

# Sicily

## *Orchids of the Ible Mountains*

### A Greentours Trip Report

6th to 13th April 2011

Led by Paul Cardy

Trip Report written by Paul Cardy

For the whole week in Sicily we basked under glorious cloudless blue skies, giving superb conditions every day for wildlife viewing.

Our hotel, the Masseria degli Ulivi, was situated among olive groves and flower filled stone walled fields, a very productive habitat. Our initial walks from there yielded many plants and a good selection of birds. This year the hotel was well occupied, there being a different selection of other guests nightly. As always we were well cared for by the staff, enjoying particularly excellent food in the peaceful restaurant.

This is always a perfect time of year to be in Sicily, the rocky limestone fields and flowery roadsides being a fine show of colour from the many species in bloom. Our itinerary combined days locally enjoying these rocky meadows, with trips further afield, to the south coast, Monte Lauro, Pantalica, Syracuse, Priolo wetlands, the disused railway line at Valle dell'Anapo, etc. Not far away was the impressive gorge at Cava Grande di Cassibile.

It is difficult to know how to give an overview of the flowers, as they were many and varied, something over six hundred species being recorded on the tour. Many were particularly characteristic of the Mediterranean spring, such as *Silene colorata*, *Chrysanthemum coronarium*, *Fedia cornucopiae*, *Calendula arvensis*, *Cerinth major*, *Alkanna tinctoria*, *Anemone hortensis*, *Euphorbia characias*, *Echium plantagineum*, *Prasium majus*, and *Smilax aspera*. Legumes were a feature, particularly the beautiful *Pisum sativum*, *Lathyrus clymenum* and *Lathyrus cicera*. The deep red *Tetragonolobus purpureus* was very attractive, but less attractive was the foul smelling Bean Trefoil, rather common near the hotel. Among the many other legumes were *Vicia hybrida*, *Onobrychis caput-galii*, *Scorpiurus muricatus*, *Lotus edulis* and *Psoralea bituminosa*. Two good finds near the hotel were the purple flowered *Scorzonera undulata*, and the diminutive *Convolvulus pentapetaloides*.

Many meadows were awash with Common Asphodel and the Yellow Asphodels seen here and there were very attractive. One of the most beautiful plants in the area is *Salvia fruticosa*, many of which were in flower, the foliage having a pleasant aroma too, and even present on some of the restaurant dishes. *Iris pseudopumila* bloomed in both yellow and purple, and pure purple forms whilst *Cyclamen repandum* was very local but we did see it in bloom. The parasitic *Cytinus ruber* was not uncommon at one site, the waxy plants hidden underneath the cistus bushes they

parasitised. *Linaria triphylla*, *Linaria reflexa* and *Antirrhinum siculum* were all common. The very spiny small shrub *Sarcopoterium spinosum* was a feature of some areas and the attractive wild almond, *Prunus webbii*, was in good flower. This year many *Bellevalia romana* were found in bloom on Monte Lauro. Many of the most interesting plants were rather diminutive, such as *Campanula erinus*, *Saxifraga tridactylites*, and *Asterolinon linum-stellatum*. Other notable plants were *Carduncellus caeruleus*, *Ferulago nodosa*, *Kundmannia sicula*, *Scolymus grandiflorus*, *Arabis verna*, *Ranunculus millefoliatus* and Shrubby Hare's-ear. *Gladiolus italicus* was locally numerous this year, especially on roadsides.

Orchids were a focus of the week, with many species numerous, whilst others were much more local. Species such as *Orchis italica* and *Orchis papilionacea* were very common, whilst Man Orchids were scarce, and *Orchis provincialis* was seen at just one site. Among the Sicilian endemics seen were *Ophrys biancae*, *Ophrys explanata*, *Ophrys flammeola* (a *fusca* type) and *Ophrys lunulata*, whilst *Ophrys oxyrrhynchos* was a near endemic. The brown bee orchids were especially confusing here but following Delforge's intensive splitting approach *Ophrys caesiella*, *Ophrys lucifera* and *Ophrys lupercalis* were determined.

Species of the *exaltata* and *incubacea* groups, namely *Ophrys exaltata*, *Ophrys panormitana*, *Ophrys passionis* subspecies *garganica* and *Ophrys incubacea*, were widespread, and somewhat confusing, and one of the best ways of determining them was to pay special attention to the colour of the pseudo-eyes on either side of the stigmatic cavity.

More widespread Bee Orchids were represented by Sawfly Orchids, Yellow Bee Orchids, Mirror Orchids, Bumble-bee Orchids, and *Ophrys bertolonii*. For me the orchid highlight of the week was the number of Dense-flowered Orchids, a rather small species. This visit no fewer than thirty four were in bloom.

Monte Lauro is the highest point in the Ible Mountains, and although it can be rather cold up here, this year the sunshine meant we were perfectly warm. From here we enjoyed our first stunning views of snow-capped Mount Etna, and we would have many more. On Monte Lauro were fine swathes of *Orchis longicornu* and many Milky Orchids. Also here were several *Romulea bulbocodium*, *Saxifraga graeca* and *Erodium acaule*.

The necropolis of Pantalica provided very impressive views down to the Valle dell'Anapo, and to the beautiful peaceful disused railway line that we would walk later in the week. The tombs cut into the sides of the gorge were first used between the thirteenth and tenth centuries BC by the Sikel, a Bronze Age tribe from the Italian mainland, and there are some five thousand of these tombs here. Tree Spurge characterised the vegetation of this sunny place, with Tree Germander, Roman Nettle, Ramping Fumitory, Caper, and *Micromeria nervosa* among the many other species. Nearby *Cyclamen repandum* and the violet flowered *Viola alba dehnhardtii* were in bloom. A smaller necropolis at Cava Ispica was a pleasing new site for the tour.

A leisurely walk along the Valle dell'Anapo, where Nightingales sang, produced many flowers we had already seen plus new species such as *Ajuga orientalis* and *Anogramma leptophylla*, and Kingfisher was seen.

Row after row of plastic greenhouses characterised the extreme south-east of the island, where crops such as strawberries, tomatoes, and artichokes were intensively grown. On the south coast was a characteristic flora including *Lavatera arborea* in good flower; *Hedysarum glomeratum*;

*Ononis natrix*; Sea Heath; and the interesting shrub *Thymelaea hirsuta*. The sand dune flora was typical with Sea Medick, Sea Spurge, Cottonweed, Sea Daffodil leaves, and *Lotus cytisoides*. More unusual were *Centaurea sphaerocephala* and *Crucianella maritima*. The beach was covered, as at Vendicari, with washed up debris of the submarine higher plant *Posidonia oceanica*. Time allowed further exploration of the south coast where we found an interesting wetland, and a scenic coast lined with tall sand dunes.

During the week we had enjoyed many superb views of the imposing cone of Mt. Etna. Our visit to the volcano was more of an adventure than is usual this year due to repeated rumblings, thunderings, smoke plumes, and hurled out rocks that were visible through the binoculars. It was quite an experience to be on the mountain today, and the large number of visitors at the busy refugio and tourist shop area were not deterred by the volcanic activity. The extensive black lava slopes gave a beautiful and strange landscape and the impression of this forbidding mountain was very memorable. Mount Etna Broom was dominant over large areas, but not yet in leaf, and the deciduous trees up here were only just in bud also.

Taking a beautiful minor road that skirted the western flank of the volcano, we made several stops having escaped the crowds at the refugio. One beautiful short stroll was amid conifers where Coal Tits were active. Lower down, at our usual lunch-time stop were three of the red form of *Dactylorhiza romana* and a lone red robust Elder-flowered Orchid. Here and nearby were several examples of Giant Orchids still in good condition. Eastern Orange-tip was here as usual, Mt. Etna being the type locality for the species, although only a single male was seen this year. Southern Festoons were on the wing, and we saw their foodplant, *Aristolochia*. Widow Iris was in fine bloom, and *Anchusa cretica*, *Erysimum bonnanianum* and *Vicia leucantha* were among the other flowers in the area. Even lower down the mountain was a small wood in which were blooming several fine *Paeonia mascula*.

One of the orchids of the trip was found on the south-western slopes of Etna, growing in fine patches on the lava. This was the near-endemic *Orchis brancifortii* which we had first found here a few years previously.

The wetlands at Vendicari provided the best birding day of the tour, and we enjoyed superb weather there this year. Unfortunately the unusually high water levels meant few waders were seen, with only Black-winged Stilts, Whimbrel, Grey Plover, and Common Sandpiper being recorded. Two Glossy Ibis was a good record and Squacco Heron was seen very closely. Purple Heron, and Little Egret were the other herons here. Marsh Harrier hunted over the reed beds and some hundred Flamingoes were present in the first lagoon. *Plantago crassifolia*, *Triglochin bulbosa* and the local *Limonium narbonense* were among the wetland plants. On the dunes flowered the beautiful *Acacia cyanophylla* and *Acacia retinoides* as well as some interesting herbaceous species such as *Seseli tortuosum* and *Senecio gallicus*. There was no sign of the hoped for Bee Orchid however, of which we had found one here in a previous year, in early bloom.

The southern end of Vendicari had been closed off since my last visit, prompting an early drive to Isole delle Correnti for a rather windy lunch. Before that we had seen a black Western Whip Snake, the only serpent of the tour, that I managed to coax out of the vegetation for everyone to see.

The explosive song of Cetti's Warbler punctuated the soundtrack to many of the sites we visited, and Zitting Cisticolas performing aerial displays were common. Otherwise among the more interesting and characteristic passerines were Woodlark, Crested Larks, Woodchat Shrike (Ferla), Spotless Starlings, Sardinian, Subalpine and Spectacled Warblers, and Corn and Cirl Buntings. The latter sang daily outside the hotel. Hoopoes were seen occasionally, and Cuckoo called continuously most evenings around the hotel. The highlight of the wetlands at Priolo was two Little Gulls, with pink-tinged Slender-billed Gulls, and Gull-billed and Sandwich Terns here too. Ferruginous Duck was also seen, and the lagoon had much *Zannichellia palustris*.

Butterflies were rather good this year, obviously partly due to the continuous fine weather. Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak, Little Blue, and Green-underside Blue gave no surprises, but more notable was a Nettle-tree Butterfly found near the hotel on the first day. Large Tortoiseshell was a good find on the west slope of Etna, and Comma was on the wing in the Valle dell'Anapo. Perhaps the most notable species was the Dingy Skipper we saw at Priolo, a species apparently not known to occur on the island.

The sunshine brought out the lizards, with Italian Wall Lizard the commonest, several Sicilian Wall Lizards, and the impressive Green Lizard. At the hotel and Priolo were a couple of Moorish Geckos, and Italian Three-toed Skink was noted on the limestone slopes.

This year there was time to visit the Parco Archeologico in Syracuse, where we enjoyed the impressive Teatro Greco, the caves, and the Anfiteatro Romano. The crowds here were especially numerous as 'culture week' meant all such sites on the island had free admission. There were even a few new plants here growing on the ruins, such as *Andrachne telephioides* and *Sideritis romana*.

The last day saw us returning to the impressive new terminal building at Catania airport, saying our farewells before going our separate ways, and reflecting on what an enjoyable and productive week it had been.

## **Systematic Lists**

**Compiled by Paul Cardy**

### **Itinerary**

Day 1. 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Arrival and transfer to Masseria degli Ulivi.

Day 2. 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Masseria area, local limestone fields, Testa del Acqua Road, Noto.

Day 3. 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Monte Lauro, Ferla area, Pantalica.

Day 4. 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Vendicari, Isole delle Correnti, Pozzallo, Scicli, Cava d'Ispica.

Day 5. 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Mount Etna.

Day 6. 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Monte Grosso, Valle dell'Anapo, Cassaro, and Buscemi.

Day 7. 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Syracuse zona archaeologica, Salinas Syracuse, Priolo, Cava Grande di Cassibile.

Day 8. 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011. To Catania, and departure

## Systematic List Number 1      Plants

The listing is alphabetical within each family. Some records from previous years of species not recorded in 2011 are retained together with the year in which they were last seen on the tour. 2011 indicates a species recorded for the first time this year.

### **Selaginellaceae**

<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Selaginella	Scattered records, e.g. Valle dell'Anapo, Cava Grande di Cassibile
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### **Pteridophyta**

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

### **Pinaceae**

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

### **Cupressaceae**

<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Monterey Cypress	Valle dell'Anapo, naturalised
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	Valle dell'Anapo, Syracuse area, Monte Lauro, widely planted
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Higher slopes of Mt.Etna
<i>ssp.hemisphaerica</i>		
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	Vendicari dunes and south coast

### **Ephedraceae**

<i>Ephedra distachya</i>	a joint pine	Vendicari
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	a joint pine	South coast

## **Betulaceae**

*Betula aetnensis*

a beech

A few on Mt.Etna

## **Fagaceae**

*Castanea sativa*

Sweet Chestnut

Mount Etna, not yet in leaf

*Quercus ilex*

Holm Oak

Scattered

*Quercus pubescens*

Downy Oak

Widespread, e.g. around hotel

*Quercus cerris*

Turkey Oak

Mount Etna, just coming into leaf

*Quercus coccifera*

Holly Oak

Widespread, e.g. Valle dell'Anapo

*Quercus dalechampii*

an oak

Probably this species along Valle dell'Anapo

## **Rafflesiaceae**

*Cytinus ruber*

Cannicattini to Cassibile road and near hotel, parasitic on *Cistus*. 2011 at a new site near Noto.

## **Salicaceae**

*Salix caprea*

Goat Willow

Valle dell'Anapo

*Salix cinerea*

Grey Willow

Valle dell'Anapo

*Salix fragilis*

Crack Willow

Valle dell'Anapo, Testa del Acqua road

*Populus nigra*

Black Poplar

Valle dell'Anapo, Testa del Acqua road

## **Juglandaceae**

*Juglans regia*

Walnut

Scattered, e.g. Valle dell'Anapo

## **Ulmaceae**

*Ulmus canescens*

Mediterranean Elm

Valle dell'Anapo

## **Moraceae**

*Ficus carica*

Fig

Widespread and common

## **Santalaceae**

*Osyris alba*

Osyris

Scattered, e.g. near hotel

[*Thesium humile*

a bastard toadflax

Syracusa area 2008]

## **Loranthaceae**

*Loranthus europaeus*

Mistletoe

On a few trees on west slope of Mt.Etna

## **Urticaceae**

*Parietaria diffusa*

Pellitory of the Wall

Widespread

*Parietaria lusitanica*

a pellitory of the wall

Valle dell'Anapo and Masseria

*Parietaria officinalis*

Common Pellitory

Scattered, e.g. Pantalica

*Urtica dioica*

Stinging Nettle

Scattered

*Urtica membranacea*

Membraneous Nettle

Pantalica

*Urtica pilulifera*

Roman Nettle

Pantalica

## ***Aristolochiaceae***

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

## ***Polygonaceae***

[ <i>Emex spinosa</i> ]	Emex	Vendicari 2008]
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea Knotgrass	South coast
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	a dock	Widespread and locally common
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	
<i>Rumex scutatus f.aetnensis</i>	French Sorrel	Growing on lava flows on Mt.Etna
<i>Rumex thyrsoides</i>		Cannicattini to Cassibile road

## ***Chenopodiaceae***

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

## ***Nyctaginaceae***

<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	Salinas Syracuse, coming into flower, and south coast
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## ***Aizoaceae***

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

## ***Caryophyllaceae***

<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	Scattered records
[ <i>Cerastium brachypetalum</i> ]	Grey Mouse-ear	Mount Etna 2008]
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	Syracusa region etc.
<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Fine-leaved Sandwort	One near the Masseria
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	Priolo
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Annual Pearlwort	Cannicattini to Cassibile road etc.
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Perennial Pearlwort	Scattered, e.g. at hotel
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Annual Knawel	Syracusa area
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Champion	Valle dell'Anapo
[ <i>Silene armeria</i> ]	Sweet William Catchfly	Syracusa 2005]
[ <i>Silene behen</i> ]	a catchfly	Syracusa 2005]
<i>Silene colorata</i>	a catchfly	Widespread and very common
[ <i>Silene fuscata</i> ]	a catchfly	En route to Monte Lauro 2008]
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	Scattered, e.g. near hotel
[ <i>Silene sedoides</i> ]	a catchfly	South Vendicari 2009]
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	Scattered
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey	Scattered

<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	Scattered
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>	Great Chickweed	Valle dell' Anapo, Testa del Acqua road

### **Ranunculaceae**

[ <i>Adonis annua</i>	Pheasant's-eye	A few near the hotel, and Testa del Acqua road 2008]
[ <i>Adonis microcarpa</i>	Yellow Pheasant's-eye	Several at Vendicari, most red flowered, a few yellow]
[ <i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemome	Scattered records in very small numbers, with fewer than ten in total, 2009]
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	an anemone	Widespread and very common
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Virgin's Bower	In leaf in Valle dell' Anapo
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	Widespread in leaf
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist	In fruit near hotel
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Scattered
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine	Local, Monte Lauro and Valle dell' Anapo
<i>Ranunculus flabellatus</i> ( <i>paludosus</i> )	Jersey Buttercup	Scattered records, mostly in leaf
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	a buttercup	Locally common, finely pinnate leaves
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	a buttercup	By stream along Testa del Acqua road
<i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>	a buttercup	Syracusa area, e.g. Testa del Acqua road

### **Paeoniaceae**

<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	a peony	Several in flower on the west slope of Mount Etna
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### **Capparaceae**

<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	In leaf at Pantalica and Ispica
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### **Papaveraceae**

<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	Scattered records
<i>Papaver setigerum</i>	an opium poppy	Roadsides near Cassibile

### **Fumariaceae**

<i>Fumaria bastardii</i>	Tall Ramping Fumitory	Masseria
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping-Fumitory	Scattered records
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	Near the hotel
<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Fumitory	Pantalica

### **Cruciferae**

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

<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rockcress	Local, e.g. near hotel, and near Pantalica
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress	Recorded
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Common Wintercress	Scattered, e.g. Valle dell'Anapo
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Biscutella	This and the following species widespread
<i>Biscutella lyrata</i>		
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard	Scattered
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Noted on the shore in the south
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	Widespread and abundant
<i>Capsella rubella</i>	a shepherd's purse	Scarce
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	Near Catania
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Common Whitlow-grass	In flower on Mount Etna
<i>Eruca sativa</i>	Eruca	Widespread and common
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i>	a treacle mustard	West slope of Mt.Etna, endemic
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad	Abundant on roadsides near Catani, also south coast
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison	Widespread
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	Hoary Stock	Salinas Syracuse
<i>Matthiola sinuata</i>	Sea Stock	South coast dunes
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard	Locally very common
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	Widespread
[ <i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London Rocket	South coast 2005]
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Roadsides etc., also Masseria
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish	Scattered
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Water-cress	Testa del Acqua road
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	Widespread, e.g. near hotel
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	Scattered records
[ <i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette	Syracusa area 2008]
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
[ <i>Crassula tillaea</i>		Monte Lauro 2004]
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	a stonecrop	South coast, in fine flower
<i>Sedum caespitosum</i>	a stonecrop	Noted in leaf
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	In leaf in Syracuse area
<i>Sedum ochroleucon</i>	a stonecrop	In leaf, Testa del Acqua road
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	a stonecrop	In leaf in Syracuse area
<i>Sedum stellatum</i>	Starry Stonecrop	Scattered records in leaf , e.g.Vendicari and Monte Lauro
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	a navelwort	West slope of Mt.Etna
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	Widespread
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>		
<i>Saxifraga graeca (carpetana)</i>		Monte Lauro, in leaf only
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	Noted in various localities
<b>Platanaceae</b>		
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Tree	Valle dell'Anapo

## Rosaceae

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

## Fabaceae

<i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Blue-leaved Wattle	Vendicari, in fine flower
<i>Acacia retinoides</i>	a wattle	Vendicari, in fine flower
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	Scattered records, common near hotel
<i>Anthyllis tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch	Pantalica and Masseria
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	Widespread and common, represented By one or more of the red flowered subspecies
<i>Astragalus boeticus</i>	a milk-vetch	Near the hotel
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	a milk-vetch	Pantalica and Ispica
<i>Astragalus siculus</i>	a milk-vetch, spina santa	Mt.Etna, dense cushions at high altitudes
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	Thorny Broom	Widespread and common
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob Tree	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Scattered, in flower
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna	Valle dell'Anapo and Noto area
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Annual Scorpion Vetch	Widespread
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	a scorpion vetch	Near the hotel and Valle d'Anapo
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>	a dorycnium	Testa del Acqua road and south coast
[ <i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>	a dorycnium	South coast 2008]
<i>Genista aetnensis</i>	Mt.Etna Broom	Dominant on the slopes of Mt.Etna but not in flower
<i>Hippocrepis ciliata</i>	a horseshoe vetch	Masseria
<i>Hippocrepis multisiliquosa</i>	a horseshoe vetch	Scattered
<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i>	a horseshoe vetch	Widespread
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	Roadsides near Catania
<i>Hedysarum glomeratum</i>	a sainfoin	A few on the south coast
<i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i>	Disc Trefoil	Near Pantalica, and Valle dell'Anapo
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>		Valle d'Anapo 2011
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>		Widespread and reasonably common

<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>		Widespread and very common
[ <i>Lathyrus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Vetchling	Valle dell' Anapo 2008]
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>		Testa del Acqua road
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>		Scattered
<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>		Recorded
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Widespread and common
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	a bird's-foot trefoil	South coast dunes
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i>	a bird's-foot trefoil	Cava d'Ispica
<i>Lotus preslii</i>	a bird's-foot trefoil	Vendicari, this was the tall robust bird's foot trefoil in the marsh
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	Scattered, Monte Lauro and west Etna
<i>Lupinus varius</i>	a lupin	Near Monte Lauro
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	Valle dell' Anapo
[ <i>Medicago intertexta</i>	a medick	South coast 2008]
<i>Medicago littoralis</i>	a medick	South coast dunes
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Syracusa area
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	South coast dunes
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Bur Medick	Masseria
[ <i>Medicago murex</i>	a medick	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Large Disk Medick	Near the hotel
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick	Locally common, e.g. Masseria
<i>Medicago praecox</i>	a medick	Pantalica
[ <i>Medicago scutellata</i>	a medick	Near the hotel 2008]
[ <i>Medicago tornata</i>	a medick	Pantalica 2008]
<i>Medicago turbinata</i>	a medick	Vendicari
[ <i>Melilotus elegans</i>	a melilot	South coast 2005]
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	Near the hotel
<i>Melilotus italicus</i>	a melilot	Near the hotel
[ <i>Melilotus messanensis</i>	a melilot	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Melilotus sulcatus</i>	Furrowed Melilot	Scattered
[ <i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	a sainfoin	Near Don Bosco 2007]
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin	Near Cassaro
<i>Ononis minutissima</i>	a restharrow	Widespread, some in flower
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Restharrow	South coast, some in flower
[ <i>Ononis pendula</i>	a restharrow	Near Cassaro 2004]
[ <i>Ononis reclinata</i>	Small Restharrow	Testa del Acqua road and Vendicari 2008]
<i>Ononis variegata</i>	a restharrow	South coast dunes
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	Recorded
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wild Pea	Widespread in small numbers
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Local, some in flower
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia	Valle dell' Anapo and south coast etc.
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus	Scattered, e.g. Valle dell' Anapo
<i>Scorpiurus vermiculatus</i>		Valle dell' Anapo
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides near Catania etc.
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus Pea	Widespread and very common
[ <i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	2008]
<i>Trifolium bocconeii</i>	Twin-headed Clover	West slope of Etna
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	Scattered
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	a clover	Scattered records

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

### **Oxalidaceae**

<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	Valle d'Anapo
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Widespread and very common

### **Geraniaceae**

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

### **Linaceae**

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

<i>Andrachne telephioides</i>	Andrachne	On ruins in Syracuse
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<i>Euphorbia ceratocarpa</i>	a spurge	This is the common medium sized spurge in dry rocky pastures
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Widespread and common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Locally numerous, as at Pantalica
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge	Scattered
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Widespread and common
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	South coast dunes
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	Scattered records
<i>Euphorbia pinea</i>	a spurge	South coast dunes
<i>Euphorbia pithyusa</i> ssp.cupanii	a spurge	South coast etc.
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Widespread and common
[ <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	South coast 2004]
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Roadsides

### **Rutaceae**

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

### **Polygalaceae**

<i>Polygala monspeliaca</i>	a milkwort	Monte Grosso
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### **Anacardiaceae**

<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Widespread and abundant
<i>Pistachia terebinthus</i>	Terebinth	Pantalica and Masseria

### **Rhamnaceae**

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

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

### **Thymelaeaceae**

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

### **Violaceae**

<i>Viola alba</i> ssp.dehnhardtii	White Violet	Near Pantalica. This subspecies is violet not white flowered.
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy	Locally common on west slope of Mt.Etna

## **Guttiferae**

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

## **Cistaceae**

<i>Cistus creticus</i>	a cistus	Locally common in flower
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Locally common in flower
<i>Fumana thymiifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana	Cannicattini to Cassibile road, in bud
<i>Helianthemum aegyptiacum</i>	a rockrose	Widespread, e.g. near hotel
<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>	Willow-leaved Rockrose	Scattered records

## **Tamaricaceae**

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

<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath	Priolo
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## **Cucurbitaceae**

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

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

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

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

## **Araliaceae**

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

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

<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Widespread and common
<i>Ferulago nodosa</i>	Ferulago	Locally common, swollen nodes on Stems distinctive, mostly dead stems seen
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Locally common
<i>Kundmannia sicula</i>	Kundmannia	Salinas Syracuse
<i>Opopanax chironium</i>	Opopanax	The large lobed pinnate leaves of this species were seen in the south
<i>Opopanax hispidus</i>	an Opopanax	Scattered in leaf. Large leaves with oval- lanceolate lobes, hispid, e.g. peony site.
<i>Pimpinella</i> sp.	Burnet Saxifrage	Noted in flower. 4 species occur.
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's-needle	Widespread and locally common
<i>Seseli tortuosum</i>		Dunes at Vendicari
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Greater Water-parsnip	Leaves noted
<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Widespread, e.g. Testa del Acqua road
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Widespread and locally common
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	Scattered, in leaf
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Tordylium	Widespread and locally common

### ***Ericaceae***

<i>Erica multiflora</i>	a heath	Widespread and locally common. A calcicole.
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### ***Primulaceae***

<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	Widespread and common, blue flowered form much commoner than the red
<i>Asterolinon linum-stellatum</i>	Asterolinon	Cannicattini to Cassibile road
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Ivy-leaved Sowbread	Leaves noted, west Etna, and Testa del Acqua road.
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread	Still in flower near Pantalica

### ***Plumbaginaceae***

<i>Limonium narbonense</i>	a sea lavender	Vendicari, one in flower
<i>Limonium vulgare</i>	Common Sea-Lavender	South coast?
<i>Limonium</i> spp.	sea lavender species	Other species were not identified. 47 occur on the island.

### ***Oleaceae***

<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash	Valle dell'Anapo and near the hotel, just coming into leaf
<i>Olea europea</i>	Olive	Widely cultivated, some wild too
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		Vendicari

### ***Apocynaceae***

<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Locally numerous on roadsides
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	Testa del Acqua road

## **Gentianaceae**

<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	In leaf at Masseria and Testa del Acqua road
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	2, Testa del Acqua road

## **Rubiaceae**

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

## **Theligoniaceae**

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

<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Great Bindweed	Vendicari
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Scattered
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Scattered records
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	a bindweed	Pantalica, and near Noto
<i>Convolvulus pentapetaloides</i>	a bindweed	Masseria 2011
[ <i>Convolvulus siculus</i>	Small Blue Convolvulus	Vendicari 2007]
<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i>	Dwarf Convolvulus	Catania Airport
[ <i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	On <i>Thymus</i> , near Don Bosco, 2004]
[ <i>Cuscuta palaestina</i>	a dodder	Possibly this species at Pantalica 2008]

## **Boraginaceae**

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

## Verbenaceae

*Lantana camara*

Lantana

Roadsides in the south

## Lamiaceae

*Ajuga chamaepitys*

Ground Pine

Very local, e.g. near the hotel

*Ajuga orientalis*

Oriental Bugle

Valle dell'Anapo

*Corydthymus capitatus*

a thyme

Locally common in leaf

*Lamium amplexicaule*

Henbit Deadnettle

West slope of Mt.Etna

[*Lamium bifidum*

a deadnettle

Valle dell'Anapo 2008]

*Marrubium vulgare*

White Horehound

Scattered in leaf

[*Mentha aquatica*

Water Mint

Recorded 2005]

*Mentha* sp.

Pantalica, in leaf

*Micromeria nervosa*

Pantalica

*Phlomis fruticosa*

Jerusalem Sage

Scattered, a few in flower

*Prasium majus*

Prasium

Widespread

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

Rosemary

South coast etc.

*Salvia fruticosa*

Three-leaved Sage

Rather common, locally in flower

*Salvia officinalis*

Sage

Scattered

*Salvia verbenacea*

Wild Clary

Widespread and common

[*Satureja hortensis*

Summer Savory

Slope near Don Bosco 2005]

*Satureja montana*

Winter Savory

Locally common

*Sideritis romana*

Syracusa zona archaeologica

*Teucrium fruticans*

Tree Germander

Widespread

*Teucrium polium*

Felty Germander

In leaf

*Thymus pulegioides*

Large Thyme

In leaf

## Solanaceae

*Nicotiana glauca*

Shrub Tobacco

Roadsides

[*Solanum nigrum*

Black Nightshade

Pantalica 2009]

[*Solanum sodomaeum*

Apple of Sodom

South coast 2008]

[*Solanum villosum*

Hairy Nightshade

Recorded 2005]

## Scrophulariaceae

*Antirrhinum siculum*

Sicilian Snapdragon

Widespread and common, seen daily

*Bellardia trixago*

Bellardia

Local, e.g. Masseria

[*Linaria purpurea*

Purple Toadflax

Noted on two days 2008]

*Linaria reflexa*

a toadflax

Widespread

*Linaria triphylla*

Three-leaved Toadflax

Locally very common

[*Mandragora autumnalis*

Mandrake

Seen in leaf at south Vendicari 2009]

[*Misopates orontium*

Weasel's Snout

2 only, Pantalica, 2009]

*Parentucellia latifolia*

Southern Red Bartsia

Locally common

*Parentucellia viscosa*

Yellow Bartsia

A few near the Masseria

*Scrophularia canina*

French Figwort

In leaf on Etna

*Scrophularia peregrina*

Nettle-leaved Figwort

Masseria

*Verbascum sinuatum*

a mullein

Widespread in leaf. In flower near Monte Lauro.

*Verbascum thapsus*

Aaron's Rod

Old spikes noted

*Veronica arvensis*

Wall Speedwell

West Etna

*Veronica cymbalaria*

White Speedwell

Masseria

*Veronica hederifolia*

Ivy-leaved Speedwell

Mt.Etna

<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell	Testa del Acqua and Valle dell'Anapo
[ <i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field-Speedwell	Recorded 2007]
<i>Veronica verna</i>	Spring Speedwell	Near the hotel 2009

## **Orobanchaceae**

[ <i>Orobanche canescens</i>	a broomrape	Syracusa area, on composites, 2007]
<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Clove-scented Broomrape	Valle dell'Anapo, on <i>Galium</i>
<i>Orobanche gracilis</i>	Slender Broomrape	Some fine spikes, on legumes, near Noto
<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	a broomrape	Valle dell'Anapo, near Cassaro, and near Noto, on <i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>
<i>Orobanche loricata</i>	Oxtongue Broomrape	Common near Masseria
[ <i>Orobanche lutea</i>	a broomrape	Probably this species noted on Fabaceae on day 4, 2007]
[ <i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	Noted in the south, 2008]
<i>Orobanche pubescens</i>	a broomrape	South coast
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	Scattered records, e.g. Masseria
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	Previous year's spikes of this species associated with <i>Genista aetnensis</i> on Mt.Etna

## **Myoporaceae**

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

<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's Breech	Testa del Acqua road, not in flower
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## **Plantaginaceae**

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

## **Caprifoliaceae**

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

## **Valerianaceae**

[ <i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>	a valerian	Vendicari 2009]
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Widespread
<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Fedia	Locally common
<i>Valerianella</i> spp.	corn salad species	Scattered, none in fruit so positive identification difficult. 11+ species occur.

## Dipsacaceae

*Dipsacus fullonum*  
*Scabiosa atropurpurea*

Wild Teasel  
Mournful Widow

Old seed heads  
In flower at the Masseria

## Campanulaceae

[*Campanula erinus*  
*Legousia hybrida*

a bellflower  
Venus's Looking Glass

Vendicari, a small annual, 2009]  
Cannicattini to Cassibile road 2004]

## Asteraceae

*Andryala integrifolia*  
*Anthemis aetnensis*  
*Anthemis arvensis*  
*Anthemis chia*  
*Anthemis maritimus*  
*Anthemis secundiramea*  
*Artemisia arborescens*  
*Atractylis gummifera*

Andryala  
a chamomile  
Corn Chamomile  
a chamomile  
a chamomile  
a chamomile  
a wormwood  
Atractylis

1 Masseria, 1 south coast  
In leaf on Mt.Etna  
Pantalica  
Widespread  
South coast  
South coast 2009  
Local on roadsides  
Near Cassaro, last years' flowering heads

*Bellis annua*  
*Bellis perennis*  
*Bellis sylvestris*  
*Calendula arvensis*  
*Calendula officinalis*  
*Carduus acicularis*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Carduncellus caeruleus*

Annual Daisy  
Daisy  
Southern Daisy  
Field Marigold  
Pot Marigold  
a thistle  
a thistle  
Carduncellus

Locally common, e.g. Monte Lauro  
Widespread  
Valle dell'Anapo  
Very common  
Pantalica etc.  
Masseria etc.  
Pantalica, Masseria etc.  
One plant, with 1 flower, on a verge en route to Monte Lauro

*Carlina corymbosa*  
*Carlina nebrodensis*  
*Centaurea calcitrapa*  
*Centaurea melitensis*  
*Centaurea nicaeensis*  
*Centaurea solstitialis*  
*Centaurea sphaerocephala*  
*Chrysanthemum coronarium*  
*Chrysanthemum segetum*  
*Coleostephus myconis*  
*Conyza canadensis*  
*Crepis* spp.  
*Crupina crupinastrum*  
*Cynara cardunculus*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
[*Evax astericifolia*  
*Evax pygmaea*  
*Filago pyramidata*  
*Filago vulgaris*  
*Galactites tomentosa*  
*Hedypnois rhagadioloides*  
*Helichrysum stoechas*

Flat-topped Carlina Thistle  
a carline thistle  
a star thistle  
a star thistle  
a star thistle  
Yellow-star Thistle  
a knapweed  
Crown Daisy  
Corn Marigold  
  
Canadian Fleabane  
Hawksbeards  
Crupina  
Cardoon  
a stink aster

Scattered old flowering heads  
Old flowering heads on Mt.Etna  
In bud, Monte Lauro  
In bud at Pantalica etc.  
In bud  
In bud near the hotel  
South coast dunes, in flower  
Widespread and abundant  
Scattered, e.g. Masseria  
Buscemi road  
Valle dell'Anapo  
Several species not identified.  
Noted in leaf, Cassaro etc.  
Local in leaf  
Widespread  
Recorded 2005]  
Vendicari, Pantalica, etc.  
Vendicari  
Pantalica  
Widespread and abundant  
Near Pantalica  
Scattered

<i>Helichrysum</i> spp.		Several other species present but not identified. Several endemic species on Sicily.
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		Widespread
<i>Hypochoeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's-ear	Near hotel
<i>Hypochoeris achyrophorus</i>	Mediterranean Cat's-ear	Vendicari
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	South coast, not in flower
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	Scented Mayweed	Scattered
[ <i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	Illyrian Scotch Thistle	Magnisi peninsula 2007]
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	South coast, not in flower
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		Pantalica
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>		Scattered
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		Pantalica etc.
[ <i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawk-bit	Syracusa area 2008]
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton	In leaf
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>		An impressive yellow flowered thistle, in flower on roadsides near Syracuse, in bud at Salinas Syracuse
<i>Scorzonera undulata</i>	a viper's grass	This was the purple flowered species, a few of which were found near the Masseria, and near Cassaro, 2011
<i>Senecio gallicus</i>		Sands at Vendicari
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	Widespread
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Often abundant
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Common
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-Thistle	Widespread
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>	a sow-thistle	Local
[ <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Mt.Etna 2004]
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	Recorded
[ <i>Tragopogon crocifolius</i>	a goat's-beard	Vendicari 2005]
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	Near the hotel
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	Priolo
<i>Urospermum dalechampi</i>	Urospermum	Local, e.g. Valle dell'Anapo
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>		Monte Grosso

## Monocotyledons

### Posidoniaceae

<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Posidonia	Leaves and other debris abundant on southern shores
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### Juncaginaceae

<i>Triglochin bulbosa</i> <i>ssp.barrelieri</i>	Bulbous Arrow-grass	Vendicari
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### Zannichelliaceae

<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	Horned Pondweed	Priolo lagoon
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### Liliaceae

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

### Amaryllidaceae

<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Polyanthus Narcissus	A few in fruit on Monte Grosso
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Leaves noted on south coast

## **Agavaceae**

*Agave americana* Century Plant Scattered

## **Dioscoraceae**

*Tamus communis* Black Bryony Scattered

## **Iridaceae**

*Gladiolus italicus* Field Gladiolus Locally common on roadsides  
*Hermodactylus tuberosus* Widow Iris In fine flower this year on west Etna, others in fruit  
*Iris germanica* Tall Bearded Iris Locally naturalised, including the white *ssp.florentina*  
*Iris pseudopumila* an iris Several in flower this year. Purple and yellow/purple forms seen.  
*Gynandiris sisyrinchium* Barbary Nut Widespread and locally very common  
*Romulea bulbocodium* Several on Monte Lauro  
[*Romulea columnae* 2 at picnic site near Pantalica 2009]  
[*Romulea ramiflora* A few on Monte Lauro, all with very small white flowers, 2009]

## **Palmae**

*Chamaerops humilis* Dwarf Fan Palm Scattered records  
*Phoenix dactylifera* Date Palm Widespread

## **Araceae**

*Arisarum vulgare* Friar's Cowl Only at lunch site on day 2  
*Arum italicum* Italian Lords-and-Ladies Widespread  
*Arum orientale* Noted in leaf

## **Juncaceae**

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

## **Cyperaceae**

*Cyperus capitatus* Priolo dunes  
*Cyperus papyrus* Papyrus Naturalised in Syracuse  
*Carex caryophylla* Spring Sedge Widespread on limestone  
*Carex flacca* Glaucous Sedge Limestone hills  
*Carex otrubae* False Fox Sedge Venticari, near the hides  
*Carex sp.* A different species near the hides at Venticari was not identified, and one in shade in Valle d'Anapo.  
*Schoenus nigricans* Black Bog-rush Venticari dunes  
*Scirpus holoschoenus* Round-headed Club Rush Roadside en route to Monte Lauro  
*Scirpus maritimus* Sea Club Rush Southern wetlands

## Poaceae

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

## Orchidaceae

<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid	Scarce. Only 7, Testa del Acqua road.
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant Orchid	Dead spikes widespread. A few still in flower on south west slopes of Mt. Etna.
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>	Roman Orchid	3 red flowered spike on south-west slope of Etna, a few more in early bud.
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	One robust red flowered form on west Slope of Mt. Etna.
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	34 fine examples near Pantalica.
[ <i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	2007:- 1 in good flower in the dunes at Vendicari was a surprisingly early record]
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	Monte Grosso and Cassaro area. Several fine examples.
<i>Ophrys biancae</i>		Scarce, e.g. near the hotel and Cannicattini to Cassibile road. Endemic to Sicily.
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	In small numbers on three days.
<i>Ophrys caesiella</i>		Noted on one day. A small 'fusca' Endemic to Sicily and Malta.

<i>Ophrys exaltata</i>		Widespread in small numbers. Endemic to Sicily and Calabria.
<i>Ophrys explanata</i>		At one site on the last day. Stigmatic cavity wider than tall. Endemic to Sicily.
<i>Ophrys flammeola</i>		This ' <i>subfusca</i> ' type was identified on Monte Grosso. Endemic to Sicily.
<i>Ophrys lucifera</i>		This <i>fusca</i> type was identified near the hotel. Clear transverse red line in stigmatic cavity.
<i>Ophrys lupercalis</i>		A rather widespread and common <i>fusca</i> type.
<i>Ophrys incubacea</i>		Noted on several days, e.g. Masseria.
<i>Ophrys lunulata</i>		A Sicilian endemic, local and quite rare. Scattered records in the Syracuse area with often only very few at a site. e.g. near the hotel.
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	Widespread and common.
<i>Ophrys oxyrhynchos</i>		Local but widespread. Endemic to Sicily and southern Italy.
<i>Ophrys panormitana</i>		Widespread. Some fine colonies seen.
<i>Ophrys passionis</i> var. <i>garganica</i>		Testa del Acqua road and Valle dell'Anapo. The taxonomy of this taxon is very confused, but this is what it's called in edition 3 of Delforge!
<i>Ophrys phryganae</i>		Local. A small flowered ' <i>lutea</i> ' relative. e.g. Valle dell'Anapo.
<i>Ophrys sicula</i>		Widespread and locally common.
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	Locally several e.g. Cassaro.
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid	Widespread. Some fine colonies seen.
<i>Orchis brancifortii</i>		Several fine patches in one small area on Mount Etna. Endemic to Sicily and Sardinia, and one site in Calabria.
<i>Orchis commutata</i>		A few in Valle d'Anapo.
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian Man Orchid	Widespread and common.
<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	Many on Monte Lauro.
<i>Orchis longicornu</i>		Many on Monte Lauro, also at Valle dell'Anapo, near Buscemi, etc.
<i>Orchis papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	Widespread and reasonably common.
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>		c.20 plants at one site near Monte Lauro
<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid	Cassaro.
<i>Serapias bergonii</i>		Possibly this species at Cassaro.
[ <i>Serapias cordigera</i>		Buscemi area 2007]
[ <i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	Only 1 near Solarino in 2004]
[ <i>Serapias orientalis</i>		ssp. <i>siciliensis</i> . 1 found on the last full Day, 2008]
[ <i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	1 at Vendicari, 2008]
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Ploughshare Orchid	Widespread and locally common.

## Systematic List Number 2

## Butterflies

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

### Papilionidae

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Scattered records
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Pantalica, Vendicari and Valle dell'Anapo
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	2 west Etna

### Pieridae

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Scattered records
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Scattered records
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	Valle dell'Anapo
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	Salinas Syracuse
Orange-Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Widespread in small numbers
Eastern Orange-Tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>	A colony on the west slope of Mt.Etna, which is the type locality. Only one male seen in 2011.
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Widespread in small numbers
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	A few records
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Widespread in small numbers

### Lycaenidae

Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	South coast
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Noted on one day only
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	A few in Valle dell'Anapo
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	A few in Valle dell'Anapo, also near Masseria
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	A few at Pantalica, and Valle dell'Anapo
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	A few records

### Libytheidae

Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	2008, 1 in Valle dell'Anapo was the most interesting butterfly record of the tour 2011 1 near Masseria
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### Nymphalidae

Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	2004:- near Don Bosco, Mt.Etna, and c.10 in Valle dell'Anapo. A few in 2005. 2006, 3 on west slope of Mt.Etna. 2011, 1 west Etna.
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	A few records
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	1 in Valle d'Anapo

### Satyridae

Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Widespread in suitable habitat
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Scattered records

### Hesperiidae

Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	1 at Pantalica
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	1 at Priolo, supposedly not known to occur on Sicily?

## Systematic List Number 3

## Birds

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

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	A few at Vendicari
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Several at Vendicari
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Only 1 from the south coast, rather distant!
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen at Vendicari
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Several at Vendicari, a few elsewhere
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	2 near south coast
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	2 at Vendicari
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Vendicari and a few other records
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Vendicari, and south coast
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	2 at Vendicari
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus phoenicopterus</i>	c.100 this year at Vendicari
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Vendicari
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Scattered wetland records
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Several at Vendicari
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	4 at Priolo
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Several at Vendicari
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen on 4 days
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Scattered records
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Seen on one day
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Scattered wetland records
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Vendicari and Syracuse, common
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Several at Vendicari and Priolo
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1 at Vendicari
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1 at Vendicari
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1 at Vendicari
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1 at Vendicari
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	2 in non-breeding plumage at Priolo
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Priolo
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	A few at Priolo
Yellow-legged Herring Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Scattered coastal records
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	2 at Priolo
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandwicensis</i>	2 at Priolo
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Widespread
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common in the forested hills
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen on 3 days around habitation. The 1989 BOU checklist lists only 2 records for Sicily up until that date!
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Near the Masseria
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard often, and seen around the hotel
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread and very common
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Several positively identified, others surely overlooked
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1 in Valle d'Anapo
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Several sightings and often heard
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Seen and heard around the hotel (PC)

Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	Heard often, sometimes seen
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Near the hotel, and heard elsewhere
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common and widespread
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Monte Lauro
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Monte Lauro
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread and common
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	A few over Cava Grande de Cassibile
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Around the hotel
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	A few around the hotel
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Heard often, sometimes seen
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Scattered records
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Heard in the Valle d'Anapo
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Scattered records
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	South coast and Monte Grosso
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Anapo gorge and Cassibile gorge
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread and common
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Several heard
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard daily and often seen too
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Widespread and common
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Heard at various wetlands
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Heard at Vendicari
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	Scarce, only near the hotel
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Widespread and common
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Widespread
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Valle d'Anapo
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Calling, and seen briefly, in conifers on Etna
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	In conifers on Mount Etna
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Widespread
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Widespread
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Heard on Mt.Etna
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1 near Ferla
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Widespread
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Very common and widespread
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Noto etc.
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Widespread and common
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A few records
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Widespread and common
House Sparrow x Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer x maltae</i>	Widespread and very common. The correct identity of the sparrows on Sicily is controversial, but they are treated under this taxon in Birds of the Western Palearctic.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Scattered records, e.g. Salinas Syracusa
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Scattered records
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Widespread and reasonably common
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Scattered records
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Widespread and common
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Widespread

Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Widespread in small numbers, daily around the hotel
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Widespread and reasonably common

## Systematic List Number 4

Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>
Italian Pool Frog/Hybrid Frog	<i>Rana bergeri/kl.hispanica</i>
[Italian Tree Frog	<i>Hyla intermedia</i>
[Painted Frog	<i>Discoglossus pictus</i>
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretanic</i>
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>
Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>
Italian Three-toed Skink	<i>Chalcides chalcides</i>
Western Whip Snake	<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i>
[Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>

## Amphibians and Reptiles

Tadpoles along Testa del Acqua road belonged to one of these two species Valle dell' Anapo, and Masseria Seen briefly at Vendicari, 2008] Heard at 'lupin stop' 2005] 1 at the Masseria on the first morning, and 1 at Priolo Several records Widespread and common Seen on at least three days Monte Lauro One caught by Stefano on south-west slope of Etna 2007. 2008 one recent road kill not far from the hotel. 2009 seen on at least 4 days. 2011, 1 at south Vendicari 1 in Valle dell' Anapo 2007]

## Systematic List Number 5

Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
Roman Mole	<i>Talpa romana</i>
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>
Savi's Pine Vole have	<i>Pitymys savii</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

## Mammals

A few road casualties Hills at several sites Around the hotel Several road casualties Droppings of probably this species seen at several sites Droppings noted 2009, the remains of one near the hotel, mostly quills. Reputedly introduced into Sicily, and parts of mainland Italy, from north Africa, by the Romans. 2011 only digging activity noted. The holes seen on Monte Lauro must have been caused by this species Seen on a few days