Crete in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 March - 2 April 2019





Anemone coronaria

Iris unguicularis subsp. cretensis





Tulipa saxatilis

White Mountains

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Tour Report Crete in Spring

Tour participants: David Tattersfield & Duncan McNiven (leaders) with 13 Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Tuesday 26th March

We left Gatwick on a mid-morning flight to Athens, where we changed planes and arrived in Heraklion at 7.30pm. We soon learned that Crete had experienced its wettest winter for over 100 years and that February storms had caused severe damage and disruption to the road system. The Kourtaliotiko Gorge, our usual route, was impassable, so we had to deviate through the neighbouring Kotsifou Gorge and then down a minor road to Plakias, The journey, mostly in the dark, passed without incident, except for a fleeting glimpse of a Barn Owl and we arrived at our hotel around 10pm for some much-needed sleep.

Day 2

Wednesday 27th March

The day got off to a sunny start. We left Plakias around 9am, observing four Little Egrets and a couple of little Ringed Plover on the shoreline. We made our first stop at the Turkish Bridge, where there was much evidence of the winter floods. The Mediterranen Storax, by the bridge, would normally be flowering at this time of year, but it was still in tight bud, a good indication that spring was arriving late. Across the road, in the olive groves, there were plenty of yellow flowers starting to appear on the Bermuda Buttercup *Oxalis pes-caprae*, alongside Purple Viper's Bugloss *Echium plantagineum*, which was attracting attention from a handsome Scarce Swallowtail butterfly. We made a further stop near a roadside memorial, where a scan of the hillsides revealed a few Blackeared Wheatear, Woodlark and a Subalpine Warbler. While some of the group visited Moni Preveli, the rest of us went in search of birds, near the monastery. On the rocky hillside we observed Sardinian Warbler and more Black-eared Wheatear, while Corn Buntings sang from the fences. We heard short but unmistakable calls of Common Nightingale and picked up three birds, skulking in a gully. A single Ruppell's Warbler proved to be a harder quarry and we only had the briefest of glimpses.

Heading back inland, we drove to the Kourtaliotiko Gorge, in the hope that it was accessible. We managed to drive over an earth barrier and stopped below the soaring cliffs. Nearby were Eurasian Crag Martins and a couple of Blue Rock Thrush, while overhead, numbers of Griffon Vulture, Western Jackdaw and Red-billed Chough played in the thermals and were joined by a pair of Bonelli's Eagles. Notable plants included Tree Spurge Euphorbia dendroides, Greek Spiny Spurge Euphorbia acanthothamnos, Cyclamen creticum, Burnt Candytuft Aethionema saxatile subsp. creticum, colourful patches of Mediterranean Catchfly Silene colorata and a few diminutive Rock Tulip Tulipa saxatilis.

Driving on, it was soon apparent why the road had been closed. In places it was entirely washed away, and rafts of broken tarmac hung perilously over the river. The worst section was under repair and thanks to the high clearance of the minibuses, we made it through. Up in the hills above Spili, we stopped for lunch before starting to explore the surrounding meadows and rocky knolls. There were lovely large plants of Perfoliate Alexanders Smyrnium perfoliatum and Large Mediterranean Spurge Euphorbia characias, alongside the track, and, in a fallow field, a wonderful display of bright red Crown Anemone Anemone coronaria. As a consequence of the late season, early-flowering species included Heldreich's Anemone Anemone heldreichii, Widow Iris Iris tuberosa and Cretan Iris Iris unguicularis subsp. cretensis. The orchid flowering season was just getting under way. The compact spikes of Milky Orchid Neotinea lactea, in various shades of pink, were common and most prominent and, after a careful search we located a range of bee orchids. These included Cretan Early Spider Orchid Ophrys sphegodes subsp. cretensis,

Sombre Bee Orchid Ophrys fusca subsp. cinereophila, Yellow Bee Orchid Ophrys lutea subsp. galilaea and small colonies of Bumblebee Orchid Ophrys bombyliflora. More flamboyant were fresh flowers of Heldreich's Orchid Ophrys scolopax subsp. heldreichii, Sawfly Orchid Ophrys tenthredinifera and a single plant of a clear hybrid between the latter and Bumblebee Orchid Ophrys ×sommieri. Moving on to another knoll, we added Cretan Bee Orchid Ophrys cretica, Late Spider Orchid Ophrys fuciflora subsp. fuciflora and Rainbow Orchid Ophrys fusca subsp. iricolor. On the damp slopes, we also found numbers of Bory's Orchid Anacamptis boryi, Sparse-flowered Orchid Orchis pauciflora, Four-spotted Orchid Orchis quadripunctata, the spectacular pink Naked Man Orchid Orchis italica and the more subtle Man Orchid Orchis anthropophora. Near the top of the hill was a large colony of Tulipa saxatilis. Clouds had rolled in during the afternoon, so we called it a day and headed back to Plakias via the Kotsifou Gorge.

Day 3

Thursday 28th March

We returned to the Kotsifou Gorge in the morning and did a short walk through the narrow canyon. On the screes and cliffs, we found a number of interesting endemics, such as the pink crucifer *Ricotia cretica*, the large yellow spathes of *Arum creticum*, Cretan Comfrey *Symphytum creticum*, bright yellow Shrubby Flax *Linum arboreum* and the grass *Sesleria doerfleri*. We stopped in Spili, for coffee and a brief stroll around its interesting streets, before heading south. The morning was punctuated by periods of rain and drizzle, so we made only a short stop to see some fine specimens of Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertianum*. Fortunately, when we reached Phaestos, the rain abated and it remained dry for most of the afternoon. After visiting the interesting archaeological site, we had lunch around the vehicles, while admiring some fine specimens of Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and Saccate-lipped Orchid *Anacamptis collina*. We moved on to an abandoned meadow at Agia Triada, where there were more interesting finds. There were large patches of the showy white Turban Buttercup *Ranunculus asiaticus*, quantities of Pink Garlic *Allium trifoliatum* and Wild Gladiolus *Gladiolus italicus*. Among the orchids, were a good number of the very variable *Ophrys cretica*, Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid *Serapias vomeracea* subsp. *laxiflora* and fine specimens of Eastern Tongue-orchid *Serapias orientalis*.

It was time to redress the balance, by adding some new birds to our list, so we visited the small coastal lagoon at Kokkinos. On the water there were a number of Ruff, Common Sandpiper and Black-winged Stilt, with singles of Little Stint, Common Greenshank, Green Sandpiper and a couple of very smart Marsh Sandpiper. A Squacco Heron flew across and we had the rare sight of a Spotted Crake, along the water's edge. Overhead, there was more action from four Western Marsh Harriers, 20 or so Glossy Ibis and a flock of 2-300 Garganey, some way out to sea. There were some new plants here too, including a Tasselweed, in the lagoon, confirmed later as Beaked Tasselweed *Ruppia maritima*. It had been an exciting afternoon and, as the rain returned, we headed back to Plakias for our evening meal.

Day 4

Friday 29th March

Friday was to be one of those days when we may have been justified in staying at the hotel: the weather was atrocious. We drove west, along the coast, to the headland at Frangocastello, where we parked by 14th-century Venetian Fort. The wind was so strong, that we even had difficulty getting out of the vehicles. A very brief foray produced a number of Willow Warblers, in the reeds, and around 20 Sandwich Terns. Further west, at the foot of the Imbros Gorge, the wind was blowing at force 10 and it would have been suicidal to even attempt our planned walk. However, as we had come this-far, and made arrangements for lunch, we persevered and took the winding road alongside the gorge up to the Taverna Imbros, where our walk would have started. We were

extremely grateful to the staff for turning out, just for us, and their traditional pancakes and honey were greatly enjoyed. The wind was not as strong, here, but the temperature was a cool 4°C.

We drove further inland beyond the Askifou plateau, to get, at least, a visual impression of the amazing landscape. We returned down to the bottom of the gorge and continued to the little coastal village of Hora Sfakion. Few of the tavernas were open, but we did find one that was able to serve us drinks. Another large flock of Garganey could be seen offshore and a Eurasian Wryneck was observed in a garden, at the back of the village. The return journey was uneventful and we were back in Plakias around 4.15pm.

Day 5

Saturday 30th March

The strong winds had continued overnight and showed little signs of abating. Before leaving Plakias, we explored the beach and coastal cliffs, at the eastern end of the bay.

On the dunes there were masses Sea Daffodil Pancratium maritimum, carpets of pink Silene colorata, and Sea Spurge Euphorbia paralias, all helping to bind the wind-blown sand. Thorny shrubs of Mediterranean Thyme Thymbra capitata were common and often covered by the striking orange threads of Common Dodder Cuscuta epithymum. We passed under the dramatic cliffs of the Plakias fault, where Shrubby Mullein Verbascum arcturus and Caper Capparis spinosa grew from cracks in the vertical rock. Some of us braved the gusty wind and walked as far as the wartime tunnels, where we found the curious flowers of Cretan Birthwort Aristolochia cretica, before a heavy shower sent us scurrying back to the shelter of the vehicles.

As we drove north, the rain continued so we pulled in to a taverna in Armeni, hoping to find a dry place to have lunch. Once again, the generous hospitality of the locals came to our aid and, in exchange for the purchase of drinks, we enjoyed our picnic, with the added comfort of a wood-burning stove. Miraculously, the rain stopped for our visit to the late-Minoan cemetery, just beyond the village. We wandered among the many rock-cut tombs under a canopy of Valonia Oak *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis*, a species with large shaggy acorn cups, traditionally used in the tanning industry. Lots of white *Cyclamen creticum* grew under the trees with many fine orchids including Giant, Naked Man, Sawfly, Late Spider, Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid, Common Tongue-orchid *Serapias lingua* and Pink Butterfly Orchid *Anacamptis papilionacea*.

At Georgioupoulis, on the north coast, a stop for ice creams and coffee lifted our spirits, while the rain hammered down outside. A brief stop at the nearby lake was rather disappointing for birds, so we carried on to visit the Allied War Cemetery, at the head of Souda Bay. We arrived at our hotel in Hania at 5.30pm and after settling in and catching up with our checklists, we went out for our evening meal, just around the corner.

Day 6

Sunday 31st March

At last, we had a dry day, with only moderate wind. We spent a very productive morning at Agia Lake, the largest and best of Crete's freshwater wetlands. We counted 10 Little Egrets, over 50 Grey Heron and a single purple Heron, in the reeds. Out on the water, we saw Garganey, Tufted Duck, Coot, Moorhen, Great Cormorant and a European Shag while a couple of Kingfishers made regular appearances. We were treated to no less than eight Western Marsh Harriers and it was a thrill to see an Osprey and a lovely male Pallid Harrier. Common House Martin, Barn Swallow and Red-rumped Swallow zoomed low over the water, catching insects, and Cetti's

Warbler and Sedge Warbler were audible, but hard to see in the dense reeds. The lake's star resident is the secretive Little Crake and after a careful search along the water's edge, we managed to see three males and a female.

Returning to Hania, it was convenient to have our lunch at the hotel, before heading off to the Akrotiri peninsula. Some of the group enjoyed a visit to the Agia Triada Monastery, while the rest of us investigated the birds and botany, outside. We had good views of Eurasian Hoopoe, before moving on to the ancient Olive groves and scrubby landscape of the peninsula. A variety of small birds included Goldfinch. Linnet and European Greenfinch and we had good views of Common Cuckoo and a perched Wryneck. There were good plants here, as well. We were surrounded by the dramatic, but malodorous, purple spathes of Dragon Arum Dracunculus vulgaris and by our feet were the yellow flowers of the Cretan form of Yellow Pheasant's-eye Adonis microcarpa subsp. cretica and Sickle-fruited Hypecoum Hypecoum procumbens.

Our final destination was the Gouverneto Monastery, where we added a Common Rock Thrush and a Lesser Whitethroat to our expanding list. We descended the rocky, phrygana-covered slopes, as far as the Cave of St. John, finding two tiny endemic onions, *Allium rubrovittatum* and *Allium circinnatum* subsp. *circinnatum*, the latter with leaves resembling coiled watch springs. We were back at our hotel around 6pm and walked down to our chosen taverna, at the end of the harbour, for our evening meal.

Day 7 Monday 1st April

We dropped the group off in Hania to allow a visit to the market and a short exploration of the town. Parts of the harbour wall had suffered from the severe weather and some of the restaurants were still clearing up the damage to their property. We returned to Agia Lake for a shorter visit, before heading into the mountains, where we had heard that the road had just been reopened. On the way, there was a lot of evidence of flood damage to the roads and bridges and at Lakki, the road was just passable, with inches to spare. It was no surprise to find snow on the Omalos plateau and our normal taverna closed. However, we were warmly welcomed at the hotel and were able to eat our lunch in comfort. Outside, the sun was shining but it was a chilly 5°C, as we set off across the plateau.

Our bird sightings included a pair of Golden Eagles, a number of Griffon Vultures and Red-billed Chough and among the smaller birds, we recorded Woodlark, Tree Sparrow. Northern Wheatear, flocks of Goldfinch and a few Stonechat. The hoped-for tulips and anemones were still in tight bud and we only saw a few flowers of the deep purple sand-crocus Romulea linaresii subsp. graeca and a Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem Gagea chrysantha. The road to the head of the Samaria Gorge had been snow-ploughed and a very wintery scene greeted us. The summits of the mountains were blanketed by snow and a thick rime of hoar frost, which glistened in the sun. Ancient gnarled trees of Cupressus sempervirens var. horizontalis framed the view into the depths of the gorge. By the café, Cretan Maple Acer sempervirens and Cretan Zelkova Zelkova abelicea, Crete's only endemic tree, were yet to come into leaf. After completing a circuit of the plateau, we made a final short visit to Agia Lake, on the way back to Hania.

Day 8

Tuesday 2nd April

We left Hania around 8am, which allowed us time to visit the famous archaeological site of Knossos, on the outskirts of Heraklion, before heading to the airport to check in for the return flight.

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Species Lists

Carpobrotus edulis var. rubescens ‡

Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum ‡

Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima

Amaranthaceae

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

Common name **Notes PTERIDOPHYTES FERNS AND FERN ALLIES** Spleenwort Family **Aspleniaceae** Rock crevices. Common Asplenium ceterach Rustyback Dennstaedtiaceae **Bracken Family** Pteridium aquilinum Bracken Locally common **Equisetaceae Horsetail Family** Equisetum ramosissimum Branched Horsetail Hedges Equisetum telmateia Giant Horsetail Wet areas. Agia **Pteridaceae** Maidenhair Fern Family Adiantum capillus-veneris Maidenhair Fern Wet rocks **Lesser Clubmoss Family** Selaginellaceae Selaginella denticulata Mediterranean Clubmoss Damp earth **CONIFERS AND ALLIES GYMNOSPERMS Araucariaceae** Monkey-puzzle Family Araucaria heterophylla ‡ Norfolk Island Pine Cultivated. Coastal **Juniper Family** Cupressaceae Cupressus sempervirens forma. horizontalis Common. Sea-level to treeline Cypress Cultivated Cupressus sempervirens subsp. sempervirens ‡ Italian Cypress Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. macrocarpa Sea Juniper Coastal. Plakias Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus Prickly Juniper Frequent. Mountains Juniperus phoenicea subsp. phoenicea Phoenicean Juniper Occasional. Lowland **Pinaceae** Pine Family Pinus halepensis subsp. brutia Calabrian Pine Frequent native tree Stone Pine Cultivated near coasts Pinus pinea ‡ **ANGIOSPERMS FLOWERING PLANTS DICOTYLEDONS Acanthaceae Bear's-breeches Family** Acanthuus mollis ‡ Bear's-breeches Cutivated Frequent Acanthus spinosus Spiny Bear's-breeches **Aizoaceae Dewplant Family** Carpobrotus edulis var.edulis ‡ Yellow Hottentot-fig Coastal alien

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Slenderleaf Iceplant

Goosefoot Family

Sea Beet

Coastal alien

Sandy coast

Maritime sand

Latin name Common name **Notes** Nettle-leaved Goosefoot Waste areas Chenopodiastrum murale Chenopodium album Fat-hen Waste areas Salsola kali **Prickly Saltwort** Plakias beach Suaeda vera Shrubby Sea-blite Coastal rocks Anacardiaceae **Sumach Family** Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree Common in maquis Pistacia terebinthus **Turpentine Tree** Frequent in maquis and gorges Schinus molle ‡ Californian Pepper Tree Cultivated **Apiaceae Carrot Family** Crithmum maritimum Rock Samphire Maritime rocks Wild Carrot Frequent Daucus carota Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo Common Eryngium creticum Cretan Eryngo Frequent Eryngium maritimum Sea Holly Sand dunes Ferula communis Giant Fennel Common Foeniculum vulgare subsp. piperitum Wild Fennel Common Lecokia cretica Lecokia Damp roadsides and Spili Hill Oenanthe pimpinelloides Corky-fruited Water Dropwort Moist woodland and fields Orlava daucoides An Orlaya Frequent Sand dunes. Plakias Pseudorlaya pumila **Dune Carrot** Shepherd's-needle Scandix pecten-veneris Common Smyrnium olusatrum Alexanders Common Smyrnium perfoliatum subsp. perfoliatum Perfoliate Alexanders Locally common Thapsia garganica Thapsia Rocky places. Fields Tordylium apulum Mediterranean Hartwort Common Torilis leptophylla A Bur-parsley Frequent Torilis nodosa Knotted Bur-parsley Common **Apocynaceae Dogbane Family** Nerium oleander Oleander Riverbeds, Planted on roadsides Plumeria rubra ‡ Frangipani Cultivated Vinca major ‡ Greater Periwinkle Garden escape **Araliaceae** Ivy Family Hedera helix lvy Common Aristolochiaceae **Birthwort Family** Plakias headland Aristolochia cretica • Cretan Birthwort Aristolochia sempervirens Evergreen Birthwort Agia Lake **Asteraceae Daisy Family** Southern Yarrow Achillea ligustica Frequent Achillea maritima Cottonweed Sand dunes Aetheorhiza bulbosa Tuberous Hawk's-beard Widespread Anthemis arvensis Corn Chamomile Frequent. Fallow fields Anthemis chia Greek Chamomile Common Anthemis rigida Rayless Chamomile Common Roadsides near Souda Artemisia arborescens Shrubby Wormwood Bellis annua **Annual Daisy** Frequent in phrygana

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Common Common

Daisy

Southern Daisy

Bellis perennis

Bellis sylvestris

Latin name Common name **Notes** Bellium minutum Plakias headland Field Marigold Calendula arvensis Common Plymouth Thistle Rocky places. Waste ground Carduus pycnocephalus Carlina corymbosa subsp. curetum • A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Rocky places A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Carlina corymbosa subsp. graeca Rocky places Centaurea calcitrapa Red Star-thistle Occasional Centaurea raphanina subsp. raphanina • Common on rocks Centaurea solstitialis Yellow Star-thistle Occasional North coast beaches Centaurea spinosa Spiny Knapweed Chondrilla juncea Rush Skeletonweed Sandy and waste places Cichorium spinosum Spiny Chicory Common Crepis vesicaria Beaked Hawk's-beard Olive groves and stony places A Wild Artichoke Cynara cornigera Rocky places Globe Artichoke Cultivated Cynara scolymus ‡ Dittrichia graveolens Aromatic Inula Common Dittrichia viscosa Stink Aster Common Echinops spinossisimus Spiniest Globe Thistle Common Erigeron bonariensis ‡ Argentine Fleabane Frequent on roadsides Evax Frequent Evax pygmaea **Broad-leaved Cudweed** Common Filago pyramidata Galactites tomentosa Galactites Common Plakias headland Geropogon hybridus Slender Salsify Glebionis coronaria Crown Daisy Common Glebionis segetum Corn Marigold Frequent Phrygana and fallow fields Hedypnois rhagadioloides Scaly Hawkbit Helichrysum stoechas subsp. barrelieri Golden Cassidony Rocky places Helichrysum microphyllum A Curry Plant Rocky places in mountains Helminthotheca echioides **Bristly Oxtongue** Olive groves and fallow fields Hypochaeris achyrophorus Mediterranean Cat's-ear Rocky places Hypochaeris cretensis Southern Cat's-ear Widespread Hypochaeris glabra Smooth Cat's-ear Rocky places Hypochaeris radicata Common Cat's-ear Rocky places Lactuca serriola Prickly Lettuce Waste areas Lamyropsis cynaroides Rocky places Leontodon tuberosus **Tuberous Hawkbit** Phrygana Matricaria recutita Scented Mayweed Roadsides near sea-level Notobasis syriaca Syrian Thistle Common. Roadsides and waste areas Onopordum bracteatum subsp. creticum • Cretan Cotton Thistle Coastal sand and rocky places Pallenis spinosa Spiny Golden-star Common Phagnalon graecum Shrubby Cudweed Rocks, cliffs and walls Picnomon acarna Yellow-spine Thistle Stony ground and roadsides Cliffs and rocky banks Shrubby Ptilostemon Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Rhagadiolus stellatus Star Hawkbit Common Reichardia picroides A Reichardia Rocky places and coastal sand Scorzonera cretica • Cretan Viper's-grass Cliffs. Plakias headland Senecio rupestris Rock Groundsel Kotsifou Gorge Senecio vulgaris Groundsel Common Silybum marianum Milk Thistle Common. Waste areas Prickly Sow-thistle Waste areas Sonchus asper Sonchus bulbosus subsp. microcephalus Tuberous Hawk's-beard Widespread Sonchus oleraceus Smooth Sow-thistle Waste areas Staehelina petiolata • Cliffs Common Tragopogon porrifolius Salsify

Latin name Common name Notes

Urospermum picroidesPrickly GoldenfleeceDisturbed groundXanthium spinosum ‡Spiny CockleburAlien weedXanthium strumarium ‡CockleburAlien weed

Berberidaceae Barberry Family

Berberis cretica Cretan Barberry Mountains

Bignoniaceae Jacaranda Family

Jacaranda ovalifolia ‡ Jacaranda Cultivated

Boraginaceae Borage Family

Anchusa italicaLarge Blue AlkanetRoadsidesAnchusa variegataVariegated AnchusaKotsifou GorgeBorago officinalisBorageWeedy placesCerinthe majorHoneywortTurkish BridgeCynoglossum columnaeA Hound's-tongueOccasional

Cynoglossum creticum

Blue Hound's-tongue

Common

Echium angustifolium Narrow-leaved Bugloss Common near coast

Echium italicum subsp. biebersteiniiPale BuglossCommonEchium plantagineumPurple Viper's BuglossCommon

Onosma graecum A Golden-drops Armeni Minoan Cemetery

Symphytum creticum Cretan Comfrey Shady cliffs

Brassicaceae Cabbage Family

Aethionema saxatile subsp. creticumBurnt CandytuftDry rocky placesAlyssum simplexAn AlisonDry rocky places

Arabidopsis thalianaThale CressCommonArabis vernaSpring Rock-cressFrequentAubrieta deltoideaAubretiaOmalosBiscutella didymaBuckler MustardCommon

Brassica cretica subsp. creticaCretan CabbageImbros GorgeBrassica nigra ‡Black MustardRoadsidesBunias erucagoBuniasWeedy placesCakile maritimaSea RocketPlakias beach

Capsella bursa-pastorisShepherd's-purseCommonCardamine hirsutaHairy Bitter-cressCommonCheiranthus cheiri ‡WallflowerGarden escapeCoronopus didymusLesser Swine-cressGarden weedErophila vernaCommon Whitlow-grassCommon

Eruca sativa Garden Rocket Olive groves and fallow fields

Lepidium drabaHoary CressArmeniLunaria annua subsp. pachyrhizaHonestyOccasional

Malcolmia chia A Malcomia Phrygana near sea-level

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

Matthiola tricuspidata Three-horned Stock Coasts

Nasturtium officinaleWater-cressWet ditches and streamsRicotia cretica •RicotiaGorges and screes

Sinapis alba White Mustard Roadsides

Sisymbrium officinale Hedge Mustard Weedy places

Cactaceae Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-indica ‡ Prickly Pear Cultivated and naturalised

Latin name Common name **Notes** Campanulaceae **Bellflower Family** Annual Bellflower Campanula erinus Frequent Campanula saxatilis subsp. saxatilis • Walls of Katholikou Petromarula pinnata• Petromarula Common Capparaceae **Caper Family** Capparis spinosa Caper Frequent on cliffs Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family Lonicera etrusca Etruscan Honeysuckle Occasional Caryophyllaceae **Pink Family** Occasional Levantine Mouse-ear Cerastium comatum Cerastium glomeratum Sticky Mouse-ear **Omalos** Cerastium scaposum • Cretan Mouse-ear **Omalos** Petrorhagia velutina Kohlrauschia Frequent. Rocky places Sagina apetala **Annual Pearlwort** Common Silene behen Hairless Catchfly Coastal sand. Rocky places Silene bellidifolia Daisy-leaved Catchfly Waste areas Silene colorata Common Mediterranean Catchfly Small-flowered Catchfly Silene gallica Common Silene gigantea Giant Catchfly Cliffs. Kotsifou Gorge Silene vulgaris **Bladder Campion** Frequent Spergula arvensis Corn Spurrey Fallow fields Spergularia bocconei A Sea Spurrey Maritime sand Stellaria cupaniana A Chickweed Weedy places Stellaria media Common Chickweed Common. Weedy places Cistaceae **Rock-rose Family** Cistus creticus Pink Cistus Common Cistus monspeliensis Narrow-leaved Cistus Frequent in maquis Cistus salvifolius Sage-leaved Cistus Locally common Fumana arabica Mediterranean Rock-rose Common. Rocky places Fumana thymifolia Thyme-leaved Rock-rose Common. Rocky places Convolvulaceae **Bindweed Family** Mallow-leaved Bindweed Convolvulus althaeoides Common Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed Frequent. Waste places Olive-leaved Bindweed Convolvulus oleifolius Dry rocky places Field Dodder Cuscuta campestris ‡ Moni Preveli Cuscuta epithymum Common Dodder Frequent parasite Cultivated Ipomea indica ‡ A Morning Glory Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family Cliffs Rosularia serrata Petrosedum sediforme Pale Stonecrop Rocky places Sedum acre Biting Stonecrop Rocks and walls Sedum album White Stonecrop Rocky places Sedum amplexicaule subsp. tenuifolium Rocky places Sedum creticum var. monocarpicum • Cliffs. Kotsifou Gorge Sedum laconicum Rocky mountain slopes

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Coastal Stonecrop

Rocks

Rocky phrygana

Sedum litoreum

Sedum praesidis •

Latin name Common name **Notes**

Sedum rubens Red Stonecrop Rocky places

Tillaea muscosa Seasonally damp bare places Mossy Stonecrop

Umbilicus parviflorus Yellow Pennywort Shaded cliffs

Cucurbitaceae **Cucumber Family**

Bryonia cretica White Bryony Frequent Ecballium elaterium Squirting Cucumber Waste places

Dipsacaceae **Teasel Family**

Knautia integrifolia A Scabious Occasional in phrygana

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 Autumn Heather Locally common. Autumn-flowering

Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family

Fabaceae

Euphorbia acanthothamnos Greek Spiny Spurge Common Small Spurge Bare ground Euphorbia chamaesyce Euphorbia characias subsp. characias Large Mediterranean Spurge Widespread

Euphorbia dendroides Tree Spurge Maritime cliffs Euphorbia exigua **Dwarf Spurge** Bare ground Euphorbia helioscopia Sun Spurge Widespread Euphorbia paralias Sea Spurge Maritime sand Euphorbia peplus Petty Spurge Bare ground Mercurialis annua Common **Annual Mercury**

Ricinus communis ‡ Castor-oil-plant Frequent naturalised weed

Pea Family

Cultivated Acacia pycnantha ‡ Golden Wattle Cultivated Acacia retinoides ‡ Swamp Wattle

Acacia saligna ‡ Blue-leaved Wattle Cultivated

Bean Trefoil Scrub and waste areas Anagyris foetida

Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora A Kidney Vetch Common Bituminaria bituminosa Pitch Trefoil Common Calicotome villosa Hairy Thorny Broom Common Ceratonia siliqua Carob Common

Cercis siliquastrum ‡ Judus Tree Frequently cultivated Chamaecytisus creticus Cretan Dwarf Broom Occasional in phrygana

Ebenus cretica • Shrubby Sainfoin Cliffs and hillsides Common Genista acanthoclada Spiny Broom

Hymenocarpus circinnatus Disc Trefoil Widespread Lathyrus clymenum Crimson Pea Frequent Winged Vetchling Lathyrus ochrus Armeni 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 Grey Bird's-foot Trefoil Sands and rocks near the sea

Lotus tetragonolobus Asparagus Pea Widespread Lupinus angustifolius Narrow-leaved Lupin Stony ground Occasional Medicago arabica Spotted Medick

Common name Latin name **Notes** Tree Medick Cultivated and naturalised Medicago arborea Disc Medick Stony ground near the sea Medicago disciformis 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 truncatula A Medick Rocky and sandy places **Small Melilot** Melilotus indicus Widespread Ononis spinosa subsp. diacantha Spiny Restharrow Rocky places Ornithopus compressus Compressed Bird's-foot Rocky places Robinia pseudoacacia ‡ False Acacia Cultivated and naturalised Scorpion Vetch Rocky and sandy places Scorpiurus muricatus Securigera cretica Cretan Crown Vetch Weedy places Securigera securidaca Hatchet Vetch Widespread Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Roadsides and maquis Trifolium campestre Hop Trefoil Rocky and sandy places Trifolium fragiferum Strawberry Clover Bare ground Trifolium nigrescens **Annual White Clover** Moist habitats White Clover Widespread Trifolium repens Trifolium resupinatum Reversed Clover Coastal sands Trifolium stellatum Starry Clover Common Olive groves and fallow fields Trifolium subterraneum **Burrowing Clover** Trifolium tomentosum Woolly Trefoil Fields and rocky places Trifolium uniflorum One-flowered Clover Widespread Tripodion tetraphyllum Bladder Vetch Common Vicia bithynica Bithynian Vetch Widespread Vicia hybrida Hairy Yellow Vetchling Common Vicia lathyroides Spring Vetch Phrygana Vicia lutea Yellow-vetch Common A Vetch Vicia pubescens Occasional Vicia sativa subsp. sativa ‡ Common Vetch Escape from cultivation Vicia tenuifolia Fine-leaved Vetch Common Vicia villosa Fodder Vetch Common Wisteria sinensis ‡ Wisteria Cultivated **Beech Family Fagaceae** Cultivated and occasionally Castanea sativa ‡ Sweet Chestnut naturalised Kermes Oak Common Quercus coccifera subsp. calliprinos Quercus ilex Holm Oak Frequent Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis Valonia Oak Common around Armeni Downy Oak Common around Armeni Quercus pubescens Frankeniaceae Sea-heath Family Frankenia hirsuta Hairy Sea-heath Maritime rocks and sand **Fumariaceae Fumitory Family** Fumaria capreolata White Ramping Fumitory Frequent Fumaria officinalis Common Fumitory Weedy places and fields Gentianaceae **Gentian Family**

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Damp places

Yellow-wort

Blackstonia perfoliata subsp. intermedia

Latin name

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium
Erodium gruinum
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

Ballota acetabulosa

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia ‡

Lamiaceae

Ballota nigra
Ballota pseudodictamnus
Clinopodium vulgare
Lamium amplexicaule
Lavandula stoechas
Marrubium vulgare
Mentha aquatica
Micromeria juliana

Nepeta melissifolia Origanum dictamnus • Origanum microphyllum •

Micromeria nervosa

Origanum onites Phlomis cretica Phlomis fruticosa Prasium majus Prunella vulgaris

Salvia fruticosa Salvia verbenaca Satureja thymbra Scutellaria sieberi •

Sideritis syriaca subsp. syriaca • Stachys cretica subsp. cretica

Stachys ocymastrum Stachys spinosa • Teucrium capitatum

Thymbra capitata
Vitex agnus-castus

Common name

Crane's-bill Family

Shining Crane's-bill

Common Stork's-bill Disturbed areas and coastal sands
Long-beaked Stork's-bill Phrygana and riverbeds
Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill Olive groves and rocky places
Musk Stork's-bill Olive groves and rocky places
Long-stalked Crane's-bill Rocky places
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Damp ground

Notes

Shady 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- Maquis

wort

Perfoliate St John's-wort Rocky places
Perforate St John's-wort Rocky places
Wavy-leaved st John's-wort Common

Walnut Family

Walnut Cultivated

Dead-nettle Family

Garden Horehound Riverbeds near sea-level

Black Horehound Waste places
False Dittany Rocky phrygana
Wild Basil Maquis and phrygana

Henbit Dead-nettle Common
French Lavender Local in maquis
White Horehound Waste places
Water Mint Wet places
Micromeria Rocky places
Rocky places

A Cat-mint Rare. Agia Triada

Cretan Dittany Cliffs

White Marjoram Occasional
Cretan Jerusalem Sage Locally common

Jerusalem Sage Common Prasium Common

Self-heal Occasional. Damp places

Greek Sage Common
Wild Clary Common

Satureia Maquis and phrygana
A Skullcap Cliffs and rocky banks
Mountain Tea Mountains

Mountain Tea Mountains

Mediterranean Woundwort Common

A Woundwort Waste places

Spiny Wounwort Local Felty Germander Rocky

Felty Germander Rocky places
Mediterranean Thyme Common

Chaste Tree Gorge-beds and damp places

Latin name Common name **Notes** Lauraceae **Laurel Family** Top of Kotsifou Gorge Laurus nobilis Bay Flax Family Linaceae Linum arboreum Shrubby Flax Cliffs in gorges Linum bienne Biennial Flax Frequent Lythraceae **Loosestrife Family** Creeping Loosestrife Wet ditches Lythrum junceum Malvaceae **Mallow Family** Althaea hirsuta Hairy Mallow Frequent Hibiscus rosa-sinensis ‡ Hibiscus Cultivated Lavatera bryoniifolia Bryony-leaved Mallow Common Malva arborea Tree Mallow Coast. Hania Malva cretica Cretan Mallow Waste areas Malva parviflora Least Mallow Rocky places near the sea Common Mallow Malva sylvestris Common Meliaceae **Mahogany Family** Melia azedarach ‡ Persian Lilac Cultivated Moraceae **Mulberry Family** Fig Ficus carica Frequent Ficus elastica ‡ Rubber Plant Cultivated Morus alba ‡ White Mulberry Cultivated **Myoporum Family** Myoporaceae Myoporum laetum ‡ Cultivated Ngaio Myrtaceae Myrtle Family Callistemon viminalis ‡ Bottlebrush Cultivated Eucalyptus camaldulensis ‡ River Red Gum Cultivated Common Myrtle Occasional along watercourses Myrtus communis Nyctaginaceae **Bougainvillea Family** Bougainvillea glabra ‡ Cultivated Bougainvillea Oleaceae **Olive Family** Wild Olive Olea europaea var. sylvestris Occasional in phrygana Phillyrea latifolia Mock Privet Occasional in maquis Onagraceae Willowherb Family Greater Willowherb Wet ditches Epilobium hirsutum Orobanchaceae **Broomrape Family** Frequent in meadows Bellardia trixago Bellardia Orobanche alba Thyme Broomrape Occasional Parentucellia latifolia Southern Red Bartsia Common Phelipanche ramosa **Branched Broomrape** Parasitic on Oxalis pes-caprae Oxalidaceae **Wood-sorrel Family**

14 © Naturetrek March 20

Bermuda Buttercup

Oxalis pes-caprae ‡

Common weed

Latin name Common name **Notes Papaveraceae Poppy Family** Coast Glaucium flavum Yellow Horned Poppy Papaver apulum Occasional Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy Common **Pittosporaceae Pittosporum Family** Cultivated Pittosporum tobira ‡ A Pittosporum **Plantaginaceae Plantain Family** Plantago afra Glandular Plantain Common Plantago bellardii Hairy Plantain Common Plantago cretica A Plantain Rocky places near coast Hare's-foot Plantain Plantago lagopus Frequent Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain Olive groves. Damp places Plantago major **Greater Plantain** Damp places Plantago weldenii A Buck's-horn Plantain Coastal **Platanaceae Plane Family** Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane River valleys Plumbaginaceae **Thrift Family** Limonium sinuatum Coastal sands Winged Sea-lavender Polygalaceae Milk-wort Family Mediterranean Milkwort Occasional Polygala monspeliaca Polygala myrtifolia ‡ Myrtle-leaved Milkwort Cultivated Polygala venulosa Eastern Milkwort Frequent Polygonaceae **Dock Family** Persicaria maculosa Willow-leaved Knotgrass Agia Lake Polygonum aviculare Knotgrass Disturbed ground Olive groves. Roadsides Polygonum equisetiforme Horsetail Knotgrass Polygonum maritimum Sea Knotgrass Coastal sands Common Rumex bucephalophorus Bull's-head Dock Clustered Dock Wet places Rumex conglomeratus Rumex tuberosus subsp. creticus **Tuberous Dock** Rocky places Portulacaceae **Purslane Family** Portulaca oleracea Purslane Disturbed ground Primulaceae **Primrose Family** Cretan Sowbread Cyclamen creticum • Locally common A Greek Sowbread Widespread Cyclamen graecum subsp. candicum • Lysimachia arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel Common Lysimachia foemina Blue Pimpernel Common Lysimachia linum-stellatum Asterolinon Frequent Samolus valerandi **Brookweed** Wet rocks. Georgioupolis **Punicaceae Pomegranate Family** Punica granatum ‡ Pomegranate Cultivated

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Yellow Pheasant's-eye

Akrotiri peninsula

Buttercup Family

Ranunculaceae

Adonis microcarpa subsp. cretica •

Latin name Common name **Notes** Crown Anomone Gious Kambos. Omalos Anemone coronaria Anemone hortensis subsp. heldreichii Heldreich's Anemone Widespread Clematis cirrhosa Virgin's Bower Occasional. Maquis and roadsides Ficaria verna subsp. chrysocephala A Lesser Celandine Common Turban Buttercup Ranunculus asiaticus Locally common Ranunculus bulbosus subsp. aleae **Bulbous Buttercup** Moist shady places Ranunculus bullatus Autumn Buttercup Locally common Ranunculus chius Widespread Ranunculus creticus Cretan Buttercup Shady cliffs Rough-fruited Buttercup Ranunculus muricatus Moist places Ranunculus paludosus Jersey Buttercup Locally common Resedaceae **Mignonette Family** Reseda alba White Mignonette Waste areas Weld Waste areas Reseda luteola Rhamnaceae **Buckthorn Family** Rhamnus lycioides subsp. oleoides A Buckthorn Frequent in phrygana Rosaceae **Rose Family** Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn Common Cultivated Cydonia oblonga ‡ Quince Japanese Loquat Cultivated Eriobotrya japonica ‡ Poterium sanguisorba subsp. verrucosa Salad Burnet Frequent Prunus dulcis ‡ Almond Cultivated Prunus persica ‡ Peach Cultivated Pyracantha coccinea ‡ Firethorn Cultivated **Domestic Pear** Pyrus communis‡ Cultivated Almond-leaved Pear Pyrus spinosa Common Rosa canina Dog-rose Frequent Rosa sempervirens Evergreen Rose Frequent A Bramble Common Rubus sanctus Sarcopoterium spinosum Thorny Burnet Common Rubiaceae **Bedstraw Family** Galium aparine Cleavers Waste places Galium fruticosum • A shrubby Bedstraw Cliffs Rubia peregrina Wild Madder Frequent in scrub Field Madder Sherardia arvensis Common Valantia Valentia hispida Dry rocky places Valentia muralis Wall Valantia Dry rocky places Rutaceae **Rue Family** Citrus limon ‡ Cultivated Lemon Citrus sinensis ‡ Cultivated Orange Salicaceae **Willow Family** Populus alba ‡ White Poplar Common Salix alba ‡ White Willow By rivers Santalaceae **Bastard-toadflax Family** Osyris alba Osyris Locally common

Latin name Common name **Notes**

Sapindaceae **Maple Family**

Cretan Maple Common. Mountains Acer sempervirens

Figwort Family

Spiny Mullein

Scrophulariaceae

Scrophularia auriculata Water Figwort Wet ditches Scrophularia lucida Shining Figwort Occasional Common on cliffs Verbascum arcturus • Shrubby Mullein Verbascum macrurum A Mullein Common Verbascum sinuatum Wavy-leaved Mullien Common Verbascum spinosum • Common

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima ‡ Tree-of-heaven Naturalised

Solanaceae

Nightshade Family Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane Weedy places and walls. Hania Mandragora autumnalis Mandrake Frequent Nicotiana glauca ‡ Shrub Tobacco Naturalised along roadsides Solanum nigrum Black Nightshade Weedy places

Storax Family

Tamarisk Family

Tree-of-heaven Family

Styracaceae

Styrax officinalis Mediterranean Storax Frequent

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix parviflora Small-flowered Tamarisk Coastal Planted. Plakias beach Tamarix smyrnensis ‡ A Tamarisk

Thymelaeaceae Mezereon Family

Thymelaea hirsuta Hairy Thymelaea Rocky places near the sea

Elm Family

Nettle Family

Ulmaceae

Ulmus minor ‡ Small-leaved Elm Occasional, Planted Zelkova abelicea • Cretan Zelkova Omalos plateau

Urticaceae

Parietaria cretica Cretan Pellitory Rocks and walls Parietaria judaica Pellitory-of-the-Wall Rocks and walls Urtica membranacea Membranous Nettle Weedy places Roman Nettle Urtica pilulifera Weedy places Urtica urens Small Nettle Weedy places

Valerianaceae

Valerian Family Centranthus calcitrapa Annual Valerian Rocky places Centranthus ruber ‡ Red Valerian Walls Fedia cornucopiae Fedia Rocky places Valeriana asarifolia • Cretan Valerian Cliffs and rocky places

Valerianella coronata A Corn Salad Rocky places Valerianella echinata A Corn Salad Rocky places

Verbenaceae **Vervain Family**

Lantana camara ‡ Lantana Cultivated

Verbena officinalis Vervain Frequent. Waste areas

Latin name Common name **Notes** Veronicaceae Speedwell Family Cymbalaria muralis ‡ Ivy-leaved Toadflax Walls Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax Frequent in phrygana Misopates orontium Weasel's-snout Occasional Streams Veronica anagallis-aquatica Water Speedwell Veronica arvensis Wall Speedwell Widespread Veronica cymbalaria Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell Widespread Veronica persica ‡ Common Field Speedwell Naturalised near the sea Viburnaceae Viburnum Family Sambucus nigra ‡ Elder Naturalised around villages Vitaceae Vine Family Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris Wild Vine Occasional Vitis vinifera subsp. vinifera ‡ Cultivated Grape Vine Zygophyllaceae **Caltrop Family** Tribulus terrestris Maltese Cross Waste areas **MONOCOTYLEDONS Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family** Wild Leek Occasional Allium ampeloprasum Allium circinnatum subsp. circinnatum • Akrotiri peninsula Allium nigrum Black Garlic Meadows Allium subhirsutum Hairy Garlic Occasional Allium rubrovittatum • Stony ground. Akrotiri Abandoned fields Allium trifoliatum Pink Garlic Polyanthus Daffodil Narcissus tazetta Gious Kambos Pancratium maritimum Sea Daffodil Sand dunes **Arum Family Araceae** Friar's Cowl Arisarum vulgare Common. Damp places Arum concinnatum An Arum Common. Olive groves Arum creticum Cretan Arum Kotsifou Gorge Dracunculus vulgaris Dragon Arum Common Zantedeschia aethiopica‡ Arum Lily Cultivated **Palm Family** Arecaceae Canary Palm Cultivated Phoenix canariensis‡ Phoenix dactylifera‡ Date Palm Cultivated Cultivated Washingtonia filifera‡ Californian Fan-palm **Asparagaceae Asparagus Family** Cultivated and naturalised Agave americana ‡ Centuryplant Asparagus aphyllus subsp. orientalis Leafless Asparagus Common Drimia numidica Sea Squill Common Leopoldia comosa Tassel Hyacinth Common Ornithogalum creticum • A Star-of-Bethlehem Occasional. Limestone crevices Ruscus aculeatus Butcher's-broom Shady areas **Asphodelaceae Asphodel Family**

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Yellow Asphodel

Asphodeline lutea

Common

Latin name Common name Notes

Asphodelus ramosus Branched Asphodel Common

Asphodelus fistulosus Hollow-stemmed Asphodel Ditches and roadsides

Cyperaceae Sedge Family

Bolboschoenus maritimusSea Club-rushCoastal marshesCarex otrubaeFalse Fox SedgeDitches and springsCladium mariscusGreat Fen-sedgeAgia Lake

Cladium mariscusGreat Fen-sedgeAgia LakeCyperus capitatusSand GalingaleCoastal sandsSchoenoplectus lacustrisCommon Club-rushAgia Lake

Dioscoreaceae Yam Family

Tamus communis Black Bryony Woodland and scrub

IridaceaeIris FamilyGladiolus italicusField GladiolusFrequentIris albicans‡White IrisPlanted

Iris albicans‡White IrisPlantedIris germanica‡German IrisPlantedIris pseudacorusYellow FlagAgia Lake

Iris tuberosaSnake's-head IrisSpili hill and OmalosIris unguicularis subsp. cretensis •Cretan IrisLocally common

Moraea sisyrinchium

Romulea bulbocodium

A Sand-crocus

Cretari ins

Locally common

Common

Occasional

Romulea linaresii subsp. graeca A Sand-crocus Omalos

Juncaceae Rush Family

Juncus acutusSharp RushMaritime sandsJuncus articulatusJointed RushWet placesJuncus bufoniusToad RushWet places

Soft Rush

Liliaceae Lily Family

Tulipa bakeri •Baker's TulipOmalos plateau. Leaves onlyTulipa doerfleri •Doerfler's TulipGious Kambos. Leaves only

Wet places

Tulipa saxatilis Rock Tulip Spili hill

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

Juncus effusus

Anacamptis boryi Bory's Orchid Spili hill

Anacamptis collina Saccate-lipped Orchid Locally common

Anacamptis papilionacea subsp. Pink butterfly Orchid Occasional

papilionacea
Anacamptis pyramidalis
Pyramidal Orchid
Coccasional
Locally common

Himantoglossum robertianumGiant OrchidLocally commonNeotinea lacteaMilky OrchidSpili hill

Ophrys bombyliflora Bumble bee orchid Spili hill and Armeni

Ophrys creticaCretan Bee OrchidFrequentOphrys fuciflora subsp. fucifloraLate Spider OrchidFrequent

Ophrys fusca subsp. cinereophilaDingy Bee OrchidLocalOphrys fusca subsp. fuscaDingy Bee OrchidSpili hillOphrys fusca subsp. iricolorRainbow OrchidSpili hillOphrys lutea subsp. galilaeaYellow Bee OrchidFrequentOphrys lutea subsp. luteaYellow Bee OrchidCommon

Latin name Common name **Notes** Ophrys tenthredinifera Sawfly Orchid Locally frequent Ophrys xsommieri (O. bombyiflora x O. A hybrid orchid Spili tenthredinifera) Man Orchid Spili hill and Armeni Orchis anthropophora Orchis italica Naked Man Orchid Common Orchis pauciflora Sparse-flowered Orchid Locally common Four-spotted Orchid Locally common Orchis quadripunctata Serapias vomeracea subsp. laxiflora Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid Widespread Serapias lingua Common Tongue-orchid Locally common Serapias orientalis Eastern Tongue-orchid Agia Triada Serapias parviflora Small-flowered Tongue-orchid Occasional, Armeni Poaceae **Grass Family** Achnatherum miliaceum Smilo Grass Olive groves. Waste areas Arundo donax ‡ Giant Reed Naturalised and common Sand dunes Ammophila arenaria Marram Andropogon distactivos Two-spiked Beard-grass Rocky places. Roadsides Anisantha tectorum **Drooping Brome** Frequent Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal-grass Damp places. Fields Slender Oat Disturbed ground Avena barbata Winter Wild-oat Avena sterilis Fallow land Brachypodium retusum Mediterranean False-brome Widespread Bromus tectorum **Drooping Brome** Rocky places Catapodium rigidum Fern-grass Bare stony ground Cynodon dactylon Bermuda Grass Disturbed ground Cynosurus echinatus Rough Dog's-tail Rocky places. Fields Hordeum leporinum Wall Barley Roadsides. Waste places Hordeum spontaneum ‡ Wild Barley Occasional Hyparrhenia hirta **Thatching Grass** Widespread Lagurus ovatus Hare's-tail Grass Common Lamarckia aurea Golden Dog's-tail Frequent Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass Widespread Lolium temulentum Darnel Fields and waste places Melica ciliata Hairy Melick Imbros Gorge Phragmites australis Common Reed Marshes and riverbanks Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass Waste places Polypogon monspeliensis Annual Beard-grass Wet places Rostraria cristata Widespread Crested Hair-grass Sesleria doerfleri • Doerfler's Moor-grass Kotsifou Gorge Stipa capensis Mediterranean Needle-grass Rocky places and fields Vulpia ciliata Bearded Fescue Bare stony ground and fields Posidoniacae **Neptune-grass Family** Posidonia oceanica Neptune-grass Marine Ruppiaceae **Tasselweed Family** Ruppia maritima **Beaked Tasselweed** Kokkinos Lagoon **Smilacaceae Smilax Family** Common Smilax Common Smilax aspera

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Agia Lake

Reedmace Family
Southern Reedmace

Typhaceae

Typha domingensis

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

					N	/larch/	April			
	Common name	Latin name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
1	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor						2	2	
2	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos					2	2	2	
3	Garganey	Spatula querquedula			300	100	12	5	3	
4	Common Pochard	Atyhya ferina						1		
5	Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula						4	4	
6	Chukar	Alectoris chukar			Н			2		
7	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis					2		2	
8	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo					1	2		
9	European Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis						1		
10	Squacco Heron	Aedeola ralloides			1					
11	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		4	5			10		
12	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea					2	50	3	
13	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea						1	2	
14	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus			20	1				
15	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		✓			1		8	
16	Osprey	Pandion haliatus						1		
17	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos							2	
18	Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata		2						
19	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		_	4	3		8	2	
20	Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus						1		
21	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo		✓	√		1	2	✓	✓
22	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus			1	1	1	1		
23	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		/	1	2	2	3	3	✓
24	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo			•	_	_		1	
25	Little Crake	Porzana parva						4	4	
26	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus			✓		✓	· ·	· /	
27	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra					✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus			5			-		1
29	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		2	1	1			1	
30	Little Stint	Calidris minuta			1	'				
31	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus			1				Н	
32	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos			5				1	-
33	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia			1				- '	-
34	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa riesalana Tringa stagnatilis			2					-
35	Ruff	Calidris pugnax			15					-
36	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis		✓	√ ×	✓	√	✓	✓	✓
37	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus		✓	•	•	·	•	_	+
38	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis		•	20					-
39		Columba livia		√	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	/
40	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon			V ✓	✓	•	•	•	_	+
41	Common Wood Pigeon Eurasian Collared Dove	Columba palumbus		V ✓	✓	✓	✓	√	√	✓
		Streptopelia decaocto		V	V	V	•		_	+
42	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	✓					3		_
43	Western Barn Owl	Tyto alba	-	✓			✓	✓	✓	/
44	Common Swift	Apus apus		∨ ✓			V	✓	V	\ '
45	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba		V						_
46	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops					√	10	5	2
47	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis				_	1	2	2	_
48	Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla				1		1		

					N	/larch/	April			
	Common name	Latin name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
50	Woodlark	Lullula arborea		✓				Н	✓	
51	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia					✓	✓	✓	
52	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		✓					1	
53	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica					3	✓	2	
55	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum					✓	✓	✓	
56	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris		✓						Г
57	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis		✓					Н	
58	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis					1			Г
59	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Г
60	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg		✓	1		✓	1	4	Г
61	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula		√				1		Т
62	Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos		3	2					T
63	Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus				2		3		
64	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros			1					H
65	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe		√			3	1	✓	H
66	Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina						· /		H
67	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe melanoleuca		✓	✓		1	2		H
68	European Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		· /	· /		1	∠ ✓	✓	
	•			_	_		1	▼		H
69 70	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos						· ·		H
70	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus					1			H
71 	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		√	√		√	✓	✓	H
72	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius		2	2		1			
73	Common Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis						1		L
74	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		✓	✓			Н	Н	L
75	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca						✓		L
76	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis					✓			
77	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	·
78	Ruppell's Warbler	Sylvia rueppelli		1						
79	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans		✓		1		✓	1	
80	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus						✓	✓	
81	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti		✓	Н		Н	✓	✓	
82	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus		✓		6	1	✓	1	
83	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix					1			
84	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus orientalis					1			Г
85	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		✓	✓		Н	Н	✓	Г
86	Great Tit	Parus major		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Г
87	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		√	✓		✓	✓	✓	Т
88	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica							2	H
89	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius							4	H
90	Western Jackdaw	Corvus monedula		✓	✓		✓	√		H
91	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax		√	✓				10	H
92	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
93	Northern Raven	Corvus corax		√	✓		✓	✓	✓	_
93 94	Italian Sparrow	Passer italiae		· /	→	√	✓	· /	✓	
9 4 95	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus		_	,	<u> </u>	,	•	10	—
	Common Chaffinch			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	
96		Fringilla coelebs				V	V		V	-
97	Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina		√	√			√		-
98	European Goldfinch	Carduelis cardulis		√	√		√	√	√	~
99	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	_

			March/April							
	Common name	Latin name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
101	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		✓	Н					
102	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra		✓					✓	

Mammals (D = dead; E = evidence of)

1	Eastern Hedgehog	Erinaceus concolor						D
2	Serotine Bat	Eptesicus serotinus					✓	
3	Black Rat	Rattus rattus	✓					
4	Beech Marten	Martes foina bunites	✓	D	D			D
5	Cretan Badger	Meles meles arkalus		Е	D	D		D

Reptiles

1	Balkan Green Lizard	Lacerta trilineata				✓	
2	Cretan Wall Lizard	Podarcis cretensis	✓			✓	
3	Red-eared Slider ‡	Trachemys scripta elegans				✓	
4	Balkan Terrapin	Mauremys rivulata				✓	

Amphibians (T = tadpole)

1	Cretan Water Frog	Pelophylax cretensis	Т	Т		D	

Butterflies

1	Mallow Skipper	Carcharodus alceae					✓	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalinus	✓					
3	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon					✓	
4	Large White	Pieris brassicae					✓	
5	Small White	Pieris rapae					✓	✓
6	Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa	✓					
7	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea	✓				✓	
8	Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	✓					✓
9	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus						✓
10	Large Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis polychloros	✓					
11	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta					✓	✓
12	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Southern Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria	✓	✓			✓	✓
14	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	✓			✓	✓	✓

Moths

1	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	Macroglossum stellatarum			D		
2	Pine Processionary Moth	Thaumetopoea pityocampa		Е		Е	

Dragonflies

1	Blue Emperor	Anax imperator				✓	
2	Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans				✓	

Other Insects

1	Egyptian Grasshopper	Anacridium aegyptium					✓	
2	Nosed Grasshopper	Acrida ungarica		✓				
3	Fire Bug	Pyrrhocoris apterus					✓	
4	Honey Bee	Apis mellifera adami	✓		✓	✓		

				March/April						
	Common name	Latin name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
5	Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea							✓	
6	Dark-edged Bee Fly	Bombylius major						✓		

Molluscs

1	Cretan Door Snail	Albinaria inflata	✓	✓				
2	Garden Snail	Helix aspersa	✓		✓	✓	✓	