Autumn Plants of the Peloponnese

Naturetrek Tour Report

21st - 28th October 2022



Monemvasia







Sternbergia lutea

Tour report and images by David Tattersfield



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

Tour participants: David Tattersfield and Steve Gater (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Friday 21st October

The group arrived in Athens in the late afternoon. After purchasing food, in lieu of an evening meal, we loaded our minibuses and set off along the motorway for the three-hour journey to Kalavrita. We arrived at 10.15 pm and after checking in to our hotel, some of us enjoyed a drink in the town, before retiring to bed.

Day 2

Saturday 22nd October

We awoke to perfect weather, which was to last for the whole week. After breakfast, we made a late start and set off towards the mountains at 10.15 am, pausing to take in the views over the town and identifying some of the commoner plants along the roadside. At our next two stops we found the flowers of *Crocus mazziaricus*, thinly scattered in rough pasture. Most were pure white, with feint yellow staining at their base but some were pale lavender. Butterflies included Brown Argus, Small Copper and Queen of Spain Fritillary and bright green Balkan Wall Lizards scurried among the dry vegetation. The surrounding woodland was made up of Prickly Juniper *Juniperus oxycedrus*, the holly-like Kermes Oak *Quercus coccifera* and Greek Fir *Abies cephalonica*, which soon became the dominant tree, as we climbed higher.

We followed the road to the ski resort below Mount Chelmos and walked slowly up to the ridge, overlooking the Styx Valley and the steep, northern slopes of the mountain. Greece has a large and diverse mountain flora and many of its mountains have their own localised endemic species. We noted Olive-leaved Daphne *Daphne oleoides*, the spiny, pink-flowered *Astragalus thracicus*, *Drypis spinosa*, a shrubby member of the pink family, and prostrate mats of *Globularia stygia* and *Thymus rechingeri*. Cartwheels of prostrate Common Juniper *Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis* were a prominent feature of the higher slopes with heavily grazed bushes of Greek Plum *Prunus cocomilia* and the Hawthorn *Crataegus pycnoloba*, an attractive endemic with large, colourful fruit.

We had lunch at a viewpoint, overlooking the Styx Valley and the Gulf of Corinth. Around us were the purple flowers of *Colchicum boissieri* and a little further on we found an extensive population of Sternbergia *Sternbergia lutea*, growing on steep, stabilised scree. Here too, we watched our first Peloponnese Wall Lizards, actively catching insects around sunny rocks.

We retraced our route back through Kalavrita until we came to a point where the meadows on either side of the road were coloured yellow with vast numbers of Sternbergia. It was a truly astonishing spectacle and we spent quite a time wandering among the flowers. Mingled with them, we found the purple spathes of *Biarum tenuifolium* and the large pink flowers of Eastern Hollyhock *Alcea pallida*. We continued along scenic mountain roads and over a pass to the remote village of Plataniotissa. Here we saw its famous ancient Oriental Plane tree, the hollow bole of which contains a strange little chapel. Sadly, but inevitably, the old trees had died during the previous year and all their branches had been pruned away. We rounded off the afternoon with drinks in the adjacent taverna, before taking a more direct route back to Kalavrita. We enjoyed a delicious selection of local dishes for our evening meal, in a nearby Taverna.

Day 3

Sunday 23rd October

After spending some time exploring Kalavrita and visiting the war memorial, we headed over the mountains. In the rocky ground, at the edge of the forest, we found *Cyclamem hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*, along with the leaf rosettes of Yellow Bee Orchid *Ophrys lutea* and the spotted leaves of Dense-flowered Orchid *Neotinea maculata*. At the top of the pass, we stopped to take in views of one of the extensive flat-bottomed poljes, that are a common feature of the landscape of the northern Peloponnese. (Polje is a Serbo-Croation word for 'field') They are ancient erosion surfaces, formed by the solution weathering of softer limestones, and are the mainstay of the local agricultural economy.

After replenishing our lunch supplies, in Klitoria, we investigated a dense roadside-population of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*, with a range of attractive leaf patterns and, further on, we wandered through another astonishing display of Sternbergia, on long-abandoned cultivation terraces. In the small village of Pagrati, we marveled at the huge Pausanias' Vine, which festoons the canopy of adjacent Holm Oaks *Quercus ilex*. It is male plant, believed to represent an ancestral wild vine, *Vitis vinifera* var. *sylvestris* and is estimated to be around 3000 years old. (The domesticated vine *Vitis vinifera* var. *vinifera* is hermaphrodite.)

We had lunch by a roadside, north of Tripoli, surrounded by an extensive population of another white crocus, this time *Crocus hadriaticus*, easily identified by its multiple flowers, each with a three-lobed orange or red stigma. Bypassing Tripoli, on the motorway, we followed a minor road across a high plateau towards Sparta. The long-abandoned terracing of the hillsides bore testimony to more productive times, but apart from a few small plantations of walnut and fruit trees, the land now only supports the ubiquitous sheep and goats. Thin soil, on limestone pavement, was dominated by scrub of Kermes Oak, among which we found the heart-shaped, patterned leaves of *Cyclamen graecum*, the yellow flowers of Thyme Rockrose *Fumana thymifolia* and a flowering plant of a Moon Carrot *Seseli arenarium*. *Crocus hadriaticus* was scattered across the hillsides and was joined by the white-anthered *Crocus boryi*. Several spectacular caterpillars of Spurge Hawkmoth were seen feeding on Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge *Euphorbia rigida*.

We continued south, through Sparta, and arrived at our waterfront hotel in Gythio, around 5.45 pm. We finished our day with dinner in a taverna, overlooking the harbour.

Day 4

Monday 24th October

We made our first stop by some abandoned olive groves, where, in dense maquis, we found an abundance of *Cyclamen graecum* and a few flower spikes of Autumn Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*. Further on, under a canopy of Valonia Oak *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis*, we found a remarkable, dense population of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *crassifolium*, scenting the air with a sweet perfume. The subspecies is a tetraploid, with thicker, fleshier leaves than the nominate diploid, that we had seen in the mountains. As far as is known, it appears to be restricted to low altitudes near the coasts of the Peloponnese and several islands.

After lunch, we travelled west onto the Mani peninsula, where we found the lilac-blue flowers of *Crocus goulimyi* and the small, pink-flowered *Colchicum zahnii*, both endemic to the Peloponnese. Reaching the coast, below Diros, we visited the Vlychada Cave, one of most richly decorated caves in the world, where we had a boat tour through its maze of flooded passageways. Back in daylight, we explored the cliff path, finding interesting plants, such as

Golden Samphire *Limbarda crithmoides*, Tree Medick, *Medicago arborea*, Woody Catchfly *Silene fruticosa* and the shrubby *Dianthus fruticosus* subsp. *occidentalis*, which was flowering beautifully over the cave entrance. On the coastal rocks, we enjoyed excellent views of Common Kingfisher, Black Redstart and Blue Rock Thrush.

On our return journey, we found the stunning, large-flowered *Crocus niveus*, some with flowers of pure white, as its name suggests, but the majority with lavender outer tepals. Our final treat for the afternoon was in an olive grove, where we wandered among hundreds of sweet-smelling Small Pheasant's-eye *Narcissus obsoletus*.

Day 5

Tuesday 25th October

We visited the small cliff-top settlement of Ageranos, where there was an attractive church and a Maniot tower, once home to the Grigoraki family. Growing from crevices in hard limestone, were robust plants of *Colchicum parlatoris*, in various shades of pink, an endemic of the south and west Peloponnese and the islands of Kephalonia and Zakinthos. As we walked down the road, it was interesting to watch the efficient harvesting of olives using a modern electric tree-shaker. Behind the long shingle beach, at Kamares, there was a large area of saltmarsh with Common Reed *Phragmites communis*, mounds of Sharp Rush *Juncus acutus* and patches of red Perennial Glasswort *Arthrocnemum perenne*. Along the edge of the marsh were Common Sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare* and tangles of the toxic Silk Vine *Periploca graeca*, with the colourful caterpillars of Plain Tiger. The butterflies migrate from Africa, in the summer, often in large numbers and there is increasing evidence of their breeding in southern Europe.

We drove north and followed a steep, winding road up into the Taygetos Mountains. As we climbed higher, the oak woodland and maquis gradually gave way to forest of Greek Fir, and Turkish Black Pine *Pinus nigra* subsp. *nigra* var. *caramanica*. Oriental Plane *Platanus orientalis* follows the stream channels and, at this time of year, its autumn colour forms conspicuous rivers of gold between the dark conifers. Queen Olga's Snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae* was locally abundant in damp, shaded woodland, along with abundant *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*. After lunch, and a short walk, we returned the way we had come and were back in Gythio for 5.30 pm.

Day 6

Wednesday 26th October

East of Gythio, we made a short exploration of a sandy beach, as far as the rusting wreck of the cargo ship, Dimitrios. Noteworthy plants, including Sea Daffodil *Pancratium maritimum*, still with a few late flowers, Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, Purple Spurge *Euphorbia peplis*, Sea Knotgrass *Polygonum maritimum* and large fruiting shrubs of the Joint Pine *Ephedra foeminea*. We continued across the broad delta of the Evrotas River, much of it now given over to orange groves, and turned inland, through wild and largely unpopulated hill-country, in the southern part of the Parnon mountains. Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo*, Eastern Strawberry Tree *Arbutus andrachne* and Autumn Heather *Erica manipuliflora* provided a trio of plants in the heather family. Silver-leaved bushes of the daphnerelative *Thymelaea tartonraira* subsp. *tartonraira* provided further interest and in places, the landscape was enlivened by the vibrant autumn colours of Smoke Bush *Cotinus coggygria*. The bold flowers of *Crocus niveus* were present in many places.

We had lunch in Lambokambos, while we marveled at the amazing quantity of Crocus that decorates the walled fields around the village. *Crocus goulimyi* was the most prominent, including several plants with pure white flowers. In addition, there was *Crocus laevigatus*, another species with white anthers, looking rather like *Crocus boryi*, but with

feint purple feathering on the outer tepals and flowers that open widely in the sun. Leaving the village, we recrossed the mountains and made one final roadside stop, finding some fine multi-flowered plants of *Colchicum cupanii*.

We rejoined the main road and continued south to the walled Byzantine town of Monemvasia, where we spent the rest of the afternoon, exploring its narrow streets and interesting architecture. Growing on the cliffs and walls, an interesting range of plants included the white-woolly Mullein-leaved Inula *Pentanema verbascifolium* and the Woundwort *Stachys spreitzenhoferi* subsp. *virella*, which is endemic to this small island. Some of us climbed to the upper part of the town and the summit fortress, where more plants included Bean Trefoil *Anagyris foetida*, Withania *Withania somnifera*, a curious, member of the Nightshade family that was introduced in ancient times for its medicinal properties, a flowering specimen of Shrubby Ptilostemon *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*, and some lovely examples of *Cyclamen graecum*. Once darkness fell, we enjoyed an evening meal, before driving back to Gythio.

Day 7

Thursday 27th October

We started or day with a short visit to the islet of Kranae, to see a large population of *Cyclamen graecum*. Most of the plants were in flower but it was the incredible range of leaf patterns that was most striking. We drove north to the beautiful Byzantine town of Mystras, perched high on a hill, above Sparta, and spent the morning exploring the extensive ruins, wonderful architecture, and restored churches. Those of us who climbed to the Fortress were rewarded with panoramic views of Sparta and the mountains beyond. There were good displays of *Sternbergia lutea*, near the top of the site, and on the cliffs were the grey-leaved *Stachys candida*, the endemic Knapweed *Centaurea raphanina* subsp. *mixta*, the autumn-flowering onion *Allium callimischon* subsp. *callimischon* and lovely plants of *Campanula versicolor*, with large, two-toned blue flowers. We then made the short drive to the neighbouring village of Parori, for lunch beside the impressive fountains in the village square. Curtains of Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris* festooned the damp walls and, at the base of the cliff, it was a nice surprise to find a Balkan Stream Frog and a very large Freshwater Crab.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a gentle walk in the adjacent Parori Gorge, as far as a chapel, built inside a large cave. An interesting range of plants included the striped, hooded spathes of Friar's Cowl *Arisarum vulgare*, the fresh green leaf rosettes of Madonna Lily *Lilium candidum*, a Skullcap *Scutellaria rupestris* and more *Campanula versicolor*. After drinks in the village, we returned Gythio and completed our checklists, before dinner.

Day 8

Friday 28th October

As our homeward flight was not until late afternoon, we had plenty of time for some interesting breaks during our long journey. After a short visit to Gythio's well-preserved Roman Theatre, we headed north to the plateau beyond Sparta, with the hope of locating our final Crocus. *Crocus melantherus* is usually the last of the autumn-flowering species to flower and what better place to search for it than the type locality. It has white flowers, with dark feathering on the outer tepals, and black anthers. To our delight, we found it easily, scattered in short turf across the hillsides. Nearby, as a bonus, another impressive drift of Sternbergia provided a fitting finale to a memorable week of flower hunting in the Peloponnese.

We made a small diversion to view the Corinth Canal and eat our lunch. Deciding that bungee jumping was not for us, we rejoined the motorway and arrived in Athens, with plenty of time to check in for our homeward flights.

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Species lists

Plants

Latin name	Common name	Notes
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS AND FERN ALLIES	
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
Asplenium ceterach	Rusty-back Fern	Common
Aspleniun onopteris	Acute-leaved Spleenwort	Frequent. Shaded cliffs
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Occasional. Shaded cliffs
Athyriaceae	Lady-fern Family	
Athyrium felix-femina	Lady Fern	Taygetos
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Common
Cystopteridaceae	Bladder-fern Family	
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle Bladder Fern	Shaded rocks
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
Dryopteris felix-mas	Male Fern	Shady places
Dryopteris pallida	Pale Buckler-fern	Shaded rocks
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail	Occasional
Equisetum ramosissimum	Branched Horsetail	Hedges and scrub
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
Polypodium cambricum	Southern Polypody	Shaded rocks
Polypodium vulgare	Common Polypody	Taygetos
Pteridaceae	Maidenhair Fern Family	

Latin name

Adiantum capillus-veneris Cheilanthes acrosticha Cosentinia vellea

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata

GYMNOSPERMS

Araucariaceae

Araucaria heterophylla ‡

Cupressaceae *Cupressus sempervirens* forma.

sempervirens ‡
Juniperus communis var. saxatilis
Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus
Juniperus phoenicea subsp. phoenicea

Ephedraceae

Ephedra foeminea

Pinaceae

Abies cephalonica Pinus halepensis

Pinus nigra subsp. nigra var. caramanica

Pinus pinea ‡

ANGIOSPERMS
DICOTYLEDONS

Acanthaceae

Acanthus spinosus

Amaranthaceae
Arthrocnemum perenne

Chenopodium album Salsola kali Suaeda vera

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggygria Pistacia lentiscus Pistacia terebinthus

Apiaceae

Angelica sylvestris Bupleurum fruticosum Crithmum maritimum Daucus carota

Eryngium amethystinum Eryngium campestre Eryngium creticum Common name Notes

Maidenhair Fern Parori fountain
Scented Cheilanthes Common
Scaly Cheilanthes Coastal rocks

Lesser Clubmosss Family

Mediterranean Selaginella Damp earth and rocks

CONIFERS

Monkey Puzzle Family

Norfolk Island Pine Cultivated

Juniper Family

Funeral Cypress Cultivated
Common Juniper Chelmos
Prickly Juniper Mountains
Phoenicean Juniper Lowland scrub

Joint Pine Family

A Joint Pine Common

Pine Family

Greek Fir Mountains

Aleppo Pine Common near coasts

Turkish Black Pine Taygetos
Umbrella Pine Cultivated

FLOWERING PLANTS

Acanthus Family

Spiny Bear's Breech Occasional

Goosefoot Family

Perennial Glasswort

Fat-Hen

Common weed

Prickly Saltwort

Sandy beaches

Shrubby Sea-blite

Coastal saltmarsh

Sumach Family

Smoke BushLocally commonMastic TreeCommonTurpentine TreeCommon

Carrot Family

Wild Angelica Krioneri

Shrubby Hare's Ear Frequent near coasts
Rock Samphire Maritime rocks
Wild carrot Common
Blue Eryngo Dry Grasslands
Field Eryngo Common

Small-headed Blue Eryngo Dry Grasslands

Foeniculum vulgare

Common

Latin name Common name **Notes** Eryngium maritimum Sea Holly Sand dunes Ferula communis Giant Fennel Common Wild Fennel

Scaligeria napiformis Scaligeria Shaded rocky places

Scandix pecten-veneris Shepherd's Needle Common

Seseli arenarium A Moon Carrot Plateau near Karies

Smyrnium olusatrum Alexanders Frequent Round-leaved Alexanders Smyrnium rotundifolium Frequent Tordylium officinale Cretan Hartwort Cultivated areas

Apocynaceae Dogbane Family

Nerium oleander Oleander Frequent along watercourses

Periploca graeca Silk Vine Hedges Plumeria rubra ‡ Frangipani Cultivated

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Frequent lvy

Aristolochiaceae **Birthwort Family**

Aristolochia sempervirens Evergreen Birthwort Common

Asteraceae Daisy Family

Achillea ligustica Southern Yarrow Common Achilllea millefolium Yarrow Chelmos Bellis perennis Daisy Common Bellis sylvestris Southern Daisy Common Calendula arvensis Field Marigold Frequent Carduus pycnocephalus Slender Thistle Waste places Carlina corymbosa A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Common

Carlina graeca A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Abundant in phrygana

Centaurea raphanina subsp. mixta • A Knapweed Rocky places Centaurea solstitialis St. Barnaby's Thistle Occasional Chondrilla juncea Rush Skeletonweed Common Cichorium intybus Chicory Waste places

Cirsium candelabrum Candelabra Thistle Widespread in the mountains Cirsium eriophorum Woolly Thistle Frequent

Crepis rubra Pink Hawksbeard Occasional Cynara cornigera A wild Artichoke Frequent Dittrichia graveolens Aromatic Inula Waste places

Dittrichia viscosa Stink Aster Abundant on roadsides

Doronicum orientale Eastern Leopard's-bane Mountains Pale Globe-Thistle Echinops sphaerocephalus Frequent Echinops spinosissimus Spiniest Globe-Thistle Rocky places Erigeron canadensis ‡ Canadian Fleabane Common weed Filago pygmaea Pygmy Cudweed Dry stony places

Galactites tomentosa Galactites Common. Waste places

Curry Plant Helichrysum italicum Frequent

Helminthotheca echioides **Bristly Oxtongue** Occasional weed Lactuca serriola Pricky Lettuce Waste places

Limbarda crithmoides Golden Samphire Coast

Walls and rocks Mycelis muralis Wall Lettuce Pallenis spinosa Spiny Golden-star Frequent

Pentanema verbascifolium Mullein-leaved Inula Cliffs

Phagnalon graecum Shrubby Cudweed Walls and rocks

Latin nameCommon nameNotesPicnomon acarnaYellow Spine-thistleCommon

Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Shrubby Ptilostemon Cliffs Chelmos Pulicaria odora Mediterranean Fleabane Scolymus hispanicus Spanish Oyster Plant Roadsides Senecio vulgaris Groundsel Waste places Senecio rupestris Rock Groundsel Chelmos Silybum marianum Milk Thistle Waste places

Sonchus asperPrickly Sow ThistleWaste placesSonchus oleraceusSmooth Sow ThistrleWaste placesTaraxacum hellenicumA DandelionCorinth

Tripolium pannonicum Sea Aster Coastal marsh

Tussilago farfaraColt's-footWet places in mountainsXanthium spinosum ‡Spiny CockleburOccasional weedXanthium strumarium ‡CockleburFrequent weed

Betulaceae Birch Family

Ostrya carpinifolia Hop Hornbeam Common

Boraginaceae Borage Family

Anchusa italicaLarge Blue AlkanetRoadsides. TaygetosCerinthe majorHoneywortOccasionalCynoglossum creticumBlue Hound's-tongueFrequent

Echium angustifolium Narrow-leaved Bugloss Coast. Common
Echium italicum subsp. biebersteinii Pale Bugloss Roadsides. Common

Echium plantagineum Purple Viper's-bugloss Common

Heliotropium europaeum Heliotrope Common. Waste places

Onosma heterophylla A Golden Drops Rocky pasture

Onosma frutescens Shrubby Golden Drops Walls and rocks. Common

Symphytum creticum • Cretan Comfrey Monemvasia

Brassicacae Cabbage Family

Aethionema saxatileBurnt CandytuftChelmosAlyssum montanumAn AlisonChelmosAubrieta deltoideaAubretiaMountainsAurinia saxatilisYellow AlyssumMystras

Berteroa obliquaA Hoary AlisonFields. KalavritaCakile maritimaSea RocketMaritime sandCapsella bursa-pastorisShepherd's PurseWeedy placesFibigia clypeataFibigiaTaygetos

Lunaria annua subsp. pachyrhiza Honesty Mystras

Matthiola incana Hoary Stock Monemvasia

Cactaceae Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-barbarica ‡ Prickly Pear Widespread

Campanulaceae Bellflower Family

Campanula andrewsii subsp andrewsii • Chelmos
Campanula andrewsii subsp. hirsutula • Monemvasia
Campanula topaliana subsp. topaliana • Mystras

Campanula versicolor Cliffs

Cannabaceae Hackberry and Hemp Family

Celtis australis European Nettle Tree Frequent

Silene vulgaris

Latin name Common name **Notes**

Capparaceae **Caper Family**

Common on cliffs Capparis spinosa Caper

Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family

Occasional Lonicera etrusca Etruscan Honeysuckle

Caryophyllaceae **Pink Family**

Cerastium candidissimum Mountains

A Shrubby Pink Dianthus fruticosus subsp. occidentalis • Coastal cliffs, Diros

Drypis spinosa **Drypis** Mountains Paronychia capitata Occasional

Petrorhagia illyrica Occasional Frequent Petrorhagia glumacea

Silene fruticosa Woody Catchfly Cliffs Silene goulimyi Mystras

Cistaceae **Rock-rose Family**

Cistus creticus subsp. creticus Cretan Cistus Common Cistus salvifolius Sage-leaved Cistus Locally common

Bladder Campion

Common

Fumana arabica Mediterranean Rockrose Frequent Fumana thymifolia Thyme Rockrose Frequent Helianthemum hymettium • A Rockrose Mountains Helianthemum nummularium Common Rockrose **Taygetos**

Convolvulaceae **Bindweed Family**

Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed Frequent Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed Roadsides Convolvulus elegantissimus **Elegant Bindweed** Dry stony places Convolvulus siculus Small Blue Bindweed Dry places Cuscuta campestris ‡ Field Dodder Occasional Cuscuta epithymum Common Dodder Frequent parasite

Ipomoea indica ‡ Cultivated A Morning Glory

Crassulaceae **Stonecrop Family**

Petrosedum ochroleucum European Stonecrop Widespread Petroedum sediforme Pale Stonecrop Common Sedum album White Stonecrop Common

Sedum amplexicaule subsp. tenuifolium Frequent on rocks Sedum cepaea Frequent on shaded rocks

Umbilicus rupestris Wall Pennywort Common

Cucurbitaceae **Cucumber Family**

Bryonia cretica White Bryony Frequent Ecballium elaterium **Squirting Cucumber** Waste places

Dipsacaceae Teasel Family

Knautia integrifolia A Scabious Waste places

Pterocephalus perennis Mountains

Scabiosa argentea Rocky slopes. Taygetos

Scabiosa brachiata Tremastelma **Taygetos**

Ebony Family Ebenaceae

Diospyros kaki Persimmon Cultivated

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium

Latin name	Common name	Notes
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
Arbutus andrachne	Eastern Strawberry Tree	Locally common
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	Locally common
Erica arborea	Tree Heather	Locally common
Erica manipuliflora	Autumn Heather	Locally common
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
Euphorbia acanthothamnos	Greek Spiny Spurge	Locally common
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood Spurge	Occasional
Euphorbia chamaesyce	Small Spurge	Common
Euphorbia characias	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Locally common
Euphorbia dendroides	Tree Spurge	Common near coasts
Euphorbia paralias	Sea Spurge	Sand dunes
Euphorbia peplis	Purple Spurge	Maritime sands
Euphorbia pulcherrima ‡	Poinsettia	Cultivated
Euphorbia rigida	Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge	Common
Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury	Common
Ricinus communis ‡	Castor-oil-plant	Occasional
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
Acacia saligna ‡	Blue-leaved Wattle	Cultivated
Anagyris foetida	Bean Trefoil	Locally common
Anthyllis hermanniae	Herman's Kidney Vetch	Local in phrygana
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora	Kidney Vetch	Common
Astragalus angustifolius	Narrow-leaved Milk Vetch	Mountains
Astragalus thracicus •		Chelmos. Taygetos
Bituminaria bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil	Common
Calicotome villosa	Hairy Thorny Broom	Common
Ceratonia siliqua ‡	Carob	Frequent
Cercis siliquastrum	Judas Tree	Frequent
Coronilla valentina	Shrubby Scorpion Vetch	Cliffs. Diros
Genista acanthoclada		Common
Hippocrepis comosa	Horseshoe Vetch	Chelmos
Medicago arborea ‡	Tree Medick	Coastal cliffs. Diros
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	Common
Medicago marina	Sea Medick	Sand dunes
Medicago sativa	Lucerne	Occasional. Roadsides
Melilotus indicus	Small-flowered Melilot	Parori gorge
Ononis spinosa subsp. diacantha	Spiny Rest-harrow	Frequent
Robinia pseudoacacia ‡	False Acacia	Planted and naturalised
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom	Common. Roadsides
Trifolium angustifolium	Narrow-leaved Clover	Frequent
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
Castanea sativa ‡	Sweet Chestnut	Taygetos
Quercus coccifera	Kermes Oak	Common
Quercus frainetto	Hungarian Oak	Occasional
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak	Common
Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis	Valonia Oak	Locally common
Quercus pubescens	Downy Oak	Common

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Geranium Family

Common Stork's-bill

Waste places

Globularia stygia •

Thymus rechingeri •

Latin name Common name **Notes** Geranium molle Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Frequent Little Robin Common Geranium purpureum

Herb Robert Geranium robertianum Damp shady places

Globulariaceae **Globularia Family**

Globularia alypum Shrubby Globularia North of Lambokambos

Chelmos

Chelmos

Grossulariaceae **Currant Family**

Chelmos Ribes uva-crispa Gooseberry

Hypericaceae St John's-wort Family

Hypericum empetrifolium Crowberry-leaved St John's-wort Frequent Hypericum perforatum Perforate St John's-wort Occasional Hypericum triquetrifolium Wavy-leaved St John's-wort Rocky places

Hypericum vesiculosum Mystras and Parori gorge

Juglandaceae **Walnut Family**

Juglans regia ‡ Walnut Cultivated

Lamiaceae **Dead-nettle Family**

Ballota acetabulosa Garden Horehound Rocky places Ballota nigra Black Horehound Common Clinopodium alpinum Alpine Calamint Chelmos Clinopodium nepeta Lesser Calamint Common Clinopodium vulgare Wild Basil Shady places Lamium amplexicaule Henbit Dead-nettle Common

Lavandula stoechas French Lavender Locally common Marrubium vulgare White Horehound Waste places Mentha aquatica Water Mint Damp places Mentha longifolia Horse Mint **Ditches** Micromeria graeca A Micromeria Rocky places

Micromeria juliana Micromeria Rocky places Nepeta argolica • A Catmint Chelmos Ocimum basilicum ‡ Basil Cultivated Origanum vulgare Marjoram Frequent Phlomis fruticosa Jerusalem Sage Common Phlomis samia Chelmos

Prasium majus Prasium Widespread Salvia fruticosa Greek Sage Common Salvia verbenaca Wild Clary Common Satureja thymbra Satureia Rocky places

Scutellaria rupestris Parori A Skullcap Sideritis clandestina • A Mountain Tea Chelmos

Stachys candida Parori and Mystras A Woundwort Stachys spreitzenhoferi subsp. virella • Monemvasia A Woundwort Teucrium chamaedrys Wall Germander Widespread Teucrium capitatum Felty Germander Common Thymbra capitata Mediterranean Thyme Common

A Thyme Vitex agnus-castus Chaste Tree Frequent. Riverbeds

Linaceae Flax Family

Linum austriacum A Flax Chelmos

Latin name	Common name	Notes
Lythraceae	Loosestrife Family	
Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife	Ditches
Punica granatum ‡	Pomegranate	Cultivated
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
Alcea pallida	Eastern Hollyhock	Frequent
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis ‡	Hibiscus	Cultivated
Lavatera bryoniifolia	Bryony-leaved Mallow	Frequent
Malva arborea	Tree Mallow	Coastal
Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	Common
Meliaceae	Mahogany Family	
Melia azedarach ‡	Persian Lilac	Cultivated
Moraceae	Mulberry Family	
Ficus carica	Fig	Common
Morus alba ‡	White Mulberry	Cultivated
Morinaceae	Morina Family	
Morina persica	A Morina	Chelmos
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
Eucayptus camaldulensis ‡	River Red Gum	Cultivated
Melaleuca citrina ‡	Crimson Bottlebrush	Cultivated
Myrtus communis	Common Myrtle	Occasional. Maquis
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family	
Bougainvillea ×buttiana ‡	Bougainvillea	Cultivated
Oleaceae	Ash Family	
Olea europaea var. sylvestris	Wild Olive	Frequent
Fraxinus ornus	Manna Ash	Widespread
Phillyrea latifolia	Mock Privet	Frequent in maquis
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
Odontites linkii		Parori
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
Oxalis pes-caprae ‡	Bermuda Buttercup	Common weed
Oxalis corniculata	Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	Occasional
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
Glaucium flavum	Yellow Horned-poppy	Coastal habitats
Phytolaccaceae	Pokeweed Family	
Phytolacca americana ‡	American Pokeweed	Waste areas
Pittosporaceae	Pittosporum Family	
Pittosporum tobira ‡		Cultivated
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
Plantago coronopus	Stag's-horn Plantain	Waste areas near coast

© Naturetrek August 23 12 Latin name Common name Notes

Platanaceae Plane Family

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane Common

Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family

Armeria canescensA ThriftChelmosLimonium virgatumA Sea-lavenderCoastalLimonium vulgareCommon Sea-lavenderCoastalPlumbago europaeaEuropean PlumbagoMystras

Polygalaceae Milkwort Family

Polygala myrtifolia ‡Myrtle-leaved MilkwortCultivatedPolygala monspeliacaMediterranean MilkwortFrequentPolygala venulosaEastern MilkwortFrequentPolygala vulgarisCommon MilkwortChelmos

Polygonaceae Dock Family

Polygonum aviculareKnotgrassWaste placesPolygonum equisetiformeHorsetail KnotgrassWaste placesPolygonum maritimumSea KnotgrassCoastsRumex bucephalophorusBull's Head DockCommon

Portulacaceae Purslane Family

Portulaca oleracea Purslane Common. Waste areas

Primulaceae Primrose Family

Cyclamen graecum subsp. graecumGreek SowbreadCommonCyclamen hederifolium subsp. crassifolium •Common in lowland areas

Cyclamen hederifolium subsp. hederifolium Ivy-leaved Sowbread Common in mountains Cyclamen rhodium subsp. peloponnesiacum

Common. Spring flowering
 Lysimachia arvensis
 Scarlet Pimpernel
 Frequent

Primula vulgaris Primrose Taygetos. Common in damp areas

Samolus valerandi Brookweed Parori fountain

Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family

Crown Anemone Anemone coronaria Frequent Anemone pavonina Peacock Anemone Common Clematis cirrhosa Common Virgin's Bower Clematis flammula Fragrant Clematis Coastal areas Old Man's Beard Common Clematis vitalba Consolida ajacis A Larkspur Frequent Ficaria verna subsp. chrysocephalus A Lesser Celendine Common Nigella damascena Love-in-a-mist Frequent

Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family

Rhamnus lycioides subsp. graeca A Buckthorn Common

Rosaceae Rose Family

Agrimonia eupatorium Hemp Agrimony Occasional Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn Common Crataegus pycnoloba • A Hawthorn Chelmos Cydonia oblonga ‡ Quince Cultivated Eriobotrya japonica ‡ Japanese Loquat Cultivated Poterium sanguisorba Salad Burnet Common

Latin name Common name Notes Prunus avium Wild Cherry Forests Prunus cocomilia Greek Plum Chelmos Prunus dulcis ‡ Cultivated Almond Prunus spinosa Blackthorn Frequent Pyracantha coccinea ‡ Firethorn Cultivated Pyrus spinosa Wild Pear Common Rosa canina Dog Rose Common Rosa sempervirens Evergreen Rose Frequent Rubus ulmifolius A Bramble Common Sarcopoterium spinosum Thorny Burnet Common

Rubiaceae

Round-leaved Bedstraw Galium rotundifolium Shady forests Rubia peregrina Wild Madder Shady places

Rutaceae

Cultivated Citrus limon ‡ Lemon Citrus sinensis ‡ Cultivated Orange Ruta chalepensis Fringed Rue Parori

Salicaceae

Willow Family Populus alba White Poplar Common. Damp habitats

Bastard-toadflax Family

Rue Family

Bedstraw Family

Populus nigra ‡ Black Poplar Cultivated

Santalaceae

Osyris alba Locally common Osyris Viscum album subsp. abietis Common on Abies Mistletoe

Maple Family

Saxifrage Family

Figwort Family

Sapindaceae

Acer sempervirens Cretan Maple Common

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga rotundifolia subsp. Chrysosplenium-leaved chrysospleniifolia Saxifrage Shaded rocks

Scrophulariaceae

Scrophularia canina subsp. bicolor French Figwort Frequent

Cliffs Scrophularia heterophylla Scrophularia lucida Shining Figwort Frequent Scrophularia peregrina Nettle-leaved Figwort Occasional Verbascum macrurum Common

Verbascum sinuatum Wavy-leaved Mullein Common Corinth Verbascum undulatum

Simaroubaceae Tree-of-heaven Family

Ailanthus altissima ‡ Tree-of-heaven Naturalised and invasive

Nightshade Family Solanaceae

Datura stramonium ‡ Thornapple Waste ground Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane Mystras and Parori Mandrake

Mandragora autumnalis Frequent Nicotiana glauca ‡ Shrubby Tobacco Waste areas and roadsides

Solanum nigrum Black Nightshade Frequent Solanum villosum Occasional Hairy Nightshade

Latin name Common name Notes

Withania somnifera ‡ Withania Occasional. Waste places

Styracaceae Storax Family

Styrax officinalis Storax Occasional in woods

Tamaricaceae Tamarisk Family

Tamarix parviflora Small-flowered Tamarisk Coast

Thymelaeaceae Mezereon Family

Daphne oleoides Olive-leaved Daphne Chelmos

Thymelaea hirsuta Hairy Thymelaea Rocky places near the coast

Thymelaea tartonraira subsp. tartonraira North of Lambokambos

Ulmaceae Elm Family

Ulmus minor Small-leaved Elm Frequent

Urticaceae Nettle Family

Parietaria judaicaPellitory-of-the-wallCommonUrtica dioicaNettleWidespreadUrtica urensSmall NettleCommon

Valerianaceae Valerian Family

Centranthus longiflorus Parori gorge

Centranthus ruber Red Valerian Monemvasia, Mystras

Verbenaceae Vervain Family

Verbena officinalis Vervain Common

Veronicaceae Speedwell Family

Cymbalaria microcalyx subsp. alba • Mystras and Parori
Cymbalaria muralis ‡ Ivy-leaved Toadflax Occasional on walls

Digitalis laevigataGreek FoxgloveTaygetosVeronica beccabungaBrooklimeWet placesVeronica cymbalariaWhite SpeedwellWaste placesVeronica persica ‡Common Field SpeedwellCommon

Viburnaceae Viburnum Family

Sambucus nigra Elder Parori Viburnum tinus Laurustinus Parori

Violaceae Violet Family

Viola graeca Chelmos

Vitaceae Vine Family

Vitis vinifera var. sylvestris Wild Vine Occasional

Zygophyllaceae Caltrop Family

Tribulus terrestris Maltese Cross Waste places

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family

Allium ampeloprasum Broad-leaved Wild Leek Monemvasia, Gythio

Allium callimischon subsp. callimischon Locally common

Latin name

Allium chamaespathum Galanthus reginae-olgae Narcissus obsoletus Pancratium maritimum Sternbergia lutea

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare Arum italicum Biarum tenuifolium

Asparagaceae

Agave americana ‡
Asparagus acutifolius

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. orientalis

Drimia numidica Muscari commutatum Muscari neglectum Ornithogalum montanum

Ornithogalum sp.
Prospero autumnale
Ruscus aculeatus

Asphodelaceae

Asphodeline lutea
Asphodelus ramosus

Colchicum boissieri Colchicum cupanii Colchicum parlatoris • Colchicum zahnii •

Cyperaceae

Cyperus capitatus Scirpoides holoschoenus

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus communis

Iridaceae

Crocus boryi
Crocus goulimyi subsp. goulimyi •
Crocus hadriaticus subsp. hadriaticus
Crocus laevigatus
Crocus mazziaricus

Crocus melantherus •
Crocus niveus •
Iris tuberosa

Iris unguicularis subsp. angustifolia

Juncaceae

Juncus acutus Juncus effusus Juncus inflexus Common name Notes

Queen Olga's Snowdrop Taygetos
Small Pheasant's-eye Locally common
Sea Daffodil Sand dunes
Common Sternbergia Locally common

Lords-and-Ladies Family

Friar's Cowl Common

Italian Lords and Ladies Locally common Narrow-leaved Biarum Locally common

Asparagus Family

Centuryplant Cultivated and naturalised

Mediterranean Wild Asparagus Occasional Leafless Asparagus Frequent

Sea Squill Locally common

A Grape Hyacinth Mystras A Grape Hyacinth Chelmos

A Star of Bethlehem Mountains and forests

A Star of Bethlehem Mystras
Autumn Squill Common
Butcher's-broom Shady places

Asphodel Family

Yellow Asphodel Locally common

Branched Asphodel Common

Local in mountains
Locally common

Local Local

Sedge Family

A Galingale Sand dunes
Round-headed Clubrush Sand dunes

Yam Family

Black Bryony Frequent

Iris Family

Widespread in south
Locally common
Locally common
Locally common
Locally common
Locally common
Widespread

Snake's-head Iris Widespread
Algerian Iris Locally common

Rush Family

Sharp Rush Sandy places
Soft Rush Damp habitats
Hard Rush Coastal salmarsh

Latin name	Common name	Notes
Liliaceae	Lily Family	
Lilium candidum	Madonna Lily	Parori gorge
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
Neotinea maculata	Dense-flowered Orchid	Chelmos
Ophrys lutea	Yellow Bee Orchid	Chelmos
Spiranthes spiralis	Autumn Lady's-tresses	Rocky places
Poaceae	Grass Family	
Achnatherum miliaceum	Milo Grass	Dry Places
Aegilops neglecta	Three-awned Goat-grass	Occasional
Ammophila arenaria	Marram Grass	Sand dunes
Arundo donax ‡	Giant Reed	Common
Avena sterilis	Winter Wild Oat	Waste areas
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False Brome	Common
Briza maxima	Great Quaking-grass	Frequent
Catapodium rigidum	Fern-grass	Rocky places
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda Grass	Waste places
Cynosurus echinatus	Rough Dog's-tail	Grassland
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Frequent
Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley	Waste places
Lagurus ovatus	Hare's-tail	Common
Lamarckia aurea	Golden Dog's-tail	Common
Melica ciliata	Ciliate Melick	Occasional
Melica uniflora	One-flowered Melick	Forests
Phragmites australis	Common Reed	Common. Wet areas
Stipa pennata	Needle Grass	Common
Posidoniaceae	Neptune Grass Family	
Posidonia oceanica	Neptune Grass	Marine
Smilacaceae	Smilax Family	
Smilax aspera	Smilax	Common
Typhaceae	Reedmace Family	
Typha domingensis	Southern Reedmace	Ditches
Zosteraceae	Eel-grass Family	

• = endemic or near endemic to Peloponnese and neighbouring islands, including Crete

Eel-grass

Marine

‡ = naturalised or cultivated

Zostera marina

Birds (H = Heard only)

				21 - 28 October 2022					
Common name	Latin name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chukar Partridge	Alectoris chukar			Н					
Feral Pigeon	Columba livia							✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto			✓		✓		✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea							✓	
Great Egret	Egretta garzetta		✓						
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus		✓						
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis		Н	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major					✓			
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus					✓			✓
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius			√	✓	✓	✓	√	
Common Magpie	Pica pica			√	✓	✓	✓	√	
Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula				✓				
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix		✓	√	✓	√	√	√	✓
Northern Raven	Corvus corax		√	√	√	√	✓	√	√
Coal Tit	Periparus ater	√			√	√			
Great Tit	Parus major		√	√	√	√	✓	√	
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		√			√	√	√	
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti				√	√	✓		
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		√						
Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala		√	√	√	√	√	√	
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus		√					√	
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes							Н	
Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea					√			
Western Rock Nuthatch	Sitta neumayer						√		
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris			√	√		√		
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		√				√		
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos							√	
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus		√						
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula			√	√	√	√	√	
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros			√	√	√	√	√	
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius				√	√		√	
White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus		√						
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava							√	
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		√	√	√	√	√		
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		_		√	√	√	√	√
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis		√				√		
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		√	√	√	√	√	√	
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris			·		_		√	
Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina			√					
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis			Ť			√	√	
European Serin	Serinus serinus		√						
Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia		√					√	
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		· ✓					-	

Other vertebrates

		21 - 28 October 2022							
Common name	Latin name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Mammals									
Beech Marten	Martes foina			D		D		D	
Mole	Talpa europaea		Е						
Wild Boar	Sus scrofa							E	
Reptiles									
Marginated Tortoise	Testudo marginata						✓		
Balkan Wall Lizard	Podarcis taurica		✓	✓			✓		✓
Peloponnese Wall Lizard	Podarcis peloponnesiacus				✓		✓	✓	
Greek Rock Lizard	Hellenolacerta graeca					✓	✓		
Greek Algyroides	Algyroides moreoticus					✓			
Peloponnese Slow Worm	Anguis cephallonica		✓						
Amphibians									
Balkan Stream Frog	Rana graeca				✓			✓	
Fish									
Broadnosed Pipefish	Syngnathus typhle						✓		
Mediterranean Moray	Muraena helena						✓		
D = Dead									
E = Evidence									

Invertebrates

Common name	Latin name
Butterflies	
	Papilionidae
Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius
Swallowtail	Papilio machaon
	Hesperiidae
Mediterranean Skipper	Gegenes nostradamus
	Pieridae
Brimstone	Goneptryx rhamni
Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra
Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea
Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa
Large White	Pieris brassicae
Small White	Pieris rapae
	Lycaenidae
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	Leptotes pirithous
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus
	Nymphalidae
Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta

Common name	Latin name
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae
Southern Comma	Polygonia egea
Plain Tiger	Danaus chrysippus
Southern Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria
Large Wall Brown	Lasiommata maera
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera
Great Banded Grayling	Brintesia circe
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina
Moths	
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Macroglossum stellatarum
Spurge Hawkmoth (larva)	Hyles euphorbiae
Dragonflies	
Southern Migrant Hawker	Aeshna affinis
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum
Grasshoppers and Mantids	
Egyptian Grasshopper	Anacridium aegyptium
Nosed Grasshopper	Acrida ungarica
Blue Band-winged Grasshopper	Oedipoda caerulescens
Red Band-winged Grasshopper	Oedipoda germanica
Greek Marbled Bush Cricket	Eupholidoptera megastyla
Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima
House Cricket	Acheta domesticus
Praying Mantis	Mantis religiosa
A Conehead Mantis	Empusa fasciata
Other Insects	
Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea
Oriental Hornet	Vespa orientalis
Fire Bug	Pyrrhocoris apterus
A Stick Insect	Bacillus rossius
Crustacea	
Freshwater Crab	Potamon potamios
Miscellaneous	
Mediterranean Banded Centipede	Scolopendra cingulatus