

Crete's Autumn Flowers

Naturetrek Tour Report

13th – 20th October 2022



Venetian lighthouse



Sternbergia lutea



Cyclamen graecum subsp. *graecum*



Sirikari Gorge

Tour report and images by David Tattersfield



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Day 1

Thursday 13th October

Our flight arrived in Hania, in mid-afternoon, an hour later than planned. We were met by our driver and a large coach, for the short transfer to our hotel. A smaller coach was hastily arranged, and we left at 5.00pm for the Theriso Gorge, a little way south of the city, in the foothills of the White Mountains. Short of time, we headed straight to Theriso village, at the head of the gorge, where we started to get acquainted with our fellow travellers, over drinks in the taverna. We made a couple of short stops, on the return journey to see some of the plants growing on the cliffs. Among significant others, a large proportion were endemic to Crete and included Cretan Dittany *Origanum dictamnus*, Shrubby Sainfoin *Ebenus cretica*, Cretan Gorge Laurel *Staezelina petiolata*, Cretan Cabbage *Brassica cretica* subsp. *cretica*, and finally *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *candicum* - illuminated by torchlight! It was 7.30pm when we got back to the hotel and we were sitting down to dinner half an hour later, at a restaurant just around the corner.

Day 2

Friday 14th October

After shopping for lunch, we travelled westwards, along the coast, and made our first stop at Stalos, beside a small area of sand dunes. This fragile habitat is increasingly threatened by tourism and the dunes are roped off to help protect the nests of Loggerhead Turtles *Caretta caretta*. The most prominent plant was Sea Daffodil *Pancratium maritimum*, with broad, strap-shaped leaves and large fruits, that were splitting to reveal shiny-black seeds. Other notable plant included Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, Sea Medick *Medicago marina*, Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*, Narrow-leaved Bugloss *Echium angustifolium* and large grey hummocks of Spiny Knapweed *Centaurea spinosa*, which is confined to the north coast of Crete and a few localities on the southern coasts of mainland Greece. Less welcome to see were sprawling mats of Yellow Hottentot-fig *Carpobrotus edulis*, a scourge of many Mediterranean and southern-British coasts.

At Kolymbari, we turned inland to the small hilltop village of Marathocephala, where an interesting variety of garden plants, included Pomegranate *Punica granatum*, Natal Plum *Carissa macrocarpa* and Lesser Balloon Vine *Cardiospermum halicacabum*. The large yellow flowers of a cultivated form of *Sternbergia lutea* made a fine show, on an abandoned terrace. Clouded Yellow, Wall Brown and Swallowtail butterflies were flying around, and we found the large Egyptian Grasshopper and a bright green Praying Mantis. Above the village, typical plants of the phrygana (a term equivalent to the garrigue, of the western Mediterranean, and referring to the low, scrubby, and often spiny vegetation.) were represented by the red-berried Mastic Tree *Pistacia lentiscus*, Jerusalem Sage *Phlomis fruticosa*, the spiny brooms *Calicotome villosa* and *Genista acanthoclada*, Thorny Burnet *Sarcopoterium spinosum* and Mediterranean Thyme *Thymbra capitata*. In dry, rocky places we found numerous Autumn Squill *Prospero autumnale*, and the dark pink flowers of *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *graecum*. It is common on the Greek mainland and many other islands, but, in Crete, it is only found here and on the Rhodopou peninsula, to the north. The huge bulbs and tall spikes of white flowers of Sea Squill *Drimys numidica* were pushing through the tarmac, on the edge of the road.

We enjoyed a substantial lunch, before continuing our explorations along a rough track. Large colonies of *Cyclamen* coloured the hillsides, including plants, on a cliff face, showing the spherical tubers, fleshy roots, and long floral trunks, that typify the species. Most plants were leafless, but in the damp shade of woodland, we found their beautifully patterned leaves. In addition, there were a few pink flowers of *Colchicum pusillum*, several flowers of

Small Pheasant's-eye *Narcissus obsoletus*, a small autumn-flowering spurge *Euphorbia dimorpha*, that sprouts from an underground caudex, and scrambling vines of Virgin's Bower *Clematis cirrhosa*, with pale yellow flowers.

From Kolymbari, we drove north, following the coastline, onto the wild Rhodopou peninsula. We stopped for coffee, on the terrace of a taverna, in the attractive village of Afrata, surrounded by a well-tended display of pot plants and gaily-coloured Bougainvilleas. Moving on, we made a final stop to look at the phrygana of abandoned cultivation terraces, where we found a few flowers of Autumn Buttercup *Ranunculus bullatus*, blue flowers of the pungent Pitch Trefoil *Bituminaria bituminosa* and large mounds of the thorny Smilax *Smilax aspera*, with sweetly scented flowers and red berries.

We were back at the hotel for 6.30pm and walked down to the old Venetian harbour, for our evening meal.

Day 3

Saturday 15th October

Most of us were woken by overnight thunderstorms and the weather remained very unsettled for the rest of the day, with a strong northerly wind. We headed west to Topolia, where a dry period allowed a couple of short excursions. On a rocky hillside, we found *Cyclamen confusum*, growing under shrubs of *Calicotome villosa* and the aromatic Mountain Sage *Salvia pomifera*. Superficially, this plant resembles the familiar *Cyclamen hederifolium* but has some consistent morphological differences and a hexaploid chromosome number.

A little way up the gorge, we stopped for drinks at Agia Sophia, before climbing the steps to the impressive cave. More *Cyclamen confusum* was growing below the cliffs and we found a few plants of a small, narrow-leaved form of *Sternbergia lutea*, which unfortunately were still in bud. From our high vantage point, we had a close view the cliff flora, which included Tree Spurge *Euphorbia dendroides*, Shrubby Ptilostemon *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*, and the endemic Shrubby Mullein *Verbasum arcturus* and silver-leaved Knapweed *Centaurea argentea* subsp. *argentea*. In addition, we had excellent views of Griffon Vultures, sheltering on the cliffs. A short distance along the road, we stopped briefly to see a prolific population of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*, the typical diploid species, growing in the deep shade of a wooded ravine. By now, rain was falling in torrents and there was little prospect of the weather being any better at our planned destination, on the south coast. Needing to find shelter for our lunch, we stopped at a Taverna in Elos, where we received a typical Cretan welcome and were offered the use of their tables. We delayed our departure until there were signs of an improvement in the weather, only to discover that the coach refused to start. Various attempts to remedy the problem were to no avail and we had to wait for a replacement vehicle. In the meantime, we continued to enjoy the generous hospitality of the family that owned the taverna and the traditional glasses of raki were duly passed around. We returned directly to Hania and were back at the hotel for 5.30pm.

Day 4

Sunday 16th October

It was still windy and cloudy but, at least, it remained dry. Out on the rocky Akrotiri Peninsula, beyond the airport, we visited the monasteries of Agia Triada and Gouverneto, where the Sunday services were in progress. Once again, we found an interesting range of garden plants, including Frangipani *Plumeria rubra*, Giant White Bird of Paradise *Strelitzia nicolai*, colourful varieties of Crown of Thorns *Euphorbia milii* and the white-flowered South American bulb *Zephyranthes candida*.

We drove out to an almost deserted Stavros, at the end of the peninsula, where we had lunch near the windswept beach, where a few kite-surfers were braving the elements. Just as on the dunes at Stalos, there were large numbers of Sea Daffodil and hummocks of Spiny Knapweed. Moving back inland, we spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the hill-top archaeology around Aptera. We visited the impressive, vaulted cisterns, the ruins of a Roman villa and the recently excavated amphitheatre, the size of which testified to the importance of this former Hellenistic city. From the more recent Turkish Fort, we had commanding views across Souda Bay. Notable plants across the site included abundant Heliotrope *Heliotropium europaeum*, Shrubby Wormwood *Artemisia arborescens*, Bean Trefoil *Anagyris foetida* and Withania *Withania somnifera*, a curious, member of the Nightshade family, that was introduced in ancient times for its medicinal properties. We concluded the afternoon with drinks and a few tasty snacks in the village, before returning to Hania.

Day 5

Monday 17th October

Following another cloudy and wet start, we drove south over the White Mountains to the Askifou plateau. In the rain, we only managed a brief glimpse of the extensive flat depression, known as a polje, a Yugoslav word for field, which funnels the drainage from the surrounding mountains. A variety of new plants, on the roadside, included Spiny Chicory *Cichorium spinosum*, Thyme-leaved Savory *Satureja thymbra*, Greek Spiny Spurge *Euphorbia acanthothamnus*, Spiny Rest-harrow *Ononis spinosa* subsp. *diacantha* and the endemic Spiny Mullein *Verbascum spinosum*.

We made our way to the Imbros Taverna, where we enjoyed the local speciality of pancakes with cheese and honey. Thankfully the rain stopped, as we started our walk down the Imbros Gorge. We found the attractive leaves of the endemic *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *candicum* growing from tight crevices in the boulders and, over the next four hours, we followed the rocky bed of the gorge, as it dramatically deepened beneath towering cliffs, that were home to many more fine examples of Crete's endemic chasmophyte flora, many of which, we had briefly encountered in the Theriso Gorge. Among plants new to us were the striped, hooded spathes of Friar's Cowl *Arisarum vulgare*, the scented Cretan Calamint *Clinopodium creticum*, the tunic flower *Petrorhagia dianthoides*, the emerging narrow leaves of Yellow Asphodel *Asphodeline lutea*, Wild Olive *Olea europaea* subsp. *oleaster* and Chaste Tree *Vitex agnus-castus*. The gorge became very narrow in places, where harder limestones have resisted erosion, but we eventually emerged into a broader section, as the cliffs receded.

At the Taverna Komitades, we relaxed over drinks and sampled 'the best chips in Crete', before driving down to the coastal village of Chora Sfakion. At last, we were out of the wind! We spent a while exploring the harbour, before sitting down to our evening meal, as a spectacular sunset brought the day to a close.

Day 6

Tuesday 18th October

After our usual shopping, we visited Agia Lake, where a natural freshwater spring has been dammed to create one of the finest wetland sites in Crete. Nearby, a well-fed Peregrine Falcon was resting on a post and across the water we noted Coot, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Grey Heron, and Great Egret. Cetti's Warbler called loudly from the reeds and Barn Swallow and House Martin flew low overhead, catching insects. On the leaves of a Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*, several shiny black bugs, with rows of white spots, were the instars of the Southern Green Shieldbug, an imported species, which is now becoming a serious pest of crops.

As the rain returned, we continued our journey up to the Omalos Plateau, another large polje in the White Mountains. Once again, we were enormously grateful for Cretan hospitality and enjoyed the comfort of an indoor lunch, in the Taverna. Although it was a cool 10°C, outside, the rain finally abated and allowed us an opportunity for a little exploration. In the rough pasture, we found patches of the mountain endemic *Colchicum cretense*, in various shades of pink and white and a few flower buds of *Crocus pumilus*, now also regarded as a Cretan endemic, after its separation from the related *Crocus laevigatus*. Low overhead, several Griffon Vulture and many Raven suggested that an animal carcass had been spotted in the vicinity. Around the rocky perimeter of the plateau, in addition to the dominant Kermes Oak *Quercus coccifera* subsp. *calliprinos* and Cretan Maple *Acer sempervirens*, we noted the Cretan Zelkova *Zelkova abelicea*, a relative of the elm and Crete's only endemic tree.

At the end of the road, we looked down into the depths of the Samaria Gorge, surrounded by ancient Cypress trees *Cupressus sempervirens* forma. *horizontalis*, which continued to the tree line. On the adjacent slopes, low growing plants included the familiar Aubretia *Aubrieta deltoidea*, Cretan Barberry *Berberis cretica*, the small-leaved *Origanum microphyllum* and Mountain Tea *Sideritis syriaca* subsp. *syriaca*. The upper café proved too much of a temptation and we enjoyed hot drinks before it was time to leave. After completing a circuit of the plateau, we retraced our route back to Hania, where we enjoyed a delicious selection of local dishes in a taverna in the old town.

Day 7

Wednesday 19th October

For our final day, we had another opportunity to stretch our legs and enjoy the magnificent scenery of another of Crete's gorges. We drove back to Topolia and followed a minor road to Sirikari, where the walk started with a steep descent through Oak woodland and abandoned terraces. A narrow rocky path continued down to a dry riverbed, lined with Oleander *Nerium oleander* and magnificent trees of Oriental Plane *Platanus orientalis*, where we stopped for snacks. Throughout the length of the gorge *Cyclamen confusum* was very common, on shaded cliffs, and we found several flowers of Small Pheasant's-eye, one or two bright yellow *Sternbergia lutea* and some lovely patches of *Colchicum pusillum*. When we reached the end of the gorge, we had a rather late lunch, beside a small church, before driving up to Polyrinia. We spent the remainder of the afternoon exploring the intriguing village, where archaeology extends from pre-minoan times to the present day. In ancient times, it was one of the most important and powerful cities in Western Crete and later flourished during the Roman period.

Day 8

Thursday 20th October

After breakfast and packing, we had time for a leisurely stroll around Hania, before leaving for the airport, around midday.

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Species lists

Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
PTERIDOPHYTA	FERNS AND FERN ALLIES	
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern	Common on rocks
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Acute-leaved Spleenwort	Shaded cliffs
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> subsp. <i>quadrivalens</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Rock crevices
Athyriaceae	Lady-fern Family	
<i>Athyrium felix-femina</i>	Lady-fern	Shady cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Cystopteridaceae	Bladder-fern Family	
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Mountain rocks. Uncommon
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Locally common
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
<i>Dryopteris pallida</i>	Pale Buckler-fern	Shady cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Branched Horsetail	Hedges. Agia Lake
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail	Ditches and lake margin. Agia
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	Shady cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Pteridaceae	Maidenhair Fern Family	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Damp shaded cliffs
<i>Cheilanthes acrosticha</i>	Scented Cheilanthes	Rock crevices
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family	

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Selaginella	Damp shady places
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
Araucariaceae <i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> ‡	Monkey-puzzle Family Norfolk Island Pine	Cultivated. Coastal
Cupressaceae <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> forma. <i>horizontalis</i> <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> forma. <i>sempervirens</i> ‡ <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>oxycedrus</i> <i>Juniperus phoenicea</i> subsp. <i>phoenicea</i>	Juniper Family Cypress Funeral Cypress Prickly Juniper Phoenicean Juniper	Common. Sea-level to treeline Cultivated Frequent. Mountains Occasional. Lowland
Ephedraceae <i>Ephedra foeminea</i>	Joint-pine Family A Joint-pine	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Pinaceae <i>Pinus brutia</i> <i>Pinus pinea</i> ‡	Pine Family Turkish Pine Stone Pine	Frequent native tree Cultivated near coasts
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
DICOTYLEDONS		
Acanthaceae <i>Acanthus spinosus</i>	Bear's-breech Family Spiny Bear's-breech	Frequent
Aizoaceae <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> ‡	Dewplant Family Yellow Hottentot-fig	Coastal alien
Amaranthaceae <i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> ‡ <i>Salsola kali</i>	Goosefoot Family Pigweed Prickly Saltwort	Weedy places Sandy beaches
Anacardiaceae <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> <i>Pistacia terebinthus</i> <i>Schinus molle</i> ‡	Sumach Family Mastic Tree Turpentine Tree Californian Pepper Tree	Common in maquis Frequent in maquis and gorges Cultivated
Apiaceae <i>Crithmum maritimum</i> <i>Daucus carota</i> <i>Eryngium campestre</i> <i>Eryngium creticum</i> <i>Eryngium maritimum</i> <i>Ferula communis</i> <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> <i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i> <i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i>	Carrot Family Rock Samphire Wild Carrot Field Eryngo Cretan Eryngo Sea Holly Giant Fennel Wild Fennel Alexanders Perfoliate Alexanders	Maritime rocks Frequent Rocky fields Roadsides. Waste places Sand dunes Common Common Aptera Locally common
Apocynaceae <i>Carissa macrocarpa</i> ‡ <i>Cionura erecta</i>	Dogbane Family Natal Plum Cionura	Cultivated Theriso Gorge

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i> ‡	Balloon Plant	Cultivated
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Riverbeds. Planted on roadsides
<i>Plumeria rubra</i> ‡	Frangipani	Cultivated
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Common
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
<i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Birthwort	Frequent
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea ligustica</i>	Southern Yarrow	Common
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	Shrubby Wormwood	Aptera
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	Common
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Common
<i>Carlina graeca</i>	A Flat-topped Carlina Thistle	Rocky places
<i>Centaurea argentea</i> subsp. <i>argentea</i> •	A Knapweed	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star-thistle	Occasional
<i>Centaurea idaea</i> •		Rock crevices in phrygana
<i>Centaurea raphanina</i> subsp. <i>raphanina</i> •	A Knapweed	Common on rocks
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle	Occasional
<i>Centaurea spinosa</i>	Spiny Knapweed	North coast beaches
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush Skeletonweed	Sandy and waste places
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Roadsides
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chicory	Common
<i>Cynara cornigera</i>	A wild Artichoke	Rocky places
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Aromatic Inula	Common
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	Common
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	Spiniest Globe Thistle	Common
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Common
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i> subsp. <i>barrelieri</i>	Golden Cassidony	Rocky places
<i>Helichrysum microphyllum</i>	A Curry Plant	Rocky places in mountains
<i>Inula candida</i> subsp. <i>candida</i> •		Coastal cliffs
<i>Lactuca acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved Lettuce	Theriso Gorge
<i>Onopordum bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i> •		Coastal sand and rocky places
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Golden-star	Common
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby Cudweed	Rocks, cliffs and walls
<i>Picnemon acarna</i>	Yellow-spine Thistle	Stony ground and roadsides
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby Ptilostemon	Cliffs and rocky banks
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	Common
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Common. Waste areas
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Waste areas
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	Waste areas
<i>Staezelina petiolata</i> •	Cretan Gorge Laurel	Cliffs
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i> ‡	Spiny Cocklebur	Alien weed
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> ‡	Cocklebur	Alien weed
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Mountains
Bignoniaceae	Jacaranda Family	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> ‡	Jacaranda	Cultivated
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Common near coast
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>biebersteinii</i>	Pale Bugloss	Common
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope	Common
<i>Symphytum creticum</i>	Cretan Comfrey	Shady cliffs
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>	Burnt Candytuft	Dry rocky places
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubretia	Omalos
<i>Brassica cretica</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i> •	Cretan Cabbage	Cliffs
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Sand dunes
<i>Erysimum candicum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i> •	A Treacle Mustard	Imbros Gorge
<i>Erysimum raulinii</i> •	A Treacle Mustard	Imbros Gorge
<i>Lunaria annua</i> subsp. <i>pachyrhiza</i>	Honesty	Occasional
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> ‡	Prickly Pear	Cultivated
<i>Opuntia microdasys</i> ‡		Stalos beach
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i> •	Petromarula	Common
<i>Campanula tubulosa</i> •		Imbros Gorge
Cannabaceae	Hackberry and Hemp Family	
<i>Celtis tournefortii</i>	Oriental Hackberry	Imbros Gorge
Capparaceae	Caper Family	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	Frequent on cliffs
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	Occasional
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Petrorhagia dianthoides</i> •	A Tunic Flower	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i> subsp. <i>creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	Common
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Frequent in maqius
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Locally common
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	Mediterranean Rock-rose	Common. Rocky places
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Rock-rose	Common. Rocky places
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Common
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	Frequent parasite
<i>Ipomoea indica</i> ‡	A Morning Glory	Cultivated
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Rosularia serrata</i>	Saw-leaved Rosularia	Cliffs
<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>	Pale Stonecrop	Rocky places
<i>Sedum amplexicaule</i> subsp. <i>tenuifolium</i>		Rocky places
<i>Sedum creticum</i> var. <i>monocarpicum</i> •		Cliffs
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Pennywort	Shaded cliffs
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family	

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	Frequent
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Waste places
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	A Scabious	Occasional in phrygana
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Locally common
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Locally common
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	Autumn Heather	Locally common
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>	Small Spurge	Bare ground
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia dimorphocaulon</i>	A Spurge	Marathocephala
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Maritime cliffs
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> ‡	Poinsettia	Cultivated
<i>Euphorbia sultan-hassei</i> •	A Tree Spurge	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Common
<i>Ricinus communis</i> ‡	Castor-oil-plant	Frequent naturalised weed
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Acacia retinoides</i> ‡	Swamp Wattle	Cultivated
<i>Acacia saligna</i> ‡	Blue-leaved Wattle	Cultivated
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	Scrub and waste areas
<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>	Herman's Kidney Vetch	Occasional
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>rubriflora</i>	Kidney Vetch	Common
<i>Astragalus angustifolius</i>	A Milk Vetch	Common above Omalos
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Common
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	Common
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> ‡	Carob	Common
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> ‡	Judas Tree	Cultivated
<i>Ebenus cretica</i> •	Shrubby Sainfoin	Cliffs
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Spiny Broom	Common
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	Grey Bird's-foot Trefoil	Coastal sand and rocks
<i>Medicago arborea</i> ‡	Tree Medick	Cultivated and naturalised
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	Sand dunes
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> subsp. <i>diacantha</i>	Spiny Rest-harrow	Rocky places
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> ‡	False Acacia	Cultivated and naturalised
<i>Securigera globosa</i> •	A Crown Vetch	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides and maquis
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanea sativa</i> ‡	Sweet Chestnut	Cultivated and occasionally naturalised
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> subsp. <i>calliprinos</i>	Kermes Oak	Common
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Frequent
<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> subsp. <i>macrolepis</i> ‡	Valonia Oak	Cultivated
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	Locally common
Hypericaceae	St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i>	Crowberry-leaved St John's-wort	Frequent
<i>Hypericum triquetrifolium</i>	Wavy-leaved St John's-wort	Common

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family	
<i>Juglans regia</i> ‡	Walnut	Cultivated
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	Garden Horehound	Riverbeds near sea level
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	Waste places
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	False Dittany	Rocky phrygana
<i>Clinopodium creticum</i> •	Cretan Calamint	Imbros Gorge
<i>Clinopodium nepeta</i>	Lesser Calamint	Occasional
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	Maquis and phrygana
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	Local in maquis
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	Waste places
<i>Micromeria juliana</i>	Micromeria	Rocky places
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>		Rocky places
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i> •	Cretan Dittany	Cliffs
<i>Origanum microphyllum</i> •		Omalos plateau
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>	Cretan Jerusalem Sage	Locally common
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	Common
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	Common
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Greek Sage	Common
<i>Salvia pomifera</i>	Mountain Sage	Frequent
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Common
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Satureia	Maquis and phrygana
<i>Scutellaria sieberi</i> •	A Skullcap	Cliffs and rocky banks
<i>Sideritis syriaca</i> subsp. <i>syriaca</i> •	Mountain Tea	Mountains
<i>Teucrium capitatum</i>	Felty Germander	Rocky places
<i>Teucrium cuneifolium</i> •		Rare. Imbros Gorge
<i>Teucrium divaricatum</i>		Rocky places
<i>Thymbra capitata</i>	Mediterranean Thyme	Common
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree	Gorge and stream-beds
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Flax	Cliffs in gorges
Lythraceae	Purple-loosestrife Family	
<i>Punica granatum</i> ‡	Pomegranate	Cultivated
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> ‡	Okra	Cultivated
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> ‡	Hibiscus	Cultivated
<i>Malva arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	Coast. Hania
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Common
<i>Malva unguiculata</i>	Bryony-leaved Mallow	Common
Meliaceae	Mahogany Family	
<i>Melia azedarach</i> ‡	Persian Lilac	Cultivated
Moraceae	Mulberry Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Frequent
<i>Morus alba</i> ‡	White Mulberry	Cultivated
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Occasional in maqjis

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
Nyctaginaceae <i>Bougainvillea xbuttiana</i> ‡	Bougainvillea Family Bougainvillea	Cultivated
Oleaceae <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>oleaster</i> <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Olive Family Wild Olive Mock Privet	Imbros Gorge Occasional in maquis
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> ‡	Wood-sorrel Family Bermuda Buttercup	Common
Papaveraceae <i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Poppy Family Yellow Horned-poppy	Coast
Phytolaccaceae <i>Phytolacca americana</i> ‡	Pokeweed Family American Pokeweed	Naturalised
Pittosporaceae <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> ‡	Pittosporum Family	Cultivated
Platanaceae <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Family Oriental Plane	River valleys
Polygalaceae <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> ‡	Milkwort Family Myrtle-leaved Milkwort	Cultivated
Polygonaceae <i>Persicaria maculosa</i> <i>Polygonum equisetiforme</i> <i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Dock Family Willow-leaved Persicaria Horsetail Knotgrass Bull's Head Dock	Agia Lake Waste areas Common
Portulacaceae <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> ‡	Purslane Family Purslane	Waste places
Primulaceae <i>Cyclamen confusum</i> • <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i> <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i> • <i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> subsp. <i>hederifolium</i>	Primrose Family Greek Sowbread Ivy-leaved Sowbread	Topolia and Sirikari Spilia and Rodopos Imbros and White Mountains South and west of Topolia
Ranunculaceae <i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> <i>Delphinium staphisagria</i> <i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>	Buttercup Family Virgin's Bower Lice Bane Autumn Buttercup	Frequent Theriso Gorge. Imbros Gorge Locally common
Rhamnaceae <i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>	Buckthorn Family A Buckthorn	Frequent in phrygana
Rosaceae <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> ‡ <i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> subsp. <i>verrucosa</i> <i>Prunus dulcis</i> ‡	Rose Family Hawthorn Japanese Loquat Salad Burnet Almond	Frequent Cultivated Frequent Cultivated

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> ‡	Firethorn	Cultivated
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Wild Pear	Common
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	A Bramble	Common
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Common
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Galium fruticosum</i> •	A shrubby Bedstraw	Cliffs
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	Common
Rutaceae	Rue Family	
<i>Citrus limon</i> ‡	Lemon	Cultivated
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> ‡	Orange	Cultivated
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i> subsp. <i>chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	Occasional
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Populus alba</i> ‡	White Poplar	Common
<i>Salix alba</i> ‡	White Willow	
Sapindaceae	Soapberry Family	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple	Common. Mountains
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> ‡	Lesser Balloon Vine	Cultivated
Santalaceae	Bastard-toadflax Family	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	Frequent
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i> subsp. <i>chrysospleniiifolia</i>	Chrysosplenium-leaved Saxifrage	Locally common
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia heterophylla</i>		Falasarna headland
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort	Frequent
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	Common. Imbros Gorge
<i>Verbascum arcturus</i> •	Shrubby Mullein	Cliffs and walls
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>		Common
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein	Common
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i> •	Spiny Mullein	Common
Simaroubaceae	Tree-of-heaven Family	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> ‡	Tree-of-heaven	Naturalised
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Datura stramonium</i> ‡	Thornapple	Naturalised
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	Henbane	Weedy places and walls. Hania
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	Frequent
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> ‡	Shrubby Tobacco	Naturalised
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Weedy places
<i>Solanum villosum</i>	Hairy Nightshade	Damp places
<i>Withania somnifera</i> ‡	Withania	Aptera
Styracaceae	Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	Sirikari Gorge
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	A Tamarisk	Coasts
Thymelaeaceae <i>Daphne sericea</i>	Mezereon Family A Daphne	Locally common in mountains
Ulmaceae <i>Zelkova abelicea</i> •	Elm Family Cretan Zelkova	Omalos plateau
Urticaceae <i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Nettle Family Pellitory-of-the-wall	Rocks and walls
Valerianaceae <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i> •	Valerian Family A Valerian	Imbros Gorge
Verbenaceae <i>Lantana camara</i> ‡ <i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain Family Lantana Vervain	Cultivated Frequent. Waste areas
Veronicaceae <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> ‡	Speedwell Family Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Walls. Hania
Vitaceae <i>Vitis vinifera</i> subsp. <i>sylvestris</i>	Vine Family Wild Vine	Occasional
Zygophyllaceae <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Caltrop Family Maltese Cross	Waste places
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Amaryllidaceae <i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> <i>Allium callimischon</i> subsp. <i>haemostictum</i> <i>Allium chamaespathum</i> <i>Allium circinnatum</i> subsp. <i>circinnatum</i> • <i>Allium suhirsutum</i> <i>Allium tardans</i> • <i>Narcissus obsoletus</i> <i>Pancratium maritimum</i> <i>Sternbergia lutea</i>	Daffodil Family Broad-leaved Wild Leek Hairy Garlic Smal pheasant's-eye Sea Daffodil Sternbergia	Occasional Imbros Gorge and Omalos Occasional Akrotiri Frequent Frequent Locally common Sand dunes Native and cultivated
Araceae <i>Arisarum vulgare</i> <i>Arum concinatum</i>	Arum Family Friar's Cowl	Common Common
Asparagaceae <i>Agave americana</i> ‡ <i>Asparagus aphyllus</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i> <i>Drimia numidica</i> <i>Prospero autumnale</i> <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Asparagus Family Centuryplant Leafless Asparagus Sea Squill Autumn Squill Butcher's-broom	Cultivated and naturalised Common Common Common Frequent in shade
Asphodelaceae <i>Asphodeline lutea</i> <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Asphodel Family Yellow Asphodel Branched Asphodel	Common Common

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
Colchicaceae <i>Colchicum cretense</i> • <i>Colchicum pusillum</i>	Meadow Saffron Family	Omalos Frequent at low elevations
Cyperaceae <i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Sedge Family Great Fen-sedge	Agia Lake
Dioscoreaceae <i>Tamus communis</i>	Yam Family Black Bryony	Woodland and scrub
Iridaceae <i>Crocus pumilus</i> •	Iris Family	Imbros and Omalos
Juncaceae <i>Juncus acutus</i>	Rush Family Sharp Rush	Wet places
Poaceae <i>Achnatherum miliaceum</i> <i>Arundo donax</i> ‡ <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> <i>Briza minor</i> <i>Catapodium rigidum</i> <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> <i>Lagurus ovatus</i> <i>Melica ciliata</i> <i>Phragmites australis</i>	Grass Family Smilo Grass Giant Reed Marram Grass Lesser Quaking-grass Fern Grass Sand Couch Hare's-tail Grass Hairy Melick Common Reed	Widespread. Roadsides Common Sand dunes Frequent Frequent Sand dunes Common Imbros Gorge Marshes and riverbanks
Posidoniaceae <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune-grass Family Neptune-grass	Marine
Smilacaceae <i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax Family Smilax	Common
Typhaceae <i>Typha domingensis</i>	Reedmace Family Southern Reedmace	Agia Lake

• = endemic or near endemic to Crete

‡ = cultivated or naturalised

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Latin name	13 - 20 October 2022							
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						✓		
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓					
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						✓		

Great Egret	<i>Ardea albus</i>						✓		
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						✓		
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>						✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>						✓		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						H		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H	H					H	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	H	✓	H	H	✓	H	✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						✓		
Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				✓		✓		

Other vertebrates

		13 - 20 October 2022							
Common name	Latin name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Reptiles									
Cretan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis cretensis</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Balkan Whipsnake	<i>Coluber gemonensis</i>							✓	

Invertebrates

		13 - 20 October 2022							
Common name	Latin name	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Butterflies									
Papilionidae									
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓		L				
Pieridae									
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>				✓			✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Nymphalidae									
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				✓				
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Dragonflies									
Eastern Willow Spreadwing	<i>Lestes parvidens</i>		✓						
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>						✓		
Other Insects									
Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes gallicus</i>				✓				
Oriental Hornet	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Migratory Locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>		✓						

Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>		✓						
Nosed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>		✓						
Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulescens</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>		✓						
Devil's Coach Horse	<i>Ocypus olens</i>				✓				
Southern Green Shieldbug	<i>Nezara viridula</i>						✓		
Molluscs									
Cretan Door Snail •	<i>Albinaria corrugata</i> subsp. <i>inflata</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garden Snail ‡	<i>Helix aspersa</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
L = larvae									
• = endemic to Crete									
‡ = introduced									