

# Wild Flowers of Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 – 9 May 2018

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*Iris pseudopumila*



Elder-flowered Orchid



Peony



A Flax

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Tour participants: Jessica Turner and Bruce Middleton (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

Sicily is a fascinating island with a great range of plants. Mount Etna dominates the north-east of the island, resulting in some very specific habitats and endemic plants which gradually colonise the lava. In the Madonies and the Bosco di Ficuzza, the orchids were particularly fine, despite some confusing variations or hybrids! The birds, insect life and other wildlife were also enjoyed, along with delicious food and comfortable hotels. Thanks to the group members for their contributions towards a great week in a delightful location.

## Day 1

Wednesday 2nd May

### Gatwick to Catania; transfer to Madonie Mountains

Five group members met Jessica and Bruce at Gatwick Airport for our 7am flight to Catania. Other group members were flying in from Manchester, Luton and Cagliari, all arriving about the same time. Once we had all met up, there was time for a coffee and a snack while Jessica and Bruce organised the vehicles. We loaded up and headed west, along the A19 towards Palermo. Spotless Starlings, Jackdaws, Hooded Crows and a Kestrel kept us company along the way. Sadly, cloud obscured Mount Etna, and even the hill-top town of Enna, although visibility was fine at road level and as we drove we were able to enjoy the surrounding countryside. We stopped for a break at Enna Services, before continuing to the west side of the Madonie massif, where we drove in towards Castellana Sicula. We started to note the presence of crimson Italian Sainfoin (*Hedysarum coronarium*), both on the verges and as a fodder crop, and also the beautiful *Lathyrus odoratus*, the original, wild Sweet Pea, endemic to Sicily, from which all garden cultivars come.

We stopped to look at a patch of Sweet Peas along the roadside, also noting Borage (*Borago officinalis*), Yellow Asphodel (*Asphodeline lutea*), Field Gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*) and Honeywort (*Cerintho major*), among other species. We also noted the fascinating seed-pods of some of the smaller plants, including Large Disc Medick (*Medicago orbicularis*), with spiral 'Chinese Lantern' pods, *Medicago intertexta* with spherical pods with tiny spines closely pressed in and, later, Toothed Medick (*Medicago polymorpha*) with large, hooked spines. There were also the swollen, curved pods of the milk-vetch *Astragalus hamosus*. Occasional Corn Buntings were singing from the wires, but the wind discouraged most insect life.

We moved on, stopping again by a road bridge just past Petralia Sottana. Here we started to find some orchids: Long-spurred (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*), mostly starting to go over, but some in fine condition, Pink Butterfly (*Anacamptis papilionacea*), a single Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*), a Toothed Orchid (*Neotinea tridentata*), Dense-flowered Orchids (*Neotinea maculata*), a lemon-yellow Provence Orchid (*Orchis provincialis*), and several bee-orchid species (*Ophrys*). These were Early Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*), going over, Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*), with its maroon, furry-edged lip with silver-blue markings, Bertoloni's Bee Orchid, with its curved, dark lip and large mirror and, surprisingly, a single spike of Lacaita's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *lacaitae*), for which this part of Sicily is its *locus classicus*. We also noted other species, such as Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge (*Euphorbia rigida*), Thorny Broom (*Calycotome infesta*), Cyprus Pea (*Lathyrus ochrus*) with its cream-coloured flowers, the clover *Trifolium cherleri*, and Woolly Trefoil, a tiny clover with woolly balls as seed-pods.

Eventually we had to leave this fascinating location, to drive over the mountain roads, climbing to the Hotel Pomieri, our base for the first four nights of the tour. We received a warm welcome from the owner, Ezio, and Giacomo and Giuseppe, the staff, and soon settled into our rooms. We met to discuss plans for the following days and a few of the plants we'd seen, before enjoying a delicious meal of local, mountain dishes. After dinner, there was a dramatic thunderstorm, with a lot of sheet lightning illuminating the mountains, but it soon passed, and we retired for some much-needed sleep, with heavy rain drumming on the roof through the night.

## Day 2

Thursday 3rd May

### Isnello, Cefalu, Isnello Gorge

Today, as forecast, we woke to torrential rain and low cloud, so the plan was to go lower to try to avoid the worst of the weather. Accordingly, after a good breakfast, we set off to climb up and over Piano Battaglia, before dropping towards the north coast of the island. As we started to descend, the rain eased a little, and we could see pink Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) and occasional white Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*) along the road. Below Piano Torre we stopped to move a branch from the road, discovering on the verge there a number of spikes of Lacaïta's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *lacaïtae*), with Hairy Garlic (*Allium subhirsutum*) and more Cyclamen on the opposite bank.

Moving on, we decided, as it was dry, to stop at the village of Isnello which lies on a steep hillside. Parking above the main part, we explored the banks and verges finding, amongst other species, Bellardia (*Bartsia trixago*), Rosy Garlic (*Allium roseum*), Asparagus Pea (*Lotus tetragonolobus*), with its velvety red flowers, Salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*) and the Christmas-tree-like Pale Bugloss (*Echium italicum*). Nightingales were singing nearby. We walked down into the village and along the main street, with tantalising glimpses of the ruined castle on the hill above, seen through gaps between the houses. We returned to the minibuses just as the rain restarted.

Our next stop was above Cefalu. We had been noticing the changes in the roadside vegetation as we lost height from the mountains, in particular the appearance of Cistus species and the large Mauritanian Grass (*Ampelodesmus mauritanicus*). Here, we had the opportunity to look at them in more detail. All three Cistus species were present: the pink flowered Cretan Cistus (*Cistus creticus*), Sage-leaved Cistus (*Cistus salvifolius*), with larger white flowers, and Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*) with smaller white flowers. The sun was shining, and we had great views down to the azure Mediterranean Sea, and the Rock of Cefalu, with its fortified summit. We walked along a small road, finding many other species characteristic of Mediterranean scrub, such as Tree Heather (*Erica arborea*), Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*), and Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*). Other plants included Crown Daisy (*Glebionis coronarium*), Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*), French Lavender (*Lavendula stoechas*), Pitch Trefoil (*Bituminaria bituminosa*) and Bear's-breech (*Acanthus mollis*). We found two Broomrapes: the small, blue-mauve Branched Broomrape (*Orobanche ramosa*) and emerging spikes of a large maroon one, *Orobanche variegata*. A Moorish Gecko was sunning itself on a rock, and both Sicilian and Italian Wall Lizards were seen, the former having a spotted throat. The first butterflies were tempted out by the sun, with Large and Small Whites, Wall Brown, Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and a Southern Grizzled Skipper being noted. Two Buzzards and Yellow-legged Gulls circled near the Rock, Common Swifts screamed around us, and a small flock of Bee-eaters flew over high.

We then dropped down into the city, where we had a Panini lunch outside a local bar (having been expecting heavy rain), with Swallows and House Martins flying low along the esplanade. The group then had time to explore the little streets, the harbour and the Duomo (cathedral) while Jessica and Bruce shopped for picnic supplies. We met back at 3.30pm to start the long climb back into the mountains, just as the rain started again, although it was only a shower.

Outside Isnello, we stopped by the road bridge across a large gorge. There was a beautiful rainbow in the valley to our east. On the rock faces were Cretan Scabious (*Scabiosa cretica*), with beautiful seedheads, while other plants above the gorge included Tree Spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*), Shrubby Wormwood (*Artemisia arborescens*), Golden Drops (*Onosma echioides* subsp. *canescens*), an endemic Knapweed (*Centaurea busambarensis*), Crupina (*Crupina crupinastrum*), Bladder Vetch (*Tripodion tetraphyllum*) and Dodder (*Cuscuta epithimum*), together with an endemic Genista (*Genista demarvoi*, split from the similar *G. ephedroides*). We hadn't been there long when a heavy shower came, so we sheltered in the vehicles until it was over, before continuing our exploration of the hillside gorge edges. A Praying Mantis nymph, with its curled-up abdomen, was found and photographed. Eventually, we had to leave this fascinating spot to drive back up and over Piano Battaglia, which was in thick cloud, with very poor visibility. Fortunately, we dropped beneath this to reach the Hotel Pomieri.

After a break, we met for dinner and to update our checklists, after an excellent day in the field which, originally, we thought might have been thwarted by the weather.

## Day 3

Friday 4th May

### Bosco della Ficuzza

Today we set out to explore the Bosco della Ficuzza, some distance from Pomieri, but known to be a good place for orchids. We set off over Piano Battaglia and down towards Piano Torre. We stopped to admire some fine *Iris psedopumila* on a high bank, in both their colour forms of all-purple, and lemon with purple falls. Also on the rocky cliff was Tuberous Valerian (*Valeriana tuberosa*), its small pink flowerheads looking quite Thrift-like. After a brief stop in Collesano to buy bread, we stopped again a little further on to explore a rough field, which was rather muddy after all the recent rain. Here we found quantities of the beautiful Blue Convolvulus (*Convolvulus tricolor*). Turtle Doves were purring loudly, and three were seen. There was a spike of the large-white-flowered *Ornithogalum arabicum*, spiked Star of Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum narbonense*, a tall, pinkish head of *Allium nigrum*, and Rosy Garlic (*Allium roseum*). We also found a type of Yellow Star-thistle, *Centaurea sicula*, not quite in flower; unlike the more usual Yellow Star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), it does not have a winged stem. There was also a purple-flowered Knapweed with a very winged stem: *Centaurea napifolia*. We found more Sweet Peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*), and smaller flowers included Scarlet Pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), in both red and blue forms (var. *caerulea*), Blue Pimpernel (*A. arvensis* subsp. *foemina*), and Reversed Clover (*Trifolium resupinatum*). A few butterflies were seen, including Large and Small Whites, Clouded Yellow, Common Blue, Small Heath and a Glanville Fritillary. A Cirl Bunting was singing.

We continued down to Campofelice and towards Palermo, before continuing on to the Villabate exit, shortly before the outskirts of the city. From here we drove south-west down as far as Bolognetta, where we joined the SS118. After the town of Marineo, we passed the Lago dello Scanzano, and turned up towards Ficuzza, where King Fernando III (of Sicily, but IV of Naples) had a grand hunting lodge. Unfortunately, the cloud was low, so we could not see the imposing Rocca Busambra which towers above the wood. Indeed, it looked

as though the higher part of the wood might be in cloud and rain, so we stopped for a rather chilly, but mainly dry, picnic just above the tiny village. The group explored while Jessica and Bruce prepared lunch, reporting Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*), Provence Orchid (*Orchis provincialis*), Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertolonii*), Tongue Orchids (*Serapias lingua*) and Field Gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*). Later, we also found Small-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias parviflora*) and some probable hybrids with *S. lingua*. We also found two forms of Yellow Bee Orchid (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *lutea*, and also *Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea*, formerly known as *Ophrys sicula*). After quite a long search, Robert found a good specimen of Beaked Ophrys (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *oxyrrhyncos*). Other species included hybrid forms of Pink Hawk's-beard (*Crepis rubra*), probably with the yellow Smooth Hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), and the very white-marked leaves of the thistle-like *Scolymus maculata*, related to the golden-flowered *Scolymus grandiflora* we'd seen along the roadsides.

We drove further up the hillside, where it was damp but not actually in the cloud. Mandy and Colin, walking up, had excellent views of the Sicilian subspecies of Long-tailed Tit, and photographed a Bumblebee Orchid (*Ophrys bombyliflora*). We pulled in and, donning waterproof leggings, we explored the slopes above the road. Here we found our target species, Pale Ophrys (*Ophrys fusca* subsp. *pallida*), of which most of the world population grows only in this area. Once we had got our eyes tuned to this small *Ophrys*, we found quite a number of spikes, some very fresh. We also found a good number of spikes of Sombre Bee Orchid (*Ophrys fusca* agg.), showing considerable variation, so probably what 'splitters' would recognise as more than one species. The *Ophrys* species are quite confusing, as differences between them are slight, and they hybridise readily; they really show evolution in action. While some botanists class them as separate species, there is a move now, with DNA analysis, only to recognise them as, at best, subspecies or only as varietal forms. It also makes the naming very complicated! We also found a lot more Provence Orchids, Bertoloni's Bee Orchids, Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*) and Tongue Orchids.

Eventually we moved back down towards the minibuses, as it was then time to set out on the long journey home, returning via Castellana Sicula. We enjoyed the evening light and beautiful views, until these were obscured by low cloud. As we passed the Portella della Mandarini, just half a mile from the hotel, a Hoopoe flew across the road and perched in a tree; a little further on, we saw another and, as we drove up the hotel drive, a third flew up from the car park. We all agreed that it had been a long but very enjoyable day.

## Day 4

Saturday 5th May

### Vallone Madonna degli Angeli and Piano Battaglia

We woke to a much brighter morning, as the early cloud lifted. After breakfast, as we were preparing to leave, we could see some dark and sandy-coloured feral pigs on the hillside opposite, and views away to the steep islands that lie off the north coast of Sicily. No Hoopoes could be heard round the hotel this morning. As we drove, we stopped to look at a group of Fallow Deer and noted patches of *Iris pseudopumila*, mainly lemon but also purple, in the rocky meadows.

Our main objective was to visit the Vallone Madonna degli Angeli, below Monte San Salvatore, which holds the last remaining site for the very rare Nebro or Sicilian Fir (*Abies nebrodensis*). About 40 or so mature trees remain in the world, although there are a number of seedlings (all carefully tagged and recorded). Taking the road towards Polizzi Generosa, we parked in an area of Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*), by the gates marking the start of the walk. Immediately the road verge drew our attention, with several different *Ophrys*.

We found several endemic variants of the Yellow Bee Orchid (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea*), recognised by some as *Ophrys flammeola* and *O. archimedeae*, as well as Sombre Bee Orchid types (*Ophrys fusca* agg.). We also found Dense-flowered Orchid (*Neotinea maculata*). There were more of all of these growing round a little hummock, along with 'true' Yellow Bee Orchids and the form of *Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea* known as *O. sicula*, with its 'bunny-ear' brown markings on the lip. More straightforward was Brancifort's Orchid (*Orchis brancifortii*). We also found *Iris pseudopumila* here, a single-flowered, white-and-orange Toadflax (*Linaria reflexa*) and Bulbous Saxifrage (*Saxifraga bulbosa*). Coal Tit and Chiffchaff were singing overhead.

We set off up the path, initially through trees. Near the first bend, we found a Mirror Orchid (*Ophrys speculum*), Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*), Man Orchid (*Orchis anthropophora*), more Brancifort's Orchid and *Ophrys tenthredinifera* var. *grandiflora*, a Sicilian form of Sawfly Orchid. The track began to rise, becoming stonier, and with scree and cliffs to the sides. In this apparently very dry habitat, we found Golden Drops (*Onosma echioides* subsp. *canescens*), Candytuft (*Iberis pruitii*), mauve Sicilian Stock (*Matthiola fruticulosa* var. *sicula*), the stunning blue flax, *Linum punctatum*, an endemic Alison, *Alyssum nebrodense*, and Amelanchier (*Amelanchier ovalis*), among other species. Patches of Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) were growing under the scattered trees and bushes on the otherwise steep and gravelly slopes. Another orchid was an *Ophrys sphegodes* type with a narrow lip and dirty pink petals and sepals, formerly known as *O. exaltata*. We also found a couple of Little Blue butterflies. Where the path divided, we scanned the hillsides opposite, seeing a number of the Sicilian Firs. Some of us then took the right hand 'Sentiero Abies', and soon found a specimen tree and several seedlings, although surrounding vegetation made photography quite challenging.

Retracing our steps, we ate our picnic on the low walls by the start of the walk before driving back up the road, stopping to look at more Fallow Deer. Unfortunately, the rifugio where we had planned to stop for a warming drink was closed, so we moved on. We then explored the top of Piano Battaglia. This is an area of boulder-strewn hillsides, at 1600 metres above sea level, with streams leading to a sink hole. We walked through the Daisies (*Bellis perennis* var. *strobliana*) and *Prangos ferulacea*, which covers the rockier areas. We soon found a number of plants of Yellow Star of Bethlehem, mainly *Gagea foliosa*, with a pair of flat leaves but also a few of the frailer-looking *Gagea liotardii* with a single, semi-cylindrical basal leaf. There was a lot of lying water this year, and streams draining into the sink hole, with dead plant material that had been washed down. Among this, near the edge of the hole, we found the deep blue Alpine Squill (*Scilla bifolia*) and pink Bird-in-a-bush (*Corydalis solida*) together with Spotted Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*) and leaves of Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna* agg.) A couple of large patches of Tazetta or Bunch-flowered Narcissi (*Narcissus tazetta*) were found by a stream, and still had some flowers in good condition. Among the grass, we eventually found a single blue-purple flower of *Bulbocodium romulea*, and other plants included the silvery Knawel *Scleranthus marginatus*. We also found a couple of plants with very tiny but beautiful flowers: the vetch *Vicia lathyroides*, and the Forget-me-not *Myosotis incrassata*. Cirl Buntings were heard, and a hail shower took the temperature down to a chilly 8°C.

We returned to the hotel, with time for a break before meeting to go through our lists, discuss plans, and enjoy another excellent meal. Mandy and Colin had opted to walk back to the hotel over the mountain and reported plenty of both pink and white Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*) and a Rock Bunting, but that the path was steep and tricky, especially after all the rain.

## Day 5

Sunday 6th May

Piano Pomieri; near Petralia Soprana; transfer to Sant' Alfio

We woke to a beautiful morning. Early observers recorded Short-toed Treecreeper and Sardinian Warbler showing well, Golden Oriole was singing, and the Fallow Deer and feral pigs were with the cattle on the slopes opposite the hotel. After a final breakfast, being so well looked after by Giacomo, we packed our bags, leaving them while we walked near the hotel. We drove across the long road bridge and set off along the path into the trees. Immediately we found several processions of Pine Processionary Moth caterpillars, following each other nose-to-tail in long lines, as they left their silken tents in the Corsican Pine trees, seeking places to pupate. We walked slowly up the grassy track, enjoying the morning sun. Soon we were finding white Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*), mainly in the shade of the trees, along with beautiful patches of Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*), and the endemic Comfrey *Symphytum gussonei*. Other plants included the sculptural leaf rosettes of *Carthamus pinnatus*, some with a central flower bud, Montpellier Maple (*Acer monspessulanus*) and Primrose leaves (*Primula vulgaris*). Small Heath and Orange Tip were among the butterflies, and Cirl Bunting was calling and seen by some.

We eventually returned to the hotel to load the minibuses, say our goodbyes and thanks, and head east towards Sant'Alfio. A Hoopoe flew up from by the road, and a Fallow Deer was seen running up the hill.

We then took the road towards Petralia Soprana, stopping just below a hairpin bend to explore the grassy area, while Jessica shopped for bread. Here, we found many spikes of Sombre Bee Orchid (*Ophrys fusca* agg.), together with Pink Butterfly Orchids (*Anacamptis papilionacea* var. *grandiflora*), Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*), Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*), Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertoloni*), and Plough-share and 'ordinary' Tongue Orchids (*Serapias vomeracea* and *S. lingua*), the former being new for the trip. We had to be very careful where we put our feet! Other plants included Bithynian Vetch and a bright blue form of Fodder Vetch (*Vicia bithynica* and *V. villosa*), Field Eryngo (*Eryngium campestre*) and big patches of Yellow Asphodel. Butterflies included Common Blue, Brown Argus and Clouded Yellow, and we found caterpillars of the moth Grass Eggar and clusters of caterpillars of Franconian Lackey. Swallows were swooping low, and Cirl Bunting was singing. We had our picnic in the lay-by here, overlooking the hillsides that were becoming yellow with the endemic *Genista cupanii*.

Having to move on, with a long journey ahead, we continued on the road up to Petralia Soprana, from where we could see the snowy western flanks of Mount Etna, although its top was in the cloud. We dropped down into the valley and took the road to a new motorway junction, although the quality of the access road was as poor as other roads in the area. We stopped for a break near Enna, which was extended when it was noted that one of the vehicles had a damaged tyre. Fortunately, a very efficient local mechanic, called out by the hire company, soon had the wheel changed while we relaxed in the sun. A Tiger Moth seen here was found to be the endemic form of Cream-spot Tiger, now recognised as a separate species. We were soon back on the road, heading towards Catania and then north on the A18 towards Messina. We left at Giarre exit, taking a route via Zafferana Etnea to approach our hotel from the west. We wanted to avoid going through Sant'Alfio, as today was the feast of the town's saint and, with processions and other festivities, the roads were busy or closed.

We soon reached the Case Perrotta on the outskirts of Sant'Alfio, where we received a warm welcome from Agatha and Valentina. The hotel was once a monastery, then a winery, and has some fascinating and quite quirky buildings. We settled into our rooms and, after a short break, met to discuss the day and future plans, before an excellent, leisurely dinner. Some of us saw and most of us heard the fireworks which went off shortly before midnight, in honour of the local saint.

## Day 6

Monday 7th May

### Eastern slopes of Etna

Today we woke to a beautifully clear sunny morning, with clear views of Mount Etna. Cuckoo and Blackcap were singing, and a Moorish Gecko was sunning itself on a wall. After a delicious breakfast, we set off to explore the range of habitats on the eastern flanks of Etna, from summit to sea. The volcanic habitat is very different from the Carboniferous and Dolomitic limestone of the Madonie Mountains where we had been.

We drove up the road from Case Perrotta, stopping by a little chapel above Milo. Here, we noted the lava from the 1971 eruption, which was starting to be colonised by vegetation. The Mount Vesuvius lichen (*Stereocaulon vesuvianum*) is the first coloniser, followed later by plants such as Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), Etna Sorrel (*Rumex scutatus* forma *aetnensis*) and Woad (*Isatis tinctoria* subsp. *canescens*). Etna Broom (*Genista aetnensis*) was common, although not in flower. We also found some Narrow-leaved Lupins (*Lupinus angustifolium*), a tiny pink *Petrorhagia dubia*, a pale form of Fodder Vetch (*Vicia villosa* subsp. *ambigua*), and Crupina (*Crupina crupinastrum*). Hare's-foot Clover (*Trifolium arvensis*) and Starry Clover (*T. stellatum*) were abundant by the road. We moved on higher, passing through woodland first composed mainly of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), often showing evidence of coppicing, then of Downy Oak (*Quercus pubescens*). As we went higher we started to see the white trunks of Etna Birch (*Betula aetnensis*), and deciduous trees were replaced by Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*).

We stopped on the road to Piano Provenzana, at about 1500 metres, overlooking the 2002/3 lava flow, where we could see the dramatic effect of relatively new lava which was just starting to be colonised in places. Northern Wheatear was seen here. Climbing a little further, we took a longer stop at Piano Provenzana itself (about 1800 metres). The buildings were all destroyed by the 2002/3 lava flow, but there is an increasing number of small wooden huts holding bars and shops. Here, in an area not affected by the 2002/3 flow, we found many of the specialised and endemic species that survive in these conditions, including Etna Barberry (*Berberis aetnensis*), a fairly prostrate form of Juniper (*Juniperus communis* subsp. *hemisphaerica*), Etna Milk-vetch (*Astracantha sicula*), Etna Tansy (*Tanacetum aetnense*), Etna Pansy (*Viola aetnense*) in shades of deep purple, through mauve to cream, and the leaves of Etna Bedstraw (*Galium aetnense*). Other plants included the tiny *Viola parvula*, the Knawel *Scleranthus aetnensis*, and the Cinquefoil *Potentilla calabra*, although not yet in flower. As well as the Corsican Pines, there were also some Beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) here. There were many more lines of Pine Processionary Moth caterpillars, including some attempting to burrow into the loose ash, and birds included Northern Wheatear, hawking for insects on the lava. A Queen of Spain Fritillary was sunning itself and Swallowtail butterflies flew past.

After a while, we boarded the buses again, and descended to a lower altitude, above Linguaglossa, where we parked on a stony track in mainly deciduous woodland of Sweet Chestnut and Downy Oak. Here we found forms of Green-winged Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *morio* and the sparser subsp. *picta*), Toothed Orchids



(*Neotinea tridentata*), Roman Orchids (*Dactylorhiza romana*), most of which had gone over, but one had a few flowers, Dense-flowered Orchid (*Neotinea maculata*), emerging Pink Butterfly Orchid (*Anacamptis papilionacea*) and Violet Bird's-nest Orchid (*Limodorum arborescens*). Colin also found a Green-winged x Pink Butterfly hybrid (*Anacamptis x gennarii*). A shady quarry held carpets of Spring Sowbread (*Cyclamen repandum*), and other plants included Cornflower (*Cyanus segetum*), Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum orientale*) and emerging spikes of a large maroon Broomrape *Orobanche variegata*. Both Yellow and the blue-flowered Narrow-leaved Lupins (*Lupinus luteus* and *L. angustifolius*) were in the wood. Butterflies included Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue and the southern form of Speckled Wood, and also noted was the strange Hairy-legged Mining Bee, looking as though it was wearing yellow pantaloons. A Golden Oriole was heard singing and Colin saw and photographed a Western Green Lizard. We had our picnic here, before continuing to descend towards the sea.

We reached the coast at Cottone, where the Fiumefreddo River enters the sea, and we walked along the river bank onto the beach. Fiumefreddo means 'cold river', and the river carries the snow-melt from Etna. The low water temperature allows a number of different species to thrive which are rare elsewhere in Sicily, and we noted the very lush growth of Fool's Water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and Water Speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*), as well as the Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*). Among the coastal species, we found Three-horned Stock (*Matthiola tricuspidata*), Sea Medick (*Medicago maritima*), Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*), and seed pods of Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*). A Cetti's Warbler gave its explosive call, and a Kentish Plover and a Yellow-legged Gull flew by, and we noted a Naval vessel, apparently patrolling the coast.

After enjoying the magnificently turquoise sea and flat pebbles of different kinds on the beach, we moved inland a short distance, to the Fiumefreddo Nature Reserve. Parking in the shade, we looked at a wall which bore many plants of Phagnalon (*Phagnalon rupestre*) and several ferns. We approached the entrance to the Reserve, only to find it was closed as a new path was being laid, so we had to content ourselves by looking through the open gates of the adjacent property. From here we could see the White Poplar and White Willow trees (*Populus alba* and *Salix alba*), but not much else. We therefore decided to return to Sant'Alfio, to allow time to explore the extensive grounds of the Case Perrotta, with its Olive and Cherry orchards. We then met to update our lists and enjoy another excellent meal.

## Day 7

Tuesday 8th May

### Mount Etna

Today dawned fine, with a little cloud around the summit of Etna. Moorish Geckos and Italian Wall Lizards were seen on building walls. After a delicious breakfast, we set off through Zafferana, where we stopped to buy the picnic. We then continued westwards, climbing the southern slopes of the volcano, to reach the Rifugio Sapienza, the starting point for our ascent. Here, at 1900 metres, it was rather more chilly than at lower altitudes.

Two of the group opted to remain at this altitude, exploring the area with its trial woodland of Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) trees. The first part of our journey was by cable car, to the Piccolo Rifugio at 2500 metres, where we transferred to the 4-wheel drive buses for the climb further, to about 2900 metres, the summit currently being 3340 metres, but changing with any eruption. We climbed through banks of permanent snow and ice, seeing the interspersed layers of ash which are evidence of previous volcanic

activity. Etna has been quiet this spring, so we were able to walk round the 2002/3 rupture in the mountain, and could see a fumarole above, steaming away. We had hazy but amazing views in all directions and could feel the warmth of the laval rock and ash, just under the surface. Eventually we made our way down, some stopping for refreshments at the half-way rifugio before completing our descent to the car park. The whole group agreed it had been an amazing experience.

We then drove down south-westwards, finding a picnic spot in the shade by the Astrophysics Observatory. Exploring the area, we saw again species we'd seen the previous day such as Etna Tansy (*Tanacetum siculus*) and Etna Barberry (*Berberis aetnensis*) adding *Potentilla calabra* in flower, the leaves of the Ragwort *Senecio ambiguus*, and the Perennial Knawel (*Scleranthus perennis* subsp. *vulcanicus*). A Queen of Spain Fritillary and a black Western Whip Snake (var. *carbonarius*) were seen. Moving on, we stopped by an area of scrubby trees in a lava flow, finding a number of spikes of Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*) in shades of salmon-pink, magenta and lemon and mixtures of these. We also found a couple of emerging spikes of Greater Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*) parasitising the Etna Broom (*Genista aetnensis*). Wall Brown, Small Copper and Small Heath butterflies were among those noted.

We then returned to Sant'Alfio, stopping to visit the 'Chestnut of a Hundred Horsemen', a very large and old, pollarded Sweet Chestnut, reckoned by some to be the oldest tree in Europe. After a break, we met to complete our lists and enjoy our last dinner together, comparing notes on the highlights of an excellent week.

## Day 8

Wednesday 9th May

### Case Perrotta to Catania, and onwards to the UK

We had a slightly earlier start this morning, in order to be at Catania for our morning flight back to Gatwick. After another lovely breakfast, we said our farewells and thanks. We then set off and dropped down to the autostrada where we faced some busy morning traffic. We said our goodbyes at the airport as we were travelling on three different flights, although we kept bumping into each other in departures. The journeys went smoothly and we made good time, returning home with many memories and photographs of an enjoyable week, exploring the Wild Flowers (plus birds, butterflies and other insects, and reptiles!) of Sicily.

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## Species Lists

Plants (\*\* = Endemic to Sicily; \* = Endemic to Italy and Sicily)

The layout of the plant list, and plant names have been updated in line with current taxonomy (mainly based on DNA studies).

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES</b>		<b>FERNS &amp; ALLIES</b>	
<b>Calamophytes</b>			
<b>Equisetaceae</b>		<b>Horsetail Family</b>	
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<b>Leptosporangiate Ferns</b>		<b>True Ferns</b>	
<b>Aspleniaceae</b>		<b>Spleenwort Family</b>	
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	6	Case Perrotta
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	2	Isnello
<i>Asplenium obovatum</i>	Lanceolate Spleenwort	6	Case Perrotta
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	6	Case Perrotta
<b>Dennstaedtiaceae</b>		<b>Bracken Family</b>	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	2	Roadsides
<b>Dryopteridaceae</b>		<b>Male-fern Family</b>	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Hard Shield-fern		
<b>Polypodiaceae</b>		<b>Polypody Family</b>	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	2	Isnello Gorge
<b>Pteridaceae</b>		<b>Ribbon Fern Family</b>	
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	6	Case Perrotta
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>		<b>CONIFERS</b>	
<b>Cupressaceae</b>		<b>Juniper Family</b>	
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Cedar	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Juniperus communis</i> (ssp. <i>hemisphaericum</i> )	Juniper	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Pinaceae</b>		<b>Pine Family</b>	
<i>Abies alba</i>	Silver Fir	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Abies nebrodensis</i> **	Sicilian Fir (Nebro Pine)	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	6	Lower slopes of Etna
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>laricio</i>	Corsican Pine	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine	1	Roadsides
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>		<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>	
<b>Pre-dicots</b>		<b>Primitive Angiosperms</b>	
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>		<b>Birthwort Family</b>	
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>	Birthwort	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<b>Eu-dicots</b>	<b>True Dicotyledons</b>		
<b>Acanthaceae</b>	<b>Bear's-breech Family</b>		
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Adoxaceae</b>	<b>Moschatel Family</b>		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	1	Roadsides
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	<b>Sumach Family</b>		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Lentisk	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>		
<i>Anthriscus nemerosa</i>	A Cow Parsley	5	Roadsides
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's-water-cress	6	Cottone
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Elaeoselinum asclepium</i>	Elaeoselinum	3	Bosco della Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ferula communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Giant Fennel	1	Roadsides
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Laserpitium siler</i> subsp. <i>garganicum</i>	A Sermountain	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Oenanthe globulosa</i>	Round-headed Water-dropwort	3	Near Collesano
<i>Opopanax chironium</i>	Hercules All-heal	3	Bosco della Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Prangos (Cachrys) ferulacea</i>	-	2-4	Common round Piano Battaglia
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needles	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli (leaves)
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Tordylium	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<b>Apocynaceae</b>	<b>Periwinkle Family</b>		
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	1	Planted
<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>	<b>Holly Family</b>		
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Araliaceae</b>	<b>Ivy Family</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	1	Common
<b>Berberidaceae</b>	<b>Barberry Family</b>		
<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	Etna Barberry	6	Piano Provenzana
<b>Betulaceae</b>	<b>Birch Family</b>		
<i>Betula aetnensis</i> **	Etna Birch	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	6	Above Linguaglossa
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>		
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large Blue Alkanet	5	Roadsides
<i>Anchusa cretica</i>	Cretan Alkanet	6	Above Milo
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Cerithe majus</i>	Honeywort	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Cynoglossum</i> sp.		4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli (leaves)

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale Bugloss	1	Near Petralia Sottana / Roadsides
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	2	Isnello
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	Corn Gromwell	7	Below Etna
<i>Myosotis incrassata</i>	a Forget-me-not	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forget-me-not	4	Piano Pomieri
<i>Onosma echioides</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>	Golden Drops	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Symphytum gussonei</i> **	A Comfrey	5	Piano Pomieri
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>		
<i>Aetheonema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Alyssum nebrodense</i> **	An Alyssum	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress	7	Roadsides Etna
<i>Arabis alpina</i> subsp. <i>caucasica</i>	Alpine Rockcress	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rock-cress	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Arabis turrata</i>	Tower Cress	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	an Aubrieta	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Barbarea bracteosa</i>	A Wintercress	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	A Buckler-mustard	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	2	Cefalu
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Whitlow Grass	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i> **	A Treacle-mustard	3	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Iberis pruitii</i>	A Candytuft	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>	Woad	5	Roadsides Etna
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i> var. <i>sicula</i> **	Sad Stock	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock	6	Cottone
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard		Common
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Field Pennywort	4	Piano Battaglia
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	1	Roadsides
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	2	Roadsides
<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Fedia	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	2	Roadsides
<i>Scabiosa cretica</i>	-	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Valeriana tuberosa</i>	A Valerian	3	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Valerianella lacustris</i>	Common Cornsalad	2	Isnello Gorge
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>		
<i>Arenaria grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Sandwort	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i> agg.	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	7	Hotel
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-Summer	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Smooth Rupturewort	6	Fiumefreddo entrance
<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	Upright Chickweed	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Petrorhagia dubia</i> (velutina)	A Childing Pink	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	7	Etna lunch stop
<i>Saponaria sicula</i>	Sicilian Soapwort	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Scleranthus aetnensis</i> **	a Knawel	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Scleranthus marginatus</i>	a Knawel	4	Piano Battaglia

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i> subsp. <i>vulcanicus</i> **	a Perennial Knawel	7	Etna lunch stop
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	2	Roadsides
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	4	Common
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Rockrose Family</b>		
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Helianthemum croceum</i>	A Rock-rose	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> ssp. <i>grandiflorum</i>	Rock-rose	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Compositae (Asteraceae)</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>		
<i>Anthemis aetnensis</i> **	Etna Daisy	6	Roadsides
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Anthemis cretica (montana)</i>	-	2	Roadsides
<i>Anthemis cupaniana</i> **	-	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	A Wormwood	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Bellis perennis</i> (var. <i>strobliana</i> **)	Daisy		Common
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	1	Near Castellana Sicula (over)
<i>Carduus macrocephalus</i> (subsp. <i>siculus</i> )	-	5	Piano Provenzana
<i>Carlina nebrodensis</i> **	Nebro Carline Thistle	1	Near Petralia Sottana (dead spikes)
<i>Carthamus (Carduncellus) pinnatus</i>	-	5	Piano Provenzana
<i>Centaurea busambarensis</i> **	a grey-leaved Knapweed	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Centaurea napifolia</i>	a Knapweed	3	Near Collesano
<i>Centaurea sicula</i>	a Yellow Star-thistle	3	Near Collesano
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Crepis rubra</i>	Pink Hawk's-beard	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Crepis capillaris</i> x <i>C. rubra</i>	a hybrid Hawk's-beard	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane (Stink Aster)	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	a Leopard's-bane	3	Roadsides
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed	7	Orchid stop
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	An Everlasting	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Helichrysum nebrodensis</i> **	An Everlasting	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	Hyoseris	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear		Common
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	6	Roadsides
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis	2	Isnello
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ptilostemon stellatus</i>	Annual Ptilostemon	2	Isnello Gorge

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>	Oyster Plant	3	Roadsides
<i>Scolymus maculata</i>		3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Senecio squalidus</i> subsp. <i>aethnensis</i> **	A Ragwort	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	3	Ficuzza village
<i>Tanacetum siculum</i>	Etna Tansy	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Taraxacum</i> spp.	Dandelion		Common
<i>Tragopogon hybridum</i>	Hybrid Goat's-beard	3	Near Collesano
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	2	Isnello
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>		
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	2	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	1	Petralia Sottana
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	3	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	-	2	Isnello
<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i>	-	3	Near Collesano
<i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>	Common Dodder	2	Isnello Gorge
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	<b>Stonecrop Family</b>		
<i>Sedum aetnense</i> **	Etna Stonecrop	7	Orchid stop
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	5	Piano Provenzana (leaves)
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue Stonecrop	1	Roadsides
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Fat-leaved Stonecrop	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	Rock Stonecrop	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>	Spanish Stonecrop	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Red Stonecrop	7	Etna lunch stop
<i>Sedum rupestre</i>	Reflexed Yellow Stonecrop	7	Etna lunch stop
<i>Sedum stellatum</i>	Starry Stonecrop	1	Near Petralia Sottana (leaves)
<i>Sedum sexangulare</i>	Tasteless Stonecrop	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Wall Pennywort	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	6	Above Linguaglossa
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heather Family</b>		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>		
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	2	Roadsides
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	2	Roadsides
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	2	Roadsides
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	2	Roadsides
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	2	Roadsides
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	2	Roadsides

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	2	Roadsides
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		<b>Geranium Family</b>	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	3	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	2	Isnello
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	6	Roadsides
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>	
<i>Clinopodium (Acinos) alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	Bifid Dead-nettle	3	Near Collesano
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Mentha x villosa</i>	Apple Mint	3	Near Collesano
<i>Micromeria graeca (M. consentina*)</i>	-	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Sideritis romana</i>	-	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Thymbra capitata</i>	A Thyme	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<b>Leguminosae (Fabaceae)</b>		<b>Pea Family</b>	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria agg.</i>	Kidney Vetch	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>	Sprawling Milk-vetch	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	-	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Astracantha (Astragalus) nebrodensis**</i>	Nebrod Milk-vetch	3	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Astracantha (Astragalus) siculus**</i>	Etna Milk-vetch	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Calycotome infesta</i>	Thorny Broom	1	Roadsides
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	-	2	Roadsides
<i>Cercis silquastrum</i>	Judas Tree		Roadsides (planted)
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	Scorpion-vetch	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cytisus villosus</i>	Hairy Broom	3	Roadsides
<i>Genista aetnensis**</i>	Etna Broom	6	Common on Etna
<i>Genista cupanii**</i>	an endemic Greenweed	1	Near Petralia Sottana (not in flower)
<i>Genista demarcoi*</i>	an endemic Greenweed	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	1	Roadsides
<i>Hippocrepis emerus subsp. emeroides</i>	A Scorpion-vetch	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	6	Roadsides
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	-	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Lathyrus grandiflorus</i>	Two-flowered Everlasting Pea	7	Roadsides
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>	Cyprus Pea	1	Near Petralia Sottana (cream flowers)
<i>Lathyrus odoratus**</i>	Sweet Pea	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Red Vetchling	1	Near Castellana Sicula



Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i>	Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea	6	Case Perotta
<i>Lotus (Tetragonolobus) biflorus</i>	Dragon's Teeth	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	-	6	Cottone
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Lotus tetragonolobus (T. purpureus)</i>	Asparagus Pea	2	Isnello
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Lupinus cosentinii (varius)</i>	a hairy Lupin	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lupinus luteus</i>	Yellow Lupin	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Medicago intertexta</i>	a Medick	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	3	Near Collesano
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	6	Cottone
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Disc Medick	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White Melilot	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Melilotus italicus</i>	a Melilot	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	2	Isnello
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	1	Roadsides
<i>Scorparius muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	1	Roadsides
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Clover	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	2	Isnello
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	-	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> subsp. <i>molineri</i>	-	6	Above Milo
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	A white clover (smaller flowers)	3	Near Collesano
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	6	Fiumefreddo entrance
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	3	Near Collesano
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch	2	Isnello
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	-	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Spring Vetch (tiny flower)	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	Fodder Vetch	3	Near Collesano
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	1	Roadsides
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>ambigua</i>	Fodder Vetch (pale)	6	Above Milo
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flax Family</b>		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Linum punctatum</i>	A Flax	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Linum strictum</i>	Upright Yellow Flax		
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<b>Mallow Family</b>		
<i>Lavatera trimestris</i>	Annual Mallow	3	Near Collesano
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	2	Common
<b>Moraceae</b>	<b>Mulberry Family</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Olive Family</b>		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	3	Bosco della Ficuzza

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering Ash	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive (wild)	2	Isnello Gorge
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>			
<b>Broomrape Family</b>			
<i>Bartsia (Bellardia) trixago</i>	Bellardia	2	Isnello
<i>Odontites bocconii**</i>	A perennial Bartsia	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orobanche amythystea</i>		2	Above Cefalu
<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	A Broomrape on Pitch Trefoil	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	6	Case Perotta
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	7	Etna
<i>Orobanche variegata</i>	A Broomrape	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>			
<b>Wood-sorrel Family</b>			
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>			
<b>Peony Family</b>			
<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Peony	2	Roadsides Madonie
<b>Papaveraceae</b>			
<b>Poppy Family</b>			
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	6	Case Perotta
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	6	Cottone
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>lecoqii</i>	Yellow-juice Poppy	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	1	Roadsides
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy		
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>			
<b>Plantain Family</b>			
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Linaria heterophylla</i>	A Toadflax	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	6	Roadsides
<i>Linaria reflexa</i>	a Toadflax	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Plantago cupani</i>	A Plantain (pinnatisect leaves)	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Plantago serraria</i>	A Plantain (toothed leaves)	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Plantago subulata</i>	A Plantain (short, thin leaves)	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water Speedwell	6	Cottone
<b>Polygonaceae</b>			
<b>Dock Family</b>			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep Sorrel	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Rumex bucephaliflorus</i>	Horned Dock	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Fiddle Dock	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rumex scutatus forma aetnensis**</i>	Etna Sorrel	6	Piano Provenzana
<b>Primulaceae</b>			
<b>Primrose Family</b>			
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	2	Above Cefalu

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> (var. <i>caerulea</i> )	Scarlet Pimpernel (Blue-flowered)	3	Near Collesano
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> subsp. <i>foemina</i>	Blue Pimpernel	3	Near Collesano
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread / Cyclamen	2	Roadsides
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	5	Piano Pomieri (leaves)
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>		
<i>Anemone apennina</i>	Blue Anemone	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	An Anemone	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ficaria verna</i> agg.	Lesser Celandine	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ranunculus peltatus</i>	Pond Water-crowfoot	6	
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	5	Piano Pomieri
<b>Resedaceae</b>	<b>Mignonette Family</b>		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	6	Roadsides
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	<b>Buckthorn Family</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>		
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Juneberry	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Crataegus orientalis</i> (C. <i>laciniata</i> )	A Hawthorn	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab-apple	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Potentilla calabra</i>	A Cinquefoil	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinqufoil	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved Pear	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	2	Roadsides
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble		Common
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	3	Near Collesano
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>		
<i>Galium aetnicum</i> **	Etna Bedstraw	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Galium mollugo</i> agg.	Hedge Bedstraw	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Galium murale</i>	Wall Bedstraw	6	Above Milo
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	6	Fiumefreddo
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	7	Etna (planned)
<b>Santalaceae</b>	<b>Sandalwood Family</b>		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>album</i>	Mistletoe	2	Roadsides

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<b>Sapindaceae</b>			
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	4	Roadsides
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>			
<i>Saxifraga bulbifera</i>	Bulbous Saxifrage	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>			
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein		
<b>Simaroubaceae</b>			
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven family Tree of Heaven		Roadsides
<b>Solanaceae</b>			
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Nightshade Family Black Nightshade	5	Case Perotta
<b>Urticaceae</b>			
<i>Parietaria judacea</i>	Nettle Family Pelitory-of-the-Wall	5	Isnello, walls
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	3	Hotel Pomieri
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Mediterranean Nettle	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle	6	Fiumefreddo
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>			
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Daphne Family Spurge Laurel	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Verbenaceae</b>			
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Verbena Family Lantana	3	Planted
<b>Violaceae</b>			
<i>Viola aethnensis</i> **	Violet Family Etna Pansy	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Viola parvula</i>	-	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<b>Monocots</b>		<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>			
<i>Allium nigrum</i>	Daffodil Family -	3	Near Collesano
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	Hairy Garlic		Widespread
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	3	Roadsides
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Bunch-flowered Narcissus	4	Piano Battaglia
<b>Araceae</b>			
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Lords and Ladies Family Friar's Cowl	2	Above Cefalu (leaves)
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint	4	Piano Battaglia
<b>Asparagaceae</b>			
<i>Agave americana</i>	Asparagus Family Agave or Century Plant		Roadsides (planted)
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Prickly Asparagus	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Bellevalia dubia</i>	(blue)	3	Bosco della Ficuzza

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Drimia (Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea Squill	2	Isnello Gorge
<i>Leopoldia comosa</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	A Star of Bethlehem	3	Near Collesano
<i>Ornithogalum montanum</i>	Mountain Star of Bethlehem	4	Piano Battaglia (leaves)
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A Spiked Star of Bethlehem	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star of Bethlehem	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Alpine Squill	4	Piano Battaglia
<b>Cyperaceae</b>	<b>Sedge Family</b>		
<i>Carex depauperata</i>	Starved Wood-sedge	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<b>Dioscoraceae</b>	<b>Yam Family</b>		
<i>Dioscorea (Tamus) communis</i>	Black Bryony	6	Above Linguaglossa
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Italian Gladiolus	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Iris (Hermodactylus) tuberosus</i>	Snake's-head Iris	6	Above Linguaglossa (in seed)
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Purple form)	An Iris	3	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Yellow two-tone form)	An Iris	3	Below Piano Battaglia
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	a Romulea	4	Piano Battaglia
<b>Juncaceae</b>	<b>Rush Family</b>		
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard rush	5	Piano Pomieri
<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	Southern Woodrush	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Hairy Woodrush	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great Woodrush	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Liliaceae</b>	<b>Lily Family</b>		
<i>Gagea foliosa</i>	A Yellow Star of Bethlehem	4	Piano Battaglia
<i>Gagea liotardii</i> ( <i>G. fragifera</i> , <i>G. fistulosa</i> )	A Yellow Star of Bethlehem	4	Piano Battaglia
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchid Family</b>		
<i>Note: The Orchidaceae are an evolving group, and subject to debate between 'splitters' (eg. Delforge) and 'lumpers' (eg Kew). This list follows the Kew classification.</i>			
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>longicornu</i>	Long-spurred Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>picta</i>	a Green-winged Orchid	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> (var. <i>grandiflora</i> )	Pink Butterfly Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>A. papilionacea</i> x <i>A. morio</i> ssp. <i>longicornu</i>	a hybrid Orchid	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i> subsp. <i>romana</i>	Roman Orchid	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	7	Orchid stop
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza (in bud)
<i>Limodora abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i> (formerly <i>commutata</i> )	a Toothed Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza

Scientific name	Common name	Day	
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>lacaitae</i>	Lacaita's Ophrys	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>oxyrrhynchos</i>	Beaked Ophrys	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> agg.	Sombre Bee Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>fusca</i> ( <i>flammeola</i> )**	a Sombre Bee Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>fusca</i> ( <i>lucifera</i> )	a Sombre Bee Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>pallida</i>	Pale Ophrys	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>O. f.</i> subsp. <i>fusca</i> x <i>pallida</i>	a hybrid Ophrys	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (formerly <i>sicula</i> )	-	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> subsp. <i>lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys speculum</i> subsp. <i>speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> (formerly <i>exaltata</i> )*	An Early Spider Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>atrata</i> ( <i>incubacea</i> )	Dark Ophrys	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>O. sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>sphogodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i> (formerly <i>grandiflora</i> **)	a Sawfly Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis anthroporhiza</i>	Man Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis brancifortii</i> *	Brancifort's Orchid	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Serapias</i> x <i>intermedia</i>	A hybrid Tongue Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>Grass Family</b>		
<i>Aegilops ovalis</i>	Aegilops	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Silver Hair-grass	6	Above Milo
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>	Mauritanian Grass	2	Roadsides
<i>Anthoxanthum odorata</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed		Roadsides
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-oat	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Great Quaking-grass	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	6	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Fescue	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	1	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	2	Above Cefalu
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	2	Piano Torre
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	1	Roadsides
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	1	Roadsides
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	2	Isnello
<i>Poa violacea</i> subsp. <i>aetnensis</i> **	-	6	Piano Provenzana
<i>Sesleria nitida</i>	-	4	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Smilacaceae</b>	<b>Smilax Family</b>		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	2	Above Cefalu
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae</b>	<b>Asphodel Family</b>		
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	1	Near Castellana Sicula
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	1	Near Castellana Sicula

Scientific name	Common name	Day
<b>LICHENS</b>		
<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	Mount Vesuvius Lichen	6 Piano Provenzana

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓					
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				H	H			
3	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓					
4	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			✓					
5	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓		✓				
6	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
7	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			✓					
10	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
11	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			H	H	H	H	H	
12	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>								H
13	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
14	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		4	1					
15	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			3	H	1	1	1	
16	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					H	H	H	
18	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	Red -billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>				H				
21	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				✓		✓		
24	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>				✓	H	H	H	
25	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓	H	H	✓	
26	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	✓	
27	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			✓					
28	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓						
30	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
31	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus siculus</i>			✓					
32	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						H		
33	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H	H		H	H	
34	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H	H	H	H	✓	H	H	
35	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			H					
36	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		✓	H		✓	H		
37	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				✓				
38	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				H	H	✓	H	
39	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓		H	✓	✓		
40	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓		✓	
41	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
42	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓					
44	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				H	H			

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
45	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H						
46	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							✓	
47	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓			✓	✓	
48	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓		
50	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>					✓	✓	✓	
51	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				H		H	H	
52	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓				
54	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>							✓	
55	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
56	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		H	H		H		✓	
57	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓		✓			
58	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓				
59	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			H	H	✓			

## Mammals (LO = leader only)

1	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>			✓		✓	✓		
2	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>				signs				
3	Feral 'Wild' Pig					LO	✓	✓		

## Amphibians &amp; Reptiles

1	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>			✓				✓	✓
2	Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>							✓	
3	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
4	Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
5	Western Whip Snake	<i>Hierophis viridiflavus</i>							LO	✓

## Butterflies:

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓			✓	✓		
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>					✓	✓	✓	
5	Eastern Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>							✓	
6	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
7	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>					✓	✓	✓	
8	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>				✓				
9	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>					✓			
10	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>					✓	✓		
11	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓		✓	✓		
12	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
13	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>							✓	
14	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>						✓	✓	
15	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>						✓	✓	
16	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>			✓					
17	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea ornata (telona)</i>					✓			
18	Aetherie Fritillary	<i>Melitaea aetherie</i>					✓			
19	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					✓			
20	Southern Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>						✓		
21	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	



	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
23	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>		✓						

Moths (c = caterpillar)

1	Forester	<i>Adscita statures</i>					✓			
2	Grass Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>					C			
3	A Lackey (not found in UK)	<i>Malacosoma franconica</i>					C			
4	Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>		tent	tent		C	C		
5	an endemic Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia konewkaii</i>					✓			
6	Ragusa's Nine-spotted Moth	<i>Amata kruegeri</i>					✓			
7	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>					✓			

Other Invertebrates:

Darter sp., *Sympetrum* sp.

Assassin Bug, *Rhinocoris iracundus*

Beefly, *Bombylius* sp.

White-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus lucorum*

7-Spot Ladybird, *Coccinella 7-punctata*

A Sand Beetle, *Pimelia* sp.

Millipede sp.

Galls caused by, Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*

Lined Shieldbug, *Graphosoma lineatum*

Praying Mantis (larva), *Mantis religiosa*

Hairy-legged Mining Bee, *Dasygaster hirtipes*

Chafer, *Oxythyria funesta*

A red and black beetle, *Trichodes* sp.

Leaf Beetle, *Phyllodecta vitellinae*



Mt Etna



Nebrodi Alison