Crete

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 – 15 April 2014





Anemone coronaria







England

Report compiled by David Tattersfield & Barry Oxley Images by David Tattersfield

GU34 3HJ



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire

> T: +44 (0)1962 733051 E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: David Tattersfield Botanist

Barry Oxley Ornithologist

Participants: Mary Sarre

Day 1

Philip Sarre
Alison Hanmer
Phil Hanmer
Ian Heppenstall
Janet Heppenstall
Dan Bosence
Alison Bosence
Peter Cox
Julia Cox
Roger Douglas
Mic Wells
Jan Wells

Hilary Chadwick

Tuesday 8th April

We gathered at Heraklion airport, and after loading our vehicles, set off for our base at Plakias. Although a little windy, we enjoyed some sunshine and a temperature of around 18 degrees. Oleanders Nerium oleander, Spanish Broom Spartium junceum and the invasive False Acacia Robinia pseudoacacia lined the coast road, before we stopped to stretch our legs and familiarise ourselves with some of the common plants. Our first orchid was Serapias bergonii, the commonest of this variable and sometimes confusing group. Other plants included the Eastern Strawberry Tree Arbutus andrachne, Branched Broomrape Orobanche ramosa parasitizing the ubiquitous Bemuda Buttercup Oxalis pes-caprae, Cretan Cistus Cistus incanus subsp. creticus, Jerusalem Sage Phlomis fruticosa, the Mastic Tree Pistacia lentiscus, Hypericum empetrifolium and the pungent Savory Satureja thymbra. Further on, we pulled in at Geropotomos Bridge, overlooking a small estuary, seeing Wood and Common Sandpipers together with a lone Yellow Wagtail of the race feldegg.

Turning south near Rethymnon, the roadsides were lined with the attractive *Galactites tomentosa* and a profusion of both colour forms of the Crown Daisy *Glebionis coronaria*. Magnificent plants of Giant Fennel *Ferula communis* adorned the hillsides here and were a regular sight throughout most of the trip. Beyond Armeni, we stopped for a welcome coffee break, with expansive views to the south before making for the Kourtaliotiko Gorge. The sun had left the gorge so birds were not showing too well although we counted eight Eurasian Griffon Vultures soaring overhead. Arriving at the comfortable Plakias Bay Hotel, we settled in for dinner, discussed the next day's itinerary and retired to bed, wondering what delights the following days would produce.

Day 2 Wednesday 9th April

We awoke to clear skies and a walk along the cliffs near the hotel, before breakfast. A colony of the Italian race of House Sparrow flew busily back and forth from their nest holes, high in the cliff, where Caper Capparis spinosa and the endemic Shrubby Mullein Verbascum spinosum had gained a foothold. Jerusalem Sage Phlomis fruticosa was

in full flower and Wall Brown, Brown Argus and Cretan Festoon were among a number of butterflies that we recorded as the day warmed up. After breakfasting we left about 9am, making our first stop at the Turkish Bridge where a confiding Wood Sandpiper was feeding among the pebbles. Storax *Styrax officinalis* was flowering by the bridge, near a fine clump of yellow Honeywort *Cerinthe major*, some tall specimens of the Bean Broomrape *Orobanche crenata* and the smaller Branched Broomrape *Orobanche ramosa*, parasitizing Bermuda Buttercup *Oxalis pes-caprae*. Our next visit was to the Monastery at Moni Preveli, where the keen birders opted to walk a little way back along the road. A male Ortolan Bunting was singing from a rock accompanied by jangling Corn Buntings, and a Black-eared Wheatear with its wheezing call.

Heading inland, we had a purple patch at the Kourtaliotiko Gorge, seeing a pair of Bonelli's Eagles, numerous Griffon Vultures, Alpine Swifts, Red-billed Choughs, an all too brief view of a rare Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) and a pair of Red-rumped Swallows swooping among the Crag Martins. Near our picnic in the hills we found some excellent specimens of Cretan Dutchman's Pipe Aristolochia cretica, including a rare white form. The hills around Gious Kambos, above Spili, are well known for their abundant orchids and other plants and we spent the remainder of the afternoon exploring the slopes. Magnificent stands of pink Naked Man Orchid Orchis italica were evident together with Man Orchid Orchis anthropophora, Bory's Orchid Anacamptis boryi, Four-spotted Orchid Orchis quadripunctata, the lemon-yellow Orchis pauciflora and the rare Sitia Orchid Orchis sitiaca. We spent time finding and identifying the many bemusing Bee Orchids Ophrys spp. and photographing the splendid display of the red Tulip Tulipa doerfleri, which had survived the ravages of the plough, in the surrounding fields. All too soon it was time to return to Plakias for a welcome drink and a satisfying meal, before the checklist and a well-earned sleep.

Day 3

Thursday 10th April

After a short pre-breakfast walk and shopping for our picnic, we set off east towards Phaestos. We stopped briefly in the Kourtaliotoki Gorge to view more Griffon Vultures and Ravens, before making for Spili, and a morning coffee overlooking the famous fountains. Here a huge Oriental Plane *Platanus orientalis* was breaking into leaf and made a bold statement in the town square. Beyond, we stopped for some roadside botanising, finding the showy purple Gladiolus *Gladiolus italicus* and Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertianum*. Many interesting discoveries followed, such as Turban Buttercup Ranunculus asiaticus, Common Cretan Ophrys *Ophrys cretica*, and Naked Man Orchid *Orchis italica*, together with *Gagea graeca* and Perfoliate Alexanders *Smyrnium perfoliatum* subsp. rotundifolium. Swathes of blue Hairy Lupin Lupinus micranthus and the Pale Bugloss Echium italicum clothed the hillside.

It was hard to leave these botanical delights but we had to move on and arrived at Phaestos around lunch time. While the picnic was being prepared, everyone explored the archaeology of this famous Minoan site, spotting Golden Orioles and Hoopoes among the ruins. As we ate our lunch, we gazed across the fertile Mesara Plain and endless rows of olive trees, artistically framed against a backdrop of snow-capped Mount Ida. Some soaring raptors caused excitement here as Booted Eagles and a Honey Buzzard were seen passing through, presumably just arrived from Africa and heading towards their breeding areas. A lone Golden Eagle was labouring up into the hills with the smaller birds of prey allowing us size comparisons. We returned via Agia Triada, where we found some impressive flowering specimens of the endemic Shrubby Sainfoin Ebenus cretica, where Long-tailed Blue Butterflies were enjoying its nectar. Nearby were Black Onion Allium nigrum, Pyramidal Orchid Anacamptis pyramidalis and the endemic Cretan Heart-flowered Tongue Orchid Serapias cordigera subsp. cretica. Our return

route followed a mountain road through Melambes, stopping a couple of times for orchids and flowering plants of Cretan Wall Lettuce *Petromarula pinnata*, on a roadside cliff. We arrived back in Plakias around 6.45pm after a long but eventful day.

Day 4 Friday 11th April

A bright and sunny morning heralded a perfect day for our walk down the Imbros Gorge. We made our first stop in the nearby Kotsifou Gorge where Cretan Arum *Arum creticum*, the pink endemic brassica *Ricotia cretica* and the localised Rock Groundsel *Senecio rupestris* were the botanical highlights. Of particular geological interest were the numerous large fossil Nummulites, in the limestone screes, dating back over 35 million years. We were just about to leave when a Badger came ambling down the road. We soon realised that it was injured and with the help of a local passer-by ushered it off the road, in the hope that it may recover.

Driving west through magnificent scenery and sleepy villages, we arrived at a flat expanse of abandoned fields and Olive groves, just before Frangocastello. Numerous Crested Larks were singing and displaying, and hundreds of Swifts, including Pallids, and assorted Hirundines were passing through. Moving on to the castle we looked at the beach in the hope of some wader movement, but without success, before moving on to the Imbros Gorge. We drove the long and windy road to the top and stopped at the Taverna, enjoying traditional pancakes with cheese and honey to sustain us on our eight kilometre walk. Our pace was inevitably slow as we descended the gorge, with every turn opening up a new vista and revealing new plants growing on the cliffs and screes. The yellow Tree Flax *Linum arboreum*, the abundant white *Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia*, delicate *Cyclamen creticum* and the leathery-leaved, shrubby thistle *Staehelina petiolata* were just a few of the highlights. It seemed that we would never reach the bottom of the gorge but four hours later, we were enjoying a light snack in the Taverna Komitades. When the minibus had been retrieved from the top of the gorge, we headed back to Plakias for dinner.

Day 5 Saturday 12th April

The vehicles were all packed and loaded by the end of breakfast, ready for our move to Hania but, before leaving, we walked along the cliff as far as the tunnels that had been built to defend the bay in the Second World War. We noted the endemic Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari spreitzenhoferi*, *Ophrys candica* and the rare *Dahne gnidioides*, and found the rock-hugging *Campanula tubulosa* and *Tulipa cretica* on the cliffs. A pair of Long-legged Buzzards appeared and displayed well while a distant Blue Rock Thrush sang its sweet song. As the sun finally reached the spectacular cliff, we reluctantly said our goodbyes and left the beautiful Plakias Bay.

We returned north and stopped at the late-Minoan cemetery near Armeni, where many tombs had been excavated out of the bedrock. A brief foray was made while the picnic was being prepared, after which we explored the site in depth. A canopy of Valonia Oak *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis* provides light shade for a rich flora, with many Tongue Orchids *Serapias lingua* and *bergonii*, Bee Orchids *Ophrys villosa*, *heldreichii* and *bombyliflora*, the sweetly-scented shrub *Osyris alba* and *Cyclamen creticum*. Our next stop was near Georgeoupolis, where a large natural spring comes to the surface and fills a dam, to create an important water-body for birds. Here we found Garganey, Pygmy Cormorant and both Squacco and Black-crowned Night Herons before moving to the town centre for an ice cream.

On the final leg of our journey we made a visit to the Allied War Cemetery at the head of Souda Bay. The immaculately kept graves reminded us of the futility of war and we left, in reflective mood, for our hotel in Hania. Once we had settled in to our comfortable rooms, we walked a short distance to a popular local Taverna, where we enjoyed a delicious selection of traditional Cretan cuisine.

Day 6 Sunday 13th April

After breakfast we made for Agia Lake, a large wetland and one of the best sites for birds on the island. Here, with a little patience, we found the resident Little Crakes lurking among the marginal vegetation. Western Marsh Harriers patrolled the reed beds as we scanned through a wealth of waders, which included a lone Ruff, a Little Stint and many Wood Sandpipers. A Glossy Ibis showed its iridescent plumage in the morning sun. We continued to our main destination of the day, the Omalos plateau, high in the White Mountains. After a stop to photograph the view, at Lakki, we followed the new road to Omalos, now nearing completion, but making a terrible scar on the landscape that will take a long time to heal. We stopped at the cafe with its stuffed Lammergeier and captive family of Kri-kri, before venturing onto the plateau. Around lunch, we had to negotiate the rather daunting wire fences to gain access to *Tulipa bakeri* which was flowering in profusion, complimented by the mainly blue Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria* and some lovely patches of Widow Iris *Iris tuberosa*. Sheep grazing has reduced many of the trees to bizarre shapes and only close examination revealed their identity. Woodlark sang their musical songs from treetops and Northern Wheatears vied for territory, whilst Stonechats perched on posts, declaring possession of their patch.

After our picnic we made for the head of the Samaria Gorge to admire the magnificent views of the surrounding mountains. The familiar *Aubrieta deltoidea* grew on the slopes here and the car park had some fine specimens of the endemic relative of the elm *Zelkova abelicea*, not yet in leaf. We made a clockwise circuit around the perimeter of the plateau, passing an ephemeral freshwater pool, designated as a nature reserve. We had some fun sorting through Tawny Pipits, Black-eared Wheatears and Woodchat Shrikes before descending down the S bends for a brief second visit to Agia Lake, where we added Purple Heron to our bird tally. After catching up with our checklists, we walked to the harbour for our evening meal in one of the many restaurants in the old city.

Day 7 Monday 14th April

Rain was forecast and we awoke to the sound of pattering raindrops. However this proved to be no real problem, as we spent the morning exploring the shops, markets and other attractions of Hania. Later, we drove onto the Akrotiri peninsula, visiting the Agia Triada Monastery and its grounds, before moving to the stony headland for our last picnic among the ancient olive trees. Flitting through the trees were small flocks of birds, which photographic evidence eventually helped identify as mainly Tree Pipits, with a few Red-throated and Tawny Pipits. Our picnic was enjoyed before a flower foray encountered some magnificent Dragon Arums *Dracunculus vulgaris*, with huge purple spathes and a rather pungent smell of rotting flesh.

Moving further into the peninsular we arrived at the Moni Gouverneto. It was raining steadily as we walked through the gardens and continued down a path to the cave of St. John. In several places we found the little endemic onion with corkscrew leaves *Allium circinnatum* subsp. *circinnatum*. As the weather had improved, some of us continued steeply down to the deserted Katholikou Monastery that spans a narrow gorge. Here Cretan Milfoil *Achillea cretica*, Shrubby Verbascum *Verbascum arcturus* and Dittany *Origanum dictamnus* are just three of many

endemic chasmophytes, growing on the walls and cliffs. We were back at the hotel for 6pm and after a final run through our checklists, we returned to our favourite restaurant, near the old harbour, for our last evening meal together.

Day 8

Tuesday 15th April

We left the Halepa soon after 7.30am for the airport. The two hour drive east along the coast road was uneventful and we had sufficient time for a visit to the famous archaeological site at Knossos. Check-in and the flight back to Gatwick all went smoothly and we said our farewells, having enjoyed everyone's company and hoping to meet again on another adventure.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The Naturetrek Facebook page is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Species Lists

Plants (• = endemic or near endemic to Crete; ‡ = cultivated or naturalised)

Scientific name Common name Notes

LYCOPODIOPSIDA CLUBMOSSES

Selaginellaceae Lesser Clubmoss Family

Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Clubmoss Damp earth

EQUISETOPSIDA HORSETAILS

Equisetaceae Horsetail Family

Equisetum ramosissimum Branched Horsetail Hedges

Equisetum telmateia Giant Horsetail Wet areas. Agia

PTEROPSIDA FERNS

Aspleniaceae Spleenwort Family

Asplenium ceterach Rustyback Rock crevices. Common
Asplenium onopteris Acute-leaved Spleenwort Shaded banks. Uncommon

Asplenium trichomanes subsp. quadrivalens Maidenhair Spleenwort Cliffs. Uncommon

Dennstaedtiaceae Bracken Family

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken Common

Dryopteridaceae Buckler-fern Family

Dryopteris pallida Pale Buckler-fern Shaded cliffs. Imbros

Polypodiaceae Polypody Family

Polypodium cambricum Southern Polypody Cliffs. Imbros

Pteridaceae Maidenhair Fern Family

Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern Damp cliffs

Anogramma leptophylla Jersey Fern Damp shaded rocks
Cheilanthes acrostica Scented Cheilanthes Rock crevices

Woodsiaceae Lady-fern Family

Athyrium felix-feminaLady-fernShaded cliff. Imbros gorgeCystopteris fragilisBrittle Bladder-fernMountain rocks. Uncommon

PINOPSIDA CONIFERS

Araucariaceae Monkeypuzzle Family

Araucaria heterophylla‡ Norfolk Island Pine Cultivated. Coastal

Cupressaceae Juniper Family

Cupressus sempervirens forma. horizontalis Cypress Common. Sea level to treeline

Cupressus sempervirens forma. Italian Cypress Cultivated

Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrusPrickly JuniperOccasional. MountainsJuniperus phoeniceaPhoenician JuniperOccasional. Maquis

Pinaceae Pine Family

Pinus halepensis subsp. brutia Calabrian Pine Frequent native tree

Scientific name Common name Notes

Pinus pinea‡ Umbrella or Stone Pine Cultivated near coasts

GNETOPSIDA GNETOPHYTES

Ephedraceae Joint Pine Family

Ephedra foeminea A Joint Pine Cliffs. Imbros Gorge

MAGNOLIOPSIDA FLOWERING PLANTS

MAGNOLIIDAE DICOTYLEDONS

Acanthaceae Acanthus Family

Acanthus spinosus Spiny Bear's-breech Occasional

Aceraceae Maple Family

Acer sempervirens Cretan Maple Common. Mountains

Aizoaceae Dew Plant Family

Carpobrotus edulis‡ Yellow Hottentot Fig Coastal alien

Carpobrotus edulis var. rubescens‡ Coastal alien

Anacardiaceae Sumach Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree Common in maquis

Pistacia terebinthus Turpentine Tree Occasional in maquis and gorges

Schinus molle‡ Californian Pepper Tree Cultivated

Apiaceae Carrot Family

Bupleurum semicompositum Grey Hare's Ear Rocky places near sea level

Bunium ferulaceum Abandoned fields

Conium maculatum Hemlock Hedges and roadsides

Crithmum maritimumRock SamphireMaritime rocksDaucus carotaWild CarrotFrequent

Daucus guttatus A Wild Carrot Coastal sand. Plakias

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo Common

Eryngium creticum Frequent

Eryngium maritimumSea HollySand dunesFerula communisGiant FennelCommonFoeniculum vulgare subsp. piperatumFennelCommon

Lagoecia cuminoides Fluffy Thimbleweed Rocky phrygana

Lecokia cretica Damp roadsides

Oenanthe pimpinelloides Corky-fruited Water Dropwort Moist woodland and fields

Orlaya daucoides Frequent

Pseudorlaya pumila Dune Carrot Sand dunes. Plakias

Scaligeria napiformis Scaligeria Occasional

Scandix australis Southern Shepherd's-needle Occasional. Rocky places

 Scandix pecten-veneris
 Shepherd's-needle
 Common

 Smyrnium olusatrum
 Alexanders
 Common

Smyrnium perfoliatum subsp. perfoliatumPerfoliate AlexandersLocally commonSmyrnium perfoliatum subsp. rotundifoliumPerfoliate AlexandersLocally common

Thapsia garganicaRocky places. FieldsTordylium apulumMediterranean HartwortCommon

Tordylium apulumMediterranean HartwortCommonTorilis leptophyllaA Bur-parsleyFrequentTorilis nodosaKnotted Bur-parsleyCommon

Scientific name Common name Notes

Apocynaceae Periwinkle Family

Nerium oleander Oleander Riverbeds. Planted on roadsides

Plumeria rubra‡FrangipaniCultivatedVinca major‡Greater PeriwinkleGarden escape

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Ivy Common

Aristolochiaceae Birthwort Family

Aristolochia cretica•Cretan BirthwortLocally commonAristolochia sempervirensEvergreen BirthwortAgia Lake

Asteraceae Daisy Family

Achillea cretica Cretan Sneezewort Cliffs. Katholikou
Achillea ligustica Southern Yarrow Frequent

Anthemis arvensis Corn Chamomile Frequent. Fallow fields

Anthemis chia Greek Chamomile Common
Anthemis rigida Rayless Chamomile Common
Arctotheca calendula‡ Cape Marigold Akrotiri

Artemisia arborescensShrubby WormwoodRoadsides near SoudaAtractylis cancellataCage ThistleFrequent in phryganaBellis annuaAnnual DaisyFrequent in phrygana

Bellis perennisDaisyCommonBellis sylvestrisSouthern DaisyCommon

Bellium minutum Plakias headland

Calendula arvensis Field Marigold Common

Carduus argentatus Locally common below cliffs
Carduus pycnocephalus Plymouth Thistle Rocky places. Waste ground

Carlina corymbosa subsp. curetum• A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Rocky places
Carlina corymbosa subsp. graeca A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Rocky places

Carlina gummifera Pine Thistle Phrygana and fallow fields

Rocky places

Carthamnus dentatus

Carthamus lanatus subsp. baeticusWoolly SafflowerRocky placesCentaurea argenteaA KnapweedImbros GorgeCentaurea calcitrapaRed Star ThistleOccasional

Centaurea calcitrapa Red Star Thistle Occasional
Centaurea idaea• Red Star Thistle Occasional
Rock crevices in phrygana

Centaurea poculatoris• Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Centaurea raphanina subsp. raphanina• Common

Centaurea raphanina subsp. raphanina Common
Centaurea solstitialis
St. Barnaby's Thistle
Occasional

Centaurea spinosa Spiny Knapweed North coast beaches

Centaurea spruneri subsp. minoa• Fallow fields

Chondrilla junceaRush SkeletonweedSandy beachesCichorium intybusChicoryRoadsidesCichorium spinosumSpiny ChicoryCommon

Conyza bonariensis‡ Argentine Fleabane Frequent on roadsides

Crepis vesicariaOlive groves and stony placesCrupina crupinastrumCrupinaRocky places and roadsides

Cynara cornigeraWild ArtichokeRocky placesCynara scolymus‡Globe ArtichokeCultivatedDittrichia graveolensAromatic InulaCommonDittrichia viscosaStink AsterCommonEchinops spinossisimusA Globe ThistleCommon

Eupatorium adenophorum‡ A shrubby Hemp-agrimony Roadsides below Lakki

Scientific name Common name **Notes** Evax pygmaea Evax Frequent **Broad-leaved Cudweed** Filago pyramidata Common Galactities tomentosa Galactites Common Geropogon hybridus Hybrid Goat's-beard Plakias headland Common Glebionis coronaria var. coronaria Crown Daisy Glebionis coronaria var. discolor Crown Daisy Common Glebionis segetum Corn Marigold Frequent Hedypnois Phrygana and fallow fields Hedypnois cretica Helichrysum conglobatum An Everlasting Rocky places Helichrysum microphyllum A Curry Plant Rocky places in mountains Helichrysum orientale Cliffs. Katholikou Helminthotheca echioides **Bristly Oxtongue** Olive groves and fallow fields Mediterranean Cat's-ear Hypochaeris achyrophorus Rocky places Hypochaeris glabra Smooth Cat's-ear Rocky places Hypochaeris radicata Common Cat's-ear Rocky places Lactuca serriola Prickly Lettuce Waste areas Leontodon tuberosus **Tuberous Hawkbit** Phrygana Matricaria recutita Scented Mayweed Roadsides near sea level Common. Roadsides and waste Notobasis syriaca Syrian Thistle areas Onopordum bracteatum subsp. creticum• Coastal sand and rocky places Onopordum tauricum Roadsides and rocky places Otanthus maritimus Cottonweed Sand dunes Pallenis spinosa **Pallenis** Common Phagnalon graecum A Phagnalon Rocks, cliffs and walls Picnomon acarna Yellow-spine Thistle Stony ground and roadsides Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Shrubby Ptilostemon Cliffs and rocky banks Star Hawkbit Rhagadiolus stellatus Common Reichardia picroides Rocky places and coastal sand Scolymus hispanicus Spanish Oyster Plant Waste areas Scorzonera cretica• Cretan Viper's-grass Cliffs Senecio rupestris Rock Groundsel Kotsifou Gorge Senecio vulgaris Groundsel Common Common. Waste areas Silybum marianum Milk Thistle Sonchus asper Prickly Sow -thistle Waste areas Sonchus bulbosus subsp. microcephalus Widespread Sonchus oleraceus Smooth Sow-thistle Waste areas Staehelina fruticosa Cliffs Staehelina petiolata• Cliffs Tolpis barbata **Tolpis** Occasional in phrygana Tragopogon sinuatus A Goat's-beard Common Tyrimnus leucographus **Tyrimnus** Disturbed ground Urospermum picroides Prickly Goldenfleece Disturbed ground Xanthium spinosum‡ Spiny Cocklebur Weedy places Xeranthemum inapertum Xeranthemum Stony phrygana Berberidaceae **Barberry Family** Cretan Barberry Berberis cretica Mountains

Boraginaceae Borage Family

Bignoniaceae

Jacaranda ovalifolia‡

© Naturetrek February 15 9

Jacaranda Family

Cultivated

Jacaranda

Scientific name Common name Notes

Alkanna sieberi An Alkanet Occasional. Weedy places and phrygana

Alkanna tinctoria Dyer's Alkanet Dry rocky places
Anchusa hybrida Wavy-leaved Anchusa Roadsides

Anchusa aegyptiaca Eastern Alkanet Dry places near sea level

Anchusa italica

Anchusa variegata

Anchusa variegata

Borago officinalis

Cerinthe major

Cupoglossum columnae

Large Blue Alkanet

Variegated Anchusa

Imbros Gorge

Weedy places

Turkish Bridge

Cynoglossum columnae A Hound's-tongue Occasional
Cynoglossum creticum Blue Hound's-tongue Common

Echium angustifolium Narrow-leaved Bugloss Common near coast

Echium italicum subsp. biebersteiniiPale BuglossCommonEchium plantagineumPurple Viper's BuglossCommonMyosotis incrassataA Forget-me-notRocky places

Onosma graecum A Golden Drops Armeni Minoan Cemetery

Symphytum creticum Cretan Comfrey Shady cliffs

Brassicaceae Cabbage Family

Aethionema saxatile subsp. creticum Burnt Candytuft Dry rocky places

Alyssum simplex Dry rocky places

Arabidopsis thaliana Thale Cress Common Spring Rockcress Arabis verna Frequent Aubrieta Aubrieta deltoidea **Omalos** Biscutella didyma **Buckler Mustard** Common Brassica cretica Cretan cabbage Imbros Gorge Brassica nigra ‡ **Black Mustard** Roadsides Cakile maritima Sea Rocket Plakias beach Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse Common Cardamine hirsuta Hairy Bittercress Common Cheiranthus cheiri‡ Wallflower Garden escape

Coronopus didymus Lesser Swine-cress Garden weed
Erophila verna Common Whitlow Grass Common

Eruca sativaGarden RocketOlive groves and fallow fieldsErysimum candicum•A Treacle MustardImbros Gorge

Erysimum raulinii• A Treacle Mustard Imbros Gorge

Hirschfeldia incanaHoary MustardFallow fields and roadsidesLepidium drabaHoary CressArmeni

Lunaria annua subsp. pachyrhiza Honesty Occasional

Malcolmia chia A Malcomia Phrygana near sea level

Malcolmia flexuosa subsp. naxensis A Malcomia Rocks and walls near sea level

Matthiola sinuata Sea Stock Kourtaliotiko Gorge

Matthiola tricuspidata Three-horned Stock Coasts

Nasturtium officinaleWatercressWet ditches and streamsRicotia cretica•RicotiaGorges and screes

Sinapis alba White Mustard Roadsides
Sisymbrium officinale Hedge Mustard Weedy places

Cactaceae Cactus Family

Opuntia cylindrica‡ Cultivated and naturalised. Plakias

Opuntia ficus-barbarica‡ Prickly Pear Cultivated and naturalised

Campanulaceae Bellflower Family

Campanula cretica• Imbros Gorge

Scientific name Common name Notes

Campanula erinus Annual Bellflower Frequent

Campanula saxatilis subsp. saxatilis• Walls of Katholikou Campanula tubulosa• Plakias headland

Capparaceae Caper Family

Capparis spinosa Caper Frequent on cliffs

Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family

Lonicera etruscaEtruscan HoneysuckleOccasionalSambucus ebulusDwarf ElderOccasional

Sambucus nigra‡ Elder Naturalised around villages

Caryophyllaceae Pink Family

Agrostemma githago Corn-cockle Arable weed. Gious Kambos

Cerastium glomeratum Sticky Mouse-ear Omalos

Cerastium scaposum●Cretan Mouse-earLocally commonDianthus fruticosus subsp. creticus●Cliffs. Katholikou

Paronychia macrosepala A Paronychia Frequent

Petrorhagia dianthoides• Imbros Gorge

Petrorhagia velutina Kohlrauschia Frequent. Rocky places

Sagina apetalaAnnual PearlwortCommonSilene colorataMediterranean CatchflyCommonSilene creticaCretan CatchflyFrequent

Silene dichotoma Forked Catchfly Gious Kambos and Melambes

Silene gallica Small-flowered Catchfly Common

Silene gigantea Cliffs. Kotsifou gorge
Silene integripetala subsp. greuteri• Rocky places in gorges

Silene sieberi• Rocky places

Silene vulgarisBladder CampionFrequentSpergula arvensisCorn SpurreyFallow fieldsSpergularia bocconeiA Sea SpurreyMaritime sandStellaria cupanianaA ChickweedWeedy places

Stellaria media Common Chickweed Common. Weedy places

Chenopodiaceae Goosefoot Family

Beta vulgaris subsp. maritimaSea BeetMaritime sandChenopodium albumFat HenWaste areasChenopodium muraleNettle-leaved GoosefootWaste areasSalsola kaliPrickly SaltwortPlakias beach

Suaeda vera Shrubby Sea-blite Coastal rocks

Cistaceae Rock-rose Family

Cistus creticus Pink Cistus Common

Cistus monspeliensisNarrow-leaved CistusFrequent in maquisCistus parviflorusSmall-flowered CistusFrequent in maquisCistus salvifoliusSage-leaved CistusLocally common

Fumana arabicaArabian FumanaCommon. Rocky placesFumana thymifoliaThyme-leaved FumanaCommon. Rocky placesTuberaria guttataSpotted Rock-roseOpen rocky phrygana

Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family

Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed Common

Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed Frequent. Waste places

Scientific name Common name **Notes** Convolvulus elegantissimus **Elegant Bindweed** Frequent in phrygana Convolvulus oleifolius A Bindweed Dry rocky places Convolvulus siculus Small Blue Bindweed Rocky places Cuscuta epithymum Common Dodder Frequent parasite Cultivated Ipomea indica‡ A Morning Glory Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family Rosularia serrata Cliffs Sedum acre Rocks and walls Biting Stonecrop White Stonecrop Rocky places Sedum album Sedum amplexicaule subsp. tenuifolium Rocks and screes Sedum creticum• Cliffs Sedum laconicum Rocky mountain slopes Sedum litoreum Coastal Stonecrop Rocky places Sedun praesidis• Rocky phrygana Rocky places Sedum rubens Red Stonecrop Sedum sediforme Mediterranean Stonecrop Rocky places Umbilicus horizontalis A Pennywort Shaded cliffs Cucurbitaceae **Cucumber Family** Bryonia cretica White Bryony Rocky places. Walls Ecballium elaterium **Squirting Cucumber** Waste places Cytinacae **Cytinus Family** Parasite on Cistus creticus Cytinus hypocistis subsp. clusii Cytinus Cytinus hypocistis subsp. hypocistis Cytinus Parasite on Cistus salvifolius **Dipsacaceae Teasel Family** Knautia integrifolia A Scabious Occasional in phrygana Lomelosiabrachiata Tremastelma Rocky places **Ericaceae Heather Family** Arbutus andrachne Eastern Strawberry Tree Local in maquis Arbutus unedo Strawberry Tree Common in maquis Erica arborea Tree Heather Common in maquis Erica manipuliflora Widespread on cliffs **Euphorbiaceae** Spurge Family Euphorbia acanthothamnos Greek Spiny Spurge Common Bare ground Euphorbia chamaesyce Small Spurge Euphorbia characias subsp. characias Large Mediterranean Spurge Widespread Euphorbia dendroides Tree Spurge Maritime cliffs **Dwarf Spurge** Euphorbia exigua Bare ground Euphorbia helioscopia Sun Spurge Widespread Euphorbia paralias Sea Spurge Maritime sand Euphorbia peplis Purple Spurge Sandy beaches Euphorbia peplus Petty Spurge Bare ground Euphorbia sultan-hassei. A Tree Spurge Cliffs. Imbros Gorge Mercurialis annua Common **Annual Mercury**

Castor Oil Plant

Pea Family

Anagyris foetida Bean Trefoil

Frequent naturalised weed

Scrub and waste areas

Ricinus communis‡

Fabaceae

Scientific name Common name **Notes**

Anthyllis hermanniae Hermann's Kidney vetch Maquis, phrygana and cliffs near the sea

Anthyllis tetraphylla Bladder Vetch Common Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora Common A Kidney Vetch

Astragalus angustifolius A Milk-vetch Common above Omalos

Bituminaria bituminosa Pitch Trefoil Common Calicotome villosa Hairy Thorny Broom Common Ceratonia siliqua Carob Common

Cercis siliquastrum‡ Judus Tree Frequently planted

Coronilla scorpioides **Annual Scorpion Vetch** Common

Lathyrus aphaca

Ebenus cretica• Shrubby Sainfoin Cliffs and hillsides **Coral Tree** Cultivated. Hania Erythrina crus-galli‡ Genista acanthoclada Spiny Broom Common A Horseshoe Vetch Hippocrepis biflora Rocky places Disc Trefoil Widespread Hymenocarpus circinnatus Lathyrus annuus Annual Vetchling Widespread

Yellow Vetchling Lathyrus cicera Flat-podded Vetchling Olive groves and stony hillsides

Widespread

Crimson Pea Lathyrus clymenum Frequent Winged Vetchling Armeni Lathyrus ochrus Lathyrus setifolius Red Vetchling Frequent Lathyrus sphaericus Round Pea Frequent Lotus conimbricensis A Bird's-foot Trefoil Fallow fields Lotus corniculatus Bird's-foot Trefoil Damp places

Lotus cytisoides A Bird's-foot Trefoil Sands and rocks near the sea

Lotus edulis **Edible Lotus** Widespread Lotus ornithopodioides Clustered Bird's-foot Trefoil Widespread Lupinus albus‡ White Lupin Occasional Lupinus angustifolius Narrow-leaved Lupin Stony ground Lupinus micranthus Fallow fields A Hairy Lupin

Locally common. Sometimes Lupinus pilosus A Hairy Lupin

cultivated Medicago arabica Spotted Medick Occasional

Medicago arborea Tree Medick Planted and naturalised Medicago disciformis A Medick Stony ground near the sea

Medicago lupulina **Black Medick** Common Medicago marina Sea Medick Sand dunes Medicago murex A Bur Medick Rocky places

Medicago orbicularis Disc Medick Rocky or sandy places

Medicago polymorpha **Toothed Medick** Widespread Medicago sativa‡ Lucerne Occasional Melilotus indicus Small Melilot Widespread Ononis reclinata Small Restharrow Widespread Ononis spinosa subsp. diacantha Spiny Restharrow Rocky places Ornithopus compressus Compressed Bird's-foot Rocky places

Robinia pseudoacacia‡ False Acacia Cultivated and naturalised

Scorpiurus muricatus Scorpion Vetch Rocky and sandy places Securigera cretica Weedy places

Securigera globosa• Cliffs. Imbros Gorge Securigera securidaca Widespread

Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Roadsides and maquis

Tetragonolobus purpureus Asparagus Pea Widespread Trifolium angustifolium Narrow-leaved Clover Widespread Trifolium arvense Hare's-foot Clover Weedy places

Scientific name

Trifolium campestre Trifolium fragiferum

Trifolium repens Trifolium stellatum

Trifolium tomentosum

Trifolium uniflorum Trigonella graeca Vicia bithynica Vicia cretica Vicia hybrida Vicia lathyroides

Vicia sativa subsp. sativa‡

Vicia villosa Wisteria sinensis‡

Fagaceae

Vicia lutea

Castanea sativa‡

Quercus coccifera subsp. calliprinos

Quercus ilex

Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis

Quercus pubescens

Frankeniaceae

Frankenia hirsuta

Fumariaceae

Fumaria capreolata Fumaria officinalis

Gentianaceae

Blackstonia perfoliata subsp. intermedia

Centaurium erythraea Centaurium maritimum

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium Erodium malacoides Erodium moschatum

Geranium columbinum Geranium dissectum

Geranium lucidum Geranium molle

Geranium purpureum Geranium robertianum

Geranium rotundifolium

Hypericaceae

Hypericum empetrifolium subsp.

empetrifolium

Hypericum perfoliatum Hypericum perforatum Hypericum triquetrifolium Common name

Hop Trefoil Rocky and sandy places

Notes

Strawberry Clover Bare ground White Clover Widespread Starry Clover Common

Woolly Trefoil Fields and rocky places

One-flowered Clover

A Trigonella

Bithynian Vetch

Cretan Vetch

Hairy Yellow Vetchling

Spring Vetch

Yellow Vetch

Common

Yellow Vetch

Widespread

Rocky places

Common

Phrygana

Yellow Vetch

Common

Common Vetch Escape from cultivation

A Fodder Vetch Common Wisteria Cultivated

Beech Family

Sweet Chestnut Cultivated and occasionally naturalised

Kermes Oak Common Holm Oak Occasional

Valonia Oak Common around Armeni Downy Oak Common around Armeni

Sea Heath Family

Hairy Sea Heath Maritime rocks and sand

Fumitory Family

White Ramping Fumitory Frequent

Common Fumitory Weedy places and fields

Gentian Family

Yellow-wort Damp places
Common Centaury Rocky places
Sea Centaury Coastal

Geranium Family

Common Stork's-bill Disturbed areas and coastal sands
Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill Olive groves and rocky places

Musk Stork's-bill Olive groves and rocky places

Long-stalked Crane's-billRocky placesCut-leaved Crane's-billDamp groundShining Crane's-billShady places

Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Olive groves and rocky places
Little Robin Olive groves and rocky places

Herb Robert Shady places

Round-leaved Crane's-bill Olive groves and rocky places

St. John's-wort Family

Crowberry-leaved St John's-

wort

Perfoliate St John's-wort Rocky places
Perforate St John's-wort Rocky places

Waste places

Maquis

Scientific name Common name **Notes** Juglandaceae **Walnut Family** Juglans regia‡ Walnut Cultivated Lamiaceae **Dead-nettle Family** Ballota acetabulosa Garden Horehound River beds near sea level Ballota nigra Black Horehound Waste places Ballota pseudodictamnus False Dittany Rocky phrygana Clinopodium alpinum subsp. alpinum Alpine Basil Thyme Rocky places in mountains Clinopodium creticum• Gorge bed. Imbros Gorge Clinopodium vulgare Wild Basil Maquis and phrygana Coridothymus capitatus Shrubby Thyme Common Lamium amplexicaule Henbit Dead-nettle Common French Lavender Lavandula stoechas Local in maquis Marrubium vulgare White Horehound Waste places Melittis melissophyllum subsp. albida Bastard Balm Gorge bed. Imbros Mentha aquatica Water Mint Wet places Mentha longifolia Horse Mint Wet places Mentha pulegium Pennyroyal Damp places Mentha spicata Spear Mint Damp places Micromeria Micromeria juliana Rocky places Rocky places Micromeria nervosa Nepeta scordotis Occasional Cretan Dittany Origanum dictamnus• Shaded cliffs Origanum microphyllum Omalos plateau Origanum onites White Marjoram Occasional Origanum vulgare subsp. hirtum Marjoram Frequent in maquis Phlomis cretica Locally common Phlomis fruticosa Jerusalem Sage Common Phlomis lanata. **Phaestos** Prasium majus Prasium Common Cut-leaved Self-heal Prunella lacinata Occasional. Fallow fields Prunella vulgaris Self-heal Occasional. Damp places Salvia fruticosa Three-leaved Sage Common Salvia verbenaca Wild Clary Common Satureja thymbra Satureia Maquis and phrygana Scutellaria sieberi• A Skullcap Cliffs and rocky banks Sideritis curvidens Rocky places Sideritis syriaca subsp. syriaca. Mountain Tea Mountains Mediterranean Woundwort Stachys creticasubsp. cretica Common Cliffs and rocks A Germander Teucrium alpestre• Teucrium capitatum Rocky places Teucrium divaricatum Rocky places Linaceae Flax Family Linum arboreum Tree Flax Cliffs in gorges Linum bienne Biennial Flax Frequent Lythraceae **Loosestrife Family** Lythrum hyssopifolia Wet ditches Grass-poly

Lythrum junceum

Malvaceae

Alcea biennis

© Naturetrek February 15

Creeping Loosestrife

Mallow Family

Wild Hollyhock

Wet ditches

Occasional

Scientific name Common name **Notes** Althaea hirsuta Hairy Mallow Frequent Hibiscus rosa-sinensis‡ Hibiscus Cultivated Lavatera arborea Tree Mallow Coast. Hania Lavatera bryonifolia Bryony-leaved Mallow Common Lavatera cretica Cretan Hollyhock Waste areas Malva cretica Cretan Mallow Rocky places Malva sylvestris Common Mallow Common Meliaceae **Mahogany Family** Melia azedarach‡ Persian Lilac Cultivated Mimosaceae **Acacia Family** Acacia cyanophylla‡ Blue-leaved Wattle Cultivated Acacia pycnantha‡ Golden Wattle Cultivated Acacia retinoides‡ Swamp Wattle Cultivated **Mulberry Family** Moraceae Ficus carica Frequent Fig Ficus elastica‡ Rubber Plant Cultivated Cultivated Morus alba‡ White Mulberry Myoporaceae **Myoporum Family** Cultivated Myoporum laetum‡ Ngaio Myrtaceae **Myrtle Family** Callistemon viminalis‡ Bottlebrush Cultivated Eucalyptus camaldulensis‡ River Red Gum Cultivated Myrtus communis Common Myrtle Occasional along watercourses Nyctaginaceae **Bougainvillea Family** Cultivated Bougainvillea glabra‡ Bougainvillea **Olive Family** Oleaceae Olea europaea subsp. oleaster Olive Occasional as a wild tree Mock Privet Phillyrea latifolia Occasional in maquis Onagraceae Willowherb Family Epilobium hirsutum Greater Willowherb Wet ditches **Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family** Orobanche crenata Bean Broomrape Turkish Bridge Orobanche pubescens Downy Broomrape Parasitic on Umbellifers Orobanche ramosa **Branched Broomrape** Common on Oxalis pes-caprae Oxalidaceae **Wood-sorrel Family** Oxalis pes-caprae‡ Bermuda Buttercup Common weed **Paeoniaceae Peony Family** Paeonia clusii subsp. clusii• Clusius' Peony **Omalos Papaveraceae Poppy Family**

Yellow Horned Poppy

Rough Poppy

Coast Uncommon

Glaucium flavum

Papaver hybridum

Scientific name Common name Notes

Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy Common

Pittosporaceae Pittosporum Family

Pittosporum tobira‡ A Pittosporum Cultivated

Plantaginaceae Plantain Family

Plantago afraBranched PlantainCommonPlantago bellardiaHairy PlantainCommon

Plantago cretica A Plantain Rocky places near coast

Plantago lagopus Hare's-tail Plantain Frequent

Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain Olive groves. Damp places

Plantago majorGreater PlantainDamp placesPlantago weldeniiWidespread

Platanaceae Plane Family

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane River valleys

Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family

Limoniastrum monopetalum‡ Limoniastrum Cultivated. Hania
Limonium graecum A Sea-lavender Cliffs. Plakias

Polygalaceae Milk-wort Family

Polygala monspeliacaMediterranean MilkwortOccasionalPolygala venulosaEastern Milk-wortFrequent

Polygonaceae Dock Family

Emex spinosa Emex Occasional. Bare ground

Persicaria salicifolia Willow-leaved Bistort Agia lake

Polygonum aviculareKnotgrassDisturbed groundPolygonum equisetiformeHorsetail KnotgrassOlive groves. Roadsides

Polygonum maritimum Sea Knotgrass Coastal sands Rumex bucephalophorus Bull's-head Dock Common Rumex conglomeratus Clustered Dock Wet places Rumex crispus **Curled Dock** Occasional Rumex pulcher Fiddle Dock Damp places Rumex tuberosus subsp. creticus Rocky places

Portulacaceae Purslane Family

Portulaca oleracea Purslane Disturbed ground

Primulaceae Primrose Family

Anagallis arvensis var. arvensisScarlet PimpernelCommonAnagallis arvensis subsp. foeminaBlue PimpernelCommonAnagallis foeminaA PimpernelCommonAsterolinon linum-stellatumAsterolinonFrequent

Cyclemen creticum• Cretan Sowbread Locally common
Cyclamen graecumsubsp. candicum• Greek Sowbread Widespread

Samolus valerandi Brookweed Wet rocks. Georgiopoulis

Punicaceae Pomegranate Family

Punica granatum‡ Pomegranate Cultivated

Scientific name Common name Notes

Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family

Adonis microcarpa subsp. cretica•Yellow Pheasant's-eyeAkrotiri peninsulaAdonis microcarpa subsp. microcarpaYellow Pheasant's-eyeRed-flowered

Anemone coronaria Crown Anomone Gious Kambos. Omalos

Anemone hortensis subsp. heldreichii Heldreich's Anemone Widespread

Clematis cirrhosaVirgins BowerOccasional. Maquis and roadsidesDelphinium staphisagriaLice BaneImbros Gorge

Ficaria verna subsp. chrysocephala A Lesser Celandine Common

Nigella damascena Love-in-a-Mist Plakias headland

Ranunculus arvensis Corn Buttercup Fields

Ranunculus asiaticus Turban Buttercup Locally common
Ranunculus bulbosus subsp. aleae Bulbous Buttercup Moist shady places

Ranunculus bullatus Locally common. Autumn flowering

Ranunculus chius Widespread
Ranunculus creticus• Cretan Buttercup Shady cliffs

Ranunculus trichophyllus Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot Aquatic

Resedaceae Mignonette Family

Reseda alba White Mignonette Waste areas
Reseda luteola Weld Waste areas

Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family

Rhamnus lycioides subsp. oleoides A Buckthorn Frequent in phrygana

Rosaceae Rose Family

Crataegus monogyna subsp. azarella A Hawthorn Common
Cydonia oblonga‡ Quince Cultivated
Eriobotrya japonica‡ Japanese Loquat Cultivated

Poterium creticum• Cretan Salad Burnet Cliffs. Imbros Gorge

Poterium sanguisorba subsp. verrucosa Salad Burnet Frequent Almond Prunus dulcis‡ Cultivated Peach Cultivated Prunus persica‡ Pyracantha coccinea‡ Firethorn Cultivated **Domestic Pear** Pyrus communis‡ Cultivated Pyrus spinosa Almond-leaved Pear Common Rosa canina Dog Rose Frequent Rosa sempervirens Evergreen Rose Frequent Rubus sanctus A Bramble Common

Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family

Sarcopoterium spinosum

Asperula pubescens• Cliffs. Kotsifou Gorge

Thorny Burnet

Common

Asperula rigida• Mountain rocks
Galium aparine Cleavers Waste places

Galium fruticosum• Cliffs

Rubia peregrina Wild Madder Frequent in scrub

Sherardia arvensis Field Madder Common

Valentia hispida Dry rocky places
Valentia muralis Dry rocky places

Rutaceae Rue Family

Citrus limon‡LemonCultivatedCitrus sinensis‡OrangeCultivated

Scientific name Common name Notes

Ruta chalpensis subsp. chalepensis Fringed Rue Occasional

Salicaceae Willow Family

Populus albaWhite PoplarCommonSalix albaWhite WillowBy rivers

Santalaceae Bastard-toadflax Family

Osyris alba Osyris Locally common

Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family

Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia A Saxifrage Locally common

Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family

Bellardia trixago Bellardia Frequent in meadows

Cymbalaria muralis Ivy-leaved Toadflax Walls

Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax Frequent in phrygana

Misopates orontiumWeasel's-snoutOccasionalParentucellia latifoliaSouthern Red BartsiaCommon

Parentucellia viscosa Yellow Bartsia Occasional. Damp places

Scrophularia auriculata Water Figwort Wet ditches
Scrophularia lucida Shining Figwort Occasional

Scrophularia peregrina Nettle-leaved Figwort Common. Imbros Gorge

Verbascum arcturus• Shrubby Mullein Common on cliffs

Verbascum macrurumA MulleinCommonVerbascum sinuatumWavy-leaved MullienCommonVerbascum spinosum•Spiny MulleinCommonVeronica arvensisWall SpeedwellWidespreadVeronica cymbalariaCymbalaria-leaved SpeedwellWidespread

Veronica persica‡ Common Field Speedwell Naturalised near the sea

Simaroubaceae Tree of Heaven Family

Ailanthus altissima‡ Tree of Heaven Naturalised

Solanaceae Nightshade Family

Hyoscyamus albusWhite HenbaneWeedy places and walls. HaniaLycium barbarum‡Duke of Argyll's Tea PlantNaturalised near the coast

Mandragora autumnalis Mandrake Frequent

Nicotiana glauca‡ Shrub Tobacco Naturalised along roadsides

Solanum nigrumBlack NightshadeWeedy placesSolanum villosumHairy NightshadeDamp places

Styracaceae Storax Family

Styrax officinalis Mediterranean Storax Frequent

Tamaricaceae Tamarisk Family

Tamarix parviflora Small-flowered Tamarisk Coastal

Tamarix smyrnensis‡ A Tamarisk Planted. Plakias beach

Thymelaeaceae Mezereon Family

Daphne gnidioidesA DaphnePlakias headlandDaphne sericeaA DaphneCommon in mountainsThymelaea hirsutaHairy ThymelaeaRocky places near the seaThymelaea tartonrariaA ThymelaeaRocky places near the sea

Scientific name Common name Notes

Ulmaceae Elm Family

Ulmus minor‡Small-leaved ElmOccasional. PlantedZelkova abelicea●A ZelkovaOmalos plateau

Urticaceae Nettle Family

Parietaria creticaCretan PellitoryRocks and wallsParietaria judaicaPellitory of the WallRocks and wallsUrtica membranaceaMembranous NettleWeedy placesUrtica piluliferaRoman NettleWeedy placesUrtica urensSmall NettleWeedy places

Valerianaceae Valerian Family

Centranthus calcitrapaAnnual ValerianRocky placesCentranthus ruber‡Red ValerianWalls

Fedia cornucopiae Fedia Rocky places

Valeriana asarifolia• Cretan Valerian Cliffs and rocky places

Valerianella coronataA Corn SaladRocky placesValerianella echinataA Corn SaladRocky places

Verbenaceae Vervain Family

Lantana camara‡ Lantana Cultivated

Verbena officinalisVervainOccasional. Waste areasVitex agnus-castusChaste TreeGorge beds and damp places

Vitaceae Vine Family

Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestrisWild VineOccasionalVitis vinifera subsp. viniferaGrapeCultivated

Zygophyllaceae Caltrop Family

Tribulus terrestris Maltese Cross Waste areas

LILIIDAE MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family

Allium ampeloprasum Wild Leek Occasional

Allium callimischon subsp. haemostictum

Cliffs. Imbros Gorge. Autumn

flowering

Allium circinnatum subsp. circinnatum

Allium neapolitanum

Naples Garlic

Occasional

Allium nigrum

Black Garlic

Meadows

Allium roseumRosy GarlicOccasionalAllium subhirsutumHairy GarlicOccasionalNarcissus tazettaPolyanthus DaffodilGious KambosPancratium maritimumSea DaffodilSand dunes

Sternbergia sicula Slender Sternbergia Rock crevices. Autumn flowering

Araceae Arum Family

Arisarum vulgareFriar's CowlCommon. Damp placesArum concinnatumAn ArumCommon. Olive groves

Arum creticumCretan ArumKotsifou GorgeArum idaeum•Cretan Mountain ArumOmalos plateauDracunculus vulgarisDragon ArumCommon

Zantedeschia aethiopica‡ Arum Lily Cultivated

Scientific name Common name Notes

Arecaceae Palm Family

Phoenix canariensis‡Canary PalmCultivatedPhoenix dactylifera‡Date PalmCultivatedPhoenix theophrastiCretan PalmSouth coastWashingtonia filifera‡Californian Fan PalmCultivated

Asparagaceae Asparagus Family

Agave americana‡ Century Plant Cultivated and naturalised

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. orientalisLeafless AsparagusCommonCharybdis maritimaSea SquillCommonMuscari comosumTassel HyacinthCommon

Muscari neglectum A Grape Hyacinth Mountain rocks. Omalos

Muscari spreitzenhoferi• A Tassel Hyacinth Frequent

Ornithogalum arabicum‡ Cultivated. Hania
Ornithogalum divergens Frequent

Ornithogalum creticum• Occasional. Limestone crevices

Ornithogalum narbonense Frequent

Ruscus aculeatus Butcher's Broom Shady areas

Cyperaceae Sedge Family

Carex otrubaeFalse Fox SedgeDitches and springsCladium mariscusGreat Fen SedgeMarshes and wet places

Cyperus capitatus A Galingale Coastal sands
Schoenoplectus lacustris Common Club-rush Agia Lake

Dioscoreaceae Yam Family

Tamus communis Black Bryony Shady places

Iridaceae Iris Family

Gladiolus italicus Field Gladiolus Frequent

Iris unguicularis subsp. cretensis• Cretan Iris Locally common

Iris albicans‡CultivatedIris germanica‡German IrisCultivatedIris pseudacorusYellow FlagAgia Lake

Iris tuberosa Widow Iris Gious Kambos and Omalos

Moraea monophylla One-leaved Barbary Nut Akrotiri peninsula

Moraea sisyrinchium Barbary Nut Common

Juncaceae Rush Family

Juncus acutusSharp RushMaritime sandsJuncus articulatusJointed RushWet placesJuncus bufoniusToad rushWet placesJuncus effususSoft RushWet places

Juncus heldreichianus Coastal marshes, Maritime sands

Liliaceae Lily Family

Fritillaria messanensis A Fritillary Gious Kambos

Gagea bohemica Mountains. North of Omalos

Gagea graecaGreek LloydiaCommonGagea peduncularisA Yellow Star of BethlehemOmalos plateauTulipa bakeri•Baker's TulipOmalos plateauTulipa cretica•Cretan TulipCliffs. Plakias

Tulipa doerfleri• Cretan Tulip Cillis. Plakias

Tulipa doerfleri• Doerfler's Tulip Gious Kambos

Scientific name Common name Notes

Tulipa saxatilis Rock Tulip Gious Kambos

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

Anacamptis boryi Bory's Orchid Spili hill

Anacamptis collina Fan-lipped Orchid Locally common

Anacamptis fragrans Fragrant Bug Orchid Spili hill

Anacamptis laxiflora Jersey Orchid Damp meadows
Anacamptis papillionacea var. heroica Pink Butterfly Orchid Occasional

Anacamptis papillionacea var. alibertis•Pink Butterfly OrchidOccasionalAnacamptis pyramidalisPyramidal OrchidLocally commonHimantoglossum robertianumGiant OrchidLocally common

 Himantoglossum robertianum
 Giant Orchid
 Locally commo

 Neotinea lactea
 Milky Orchid
 Spili hill

 Neotinea maculata
 Dense-flowered Orchid
 Gious Kambos

 Neotinea tridentata
 Toothod Orchid
 Spili hill

Neotinea tridentataToothed OrchidSpili hillOphrys ariadnaeAriadne's OphrysFrequent

Ophrys bombylifloraBumblebee OphrysSpili hill and ArmeniOphrys candicaWhite OphrysPlakias headland

Ophrys creberrima Creberrima Ophrys Spili hill Ophrys cretensis Cretan Early Spider Ophrys Local Common Cretan Ophrys Occasional Ophrys cretica Ophrys creticola. Creticola Ophrys Local **Plakias** Ophrys doerfleri• Doerfler's Ophrys Bishop's Ophrys Frequent

Ophrys episcopalisBishop's OphrysFrequentOphrys heldreichiiHeldreich's OphrysCommonOphrys heraeHera's OphrysLocalOphrys iricolorRainbow OphrysSpili hill

Ophrys leochroma Lion Mane Ophrys Locally frequent

Ophrys omegaifera Omega Ophrys Local Ophrys phryganae Phrygana Ophrys Frequent Ophrys sicula Small Yellow Ophrys Common Local Ophrys sitiaca Sitia Ophrys Ophrys spruneri Spruner's Ophrys Local Ophrys villosa Hairy Ophrys Frequent

Orchis anthropophora Man Orchid Spili hill and Armeni

Orchis italica
Naked Man Orchid
Common
Orchis pauciflora
Sparse-flowered Orchid
Locally common

 Orchis quadripunctata
 Four-spotted Orchid
 Common

 Orchis sitiaca•
 Sitia Orchid
 Spili hill

 Serapias bergonii
 Bergon's Serapias
 Common

Serapias cordigera subsp. cretica•

Cretan Heart-flowered Serapias

Agia Triada

Serapias linguaTongue OrchidCommonSerapias orientalis subsp. orientalisEastern SerapiasLocalSerapias parvifloraSmall-flowered SerapiasOccasional

Poaceae Grass Family

22

Aegiops biuncialis Frequent

Arundo donax‡ Giant Reed Naturalised and common

Ammophila arenaria Marram Sand dunes

Andropogon distachyos Rocky places. Roadsides

Anthoxanthum odoratumSweet Vernal GrassDamp places. FieldsAvena barbataSlender OatDisturbed groundBrachypodium retusumMediterranean False-bromeWidespread

Scientific name Common name Notes

Briza maximaLarge Quaking-grassDisturbed groundBriza minorLesser Quaking-grassMoist groundCatapodium marinumSea Fern-grassMaritime

Catapodium rigidumFern-grassBare stony groundCynodon dactylonBermuda GrassDisturbed groundCynosurus echinatusRough Dog's-tailRocky places. Fields

Digitaria sanguinalis Hairy Finger-grass Roadsides

Hordeum leporinum Wall Barley Roadsides. Waste places

Widespread

Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail Grass Common

Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass Widespread

Lolium temulentum Darnel Fields and waste places

Melica ciliate Hairy Melick Imbros Gorge

Phragmites australis Common Reed Marshes and riverbanks
Piptantherum miliaceum Olive groves. Waste areas

Poa annuaAnnual Meadow-grassWaste placesRostraria cristataWidespreadSesleria doerfleri•Kotsifou Gorge

Stipa capensisMediterranean Needle-grassRocky places and fieldsVulpia ciliateBearded FescueBare stony ground and fields

Posidoniacae Neptune Grass Family

Posidonia oceanic Neptune Grass Marine

Smilacaceae Smilax Family

Hyparrhenia hirta

Smilax aspera Common Smilax Maquis and scrub

Typhaceae Reedmace Family

Typha domingensis Southern Reedmace Agia Lake

Xanthorrhoeaceae Asphodel Family

Asphodeline lutea Yellow Asphodel Common Asphodelus aestivus Common Asphodel Common

Asphodelus fistulosus Hollow-stemmed Asphodel Ditches and roadsides

Zosteraceae Eelgrass Family

Zostera marina Eelgrass Marine

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = Heard only)

		0-1				Ap	ril			
	Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor						1		
2	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos							2	
3	Garganey	Anas querquedula					1			
4	Chukar	Alectoris chukar						10		
5	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis						2		
6	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis					3	6		
7	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo					1			
8	Pygmy Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pygmeus					1			
9	Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax					1			
10	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides		1			1	3		
11	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta			1		2	3		

						Ap	ril			
	Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	Great Egret	Ardea alba	2					1		
13	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea					1	1		
14	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea						1		
15	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus						2		
16	Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	Gypaetus barbatus		1						
17	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus	8	12	12	10	4	3		
18	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos			1					
19	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus				1				
20	Booted Eagle	Aquila pennata			4					
21	Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata		4			2			
22	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus					1	2		
23	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus					2	2		
24	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	√	✓	
25	Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus			1					
26	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	✓	√	✓	√	✓	✓		
27	Little Crake	Porzana parva					1	4		
28	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	6				6	6		
29	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra					20	30		
30	Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola			✓		20	- 00		
31	Little Stint	Calidris minuta			_			1		
32	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	1	1			1	2	10	
33	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1	1			'	2	10	
34	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	· ·	'				6		
35	Ruff	Philomachus pugnax						1		
36	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
37		Columba livia	▼	V ✓	✓	V ✓	✓	▼	✓	▼
	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon		,	V ✓	•	•	•	•	•	_ _
38	Common Wood Pigeon Eurasian Collared Dove	Columba palumbus	✓	V ✓	✓	√	✓	✓	✓	✓
39		Streptopelia decaocto		<u> </u>	· ·	V	V	· ·	V	
40	European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur		1		000		✓	✓	-
41	Common Swift	Apus apus				900	✓	_	V	-
42	Pallid Swift	Apus pallidus			20	900		4		-
43	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba		✓	20			1		-
44	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops			2	1	2			-
45	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	1							
46	European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster		Н		Н				
47	Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla					1			
48	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	2	2	2	20	1		4	
49	Woodlark	Lullula arborea		✓		4		3	1	
50	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
51	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica		2	2		1			
53	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum				10				
54	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris						3	1	
55	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis							30	
56	Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus							1	
57	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba					1		1	
58	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg	1					1		
59	Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos				1	Н	Н		
60	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe		1		2		10	1	
61	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica		4		6	1	6	1	
62	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetta		2				1	1	

			April 0 0 10 11 12 12 14 15								
	Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
63	Common Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
64	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius		1	2	2	2	1			
66	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н		
67	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis				1					
68	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	Н	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
69	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus						2			
70	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Н	Н	Н	Н	1	2			
71	European Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus						3			
72	Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes				✓	✓	2			
73	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca							1		
74	Great Tit	Parus major		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
75	European Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
76	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator				1		2	2		
77	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius				3		1			
78	Western Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
79	Red -billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
80	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	Common Raven	Corvus corax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
82	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus			1	1		1			
83	Italian Sparrow	Passer italiae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Common Linnet	Carduelis cannabina		6	2	✓		6			
86	European Goldfinch	Carduelis cardulis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
87	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris			2	✓	✓	7			
88	European Serin	Serinus serinus				1		1	3		
89	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana		3							
90	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus						1			
91	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra		✓	✓	✓		Н	1		

Mammals (D = dead)

1	Cretan White-toothed Shrew	Crocidura zimmermanni					✓		
2	Beech Marten	Martes foina bunites		D					
3	Cretan Badger	Meles meles arkalus			D	✓			
4	Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	✓						
5	Cretan Wild Goat or Kri Kri	Capra aegagrus creticus						✓	

Reptiles

1	Balkan Terrapin	Mauremys rivulata					✓	✓	
2	Balkan Green Lizard	Lacerta trilineata	✓	✓					
3	Cretan Wall Lizard	Podarcis cretensis		✓	✓	✓			
4	Balkan Whip Snake	Hierophis gemonensis					✓		
5	Spur-thighed Tortoise	Testudo graeca			D				

Amphibians

1	Cretan Water Frog	Pelophylax cretensis		3				✓			
---	-------------------	----------------------	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Butterflies

1 Eastern Festoon Zerynthia cerisyi ✓

			April									
	Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
2	Cretan Festoon	Zerynthia cretica		✓	✓		✓					
3	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalinus						✓				
4	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon					✓					
5	Large White	Pieris brassicae			✓		✓					
6	Small White	Pieris rapae	✓	✓	✓		✓					
7	Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa				✓						
8	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea		✓	✓	✓			✓			
9	Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra		✓	✓	✓						
10	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas			✓		✓	✓				
11	Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus			✓							
12	Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	✓	✓			✓					
13	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus			✓	✓	✓					
14	Brown Argus	Arica agrestis		✓								
15	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta		✓								
16	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
17	Comma Butterfly	Polygonia c-album		✓	✓	✓	✓					
18	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria		✓		✓	✓		✓			
19	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		✓			✓	✓				

Moths

1	Pine Processionary Moth	Thaumetopoea pityocampa	✓		✓		✓				
---	-------------------------	-------------------------	---	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--

Dragonflies

1	Banded Demoiselle	Calopteryx splendens	✓					
2	Lesser Emperor	Anax parthenope				✓		

Other Insects

1	Great Green Bush-cricket	Tettigonia viridissima		✓				
2	Egyptian Grasshopper	Anacridium aegyptium				✓		
3	Nosed Grasshopper	Acrida ungarica		✓				
4	Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Rhinoceros Beetle	Oryctes nasicornis	✓					
6	Red Palm Weevil	Rhynchophorus ferrugineus		✓				

Molluscs

1	Cretan Door Snail	Albinaria inflata		✓		