

Crete in Autumn 2025

A Greentours Trip Report

Lead by Fiona Dunbar and Ernest Senka

Species Lists by Fiona Dunbar



Sea Daffodil, Kolymbari; Fiona Dunbar

Day 1 Saturday 11th October Arrival in Crete

We arrived safely at Hania airport, were met by Ernest and set off for the 45 minute drive to the lovely Spilia Village, an old, converted olive mill. Slight flight delays meant we had a fairly fast wash and brush up before walking a 100 m to the village taverna for our first supper together. We shared a range of traditional Greek dishes for starters, salads and fennel pies and tzatziki. Scops Owls could be heard calling.

Day 2 Sunday 12th October

Marathokefala, the Rhodopou Peninsula, Gonia Monastery and Kolymvari Dunes

After an excellent buffet breakfast outside by the pool we drove to the tiny village of Marathokefala. It was a windy day, and the Griffons were on the wing early – while we were still eating breakfast. Right by where we parked the van were clumps of Greek Sowbread (*Cyclamen graecum*) in all shades of pink, *Smilax aspera* scrambled over shrubs and trees such as Wild Olive and Kermes Oak (*Quercus coccifera*). Mastic tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*), Thorny Burnet (*Sarcopoterium spinosum*), and Jointed Pine (*Ephedra campylopoda*) were also common – the latter unusual in being the only plant to release scent to attract pollinators regulated by the full moon. Walter checked a spot where a white *Cyclamen graecum* forma *album* flowers, but it was still in bud. Minute *Euphorbia dimorphocaulon* were seen. As we turned off onto a smaller track into an area of Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia* ssp *halepensis*) we noted more flowers – flowering *Verbascum sinuatum*,

Fennel (*Ferulago nodosa*), the green flowered *Allium chamaespathum* and the first of many Stink Aster (*Dittrichia graveolens*). We had to admire the golden spiny remains of Flat-topped Carlina Thistle (*Carlina corymbosa*), the stemless Pine Thistle (*C. gummifera*), *Picnomon arcana* and Field Eryngo (*Eryngium campestre*) and grasses including Quaking Grass (*Briza maxima*) and Hares Foot Grass (*Lagurus ovatus*). Cyclamen flowered everywhere throughout the scrub and along the path. Tall fresh spikes of white flowered Sea Squill (*Drimia maritima*) grew in the olive groves there also stands a lone limestone boulder with cyclamen growing out of the side, the corm exposed. In this more open area, we had views over the hills all the way to the coast. One extraordinary, shed Cicada case was found, and once we were looking there were many. A few pink *Colchicum pusillum* and delicate Autumn Squills (*Prospero autumnale*) were by the path. A note about *Prospero*. Tiny, lovely things that have in the last couple of years been mercilessly attacked by botanists. What only a few short years ago was *Prospero autumnale* has now been split on Crete alone into *Prospero minima*, *depressa*, and at least 4 others, and *autumnale* has disappeared altogether. As it is entirely possible to find three of the new species within a square meter, I am going to stick with *P. autumnale* *sensu lato* until further notice. A small, stripy flowered allium was *Allium tardans*, a nice thing. Walter found a brood of Stripy Swallowtail caterpillars feeding on fennel. Clouded Yellow, Wall Brown Red Admiral and Painted lady all put in an appearance. Scott and Midge spotted Coal Tit and Richard and I an Eleanor's Falcon speeding past. Ravens were frequent all day. A visit to the cave church of Agios Yannis was interesting for the memorial to resistance fighters from the second world war, and a stunning Praying Mantis posed on the iron railings.



Preying Mantis; Fiona Dunbar



Cyclamen graecum; Fiona Dunbar

Driving on round the peninsula we stopped at a road cutting where I knew we could see some extraordinary fossils in the rocks. Difficult to work out at first, cross-sections of large bony starfish were everywhere like strange bony mouths in the rock. Jean later spotted the same fossils and more in the wall at our lunch stop, where a series of hairpin bends brought us to a lone taverna in a quiet bay where we had an excellent lunch in the shade of a white mulberry tree. The windy day made the sea too rough for swimming, but we walked onto the beach and took in the scenery. We did our best best to try local dishes and had

seaweed, interesting, not a species I had eaten before and would try again, but no sea urchins available today...

We had fantastic views and a short stop for more *Cyclamen*, but it was very dry this year, even the vines in the small vineyards were almost completely browned off. Continuing we came in sight of the sea below and the monastery ahead of us. Having parked up we all enjoyed the sight of the monk feeding cats on some majestic old stone steps! The car park also produced a pair of active raptors overhead which in the end turned out to be strikingly marked Buzzards and a lovely white *Cyclamen graecum* forma *album* amongst the pink and magenta, and striking dried flowers of Wild Leek (*Allium ampeloprasum*).



The monks' cats: Richard Somers Cocks

Mallow Skipper, Spotted Flycatcher, some good patches of *Cyclamen graecum* and some of the biggest Tree Euphorbias (*Euphorbia dendroides*) I've ever seen. Butterflies today included Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral, Wall Brown and Painted Lady.

A final brief walk on the beach was necessary as the Sea Daffodil was in very fine flower. Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*) and *Thymelaea hirsuta* were all in rather understated flower.

For supper we again went to the village taverna and sampled more traditional Greek cuisine... all good!

It was pleasant to escape into the cool and calm of Gonia Monastery, founded at this position in the 17th century it played a pivotal role in local history. It has always been a shelter for the rebels of Crete and, thus, it was destroyed many times by the various conquerors including the Turks twice - there is a cannon ball lodged in the wall from the last attack in 1867. The Germans also attacked and the abbots, often at the forefront of rebellion against the invaders, fought in the Battle of Crete in the second world war. Much to be admired were the views over the bay, and the huge storage jars or pithoi planted with luxurious succulents and towering, scented basil. Richard and Walter who had been round the monastery before, opted to explore a newly constructed mosaic path on a nearby hillside. A lot of work has gone into the mosaics, and it was quite productive, with



Cyclamen graecum forma alba; Fiona Dunbar

Day 2

Sunday 12th October

Omalos via Agia Lake and back through Chestnut and Strawberry Tree Woods.

A short drive took us to Agia Lake. Vegetation included Bullrushes (*Typha domingensis*) strongly minty *Calamintha nepeta*, some lovely Heliotrope (*Heliotropium europaeum*) and the ever-popular Squirting Cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium*). The very chilled domestic ducks shared the sunshine with basking Stripe-necked Terrapins. Throughout the next hour a number of Kingfishers flashed around the lakes, and by the outflow we saw one very close. Snipe, Rufous-headed Duck, Teal, Dab Chicks and Cormorants put in appearances, along with what was probably a hunting Merlin. Cetti's Warblers and Blackcaps were in the trees; Carpenter Bees and Holly Blues were noted.



Dab Chick and Terrapin; Fiona Dunbar

Onward to the Omalos. Our first stop was at a way marked footpath where we searched in vain for *Cyclamen graecum ssp candicum* – no sign at all, probably not up yet as the season was rather behind. We did however see hundreds of *Colchicum pusillum* and our first scattering of *Crocus laevegatus*! Griffon Vultures and Ravens were frequent. Onto the Omalos plateau proper. Numerous flocks of Goldfinches fed on the golden thistles, and scythe-winged Eleanora's falcons hunted for Swifts and Crag Martins. A glimpse of a low-flying falcon was probably Merlin again. The tree flora here is excellent with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Spiny Pear (*Prunus spinosa*) being outshone by the endemic Cretan Maple (*Acer sempervivens*) and *Zelcova abelicea*. The latter is endemic to the mountains of Crete and the only representative of its genus outside of Asia. Historically was the timber of choice for shepherds to make their crooks from.



Colchicum pusillum; Fiona Dunbar



Strawberry tree fruits; Fiona Dunbar

We had our picnic at the friendly Neos Omalos hotel who brought us coffees and fresh juices to complement our picnic. Much refreshed, we began our return journey via the other side of the plateau with breathtaking views down to the coast. On reaching an area of Oak



Woodwardia radicans; Fiona Dunbar

(*Quercus pubescens*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) we pulled over to photograph and sample both the fresh sweet chestnuts and 'strawberries' – both were fruiting heavily.

On one of the many hairpin bends a stream descends and crosses the road. A stop here was very worthwhile with a wall of the rare fern *Woodwardia radicans*, mixed with healthy Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) and a blanket of Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*). Connor pointed out another speciality – False Hemp (*Datisca cannabina*) the only species in it's genus and on checking the distribution maps, present in only three locations on Crete. Yet another rarity we found here was *Hypericum hercinum* ssp *albimontanum*.

This woodland route took us back through a small village with a huge olive tree. Date to between 3 and 5 thousand years old, it is a thing of beauty, and its leaves are used to make the wreathes for the Olympic Games. A tiny butterfly here was possibly a Grass Jewel.

This evening, after running through the species lists and checking out photos from the last couple of days, we drove the 5 minutes into Kolymbari for an excellent dinner in a seafront taverna. Most people opted for the local fish or the superb shrimp risotto.

Day 3 Tuesday 14th October

Sirikari Gorge and Polyrhinia

On the way through Kolimbari we stopped at the bakery for fresh spanakopita and snacks to carry for our lunch in the gorge.

A scenic drive wound its way up to a little church where we were to start our walk. We dropped down through mixed woodland. We picked our way carefully down the track that begins by dropping steeply into the gorge through an area of mixed woodland with White Oak (*Quercus pubescens*), Turpentine Tree (*Pistacia terebinthus*), Holm Oak (*Quercus coccifera*) Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) and Spiny Pear (*Pyrus spinosa*). All



Cyclamen confusum; Fiona Dunbar

along the trail tall flowers of Southern Daisy (*Bellis sylvestris*), Lesser Calamint (*Calamintha nepeta*) and Summer Savoury (*Satureja thymbra*) grew amongst the phrygana dominated by *Ballota pseudodictamnus* and Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*), Thorny Burnet (*Sacopoterium spinosum*) and thyme (*Thymus capitatus*). The footpath goes through a small holding and here the trees were orange and walnut. The first lovely *Cyclamen confusum* began to appear in the walls and rocks by the track, often with Rustyback Fern. I asked our resident cyclamen expert Walter for visual differences to look for to separate from *C. graecum*, he said *confusum* is tetraploid and the leaves are thicker... A rocky area had a range of chasmophytes, *Inula candida*, Shrubby Flax (*Linum arboreum*), Shrubby Knapweed (*Ptilostemnon chamaepeuce*), spotted by Marloes, cliff-dwelling Bear's-tail Mullien (*Verbascum Arcturus*) spotted by Connor. Above these was another new flower for this trip – uncommon Oriental Strawflower (*elichrysum orientale*). Our first patch of delicate *Narcissus obsoletus* came soon after. Griffons were being very active on the cliffs opposite, flying in and out of nests with large youngsters sitting hunched up. Butterflies included lots of Holly Blues and Cretan Greyings, also Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, a large Silver-washed Fritillary. Wall Lizards with blue tails were frequent. In the base of the valley cyclamen grew through the fallen leaves of the huge Plane trees that lined the dry riverbed. The Autumn Crocus *Stenbergia sicula* began to appear, often scattered up the cliff but a few at head height. Lunch was at here in pleasant shade. A huge cottage sized boulder was topped with a good show of Stenbergias and Cyclamen, and from here there was a scattering of Narcissus and Prospero by the path as well as rosettes of Mandrake (*Mandragora autumnalis*) and flowering Southern Daisy (*Bellis sylvestris*). Cardinal Fritillaries were coming down to water on the path near the gate that marks the end of the gorge, and here Ernest met us and took some of the group up the steep hill to the welcome shade and refreshments of the old cafeneon in Polyrhinia.

Day 4

Wednesday 15th October

Elaphonisi and Topolia Gorge



Cardinal Fritillary; Fiona Dunbar
Calabrian Pine woodland.

The journey to the south coast passed through some fantastic scenery. Olive groves gave way to deciduous forest with Sweet Chestnut, Plane and White Oak, then colourful maquis with Strawberry tree. The road passes along the stunning Topolia Gorge and then descends to the coast. Here was classic spiny phrygana dominated by endemic *Thymus capitatus*, Spiny Mullen (*Verbascum spinosum*) and Thyme-leaved Savoury (*Satureja thymbra*). before dropping into scattered



Narcissus obsoletus; Fiona Dunbar

Plain Tigers and Cardinal Fritillaries were on the wing even around the carpark. We walked to the sand spit watching carefully other beach users' progress across the break in the sand bar. Less than knee deep; we were fine. Shoes and socks removed we paddled across the warm turquoise water with patches of the famous pink sand to reach Elaphonisi. Sea Daffodil (*Pancratium maritimum*) was fruiting but there were still plenty of fragrant white flowers left in amongst domes of thyme and Golden and Rock Samphire. Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralia*), Cottonweed (*Otanthus maritimus*) and rare sticky-leaved *Silene succulenta* were added to the list whilst walking barefoot along the edge of the sea. Marloes stopped and swam, most of the rest of us headed into the barren middle of the island. The endemic coastal sub species of Cedar *Juniperus oxycedrus* ssp *macrocarpa* was either huge spreading domes several hundred years old or much younger saplings – regeneration with less grazing? Crested Larks and Grey Wagtails flitted past and Richard saw Linnets and Mediterranean Skipper. A small bird had been very recently killed by a hawk – within the previous hour – and we later confirmed identification as Snipe from the feathers. Wall Lizards were very common as were Cardinal Fritillaries feeding on purple thyme flowers. Ester and I also swam before heading back towards the mainland again. A strange part of a crustacean proved to be the underside of a Lesser Spider Crab. Having re-grouped we drove to a grove of Calabrian Pines for our picnic, which we completed before the approaching dark cloud released its load. Jean spotted some gorgeous Purple Spurge (*Euphorbia peplis*) on the beach with *Limonium profliferum*.

The drive back to Topolia was through a very heavy downpour! However, when we had reached the path that we were to break our journey at it was only spotting. It was well worth the effort with some gorgeous patches of *Cyclamen confusum*, hundreds of fresh, dewy *Narcissus obsoletus* and thousands of *Prospero autumnale*. A scented Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*) bush was just outside the church grounds and on the road below there was a little patch of *Allium tardans*.

Day 5 Thursday 16th October To Anapolis with stops

Our first stop was at the spring fed wetland area of Georgiopolis. Connor and Marloes soon found Autumn Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) in an area of grassland. Swallows flew overhead and there were Tufted Ducks, Dab Chicks, Stripe-necked Terrapins and Grey Heron by the water.



Next was a short stop enroute to Kotsifou Gorge, the springs at Argyroupolis. Rather touristy, but the Maidenhair ferns by the series of waterfalls were lovely and we saw a little flowering Cretan Wall Lettuce (*Petromarula pinnata*). Red Admirals and Wall Browns were common.

Onto the Kotsifou through some great looking open areas and strawberry tree woodland. The gorge was magnificent as always, and straight away we could see large clumps of pink flowered *Origanum dictamnus* on the cliffs. A male Praying Mantis was praying near the van. *Stenbergias* were everywhere, thousands of them covering the cliffs with splashes of yellow and along the roadside edges. There were two species, *Stenbergia lutea* with large, rounded flowers and broad, unstriped leaves and the



somewhat smaller *Stenbergia sicula* with white lines down the leaves and pointier tepals. Crag Martins and Ravens flew overhead. Large groups of *Narcissus obsoletus* grew with enormous (relatively) *Prospero autumnale*. Cedars and Junipers clung to the precipitous cliffs and far below was the sea. We reached the chapel built into the cliff and the Crag Martins were flying in to roost in the overhanging rocks. There was a great show of the wonderful and peculiar *Biarum davisii* and more *Stenbergias* round our feet. Ernst put out another fine picnic and we ate it sat on a stone bench with a pleasant breeze. A grand finale was a Lammergeier flying speedily overhead!

Onto Frankocastello where we had drinks in the shade sitting by the castle looking out over the sea. We paused briefly for a nice patch of flowering Pine Thistle and Crested Larks and Linnets sitting in a field. Sea Daffodil flowered by the taverna and Midge and Scott spotted a lovely little cornet fish! As this turned out it was Blue Spot Cornetfish (*Fistularia commersonii*), a species now considered invasive in the Mediterranean, having arrived through Lessepsian migration which I now know is when a species migrates from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. We could see, not too far away, the 23-hairpin bends that would take us up to Anopolis.

The dry rocky slopes by the hairpin bends were covered with flowering spikes of Sea Squill – quite a spectacular sight. Only minutes away from our destination we had to stop for thousands and thousands of blousy *Colchicum macrophyllum* whose



Colchicum macrophyllum, white form; Fiona Dunbar

huge blooms were colouring the fields pink. The tiny 'fields' are part of the field systems of Ancient Anopolis, with exposed, gnarled limestone emerging from flat red earth. The group chose to stroll down to the village and our rooms from here. We had time to rest and wash before sitting down to a superb meal cooked by our hostess Popi.

Day 6 Friday 17th October Arandaina Gorge

Plenty of coffee and home-made jams and local honey and yoghurt for breakfast and then the very short drive to Arandaina. We were soon heading along the ancient path to the edge of the gorge. The small chapel which marks the far side of the gorge was only a few hundred metres away, but we would be taking the ancient kalderimi DOWN one side of the gorge and UP the other to reach the abandoned village of Arandaina. The term kaderimi dates back to the Turkish occupation of Greece but the road itself may be much older; they run along Roman or Venetian road lines and are built in such a way that two pack horses can safely pass. This was the only way into Arandaina until the Bailey bridge was built in the '60's. The red earth around the beginning of the descent was scattered with *Biarum davisii*, *Narcissus obsoletus* and *Colchicum pusillum*. Scott and Midge spotted Woodlarks too.



Biarum davisii and *Prospero autumnalis*; Fiona Dunbar

Beginning our descent, we came across increasingly large *Ranunculus bullatus*, an attractive autumn flowering buttercup, thousands of Autumn Squills (some tall, some small and some curved) and *Delphinium staphisagria* seedlings. There were good numbers of flowering *Stenbergia sicula* too, and lots of Rusty Backed Fern (*Asplenium ceterach*). Much less common but nice to see were Jersey Fern (*Cheilanthes acrostica*), the larger *Dryopteris villarii* ssp *pallida* and dark green rosettes of *Rosularia serata*. Walking down the riverbed we had the rare lemon-scented *Thymus leucotrichus*, flowering Friars Cowl (*Arisarum vulgare*) and beautiful flowering



Senbergia sicula; Fiona Dunbar

Origanum dictamnus. A small mammal fossicking on the cliff side was a Weasel! Unusual to see on Crete. In sunny areas we had Cretan Greyling and Common Blue. A Sparrowhawk flew along the top of the gorge. Shrubby chasmophytes included the cliff dwelling mullein *Verbascum arcturus* and *Ptilostemnon chamaepeuce*. Figs and Quercus, and Black Pine grew from the cliffs along with an unusual tree Mount Atlas Mastic Tree (*Pistacia atlantica*). Walking down the narrow gorge it was cool and narrow, and before long we reached a point where the Bailey bridge could be seen high above the gorge.

Reaching the 'other side' passing huge numbers of *Prospero* and a few more *Biarums*, our walk took us through the largely abandoned village of Arandaina, which was clearly a prosperous village in its time, before being abandoned in the '50's following a

feud that killed 7 people if the rumours are true. The goats rule the roost here now. Prosperous in its time, the village houses had large stone houses which commonly featured impressive stone arches. The ancient olive groves are still tended of course, and bee hives set out. A spotted flycatcher flew around the olives.

Cold drinks at the tiny café (AKA shack) next to the bridge, and time to look for the *Colchicum macrophyllum* growing on the rocks at the top of the gorge. Griffons were flying below us in the gorge, often landing and disappearing against the cliff instantly.

Popi had made us a delicious bean soup for lunch and after that we were off out again, walking through the village to the fields of colchicums and beyond. A patch of lovely *Stenbergia lutea* was examined with delight but had all been picked by the time we were walking back! The historic field patterns and remains of the old houses of ancient Anopolis were spread out before us, with circular and curved walls a feature. Ester found an interesting little flower – *Polygonum arenastrum* or *idaeum*. On the track beyond the church were Narcissus and Biarum, and a Spurge Hawk Moth caterpillar.

Time for a couple of hours rest before a trip out to Agia Katarina for spectacular views and a sunset over the coast. The village of Loutro was visible below, reachable only by boat and an extension of the kalderimi from Agia Katarina.

A last meal for the trip included one of my favourite Cretan dishes – oven cooked goat. →→→→→→→



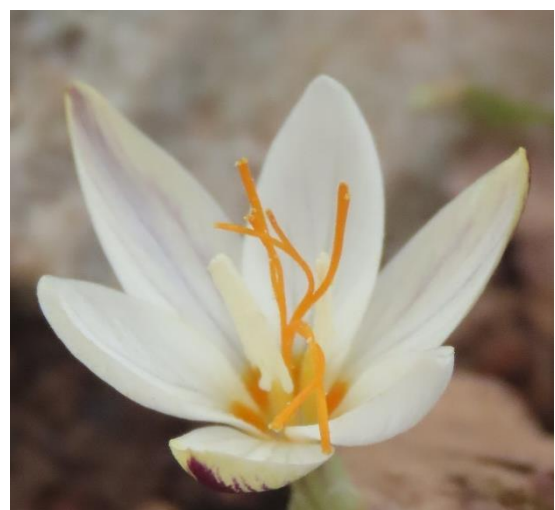
Day 7 Saturday 18th October

To the airport and home.

My van had an early departure for the flight to Athens to join the Peloponnese trip. Ernest's van had time for a walk down to the Katharotiko monastery on the Acrotiri peninsula, with great views and a nice white Prospero amongst other good things, before their flight back to the UK



Prospero autumnalis, white form; Marloes Adamse



Crocus laevigatus; Walter Kemp

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1 - PLANTS

PTERIDOPHYTA

Adiantaceae

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	damp shaded cliffs
<i>Cheilanthes acrostica</i>		Topolia, Anopolis

Aspleniaceae

<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern	common in rocky crevices
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	(2024)Arendaina Gorge

Blechnaceae

<i>Woodwardia radicans</i>	Chain Fern	Day 2
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Dryopteridaceae

<i>Dryopteris villarii</i>	(a buckler-fern)	Topolia, Arendaina
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Equisetaceae

<i>Equisetum ramaossisimum</i>	Branched Horsetail	Agia Lake
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail	Agia Lake

Osmundaceae

<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	Day 2
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Hypolepidaceae

<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Scattered near acid soils
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Pteridaceae

<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	(2024) Arendaina
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Selaginellaceae

<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	Common wet, shady places
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SPERMATOPHYTA

GYMNOSPERMAE

Araucariaceae

<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine	Spilia Village
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Cupressaceae

<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i>	Cypress	Common, scattered
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> var. <i>sempervirens</i>	Funeral Cypress	Common in urban areas, some hillsides
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	Sea Juniper	Elafonisi
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	Omalos, Kotsifou

Ephedraceae*Ephedra foeminea*

(a joint pine)

Marathocephala

Pinaceae*Pinus halepensis* subsp. *brutia*

Calabrian Pine

Common

Pinus pinea

Umbrella pine

Planted, coastal areas

Pinus nigra

Black Pine

Anopolis area

ANGIOSPERMAE**DICOTYLEDONES****Acanthaceae***Acanthus spinosus*

Spiny Bear's Breech

Persistent seedheads

Thunbergia grandiflora

Bengal Clock Vine

(2024) gardens

Aceraceae*Acer sempervirens*

Cretan Maple

Omalos plateau

Anacardiaceae*Pistacia atlantica*

Mount Altas Mastic Tree

Probably this in
Arandaina*Pistacia lentiscus*

Mastic Tree

Common

Pistacia terebinthus

Turpentine Tree

Must have been there!

Apiaceae*Crithmum maritimum*

Rock Samphire

Elafonisi, Ravdouka

Daucus carota

Wild Carrot

Persistent seed heads

Eryngium campestre

Field Eryngo

Persistent seed heads

Eryngium maritimum

Sea Holly

Sand dunes

Foeniculum vulgare ssp. *piperatum*

Fennel

Common ,roadsides

Ferula communis

Giant Fennel

Persistent seed heads

Smyrniium perfoliatum

Perforate Alexanders

Akrotiri

(2024)Topolia Gorge

Apocyanaceae*Nerium oleander*

Oleander

Common, roadsides

Plumeria rubra

Frangipani

Common, urban areas

Araliaceae*Hedera helix*

Ivy

Common

Aristolochiaceae*Aristolochia sempervirens*

Evergreen Dutchman's Pipe

(2024) Leaves,
Arendaina*Biarum davisii*Anopolis, Arandaina,
Kotsifou

Asteraceae

<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern daisy	Sirikari, Georgiopolis
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	Flat-topped Carlina Thistle	Persistent seedheads
<i>Carlina gummifera</i>	Pine Thistle	Phrygana, fallowfields
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Roadsides
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chicory	(2024)Omalos
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star Thistle	Persistent seedheads
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Aromatic Inula	Very common
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Milk Thistle	Scattered
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Elafonisi
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	Elafonisi
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>		Gorges
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>		Topolia, Arendaina
<i>Reichardia picroides</i>		Spilia area, common
<i>Staelelina petiolata</i>		Arandaina
<i>Senecio fruiticosus</i>		Anapolis

Berberidaceae

<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Omalos
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Boraginaceae

<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Roadsides, persistent flower spikes
<i>Echium italicum</i>		Persistent flower spikes
<i>Echium plantaganeum</i>	Purple Vipers Bugloss	Persistent flower spikes
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope	Agia Lake

Brassicaceae

<i>Brassica sp</i>		Kotsifou
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Elafonisi, Kolymbari

Cactaceae

<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	common
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Campanulaceae

<i>Campanula sp</i>		Leaves, Arandaina
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Cretan Wall Lettuce	Arendaina, Argypolis

Capparaceae

<i>Capparis orinetalis</i>	Caper	Coastal cliffs & rocks
<i>Capparis zoharyi</i>		Inland, not so trailing, autumn flowering

Caryophyllaceae

<i>Silene succulenta</i> subsp. <i>succulenta</i> (a campion)		Lvs, Elafonisi Island
Chenopodiaceae		
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort	(2024) Coastal beaches
Cistaceae		
<i>Cistus creticus</i> subsp. <i>creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	Leaves only, phrygana
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Leaves only, phrygana
Convolvulaceae		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>		Roadsides
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	(a morning glory)	Urban areas
Crassulaceae		
<i>Rosularia serrata</i>		Tidy rosettes in rocky Crevices, Arandaina
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	Mediterranean Stonecrop	(2024) Gorges scree
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	(a pennywort)	crevices & walls
Cucurbitaceae		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Agia Lake
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	Day 2
Datisceae		
<i>Datisca cannabina</i>	False Hemp	Day 2
Ericaceae		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Common in gullies
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Cliffs & gorges
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	Autumn Heather	Frequent, phrygana
Euphorbiaceae		
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Common, roadsides
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Maritime cliffs, gorges
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>		Phrygana areas, Rhodopou
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	Coastal areas
<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Purple Spurge	Near Elaphonisos
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Scattered
Fabaceae		
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Scattered
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	Rocky & phrygana
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	Common
<i>Ceris siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Roadsides

<i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby Sainfoin	Cliffs, Arendaina
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Spiny Broom	Phrygana
<i>Lotus pendunculatus</i>	Birds Foot Trefoil	(2024)twisted seed pods, Marathoecephala
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Disc Medic	seed pods, Marathoecephala
<i>Ononis spinosa, ssp diacantha</i>	Spiny Rest Harrow	(2024) Omalos
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Maquis & cliff areas
Fagaceae		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Woodlands, various
days		
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	Common, 'holly' lvs
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Frequent, evergreen
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	Scattered
Hypericaceae		
<i>Hypericum hercinum ssp albimontanum</i>		day 2
Juglandaceae		
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Common, cultivated
Lamiaceae		
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	False Dittany	Rocky phrygana
<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	Lesser Calamint	Common, roadsides
		Gorges
<i>Micromeria hispida</i>		Noted, day 6
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i>	Cretan Dittany	Cliffs, Arandaina
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	Rocky phrygana,
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>	Cretan Jerusalem Sage	Small shrub, leaflets below flower, stemmed, scattered
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	Common. Taller shrub, common upper leaflets stemless (2024)Marathoecephala
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Shrubby Woundwort	Scattered
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Day 3
<i>Salvia pomifera</i>		Day 3,4
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Thyme-leaved Savoury	rocky areas
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	Shrubby Thyme	Arendaina gorge,
<i>Thymus leucotrichus</i>	a thyme	lemon scented
Linaceae		
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Linum	Sirikari, gorges
Malvaceae		
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Hibiscus	Cultivated
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Common

<i>Lavatera bryonifolia</i>	Bryony-leaved Tree mallow	Frequent, roadsides, sometimes in flower
Meliaceae		
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Persian Lilac, Chinaberry	Roadsides
Moraceae		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Frequent, cultivated
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Cultivated for shade
Myrtaceae		
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Topolia
Nyctaginaceae		
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	Urban areas
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Marvel of Peru	Common on roadsides
Oleaceae		
<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>oleaster</i>	Wild Olive	Scattered in phrygana
<i>Olea europaea</i> ssp. <i>europaea</i>	Cultivated Olive	EVERYWHERE
Oxalidaceae		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	olive groves
Phytolaccaceae		
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeweed	Roadsides
Platanaceae		
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	Along streams
Plumbagiaceae		
<i>Limonium</i> sp	(a sea-lavender)	Elafonisi
Polygonaceae		
<i>Polygonum arenastrum</i>	Small-leaved Knotgrass	Anopolis
Primulaceae		
<i>Cyclamen confusum</i>		Topolia
<i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i>	Greek Sowbread	Rhodopi, common
<i>Cyclamen creticum</i>		leaves, Arandaina
Punicaceae		
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	Cultivated
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Virgin's Bower	Georgiopolis, well over this year

<i>Delphinium staphisagria</i>		Arendaina, new seedlings
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>		Arendaina
Rhamnaceae		
<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>		Common spiny shrub
Rosaceae		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Frequent
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Japanese Loquat	Cultivated
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	Cultivated
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	Planted, roadsides
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Wild Pear	Scattered, Omalos
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	(a bramble)	Common
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Common
Rutaceae		
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Cultivated
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	Cultivated
Salicaceae		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	Common, roadsides
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	Omalos
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	a figwort	Day 4, leaves
<i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Shrubby Mullein	Cliffs & gorges
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein	Scattered road verges
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i>	Spiny Mullein	Scattered, Omalos
Saxifragaceae		
<i>Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia</i>		(2024)Arendaina
Solanaceae		
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	Leaves only
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	(2024) Cliff edges & paths
Styracaceae		
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	In gorges, hillsides
Tamaricaceae		
<i>Tamarix spp</i>	Tamarisk	Coastal
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Daphne sericea</i>		Omalos
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Hairy Thymelaea	(2024) Coastal

Ulmaceae*Zelkova abelicea*

Omalos plateau

Urticaceae*Urtica pilulifera*

Roman Nettle

Arendaina

Verbenaceae*Lantana camara*

Lantana

Urban areas

Verbena officinalis

Vervain

Urban areas & villages

Vitex agnus-castus

Chaste Tree

Cliffs & stream-beds

MONOCOTYLEDONES**Agavaceae***Agave americana*Persistent flower heads,
days 1, 4**Alliaceae***Allium ampeloprasum*

Wild Leek

Scattered, large, round
dry seed heads*Allium chamaespathum*

Green flowers day 1

*Allium commutatum*Scattered, small dry
seed heads, Topolia*Allium tardans*Marathokefala, Topolia,
striped flowers**Amaryllidaceae***Narcissus obsoletus*

Late Daffodil

Topolia, Arendaina

Pancratium maritimum

Sea Daffodil

Coastal beaches

Sternbergia lutea lutea

Common Sternbergia

Marathokefala, Kotsifou,
Anopolis*Sternbergia lutea sicula*

Slender Sternbergia

Arendaina, Sirikari

Araceae*Arisarum vulgare*

Friar's Cowl

Arandaina, leave
frequent*Biarum davisii* subsp. *davisii*Anapolis, Arandaina,
Kotsifou*Dracunculus vulgaris*

Dragon Arum

(2024) Topolia

Asparagaceae*Asparagus aphyllus* subsp. *orientalis* Leafless Asparagus

Scattered

Drimia maritima

Sea Squill

Very common

Ornitogalum divergens

Lesser Star of Bethlehem

(2024) leaves

Prospero autumnale, senso lato

Autumn Squill

Very Common

Ruscus aculeatus

Butcher's Broom

Wooded areas

Colchicaceae*Colchicum cretense**Colchicum pusillum**Colchicum macrophyllum**Colchicum attica**Smilax aspera*

Smilax

Omalos plateau
 Marathakefala, Omalos,
 Anapolis
 Anapolis
 Omalos
 Common

Dioscoreaceae*Tamus communis*

Black Bryony

Woodland & scrub

Iridaceae*Crocus laevigatus*

Omalos

Juncaceae*Juncus littoralis*

Shore Rush

Elafonisi

Orchidaceae*Spiranthes spiralis*

Autumn Lady's Tresses

Georgiopolis

Poaceae*Arundo donax**Briza maxima**Avena sterilis**Ammophila arenaria**Lagarus ovatus**Phragmites australis*

Giant Reed

Greater Quaking Grass

Marram Grass

Hare's tail

Common Reed

Common

Marathokefala

Polyrhinia

Sand dunes

Widespread

Wet areas

Smilacaceae*Smilax aspera*

Smilax

Common

Xanthorrhoeaceae*Asphodeline lutea*

Yellow Asphodel

Persistent flower
 spikes, scattered, some
 leaves

Asphodelus ramosus

Branched Asphodel

Scattered leaves

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2 - BIRDS

Common Name	Latin Name	Days seen
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2,5
Shearwater sp	<i>Calonectris</i> sp	5
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1,4
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	0,5
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	5
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	5
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	2
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	5
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gypus fulvus</i>	Common, seen most days
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	7
Eleonoras Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	1,2
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Possibly glimpsed 2
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common and widespread
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen a few times
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Georgiopolis
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Georgiopolis, Agia
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Fresh remains seen at Elaphonisos, seen at Agia
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Agia
Yellow legged Herring Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	1,4,5
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common & widespread
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common, urban areas
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Heard, Spilia, Anopolis
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	5,6
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	4,5
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	6
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	2,5,6
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	3
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	3,4
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1,2,3,4
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1,2,3,4,5
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	1,2,3,6
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Anopoli
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomenos</i>	5,6
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	2,5
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	5

Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	1,4,5
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1,2,3,4,5
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1,6
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Common
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Frequently recorded
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Gorges
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornis</i>	Recorded every day
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Frequent
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Villages
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1,2,3,6
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	4,5

SYSTEMATIC LIST 3 - BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail caterpillars	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	1 3,4
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	1,2,5
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	a few
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	1,3,4
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	3
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	3,6
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	1-5
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	1,2,3,6
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	4
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	1,3,4,6,
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	every day
Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	4,5
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	3
Cretan Greyling	<i>Hipparchia cretica</i>	2.3.5.6
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	3
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	1,2,3,6
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	1
Med Skipper	<i>Gegenes nostrodamus</i>	4

SYSTEMATIC LIST 4 - OTHER FAUNA

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	dead on road
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Arandaina
Badger	<i>Meles meles arcalus</i>	dead on road

Reptiles & Amphibians

Cretan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis cretensis</i>	Arendaina
Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys sinensis</i>	Agia Lake

Invertebrates

Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda coerulescens</i>	common
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>	common
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	few seen
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	scattered records
Millipede		
Cicada	<i>Tibicen plebejus</i>	many cast cases seen
Spurge Hawk Moth Caterpillars	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>	Elaphonisis and Anopolis

Blue Spot Cornet Fish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>	Frankocastello harbour
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