

Crete in Spring 2025

A Greentours Trip Report by Fiona Dunbar

Species Lists by Fiona Dunbar and Jonathan Bradley

Photographs mostly by Fiona and Jonathon

Day 0 Friday 4th April

Arrival

Our group arrived on a number of flights! Jay met Peter who arrived first, and they spent a few hours in the archaeological site of Apta before collecting the Dutch contingent and heading for Spili and a taverna supper. Highlights were a yellow Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis cretica*) False Dittony (*Ballota pseudodictamnus*), and Squirting Cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium*). The Manchester flight arrived later and had supper enroute as provided by Jonathan – pies from the village bakery, bananas and Cadburys mini eggs.

Day 1 Saturday 5th April

The Gious Cambos



After a relaxed 9.30 breakfast we were on our way up to the Gious Cambos, about a 15-minute drive. Along the roadside were Perfoliate Alexanders (*Smyrniun perfoliatum*), Three lobed Sage (*Salvia fruticosa* AKA *triloba*) and drifts of tiny white *Gagea graeca* and pink *Silene colorata*. Our first of many stops on this flowery place. Here orange, endemic *Tulipa doerfleri*, pink, frilly Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*) and Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) soon made themselves known, along with *Anemone hortensis ssp heldreichii* and the brightly coloured *Ophrys heldreichii*. Mr Heldreich published thirteen volumes of the "Herbarium Graecum Normale", served as director of the National Garden of Athens for over 50 years and was good friends with Charles Darwin. He discovered seven new genera and seven hundred new species of plants, seventy of which bear his name. No wonder he keeps popping up.



Bird song was all around and we soon picked out Chetti's Warbler, Corn Bunting and Woodlark. A pair of Hooded Crows were giving a Raven a hard time.

The turf and the grassy bank were thick with flowers, and we were soon picking out orchids amongst the Red Bartsia (*Parentucellia latifolia*), *Trifolium uniflorum*, *Tordylium apulum* (this pretty umbel was soon a tour favourite, in flower and fruit)



and shrubby red-fruited *Sarcopoterium spinosum*. Within a few yards we had noted *Ophrys cretica*, *sicula*, *heldreichii* and *bombiliflora*. *Orchis italica*, *lactea* yellow *pauciflora* and purple *Anacamptis boryi* (flowers open from the top) as well as Giant Orchid and Man Orchid. Grassy tufts of *Iris cretica* showed some of their stunningly patterned purple.

A little further on by a small stream a Meadow Pipit was seen, and we could hear Green Toad calling from only a couple of metres away, though it never showed itself. It made my day when Jay pointed out fine strands of toad spawn in the shallow stream. In the track were Sand Crocuses (*Romulea bubcodium*) unusual to see them at this low an altitude.

We drove a little further round the plateau to a chapel where Jay and I prepared the picnic which we ate sat on stone benches under a huge plane tree growing by a spring. Of course there was a little chapel. Looking round on the limestone outcrop we soon found *Valeriana asarifolia*, the bright yellow wallflower *Erysimum raulinii* (endemic to Western Crete) and endemic *Ranunculus creticus* growing out of the cliffs. In the grassy areas were a good number of deep red Crown Anemone (*Anemone coronaria*). A couple of local ladies were industriously gathering horta (a mixture of species gathered from the hillsides in Spring) for the family meal. They were happy to show all the different species they were picking and how they would be cooked, either casseroled with meat or boiled and flavoured with olive oil and lemon.

Walking round a limestone knoll we could compare the *Sarcopoterium* with (the not dissimilar at first) the lime green of *Euphorbia spinosa*. Up against the rocks were white endemic *Cyclamen cretica* and *Tulipa saxatilis*. Jay spotted a budding orchid spike that we would try to get back to later in the week... Probably a *Cephalanthera* species. *Tulipa doerfleri* were scattered and there were many *Orchis italica* and *Orchis quadripunctata*. One field was full of Tulips, but with the rain in previous weeks, the grass was taller than the tulips. We still found some great patches mixed with flowering





Barbary Nut (*Moraea sisyrinchium*) and the cream crucifer *Eruca vesicaria*. On the opposite side of the road were some lovely bushes of scented, flowering *Daphne sericea*.

Our last stop on the day was in a tiny gorge on the way down from the plateau. The stream was quite full so we could not go far, but even so we found lots of cliff dwellers - Procopiana (*Symphytum creticum*), budding Cretan Birthwort (*Aristolochia cretica*), as well as flowering *Linum arboretum* and *Brassica cretica*.

Having dropped everyone back in Spili, our hosts Heracles and Christina drove out with me to show me a new flowery track they had found... so good we would all go there

tomorrow...

Day 2 Sunday 6th April Phaestos and a side track or two

After filling up on Heracles' breakfast selection of homemade jams, fresh bread and Greek yoghurt, honey and walnuts, we headed down to the coast and the Minoan palace of Phaestos. As we lost altitude, the roadsides were dominated by almost luminescent flowering Giant Fennel (*Ferula communis*), large clumps of purple flowered *Salvia fruticosa*, and scattered pyramidal spikes of pale *Echium italicum* and blue-purple flowered Large Blue Alkanet (*Anchusa azurea* AKA *italica*).

We broke the journey to walk down a track into a little valley. The only sounds were the stream below, birdsong and the bells from a herd of sheep opposite. At the top of a distant hill we could see a few wind turbines, and in our valley an older source of power, a stone watermill. Descending from the van we were soon engrossed. Tongue orchids (*Serapias bergonii*), and two species of Goat's-beard were mixed together, the



larger *Tragopogon porrifolius* and smaller *hybridus*. There was a mass of different coloured peas, Star Clover (*Trifolium stellatum*), Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*), Pitch Trefoil (*Bituminaria bituminosa*), Bladder Vetch (*Tripodion tetraphyllum*) and more. The first of several Common Swallowtails was feeding on the clover flowers. Some of the nicer



grasses were *Briza maxima* and *Poa vivipara* amongst which flowered hundreds of white Turban Buttercups (*Ranunculus asiaticus*), some shading to a deep pink. Peter spotted a Pink Butterfly Orchid, and there were a good number of Pyramidal Orchids flowering. White stars of *Gagea graeca*

were also common. Beneath the olive trees were *Ophrys heldreichii* and Weasel's Snout (*Bellardia trixago*).

Along the track Jay spotted a pair of Woodchat Shrikes, and a flock of Goldfinches passed through noisily. The muted pinks and browns of *Anacamptis collina* were spotted. The shrubs here are quite varied, dominant was *Cistus creticus* with large pink flowers, also the spiny gorse *Callicotome villosa*, and scented *Thymus capitatus*, *Phagnalon graecum*, Stink Aster (*Dittrichia viscosa*) *Helichrysum stoechas*. Cetti's Warblers were calling and we had our first *Ophrys episcopalis* of the trip. A pretty grassy slope thick with Turban Buttercups and a few olives turned up *Petrohagia dubia* and tiny purple Jersey Toadflax (*Linaria pelisseriana*) Tassel Hyacinths (*Muscari comosum*) Tufts of yellow flowered Viper's Grass (*Scorzonera cretica*) were growing on a small cliff above the stream.

We continued our drive through the agricultural town of Timbaki on a plain dominated by greenhouses and arrived at Phaistos.

The lost city of Phaistos was located in 1853 by a ship's captain triangulated the location of Phaistos to a hill then known as Kastri ("small castle") using the locations of Gortyn, Matala, and the coast. Phaistos was first inhabited around 3600 BC, slightly later than other early sites such as Knossos. During the Early Minoan period, the site's hills were terraced and monumental buildings were constructed. The first palace was built in the Middle Minoan IB period, around 2000 BC. The initial palace was destroyed and rebuilt three times in a period of about three centuries and again around 1400 BC by an earthquake but not rebuilt. Several kouloura structures (subsurface pits) can be seen at Phaistos - tall jars and large pithoi can still be seen in situ. The site was reinhabited during the Geometric Age but around the end of the 3rd century BC, Phaistos was destroyed by the Gortynians and since then has not been present in the history of Crete.

Chukar and Bee-eaters were calling – some of the group saw one flying over. I prepared the picnic on some shaded stone benches and after lunch we took the small road towards the summer palace at Agia Triada. We stopped for a profusion of furry pink flowered endemic *Ebenus cretica* which dominates some areas of this arid landscape. Other nice plants here were *Allium nigrum* and *subhirsutum*, Wild Clary (*Salvia verbanaca*) Lesser Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*), and a tiny yellow flax *Linum stricta*. We found a few fat spikes of *Serapias orientalis*, and 5 Bee-eaters flew acrobatically around the hilltop.



Further on I stopped for one of my favourite boraginaceae family, the pink flowered *Echium angustifolium*. Here also was Purple Viper's Bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*) and new for the trip *Ophrys gortinia*.

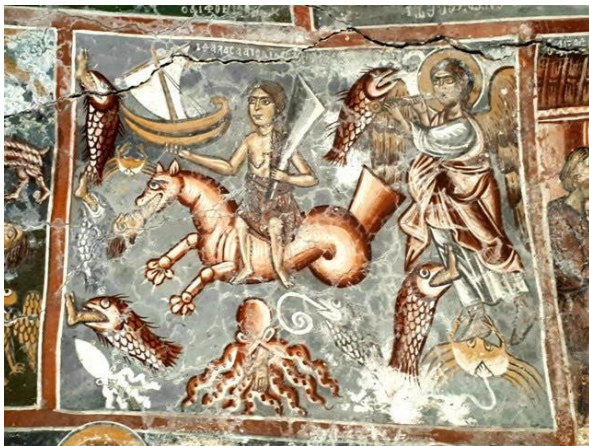


Our final stop for the day was close to Spili – the track Heracles had taken me to last night. The lush turf was thick with flowering peas again – red splashes of Dragon's Blood (*Tetragonolobus purpureus*), yellow *Vicia hybrida*, *Vicia sativa*, a pretty Lathyrus, *Lotus ornithopodoides*. Wet flushes were frequent, Goldendrop (*Cerintho major*) and Rough-fruited Buttercup (*Ranunculus muricatus*) dominated one, others had good numbers of Lax-flowered Orchid. Barbary nuts flowered densely in the track and fields in the afternoon sun mixed with a few purple *Anemone coronaria*. The strange *Osyris alba* caused some discussion. It was time to head back, past Rachel's Sand Crocus, and large patches of *Allium roseum*.

Our supper this evening was again very good, we tried the taverna situated about the 'famous' lion spring in the centre of Spili village – excellent and a lovely location.

Day 3 Monday 7th April

Mourne, Agios Yorgos and the Serpentine Rocks



Today we had a local day, beginning in the village of Mourne for some super 13th Century frescos of heaven and purgatory the chapel of Agios Georgos. The octopus eating the foot of a damned parishioner is my favourite, I think.

Parking at a junction of tracks, we divvied up the picnic and headed down into a valley with only birdsong for company. Rachel quickly picked up Willow Warbler, not long after there was Sardinian Warbler and Swallow. *Medicago arabica* was a nice thing and Jay spotted our first

Monkey Orchid (*Orchis simia*), with deep magenta dancing arms and legs, and paler body and head. The pea family are fabulous if rather overwhelming on Crete, we spotted large Disk Trefoil (*Medicago orbicularis*), Disk Trefoil (*Hymenocarpus circinnatus*) and Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*). Our first Griffon Vulture of the trip soared silently overhead. A little further on we reached a favourite limestone outcrop of mine. Despite some doubtful looks as I pointed out the less than obvious route in, we were soon in a flowery rock garden with 18 + species of orchid including lots of Monkey Orchids, *Ophrys iricolor*, and rare *Orchid provincialis*. There were also lots of *Iris cretica*, fruiting Widow Iris (*Hermodactylis* or *Iris tuberosa*) and Mignonette (*Resida lutea*). And all with awesome views.



Not too much further on we reached the tiny 15th century chapel of Agios Georgos. It seems there are too many chapels to care for on Crete, and although still used for worship,

the fresco of St George and the dragon has deteriorated over the years. A sweet little Moorish Gecko had made the chapel its home though. Just outside we put the picnic together, trying to avoid the hundreds of *Ophrys cretica* scattered through the flowery turf. *Plantago bellardii* and *Trifolium tomentosum* was a pleasingly furry part of the mix with *Vicia cretica* and *Valerianella coronata*. Overhead we watched Griffon Vultures, Chukar, Raven and a Golden Eagle! Spotted on the return were *Romulea bulbocodium* and *Thymelea tartonraira* ssp *argentea* with Peter.

Time to head back up the valley. The Golden Eagle was seen again, also Chukar, and at the top an Ortolan Bunting and bright male Stonechat up on a wire.

Some winding lanes brought us to an area of green serpentine rock. A bare rocky outcrop had a covering of tiny plants. Most obvious were *Orchis pauciflora*, but once you started looking, the delights of *Anthemis rigida*, the rockrose *Fumana arabica*, Red Dock (*Rumex bucephalophorus*) and Burnt Candytuft *Aethionema saxatile* ssp *creticum* could be found. Our first tiny endemic *Tulipa cretica* was spotted by Ria, maybe 4 cm high and with bronzy twisted leaves. On the more sheltered side of the slope, there were hundreds flowering. Rachael, Peter and I spotted a bronzy micromoth actively waving antennae longer than its own self, *Micropterix* sp. Exploring the slopes opposite, Jay and Peter found our first *Orchis anatolica* whilst some of us sat on rocks in the sun. There were pink *Anemone coronaria*, and ancient terracing could be seen all around. Corn Buntings sang from the tops of trees. A little terraced field produced a host of *Orchis sitiaca*, similar to *anatolica* but with more green in the sepals, a folded lip and silvery green leaves. A few spikes of *Ophrys fusca* ssp *creberrima* were seen, the white flowered *Silene dichotoma* which flowers from each dichotomous branch point, and swathes of *Anacamptis boryi*. Perfoliate Alexanders (*Smyrniium perfoliatum*) added a splash of lime green.

Day 4 Tuesday 8th April

Spili, Triopetra and Kato Saktouria



As expected, it was raining this morning. We decided to take the morning to get all the books out and pore over photos, pinning down a fair few more unidentified things and clarifying others. Lunch was in a taverna opposite; a warming lentil soup that they made on our request and yoghurt flavoured with pieces of preserved bergamot for afters.



The afternoon forecast being more promising we headed down to the coast at Triopetra. Fields full of gladioli and chrysanthemum were noted and we stopped for photos on our way back. A Woodchat Shrike sat on a post as we passed.

Having reached the beach, the weather warmed and cleared most helpfully. A grassy area where we parked held our attention with a range of peas – Lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), Small Mellilot (*Mellilotus indicus*), Edible Bird's foot Trefoil (*Lotus edulis*) as well as Hare's Tail Plantain (*Plantago lagopus*). Moving onto the sand we were soon familiar with the pink flowers of *Cakile maritima* and the furry, mat-forming silver-leaved *Medicago marina*. *Silene colorata* and *Convolvulus oliofolius* both provided plenty of splashes of pink. A Nightingale sang from the shrubbery, and we could hear plenty of Chukar. A camouflaged caterpillar was of the *Gremetridae* moth *Apochima flabellaria*. There were so many quirky little plants here. *Muscari (Leopoldia) spreitzenhofferi*, Bladder Vetch (*Tripodion tetraphyllum*), *Asteriscus aquaticus*. Alpine swifts swarmed above us, calling loudly with a number of House Martins, and a dozen Little Egrets were perched on the landward most of the three stone stacks that give this beach its name. Blackcaps sang. More lovely peas – the serpent-fruited *Scorpiurus muricatus* grew cheek by jowl with Scorpion Vetch (*Coronilla scorpioides*) and the Birdcage Thistle (*Atractylis cancellata*). New orchids – lovely fresh Bug Orchids (*Anacamptis fragrans ssp coriophora*), and two subspecies of *Ophrys sphegoides* – *gortynia* and *cretensis*. Possibly the tiniest of all were Yellow Centaury (*Centaureum maritimum*) and Lesser Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*) a very delicate umbel *Scaligeria halophila* and the almost microscopic *Gallium setaceum*. A beach walk took us back to the vehicles and we all shed layers gratefully as the day warmed up.

We were to take a different road back to Spili, through some lovely scenery and habitat. A Whinchat sat for us by the road, and after a number of twists and turns we reached the village of Kato Saktouria. Our first roadside stop was for a promising looking flowery area, particularly both colour forms of Goldendrop (*Cerinth major*) with and without purple bases to the tubes, and good numbers of the scabious-like *Knautia integrifolia*. Tiny *Saxifraga tridactylites* flowered all over the rocky slopes. Hare's Foot Grass and the little Jersey Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*) grew with *Silene dichotoma* and *Scrophularia lucida*.

On the other side of the village, we just had to stop on the quiet road for the magnificent flowering *Verbascum macrurum* and shows of blue-purple *Lupinus angustifolius*. The views with mountains and limestone outcrops going down to the sea made a great backdrop to the photos. Borage family were well represented with pale *Echium italicum*, *Echium azurea* and *Echium plantagineum*. The Giant Fennel almost glowed in the afternoon light. F was very taken with the *Briza maxima*. A very attractive, large pea, *Lathyrus clymenum* scrambled everywhere, tall *Ornithogalum narbonense* was in good flower and the attractive furry sage was *Stachys cretica*.

Finally we dragged ourselves away and headed for Spili and a very good and entertaining meal at the newly opened Antigoni taverna.



Day 5 Wednesday 9th April Armeni Cemetery, Agios Ioannis and the Road to Alonis

Our day started with a pre-breakfast walk below Heracles Rooms. An early fly over by two dozen Griffon Vultures was good, and the Swallows perched on wires overhead. After breakfast it was onto the Late Minoan cemetery of Armeni. Here are over 200 chamber tombs, all oriented towards the northeast and the Vryssinas mountain, which was at one time the site of a peak sanctuary. The chamber tombs are cut into what is quite a soft rock, known locally as kouskouras, but the rock was hard enough for the tombs to remain well preserved. Perhaps the most unusual find here was a helmet made of 59 boars' tusks. The grove of *Quercus ithaburensis (macrolepus)* – Valarian Oak – was a pleasure to be under as the group explored the tombs (an endemic Cave Cricket lives in them and is easily spotted). With the rain of the last couple days some of the excavated tombs were full of water so we were glad to be able to enter one of the largest tombs which boasts an electric light in the chamber at the end of a long set of shallow steps. Above ground the understory was a mass of pea flowers of all colours amongst the bromes and other grasses. There were colonies of *Serapias lingua*, Tassel Hyacinths and large areas of *Osyris alba* with 3-lobed tiny yellow flowers.

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. Through a series of stone arches was an old olive press, then further up the hill is the old wash house – a line of spring-fed troughs for washing clothes, probably used into the '80's. Moving on, the vegetation became a mix of Tree Heather (*Erica arborea*) and Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) before we entered an area of pine woodland. Under the pines were tens of thousands of *Cyclamen creticum*, as well as Friars Cows and a pretty fern *Asplenium onopteris*. Jay spotted two budding spikes of *Limodorum abortivum*. There is much evidence of Cretan Badger here, I think they like the cyclamen bulbs. I headed back to bring the van up to meet the group at the top of the hill. Rachel and Cecilia spotted the first two *Dactylorhiza romana*. We reached the top of the woodland path where a small new chapel has stunning views out to the sea through the Kotsifou gorge. The small terraces below were explored; Jay found *Cytinus hypocystus* in bud, and there were at least 40 spikes of *Limodorum abortivum* in bud, one with open flowers. In the end we found around 10 spikes of Roman Orchid (*Dactylorhiza romana*). We decided to leave the picnic till tomorrow and go instead to the excellent Illoimenos Taverna for lunch. The cook's mother was preparing a huge pile of Tassel Hyacinth bulbs for pickling, and we were invited into the spotless kitchen to look at and choose the dishes prepared that day – Okra, Artichoke, Greek meatballs, Lamb, Squid, all in rich sauces and gravies. Our table was decorated with vases of orchids picked from the hills, mostly *Orchis palustris* and *italica*. 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. It was raining again but the drops of water looked nice on the arums! 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. Jay, Peter and I explored but found only leaves. *Cyclamen cretica* and Friars Cows were prolific, beneath a grove of a huge, gnarled *Quercus coccifera*. This valley has some excellent mixed species of trees – Turpentine Tree (*Pistacia terebinthus*), Cretan Maple (*Acer sempervirens*), *Quercus pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*. Back to Spili for a rest before meeting to tackle the plant and bird lists and add all the new species of the last couple of days.



Day 6 Thursday 10th April

Agia Lake and the Omalos Plateau

Setting off a little early today as it is a longer drive, we broke the journey at Agia Lake. This pretty little reservoir was quite quiet, only coots and mallard, but a good number of Terrapins! Jay pointed out three beautifully lit Honey Buzzards circling close overhead, Blackcaps were frequent and other warblers glimpsed or heard were Cetti's and Wood Warblers. Wryneck was heard too. Dabchicks and glimpsed Water Rail made brief appearances. The squirting cucumber was not yet in fruit

We continued the ever more scenic drive up to the Omalos. Buzzards were frequent. Reaching the plateau, we drove slowly past the small fields and orchards. Birds here were Wood Warbler, Cirl Buntings, Linnets and Goldfinches. The first



patches of pink *Tulipa bakeri* were seen and we stopped for a field with hundreds of tulips and almost as many blue *Anemone coronaria*. Hoopoes were calling around us all morning. 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 or red splashes of *Anemone coronaria* and swathes of white *Anthemis chia*. We moved round to an area where we could walk amongst the thousands of tulips in a valley. Tufts of yellow *Gagea* was difficult to identify but not so the scattered Widow Iris (*Hermodactylis tuberosa*), a stunning

black and yellow/green iris! Jay and I prepared the picnic while the group wandered and photographed, although this was curtailed when the farmer unusually asked us to leave the field. The anemones, as well as the gorgeous deep blue had deep pink colour variants. We moved on to the start of the Samaria Gorge, admiring the magnificent view down the top part of the gorge. *Aubretia deltoidea* looking into the Samaria Gorge was stunning. Griffon Vultures soared overhead, and I found one spike of the rare Forgotten Orchid (*Orchis prisca*), new for the trip and not seen every year. A very civilised coffee was had at the lovely Omalos Hotel, where Jonathon and Peter spotted a lone



Paeone clusii flowering!. We then we began our journey home, making good time. A very cheerful meal at a taverna above the lion springs; it was Jay and Peter's last night so extra toasting was needed. The Dutch contingent had got leaving presents of Baklava for both.

Jay saw a Stone Marten lope past his apartment later that evening, lucky thing.

Day 7 Friday 11th April Patsos Gorge and the Gious Cambos revisited

Friday is market day and most of the group walked over to see what was on offer, local veg, fruit and cheeses, some clothes, nothing fancy or touristy!

Then via winding roads to Patsos Gorge, a UNESCO world heritage site. The track down through mixed woodland and cliffs had Nettle Tree and a lot of budding *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*, Tree Heather and *Acer sempervivens*.

The sound of water in the stream below was always with us. *Cyclamen creticum* and good flowering *Petromarula pinnata* were everywhere. The name of this endemic translates as Rock Lettuce, and it is commonly gathered for salad leaves. Black Briony, White Briony and Smilax scrambled everywhere. I learned this morning that Black Briony buds are very toxic but delicious if boiled and prepared carefully! was common and in flower, also shrubby *Hypericum empetrifolium*. 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 (*Linum arboreum*) flowered in profusion with Butchers Broom, Wood Ruff, and the other Pennywort. Ravens, Jackdaws and a few Crag Martins were on the wing.

On the return we spotted Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia*) a nice stand of *Arum concinatum*. Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*)



Polypody and Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) thrived near the water. We left as a coach load of school children arrived and headed back towards Spili, stopping to visit the 14th Century ruins of the Church of the Virgin Mary in Patsos village. Blackcaps, Cettis’s Warblers and Goldfinches flitted around, and we saw our first *Cyanoglossum creticum* as well as some stunning Borage (*Borago officinalis*), *Scrophularia peregrina* and *lucida*

and *Papaver hybridum* with the blackest of black patches on the petals. Back to Spili for a comfortable picnic in the sun at Heracles's.



Out again and up the the Gious Cambos. A second chance to wander in different areas of the plateau, with swathes of *Anacamptis laxiflora* and *Orchis italica*, including a white specimen of the latter. An *Ornithogalum* was seen several times – *O. excapum*. A buzzard hunted overhead. We totted up a good number of orchid species and some lovely displays of all of them before moving on to a site for *Fritillaria messanensis*, now split into the endemic subspecies *sphaciotica* which means damaged looking! Making our way up the steep hill we found some fantastic hyperchromatic *Orchis tridentata* (which I called *lactea* at the time) before reaching our target. Or final stop was for a comparison of a couple of great examples of *Phlomis cretica* and *fruticosa*.

Peter and Jay had time before the flight to explore a path from the Agia Triada monastery on the Akrotiri peninsula, finding tiny *Campanula erinus* and lots of Chukar!



Day 8 Saturday 12th April Transfer to Anopolis via Kotsifou Gorge and Frankocastello

We said our goodbyes to the fabulous Heracles and headed to Kotsifou Gorge. Walking down from the top we pass through a sinuous narrowing, past a waterfall and on. The endemic Cretan Cyprus *Juniperus oxycedrus ssp horizontalis* was scattered on the gorge side opposite, unusual in the fact that it branches out from the main stem. Chasmophytes included lots of nice flowering *Linum arboreum*, *Brassica nigra*, a little rather tatty Cretan Dittany (*Origanum dictamnus*), *Arum creticum* and some lovely shows of the endemic purple crucifer *Ricotia cretica*.

Crag Martins swooped above and below us, Griffons soared above the gorge. The gorge held true to its name which means wind and we were glad to reach the sun and shelter of the little chapel built into the cliff, where Crag Martins were nesting and the cliff-dwelling *Vebascum acturus*, and Vipers Grass (*Scorzonera cretica*) was in full flower.



A pretty stemless thistle was *Centaurea raphanina*.

Onward along the coast road with spectacular views along the mountainous coast back towards Plakias. Passing lots of *Lupinus pilosus*, we were drawn to a stop by a field full of *Chrysanthemum* (now *Geobionis*) *coronata*, a spectacular site. Also here were Rayless Chamomile (*Anthemis rigida*), mixed scarlet and blue flowered Pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), Jay's plant of the trip so far; a glorious patch of tiny *Solenopsis minuta*. Eastern Bath White was seen, also nice views of Collared Flycatcher and Honey Buzzard.

Further on, an unpromising, barren looking field was our next stop. On entering the ground was thick with a small orange poppy *Papaver purpureomarginatum* and numerous Crepis flowers, Chamomile and *Gagea graeca*. Magnificent velvety Dragon Arums or *Dracunculus vulgaris* were everywhere. We had glimpses of Semi-collared and Pied Flycatchers, Sky and Crested larks, a glimpsed Cuckoo, Blue Rock Thrush was calling and a glimpse of a Red-backed Shrike. We drove into Frankocastello, spotting Stonechats and nice views of Juvenile Whinchats from the car. Whilst waiting for our cappuccinos there were Bee-eaters overhead, a Stonechat and Black Redstart. Our picnic lunch was in the shade by the harbour, a fine spread as usual. We could see further along the coast the 23 hairpin bends



that could take us up to Anopolis. *Ebenus cretica*, Northern and Black-eared Wheatears were seen from the car. From our balconies we had Swallows, Alpine Swifts and Bee-eaters. After settling in, we walked out from the village. The verges were thick with the grey furry *Ballota psuedodictamnus*, *Ornithogalum* and both



colour forms of *Coronilla parviflora*, ie yellow and pink/white. A lone *Ophrys spruneri*, new for the trip, was spotted next to a trough where hundreds of bees were drinking. Moving onto a different track we reached an area of more natural woodland. Two Hoopoes were flying and soon we could hear Hoopoe, Cuckoo and Golden Orioles all calling. Numerous Serins were seen feeding, Griffon Vultures soared past overhead, Ravens were frequent, and Pied, Semi-collared and Collared Flycatchers were seen. We had an exciting time looking for the Hoopoes and saw them a few times, a pair I think. It was time to head back to Anopolis but not before I had found some magnificent *Ophrys spruneri* and Marion found the



best *Himantoglossum robertianum* of all time.

Whilst being served a superb range of classic Cretan dishes by Poppi, the group bought up all the home made Bergamot preserves...

Day 9 Sunday 13th April Arendaina Gorge & Anopolis Surrounds

Before breakfast most went out for a spot of birding. Driving along with the window open we heard our first Hoopoe and there it was, sitting and calling in the top of a tree. A little further on we pulled in and immediately could hear numerous Hoopoes and even more Golden Orioles as well as several Cuckoos! The Hoopoes were visible sitting or flitting from lower branches and we had an exciting time trying to spot some of the 30 or so Orioles. Three Cirl Buntings sat atop of *Asphodeline lutea* spikes in a small meadow, and a Meadow Pipit with a mouth full of caterpillar waited for us to leave before going to its nest. Collared Flycatchers were seen too, and Black-eared Wheatears. Griffon Vultures circled on the morning's thermals.



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 and built wide enough for two pack animals to pass safely) before beginning our descent into the gorge. Griffons were overhead and a Blue Rock Thrush sat on the far side of the narrow gorge. There were many flowers of note; *Delphinium staphisagria* nearly in flower, Small-flowered Pennywort (*Umbilicus parviflorus*) with a spike of yellow flowers, *Anchusa variegata* with spots of colour on the petals. Loads of *Malva sylvestris* and *Gagea graeca*, *Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia*. We could hear a Hoopoe calling all morning. A waterfall of *Colchicum macrophyllum* leaves could be seen on the opposite wall of the gorge.

At the bottom of the gorge flowering *Linum arboreum* and *Verbascum arcturus* decorated the cliffs as we walked down towards to view the bailey bridge far above. On the way up the other side we had lots of different labiates *Sidiritis curvidens*, *Stachys spinulosa*, White Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), also tiny *Saxifraga tridactylites* and the glossy leaved stemless thistle *Centaurea raphaniana ssp mixta*.

Reaching top of the gorge we came out into the once fine but now ruined houses of Arendaina, now home mainly to goats and bee hives. By the bailey bridge we had great views of a sunlit Blue Rock Thrush before heading back to Anopolis for a restorative coffee.

For lunch Poppi made us fabulous green salads and Sfakian pies – a stretchy pastry with mizithra cheese, rolled thin and fried.

At two we went out for a local walk passing small fields, with large leaves from many *Colchicum macrophyllum* plants amongst the *Asphodeline lutea* and *aestivus* and royal blue *Lupinus pilosus*. One of the more interesting thistles was *Carduus pycnocephalis*. Alpine Swifts shrieked above us as we walked up above the village. Several Sardinian Warblers were about, Jay saw one on a nest. Large Whites were common, our first Cretan Festoon sailed past and a Scarce Swallowtail. New plants included *Campanula erinus* and *Asphodelus fistulosus*.

Day 10 Monday 14th April Paknes



At 9 am Constantine parked his 4wd outside the taverna and we mounted via an upended beer crate. Coats and jumpers stuffed into bags gave extra padding and we were on our way to the snow line. As we climbed the olive groves of the plateau gave way to *Pinus nigra*, before it gave way in turn to mixed *Acer sempervivum*, huge flowering Almond-leaved Pear (*Pyrus spinosa*) *Quercus coccifera* and *pubescens*. As altitude was gained on the rough track we moved into shrubby *Juniperus phoenicea* and the much larger *Juniperus oxycedrus* ssp *horizontalis* These ancient, twisted trees are very impressive in the stark landscape. A few cuckoos were put up as the vehicle moved past, and Griffons were overhead. The views down through the scattered acer trees to the sunlit coast were outstanding.

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*. Inch high *Muscari neglectum* were rather lovely. Patches of Prostrate Cherry or *Prunus prostrata* were showing a few pink blossoms too. Our truck took us higher, towards patches of snow. We stopped and descended at a spot where small dolines were on either side of the road and were soon finding more alpines. The dense blue flowers of *Anchusa caespitosa* were just coming into flower this



year, with a few intense blue flowers edging a flat mat of linear, matt green leaves. There were lots of *Scilla nana* and many flat cushions of *Astragalus angustifolius*, Burnt Candytuft, and *Bellis longifolia*. Birds seen and more often heard 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 *Crocus sieberi* were emerging from ground only recently uncovered by snow. Here we met the researchers who had followed up the road with us at times, they and Jay had a friend in common, Panayotis, who has helped lead this tour before. Wim and Ria walked until the road was blocked by a huge snow drift. The tiny borage *Lithospermum incrassatum*, yellow crucifer *Allyssum fragillimum* (very rare and localised) and *Veronica thymifolia* were all seen but not too much as the season was late. We were at a height of around 1860 m. Our picnic lunch was laid out in the back of the van, and I think we all felt we deserved it. A small flock of Alpine Chough flew by overhead. Once finished we walked down the track, back to some of the

magnificent Cretan Cyprus (*Cupressus sempervirens* var *horizontalis*). A sliver of wood that Jay found from one that had been cut down showed that on average 1 cm = 10 years, making some of these trees a 1000 years old or more. There were some fantastic crystallised areas of rock between the limestone, patches of Aubrieta and Creeping Cherry, and a good number of Cretan Festoons none of which settled for long.

We got back in our truck and rattled down the track to lower altitudes. It was noticeable that the caterpillars on the Pine Procession Moth nests were gathering to descend...

We finished the afternoon with a short walk to Agia Katalina, which has superb views over the ancient settlement and field systems of Anopolis and the settlement of Loutro far below on the coast and only reachable by boat.

A truly excellent supper of salads, pork in a delicious gravy, artichokes, lasagne... A pair of Scops Owls were calling.

Day 11 Tuesday 15th April Transfer to Plakias via Damnoni, Preveli Cliff Walk

A pre-breakfast walk started with an obliging Pied Flycatcher by the hotel. We returned to the same little valley as before and were quickly hearing the same suite of birds – Hoopoe, Oriole and Cuckoo. The sound of the Orioles was delicious, but they evaded us. Processions of Pine Procession Moth

caterpillars were much in evidence. Several Cuckoos were seen including one red morph individual. A real highlight was a pair of Woodchat Shrikes which perched atop asphodels in the middle of a beautifully flowery meadow....

On our leisurely drive down the hairpin bends to Hora Sfakion we spotted many Northern and Black-eared Wheatears on fences by the road and steered around many goats resting in choice spots on the tarmac. Roadside botany – we much appreciated the *Ebenus cretica* and stopped for the fantastic deep purple *Petromarula pinnata*, the shows of Yellow-horned Poppy (*Glaucum flavum*) and Tree Euphorbia (*Euphorbia dendroides*).



Our morning stop was at Damnoni – the very arid headland above Plakias – and after a couple of missed turns we arrived at this unlikely looking spot. It was however very productive, with Blue Rock Thrush and many Black-eared Wheatears, Red-billed Chough. Shrubs of *Euphorbia dendroides* and *spinosa* dominated with Spiny Burnet (*Sarcopoterium spinosum*), but between there was a host of interesting flowers. *Silene colorata*, *Pallenis spinosa*, *Astericus aquaticus*, *Petrorhagia velutina*, *Salvia viridis*, *Onopordium bracteatum*. Cecilia found a lovely little restharrow *Ononis reclinata*. The day was getting warm, and we headed for our hotel at Plakias where they kindly let us eat our picnic at their tables and brought cold water and brioche too!

After an hour to get into our rooms and unpack we walked the path beneath the extraordinary smooth cliff of Plakias Bay. We began on the beach, where amongst the furry, yellow flowered mats of *Medicago marina* and curling leaves of *Pancreatium maritimum* were lots of

Hare's Tail grass, *Ranunculus asiaticus*, Field Eringo (*Eryngium campestre*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), *Thymelaea hirsuta* and the Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), and the Cockscomb Sainfoin (*Onobrychis caput-galli*). Sardinian Warblers flitted in the bushes at the base of the cliff, and Swallowtail, Common Blue, Southern Comma and Cretan Festoon were all seen. Growing from the cliff was *Ebenus cretica*, Vipers Grass (*Scorzonera cretica*) in good flower and the cliff-dwelling mullein *Verbascum arcturus*. Nice new plants for the trip included Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum narbonense*), and the strange scabious-like *Lomelosia brachiata* (was





Tremastelma) There were some amazing thistles too – white patterned *Tyrinnus leucographus*, and vast rosettes of the wild artichoke *Cynara cornigera*. Tree euphorbias dominated the vegetation and together with the lime green of *Euphorbia spinosa* and yellow flowers of *Phlomis fruticosa* they looked wonderful against the blue sea below. Rachael spotted *Serapias bergonii* and Pyramidal Orchids, Cecilia found a lovely new White Ophrys (*Ophrys candida*), and in the same place Love-in-the-mist (*Nigella damascenia*) and flowering Fritillary! A nice last thing as we retraced our steps was a flowering patch of *Aristolochia cretica* with huge flowers like Dutchmen’s pipes. Time for an ice-cream on the sea front and a rest before supper at a beachfront taverna. Wim and Rachel shared a huge freshly caught local fish and the shrimps and squid were good too.

Day 12 Wednesday 16th April Preveli Monastery, The Venetian Bridge and Amoudi Bay

The main road to Preveli was closed so after some jiggling we made our way via some much smaller lanes! First we visited the Monument, where Corn Buntings were calling while we visited the brass statues dedicated to the Allied Forces and the monks who took up arms. In great secrecy, the monastery’s Abbott, Agathangelos Lagouvardos, provided a safe refuge for hundreds of stranded allied soldiers hiding in the surrounding area, and made arrangement for an audacious night-time evacuation by the submarine HMS Thrasher from the monastery’s beach.



Onto the peaceful monastery itself. 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. We stocked up on the lovely hand-dipped bee’s wax candles sold there.

We left via the main road, which was not in fact closed but in the process of being widened, and we were able to reach the beautiful Venetian Bridge over the Megalo Potamo which flows down to the palm forest of Preveli Beach. This beautiful arch was backed by flowering Storax (*Styrax officinalis*). Migrant Hawkers were seen. Walking down the streamside track the trees were a mixture of Storax and Carob with one of the endemic palms *Phoenix theophrasti*. By the water Water Speedwell (*Veronica anagalis-aquatica*), Watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) and Lesser Water Parsnip (*Berula erecta*) thrived. *Silene gallica* was a nice new flower, as was *Medicago littoralis*. We lunched in the shade by the river, very pleasant, before driving a few km to the taverna at lovely Amoudi Bay for

cold drinks and coffees. A short walk took us over the headland towards the famous palm beach of Preveli. Crossing a river we watched a Wood Sandpiper. The water was full of tadpoles and we could hear the adult frogs calling. Steps took us upwards. Pink *Malva cretica* caught our eye, then Fringed Rue (*Ruta chalepensis*) and Bryony-leaved Tree Mallow (*Lavatera bryonifolia*). Rosettes of white flowered Wild Artichoke (*Cynara cornigera*). Reaching the zenith of the path we could admire the mouth of the river below flowing out from the grove of endemic palm trees (*Phoenix theophrasti*).

It was a hot afternoon and we relaxed in the taverna again before returning to Plakias. There was time for a swim and some plant listing and identification before we had a very good meal in the hotel.



Day 13 Thursday 17th April A Walk towards Mirthios Village, The Gious Cambos revisited and Viglotopi



After breakfast in the relative cool of the day we set off along a track towards some old watermills fed by the river that flows out of the Kotsifou Canyon. Shows of 'roadside' flowers were lovely with Goldendrop, and a mix of poppies, *Papaver rhoeas*, *hybridum* and *dubium* at least. Wall and Balkan Green Lizards were frequent, as were Large Whites, Painted Lady, Wall Brown and Speckled Woods. There was a great deal of flowering *Echium plantagineum*, *Chrysanthamum coronarium*, and a large patch of Yellow-horned Poppy. (*Glaucium flavum*) was nice. Cecilia photographed the Green Toads we were hearing in the stream. Approaching the second of the old water mills – this one was still in operation in the '60s, but is probably at least a couple of hundred years old – the vegetation changed with *Petromarula pinnata*, *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*, and clambering patches of *Aristolochia sempervivens*. On the return, we noticed great patches of towering Weasels Snout, (*Mysopates orontium*) amongst these was Yellow Centaury, and *Tolpis barbata*. Clouded Yellows were flying and Wood Warbler called.

We returned to the hotel to use the bathrooms and collect the picnic before setting off for the short journey to Spili via the impressive Kourtaliotis Gorge. We picnicked at our usual spot by the spring under the spreading Plane tree.

Then to a lonely track and a flowery hillside. We wandered through swathes of *Orchis italica*, *quadripunctata*, and *pauciflora* *Anacamptis borii* and *laxiflora*. *Ophrys heldreichii*, *bombiliflora* and *sicula* dominated the bee orchids. *Gagea graecum* and Barbary Nut abounded. We returned via a field full of *Tulipa doerfleri* glowing in the afternoon sun. Cirl Buntings sang continuously and Griffons and Ravens were overhead.

Our final stop was for a walk past verges full of *Serapias lingua* and *bergonii*, *Orchis italica* and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and new for the trip, some lovely patches of *Anacamptis papillonacea* ssp *aliberti* – the later flowering pink butterfly orchid, mixed amongst the cistus bushes. We made our way back to Plakias in time for a rest before meeting for a last evening drink before supper, sitting in the shade of the tamarisks by the beach.



Day 14 Friday 18th April To Hania Airport via Kourtaliotis Gorge, Georgiopolis and Hania Venetian Harbour.

We loaded up the van and were on our way at relaxed 10 am. We first broke our journey in the stunning Kourtaliotis Gorge to admire the view and watch Griffon Vultures, Chough, Crag Martins and Wren going about their business.

The next stop was at the spring fed river at Georgiopolis where there were Little Grebes and Terrapins, and the pink Dandelion *Crepis rubra*. In Georgiopolis itself we had coffees at a shady taverna and a stroll round the little harbour and church. Two locals waited patiently while a fisherman gutted a flat fish for them.

We ate our picnic on the sea front and spent the afternoon looking round the Venetian harbour and old shops in the old town of Hania before the short drive to the airport.



Day 0	Friday 4 th April	Arrival
Day 1	Saturday 5 th April	The Gious Cambos
Day 2	Sunday 6 th April	Phaestos and a side track or two
Day 3	Monday 7 th April	Mourne, Agios Yorgos and the Serpentine Rocks
Day 4	Tuesday 8 th April	Spili, Triopetra and Kato Saktouria
Day 5	Wednesday 9 th April	Armeni Cemetery, Agios Ioannis and the Road to Alonis
Day 6	Thursday 10 th April	Agia Lake and the Omalos Plateau
Day 7	Friday 11 th April	Patsos Gorge and the Gious Cambos revisited
Day 8	Saturday 12 th April	Transfer to Anopolis Via Kotsifou Gorge and Frankocastello
Day 9	Sunday 13 th April	Arendaina Gorge and Anopolis Surrounds
Day 10	Monday 14 th April	Paknes
Day 11	Tuesday 15 th April	Transfer to Plakias via Damnoni, Preveli Cliff walk
Day 12	Wednesday 16 th April	Preveli Monastery, The Venetian Bridge and Amoudi Bay
Day 13	Thursday 17 th April	A Walk towards Mirthios Village, The Gious Cambos revisited and Viglotopi
Day 14	Friday 18 th April	To Hania Airport via Kourtaliotis Gorge, Georgiopolis and Hania Venetian Harbour.

Systematic List Number 1 Vascular Flora

PTERIDIOPHYTA

Adiantaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris - Maidenhair Fern (Gorges)

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium onopteris - Irish Spleenwort (5)

Asplenium trichomanes - Maidenhair Spleenwort (gorges)

Asplenium ceterach (= *Ceterach officinarum*) - Rusty-back Fern (most days)

Dryopteridaceae

Dryopteris villarii - (a buckler-fern) (Patsos, Arendaina)

Equisetaceae

Equisetum ramosissimum - Branching Horsetail (Agia lake)

Equisetum telmateia - Giant Horsetail (Agia Lake)

Hypolepidaceae

Pteridium aquilinum - Bracken (frequent)

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata - Mediterranean Selaginella (frequent)

Sinopteridaceae

Anogramma leptophylla - Jersey Fern (4,13)

Cheilanthes maderensis - Cliff-brake (noted)

SPERMATOPHYTA

GYMNOSPERMAE

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens - Italian Cypress (1-14)

Juniperus oxycedrus ssp *horizontalis*- Prickly Juniper (8,10)

Juniperus phoenicea - (8,10)

Pinaceae

Pinus halepensis subsp. *brutia* (9-11)

Pinus nigra - Black Pine (9-11)

ANGIOSPERMAE

DICOTYLEDONES

Aceraceae

Acer sempervirens - Cretan Maple (5,6,7,9) [Small tree with 3-lobed leaves, and yellowish-green flowers]

Aizoaceae

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

Anacardiaceae

Pistacia lentiscus - **Mastic Tree** (1-14). Forming dense thickets along coast [Evergreen shrub whose pinnate leaves normally have no terminal leaflet]

Pistacia terebinthus - **Turpentine Tree** (9,10). Scrub [Small deciduous tree, whose pinnate leaves have a terminal leaflet; branched brownish flower-panicles]

Apiaceae(Umberliferae)

Apium nodiflorum - **Fool's Watercress** (Agia Lake, 12)

Daucus carota - **Wild Carrot** (3,4,11,12,13). Grass roadside [Familiar herb, divided bracts, bur fruit]

Eryngium campestre - **Field Eryngo** (1,11). Phrygana [Wide branched greenish spiny perennial, heads 10-15mm]

Ferula communis - **Giant Fennel** (1-14). Roadsides and abandoned land [Striking big herb with feathery leaflets and many yellow umbels]

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

Oenanthe pimpinelloides - **Callous-fruited Water-dropwort** (frequent). Ditch/ stream edges, seasonally wet turf, fallow [White perennial with parts of umbel distinct from one another]

Orlaya daucoides - (1,3,7). Rocky verges [Erect annual with bur fruit and outer petals much bigger than the inner]

Scaligeria napiformis - **Scaligeria** (Triopetra). Shade and rocks [Slender bright green, lower leaves 2-3 divided, upper sparse, often linear]

Scandix pecten-veneris - **Shepherd's-needle** (1-10). Disturbed or cultivated sites, rough grass [Stout widely branched with divided glossy leaves and rounded umbels of yellow green flowers]

Scandix australis - Southern Shepherd's-needle (1-3)

Smyrniium olusatrum - **Alexanders** (12)

Smyrniium perfoliatum - **Perfoliate Alexanders** (frequent). Grass by stream [Differs in brighter yellow flowers; upper leaves simple, oval and clasping]

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

Apocynaceae

Nerium oleander - **Oleander** (1-14). Though planted along the north coast road, clearly native by streams and wet gullies [Shrub with long leathery leaves, and gaudy pink flowers]

Vinca major - **Greater Periwinkle** (1-14). Naturalised by road [Scrambling plant with opposite leathery leaves and blue flowers]

Araliaceae

Hedera helix - **Ivy** (1-14). [Familiar evergreen climber with lobed leaves]

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia cretica - **Cretan Birthwort** (1,11) Occasional on Plakias headland with flowers and with attendant Cretan Festoon butterflies. [Low scrambling plant with heart-shaped leaves and large brown flowers like "Dutchman's Pipe", (Endemic)]

Aristolochia sempervirens - **Climbing Birthwort** (13)

Asteraceae

Anthemis arvensis - **Corn Chamomile** (1,2,3,8). [Scented branched chamomile, with leaves woolly beneath]

Anthemis chia - **Chian Chamomile** (frequent). Locally abundant in rocky or fallow land [Similar to latter, but generally unbranched and hairless]

Anthemis rigida - **Rayless Chamomile** (3,10). 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 aquaticus - **Pallenis** (4,10). Near coast in sandy and rocky sites [Like a yellow-flowered marigold or fleabane with spine-tipped bracts around the heads]

Atractylis cancellata - (4)

[*Atractylis gummifera*]

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

Bellis longifolia - (10) [Leaves conspicuously crenate-serrate. Higher altitudes, endemic]

Bellis perennis - **Daisy** (1,7,13). Moist grassland [The familiar lawn daisy, spatulate leaves]

Bubonium aquaticum - (3)

Calendula arvensis - **Field Marigold** (1,2,3,8). Stony land [Like small-flowered orange Pot Marigold]

Carlina corymbosa - **Flat-topped Carline Thistle** (2). Phrygana [Like *Atractylis*, but branched leafy stems and remains of last year's head, subsp. *graeca*]

Centaurea idaea - **Cretan Star-thistle** (10). Frequent on stony ground [Grey leaved star-thistle, young heads with straw-coloured spines, (Endemic)]

Centaurea raphanina subsp. *mixta* - **Stemless Knapweed** (7,8). Common 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** (frequent). Common by roads [Tall 2-pinnately leaved herb with yellow (or yellow and white) heads 3-6cm wide]

Chrysanthemum coronarium var. *bicolor* - **Crown daisy** (frequent)

Chrysanthemum segetum - **Corn Marigold** (2). Rocky and fallow [Greyish annual with toothed (or lobed) leaves and large yellow daisy-like heads]

Cichorium intybus - **Chicory** (noted)

Cichorium spinosum - **Spiny Chicory** (being gathered on the Omalos). Rocky ground also on upper beach [Spiny, much branched and woody, blue heads like dandelions]

Crepis cretica (Frequent)

Crepis rubra - **Pink Hawksbeard** (Georgiopolis)

[*Crupina crupinastrum* - **Crupina**]

Cynara cornigera - **(a cardoon)** (11,12). Rocky places [Like a short very prickly globe artichoke, white flowers]

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

Dittrichia viscosa - **Sticky Fleabane** (2)

Galactites tomentosa - **Galactites** (1-15). Common on roadsides [Thistle-like annual with white veined leaves, and purple-lilac rayed heads]

Geropogon hybridus - **Goatsbeard** (1-5) [petals few, less than half the length of the bracts]

Helichrysum stoechas ssp *barrelieri* - **(an everlasting)** (2, frequent). Phrygana, quarries, stabilised sand and rocks [Tufted, woody-based; whitish stems, linear leaves, clustered small golden-yellow globular heads]

Helminthotheca echioides - **Bristly Ox-tongue** (11) [rosette of leaves with bristly hairs with pale tubercles at the base]

Notobasis syriaca - **Syrian Thistle** (noted)

Onopordum tauricum (Anapolis)

Phagnalon graecum - **(a phagnalon)** (1,2). Rocky phrygana [Dwarf shrub, with narrow leaves white-felted beneath, and with long-stalked yellowish button-like heads]

Picnomon acarna - **Picnomon** (noted, Anopolis). Phrygana and verges [Grey thistle-like plant with golden spines]

Ptilostemon chamaepeuce - **Shrubby Ptilostemon** (Gorges, 1,7,8,9,13). Frequent on cliffs in gorges around Spili on rocky banks and by fountain, and at coast [Small, rather pine-like, shrub with white undersides to leaves]

Scolymus hispanicus - **Spanish Oyster-plant** (9,10). Roadside [Thistle-like, very leafy, winged stems]

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

Senecio vulgaris - **Common Groundsel** (Se). Bare soil [Familiar weed]

Silybum marianum - **Milk Thistle** (Frequent)

Sonchus asper - **Spiny Sow-thistle** (5). Waste ground [Thistle-like plant with milky sap, and many small dandelion-like heads]

Sonchus oleraceus - **Smooth Sow-thistle** (5) Waste ground [Similar to latter, but almost without prickles]

Stachelina petiolata - **(Cretan Gorge Laurel)** (1,7,8,9,13). Limestone cliffs [1m shrub, with oval leaves, white beneath, (Endemic)]

Tolpis barbarta (13) [Pale yellow dandelion like flower with a brown centre]

Tragopogon sinuatus (= *porrifolius*) - **(Goatsbeard)** (1-5) Rocky or sandy sites [Like leek with lilac dandelion-like heads, forming large "clock"]

Berberidaceae

Berberis cretica - **Cretan Barberry** (9,10) on mountains [Low shrub with 3 spines at each node, and leaves emerging]

Boraginaceae

Anchusa caespitosa (**an alkanet**) (10) [Cushion of strap-shaped leaves and bright blue flowers, (Endemic)].

Anchusa italica (*azurea*) - **Large Blue Alkanet** (frequent). Frequent by roads and in disturbed areas [Large bristly herb with open panicle of big bright blue flowers]

Anchusa variegata (9) [pale blue flowers with a red spot on each petal]

Borago officinalis - **Borage** (1,2,7). Waste ground [Blue, star-like and almost nodding flowers, oval bristly leaves]

Cerinthe major - **Honeywort** (Frequent). Roadsides [Patch-forming, grey with white swellings, and nodding yellow flowers with reddish-purple base]

Cynoglossum columnae (2)

Cynoglossum creticum - **Blue Hound's-tongue** (9,13,14). Pathsides and rough ground [As latter but with larger dark-veined pale blue flowers]

Echium angustifolium - **Narrow-leaved Bugloss** (2). Verges [Typical bugloss, but with narrow leaves and red/pink flowers]

Echium italicum - **Pale Bugloss** (1-11). Verges and waste ground [Distinctive pyramidal inflorescence of bluish-white flowers]

Echium plantagineum - **Purple Viper's-bugloss** (frequent). Verges [Big violet-blue funnel-like flowers]

[*Lithodora hispidula*]

Lithospermum incrassatum - (**a gromwell**) (10). among scree above tree-line [Small decumbent herb with narrow in rolled leaves, and regular blue flowers]

Onosma graecum - **Greek Golden-drop** (5). Rough ground [Erect, very bristly - orange/ purple tinged yellow flowers]

Symphytum creticum - **Procopia** (1,2,7,8,11,12,13). On and below gorge cliffs [Like a small white comfrey, but with divided flowers, lobes recurved]

***Brassicaceae*(*Cruciferae*)**

Aethionema saxatile - **Burnt Candytuft** (3,5,10). [Short herb, crowded oval grey untoothed leaves, dense head of pink & white flowers, subsp. *creticum*]

Alyssum saxatile (Gious Cambos)

Arabidopsis thaliana - **Thale Cress** (5). Fine gravel [Slender branched herb with white flowers and thin pods]

Arabis alpina - **Alpine Rock Cress** (10)

Arabis verna - **Spring Rockcress** (8,9,10). Open rocky areas [Low cress, oval toothed leaves and yellow-eyed purple flowers]

Aubrieta deltoidea - **Aubrietia** (6,10). Rocky places [Low straggling grey cress with big purple flowers and long-beaked fruit]

Berula erecta - **Lesser Water Parsnip** (12)

Biscutella didyma - **Buckler Mustard** (frequent). Gravel verges and stony land [Hairy annual with yellow flowers and distinctive pods comprising two joined disks]

Brassica cretica - **Cretan Cabbage** (1,8). Gorge cliffs [Tall cabbage with pale yellow flowers]

Cakile maritima - **Sea Rocket** (2,6,11). Sandy beaches [Decumbent succulent annual, with pinkish flowers and lanceolate pods]

Capsella bursa-pastoris - **Shepherd's-purse** (9). Disturbed areas, fine scree to 1700m on Kakovoli [Familiar white cress with triangular fruit]

[*Eruca sativa* - **Eruca**. (Frequent) Fallow land on Gious Kambos [Weedy annual with large white flowers veined in purple]]

Lepidium hirtum (10)

Ricotia cretica - **Ricotia** (8,9). Scree/rubble in gorges [Low pink cress, distinctive pods like "purple mange-tout", (Endemic)]

Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum - **Water-cress** (6,12). Stream/ditches [Familiar aquatic with pinnate leaves and white flowers]

Sinapis alba - **White Mustard** frequent). Waste ground [Coarse yellow mustard, pods with word-like beak]

[*Sisymbrium officinale* - **Hedge Mustard**. (Frequent) Pathsides [Erect yellow cress with pinnately-lobed leaves and pods appressed to stem]]

Cactaceae

Opuntia ficus-barbarica - **Barbary-fig** (frequent). Verges and olive groves [Large cactus, made up of flattened jointed stems]

Campanulaceae

Campanula tubulosa - (a **bellflower**) (11). Rock-crevices [Oblong-leaved and hairy, with pale blue bell-flowers, (Endemic)]

Petromarula pinnata - **Cretan Blue-lettuce** (frequent). Despite its (Endemic) status, common on walls as well as gorges [Pinnate leaves (toothed leaflets) and spikes of pale blue flowers with recurved lobes]

Solenopsis minuta - **Laurentia** (8)

Capparidaceae

Capparis spinosa - **Caper** (noted). Cliffs [Decumbent, purplish stems with round leaves and paired stems; probably both subspp. *rupestris* and *spinosa* present]

Caprifoliaceae

Sambucus nigra - **Elder** (Spili area). Rough verges (planted?) [Familiar shrub with heads of creamy-white flowers]

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium scaposum - (a **mouse-ear**) (10). Common in stony places, through and above forest [Compact mouse-ear with large white flowers on long stalks, (Endemic)]

Petrorhagia velutina - **(an annual pink)** (2,3,13). Disturbed ground and rocks [Slender pink, brown papery bracts]

Silene bellidifolia (**a catchfly**). (13) [Erect annual, with one-sided spike of pink flowers with reflexed petals]

Silene colorata (4,5,roadsides)

Silene cretica - **Cretan Catchfly** (8,9). Widespread in rocky and disturbed places [Slender sticky annual with rose-pink flowers]

Silene dichotoma - **Forked Catchfly** (4,6). Gravel verges [Widely fork-branched herb, spike-like inflorescences of white notched petals, subsp. *racemosa*]

Silene gallica - **Small-flowered Catchfly** (12,13)

Silene sedoides - (Triopetra)

Silene vulgaris - **Bladder Champion** (1,5,9)

Stellaria media - **Common Chickweed** (noted). Disturbed ground [The familiar weed]

Chenopodiaceae

Atriplex halimus - **Shrubby Orache** (2). Stabilised sands and lower rocks at Triopetra [Low shrub with silvery-white angled/oval leaves]

Chenopodium album - **Fat Hen** (4). [Mealy annual, irregular-toothed lanceolate leaves, grey-green flowers]

[*Salsola kali* - **Prickly Saltwort**] (10)

Cistaceae

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

Cistus parviflorus - **Small-flowered Cistus** (seen whilst driving 13). Phrygana [Similar to last, neater, pale pink flowers ca 2-3cm wide]

Cistus salviifolius - **Sage-leaved Cistus** (2,7,8,9). Roadsides [Sage-like leaves and white flowers 3-5cm wide]

Fumana arabica - **Arabian Fumana** (2). Open phrygana [Like a narrow-leaved yellow rockrose, with 12-18mm flowers, all leaves alternate]

Fumana thymifolia - **Thyme-leaved Fumana** (4,5,8,9). [Similar, but most leaves opposite, and flowers only 9-14mm wide]

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus althaeoides - **Mallow-leaved Bindweed** (4). Rough grass [Clamberer with cordate or lobed leaves and decorative deep pink funnel-like flowers - see also below]

Convolvulus arvensis (**Field Bindweed**) (13)

Convolvulus elegantissimus - **Bindweed** (3). Gorge edge [Form of *C. althaeoides*, differing in its finely-divided silvery leaves]

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

Cuscuta epithymum - **Common Dodder** (4,8,9). Phrygana/verges [Parasite with reddish thread-like stems, globular clusters of 5-lobed flowers]

Cuscuta campestris (11-13) yellow stems

Crassulaceae

Rosularia serrata - (fairly frequent). Cliffs and ledges [Rosettes like neat grey houseleek]

Sedum laconicum (10)

Sedum rubens (4)

Umbilicus horizontalis - (**a wall pennywort**) (frequent). Walls and rocks [Typical small navelwort, with reddish-green flowers, unbranched spike]

Umbilicus parviflorus - **Small-flowered Navelwort** (frequent). Walls by track also on rocks [Typical navelwort with large yellow flowers, branched spike]

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia cretica - **White Bryony** (fairly frequent). Scrub/rubble in gorges [Climber with mottled maple-like leaves opposite tendrils, greenish-white flowers]

Ecballium elaterium - **Squirting Cucumber** (6). Waste ground [Coarse bristly scrambler with heart-shaped leaves, yellow flowers and 4-5cm long fruit]

Cytinaceae

Cytinus hypocistis subsp. *clusii* (5). [Parasitic under *Cistus* spp. bushes]

Dipsacaceae

Knautia integrifolia - (**a scabious**) (9-12). Rocky phrygana [Tall typical scabious, variable leaves]

Lomalosia brachiata - (**a scabious**) (11). Behind shores [Short scabious with leafy bracts]

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo - **Strawberry-tree** (5). Maquis and common in pine woods [Evergreen tree with lanceolate leaves and warty berries]

Erica arborea - **Tree Heath** (4,5). [1-4m tall, but otherwise a typical, white-flowered heather]

Erica manipuliflora - (**a heath**) (frequent). [Shorter species, in fruit, with longer leaves]

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia acanthothamnos - **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** (5,6,7,11,12,13)

Euphorbia helioscopia - **Sun Spurge** (1-5, 11-13). Disturbed ground [Familiar weedy spurge, toothed leaves]

Euphorbia paralias - **Sea Spurge** (11). Low dunes [Fleshy greyish perennial, many oblong leaves]

Mercurialis annua - **Annual Mercury** (1-11). Olive groves and walls [Like neat nettle, with erect green spikes]

Ricinus communis - **Castor Oil Plant** (13). Waste ground [Coarse purplish shrub, with palmate leaves]

Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Acacia sp. - (**an acacia**) Planted by roads [Shrubs with grey willow-like "leaves" and yellow mimosa blooms]

Anagyris foetida - **Bean Trefoil** (9). Tracksides [Trefoil shrub 1-4m tall and foetid]

Anthyllis vulneraria - **Kidney Vetch** (fairly frequent). Rocky phrygana [Typical kidney vetch, but here red-flowered subsp. *rubriflora*]

Astragalus angustifolius - (**spiny milk-vetch**) (10). Open rocky slopes ["Vegetable hedgehog", pinnate leaves with 6-10 pairs of leaflet]

[*Astragalus depressus*]

Bituminaria bituminosa - **Pitch Trefoil** (1-14). Olive groves and verges [Dull green, often tall trefoil, flower-heads violet-blue, and smelling of bitumen]

Calicotome villosa - **Spiny Broom** (1-14). Often abundant in garigue [Like elegant gorse, scenting the air with honey]

Ceratonia siliqua - **Carob** (3, 9, 13). Olive groves and scrub [Evergreen tree with coarse pinnate leaves and big hanging pods]

Cercis siliquastrum - **Judas-tree** (roadsides). Planted [Small tree, heart-shaped leaves, and pink flowers on stems]

Coronilla parviflora (noted)

Coronilla velutina glauca - **Scorpion vetch**

Coronilla scorpioides (**Triopetra**)

Ebenus cretica - **Shrubby Sainfoin** (2,8,7,8,9,11,13). Cliffs and steep banks [Shrub, palmate leaves and silky heads of pink flowers, (Endemic)]

Genista acanthocloda - (**a greenweed**) (roadsides). Phrygana [Similar to Cretan Dwarf-broom, but with tiny leaflets, and coming into flower]

Hymenocarpos circinnatus - **Disk Trefoil** (quite frequent). Similar habitats to last [Pinnate-leaved; big terminal leaflet, flowers orange-yellow; fruit a toothed disc 1-15cm across]

Lathyrus cicera - **Flat-podded Vetchling** (Se) Single red flowers

Lathyrus clymenum - (**a vetchling**) (4). Rough grass [As *L. annuus*, but with 2-tone flowers (crimson/violet)]

Lotus edulis - **Edible Lotus** (Se)

Lotus ornithopodioides - (**a bird's-foot-trefoil**) (2,3). Trackside [Differs from last in having pods constricted between seed]

Lupinus angustifolium - (4)

Lupinus pilosus - **Hairy Blue Lupin** (11-13) Striking patches by roads, fallow [Bright blue hairy lupin with a white blotch]

Medicago arabica - **Spotted Medick** (2,3,4). Olive groves and fallow [Bur-fruited yellow trefoil, dark blotches on leaflet]

Medicago ciliaris (seen)

Medicago coronata - (8,10,11,12)

Medicago indicus (2,4)

Medicago littoralis (12)

Medicago marina - **Sea Medick** (4,12). Sandy beaches, low dunes [White-downy creeping perennial trefoil with yellow heads]

Medicago orbicularis - **Large Disk Medick** (frequent). Waysides [Typical yellow medick with large smooth spiral disc fruit]

Onobrychis aequidentata - (**a sainfoin**) (3-5). Phrygana and tracksides gorge, quarry [Pinnate-leaved, few pink flowers and fruit with cockscomb crest]

Onobrychis caput-gallii - **Cockscomb Sainfoin** (2-5). [Similar, flowers smaller and bur fruit]

Ononis reclinata - **Small Restharrow** (11)

Robinia pseudoacacia - **False Acacia** (1,2,3). Planted/naturalised by coast road etc [Spiny tree with pinnate leaves, pendent white racemes]

Tetragonolobus purpureus - **Dragon's Blood** (1,2,3,4,5,10). Groves and disturbed ground [Hairy trefoil herb, crimson flowers, big winged pods]

Trifolium angustifolium - **Narrow-leaved Crimson Clover** - (4,10)

Trifolium arvense - **Hare's-foot Clover** - (7)

Trifolium campestre - **Hop Trefoil** (2-5, 8, 9). Rocky places [Low annual yellow clover, turning brown with age]

Trifolium fragiferum - **Strawberry Clover** (4,5). Moist turf of paths [Creeping clover with pink flowers, and inflated fruit heads, resembling raspberries!]

Trifolium repens - **White Clover** (1-13). Phrygana and damp turf [Familiar clover creeping, rooting at nodes]

Trifolium stellatum - **Star Clover** (frequent). Stony areas [Hairy annual clover with round leaflets, globose pink heads, calyx teeth spreading star-like, reddish]

Trifolium tomentosum - **Woolly Trefoil** (3). Stony turf [fruit heads like balls of cotton]

Trifolium uniflorum - **(a clover)** (3-10). 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** (2-5)

Vicia cretica - (1-8) [often clambering through other plants, a small pink flower]

Vicia hybrida - **Hairy Yellow Vetch** (2, 3). Banks in groves and by roads (especially by spring) and below Viglotopi [Large yellow-flowered vetch, hairy standard]

Vicia lutea - **Yellow Vetch** (2-4). Waste areas [Like smaller *V. hybrida*, but standard hairless and flowers cream]

Vicia narborensis (2)

Vicia sativa - **Common Vetch** (2-5). Tracksides and fallow [Familiar pink leafy vetch, pink to dark reddish pink, the wings darker.]

Vicia villosa - **Fodder Vetch** (3). Olive groves [Like a bright red-purple Tufted Vetch; subsp. *varia*]

Fagaceae

Quercus coccifera - **Kermes Oak** (1-14). Scrub and garigue, [Shrub or tree with evergreen, holly-like leaves]

Quercus ilex - **Holm Oak** (3,5). Some large trees near Alones [Evergreen tree with lanceolate leaves paler (downy) beneath]

Quercus ithaburensis - **Valonia Oak** (5). 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** (4,5,6). Woodland and scrub [Small tree/shrub, typical oak-leaves, downy]

Gentianaceae

Blackstonia perfoliata - **Yellow-wort** (4,12)

Centaureum pulchellum - **Lesser Centaury** (2,4)

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium - **Common Stork's-bill** (frequent). Pathsides and disturbed ground [Typical stork's-bill with fern-like leaves, pink flowers and beaked fruit]

Erodium gruinum - **Long-beaked Stork's-bill** (2,3,4). Pathsides [Large annual with lobed leaves, violet flowers 4cm wide, and very long (6-11cm) fruit]

Geranium robertianum - **Herb Robert** (5)

Hypericaceae

Hypericum empetrifolium - **Shrubby St John's-wort** (5) Garigue and phrygana [Dwarf heather-like shrub with many yellow flowers. Mostly subsp. *oligathum*, though the Lefka Ori plants are probably subsp. *tortuosum* Both (Endemic)]

Hypericum perfoliatum - (**a St John's-wort**). (11,12) Moist phrygana [Typical erect St John's-wort with leaves clasping stem]

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia - **Walnut** (1-15). Planted [Trees with fragrant pinnate leaves and coarse catkins]

Lamiaceae

Ballota pseudodictamnus - **False Dittany** (8,9). Often abundant on coastal verges [Woody-based perennial, woolly-felted, oval, almost untoothed leaves]

Cardiothymus capitatus (= *Thymbra capita*) - **Mediterranean Thyme** (frequent)

Lamium amplexicaule - **Henbit** (5). Disturbed ground, [Annual pink dead-nettle, long flowers]

Lavandula stoechas - **French Lavender** (7, 8). Rocky verges [Linear-leaved shrub, flower spikes with purple tassel]

Marrubium vulgare - **White Horehound** (9). Rough verges [Like *Ballota*, but white-downy, small white flowers]

Mentha longifolia - **Horse Mint** (6,12)

[*Nepeta melissifolia*]

[*Nepeta scordotis* - (**a catmint**). Rocky terraces [Blue branched spikes and heart-shaped leaves]]

Origanum dictamnus - **Dittany (diktamus)** (4). Limestone cliffs, mainly in gorges [White-woolly round-leaved, with overlapping bracts (Endemic)]

Origanum vulgare - **Marjoram** (Gious Cambos). Rocky ground [Typical marjoram, white flowers; subsp. *hirtum*]

Phlomis cretica - (**a Jerusalem Sage**) (frequent). NB Some of the plants at exposed sites near Anopoli are probably referable to this, rather than the next [Much shorter and more orange flowers]

Phlomis fruticosa - **Jerusalem Sage** (frequent). 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** (frequent). Banks in groves etc and on rocks [Evergreen shrub, shiny dark leaves with white flowers and aroma similar to a *Stachys*]

Rosmarinus officinalis - **Rosemary** (seen). [Familiar shrub]

Salvia fruticosa (= *triloba*) - **Three-leaved Sage** (frequent). Garigue (bearing abundant galls) [Typical lilac-flowered shrubby sage with 3-lobed leaves]

Salvia verbenaca - **Wild Clary** (4, 6, 8). Disturbed ground [Herb with wrinkled leaves, and spike of dense purple whorls]

Salvia viridis - **Red-topped Sage** (7, 8). Stony land and rocks [Short neat annual, with bright green bracts]

Satureja thymbra - **Satureja** (frequent). Scrub and phrygana [Like a large-leaved, very aromatic, pink thyme]

[*Scutellaria sieberi* - (**a skullcap**). Crevices in gorges [Neat scentless herb, with triangular-ovate leaves, and crowded curved spikes (Endemic)]]

Stachys cretica - **Mediterranean Woundwort** (4). Rocky slopes, often by roads [Like a slender white-felted pink "Lamb's-ears"]

Lauraceae

Laurus nobilis - **Laurel** (1-5). [Evergreen tree with scented leaves]

Linaceae

Linum arboreum - **Shrubby Flax** (1,2,7,9). Limestone gorge cliffs [Small shrub, spatulate leaves, yellow flowers]

Linum bienne - **Pale Flax** (1,2,4). Roadsides, rough grass [Slender pale blue flax]

Linum strictum - **Upright Yellow Flax** (2,4)

Malvaceae

Lavatera bryonifolia - **Tree Mallow** (12)

Lavatera cretica - **Small Tree-mallow** (1-5). Disturbed [Like Common Mallow, but broad epicalyx lobes]

Malva cretica - **Cretan Mallow** (12) Rocks near sea also in gorges (lower Kotsifou, Kourtaliotis and Aradena gorge [Like a dwarf, delicate Musk Mallow - pale pink flowers]

Malva sylvestris - **Common Mallow** (1-6). Roadsides [Familiar pink-purple biennial/perennial]

Moraceae

Ficus carica - **Fig** (1-10). [Familiar shrub/tree with large palmately-lobed leaves]

Morus alba - **White Mulberry** (1-10). Planted [Tree with oval and cordate leaves, dense flower spikes]

Morus nigra - **Black Mulberry** (frequent)

Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus sp. - **(a gum)** (1-10). Planted by roads [Large trees with flaking bark, grey leaves]

Myrtus communis - **Common Myrtle** (5). Streamside thicket; by roads [Opposite-leaved evergreen aromatic shrub]

Nyctaginaceae

Bougainvillea glabra - **Bougainvillea** (1-4, 15). [Familiar ornamental climber with bright purple bracts]

Oleaceae

Olea europaea - **Olive** (0-15). Abundantly cultivated [Evergreen tree with greyish narrow leaves]

Orobanchaceae

Orobanche crenata - (a broomrape) (2). [Tall broomrape with veined white flowers]

Orobanche pubescens - **Downy Broomrape** (2, 4, 5). On various hosts (often umbellifers) in phrygana [Medium yellow to purple-flowered broomrape, flowers hairy]

[*Orobanche purpurea* - **Purple Broomrape**. (8) (On Composites in waste [A tall spike of deep purple flowers]

Orobanche ramosa - **Branched Broomrape** (frequent). Olive groves (often on *Oxalis pes-caprae*) [Small prolific broomrape, with pale purple flowers contrasting with light brown stems]

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis pes-caprae - **Bermuda Buttercup** (1-15). 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** (5,10). [White flowers 7-12cm across and narrowly-divided leaves (Endemic)]

Papaveraceae

Fumaria capreolata - **Ramping Fumitory**. (4,5,13) Clambering on coarse vegetation by streams etc. [Large fumitory, greyish divided leaves, pale flowers tipped reddish-black]

Glaucium flavum - **Yellow Horned-poppy** (5,13). Coastal rocks and sand [Big grey-leaved poppy with yellow flowers and long pods]

Papaver dubium (1-3)

Papaver hybridum - **Rough poppy** - (7)

Papaver purpureomarginatum - (7)

Papaver rhoeas - **Corn Poppy** (frequent). Rocky and disturbed ground [Typical red poppy, sometimes with black blotches, globular pods]

Plantaginaceae

Plantago bellardii - (a plantain) (3,5)

Plantago coronopus (3,4)

Plantago lagopus - **Hare's-foot Plantain** (4)

Plantago lanceolata - **Ribwort Plantain** (1-15). Olive groves and grasslands [Familiar plantain]

Platanaceae

Platanus orientalis- **Plane Tree** (0-15 [Tree with alternate palmate leaves, scaling bark]

Polygalaceae

Polygala venulosa - **Eastern Milkwort** (3,11). Phrygana [Typical milkwort, with pale mauve veined flowers, rather pea-like]

Polygonaceae

Rumex bucephalophorus - **Bull's-head Dock** (3,5). Rocky [Small annual, distinctive recurved fruit; subsp. *gallicus*]

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis - **Scarlet Pimpernel** (frequent), including the blue-flowered var. *caerulea*. Petal margins ciliated. Phrygana and fallow land [Familiar weed]

Anagallis foemina - **Blue Pimpernel**. Similar habitat [As latter but bright blue, petal margins not ciliated, we may have been seeing this]

Cyclamen creticum - **Cretan Cyclamen** (1,3,4,5,6,9). Shade, scree and crevices [White cyclamen. Some of the non-flowering plants in the Kotsifou resemble *C. graecum*]

Cyclamen hederifolium (seen) In leaf on Gious Kambos.

Punicaceae

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

Ranunculaceae

Adonis cretica - **Cretan Pheasant's Eye** (0)

Anemone coronaria - **Crown Anemone** (frequent, red, blue violet). [Distinguished from Turban Buttercup by absence of green sepals]

Anemone hortensis subsp. *heldreichii* - (**an anemone**) (4-6, 9, 12, 13). Frequent on phrygana and rocky places [Short anemone, white flushed pink;]

Clematis cirrhosa - **Virgin's Bower**. (Georgiopolis) 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]

Nigella damascena - **Love-in-a-mist** (8)

Ranunculus asiaticus - **Turban Buttercup** (Frequent). 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 bulbosum - **Bulbous Buttercup** (Se)

Ranunculus creticus - **Cretan Buttercup** (4-9, 11-12). Cliffs (often shady) of gorges [Big buttercup with shallowly lobed leaves, mostly in fruit]

Ranunculus ficaria - **Lesser Celandine** (seen). By ditches [Familiar plant, but big-flowered subsp. *chrysocephalus*]

Ranunculus gracilis - **(a buttercup)** (2,4). Abundant in rocky phrygana [Neat buttercup, leaves 3-lobed mostly basal), sepals recurved]

Ranunculus muricatus - **Bristly Buttercup** (2, 4, 12). Wet ruts and ditch edges [Hairless annual, with shallow-lobed leaves and fruit with spines on both surfaces]

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea - **Wild Mignonette** (2, 3,). Rocky ground [pale yellow flowers]

Rosaceae

Crataegus azarolus - **Cretan Hawthorn** (1-3). By streams and in woodland [Familiar shrub, but here densely hairy]

Crataegus monogyna - **Hawthorn** (5)

Eriobotrya japonica - **Loquat** (1-15). Planted [Robust shrub, large (to 30cm) ribbed and brown-felted leaves],

Prunus dulcis - **Almond** (Se). Naturalised by roads [Spiny shrub with narrow leaves, pale flowers and oval velvety fruit]

Prunus persica - **Peach** (1-3). Naturalised [Familiar fruit tree]

Prunus prostrata - **Prostrate Cherry** (9,10). Frequent on rocky upper slopes of 1500-1900m [Prostrate shrub, with bright pink flowers]

Pyrus communis - **Pear** (Se). Naturalised on roadside [Familiar orchard tree]

Pyrus spinosa - **Almond-leaved Pear** (3-15). Rocky slopes and woodland (also in pine grove), by tracks above Anopoli to 1300m and around Omalos plain [Somewhat spiny shrub with narrow elliptical leaves, white flowers]

Rubus sanctus - **Bramble** (1-15). Scrub, stream-banks [Typical bramble, but with small trefoil leaves]

Sanguisorba minor - **Salad Burnet** (1). Grass slopes and olive groves [Familiar herb, represented by subspp. *muricata* and *verrucosa*]

Sarcopoterium spinosum - **Spiny Burnet** (1-13). Often dominant in phrygana [Intricate spiny shrub ("barbed wire plant"), pinnate leaves, globose flower-heads]

Rubiaceae

Galium aparine - **Cleavers** (1-13). [Familiar coarse clambering weed]

Galium setaceum (4)

Rubia peregrina - **Wild Madder** (5). Climbing on bushes in scrub Monastiraki, Mili, Arkadi and west of Aghios Ioannis [Like a coarse evergreen cleavers with berries]

Sherardia arvensis - **Field Madder** (seen). Disturbed ground [Like a compact bedstraw with pink flowers]

Rutaceae

Ruta chalepensis - **Fringed Rue** (12). [Two-pinnate blue-green leaves, pungently scented with yellow flowers, fringed with hairs]

Salicaceae

Populus alba - **White Poplar** (Se)

Populus nigra - **Black Poplar** (1,2,3,5). Planted [Tall tree with fluttering leaves shaped like ace of spades]

Populus tremula - **Aspen** (5). Planted [Medium-sized tree with roundish leaves, slender stalks]

Santalaceae

Osyris alba - **Osyris** (2,3,5,13). 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]

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga rotundifolia subsp. *chrysosplenifolia* - (**a saxifrage**) (6, 11). Shaded gorge rocks [Round-leaved saxifrage, white flowers, spotted yellow or red]

Saxifraga tridactyles - (4,7)

Scrophulariaceae

Bellardia trixago - **Bellardia** (1,2,3,4,11,12,13). Rough grass coastal sand [Erect opposite-leaved annual; 4-sided spike of white flowers flushed pink/yellow]

Cymbalaria muralis - **Ivy-leaved Toadflax** (1-11). Walls [Trailing plant with ivy-like leaves; spurred violet and yellow flowers]

Linaria pelisseriana - **Jersey Toadflax** (2-5, 8, 13). Stony ground and fallow [Delicate erect toadflax, purple-violet flowers]

Misopates orontium - **Weasel's-snout** (2). Rough ground [Slim annual pink snapdragon]

Parentucellia latifolia - **(a bartsia)** (1-14). Bare areas in phrygana [Short erect herb, opposite leaves, red-purple flowers]

Parentucellia viscosa - **Yellow Bartsia** (2, 11). Damp ground fields [Sticky hairy erect herb, with opposite leaves and yellow flowers]

Scrophularia lucida - **(a figwort)** (frequent). Banks [Typical figwort flowers, but pinnately-lobed leaves]

Scrophularia peregrina - **Nettle-leaved Figwort** (frequent). Pathsides [Typical figwort, shiny nettle-like leaves]

Verbascum arcturus - **(a mullein)** (1,7,8,9). Cliffs in gorges) [Lower leaves lobed (densely soft-hairy), short spikes of yellow flowers, violet filament hairs (Endemic)]

Verbascum macrurum - **(a mullein)** (4). Stony ground [Typical mullein, with ovate leaves and tall spikes]

Verbascum sinuatum - **Wavy-leaved Mullein** (leaves frequent). Pathsides [Differs from other mulleins in pinnately lobed undulate leaves]

Verbascum spinosum - **Spiny Mullein** (leaves - gorges). Gorges and phrygana [Small spiny domed shrub with narrow white-downy, toothed to lobed leaves (Endemic)]

Veronica anagallis-aquatica - **Blue Water Speedwell** (12)

Veronica cymbalaria - **White Speedwell** (2,12). Paths/ walls [Decumbent annual, lobed leaves and white flowers]

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

Veronica thymifolia - **(a speedwell)** (10). Open soil in scree, tree-line to 1900m, Kakovoli [Woody-based perennial, oblong leaves and few-flowered clusters of blue or pink flowers]

Solanaceae

Hyoscyamus albus - **White Henbane** (9). Nutrient-rich margins and goat-frequented overhangs and in Kourtaliotis gorge [Irregularly lobed leaves, greenish-white flowers with purple throat]

Mandragora autumnalis - **Mandrake** (2, 3, 6, 8 - in fruit). Rocky turf [Violet flowers on stalks in centre of big crinkly rosettes]

Nicotiana glauca - **Shrub Tobacco** (4). Naturalised by roads [Tall slender shrub, with scattered glaucous leaves and tubular yellow flowers]

Styracaceae

Styrax officinalis - **Storax** (12). Scrub [Shrub with alternate oval leaves, and pendant fragrant white flowers]

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix smyrnensis - (**a tamarisk**) (coastal). probably always planted on beach at Plakias (most pollarded 1999/2000), recently planted on Triopetra beach [Flowers would be 5-lobed (not 4) and pink - none seen]

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne sericea (1,3,7) Short dense evergreen shrub, crowded evergreen leaves; fragrant pink flowers]

Thymelaea hirsuta (10) Rocky hills [1m shrub, white stems, scale-leaves (white-downy within)]

Thymelaea tartonraira (3,7) Limestone phrygana [Small shrub with many silvery oblong leaves, and clusters of yellowish flowers; subsp. *argentea*]]

Ulmaceae

Celtis tournefortii/australis - **Southern Nettle Tree** (1,2,3)

Ulmus minor - **Smooth-leaved Elm** (13). Also probably planted by river and ditches at Agia [Typical elm; probably subsp. *minor*]

Zelkova abelicea - **Zelkova** (6). Rocky slopes Omalos plain [Large shrub with small coarsely lobed leaves (Endemic)]

Urticaceae

Parietaria judaica - **Pellitory-of-the-wall** (1-7). Walls and rocks [Similar perennial, with leaves 1-7cm long]

Urtica pilulifera - **Roman Nettle** (7,8). Caves, ledges, areas frequented by goats [Annual with jagged toothed leaves, globular fruiting heads and stinging hairs]

Valerianaceae

Valeriana asarifolia - **Cretan Valerian** (1,2,3,13). Limestone cliffs/crevices [White valerian, basal leaves kidney-shaped; flower-head dense (Endemic)]

Valerianella coronata - **(a corn-salad)** (3). [Regularly branched annual, narrow leaves, globose inflorescence, calyx regularly 6-lobed]

Verbenaceae

Lantana comosa - **Lantana** (seen). 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** (roadsides). Damp gullies; also on seepage clay [Aromatic scrub and opposite digitate leaves, and fruiting spikes like peppercorns]

Violaceae

Viola sp (seen)

Vitaceae

Vitis vinifera - **Common Vine** (1-15). Naturalised in groves and hedges [Familiar climber]

MONOCOTYLEDONES

Agavaceae

Agave americana - **Century Plant** (1-10). Naturalised on roadsides and along north coast [Huge rosettes of grey spear-shaped leaves and last year's tall stems bearing saucer-sized heads]

Amaryllidaceae

Narcissus tazetta - **Polyanthus Narcissus** (13, in fruit). Frequent by streams/ditches, also field-banks [Typical daffodil leaves and several-fruited stems]

Pancratium maritimum - **Sea Daffodil** (4,11,12). Coastal sands [Grey daffodil leaves and 'charcoal' seeds]

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare - **Friar's Cowl** (1,5,12,9,13). Rock ledges [Patch-forming with heart-shaped leaves and spadix under a hooded spathe]

Arum concinatum - **Large Cuckoo Pint** (7,11). Olive groves and gorge woodland [Like big Cuckoo Pint]

Arum creticum - **Cretan Arum** (5,7,8). Rock, scree, stone-heaps [As latter but with yellow spadix and spathe -this folded backward]

Arum ideaum - **Cretan Mountain Arum** (10 leaves). Frequent in Lefka Ori woods above Anopoli at 1400m, shaded [Like Cuckoo Pint (Endemic)]

Dracunculus vulgaris - **Dragon Arum** (1,2,4, flowering on 8, 14). Olive groves and disturbed rocky ground [Purple-striped stems, digitally divided leaves, long purple spathe]

Zantedeschia aethiopica - **Arum-lily** (1-15). Naturalised [Familiar garden plant]

Cyperaceae

Carex divisa - **Divided Sedge** (6)

Carex pendula - **Pendulous Sedge** (6)

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus communis - **Black Bryony** (2,5). Shaded gorge-beds/gullies [Unarmed climber with cordate leaves]

Iridaceae

Crocus sieberi - (**a crocus**) (10) [Typical white crocus, purple streaked outside; narrow leaves with white midrib (Endemic)]

Gladiolus italicus - **Field Gladiolus** (1-14). Olive groves and fallow [Typical large pink-purple gladiolus.]

Iris albicans - **White Iris** (seen). Around cultivation and cemeteries in villages [Typical large iris, always with white flowers]

Iris tuberosa (= *Hermodactylus tuberosus*) - **Widow Iris** (1,3, flowering 6). Fallow and scrubby banks, [Iris-like flowers, yellow-green with blackish blotch on falls; leaves quadrangular.]

Iris unguicularis subsp. *cretensis* - **Cretan Iris** (1,2,3,7). Rocky phrygana [Compact purple iris with yellow blotches (Endemic)]

Moraea sisyrinchium (= *Gynandiris sisyrinchium*) - **Barbary-nut** (frequent). Common (compact clay among rock) [Blue Iris-like flowers, opening in sun; leaves narrow and sheathing stem]

Romulea bulbocodium - **Romulea** (1,2,3). Compacted clay (paths etc) and moist pans and paths [Small, crocus-like; white flowers have a yellow throat; leaves narrow-linear]

Liliaceae

Allium nigrum (**a garlic**) (2,9). [leaves all basal and narrower, and pale pink greenheads]

Allium roseum **Rosy Garlic** (2). Moist sites, often in shade [Low garlic with grass-like leaves and loose heads of rosy-pink flowers]

Allium subhirsutum (**a garlic**) (2). Rocky areas and phrygana [Grass-like leaves with sparse hairs and umbels of white flowers]

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. **orientalis** - (**an asparagus**) (1,13). Olive groves and phrygana [Scrambling branched woody perennial, thorny "leaves" (actually branches)]

Asphodeline lutea - **Yellow Asphodel** (1-14). Phrygana [Similar to last, but with stiffer leaves and stout yellow spikes]

Asphodelus ramosus - **Common Asphodel** (1-14). Phrygana and fallow [Stout branched candelabra head of pinkish-white flowers]

Asphodelus fistulosus (9)

Colchicum macrophyllum - (**an autumn crocus**) (8,9). Fallow terraces [Rosettes of large corrugated leaves, with a fruit capsule hidden at their base]

Fritillaria messanensis - (**a fritillary**) (11,13) [Typical slender fritillary with linear leaves and nodding brownish flowers, usually mottled/chequered]

Gagea chrysantha (6)

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

Muscari comosum - **Tassel Hyacinth** (frequent). 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** (10). Woods and rocks from 1300-1800m [Typical grape-hyacinth, but rather dwarfed]

Muscari spreitzenhoferi - (**a tassel hyacinth**) (4,2,11,12). Rock-crevices near the [Similar to latter, but shorter, teeth of fertile flowers yellow, and tiny terminal tassel]

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

Ornithogalum narbonense - (**a star-of-Bethlehem**) (10,11). Dry stony slopes [Elongate white spikes of white star-like flowers]

Ruscus aculeatus - **Butcher's Broom** (1,5). Shaded or sheltered gorge and other rock crevices [Low evergreen shrub with lanceolate spine-tipped "leaves" (branches)]

Scilla nana - **Cretan Squill** (10). Frequent on recent snow-lie 1700-1900m [Low delicate squill with pale-blue star-like flowers, fading whitish (Endemic)]

Smilax aspera - **Common Smilax** (2,5). Clambering on scrub [Cordate leaves with some prickles on leaves, stalks and/or stems]

Tulipa bakeri - **Baker's Tulip** (6). Abundant on the Omalos – in fallow [Similar to *T. saxatilis* (from which possibly not distinct) but smaller darker flowers (Endemic)]

Tulipa cretica - **Cretan Tulip** (2). Drimiskos pass [Small white tulip, yellowish base to petals and wavy leaves (Endemic)]

Tulipa doerfleri - **Orange Tulip** (1,7,13). Often common in cultivated and fallow fields on Gious Kambos [Orange-red tulip; linear-lanceolate leaves (Endemic)]

Tulipa saxatilis - **Rock Tulip** (1,2,13) [Pink tulip with white-edged yellow base to petals and rather oblong leaves]

Urginea maritima - **Sea Squill** (1-15). 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. Those of us who have been visiting Crete for several years refer to the orchids we see with their names familiar to us when we learnt them first...

Anacamptis boryi [*Orchis boryi*] (Frequent, Gious Cambos).

Anacamptis collina [*Orchis collina* (Hill Orchid, Fan-lipped Orchid)] - (1-3,11,13).

Anacamptis coriophora [*Orchis fragrans* (Fragrant Bug Orchid)] - (4).

Anacamptis laxiflora [*Orchis laxiflora* (Lax-flowered Orchid)] - (frequent).

Anacamptis papilionacea ssp *alibertis* [*Orchis papilionacea* subsp. *alibertis* (Alibertis' Butterfly Orchid)](13)

Anacamptis papilionacea subsp. *heroica* [*Orchis papilionacea* ssp *heroica* (Heroic Butterfly Orchid, Pink Butterfly Orchid)] - (1-3).

Anacamptis pyramidalis (Pyramidal Orchid) - (2, 3, 7-11).

Dactylorhiza romana (Roman Orchid)- (5).

Himantoglossum robertianum - [*Barlia robertiana* (Giant Orchid)] - (Frequent).

Limodorum abortivum (Violet Limodore, Violet Bird's-nest Orchid) - (5).

Neotinea lactea - [*Orchis lactea* (Milky Orchid)] - (-10).

Neotinea maculata - (Dense-flowered Orchid)] (1-3).

Neotinea tridentata - [*Orchis tridentata* (Toothed Orchid) (13, I mistook these for hyperchromatic Milky Orchids on the day. Gious Kambos).

Ophrys apifera (Bee Orchid) (not seen)

Ophrys holoserica holoserica (Late Spider Orchid)], (Not seen, usually seen in open scrub at the back of Frangokastello beach)

Ophrys bombyliflora (Bumblebee Ophrys) (1-3, frequent).

Ophrys fuciflora ssp maxima[*Ophrys episcopalis* (Large-flowered Bee Ophrys)] (2,3,4,7,11,13).

Ophrys fuciflora subsp. candida - [*Ophrys candida* (White Ophrys) (11).

Ophrys fusca subsp. creberrima (Creberrima Ophrys) (1,3,13)

Ophrys fusca subsp. cressa (Cressa Ophrys)(13)

Ophrys fusca subsp. cretica (Creticola Ophrys)(not seen)

Ophrys fusca subsp. iricolor [*Ophrys iricolor* (Rainbow Ophrys)] (3).

Ophrys kotschyi subsp. cretica - [*Ophrys cretica subsp. cretica* (Cretan Ophrys, Cretan Bee Orchid) - (1,2,3,4,12,13).

Ophrys lutea ssp phryganae [*Ophrys phryganae* (Phrygana Ophrys) (some of the yellow bee orchids we were seeing were these).

Ophrys lutea subsp. galilaea - [*Ophrys sicula* (Small Yellow Ophrys, Lesser Yellow Bee Orchid)] - (1,2,3, 9,13).

Ophrys omegaiifera (Royal Ophrys) (not seen).

Ophrys scolopax subsp. heldreichii - [*Ophrys heldreichii* (Heldreich's Ophrys, Cretan Woodcock Orchid)] - (frequent).

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. cretensis - [(Small Cretan spider Ophrys, Early Spider Orchid)] - (1,3,).

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. gortynia (Gortys Ophrys) (not seen).

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. mammosa - [*Ophrys mammosa* (Breasted Ophrys) *Ophrys herae* (Hera's Ophrys)] - (4).

Ophrys sphegodes subsp. spruneri [*Ophrys spruneri subsp. spruneri* (Spruner's Ophrys, Grecian Spider Orchid)] - (8,9).

Ophrys tenthredinifera - [(Wasp orchid, Sawfly Orchid)] - (1-4,7,13).

Orchis anatolica (Anatolian Orchid) (3).

Orchis anthropophorum - [*Aceras anthropophorum* (Man Orchid)] (1,2,3,4).

Orchis sitiaca - [*Orchis anatolica subsp. sitiaca* (Sitia Orchid)] - (3).

Orchis italica (Naked Man Orchid) (frequent).

Orchis pauciflora (Sparsely-flowered Orchid, Few-flowered Orchid) (frequent).

Orchis provincialis (Provence Orchid) (3).

Orchis quadripunctata (Four-spotted Orchid) (frequent).

Orchis simia (Monkey Orchid) (3).

Orchis spitzelii subsp. *nitidifolia* – [*Orchis prisca* (Cretan Orchid) (6 one beside path to Gingilos on slope above Xyloskalo).

Serapias bergonii (Bergoni's Serapias) (frequent).

Serapias cordigera subsp. *cretica* (Cretan Heart-flowered Serapias) (not seen).

Serapias lingua (Tongue Orchid) (frequent).

Serapias orientalis (Eastern Serapias) (2).

Serapias parviflora (Small-flowered Serapias) (not seen).

Poaceae

Anisantha diandra - Great Brome (1)

Anthoxanthum odoratum - Sweet Vernal-grass (Se)

Arundo donax - Giant Reed (1-15)

Avena sterilis - Winter Wild-oat (Se)

Brachypodium sylvaticum - Slender False-brome (Se)

Briza maxima - Great Quaking-grass (1-10)

Dactylis glomerata ssp *hispanica*- Cock's-foot (Seen with Rhia)

Hyparrhenia hirta (Se) [Forked flower]

Lagurus ovatus - Hare's-tail (Se)

Lolium perenne - Perennial Rye-grass (Se)

Melica ramosa (Se)

Poa bulbosa - Bulbous Meadow-grass (Se) [vivaperoous looking flowers]

Sporobolus pungens (Se) Dunes

Palmae

Phoenix theophrasti - Cretan Date-palm (12). Near Plakias.[Typical date-palm with pinnately cut leaves]

Potamogetonaceae

Posidonia oceanica - Posidonia (4). Fragments of green leaves of plants, or cast-up balls of dead leaves on beaches [Submerged "sea-grass" with long ribbon-like leaves]

Typhaceae

Typha domingensis - (a reedmace) (Se). Marsh and ditch by road [Typical reedmace]

Systematic List – Birds

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of Collins: Bird Guide 2nd edition

Chukar *Alectoris chukar* heard or seen around rocky terrain

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	several individuals at Georgioupolis pools
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	basking on rocks at Georgioupolis pools (6)
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	11 resting on the rocks of Triopetra
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	noted
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	noted
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrinchos</i>	Agia Lake
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	a pair seen over Agia Lake
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gypus fulvus</i>	Numbers seen increased with the warmer weather
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	One seen around Mourne
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>	noted
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	common & widespread
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	scattering sightings across the two weeks
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	individuals seen Georgioupolis pools and Agia Lake
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	individuals seen Georgioupolis pools and Agia Lake
Crake sp	<i>Porzana sp</i>	Glimpsed at Agia Lake
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa gareola</i>	Amoudi Bay
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actilis hypoleucos</i>	Noted
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	common & widespread
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	common & widespread seen most days
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	scattered sightings around wooded areas
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	common around urban areas
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	heard
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Many seen and heard around Anopolis

Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	heard in the evening around Spili & Anapolis
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	scattered sightings of this common bird
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	frequent sightings of this large swift cliffs & rocky outcrops
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Many seen and heard around Anapolis
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	We saw and heard several groups of this lovely bird
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Heard at several locations
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	common around agricultural fields
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	regularly heard or seen over the two weeks
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Noted
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	noted
Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo ruestris</i>	regularly recorded around cliff crags & rocky outcrops
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	common seen everyday
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Phaestos
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	nesting at Anapolis
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	noted at Imoudi Bay
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	scattered recordings around various habitats
Nightingale	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	heard
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	usually a common species , seen several times
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	scattered sightings around dry rocky outcrops
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	scattered sightings around rocky outcrops
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	regularly encountered throughout the trip
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Some good views around Frankocastello
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	regularly encountered or heard throughout the trip
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	a few distant individuals, a nice one at Arandaina
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	a common species recorded most days
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	very common species recorded everyday

Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	commonly heard and seen around riparian vegetation
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	common and widespread, seen or heard everyday
Semi-collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semiorquata</i>	Noted with other flycatchers at Anapolis
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Seen at Anapolis and Agia Ioannis
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	many seen at Anapolis
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	frequently recorded most habitats, everyday
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	recorded everyday
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Several at Anapolis, also Frankocastello
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	one glimpsed at Frankocastello
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	only 1 or 2 sights of this species recorded around woodland areas
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	recorded around rocky outcrops with other corvids
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Kortaliotis Gorge
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Paknes above Anapolis
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornis</i>	common, recorded every day in various habitats
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	common, recorded everyday
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A flock of 20 plus was seen in the mornings at Anapolis, what an amazing noise, only brief glimpses of individuals though
Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	only recorded in the latter part of the holiday.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Several nice sightings
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Omalos and other places
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	regular seen throughout the holiday
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	scattered sightings throughout the trip
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	mainly heard around agricultural fields
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	recorded around agricultural areas

Systematic List - Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Butterflies of Europe, Tolman & Lewington*. The cold weather meant few sightings overall on the trip

Papilionidae

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	1 or 2 sightings of this lovely species
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	this species was only seen the once
Cretan Festoon	<i>Allancastris cretica</i>	commonly seen, rarely settling

Pieridae

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	regularly recorded throughout the trip
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Seen on the Plakias walks
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Noted

Lycaenidae

Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	scattered sightings around grassy slopes
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	occasionally encountered on sunny days

Nymphalidae

Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	a few sightings of this large butterfly
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	frequent throughout the trip
Eastern Comma	<i>Polyommata comma</i>	Several sightings

Satyridae

Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	individuals recorded basking on rocky areas
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	this European colour morph was encountered we had to be careful not to mix it up with Wall Brown which was very similar due to this species light brown colour morph

Systematic List – Reptiles & Amphibians: Again, both families were scarce on the ground.

Cretan Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax cretensis</i>	heard calling on the Gious-Kambos and Imoudi Beach
European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Heard on the Gious Cambos?
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Spawn seen and adult heard on our first day
Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	basking on rocks at Georgioupolis pools

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

Balkan Green Lizard *Lancerta trilineata* Several scurried off on sunny days

Other Species

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium* , individuals were seen around grassy spots

Long-nosed Grasshopper *Acrida ungarica* Phaestos

Hemiptera

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

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

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

Land Snail – *Albinaria corrugata* Seen in large groups hanging from rocks

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* Caterpillars of this species form large white nests in pine trees. Those on the early morning bird walk in Anapolis, witnessed the trails of caterpillars.

Gremetridae moth *Apochima flabellaria* – pretty, camouflaged caterpillar at Triopetra

Mammals

Pine Martin *Martes foina* Seen in Spili loping along by Jay one evening, scat and roadkill seen frequently

Cretan Badger *Meles canescens arcalus* signs of activities in various woodland and grassland locations

Hedgehog *Erinaceus roumanicus* -Only seen as roadkill