

Wild Flowers of Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

26th April – 3rd May 2023



Sweet Pea



Orobanche lavandulacea



Pale Ophrys



Paeonia mascula

Tour report & images by Jessica Turner



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Summary

The island of Sicily is fascinating for many reasons, not least the diversity of the flora, with many endemic species. We enjoyed another great week, with plenty of orchid species, subspecies and variants(!) and with broomrapes and peas also being particularly well represented. The scent of the wild Sweet Pea, the source of all our cultivars, was a particular joy! A good range of butterflies, other insects, as well birds and other species were also appreciated. Good company, delicious food, local wine and comfortable hotels, all contributed to the experience.

Day 1

Wednesday 26th April

Fly Catania; transfer Madonie Mountains; nr Petralia Soprana

Nine group members met Jessica at Gatwick North Terminal for our 7am Easyjet flight to Catania. As we approached, we had some lovely views of the snow-covered summit of Etna. We met Dave at the airport, as he had been leading the Spring Birding trips in the south of the island. It took rather a time to collect the minibuses, but the warm sun meant a pleasant wait. We loaded up and headed west on the A19, noticing how the vegetation changed from the very dry, with a lot of citrus being grown in the east, to greener arable and pasture as we approached the Madonie. Some fields were bright pink-red with Italian Sainfoin (*Sulla coronaria*), grown as a fodder crop, while others held swathes of Giant Fennel (*Ferula communis*), Crown Daisies (*Glebionis coronarium*) and Common Poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*). Birds en route included Spotless Starlings, Common Buzzard and Common Kestrel. We stopped at Enna Services for lunch, enjoying panini with Swifts and a Peregrine Falcon overhead. A Cream-spot Tiger moth fluttered past.

We left the motorway at Irosa, driving into the hills, passing Sweet Peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) along the road verges. Having discovered that the supermarket at Madonuzza was closed until 4pm, we moved on to a road verge near Petralia Soprana (from where we could again see Mount Etna), where we explored some rough grassland by the road. We were soon finding orchids: large numbers of Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertolonii*), Sombre Bee Orchids (*Ophrys fusca*) and Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*), along with Pink Butterfly Orchids (*Anacamptis papilionacea* subsp. *expansa*), the form which has a large lip marked with radiating pink lines, Sawfly Orchids (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*) and a couple of Naked Man Orchids (*Orchis italica*). There was also Yellow Asphodel (*Asphodeline lutea*), *Bellevalia romana*, Tassel Hyacinths (*Muscari comosa*), mainly in bud, vetches including Bithynian (*Vicia bithynica*), mauve and white, *Lathyrus clymenum*, pink and purple, and Fodder Vetch (*Vicia villosa*). A flock of nine European Bee-eaters flew over, Swallows dived low, and a pair of Northern Ravens called loudly. On the other side of the road, we added Ploughshare Tongue Orchid (*Serapias vomeracea*) and Cyprus Pea (*Lathyrus ochrus*). Butterflies included Swallowtail, Southern Blues and Small Heath.

Eventually we had to drag ourselves away, returning to the supermarket where some explored the adjacent lane while the leaders shopped. We then had to return to the autostrada for a couple of junctions due to a road closure

near Polizzi Generosa. We drove up the twisting road from the motorway and soon reached the steep access road to the hotel, an old Olive mill, set high on the hillside. We received a warm welcome from Antonio, the chef, and Piera, and were shown to our rooms in the characterful buildings. We met again at 7.45pm, when Jessica outlined plans for the morrow, before enjoying an excellent dinner. Afterwards, we were all very ready for our beds.

Day 2

Thursday 27th April

Vallone Madonna degli Angeli; below Monte Quacella; Piano Battaglia

We woke to another beautiful morning. Those out early saw four Fallow Deer and Rosemary saw a male Golden Oriole in flight. A couple of warblers called from deep scrub, one a Sardinian Warbler, the other maybe Eastern Subalpine, but neither showed, while Goldfinches twittered, and a pair of Great Tits were looking for insects round the tiled roof.

After breakfast (with cook-your-own fried or scrambled eggs!), we were ready to leave at 9am, retracing our route to the autostrada for one junction, because of the road closure. En route to Polizzi Generosa, we enjoyed the colourful verges, Corn Buntings were singing, and a fine male Western Green Lizard crossed the road in front of us (safely). In Polizzi we took a very minor road north labelled as closed but passable with care, climbing towards the starting point for our walk in the Vallone Madonna degli Angeli, below Monte San Salvatore, and passing a beautiful patch of lemon-yellow *Iris pseudopumila*, sometimes called Dwarf Sicilian Iris (although it also occurs in Puglia). The slopes here are the last remaining site for the very rare Nebrod or Sicilian Fir (*Abies nebrodensis*). About 40 or so mature trees remain in the world, although there are a number of seedlings, all carefully tagged and recorded.

We first explored a small hillock, finding Sombre Bee Orchid types (*Ophrys fusca* agg.), some with a very narrow yellow margin to the lip. The *Ophrys* here are extremely difficult as there are many variants held by some to be endemic species, but DNA studies show few differences. They hybridise readily, and show, in effect, evolution in action. Other plants included Dark Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari neglectum*) and a tiny toadflax *Linaria reflexa*, with white and orange flowers, and pink *Anemone hortensis*. We also found a flower of Widow Iris (*Iris tuberosa*, formerly *Hermodactylus tuberosus*), another very early flowerer, usually over by now. We walked through an area of Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*), emerging into a rocky clearing with both colour forms of *Iris pseudopumila*. Here we also found Small Yellow Bee Orchid (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *galilea*, formerly known as *O. sicula*) with its 'bunny-ear' brown markings on the lip, 'true' Yellow Bee Orchids (*O. lutea*), Sawfly Orchids (*O. tenthredinifera*), and Brancifort's Orchid (*Orchis brancifortii*) and Man Orchid (*Orchis anthropophora*), the latter two just starting to come out. There was also Tuberous Valerian (*Valeriana tuberosa*), a large-flowered form of Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium* subsp. *obscurum*) and a smaller-flowered one, *H. cinereum* subsp. *rotundifolium*, with the similar, but endemic, subspecies of Hoary Rock-rose (*Helianthemum oelandicum* subsp. *nebrodense*) further up. A distant Hoopoe was calling, and a Red-billed Chough flew over the cliffs above.

The track began to rise, becoming stonier, and with scree and cliffs to the sides. In this apparently very dry habitat, we found, among other species, the tiny, pink Burnt Candytuft (*Aethionema saxatile*), mauve Sicilian Stock (*Matthiola fruticulosa* subsp. *fruticulosa*), and the stunning blue flax, *Linum punctatum* subsp. *punctatum* (an endemic subspecies). There was also plenty of the cushion-plants of spiny Nebrod Milk-vetch (*Astragalus nebrodensis*) which flowers later. The higher we went, the more flowers were out, and we eventually found some Golden-drops (*Onosma echioides* subsp. *canescens*, an endemic subspecies) in flower. A patch of Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) was growing under a tree, and the larger-flowered, white, 'true' Candytuft (*Iberis carnosa*, formerly *I. pruitii*) could be seen high on the cliffs above. We also enjoyed the fantastic views and Raven overhead, Cuckoo calling, and a Rock Bunting was glimpsed briefly. Butterflies included Orange Tip, Small Blue, Southern Blue, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Cleopatra, Small Copper and Small Heath. We could look across the valley and see a few Sicilian Firs on the far side, looking like Christmas trees. Where the path divided, some of the group took the right hand 'Sentiero Abies', seeing more Cyclamen and a couple of fine pink Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*) under the trees on the otherwise steep and gravelly slopes. We soon found a specimen Sicilian Fir with several seedlings and could see their short needles. Retracing our steps, we ate our late but delicious picnic on the low walls by the start of the walk.

We then drove further up the road, stopping in the open, rocky meadows under Monte Quacella, as both Rock Bunting and Cirl Bunting were seen nearby. Here, there were carpets of carpets of *Iris pseudopumila*, Fedia (*Valeriana*, formerly *Fedia*, *cornucopiae*) and the sculptural rosettes of *Carthamus pinnatus*. As we drove on, some saw a Hoopoe in flight.

Our next stop was Piano Battaglia and an area of boulder-strewn hillsides, at 1600 metres above sea level, with streams leading to a sink hole. Here the turf was starred with masses of purple *Romulea bulbocodium*, as well as Daisies (*Bellis perennis*), Million-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus millefoliata*) and a tiny white Pennycress (*Lepidium hirtum* subsp. *nebrodense*). We soon found a Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem, *Gagea fragifera* and pink Bird-in-a-bush (*Corydalis solida*). *Prangos ferulacea* was just emerging, looking almost like broccoli as the leaves broke through., and we added Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). There were more *Gagea*, all apparently similar, but at the sinkhole, one appeared to be *Gagea foliosa*, with a larger basal leaf. Here there was a snow patch and fine displays of the deep blue Alpine Squill (*Scilla bifolia*) and Caucasian Rock-cress (*Arabis caucasica*). Along a stream, was a patch of tiny Tazetta or Bunch-flowered Narcissi (*Narcissus tazetta*), but nearly all the plants had been grazed, probably by the Fallow Deer we could see on the slopes.

We wandered back to the minibus, where we had good views of a Black Redstart, and set off to drive back to the hotel, via Collesano. We stopped just under Portello Colla (below Piano Battaglia) to admire swathes of Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), Apennine Anemones (*Anemone apennina*), mainly white but with some blue ones, the Sweet Violet (*Viola odorata*) and Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), the latter not yet out. We got back to the hotel at 6.15pm, with time for a break before meeting to go through our lists, discuss plans, and enjoy another excellent meal. We agreed it had been an excellent first day in the field.

Day 3

Friday 28th April

Bosco della Ficuzza

After another good breakfast, we set out at 8.30am to explore the Bosco della Ficuzza, some distance from Scillato, but known to be a good place for orchids. We stopped first in the ancient village of Scillato to top up picnic supplies before dropping down to the autostrada, heading north and then west towards Palermo. Turning off past Villabate, we drove south-west down as far as Bolognetta, where we joined the SS118. After the town of Marineo, with its imposing rock and plenty of Sweet Peas on the verges, it was not long before we turned up towards Ficuzza, where King Fernando III (of Sicily, but IV of Naples) had a grand hunting lodge, and where we stopped for coffee. The imposing Rocca Busambra cliff towers above the wood.

We first explored a road verge just above the village, finding some nice Bumblebee Orchids (*Ophrys bombyliflora*), Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertoloni*), Yellow and Small Yellow Bee Orchids (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *lutea* and subsp. *galilea*), Tongue Orchids (*Serapias lingua*), and our first specimens of our target species, Pale Ophrys (*Ophrys fusca* subsp. *pallida*), of which most of the world population grows only in this area. We also found Sombre Bee Orchids (*Ophrys fusca* agg.), Sawfly Orchids (*O. tenthredinifera*), and a couple of spikes of the early flowering Milky Orchids (*Neotinea lactea*), one still in good condition. There was also quantities of Asparagus Pea (*Lotus tetragonolobus*) and the multi-headed pink or yellow-pink *Crepis vesicaria* subsp. *bivonana*, found only in Sicily. In the open woodland of Narrow-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolius*) and Downy Oak (*Quercus pubescens*), were more of all of these as well as some magnificent Naked Man Orchids (*Orchis italica*), Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*) and Provence Orchids (*Orchis provincialis*). It was just orchid paradise and hard to know where to look! A pair of Sicilian Wall Lizards chased up and down a tree, so we could clearly see the green throat as opposed to the white throat of Italian Wall Lizard, while butterflies included Brown Argus, Southern Blue, Orange Tip, Swallowtail and Clouded Yellow. We also noted the magnificent dark-red Broomrapes *Orobancha variegata*, the very white-marked leaves of the thistle-like *Scolymus maculata* and the enormous leaves (and flower spike) of Hercules' All-heal (*Opoponax chironium*). While Jessica and Dave prepared lunch on the picnic tables, the group investigated another area of woodland, adding Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*).

We then drove further up the hillside, finding a beautiful specimen white Peony (*Paeonia mascula*), with plenty more in that area. Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) was abundant, and we added Bifid Dead-nettle (*Lamium bifidum*). Further along, we explored the slopes where cattle grazed, finding plenty of Pale Ophrys, Sombre Bee Orchids and some hybrids, with Long-spurred, Provence and Milky Orchids growing mainly under bushes which afforded protection from the cattle. We looked at the Almond-leaved Pear (*Pyrus spinosa*, formerly *P. amygdaliformis*), Hairy Thorny Broom (*Calicotome infesta*) which was scenting the air and, as well as the usual Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), there was *Crataegus orientalis*, with larger flowers and less-lobed leaves. An Eastern Subalpine Warbler was singing and gave great views out in the open.

Back in the village, we enjoyed genuine 'gelati' and coffee. We made another stop near the junction of the road out of the village to look at Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*), the wild form of all modern cultivars, seed of which was sent by a Sicilian monk, Cupani, to an English schoolmaster in 1699. They are very beautiful and small amazing! Also

here was Field Gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*), Corn Marigold (*Glebionis segetum*) and Annual Mallow (*Malva trimestris* with large pale-pink flowers), among other species. On the verge was Honeywort (*Cerinthe minor* subsp.) and Dragon's Teeth (*Lotus biflorus*) with its winged pods.

We had a smooth and easy journey back to the hotel. After a break, we met to update our lists before another excellent dinner, agreeing that it had been another excellent day.

Day 4

Saturday 29th April

Collesano, Gibilmanna, Isnello Gorge

We woke to another beautiful morning, with the early sun lighting the buildings and hills. After breakfast we left at 9am, driving north-east towards Collesano. After a visit to the supermarket, where Pallid and Common Swifts screamed overhead, close enough to see and hear the differences between them, we drove a short distance beyond, to look at an area of verge with some magnificent, blue-flowered thistles *Carthamus caeruleus*, adding also Mallow-leaved Bindweed (*Convolvulus althaeoides*), Woolly Clover (*Trifolium tomentosum*) and a spike of Dwarf Sorrel Broomrape (*Orobancha nana*). A Nightingale was singing in the valley below.

We continued back through Collesano and on past Isnello, enjoying the views of the little towns on the hillsides, turning off up to the Sanctuary of Gibilmanna, a large church. We parked up and made our way to a small path nearby. This wound down through some woodland, where we found Black, Irish and Maidenhair Spleenworts (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, *A. onopteris* and *A. trichomanes*), and some emerging Violet Limodores (*Limodorum abortivum*). Cuckoo was calling nearby, and Speckled Woods were flying. The path started to climb, opening out into more Mediterranean vegetation. Here we added the three species of Cistus, the pink flowered Cretan Cistus (*Cistus creticus*), just starting to bloom, Sage-leaved Cistus (*Cistus salvifolius*), with larger white flowers, and Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*) with smaller white flowers, and some magnificent French Lavender (*Lavendula stoechas*), much loved by the bees. At a bend was Hairy Broom (*Cytisus villosus*) and a large Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*). Some saw a Western Green Lizard and Italian Wall Lizards were around. Butterflies included Green-underside Blues, Green Hairstreak, Painted Lady and Red Admiral.

We drove a short distance to a grassy meadow with some large Downy Oak trees (*Quercus pubescens*), where we had our picnic. A walk down a lane opposite gave us several spikes of Violet Limodore (*Limodorum abortivum*) with flowers fully open: a quite unusual sight. Other plants here included Bastard Balm (*Melittis melissophyllum*), Blue Gromwell (*Buglossoides purpureocaerulea*) and more of the *Orobancha variegata*, parasitising the Thorny Broom. An Eastern Orange Tip flew briefly past.

Outside Isnello, we stopped by an area of cliff which turned out to be amazingly rich. On the rock faces were Cretan Scabious (*Lomelosia cretica*), with beautiful seedheads, Golden Drops (*Onosma echioides* subsp. *canescens*) flowering well, and Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*). On the verge was Pitch Trefoil (*Bituminaria bituminosa*), some being parasitised by a beautiful mauve Broomrape *Orobancha lavandulacea*, a small branched pale mauve broomrape was *Orobancha mutelii*, while a pinker one on the other side was maybe a form of Common Broomrape (*Orobancha minor*).

Other plants included an endemic grey-leaved Knapweed (*Centaurea busambarensis*), Crupina (*Crupina crupinastrum*), Bladder Vetch (*Tripodion tetraphyllum*), Tree Spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*), Shrubby Wormwood (*Artemisia arborescens*), Terebinth tree (*Pistacia terebinthus*), with dense reddish flowers and young leaves, Wild Pea (*Pisum sativum* subsp. *elatior*), Red Vetchling (*Lathyrus sphaericus*) and Yellow Vetch (*Vicia lutea*). Two orange-and-black species of Shield-bug, Lined Shield-bug (*Graphosoma lineatum*) and *Graphosoma semipunctatum* were on Alexanders (*Smyrniolus olusatrum*). We then stopped at Isnello Gorge, where House Martins and Crag Martins were nesting under the bridge. A special here was a beautiful yellow endemic Genista *Genista demarcoi*, known primarily from this gorge, as well as *Helichrysum nebrodense*.

We got back to the hotel just before 5.45pm, meeting an hour later to progress our lists before another delicious dinner, tonight at 7.30pm. Afterwards we continued with our lists, before bed.

Day 5

Sunday 30th April

Near Piano Zucchi & P. Torre; near Petralia Sottana; transfer to Sant' Alfio

Today we had to say goodbye to Il Vecchio Frantoio and to Stefano, Pears and the others who had looked after us so well. After breakfast we loaded the minibus, but had time to look around the hotel buildings, finding Warty Bedstraw, also known as Southern Cleavers (*Galium verrucosum*), White Henbane (*Hyoscyamus albus*) and Squirting Cucumber (*Echallium elaterium*), the latter with a Melon Ladybird. A Ragusa's Nine-spotted moth posed well in the cooler morning. We set off towards Collesano, soon pausing as two Turtle Doves got up from the road, but disappeared over the bank before those in the second vehicle could see them. We stopped to take a closer look at Blue Stonecrop (*Sedum caeruleum*), which we had been seeing from the vehicles as red or mauve patches; now we could see the red leaves and pale-blue flowers. The verges were beautiful and, among other plants here, we added the yellow form of Bellardia (*Bartsia trixago*) and Pale Bugloss (*Echium italicum*), the latter showing its distinctive shape but still only in bud. A yellow 'umbellifer' here was *Kundmannia sicula*. A Black Kite flew overhead. We moved on, turning up into the mountains and passing some fine Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*), both pink and white, and below Piano Torre, another stop revealed some beautiful Birthwort (*Aristolochia rotunda*) on the verge. We were looking for Lacaita's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys holosericea* subsp. *lacaitae*), a relatively late flowerer, and sharp eyes soon found a couple of spikes of this delightful orchid with its lemon-yellow lip in a slightly sunnier area. A stop near Petralia Sottana, near a road bridge, had a lovely patch of pale-blue *Bellevalia dubia*, and a scattering of now-familiar orchids, giving the chance for a leg-stretch.

We dropped down through Madonuzza to the Irosa junction, passing masses of Sweet Peas, and those in the second vehicle saw five Bee-eaters in a tree. We stopped for lunch at Enna Services as the weather turned showery and then to more persistent rain. We then continued towards Catania and then north on the A18 towards Messina. We left at Giarre exit, taking a route via Zafferana Etnea to approach our hotel from the north-west. We wanted to avoid going through Sant'Alfio, as today was part of the festivities for the town's saint and Jessica thought the roads might be busy or closed (in fact, this year, that is next week).

As it was only about 4pm, we had time to drive north, stopping at a little chapel near Fornazzo which was built to commemorate the village not being destroyed by lava from some of the eruptions. There was a lot of volcanic ash and 'sand' around, testament to the recent activity. Here, we noted the lava from the 1971 eruption, which was starting to be colonised by vegetation. The Mount Vesuvius Lichen (*Stereocaulon vesuvianum*) is the first coloniser, followed later by plants such as Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), Etna Sorrel (*Rumex scutatus* forma *aetnensis*) and Woad (*Isatis tinctoria* subsp. *canescens*). Etna Broom (*Genista aetnensis*) was common, although not in flower. We also found a pale form of Fodder Vetch (*Vicia villosa* subsp. *ambigua*), Narrow-leaved Lupin (*Lupinus angustifolius*), the tiny pink *Petrorhagia dubia*, and Hare's-foot Clover (*Trifolium arvensis*). However, the weather was damp and rather chilly, so we didn't stay long.

We soon reached the Case Perrotta on the outskirts of Sant'Alfio, where we received a warm welcome. The hotel was once a monastery, then a winery, and has some fascinating and quite quirky buildings. We settled into our rooms and, after a short break, met to discuss the day and future plans, before an excellent dinner.

Day 6

Monday 1st May

Mount Etna

Today dawned misty and damp; however, with the forecast potentially better than the morrow's, we decided we would head towards Mount Etna but decide what to do later. After a delicious breakfast (during which we sang 'Happy Birthday' to Rosemary), we set off at 8.30am through Zafferana, where we stopped top up supplies for the picnic. We then continued westwards, climbing the southern slopes of the volcano in thickening fog and very poor visibility, feeling rather disappointed. However, as we reached the Crateri Sylvestri, just before the Rifugio Sapienza, at 1900 metres and the starting point for the ascent, we emerged from the fog into clear air with the slopes in the sun! We donned extra layers, although it wasn't as cold as sometimes.

The first part of our journey was by cable car, to reach the upper station at 2500 metres. On these lower slopes were small mounds of Etna Milk-vetch (*Astragalus siculus*). We then transferred to the 4-wheel drive buses for the climb further; this year, due to the ongoing volcanic activity (the last eruption being in February), we were taken to about 2750 metres, the summit currently being 3357 metres, having increased in height over the last year. We climbed through patches of ash-covered permanent snow and ice, but there was little on the southern flanks this year. We were taken to an area from where we could see the south-east cone, with steam coming from a fumarole, as well part of the main cone. We walked to the edge of the Valle de Bove, formed as a caldera and where most of the recent lava has gone; however, the caldera was full of cloud. We noted a couple of Seven-spot Ladybirds, a grasshopper nymph and a tiny moth, all of which were probably blown there. We then returned to the bottom, where we had coffee, agreeing it had been a fascinating experience.

We then drove down south-westwards as short way, having our picnic (in the dry!) on the tables at Piano Vettore, with a beautiful patch of Etna Pansies (*Viola aethnense*), here deep purple. Afterwards we explored the area, as the cloud and mist were again building. Coal Tits were singing loudly, and we had good (but misty) views of Woodlark

and Rock Bunting. We looked at plants, including the Cinquefoil *Potentilla calabra* in flower, Etna Milk-vetch again, Etna Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* subsp. *siculum*, which we had also seen in its other location of the Madonie), Etna Barberry (*Berberis aetnensis*) and a fairly prostrate form of Juniper (*Juniperus communis* subsp. *hemisphaerica*). Tiny plants included the Forget-me-not *Myosotis incrassata*, a white Gromwell (*Buglossoides incrassata* subsp. *spliterberi*), and Etna Knawel (*Schleranthus annuus* subsp. *aetnensis*). The start of rain sent us rather quickly back to the minibuses.

We decided to drop down to explore lower altitudes, taking the road towards Nicolosi and then a side road which Dave knew from the Spring Birding tours. Here, at 1200 metres, we explored some open Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) woodland, where plants included Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum orientale*), plenty of large Tassel Hyacinths (*Muscari comosum*, formerly *Leopoldia comosa*), a lovely patch of the green-and-black vetch *Vicia melanops* and a pink-and-yellow Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*). Another stop a little further on provided more Elder-flowered Orchids, the couple Roman Orchids which had been flowering the previous week having gone over completely. Moving on, our next stop was at Pineta Monti Rossi, which was very busy with the Bank Holiday. However, we found some fine *Linaria heterophylla*, quantities of Dense-flowered Orchids (*Neotinea maculata*), together with some Brancifort's Orchids (*Orchis brancifortii*) that were generally starting to go over, and more Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*).

It was then time to start the winding journey home as the fog thickened, making a challenging drive. We arrived back safely at about 6.15pm, meeting for dinner at 7.30pm in heavy rain. The weather had been bad all day in Sant'Alfio and we agreed we had extremely lucky to have such a great day on Mount Etna.

Day 7

Tuesday 2nd May

Cottone

It had rained heavily in the night, and we woke to another damp morning, but with the weather looking brighter over the sea. Accordingly, we decided to spend the morning on the coast, returning to the hotel for a picnic, at which point we would take a (literal) rain check.

After breakfast, we drove the short distance down into Sant'Alfio to top up the picnic supplies. Swifts were screaming low along the streets and a Blue Rock Thrush sang from the corner of a building. Lights were being put up along the streets in preparation for the fiesta next weekend. We continued down towards the coast, reaching Cottone, where the road runs along just behind the beach. An unmade-up section allows access to some fields, but the combination of large water-filled potholes and blown sand encouraged us to park up sooner. We walked along the beach, finding Sea Medick (*Medicago marina*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and Three-horned Stock (*Matthiola tricuspidata*). There was, unfortunately, rather a lot of rubbish around, but as we moved into the fields, things became better. The sun had come out and it was surprisingly warm (after the lower temperatures at altitude). Nightingale was singing and a flock of 10 Little Egrets flew over. We also saw Zitting Cisticola, Bee-eaters, a male Red-footed Falcon and heard Cetti's Warblers and a Great Reed Warbler. Butterflies included Painted Lady and Eastern Bath White, and a Convolvulus Hawk-moth was resting on a spike of Plough-share Tongue Orchid (*Serapias vomeracea*). There was also a spike of Small-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias parviflora*), probable Hairy Broomrape (*Orobanche*

pubescens), plenty of the yellow form of Bellardia (*Bartsia trixago*) and Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), and two Knapweeds: Rough Star-thistle (*Centaurea sphaerocephala*) and *Centaurea napifolia*, among other species. Mammoth Wasps were feeding on Galactites (*Galactites tomentosa*).

We drove back up the mountain as cloud was building, with the cloud base being in Sant'Alfio, so we were please to have our final picnic in the warmth of the hotel. The rain started as we were eating, so we opted for a relaxed afternoon resting, reading or sorting photos. The rain eased a little, later, encouraging some to explore the grounds of the hotel. We met at 5pm to update our lists and discuss various sightings, before dinner at 7.30pm and, for most, a relatively early night.

Day 8

Wednesday 3rd May

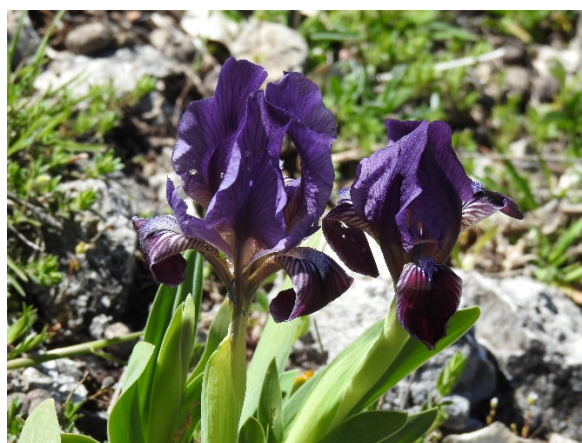
Case Perrotta to Catania, and onwards to the UK

We had a slightly earlier start this morning, in order to be at Catania for our morning flight back to Gatwick. Hoopoe was heard and a couple seen in the hotel grounds, while Golden Oriole and Sardinian Warbler were calling, but there was not time to locate them. After another lovely breakfast, we said our farewells and thanks, leaving at 8.15am and dropping down to the autostrada, where we faced some busy morning traffic. We checked in easily, although the flight was delayed by about 30 minutes. However, the journeys went smoothly, and we made good time, returning home with many memories and photos of an enjoyable week, exploring the Wild Flowers (plus birds, butterflies and other insects, and reptiles!) of Sicily.

A group is only as good as its members, so my thanks to you all for your enthusiasm and good company – I hope we meet again!



Cirl Bunting



Iris pseudopumila

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Species lists

Plants (** = Endemic to Sicily, * = Endemic to Italy)

The layout of the plant list, and plant names have been updated in line with Plants of the World Online
(<https://powo.science.kew.org/>)

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES		
Lycophytes			
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family		
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	4	Gibilmanna
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns		
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	5	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Irish Spleenwort	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	4	Gibilmanna
Cystopteraceae	Bladder-fern Family		
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	6	Monti Rossi
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	2	Widespread
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family		
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	4	Gibilmanna
Pteridaceae	Ribbon Fern Family		
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	5	Above Milo

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GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family		
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Cedar	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Juniperus communis</i> var. <i>hemisphaericum</i>	Juniper	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Pinaceae	Pine Family		
<i>Abies nebrodensis</i> **	Sicilian Fir (Nebro Pine)	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>laricio</i>	Corsican Pine	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine	2	Roadsides
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS		
Pre-dicots	Primitive Angiosperms		
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family		
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>	Birthwort	5	Below Piano Torre
Eu-dicots	True Dicotyledons		
Acanthaceae	Bear's-breech Family		
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech	1	Roadsides
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family		
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Horse-whip	7	Cottone
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family		
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	4	above Isnello Gorge
Apiaceae	Carrot Family		
<i>Anthriscus nemorosa</i>	A Cow Parsley	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	1	Roadsides
<i>Elaeoselinum asclepium</i>	Elaeoselinum	3	Bosco della Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ferula communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Giant Fennel	1	Roadsides
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Kundmannia sicula</i>	Kundmannia	5	Roadsides
<i>Opoponax chironium</i>	Hercules All-heal	3	Bosco della Ficuzza (in bud)
<i>Orlaya kochii</i>	An Orlaya	4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Prangos (Cachrys) ferulacea</i>	-	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needles	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Smyrnium perfoliatum</i> subsp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	4	Gibilmanna (leaves)
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Tordylium	4	above Isnello Gorge
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family		
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	2	Roadsides (planted)
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	4	Roadsides
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Araliaceae	Ivy Family		

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<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	3	Ficuzza village
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family		
<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>	Andryala	7	Cottone
<i>Anthemis aetnensis</i> **	Etna Daisy	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Anthemis</i> sp.	Corn Chamomile	7	Cottone
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	A Wormwood	4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Bellis perennis</i> (var. <i>strobiliana</i> **)	Daisy	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	6	Open woodland 1200m
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	4	Roadsides
<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>	A Marigold	1	Roadsides
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Plymouth Thistle	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Carlina nebrodensis</i> **	Nebrodo Carline Thistle	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Carthamus (Carducellus) caeruleus</i>	Carduncellus	4	Collesano
<i>Carthamus (Carduncellus) pinnatus</i>	-	2	Monte Quacella (leaf rosettes)
<i>Centaurea busambarensis</i> **	a grey-leaved Knapweed	4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star-thistle	4	Nr Piano Torre (leaf rosettes)
<i>Centaurea napifolia</i>	a Knapweed	7	Cottone
<i>Centaurea sphaerocephala</i>	Rough Star-thistle	7	Cottone
<i>Centaurea sicula</i>	a Yellow Star-thistle	4	Collesano (in bud)
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Argentine Fleabane	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i> subsp. <i>bivonana</i>	a multi-headed pinkish Hawk's-beard	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina	4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	a Leopard's-bane	4	Near Gibilmanna, also Etna
<i>Filago (Evax) astericifolia</i>	Greater Evax	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Filago (Evax) pygmaea</i>	Evax	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	1	Widespread
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	1	Widespread
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Helichrysum nebrodense</i> **	An Everlasting	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant	6	Monti Rossi
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	Hyoseris	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Jacobea ambigua (Senecio ambiguus)</i> **	A Ragwort	5	Above Milo
<i>Jacobea candida (Senecio candidus)</i> **	A Ragwort	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Logfia (Filago) minor</i>	Small Cudweed	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	-	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Ptilostemon stellatus</i>	Annual Ptilostemon	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>	Oyster Plant	3	Roadsides
<i>Scolymus maculata</i>		3	Bosco della Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	4	Near Gibilmanna,
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>siculum</i>	Etna Tansy	2,6	V. Madonna degli Angeli; Etna
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	2	Roadsides
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	-	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio

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Berberidaceae	Barberry Family		
<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	Etna Barberry	6	Upper slopes of Etna
Boraginaceae	Borage Family		
<i>Aegonychon (Buglossoides) purpureocaerulea</i>	Blue Gromwell	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large Blue Alkanet	5	Roadsides
<i>Anchusa cretica</i>	Cretan Alkanet	5	Above Milo
<i>Anchusa hybrida</i>	Wavy-leaved Bugloss	6	Open woodland below Etna
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	2	Roadsides
<i>Buglossoides incrassata</i> ssp. <i>splitgerberi</i>	Tiny white-flowered bugloss	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Cerinthe majus</i>	Honeywort	2	Roadsides
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>siculum</i>	Pale Bugloss	5	Roadsides
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Echium vulgare</i> subsp. <i>pustulatum</i>	Viper's-bugloss	6	Etna (leaves)
<i>Myosotis incrassata</i>	a Forget-me-not	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Onosma echioides</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i> **	Golden Drops	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family		
<i>Aetheonema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	2	Roadsides
<i>Alyssum minutum</i>	-	2	Monte Quacella
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Caucasian Rockcress	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Arabis collina</i>	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rockcress	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Barbarea bracteosa</i>	A Wintercress	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Biscutella maritima</i>	A Buckler-mustard	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Brassica rupestris</i>	Rock Cabbage	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	7	Cottone
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Whitlow Grass	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Erysimum etnense</i> **	A Treacle-mustard	5	Above Milo
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i> **	A Treacle-mustard	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Iberis carnosa</i> (formerly <i>pruitii</i>)	A Candytuft	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>	Woad	5	Above Milo
<i>Lepidium hirtum</i> subsp. <i>nebrodense</i>	-	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i> subsp. <i>fruticulosa</i> *	Sad Stock	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock	7	Cottone
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	4	Above Isnello Gorge
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
<i>Legousia hybrida</i>	Venus's Looking-glass	4	Gibilmanna
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>	Annual Valerian	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2	Roadsides
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	1	Roadsides
<i>Lomelosia (Scabiosa) cretica</i>	-	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Valeriana (Fedia) cornucopiae</i>	Fedia	2	Monte Quacella

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<i>Valeriana tuberosa</i>	A Valerian	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Valerianella agg.</i>	Common Cornsalad	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family		
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i> agg.	Thyme-leaved Sandwort	5	Below Piano Torre
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-eared Chickweed	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli;
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-Summer	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Petrorhagia dubia</i> (velutina)	A Childing Pink	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	5	Above Milo
<i>Saponaria sicula</i>	Sicilian Soapwort	6	U. slopes of Etna (not in flower)
<i>Scleranthus aetnensis</i> **	a Knawel	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Scleranthus marginatus</i>	a Knawel	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	6	Lower slopes of Etna
<i>Silene fuscata</i>	A Catchfly	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	6	Roadsides
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Lesser Sand-spurrey	7	Cottone
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
Celastraceae	Spindle Family		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	4	Near Gibilmanna,
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family		
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	2	Roadsides
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>H. cinereum</i> subsp. <i>rotundifolium</i>	A small-flowered Rock-rose	2	V. Madonna degli Angeli (lower)
<i>H. nummularium</i> subsp. <i>obscurum</i>	A Common Rock-rose	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>H. oelandicum</i> subsp. <i>nebrodense</i>	An endemic Hoary Rock-rose	2	V. Madonna degli Angeli; (higher)
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	5	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	1	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	7	Roadsides
<i>Ipomaea purpurea</i>	Morning Glory	5	Roadsides
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
<i>Sedum amplexicaule</i>	A Stonecrop	5	Above Milo
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue Stonecrop	5	Roadside near Scillato
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Fat-leaved Stonecrop	5	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	Rock Stonecrop	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>	Spanish Stonecrop	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Red Stonecrop	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Sedum stellatum</i>	Starry Stonecrop	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	4	Gibilmanna
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	5	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio

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Ericaceae	Heather Family		
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	A heather	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	2	Piano Zucchi
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	2	Roadsides
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	2	Roadsides
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	Pea Family		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> agg.	Kidney Vetch	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>	Sprawling Milk-vetch	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	-	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Astragalus (Astracantha) nebrodensis</i> **	Nebro Milk-vetch	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Astragalus (Astracantha) siculus</i> **	Etna Milk-vetch	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Calycotome infesta</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	2	Roadsides
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	Scorpion-vetch	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cytisus villosus</i>	Hairy Broom	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Genista aetnensis</i> **	Etna Broom	5	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Genista demarcoi</i> **	An endemic Broom	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i> subsp. <i>emeroides</i>	A Scorpion-vetch	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i>	-	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	6	Open woodland below Etna
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	Crimson Pea	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>	Cyprus Pea/Winged Pea	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> **	Sweet Pea	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>	A Red Vetchling	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lotus (Tetragonolobus) biflorus</i>	Dragon's Teeth	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lotus creticus</i>	Southern Bird's-foot Trefoil	7	Cottone
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Lotus orithopodioides</i>	-	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lotus tetragonolobus (T. purpureus)</i>	Asparagus Pea	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	5	Above Milo
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Medicago disciformis</i>	a Medick	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	7	Cottone
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Least Medick	7	Cottone
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	4	near Gibilmanna,
<i>Onobrychis caput-galii</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin	7	Cottone
<i>Pisum sativum</i> subsp. <i>elatius</i>	Wild Pea	4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	2	Roadsides
<i>Scorpiarius muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Sulla (Hedysarum) coronaria</i>	Italian Sainfoin	1	Roadsides
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	5	Above Milo

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<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	-	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	7	Cottone
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	A white clover (smaller flowers)	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Burrowing Clover	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil	4	Near Collesano
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	-	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Spring Vetch (tiny flower)	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch	4	Near Gibilmanna,
<i>Vicia melanops</i>	Yellow and Black Pea	6	Lower slopes of Etna (1200m)
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>ambigua</i>	Fodder Vetch (pale)	5	Above Milo
Fagaceae	Beech Family		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	6	Open woodland below Etna
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	2	Roadsides
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	4	Roadsides
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
<i>Erodium acaule</i>	Stemless Stork's-bill	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	5	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family		
<i>Clinopodium (Acinos) alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	Bifid Dead-nettle	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large Red Dead-nettle	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	4	Near Gibilmanna,
<i>Micromeria graeca (M. consentina*)</i>	-	4	above Isnello Gorge
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	3	Roadsides
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved Self-heal	4	Near Gibilmanna,
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Satureja hortensis</i>	Summer Savory	7	Case Perrotta walls
<i>Sideritis romana</i>	Common Sideritis	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Shrub Germander	2	Roadsides
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Wild Thyme	2	Monte Quacella

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
Linaceae	Flax Family		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax/ Pale Flax	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Linum punctatum</i> subsp. <i>punctatum</i> **	A Flax	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Lythraceae	Loosestrife Family		
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Grass-poly	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
<i>Malva arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	3	Roadsides
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	3	Roadsides
<i>Malva trimestris</i>	Annual Mallow	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
Moraceae	Mulberry Family		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	3	Roadsides
Oleaceae	Olive Family		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering or Manna Ash	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive (wild)	4	Above Isnello Gorge
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family		
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia (yellow form)	5	Roadsides
<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	A Broomrape on Pitch Trefoil	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	4	? Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Orobanche mutellii</i>	A Dwarf Broomrape	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Orobanche nana</i>	Dwarf Broomrape	4	Near Collesano
<i>Orobanche pubescens</i>	Hairy Broomrape	7	Cottone
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	6	Upper slopes of Etna (dead stalks)
<i>Orobanche variegata</i>	A Broomrape	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	1	Below Petralia Soprana
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family		
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	4	Gibilmanna
Paeoniaceae	Peony Family		
<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Peony	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family		
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	Rough Poppy	3	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	1	Roadsides
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Antirrhinum siculus</i>	a Snapdragon	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Linaria reflexa</i>	a white & orange Toadflax	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<i>Linaria simplex</i>	a Toadflax	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Linaria viscosa (heterophylla)</i>	a yellow Toadflax	5	Above Milo
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel-snout	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Plantago arenaria</i>	Branched Plantain	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Plantago cupani</i>	A Plantain (pinnatisect leaves)	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-tail Plantain	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	3	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Plantago serraria</i>	A Plantain (toothed leaves)	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Plantago subulata</i>	A Plantain (short, thin leaves)	5	Near Petralia Sottana
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Veronica verna</i>	Spring Speedwell	6	Upper slopes of Etna
Polygonaceae	Dock Family		
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Rumex bucephaliflorus</i>	Horned Dock	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rumex scutatus forma aetnensis**</i>	Etna Sorrel	5	Above Milo
Primulaceae	Primrose Family		
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread / Cyclamen	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Lysimachia (Anagallis) arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> subsp. <i>foemina</i>	Blue Pimpernel	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	2	Piano Zucchi
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family		
<i>Anemone apennina</i>	Blue Anemone	2	Piano Zucchi
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	An Anemone	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ficaria verna</i> agg.	Lesser Celandine	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Corn Buttercup	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	-	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Thalictrum calabricum</i>	Calabrian Meadow-rue	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	4	Roadsides
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
Rosaceae	Rose Family		
<i>Crataegus orientalis (C. laciniata)</i>	A Hawthorn	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Potentilla calabra</i>	A Cinquefoil	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	4	Near Collesano
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Pyrus spinosa (P. amygdaliformis)</i>	Almond-leaved Pear	2	Roadsides
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	3	Roadsides
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	4	Near Gibilmanna,

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
<i>Galium aetnicum</i> **	Etna Bedstraw	5	Above Milo
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Galium mollugo</i> agg.	Hedge Bedstraw	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Galium tricornutum</i>	Corn Cleavers	3	B. della Ficuzza (Sweet Pea stop)
<i>Galium verrucosum</i>	Warty Bedstraw / Southern Cleavers	5	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder	4	Above Isnello Gorge
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	1	Below Petralia Soprana
Rutaceae	Rue Family		
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	4	Above Isnello Gorge
Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>album</i>	Mistletoe	2	Roadsides
Sapindaceae	Maple Family		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	5	Piano Torre
<i>Acer obtusatum</i>	Italian Maple	5	Roadsides
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	4	Gibilmanna
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family		
<i>Saxifraga bulbifera</i>	Bulbous Saxifrage	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Saxifraga carpetana</i>		3?	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family		
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Verbascum pulvulentum</i>	Hoary Mullein	5	Roadsides
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Simaroubaceae	Tree of Heaven family		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	3	Roadsides
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane	5	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
Urticaceae	Nettle Family		
<i>Parietaria judaea</i>	Pelitory-of-the-Wall	3	Ficuzza
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Mediterranean Nettle	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle	3	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
Verbenaceae	Verbena Family		
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	5	Roadsides
Viburnaceae	Viburnum Family		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	5	Roadsides

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
Violaceae	Violet Family		
<i>Viola aethnensis</i> **	Etna Pansy	6	Upper slopes of Etna
<i>Vilva alba</i> subsp. <i>dehnhardtii</i>	A violet (purple)	5	Piano Sottana
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	2	Piano Zucchi
Monocots	Monocotyledons		
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family		
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples Garlic	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Allium pendulinum</i>	Pendulous Garlic	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	2	Roadsides
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	Hairy Garlic	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	4	Roadsides
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	2	Piano Zucchi (not in flower)
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Bunch-flowered Narcissus	2	Piano Battaglia
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family		
<i>Agave americana</i>	Agave or Century Plant	2	Roadsides
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Prickly Asparagus	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>	Leafless Asparagus	7	Cottone
<i>Bellevia dubia</i>	(blue)	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Bellevia romana</i>	(white)	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Drimys (Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea Squill	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Muscari (Leopoldia) comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ornithogalum montanum</i>	Mountain Star of Bethlehem	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ornithogalum divergens</i>	Star of Bethlehem	4	Gibilmanna
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Alpine Squill	2	Piano Battaglia
Asphodelaceae	Asphodel Family		
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel	3	Roadsides
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	2	Widespread
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family		
<i>Carex caryophylla</i>	Spring Sedge	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	4	Near Gibilmanna
Dioscoraceae	Yam Family		
<i>Dioscorea (Tamus) communis</i>	Black Bryony	2	Puiano Zucchi
Iridaceae	Iris Family		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Italian Gladiolus	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Purple form)	An Iris	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Yellow two-tone form)	An Iris	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iris (Hermodactylus) tuberosus</i>	Snake's-head Iris/ Widow Iris	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	a Romulea	2	Piano Battaglia
Juncaceae	Rush Family		
<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	Southern Woodrush	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
Liliaceae	Lily Family		
<i>Gagea foliosa</i>	A Yellow Star of Bethlehem	2	Piano Battaglia
<i>Gagea fragifera</i>	A Yellow Star of Bethlehem	2	Piano Battaglia
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family		
Note: The Orchidaceae are an evolving group, and subject to debate between 'splitters' (eg. Delforge) and 'lumpers' (eg Kew). This list follows the Kew classification.			
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>longicornu</i>	Long-spurred Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> ssp. <i>expansa</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i> subsp. <i>romana</i>	Roman Orchid	6	Slopes of Etna (over)
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	6	Slopes of Etna
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	4	Near Gibilmanna
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> agg.	Sombre Bee Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> ssp. <i>fusca</i> (<i>flammeola/lucifera</i> **)	a Sombre Bee Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>pallida</i>	Pale Ophrys	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>O. f.</i> subsp. <i>fusca</i> x <i>pallida</i>	a hybrid Ophrys	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> subsp. <i>lacaitae</i>	Lacaita's Ophrys	5	Near Piano Torre
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (formerly <i>sicula</i>)	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>O. lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (<i>archimedeae</i> **)	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> subsp. <i>lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>atrata</i>	Dark Ophrys	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i> (formerly <i>grandiflora</i> **)	a Sawfly Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis brancifortii</i> *	Brancifort's Orchid	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	7	Cottone
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	1	Below Petralia Soprana
Poaceae	Grass Family		
<i>Aegilops ovalis</i>	Aegilops	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>	Mauritanian Grass	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Anthoxanthum odorata</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Great Quaking-grass	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot	6	Monti Rossi
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	4	Collesano
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Lamarck's Golden Grass	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	2	Hotel Vecchio Frantoio
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	3	Bosco della Ficuzza
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	4	Collesano
<i>Sesleria nitida</i>	-	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
Smilacaceae	Smilax Family		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	4	Gibilmanna
FUNGI			
Lecanoromycetes	LICHENS		
<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	Mount Vesuvius Lichen	5	Above Milo
Basidiomycota			
	Rust on Gladiolus	3	Bosco della Ficuzza

Birds (H = Heard only, LO = Leader Only)

Common name	Scientific name	April – May 2023							
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>				✓				
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H	H	H		H
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					✓		✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta gazetta</i>							✓	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	H		✓	H	H	✓
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	H	H	H	✓		✓	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				H				
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H		H	H			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>							✓	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓						H
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		✓						
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓			H	✓	H?	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	H	H	H		H	✓		
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓		H		✓			
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							LO	
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		H			H	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus siculus</i>			✓	H				
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>							H	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				H	H		✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	H	✓	H	H	H	H	H
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		H	H	H		H	✓	H

Common name	Scientific name	April – May 2023							
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>		H	✓	H	H			
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓	H	H	H	H		
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H		H	H		H	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		H		✓	H	H		
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓		✓				
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		LO						
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	H	H	H			
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				H			H	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓						
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		✓			✓			
Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>							✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	H			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓					
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	H	H	✓			
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		✓				✓		
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓	✓	H			

Butterflies & Moths (C = caterpillar)

Common name	Scientific name	April – May 2023							
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓		✓				
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Eastern Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>				✓				
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>							✓	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓						
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓		✓				
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓		✓				
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓					
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓						
Baton Blue	<i>Scolitantides baton</i>				✓				
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	✓		✓	✓				
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓					
Southern Blue	<i>Polyommatus celina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓				
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				✓			✓	
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>				✓				
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓						
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓						
Southern Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>			✓	✓				

Common name	Scientific name	April – May 2023							
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
A Pyralid (dull purple & gold)	<i>Pyrausta ostrinalis</i>			✓					
A Forester	<i>Jordanita tenuicornis</i>	✓							
Franconian Lackey	<i>Malacosoma franconica</i>		C						
Convolvulus Hawk-moth	<i>Agrius convolvuli</i>							✓	
Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>		C				C		
a Tiger Moth	<i>Arctia festiva</i>		✓						
an endemic Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia konewkaii</i>	✓		✓					
Ragusa's Nine-spotted Moth	<i>Amata kruegeri</i>					✓			
Goldenwing	<i>Synthyma fixa</i>				✓				

Other Invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
Hawker sp.	Aeshnidae
Lined Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma lineatum</i>
A Lined Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma semipunctatum</i>
A Mirid Bug	<i>Rhabdomiris striatellus</i>
Black-and-red Bug	<i>Spilostethus saxatilis</i>
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridum aegyptium</i>
Stone Grasshopper sp.	<i>Pamphagidae</i>
A Red-&-black Frog hopper	<i>Cercopis sanguinolenta</i>
Praying Mantis (nymph)	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>
Beefly	<i>Bombylus major</i>
Beefly	<i>Bombylus medius</i>
Beefly	<i>Usia versicolor</i>
Beefly (Piano Battaglia)	<i>Triplasius pictus</i>
Mammoth Wasp	<i>cf. Megascolia bidens</i>
A 'long-horned' bee	<i>Eucera cf. nigricans</i>
Flower Bee sp.	<i>Anthophora sp.</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Black & white Bee	<i>Melecta sp.</i>
A Bee	<i>Megachile sicula</i>
Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.
Buff-t. Bumblebee (white tail)	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
A Common Carder Bee	<i>B. pascuorum siciliensis</i>
Chafer	<i>Oxythyria funesta</i>
7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>
2-Spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>
Melon Ladybird	<i>Chnootriba elaterii</i>
Scarab Beetle sp.	<i>Scarabeus variolosus</i>
Fat-thigh Beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>
Oak-apple-type gall caused by	<i>Andricus quercustozae</i>
Tick sp.	
Ant sp.	

Mammals (D = dead, S = signs)

Common name	Scientific name	April – May 2023							
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>				S				
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>					✓			
Feral 'Wild' Pig				✓					
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>			D					

Reptiles

		April – May 2023							
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>		✓	LO	✓				
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>			✓				?	



Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge



Linum punctatum