

# Wild Flowers of Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd -30th April 2025

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Apulian Iris



Bumblebee Orchid



Sicilian Wall Lizard



Sweet Pea

Tour report by Jessica Turner

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Tour Participants: Jessica Turner and Lizzie Cooke (leaders) with nine Naturetrek clients

## Summary

We enjoyed a great week exploring the fascinating flora of Sicily, which boasts such a range of altitudes and habitats, as well as being home to island endemics. We enjoyed beautiful orchids, irises and peonies among a wealth of wild flowers, as well as birds and insects, with Egyptian Vultures and Plain Tiger butterflies being new for the trip. Our stay in Polizzi Generosa provided an opportunity to explore this delightful and historic hill-top village, and the second hotel, which was again very comfortable, gave great views of Mount Etna.

### Day 1

Wednesday 23rd April

#### Fly Catania – transfer Madonie

Four of the tour members met with Jessica and Lizzie at Gatwick Airport for our 6.55am flight to Catania. We arrived ahead of schedule and met with four others already in Sicily, two having just done the Spring Birding in Sicily trip. There was time for coffee while the leaders sorted the vehicles, and we waited for the final client who was flying in from Edinburgh. All gathered, we loaded the minibuses and set off west across the island. Two Plain Tiger butterflies were in the car park and, as we left Catania, several Little Egrets and a Black Kite were noted.

The vegetation was much greener than the previous year, with road verges bright with Crown Daisies (*Glebionis coronarium*), pink Mallow-leaved Bindweed (*Convolvulus althaeoides*) and Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), and there were some large patches of Blue Stonecrop (*Sedum caeruleum*), the red leaves combining with the pale-blue flowers to give a mauve appearance. Some fine Spotless Starlings perched on roadside railings, and Common Kestrel and Swifts were seen, as well as a probable Booted Eagle. As we reached the rolling hills further west, we noted the extensive Giant Fennel (*Ferula communis*) and fields and patches of Italian Sainfoin (*Sulla coronaria*), as well as. We stopped for a break at Enna services, before turning off the motorway at Tremonzelli, climbing into the lower parts of the Madonie. It was very windy, but sunny.

This year we were again staying in a guesthouse in the centre of the hilltop town of Polizzi Generosa. We parked in a small town square and walked up the narrow streets. The characterful bed and breakfast is actually two adjacent townhouses, and was surprisingly spacious inside. There was time to settle in and explore the steep streets before we met at 6.15pm. After a short briefing, we walked to a small restaurant, where we enjoyed a tasty meal of local dishes. Afterwards, we were more than ready for our beds.

### Day 2

Thursday 24th April

#### Bosco di Ficuzza

Since Friday was being Liberation Day and a holiday in Italy, we changed the itinerary, so our destination today was the Bosco di Ficuzza south-east of Palermo; it was a long drive, but it was an excellent site for orchids.

After a delicious breakfast, the group gathered in the square while the leaders completed the shopping. Swifts were screaming overhead. With the picnic makings on board, we set off to drive north towards Scillato, then dropped

down to the autostrada towards Palermo. Near the coast, a 'kettle' of large-winged birds may have been Black Storks. The sun was shining, and the sea was a wonderful blue. At Villabate, we turned south, through Marineo, its imposing rock having Red-billed Chough and Raven around the top. It was then 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 a break. The imposing Rocca Busambra cliff towered above the wood. Wall Brown and Plain Tiger butterflies were seen, and Swallows and House Martins swooped low.

Our main stop was just above the village, where we explored the verges and an area of open woodland, mainly of Narrow-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) and Downy Oak (*Quercus congesta*). We soon started to find orchids: Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertoloni*), Bumblebee Orchid (*Ophrys bombyliflora*), Yellow and Small Yellow Bee Orchids (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *lutea* and subsp. *galilea*), and our first Pale Ophrys (*Ophrys fusca* subsp. *pallida*), of which most of the world population grows only in this area. We added good numbers of Naked Man Orchids (*Orchis italica*), some very fine, and a few Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*) and Provence Orchids (*Orchis provincialis*). There were swathes of Tongue Orchids (*Serapias lingua*) and a single Plough-share Tongue Orchid (*Serapias vomeracea*). We also found a couple of late-flowering Milky Orchids (*Neotinea lactea*) and a few Beaked Ophrys (*Ophrys holosericea* subsp. *oxyrrhynchos*, a near-endemic found also in southern Puglia) which was very fresh. We had to be very careful where we put our feet!

Other plants included Field Gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*), the multi-headed pink or yellow-pink *Crepis vesicaria* subsp. *bironana*, found only in Sicily, blue *Bellaria dubia*, looking rather like a large Grape Hyacinth, and many members of the pea family, such as an endemic red clover *Trifolium bivonae*, Asparagus Pea (*Lotus tetragonolobus*) and Cyprus Pea (*Lathyrus ochrus*). Butterflies included Wall Brown, Southern Blue, Plain Tiger, Painted Lady and a fast-flying Swallowtail which did not stop; among the birds was a surprise fly-over Golden Eagle and duetting Cuckoos, and a few Sicilian Wall Lizards were seen. We enjoyed our tasty picnic here.

Afterwards, we drove higher up the hillside, where Hairy Thorny Broom (*Calicotome infesta*) was scenting the air. We found some white peonies (*Paeonia mascula*) still in flower, although many were over, as well as deep-pink Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*). We returned to the village for an ice cream and then stopped at an arable field edge on the Ficuzza access road 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. We enjoyed their wonderful colour and fragrance. Also here was Corn Marigold (*Glebionis segetum*), Honeywort (*Cerinthe majus*), Cretan Mullein (*Verbascum creticum*), a purple Broomrape *Orobanche mutelii* and Reversed Clover (*Trifolium resupinatum*), among many other species. Birds seen here included Cirl Bunting and a probable Eleanora's Falcon. We then had to set off on our long journey home, getting back to Polizzi at about 7.00pm.

After a break, we met to walk to the Baroon Bistrot, a delightful restaurant where the patron suggested we try a range of starters, which were all local, traditional dishes, washed down with local wine: it was a very delicious meal! We were then ready for our beds after an excellent first day in the field.

## Day 3

Friday 25th April

## Vallone Madonna degli Angeli – below Mte Quacella – Piano Battaglia

We woke to another sunny morning with the Swifts screaming low through the town. After another good breakfast, we met in the square at 9.00am. Our morning destination was the Vallone Madonna degli Angeli, about twenty minutes north of Polizzi, the location for the very rare Sicilian Fir (*Abies nebrodense*).

We parked and immediately started looking at orchids on the road verge. These were Sombre Bee Orchid (*Ophrys fusca*) and Small Yellow Bee Orchid (*O. lutea* subsp. *galilea*) types, but mostly of the forms previously been known as *O. flammeola* and *O. archimedea* respectively, certainly looking different from the 'typical' specimens. The *Ophrys* here are extremely difficult, as there are many variants, held by some to be endemic species, but DNA studies show few differences. A hummock by the gate held the lemon form of *Iris pseudopumila* and a single purple flower. This iris is sometimes called Dwarf Sicilian Iris, although the lemon form also occurs in Puglia. There were also flowers of the tiny, pink Burnt Candytuft (*Aethionema saxatile*), the white and orange toadflax *Linaria reflexa*, Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari neglectum*), pink *Anemone hortensis*, Fedia (*Valeriana*, formerly *Fedia, graciliflora*) and many other delights. Nuthatch, Coal Tit and Chiffchaff were singing. Under the trees Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) was flowering, and we noted the leaves of Calabrian Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum calabicum*). As we reached a more open area, we started to find a few Brancifort's Orchids (*Orchis brancifortii*), as well as some fine spikes of Sawfly Orchid (*O. tenthradinifera*), the Sicilian version being particularly robust. There was also the large-flowered form of Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium* subsp. *obscurum*) and more irises, both purple and lemon. A Woodlark was singing and Red-billed Choughs were high over the ridge. Small Copper butterflies were on the wing.

The track began to rise, becoming stonier, with scree and cliffs to the sides. In this apparently very dry habitat, we found, among other species, the larger-flowered, white, 'true' Candytuft (*Iberis carnosa*, formerly *I. pruitii*), 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*) and *Plantago subulata*, along with the leaves of French Figwort (*Scrophularia canina*). The higher we went, the more flowers were out, and we saw some Golden-drops (*Onosma echiodoides* subsp. *canescens*, an endemic subspecies), a smaller-flowered Rock-rose *Helianthemum cinereum* subsp. *rotundifolium*, a blue bellflower with grass-like leaves, *Edraianthus graminifolius*, and the Nebrod Alyssum (*Alyssum nebrodense*). We enjoyed the extensive views, looking down towards Polizzi and also across the valley where we could see a few Sicilian Firs on the far side, looking like Christmas trees. We saw a Raven, and then two Short-toed Snake Eagles flew overhead, followed later by a Griffon Vulture. A few Italian Wall Lizards were seen, as well as a large herd of Fallow Deer on a distant slope. Where the path divided, some of the group took the right hand 'Sentiero Abies', seeing more cyclamen, and soon reaching a specimen Sicilian Fir ('number 22' of the forty or so mature trees that exist in the wild) with several seedlings; we could see their distinctive short needles.

We retraced our steps and ate our late but delicious picnic on the low walls by the start of the walk. There were some nice patches of the Birthwort *Aristolochia clusii* in flower on the verge. We then drove further up the road, stopping in the open, rocky meadows under Monte Quacella. Here, carpets of Common Asphodel (*Asphodelus ramosus*) had replaced most of the irises, a sign of overgrazing, probably mainly by the large numbers of Fallow Deer. However, there were still some beautiful and dense patches of irises to enjoy. New here was a Man Orchid (*Orchis anthropophorum*), and we noted the pink strands of the parasitic Common Dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum*), the

sculptural rosettes of *Carthamus pinnatus*, and the tiny grey rosettes of Greater Evax (*Eracidium discolor*). Cirl Bunting was singing.

We continued to climb on up to Piano Battaglia, the highest area of the Madonie at 1600m. Here, we walked across an area of boulder-strewn hillsides, with streams leading to a sink hole. However, this area had also been excessively grazed (we saw another herd of Fallow Deer on a hillside)m and all the taller vegetation (mainly *Prangos ferulacea*, a plant rather like Fennel) was reduced to stems barely a few centimetres high. Searching revealed a single flower of a Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem (*Gagea foliosa*) among the Million-leaved Buttercups (*Ranunculus millefoliata*). White flowers of Mountain Star-of-Bethlehem, (*Ornithogalum montanum*) dotted the grassy and bare slopesm and Caucasian Rock-cress (*Arabis caucasica*) was on the rocks by the sinkhole, along with a very few spikes of deep-blue Alpine Squill (*Scilla bifolia*), pink Bird-in-a-bush (*Corydalis solida*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*). Red-billed Choughs flew overhead and we had excellent views of a Rock Bunting, with one of the group also seeing a fine Cirl Bunting.

We were back before 5.30pm and met at 6.30pm to start to update our checklists, before walking to a pizzeria, where the pizzas were delicious.

## Day 4

**Saturday 26th April**

### Road to Collesano – Gibilmannu – Isnello gorge

We woke to another beautiful morning, with less wind. After breakfast, we left at 9.00am, driving the winding road towards Scillato, then turning east towards Collesano. We stopped as a Hoopoe took off from the road; it perched briefly on a fence before disappearing. However, there were several kestrels over the fields, and we saw that it was a large group of maybe thirty Lesser Kestrels, hunting over the fields and sometimes perching; we could see the differences from Common Kestrel. A Marsh Harrier and a Common Buzzard were over the ridge, while Crested Lark and Corn Bunting were closer by. Plants included Carduncellus (*Carthamus caerulea*) which is a pretty blue-mauve thistle, Salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*), the smaller-flowered Slender Goat's-beard *Geropogon hybridus*, Blue Stonecrop (*Sedum caeruleum*), Pale Bugloss (*Echium italicum*), looking like a tiny Christmas tree, and Dwarf Broomrape (*Orobanche nana*). Further on, Nightingales were heard, and we stopped to listen to two birds duetting (one was seen briefly), as well as Sardinian Warbler and Stonechat. The pretty blue, white and yellow Bindweed *Convolvulus tricolor* was on the road edge. A pair of Egyptian Vultures was seen, a first for this trip; there are only about eight breeding pairs on Sicily.

After a brief stop in Collesano for the supermarket, we continued past the little village of Isnello and drove on towards Gibilmannu on the north face of the Madonie, passing bushes of Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*) with its shall white flowers, along with the golden Hairy Thorny Broom (*Calicotome infesta*). The state of the roads meant that progress was slow! We parked in a grassy meadow under a Downy Oak (*Quercus pubescens*), with a Nuthatch above our heads. Common Swallowtail was seen but did not stop. A walk down the lane opposite gave some spikes of Violet Limodore, also called Violet Bird's-nest Orchid (*Limodorum abortivum*), one beautifully open, and some spikes of the large, dark-red Broomrape *Orobanche variegata*. Other plants included Edible Lotus (*Lotus edulis*), Annual Scorpion-vetch (*Scorpiurus muricatus*) and Bastard Balm (*Melittis melissophyllum*), among beautiful Sage-leaved Cistus (*Cistus salviifolius*) with large white flowers. Long-tailed Tits here were of the Sicilian subspecies, with brown crown-sides and grey backs, and Cuckoos called nearby. We had our picnic in the meadow.

Replete, we then drove the short distance to the Sanctuary of Gibilmannu, seeing a couple of Crag Martins round the large church. The path dipped down through shady woodland, with Mediterranean Clubmoss (*Selaginella denticulata*), Black and Maidenhair Spleenworts (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and *A. trichomanes*) and Southern Polypody (*Polypodium cambricum*). Other plants included *Lamium flexuosum*, with hairy flowers, and Blue Hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum creticum*) and another Violet Limodore, but not in flower. The vegetation opened out and it was pleasing to see the regeneration after the previous year's fire. Sage-leaved and pink Cretan Cistus (*Cistus salviifolius* and *C. creticus*) were looking magnificent, while Narrow-leaved Cistus (*C. monspeliensis*) was just starting to show its small white flowers. Tree Heather (*Erica arborea*) was sprouting well, and we found some lovely French Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*). Other plants included Mediterranean Marigold (*Coleostephus myconis*), Weasel-snout (*Misopates orontium*) and Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*). There were lovely views along the coast. Butterflies included Speckled Wood, Red Admiral and Painted Lady. As we returned, a Short-toed Snake Eagle was spotted, and one group member saw an Alpine Swift.

Returning towards Isnello, we stopped at Isnello Gorge. On the rock faces were Cretan Scabious (*Lomeliosea cretica*), with beautiful seedheads, while on the verges were Pitch Trefoil (*Bituminaria bituminosa*), some being parasitised by a magnificent, purple Broomrape *Orobanche lavandulacea*, with *Orobanche variegata* also present, parasitising the Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*). Tree Spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*), Shrubby Wormwood (*Artemisia arborescens*) and Terebinth tree (*Pistacia terebinthus*), with dense reddish flowers and young leaves, were among the shrubs. A couple of Goldwing moths were on a Galactites, and a Ragusa's Nine-spotted Moth posed for photographers. Egyptian Vultures were seen again (at least three different birds were seen during the day, including a young one), as well as a Griffon Vulture. Crag Martins and House Martins were in the gorge, which also held a beautiful yellow endemic genista *Genista demarcoi*, known primarily only from this location. We moved on, appreciating the genista on the cliff by the road, and stopped at the next road junction where the traffic island held swathes of Plough-share Tongue Orchids (*Serapias vomeracea*) and a newly emerged Speckled Bush-cricket.

We were later getting back (and paid the price of no parking spaces on a Saturday night), and met at 7.50pm to return to the Baroon Bistrot for another excellent meal.

## Day 5

## Sunday 28th April

Transfer to Zafferana Etnea: below Mte Quacella – Piano Torre – P. Zucchi – near Petralia Soprana

Today we had to say goodbye to Sissi and Francesco at the B&B Sciacbake in Polizzi. After another good breakfast, we made up a picnic roll each and were ready to leave by 9.30am. It was another beautiful morning. We took the route north up into the mountains, stopping below Monte Quacella where a Cirl Bunting was singing by the road. We watched it for some time, along with a Woodlark on a tree, and we also had superb views of Eastern Subalpine Warbler. Bee-eaters flew high overhead and large herd of Fallow Deer was again grazing the slopes. A stop below Piano Torre gave a grassy bank with Lacaita's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys holosericea* subsp. *lacaitae*) with its lemon-yellow lip, as well as a single Sicilian Toothed Orchid (*Neotinea commutata*) and, in a wooded area, a spike of Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), in bud. There was abundant, flowering, *Aristolochia rotunda*, while a Common Redstart was heard but remained elusive. We stopped above Piano Zucchi to admire two bushes of the white peony *Paeonia mascula* glowing in the sun, and took an unscheduled stop at Piano Battaglia for a Hoopoe which flew up onto a wire.

We had our picnic between the two Petralias (Sottana and Soprana), where we enjoyed superb 'true' Sombre Bee Orchids (*Ophrys fusca*), carpets of Pink Butterfly Orchids (*Anacamptis papilionacea* subsp. *expansa*) with fan-like markings on the lip, and more Plough-share Tongue-orchids. Bertoloni's Bee Orchids (*Ophrys bertolonii*) were emerging, but Long-spurred Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* subsp. *longicornu*) were mainly over. There was also a spike of *Bellevalia romana*, with white flowers, Bithynian Vetch (*Vicia bithynica*), and Cyprus Pea (*Lathyrus ochrus*), among other delights. Two Red Kites were near Petralia Soprana, and the verges en route to the motorway were a mass of colour, with Sweets Peas mingling with Wild Pea, Italian Sainfoin, Purple Viper's-bugloss and a yellow brassica. As we drove east, Cattle Egrets were seen and a Stone-curlew was an unexpected fly-over on the motorway.

Having stopped at Enna services for a break, we took the autostrada north round Catania and drove up to Giarre, before starting the climb towards Zafferana Etnea; Mount Etna was swathed in dark cloud. We soon arrived at our hotel, the Antico Borgo Petralia, where we received a very warm welcome from Sara and her colleague Paula. This is a delightful family-run establishment, with stunning views over the sea and Etna. After time to settle in, we met to work on our checklists, and enjoyed a delicious meal. Relaxed and happy, we were then ready for our beds.

## Day 6

Monday 28th April

### Mount Etna

We woke to a fine morning, and could see the summit of Mount Etna for the first time. After a delicious breakfast with still-warm homemade cakes, we were ready to leave at 8.30am. After a quick dash by the leaders into the supermarket in Zafferana Etnea, we set off to drive the winding route, which climbs over the southern slopes of Etna to the Rifugio Sapienza, noting the differences between the wooded areas, mainly Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), and colonised lava flows, mainly from seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which had plenty of Woad (*Isatis tinctoria* subsp. *canescens*), Red Valerian (*Valeriana rubra*) and Bright Vetch (*Vicia glauca*), and the colonising lichen *Stereocaulon vesuvianum*. We also saw Narrow-leaved Lupin (*Lupinus angustifolius*) and plenty of Eastern Leopard's-bane ( *Doronicum orientale*), the latter in wooded areas.

At the car park, we donned extra clothing and seven of the group went with Lizzie on the ascent. Having purchased tickets online, there was no queueing (we had arrived early: the system can still break down if many coach loads arrive at the same time), and they were soon ascending in the *funivia*, seeing patches of purple Etna Pansy (*Viola aethnensis*) protruding from the ash. From the *funivia* they transferred to four-wheel-drive buses, which drove slowly through the rock and ash, with some snow, to about 2900m. This year, visitors were taken to the 2002 crater, as the south-east crater towards the Val di Bove is still active (a new lava flow occurred the week before our arrival). The group were able to look down into this now self-sealed crater, and also had excellent views of the summit cone, smoking away. Ravens were enjoying the wind here.

Meanwhile, Jessica took the other three to slopes below the summit by Monte Vetore. We wandered along a road which led to a (closed) Botanic Garden, having excellent views of Coal Tits, including one taking nesting material to a crack in the wall. We then had nice views of Rock Bunting and a small flock of Red Crossbills in lovely light. Ravens were overhead, a Hoopoe was glimpsed and a Cuckoo was heard distantly. Finally, we saw a pair of Black Redstarts. The wind was cold, but the black lava blocks of low walls were warm and very pleasant to sit on in sheltered spots in the sun! We returned to Rifugio Sapienza for coffee and a little shopping as the others descended, all agreeing we had had an excellent morning.

We drove a short distance below the summit to Piano Vetore, where we had a late and slightly windswept picnic at the tables. We then spent time exploring the area, finding some minute flowers such as the Forget-me-not *Myosotis incrassata*, *Buglossoides incrassata* subsp. *splitbergeri* looking like a white Forget-me-not, and the Knawel *Schleranthus annuus* subsp. *aetnensis*, as well as a chilly Small Copper. There was also *Erysimum etnense* and more Etna Pansies, among other species. There were many processions of Pine Processionary Moth caterpillars across the area, some moving with surprising speed. We drove a short distance further, stopping to turn in some woodland with Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*). Returning, we looked for a patch of Elder-flowered Orchids (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*), but they were still in bud. We then returned to the morning's birding venue, having better views of the Black Redstarts and also seeing the Rock Buntings, Crossbills and Coal Tits. A Common Kestrel flew past.

By now it was time to return to the hotel, so we retraced our route, arriving back at about 5.10pm. We met at 6.15pm to do further work on our checklists, before another delicious meal. Afterwards, we could hear a very distant Scops Owl.

## Day 7

Tuesday 29th April

### 'Sea to summit': the eastern slopes of Etna

It was another lovely morning, with just a little cloud / steam round the cone of Etna. After another delicious breakfast with more homemade cakes, we gathered at 9.00am. We dropped down via Giarre and the motorway to reach the coast at Cottone, where we parked at the end of a sandy track. Coastal species here included Three-horned Stock (*Matthiola tricuspidata*) and Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), showing their very different seed pods, and some rough ground held the yellow form of Bellardia (*Bartsia trixago*). Nightingale was singing, while Hoopoe, Zitting Cisticola, Marsh Harrier and Tree Sparrow were seen. Our next stop was barely a kilometre inland, but what a contrast it was! The nature reserve at Fiumefreddo has pools fed by Etna meltwater so supports a lush vegetation of species such as Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), and Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), all massively tall (the nettles and brambles taller than us!). Access is still restricted after a major fire a few years ago, but we were able to appreciate and enjoy this habitat, unusual in the Mediterranean at sea-level. As we were gathering, a Bee-eater flew low overhead, Turtle Dove was heard and a flock of nineteen Purple Herons flew over, obviously on migration. Insect life included a couple of fine Napoleon Crab Spiders, one yellow, the other red.

We then started to climb the slopes of Etna, passing through Piedmonte Etnea and Linguaglossa, taking the Strada Maraneve and noticing how the vegetation was becoming greener. We stopped at a pull-in above Linguaglossa to explore the area and enjoy our final picnic, surrounded by spikes of Sicilian Toothed Orchid (*Neotinea commutata*). There were lemon-yellow and magenta Roman Orchids (*Dactylorhiza romana*), with leafy bracts and upward-pointing spurs on the flowers, but also a salmon-coloured one in which the spur was pointing out and down, a mark of Elder-flowered Orchid (*D. sambucina*), although the plant was less robust than usual Elder-flowered Orchid. It is likely that there has been hybridisation between the two species over a long period (the hybrid form gaining the name *D. x rombicina*). Similarly, we were aware of variation in flower-spur length and overall colour and shape of the flowers of the Green-winged-type orchids (*Anacamptis morio*). Some had very long spurs and looked like the Long-spurred (*A. morio* subsp. *longicorinu*), some were 'good' Green-winged (*A. morio* subsp. *morio*), and many were intermediate; again, this was likely the result of much hybridisation between the two, although it is not possible to

determine the degree of natural variation within one species or subspecies. There were some Pink Butterfly Orchids, emerging Violet Limodore, and we were pleased to find a stand of another new species, Dense-flowered Orchid (*Neotinea maculata*). Other plants included Perfoliate Alexanders (*Smyrnium perfoliatum* subsp. *rotundifolium*), Cretan Alkanet (*Anchusa cretica*), the tall, yellow Toadflax *Linaria multicaulis* subsp. *aetnensis*, and a carpet of Spring Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) in a shady hollow backed by a lava tube. We also had good views of two male Western Green Lizards, showing their blue heads and throats in contrast to their emerald-green bodies.

We continued to climb higher up the slopes, noting how the vegetation was changing from Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) into Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*). Our highest stop was at Piano Provenzana at 1810m, where we could see the devastating lava flows from 2002, which wiped out nearly the whole resort. Some of the lava now bears a little Mount Vesuvius Lichen (*Stereocaulon vesuvianum*), with a few other species growing, especially where the lava has been crushed along the edge of the road. However, a short walk onto older lava showed Etna Barberry (*Berberis aetnensis*), Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis* var. *hemisphaerica*, an endemic variety), Etna Milk-vetch (*Astragalus aetnensis*) and carpets of Etna Pansy in all shades of purple to cream with some bicoloured flowers. Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) trees were a fresh green, and there was also Pine Mistletoe (*Viscum album* subsp. *austriacum*), with birds including Northern Wheatear and a male Serin.

We returned to the Maraneve, winding our way down towards Milo. We crossed lava flows of various ages and noted how Red Valerian (*Valeriana*, formerly *Centranthus*, *rubra*), Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) and Shield Dock (*Rumex scutatus*, growing as a very glaucous form, but no longer recognised as an Etna endemic subspecies) were early colonisers, as well as Etna Daisy (*Anthemis aetnensis*). There had been some rain there, but we had stayed dry, although the wind at Piano Provenzana was chilly.

Back at the hotel, there was time for a break before we gathered to complete our checklists and to enjoy a final, delicious dinner together.

## Day 8

Wednesday 30th April

### Journey home

We had an early breakfast this morning at 7.30am in order to be ready to leave at 8.20am. As we gathered, however, we could see that Etna was pouring out grey smoke and ash, rather than the white steam of the previous days. The eruption had started during the night, but appeared to have quietened down again by the time we were travelling, and was not severe enough to affect travel. The journey to the airport was busy but trouble-free, and we made good time. We said farewell to two clients who were staying on, and one who had a later flight to Edinburgh. The rest of us checked in, two for the 11.30am Manchester flight and the rest of us for the 11.45am Gatwick one.

We agreed that it had been a very 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 go to you all for your enthusiasm, spotting skills and good company. I hope we meet again!

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## Species lists

### Plants

** = endemic to Sicily, * = endemic to Italy			
Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<b>PTERIDOPHYTE</b>	<b>FERNS &amp; ALLIES</b>		
<b>Lycophytes</b>			
<b>Selaginellaceae</b>	<b>Lesser Clubmoss Family</b>		
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	4	Gibilmana
<b>Calamophytes</b>			
<b>Equisetaceae</b>	<b>Horsetail Family</b>		
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Giant Horsetail	7	Fiumefreddo
<b>Leptosporangiate Ferns</b>	<b>True Ferns</b>		
<b>Aspleniaceae</b>	<b>Spleenwort Family</b>		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	4	Gibilmana
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Irish Spleenwort	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	4	Gibilmana
<b>Cystopteraceae</b>	<b>Bladder-fern Family</b>		
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<b>Dennstaedtiaceae</b>	<b>Bracken Family</b>		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	4	Gibilmana
<b>Polypodiaceae</b>	<b>Polypody Family</b>		
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	4	Gibilmana
<b>Pteridaceae</b>	<b>Ribbon Fern Family</b>		
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	4	Gibilmana
<i>Cosentina vellea</i>		7	Fiumefreddo
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>	<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<b>Cupressaceae</b>	<b>Juniper Family</b>		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>		
<i>Abies nebrodensis**</i>	Sicilian Fir (Nebrod Pine)	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus nigra subsp. <i>laricio</i></i>	Corsican Pine	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine	1	Roadsides
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>		
<b>Pre-dicots</b>	<b>Primitive Angiosperms</b>		
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>	<b>Birthwort Family</b>		
<i>Aristolochia clusii*</i>	A Birthwort	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>	Birthwort	4	Near Gibilmana
<b>Eu-dicots</b>	<b>True Dicotyledons</b>		
<b>Acanthaceae</b>	<b>Bear's-breech Family</b>		
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech	2	Roadsides
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	<b>Sumach Family</b>		
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	4	Isnello Gorge
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>		
<i>Anthriscus nemorosa</i>	A Cow Parsley	4	Gibilmana
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Elaeoselinum asclepium</i>	Elaeoselinum	2	Bosco di Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Eryngium bocconii</i>	An endemic Eryngo	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Ferula communis subsp. <i>communis</i></i>	Giant Fennel	2	Roadsides
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	1	Polizzi Generosa

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Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<i>Kundmannian sicula</i>	Kundmannia	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Magydaris pastinaca</i>	A tall white 'Umbellifer'	4	Roadsides
<i>Oenanthe globulosa</i>	Round-headed Water-dropwort	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Opopanax chironium</i>	Hercules All-heal	2	Bosco di Ficuzza (leaves)
<i>Orlaya kochii</i>	An Orlaya	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Prangos (Cachrys) ferulacea</i>	-	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needles	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Apocynaceae</b>	<b>Periwinkle Family</b>		
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	7	Cottone
<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>	<b>Holly Family</b>		
<i>Ilex aquifolua</i>	Holly	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Araliaceae</b>	<b>Ivy Family</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Asteraceae (Compositae)</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>		
<i>Achillea ligustica</i>	Southern Yarrow	4	Gibilmana
<i>Anthemis aetnensis**</i>	Etna Daisy	7	Mount Etna
<i>Anthemis</i> sp.	Corn Chamomile	4	Near Gibilmana
<i>Anthemis cretica (montana)</i>	-	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	A Wormwood	3	Roadsides
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy	4	Gibilmana
<i>Bellis perennis</i> (var. <i>strobliana</i> **)	Daisy	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>	A Marigold	5	Roadsides
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender Thistle	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Carlina nebrodensis**</i>	Nebrod Carline Thistle	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Carthamus (Carducellus) caeruleus</i>	Carduncellus	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Carthamus (Carduncellus) pinnatus</i>	-	5	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star-thistle	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Coleostephys myconis</i>	Mediterranean Marigold	4	Gibilmana
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i> subsp. <i>bivonana</i>	a multi-headed pinkish Hawk's-beard	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Eastern Leopard's-bane	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Evacdium discolor</i>	Evacdium	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Filago (Evax) astericifolia</i>	Greater Evax	4	Gibilmana
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Geropogon hybridus</i>	Hybrid Goat's-beard	4	Gibilmana
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	1	Roadsides
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	An Everlasting	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Helichrysum nebrodensis**</i>	An Everlasting	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	Hyoseris	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's-ear	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Jacoea ambigua</i> ( <i>Senecio ambiguus</i> )**	A Ragwort	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Jacoea candida</i> ( <i>Senecio candidus</i> )**	A Ragwort	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis	4	Gibilmana
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon	4	Gibilmana
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		4	Gibilmana
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>	Oyster Plant	2	Roadsides
<i>Scolymus maculata</i>		2	Sweet Pea stop

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<i>Scorzonera laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved Viper's-grass	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	4	Gibilmannia
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	4	Roadsides
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>siculum</i>	Etna Tansy	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Taraxacum</i> spp.	Dandelion	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	4	Gibilmannia
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	-	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Rough Cocklebur	7	Cottone
<b>Berberidaceae</b>	<b>Barberry Family</b>		
<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	Etna Barberry	7	Piano Provenzana
<b>Betulaceae</b>	<b>Birch Family</b>		
<i>Betula pendula</i> (formerly <i>aetnensis</i> **)	Silver (Etna) Birch	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	7	Above Linguaglossa
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>		
<i>Anchusa cretica</i>	Cretan Alkanet	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Buglossoides incrassata</i> ssp. <i>Splitgerberi</i>	Tiny white-flowered bugloss	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Cerinthe majus</i>	Honeywort	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	4	Gibilmannia
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>siculum</i>	Pale Bugloss	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Myosotis incrassata</i>	a Forget-me-not	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Onosma echiodoides</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i> **	Golden Drops	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>		
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	2	Peony stop
<i>Odontarrhena nebrodensis</i> ssp. <i>nebrodensis</i> **	An Alyssum	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Caucasian Rockcress	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Arabis collina</i>	-	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rockcress	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Barbarea bracteosa</i>	A Wintercress	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Biscutella lyrata</i>	A Buckler-mustard	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	7	Cottone
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	4	Gibilmannia
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Whitlow Grass	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Erysimum etnense</i> **	A Treacle-mustard	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i> **	A Treacle-mustard	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary Mustard	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Hornungia petraea</i>	Hutchensia	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iberis carnosa</i> (formerly <i>pruitii</i> )	A Candytuft	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iberis semperflorens</i>	A Candytuft	5	Near Piano Zucchi
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>canescens</i>	Woad	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress	5	Roadsides
<i>Lepidium hirtum</i> subsp. <i>nebrodense</i>	-	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	4	Gibilmannia

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<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i> subsp. <i>fruticulosa</i> *	Sicilian Stock	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock	7	Cottone
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>		
<i>Campanula dichotoma</i>	a Bellflower	4	Gibilmana
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	Annual Bellflower	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Edraianthus graminifolius</i>	Edraianthus	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Legousia hybrida</i>	Venus's Looking-glass	5	Below Monte Quacella
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	2	Roadsides
<i>Lomelosia (Scabiosa) cretica</i>	Cretan Scabious	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Mournful Widow	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Valeriana (Fedia) graciliflora</i>	Fedia	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Valeriana (Centranthus) rubra</i>	Red Valerian	2	Roadsides
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>		
<i>Arenaria grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Sandwort	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-Summer	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Petrorhagia dubia (velutina)</i>	A Childing Pink	4	Gibilmana
<i>Saponaria sicula</i>	Sicilian Soapwort	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore - leaves)
<i>Scleranthus aetnensis</i> **	a Knawel	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i> (subsp. <i>vulcanicus</i> **)	a Perennial Knawel	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	4	Gibilmana
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	4	Gibilmana
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	4	Gibilmana
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Rock-rose Family</b>		
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	4	Gibilmana
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	4	Gibilmana
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	4	Gibilmana
<i>Helianthemum cinereum</i>	A small-flowered Rock-rose	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>H. nummularium</i> ssp. <i>obscurum</i>	Rock-rose	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rock-rose	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>		
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	4	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	1	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	Pink Bindweed	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i>	-	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	3	Below Monte Quacella
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	<b>Stonecrop Family</b>		
<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>	Pale Stonecrop	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Phedimus (Sedum) stellatus</i>	Starry Stonecrop	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Sedum aetnense</i> **	Etna Stonecrop	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue Stonecrop	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>	Spanish Stonecrop	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Wall Pennywort	4	Gibilmana
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	4	Gibilmana
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heather Family</b>		
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	4	Gibilmana
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	A heather	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

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<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>		
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>		5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Euphorbia meuselii</i>	Horned Spurge	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Fabaceae (Leguminosae)</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> agg.	Kidney Vetch	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>	Sprawling Milk-vetch	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i>	-	4	Gibilmana
<i>Astragalus nebrodensis</i> **	Nebrod Milk-vetch	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Astragalus siculus</i> **	Etna Milk-vetch	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Calicotome infesta</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	2	Roadsides
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	2	Roadsides
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	Scorpion-vetch	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Cytisus villosus</i>	Hairy Broom	4	Gibilmana
<i>Genista aetnensis</i> **	Etna Broom	6	Etna
<i>Genista demarcoi</i> **	an endemic Greenweed	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Hippocrepis biflora</i>	Two-flowered Horseshoe Vetch	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Lathyrus anuus</i>	Annual Vetchling	7	Cottone
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	Crimson Pea	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>	Cyprus Pea/Winged Pea	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> **	Sweet Pea	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Lathyrus oleraceus</i> ( <i>Pisum sativum</i> )	Wild Pea	5	Near Piano Zucchi
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Red Vetchling	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>	A Red Vetchling	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Lotus creticus</i>	Southern Bird's-foot Trefoil	7	Cottone
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i>	-	4	Gibilmana
<i>Lotus tetragonolobus</i> ( <i>Trifolium purpureum</i> )	Asparagus Pea	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Disc Medick	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	4	Gibilmana
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	2	Roadsides
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	4	Gibilmana
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	2	Roadsides
<i>Sulla (Hedysarum) coronaria</i>	Italian Sainfoin	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium bivonae</i>	(looks like Zigzag clover)	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	7	Cottone
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	A white clover (smaller flowers)	7	Cottone
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	7	Cottone
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil	7	Cottone
<i>Tripodion (Anthyllis) tetraphyllum</i>	Bladder Vetch	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	-	5	Below Petralia Soprana
<i>Vicia glauca</i> ( <i>villosa</i> subsp. <i>ambigua</i> )	Bright Vetch	7	Piano Provenzana

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<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetch	7	Cottone
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Spring Vetch (tiny flower)	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Vicia melanops</i>	Yellow and Black Pea	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Quercus congesta</i>	S Italian oak cf <i>pubescens</i>	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Quercus gussonei</i>	Endemic oak cf <i>cerris</i>	4	Gibilmana
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	2	Ficuzza
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	4	Gibilmana
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	3	Roadsides
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<b>Geranium Family</b>		
<i>Erodium acaule</i>	Stemless Stork's-bill (perennial)	5	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	4	Gibilmana
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	4	Gibilmana
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved crane's-bill	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>		
<i>Clinopodium (Acinos) alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Clinopodium nepeta</i>	Lesser Calamint	4	Gibilmana
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Lamium flexuosum</i>	A white Dead-nettle (hairy flowers)	4	Gibilmana
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	4	Gibilmana
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i> subsp. <i>albida</i>	Bastard Balm	4	Near Gibilmana
<i>Mentha</i> sp.	A Mint	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Micromeria graeca</i> ( <i>M. consentina</i> *)	-	4	Gibilmana
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	3	Below Monte Quacella
<i>Sideritis romana</i>	Common Sideritis	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Stachys oxymastra</i>	a Woundwort	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Shrub Germander	4	Gibilmana
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Wild Thyme	3	Below Monte Quacella
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flax Family</b>		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax/ Pale Flax	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Linum punctatum</i> subsp. <i>punctatum</i> **	A Flax	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Lythraceae</b>	<b>Loosestrife Family</b>		
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	False Grass-poly	7	Fiumefreddo
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<b>Mallow Family</b>		
<i>Malva multiflora</i>	Small Tree Mallow	4	Gibilmana
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Moraceae</b>	<b>Mulberry Family</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	2	Roadsides
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Olive Family</b>		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	2	Bosco di Ficuzza

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<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>First or best location</b>
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering or Manna Ash	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive (wild)	4	Isnello Gorge
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<b>Broomrape Family</b>		
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	2	Roadsides
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia (yellow form)	7	Cottone
<i>Orobanche lavandulacea</i>	A Broomrape on Pitch Trefoil	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Orobanche mutellii</i>	A Dwarf Broomrape	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Orobanche nana</i>	Dwarf Broomrape	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	6	Slopes of Etna
<i>Orobanche variegata</i>	A Broomrape	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<b>Wood-sorrel Family</b>		
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>	<b>Peony Family</b>		
<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Peony	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>		
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	2	Roadsides
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<b>Plantain Family</b>		
<i>Linaria reflexa</i>	a white & orange Toadflax	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Linaria simplex</i>	a Toadflax	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Linaria multicaulis</i> subsp. <i>aetnensis</i>	a yellow Toadflax	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel-snout	4	Gibilmana
<i>Plantago subulata</i>	A Plantain (short, thin leaves)	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell	4	Gibilmana
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Dock Family</b>		
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<i>Rumex bucephaliflorus</i>	Horned Dock	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel/ Shield Dock	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rumex scutatus</i> forma <i>aetnensis</i>	Etna Sorrel	6	Slopes of Etna (Piano Vetore)
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<b>Primrose Family</b>		
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread / Cyclamen	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Lysimachia (Anagallis) arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	4	Gibilmana
<i>Lysimachia loeflingii</i>	Blue form of Scarlet Pimpernel	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>		
<i>Anemone apennina</i>	Blue Anemone	3	Near Piano Battaglia
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	Broad-leaved Anemone	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	4	Gibilmana (leaves)
<i>Ficaria verna</i> agg.	Lesser Celandine	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Thalictrum calabricum</i>	Calabrian Meadow-rue	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Resedaceae</b>	<b>Mignonette Family</b>		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	<b>Buckthorn Family</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	4	Isnello Gorge
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>		
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Juneberry / Amelanchier	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli

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<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>First or best location</b>
<i>Crataegus orientalis (C. laciniata)</i>	A Hawthorn	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab-apple	5	Near Piano Zucchi
<i>Potentilla calabria</i>	A Cinquefoil	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Prunus amygdalus</i>	Almond	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Pyrus spinosa (P. amygdaliformis)</i>	Almond-leaved Pear	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>		
<i>Galium aethnicum**</i>	Etna Bedstraw	7	Piano Provenzana
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	4	Gibilmana
<i>Galium mollugo</i> agg.	Hedge Bedstraw	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder	4	Gibilmana
<i>Sheradzia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	7	Fiumefreddo
<b>Santalaceae</b>	<b>Sandalwood Family</b>		
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>austriacum</i>	Pine Mistletoe	7	Piano Provenzana
<b>Sapindaceae</b>	<b>Maple Family</b>		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	5	Piano Torre
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	7	Roadsides
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Saxifrage Family</b>		
<i>Saxifraga bulbifera</i>	Bulbous Saxifrage	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>		
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	4	Gibilmana
<i>Verbascum creticum</i>	Cretan Mullein	2	Sweet Pea stop
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein	4	Isnello Gorge
<b>Simaroubaceae</b>	<b>Tree of Heaven family</b>		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	4	Gibilmana
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<b>Nightshade Family</b>		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade	7	Fiumefreddo
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<b>Nettle Family</b>		
<i>Parietaria judaeaca</i>	Pelitory-of-the-Wall	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	Upright Pellitory	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Mediterranean Nettle	4	Gibilmana
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>	<b>Daphne Family</b>		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	2	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Verbenaceae</b>	<b>Verbena Family</b>		
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	7	Roadsides
<i>Verbena littoralis</i>	Brazilian Vervain	7	Fiumefreddo
<b>Viburnaceae</b>	<b>Viburnum Family</b>		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	3	Polizzi Generosa
<b>Violaceae</b>	<b>Violet Family</b>		
<i>Viola aethnensis**</i>	Etna Pansy	7	Piano Provenzana

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Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<b>Monocots</b>	<b>Monocotyledons</b>		
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	<b>Daffodil Family</b>		
<i>Allium nigrum</i>	-	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Allium pendulinum</i>	Pendulous Garlic	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	2	Roadsides
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	Hairy Garlic	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	4	Gibilmana
<b>Asparagaceae</b>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>		
<i>Agave americana</i>	Agave or Century Plant	2	Roadsides
<i>Bellevalia dubia</i>	(blue)	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Bellevalia romana</i>	(white)	5	Below Piano Soprana
<i>Muscaris (Leopoldia) comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Muscaris neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ornithogalum divergens</i>	Star of Bethlehem	4	Gibilmana
<i>Ornithogalum montanum</i>	Mountain Star of Bethlehem	3	Piano Battaglia
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A Spiked Star of Bethlehem	4	Isnello Gorge
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Alpine Squill	3	Piano Battaglia
<b>Asphodelaceae</b>	<b>Asphodel Family</b>		
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Cyperaceae</b>	<b>Sedge Family</b>		
<i>Carex otrubae (cuprina)</i>	False Fox Sedge	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Cyperus alternifolius</i>	Umbrella Sedge	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Cyperus papyrus</i> (subsp. <i>papyrus</i> / <i>siculus</i> **)	Papyrus	7	Fiumefreddo
<b>Dioscoraceae</b>	<b>Yam Family</b>		
<i>Dioscorea (Tamus) communis</i>	Black Bryony	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Italian Gladiolus	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Purple form)	An Iris	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iris pseudopumila</i> (Yellow two-tone form)	An Iris	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Iris (Hermodactylus) tuberosus</i>	Snake's-head Iris/ Widow Iris	4	Road to Collesano (in seed)
<b>Juncaceae</b>	<b>Rush Family</b>		
<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	Southern Woodrush	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Liliaceae</b>	<b>Lily Family</b>		
<i>Gagea foliosa</i>	A Yellow Star of Bethlehem	3	Piano Battaglia
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchid Family</b>		
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>longicornu</i>	Long-spurred Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> subsp. <i>expansa</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	5	Below Piano Soprana
<i>A. morio</i> subsp. <i>longicornu</i> x subsp. <i>morio</i>	a hybrid Orchid	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i> subsp. <i>romana</i>	Roman Orchid	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	5	Piano Torre
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	4	Lane near Gibilmana
<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Neotinea commutata</i>	Sicilian Toothed Orchid	5	Below Piano Soprana

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Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<i>Ophrys bertoloni</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> agg.	Sombre Bee Orchid	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> ssp. <i>fusca</i> ( <i>flammeola/lucifera</i> )**	a Sombre Bee Orchid	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys fusca</i> subsp. <i>pallida</i>	Pale Ophrys	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> subsp. <i>lacaitae</i>	Lacaita's Ophrys	5	Piano Torre
<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> subsp. <i>oxyrrhynchos</i>	Beaked Ophrys	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (formerly <i>sicula</i> )	Small Yellow Bee Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>O. lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i> (formerly <i>archimedea</i> )**	-	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> subsp. <i>lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> (formerly <i>exaltata</i> )*	An Early Spider Orchid	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>atrata</i> ( <i>incubacea</i> )	Dark Ophrys	5	Below Piano Soprana
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i> (formerly <i>grandiflora</i> **)	a Sawfly Orchid	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis anthroporophora</i>	Man Orchid	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis brancifortii</i> *	Brancifort's Orchid	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>Grass Family</b>		
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>	Mauritanian Grass	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	7	Cottone
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-oat	7	Cottone
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Great Quaking-grass	4	Road to Collesano
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Fescue	7	Above Linguaglossa
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	7	Cottone
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	4	Gibilmana
<i>Sesleria nitida</i>	-	3	Vallone Madonna degli Angeli
<b>Smilaceae</b>	<b>Smilax Family</b>		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	4	Gibilmana

## Lichens

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	Mount Vesuvius Lichen	7	

## Fungi

Scientific name	Common name	Day	First or best location
<i>Calvatia gigantea</i>	Giant Puffball	2	Bosco di Ficuzza
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	cf. King Alfred's Cakes	7	Fiumefreddo
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	cf. Hoof Fungus	7	Fiumefreddo

## Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	April 2025						
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>							✓
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>					✓		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H		H	
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							H
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							✓
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>						✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓						
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓					✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓				
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓	✓			
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓			
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	✓						
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓					
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				✓			
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓		✓
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					✓		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓						
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>						H	H
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓		✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H	H		✓		H
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					✓		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>					✓		
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>Periparus ater</i>			✓	H		✓	✓
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	H	✓			H
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			H		✓	H	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓	✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓	✓	✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>							H
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus siculus</i>		✓	H	✓	✓		
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			H	H	H		H
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>April 2025</b>						
		<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>							✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	✓	H	H	H
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>				✓	H		H
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>						✓	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		H					
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				H	H		H
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>			✓				
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>							H
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓			✓	✓
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				✓	H		H
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					H	H	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓	✓			✓
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓	✓
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓	✓
Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>					✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H					
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>							✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓		H		✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	H	✓		✓	H		
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓			✓
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	

## Mammals

D=dead, S=signs	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>April 2025</b>						
			<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						S	S
	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>							✓
	Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	D				D		
	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>			✓		✓		
	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		S	S	S	S		

## Amphibians & reptiles

D=dead, H=heard	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>April 2025</b>						
			<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>					D		
	a frog	Anura sp.				H			H
	Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>							✓
	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>		✓					

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	April 2025						
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓		✓			
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓			
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>						✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓	✓			✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>				✓			
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glauopsyche alexis</i>					✓		
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>					✓		
Southern Blue/ Austaut's Blue	<i>Polyommatus celina</i>		✓			✓		✓
a blue	<i>Polyommataidae</i> sp.				✓	✓		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓			✓
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	✓	✓					
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>					✓		
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria tircis</i>							✓
Southern Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>		✓		✓			✓
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓		✓			

## Moths

C=caterpillar	Common name	Scientific name	April 2025						
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29
cf Dock Forester (early flyer)	<i>Adscitamannii</i>						✓		
Grass Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>			C		C			
Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>		C				C	C	
Ragusa's Nine-spotted Moth	<i>Syntomis quercii</i>				✓				
Goldwing (a noctuid)	<i>Synthymia fixa</i>				✓				

## Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	April 2025						
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>Dragonflies &amp; damselflies</b>								
Island Bluetail	<i>Ischnura genei</i>							?
a hawker	<i>Aeshnidae</i>							✓
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>							✓
<b>Grasshoppers and allies</b>								
Speckled Bush-cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>				✓			
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>				✓			
a conehead grasshopper	<i>Copiphorini</i> sp.				✓			✓
a stone grasshopper	<i>Pamphagidae</i> sp.			✓				
<b>Earwigs</b>								
Earwig sp.	<i>Dermoptera</i> sp.					✓		
<b>Bugs</b>								
Black-and-red Bug	<i>Spilostethus saxatilis</i>			✓				
<b>Flies</b>								
a beefly	<i>Bombylius major</i>							✓

Common name	Scientific name	April 2025						
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
a beefly	<i>Bombylius medius</i>		✓					
<b>Wasps &amp; bees</b>								
a wasp	<i>Vespa</i> sp.		✓					
a long-horned bee	<i>Eucera</i> cf. <i>nigricans</i>					✓		
Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>			✓				✓
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.			✓				
Buff-tailed Bumblebee (white tail)	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
a carder bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum siciliensis</i>			✓				
<b>Beetles</b>								
Chafer	<i>Oxythyria funesta</i>	✓		✓	✓			
7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>					✓		
a pollen beetle	<i>Coleoptera</i> sp.					✓		
Ground Beetle	<i>Carabeus</i> sp.							✓
Thick-legged Flower Beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>		✓					✓
a longhorn beetle	<i>Opsilia coeruleascens</i>							✓
a red-and-black beetle	<i>Trichodes</i> sp.							✓
Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha</i> cf <i>fulva</i>							
Leaf Beetle	<i>Phyllodecta vitellinae</i>				✓			
<b>Spiders</b>								
Napoleon Spider	<i>Synema globosum</i>							✓
a green huntsman spider	<i>Micrommata</i> sp.		✓					
<b>Galls</b>								
Oak-apple-type gall	<i>Andricus quercustozae</i>						✓	