubular yellow flowers]

Styracaceae

Styrax officinalis – **Storax** Frequent by the Venitian Bridge [Shrub with alternate oval leaves, and pendant fragrant white flowers]

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix parviflora – possible the tall trees planted along the highway near Rethymnon (6)

Tamarix smyrnensis – (a tamarisk) probably planted along the coastal areas [Flowers would be 5-lobed (not 4) and pink]

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne sericea – (no common name) . Short dense evergreen shrub, crowded evergreen leaves; fragrant pink flowers]

Thymelaea hirsuta – (no common name) Scattered sightings Rocky hills [1m shrub, white stems, scale-leaves (white-downy within)]

Thymelaea tartonraira - (no common name) Noted whilst driving Limestone phrygana [Small shrub with many silvery oblong leaves, and clusters of yellowish flowers; subsp. argentea]

Ulmaceae

Zelkova abelicea – **Zelkova** Omalos plain [Large tree with small coarsely lobed leaves (Endemic)]

Urticaceae

Urtica pilulifera – **Roman Nettle** Frequent throughout caves, ledges, and areas frequented by goats [Annual with jagged toothed leaves, globular fruiting heads and stinging hairs]

Valerianaceae

Valeriana asarifolia – **Cretan Valerian** Frequently seen throughout the trip Limestone cliffs/crevices [White valerian, basal leaves kidney-shaped; flower-head dense (Endemic)]

Valerianella

Verbenaceae

Lantana comosa – Lantana Naturalised on verges along the main north coast road [Scrambling prickly shrub with oval leaves and heads of orange and yellow flowers]

Vitex agnus-castus – Chaste tree. Damp gullies; also on seepage clay [Aromatic scrub and opposite digitate leaves, and fruiting spikes like peppercorns]

Violaceae

Viola cretica – **Cretan Violet** A small clump of this delicate plant was by the steamGious Cambos

Vitaceae

Vitis vinifera - Common Vine Naturalised in groves and hedges [Familiar climber]

MONOCOTYLEDONES

Agavaceae

Agave americana – **Century Plant**. Naturalised on roadsides and along north coast, mainly seen in the latter part of the trip. [Huge rosettes of grey spear-shaped leaves and last year's tall stems bearing saucer-sized heads]

Amaryllidaceae

Narcissus tazetta – **Polyanthus Narcissus** Leaves and fruit by streams on Gious-Kambos Frequent by streams/ditches, also field-banks [Typical daffodil leaves and several-fruited stems]

Pancratium maritimum – **Sea Daffodil** (leaves only and seeds like bits of charcoal). Coastal sands [Grey daffodil leaves]

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare – **Friar's Cowl**. Rock crevices, scattered, but frequent sightings throughout the trip [Patch-forming with heart-shaped leaves and spadix under a hooded spathe]

Arum concinatum – **Large Cuckoo Pint** Olive groves and gorge woodland [Like big Cuckoo Pint]

Arum creticum – **Cretan Arum** Rock, scree, stone-heaps [As latter but with yellow spadix and spathe - this folded backward]

Arum ideaum – **Cretan Mountain Arum** Flowers seen above Anapoli at 1400m. [Like Cuckoo Pint (Endemic)]

Dracunculus vulgaris – **Dragon Arum** Common throughout the trip, with some wonderful plants displaying large spathes. Olive groves and disturbed rocky ground [Purple-striped stems, digitally divided leaves, long purple spathe]

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus communis – **Black Bryony** Fairly common throughout often with huge cascades. Shaded gorge-beds/gullies [Unarmed climber with cordate leaves]

Iridaceae

Crocus sieberi – (**a crocus**) [Typical white crocus, purple streaked outside; narrow leaves with white midrib (Endemic)]

Gladiolus italicus – **Field Gladiolus**. Regularly seen throughout olive groves and fallow areas across the trip [Typical large pink-purple gladiolus].

Iris albicans – **White Iris**. Around cultivation, roadsides, and cemeteries in villages [Typical large iris, always with white flowers]

Iris tuberosa (= *Hermodactylus tuberosus*) – **Widow Iris** seen in flower on the Omalos, leaves and fruit elsewhere Fallow and scrubby banks, [Iris-like flowers, yellow-green with blackish blotch on falls; leaves quadrangular]

Iris unguicularis subsp. *cretensis* – **Cretan Iris** Rocky phrygana, some lovely examples of this species were found [Compact purple iris with yellow blotches (Endemic)]

Freesia leichtlinii ssp *alba* rare naturalised species on Crete, creamy flowers seen on the first day on the Gious Cambos

Moraea sisyrinchium (= *Gynandiris sisyrinchium*) – **Barbary-nut, 4-o'clock flower** Common across the first half of the trip with some wonderful display's late afternoon, around compact areas. [Blue Iris-like flowers, opening in sun; leaves narrow and sheathing stem]

Romulea bulbocodium – **Romulea, Sand Crocus** Flowering on the Gious Cambos Compacted clay (paths etc), moist pans and paths [Small, crocus-like; white flowers have a yellow throat; leaves narrow-linear]

Liliaceae

Allium ampeloprasum – **Wild Leek**

Allium nigrum – **Black Garlic** (a garlic) Common around Anapolis [Similar to last, but leaves all basal and narrower, and pale heads]

Allium subhirsutum (a garlic). Rocky areas and phrygana [Grass-like leaves with sparse hairs and umbels of white flowers]

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. *orientalis* - (an asparagus) . Olive groves and phrygana [Scrambling branched woody perennial, thorny “leaves” (actually branches)]

Asphodeline lutea – **Yellow Asphodel** Very common throughout trip [Similar to last, but with stiffer leaves and stout yellow spikes]

Asphodelus aestivus – **Common Asphodel** Phrygana, fallow and stoney ground, seen regularly throughout the trip.

Asphodelus fistulosus – **White Asphodel** [Hollow stem, fine-like leaves coming from the base]

Asphodelus ramosus – **Branched Asphodel** Phrygana and fallow [Stout branched candelabra head of pinkish-white flowers, smaller fruits than *A. aestivus*]

Colchicum macrophyllum – (an autumn crocus) Lots of leaves around the terrace fields at Anapolis Fallow terraces [Rosettes of large corrugated leaves, with a fruit capsule hidden at their base]

Fritillaria messanensis (now *sphaciatica* on Crete) – [Typical slender fritillary with linear leaves and nodding brownish flowers, usually mottled/chequered]

Gagea chrysantha. Stony snowmelt at 1800m on Kakvoli. [True yellow and broader leaves]

Gagea graeca – **Greek Star-of-Bethlehem** Scattered sightings Common in rock crevices, phrygana and bare soil [Slender erect perennial, several linear leaves; 3-5 white flowers, often nodding]

Gagea peduncularis Omalos

Muscari comosum – **Tassel Hyacinth** Widespread in rocky phrygana and roadsides [Spike of pale brown tubular flowers with cream teeth, and prominent bright violet terminal tassel]

Muscari neglectum – **Common Grape-hyacinth** Woods and rocks from 1300-1800m [Typical grape-hyacinth, but rather dwarfed]

Muscari spreitzenhoferi – (a **tassel hyacinth**) Rock-crevices, stoney ground [Similar to latter, but shorter, teeth of fertile flowers yellow, and tiny terminal tassel]

Ornithogalum divergens - (a **star-of-Bethlehem**) Patsos gorge, Fallow and open land [Typical white star-of-Bethlehem with widely-branched corymb of 1cm flowers]

Ornithogalum exscapum – (a **star-of-Bethlehem**) Clay areas [Similar, widely branched from base, flowers much bigger]

Ornithogalum narbonense – (a **star-of-Bethlehem**) Dry stony slopes [Elongate white spikes of white star-like flowers]

Ruscus aculeatus – **Butcher's Broom** Shaded or sheltered gorge, and other rock crevices [Low evergreen shrub with lanceolate spine-tipped “leaves” (branches)]

Scilla nana – **Cretan Squill** Lovely show of this delicate flower on Kakvoli [Low delicate squill with pale-blue star-like flowers, fading whitish (Endemic)]

Smilax aspera – **Common Smilax** Clambering on scrub [Cordate leaves with some prickles on leaves, stalks and/or stems]

Tulipa bakeri – **Baker's Tulip** Fantastic displays across the plateau , [Similar to *T. saxatilis* (from which distinct by altitude and tetraploid) (Endemic)]

Tulipa cretica – **Cretan Tulip** Lovely display of this small tulip on the Serpentine (notably "slag-heap" knoll)[Small white tulip, yellowish base to petals and wavy leaves (Endemic)]

Tulipa doerfleri - **Orange Tulip** Common in cultivated and fallow fields on Gious-Kambos [Orange-red tulip; linear-lanceolate leaves (Endemic)]

Tulipa saxatilis - **Rock Tulip** [Pink tulip with white-edged yellow base to petals and rather oblong leaves]

Urginea (Drimia) maritima – **Sea Squill** Leaves were common throughout rocky phrygana [Rosettes of large leathery leaves emerging from a big exerted bulb – “dog onion”]

Orchidaceae

Due to the complicated status of orchid nomenclature and the myriad of books on the orchids of Crete and Greece still being published, it is difficult to keep up to date with the name changes. The following listed in bold is the accepted species name compiled from a variety of literature. A useful site to check the names, and description – www.cretanflora.com & www.orchidsofbritainandurope.co.uk

Anacamptis boryi (*Orchis boryi*) **Bory's Orchid** Regularly recorded throughout the first half of the trip in grassy phrygana. [Resembles large Green-winged Orchid, upper flowers opening first]

Anacamptis collina (*Orchis collina*) **Hill/Fan-lipped Orchid** Regularly encountered on most days in the first half of the trip in grassy phrygana [Few flowered spikes, olive-brown flowers, pink centre to labellum].

Anacamptis laxiflora (*Orchis laxiflora*) **Lax-flowered Orchid** Mostly in damp seepage areas [Long purple spikes, leafy stems].

Anacamptis papilionacea (*Orchis papilionacea*) subsp. *alibertis* **Alibertis' Pink Butterfly Orchid** [Distinctive few-flowered spike, large pink flowers with darker pink lines]

Anacamptis papilionacea (*Orchis papilionacea*) subsp. *heroica* **Heroic Pink Butterfly Orchid.** Scattered sightings [As above but bigger and more flowers, leaves still plentiful and green while flowering]

Anacamptis pyramidalis **Pyramidal Orchid** Widespread in phrygana, seen most days throughout Spili and Plakias environs. (Dense pink spikes with long thin spur, deeply 3-lobed lip; narrow leaves].

Dactylorhiza romana **Roman Orchid** only a few spikes of this species were found along the roadside to the chapel above Aghios Ioannis. [Typical "marsh-orchid" with rose-pink flowers]

Himantoglossum robertianum (*Barlia robertiana*) **Robert's Giant Orchid** Frequent across the trip, although most had gone over, there were a few spikes that could be admired. [Stout and fragrant, with many greenish-purple flowers]

Limodorum abortivum **Violet Limodore** Just one in flower this year above Agios Ioannis [Purplish saprophyte with scale-like leaves]

Neotinea lactea (*Orchis lactea*) **Milky Orchid** Frequently recorded in phrygana [Dense milky white spikes, with many pink spots, sepals with some green, notably at base]

Neotinea tridentata (*Orchis tridentata*) **Three-toothed Orchid** Several individuals found amount the rocky phrygana slopes at Gious-Kambos by Jean and I on the first day [Short almost conical spike, with violet-lilac flowers whose 13-20mm long labellum is strongly marked with purple lines].

Ophrys bombyliflora **Bumble-bee Orchid** Often gregarious in phrygana [Round right green sepals and brown very furry lip].

Ophrys cretica subsp. *cretica* **Cretan Bee Orchid** Common in phrygana, old terraces and groves. [Sepals green (or rose-below); lip marked (or speculum outlined) in white].

Ophrys episcopalis **Large-flowered Bee Orchid** Fairly frequent over the first part of the trip [larger flowers with spreading hairs, 3-5mm long “horns” and white/yellow band around speculum] Similar in colouring to *O. heldreichii*, but the lip is flared out like the skirts of a bishop, apparently...

Ophrys heldreichii **Cretan Woodcock Orchid** Frequently seen throughout the phrygana Distinguished from all other pale pink-sepalled *Ophrys* by its deeply three-lobed labellum, the central lobe long-ovate].

Ophrys funerea **Lesser Dull Ophrys** Occasional in phrygana. [Tiny member of *O. fusca* group, lip 7-12mm, often with strong narrow yellow margin]

Ophrys fusca subsp. *creberrima* **Sombre Bee Orchid** [Green sepals, 15-23mm brown lip, pale “omega” mark edges of the lip turned downwards]

Ophrys fusca subsp. *cressa* **Sombre Bee Orchid** This species is similar to above, but was more common. [Similar to above, smaller flowers and flatter lip]

Ophrys fusca subsp. *creticola* [Grassy dry open shrubby, meadows, olive groves]

Ophrys fusca subsp. *iricolor* (*Ophrys iricolor*) **Rainbow Orchid** [Like large *O. fusca* whose labellum is 14-26mm and strongly red or purple underneath]

Ophrys lutea subsp. *phryganae* **Yellow Bee Orchid** Scattered and widespread throughout the trip. [Plants with larger yellow-lipped flowers. Lip held out straight]

Ophrys lutea subsp. *sicula* **Lesser Yellow Bee Orchid** Scattered and widespread throughout the trip. [Differs from *O. phrygana* in its sub-horizontal labellum 8-14mm long, often with inverted purple V in yellow margin].

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. *cretensis* **Small Cretan Spider Orchid** [Green sepals, square labellum 6-9mm. Endemic]

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. *gortynia* **Gortys Bee Orchid** Above Vatos, dunes at Triopetra [Differs in having labellum 9-13mm long and deep brown black (Endemic)]

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. *mammosa* Possibly only one spike seen this year, near fritillaries [Striking, with bicoloured lateral sepals and large velvety labellum].

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. *spruneri* (*Ophrys spruneri*) **Grecian Spider Orchid** One found by Jill on the walk down to Agios Yorgos chapel. [Exquisite! Rose pink sepals, bright blue speculum on brown-black labellum].

Ophrys spruneri subsp. *grigoriana* **Grigoria Spider Orchid** A great stand of these in the field edge at Anapolis, Rare in phrygana: [Rose pink sepals, bright blue speculum on brown-black labellum].

Ophrys tenthredinifera **Sawfly Orchid** [Round pale pink sepals, and large square labellum with a wide straw-yellow margin– like Neopolitan ice-cream! Plants with little or no pink colour (“chlorantha”) occasional].

Orchis anatolica **Anatolian Orchid** Terraces below the serpentine above Vatos Rare in phrygana [Long purple spikes, flowers with long narrow spur and labellum with two rows of dark spots].

Orchis anthropophorum (*Aceras anthropophorum*) **Man Orchid** Frequent across the first half of the trip. Phrygana [Greenish yellow flower-spikes, edged in red – no spur, lip “anthropoid”]

Orchis sitiaca **Sitia Orchid** The population of *O. anatolica* are probably a hybrid swarm with this [Differs from *O. anatolica* in having pale pink flowers, with a green blotch on lateral sepals. Endemic]

Orchis italica **Italian Man Orchid** Common throughout, and often gregarious in phrygana, grassy areas and old terraces [Large bright pink spikes, labellum of each flower with long thin lobes].

Orchis pauciflora **Sparsely-flowered Orchid** Frequent in open phrygana [Spikes of 3-7 yellow flowers, labellum brighter yellow].

Orchis provincialis **Provence Orchid** Only a couple of spikes, on the walk to Agios Yorgos. Rare [Differs from *O. pauciflora* in its spike of 5-20 uniform pale yellow flowers, and spotted leaves].

Orchis quadripunctata **Four-spotted Orchid** Frequent across the first half of the trip ([Often tiny, flowers small, usually pink with 2-6 small spots in centre of labellum, sometimes white].

Orchis simia **Monkey Orchid** (3) [Dense spikes, flowers with grey-pink “helmet”, labellum like dark purple dancing monkey, flowers two-tone, dark and v pale].

Serapias bergonii **Bergoni's Serapias** The commonest of this family, and regularly recorded throughout the trip. [Reddish-brown spikes with long tongue-like lip folded back with two dark blobs at base, and long bracts].

Serapias lingua **Tongue Orchid** Generally in damper phrygana (3-5) [Differs in long lip with one basal swelling, often much paler or pinker than the rest of flower

Serapias orientalis **Eastern Serapias** Only recorded twice [From other tongue orchids by its lip being 11-23mm wide near base and markedly hairy].

Palmae

Phoenix theophrasti – **Cretan Date-Palm** A wonderful specimen at Preveli monastery, Venetian bridge, and palm forest at Sweetwater Bay (9-10) [Typical date-palm with pinnately cut leaves]

Potamogetonaceae

Posidonia oceanica **Posidonia** Recorded along the shoreline (4, 11). [Fragments of green leaves of plants, or cast-up balls of dead leaves on beaches, often referred to as *Posidonia's* balls, which are basically submerged “sea-grass” with long ribbon-like leaves]

FUNGI

Clathrus ruber – **Red Cage Stinkhorn** (5) A great find in woodland above Agios Ioannis

136	Stonechat	Saxicola torquata	X		X		X			X	X			X		
137	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
138	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica								X				X		
140	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius								X				X		
141	Blackbird	Turdus merula	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X

Crete April 2024

			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
144	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	X		X	X	X	X	X							
155	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans		X												
156	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
158	Orphean Warbler	Sylvia hortensis												X		
160	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	X			X								X		
161	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis											X	X	X	
163	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	X			X	X									
164	Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli				X	X									
165	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix											X	X	X	
170	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata													X	
171	Semi-collared Flycatcher	Ficedula semitorquata									X		X		X	
172	Collared Flycatcher	Ficedula albicollis									X		X	X	X	X
173	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca													X	
176	Coal Tit	Parus ater					X									
177	Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus		X	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
178	Great Tit	Parus major	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	
179	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus											X	X	X	
182	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator										X			X	
184	Jay	Garrulus glandarius			X	X								X		
186	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula			X					X						

187	Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	X															X		
190	Hooded Crow	Corvus (corone) cornix	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
191	Raven	Corvus corax	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X				
193	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
194	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
195	Serin	Serinus serinus																X		
196	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris		X			X							X	X	X				
197	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis			X										X				X	
198	Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	X		X			X	X											
200	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirrus	X	X			X													
205	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra		X	X		X	X	X					X						
	Write Ins																			
	Steppe Buzzard	Buteo buteo vulpinus					X													
	Merlin	Falco columbarius												X						
	Italian Sparrow	Passer italiae	X					X	X	X	X				X					
	Species Splits																			
158	Eastern Orphean Warbler	Sylvia crassirostris																		
164	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus orientalis																		

BUTTERFLIES

by David Sales

Column numbers = date in April

			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Papilionidae	Papilio machaon	Swallowtail	X			X	X	X							
Papilionidae	Iphiclides podalirius	Scarce Swallowtail	X			X	X	X		X	X	X			
Papilionidae	Zerynthia cretica	Cretan Festoon	X				X		X		X				

Nymphalidae	<i>Polygonia egea</i>	Southern Comma	X				X		X		X						
Nymphalidae	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral				X	X										
Nymphalidae	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady				X					X						
Nymphalidae	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Mediterranean Fritillary, Cardinal Fritillary							X								
Satyridae	<i>Hipparchia cretica</i>	Cretan Grayling															
Satyridae	<i>Pseudochazara amalthea</i>	Eastern Banded Grayling, White-banded Grayling															
Satyridae	<i>Kinetisa/Brintesia circe</i>	Great Banded Grayling															
Satyridae	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown											X				
Satyridae	<i>Hyponephele lupina</i>	Oriental Meadow Brown															
Satyridae	<i>Coenonympha thyrasis</i>	Cretan Small Heath															
Satyridae	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Satyridae	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown	X				X		X								
Hesperiidae	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper															
Hesperiidae	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	Mallow Skipper															X
Hesperiidae	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>	Lulworth Skipper							X								
Hesperiidae	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper							X	X							
Hesperiidae	<i>Gegenes nostrodamus</i>	Mediterranean Skipper											X				
Hesperiidae	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>	Pigmy Skipper										X					

Systematic List – Dragonflies:

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta* Seen by various rivers

Scarlet Darter *Crocothemis erythraea*

Systematic List – Reptiles & Amphibians

Cretan Water Frog *Pelophylax cretensis* heard calling several times on the trip

Stripe-necked Terrapin *Mauremys caspica* Seen stacked on the rocks at the mouth of the river near Plakias

Cretan Wall Lizard *Podarcis cretensis* again scattered sightings of this lovely lizard, many at Arendaina

Ocellated Skink *Chalcides ocellatus* Phaestos and one at the chapel above Agios Ioannis

Systematic List – Other Invertebrates: The species list does not follow any order.

Arachnida

Wolf Spider *Lycosides* sp. Several lovely species seen on the trip

Orthoptera

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium* individuals were seen around rocky and grassy spots throughout the trip.

Long-nosed Grasshopper *Acrida ungarica* long grass at Phaestos

Bush Cricket

Praying Mantis *Ameles decolour*

Cretan Cave Cricket *Dolichopda paraskevi* Armeni cemetery

Hemiptera

Fire bug *Pyrrhocoris apterus* This was the common red and black bug many people were seeing throughout the trip

Hymenoptera

Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus* 1 or 2 sightings on sunny days of this species

Honey Bee *Apis mellifera* Very common, often heard before being seen, everyday.

White-tailed Bumble-bee *Bombus* sp. scattered sightings on sunny days

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea* quite widespread, recorded on sunny days

Carpenter Bee sp. *Chalicodoma parietina* often seen on flower heads on sunny days

Roman Snail *Helix pomatia* Common & widespread, often eaten by locals.

Land Snail – *Albinaria corrugate* This was the species of snail we were seeing in large groups hanging from rocks alongside the gorge

Land Crab – claw found near Plakias