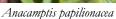
Crete in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

12th - 19th April 2022







Aristolochia cretica







Tulipa saxatilis

Tour report and images by David Tattersfield



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Day 1

Tuesday 12th April

The group arrived in Hania, in the early afternoon, where the minibuses were waiting, and after a few formalities, we set off to explore. Our first stop was at the Allied War Cemetery, at the head of Souda Bay, where the neat rows of graves provided a stark reminder of the island's turbulent history. In nearby grassland were large patches of bright yellow Bermuda Buttercup Oxalis pes-caprae, pale blue flowers of Barbary Nut Moraea sisyrinchium and dense colonies of Common Tongue-orchid Serapias lingua, in a variety of shades of pink. With the snow-covered White Mountains dominating the view to the south, we travelled east towards Rethymnon and then headed south, passing colourful roadside verges, full of Crown Daisy Glebionis coronaria Galactites Galactites tomentosa and tall spires of Giant Fennel Ferula communis. At a coffee stop, the song of Blackcap filled the air, and we had our first views of an obliging Sardinian Warbler and four distant Griffon Vulture. On a nearby bank, we started to familiarise ourselves with the common plants of the phrygana and our first Bee Orchids included Sawfly Orchid Ophrys tenthredinifera and the rather variable Cretan Early Spider-orchid Ophrys sphegodes subsp. cretensis. Soon after passing through the narrow chasm of the Kourtaliotiko Gorge, we received a warm welcome at our comfortable family-run hotel, overlooking Plakias Bay. After a little unpacking, we walked down to the harbour for our first evening meal.

Day 2

Wednesday 13th April

After a leisurely breakfast, we left Plakias, around 9.00am, observing two Squacco Heron and a Great Cormorant on the shore, as we drove eastwards. At our first stop, we explored the vicinity of the Turkish Bridge, where common plants included Honeywort *Cerinthe major*, Purple Viper's Bugloss *Echium plantagineum* and Branched Broomrape *Phelipanche ramosa*, which was parasitising Bermuda Buttercup, its usual host. Nearer the coast, by a memorial to the Battle of Crete, a pair of Kestrels hovered in the breeze, Common Swift and Alpine Swift flew overhead, and we saw a large flock of Glossy Ibis, flying in from the sea, after their long flight from Africa. On the rocky hillsides Crested Lark were a common sight and we heard the distinct calls of Woodlark. Plants, in the phrygana, included Jeruslaem Sage *Phlomis fruticosa*, Branched Asphodel *Asphodelus ramosus*, Yellow Asphodel *Asphodeline lutea* and low, silver bushes of the endemic Spiny Woundwort *Stachys spinosa*, still yet to flower. Most of the group chose to visit the monastery at Moni Preveli, while the rest continued to explore the neighbouring hillsides. Several good specimens of Pink Butterfly Orchid *Anacamptis papilionacea* were spotted, and keen eyes located a smart male Collared Flycatcher and a Subalpine Warbler. We moved a very short distance to a viewpoint, where a convenient table provided an ideal location for our lunch. While we ate, two Eurasian Hoopoe flew by and we all enjoyed superb views of a Wryneck, perched on a nearby fence.

After lunch, we returned to the Kourtaliotiko Gorge, where all eyes were turned towards the high cliffs. Twenty or so Griffon Vulture soared around crags, along with Red-billed Chough, Crag Martin, and several Red-rumped Swallows. After a short while of patient searching, we were fortunate to spot a pair of Bonnelli's Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon. By our feet and on the cliffs, a range of interesting plants included Tree Spurge Euphorbia dendroides, Greek Spiny Spurge Euphorbia acanthothamnos, Mediterranean Catchfly Silene sericea, Burnt Candytuft Aethionema saxatile subsp. creticum and Cretan Dittany Origanum dictamnus. Next, we moved on to Spili, where we had a coffee break by its famous fountains. The tables of the café were decorated with a lovely display of locally picked orchids, but we were eager to see them growing where nature intended and set off into the hills above the village.

On a short walk, we soon found a good number of species, all in pristine condition. They included Bory's Orchid *Anacamptis boryi*, Milky Orchid *Neotinea lactea*, the yellow Sparse-flowered Orchid *Orchis pauciflora*, Bumble Bee Orchid *Ophrys bombyliflora* and Sawfly Orchid. In addition, we found lovely flowers of Cretan Iris *Iris unguicularis* subsp. *cretensis* and, in nearby fields, the bright red Doerfler's Tulip *Tulipa doerfleri*. On a nearby hillock, there were large colonies of pink Rock Tulip *Tulipa saxatilis*, beautiful bushes of *Daphne sericea* and yet more orchids, which included Four-spotted Orchid *Orchis quadripunctata*, Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora*, Naked Man Orchid *Orchis italica* and Cretan Bee Orchid *Ophrys cretica*. Eventually, after a very busy day, we returned to Plakias for dinner on the waterfront.

Day 3

Thursday 14th April

Driving south-east, beyond Spili, a partly shaded slope produced some fine specimens of Giant Orchid Himantoglossum robertianum and Pink Butterfly Orchid, among a host of other plants. We continued through Timbaki to Phaestos, the second largest of Crete's magnificent Minoan Palaces. While the group visited the site, lunch was prepared, overlooking the fertile plain of Mesara and the distant snow-capped peak of Mount Ida, the highest in Crete. Afterwards, near Agia Triada, we found an exciting range of plants growing along the roadside and on abandoned terraces. Bushes of the endemic Shrubby Sainfoin Ebenus cretica were in full flower, alongside Greek Sage Salvia fruticosa, Golden Cassidony Helichrysum stoechas subsp. barrelieri and carpets of white Asiatic Buttercup Ranunculus asiaticus and Starry Clover Trifolium stellatum. Growing among these were Wild Gladiolus Gladiolus italicus, Pyramidal Orchid Anacamptis pyramidalis, Saccate-lipped Orchid Anacamptis collina Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid Serapias vomeracea subsp. laxiflora and Eastern Tongue-orchid Serapias orientalis.

Not far beyond Timbaki, we visited the small coastal lagoon at Kokkinos, where we enjoyed some amazing birding. This small body of water and a surrounding wetland are rare features in Crete and provide a magnet for migrating birds. Around the main water body, birds included Black-winged Stilt, Ruff, Common Redshank, 6 Garganey, 15 Little Stint and around 100 Wood Sandpiper, busily feeding in the shallows. Small pools in the marsh were equally productive and, by staying in the vehicles, we had amazingly close views of Little Ringed Plover, three Marsh Sandpiper, and a very well-camouflaged Common Snipe. Best of all were several very obliging Squacco Herons, that we were able to observe for some considerable time. It was great thrill to see such diversity, but the real action was above us, and we were treated to aerial displays from 80 or more Purple Heron and a dozen or so Black-crowned Night Heron, that flew in low over our heads. Rather grudgingly, we eventually had to leave and return to Plakias.

Day 4

Friday 15th April

We followed a scenic road to the west, stopping occasionally for views and roadside flora. Near the coast, in low scrub and olive groves, we found plenty of Crested Lark, along with Blue and Black-headed Yellow Wagtail. Overhead, there was a steady stream of Common Swift and the occasional Alpine Swift and a flock of around 40 Little Egret drifted over the trees. A little further on, we lingered a while at the 14th-century Venetian fortress of Frangocastello, where there were colourful displays spring annuals and the curious flower heads of Cage Thistle *Atractylis cancellata*.

Moving on, we navigated the steep, switchback road to the top of the Imbros Gorge, where we enjoyed the local speciality of pancakes with honey, before setting off on our walk. Over the next four hours we made steady

progress on the rocky path, where every turn revealed a new vista and new plants. The cliffs provide a refuge for many of Crete's endemic plants and highlights included the leathery-leaved, shrubby thistle *Staehelina petiolata*, Cretan Cabbage *Brassica cretica*, yellow Tree Flax *Linum arboreum* and Shrubby Mullein *Verbascum arcturus*. Along the shady bed of the gorge, we found abundant Chrysosplenium-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga rotndifolia* subsp. *chrysospleniifolia*, the large-flowered Cretan Buttercup *Ranunculus creticus*, bright blue patches of Fine-leaved Vetch *Vicia tenuifolia*, and the delicate white flowers of Cretan Sowbread *Cyclamen creticum*. There were few orchids in the dry environment, but we were stopped in our tracks by a stunning specimen of Spruner's Orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *spruneri*. After several very narrow sections, the gorge widened and we were soon relaxing over snacks at the Taverna Komitades, before returning to Plakias.

Day 5

Saturday 16th April

Before leaving Plakias, we explored the sand dunes and rocky headland at the other end of the bay. On the dunes, among masses of the pretty pink Mediterranean Catchfly and the leaves of the Sea Daffodil *Pancratium maritimum*, we found Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, Sea Medick *Medicago marina* and the endemic Tassel Hyacinth *Leopoldia spreitzenhoferi*. We walked under the dramatic vertical cliffs of the Plakias fault as far as the wartime tunnels, finding a good selection of orchids, among a rich flora. On the cliffs were small patches of Rock Tulip and bright yellow clumps of Cretan Viper's-grass *Scorzonera cretica*, while at their base we located the curious flowers of Cretan Birthwort *Aristolochia cretica*. This is the food plant of the endemic Cretan Festoon, and we noted several, flying in the vicinity.

We left Plakias through the Kotsifou Gorge, where the screes were decorated with yellow Cretan Arum Arum creticum, Rock Groundsel Senecio rupestris and the pretty crucifer Ricotia cretica. After a short walk through the narrow chasm, we continued north to the late-Minoan cemetery near Armeni, where we explored the many amazing rock-cut tombs, while lunch was being prepared. Under a light canopy of Valonia Oak Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis, we found a diverse flora which included many Tongue-orchids, fine specimens of Heldreich's Orchid Ophrys scolopax subsp, heldreichii, large colonies of Naked Man Orchid, and the pendant yellow flowers of a Goldendrops Onosma graecum.

Along the north coast, an interesting beach flora included Three-horned Stock *Matthiola tricuspidata*, Cottonweed *Achillea maritima*, Rayless Chamomile *Anthemis rigida* and huge grey domes of Spiny Knapweed *Centaurea spinosa*. After a welcome break for ice-creams in Georgioupolis, we explored its attractive harbour before visiting the nearby wetland, where a strong freshwater spring feeds a reservoir. Balkan Terrapin were hauled out on the banks, and we enjoyed exceptional views of Garganey and Little Grebe, just a short distance away. From here, we made rapid progress to Hania, where we checked in to the comfortable Halepa Hotel, our base for the remainder of the trip. Once refreshed, we went out for a delicious evening meal in a local taverna.

Day 6

Sunday 17th April

After breakfast, we made a visit to Agia Lake, the largest and best of Crete's freshwater wetlands. Small numbers of Common House Martin, Sand Martin, Barn Swallow and Red-rumped Swallow flew low over the water, catching insects. Purple Heron and Little Egret stood motionless, on the far bank and a couple of Western Marsh Harrier flew low over the reeds.

As the weather didn't look too promising in the mountains, we drove out to the Akrotiri peninsula, first visiting Agia Triada Monastery and its grounds before moving further onto the headland for our picnic, among the ancient olive trees. A colourful range of new plants included Yellow Pheasant's-eye *Adonis microcarpa* subsp. *cretica*, Love-in-a-Mist *Nigella damascena*, Mediterranean Woundwort *Stachys cretica*, and a plethora of small legumes and plantains. Common shrubs included the yellow Spiny Broom, *Genista acanthoclada*, French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas*, the white-flowered Sage-leaved Cistus *Cistus cistus salvifolius* and Pink Cistus *Cistus creticus*. Almost hidden, under the latter, were large and impressive patches of its white-flowered parasite, *Cytinus hypocistis* subsp. *clusii*, and in the shade of Carob trees *Ceratonia siliqua*, we found the spectacular deep-purple spathes of Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris*, giving off a pungent aroma of rotting flesh. Just as we were about to leave, a Woodchat Shrike was spotted, a little way down the road, and it remained long enough to allow us all to enjoy excellent views.

At the end of the road, our final stop was at the Gouverneto Monastery, where its walled gardens provide useful shelter for tired migrant birds, before they continue their journey north. Today we were fortunate to find a handful of Wood Warbler and Spotted Flyctcher, a single Collared Flycatcher and, most surprising of all, a solitary and clearly very tired Turtle Dove. Beyond the Monastery, we made a careful search to find the tiny spiral leaves and white flowers of an endemic onion *Allium circinnatum* subsp. *circinnatum*. We returned to the hotel to update our checklist, before walking down to another taverna, near the harbour, for our evening meal.

Day 7

Monday 18th April

On our final full day, we drove high into the White Mountains to Omalos village, on the edge of an undulating, stony plateau, surrounded by high mountains. We had coffees and lunch in the taverna, before venturing out to explore. The early-breeding Woodlark, that we normally expect, were nowhere to be seen but we did find three Woodchat Shrike, Common Linnet, Goldfinch, Cirl Bunting and Common Stonechat. Griffon Vultures and Alpine Chough circled high above us and were joined for a time by a Golden Eagle, that eventually drifted out of sight, beyond the skyline.

Spring was very late, this year, and the usual profusion of anemones and tulips was still to come. Nevertheless, we managed to find a few flowers of the bright pink Baker's Tulip *Tulipa bakeri* and deep-blue Crown Anemone *Anemone coronaria*. Alongside them were a Yellow Star of Bethlehem *Gagea chrysantha* and two species of Sand Crocus, the white *Romulea bulbocodium* and the smaller, deep purple *Romulea linearsii* subsp. *graeca*. At the end of the road, we had wonderful views into the depths of the Samaria Gorge and found the blue flowers of the familiar Aubretia *Aubrieta deltoidea* and the delicate, white-flowered Cretan Mouse-ear *Cerastiun scaposum*. We made a circuit of the plateau, stopping to have a closer look at a grove of Cretan Zelkova *Zelkova abelicea*. Related to the Elm, it is Crete's only endemic tree, with almost its entire population restricted to the Omalos plateau. In the vicinity, there were lots of flowers of Snake's-head Iris *Iris tuberosa*, the last remaining patches of the endemic *Crocus sieberi* and extensive areas of Baker's Tulip, just starting to open their blooms.

We noted three Wood Sandpiper and five Common Sandpiper, bedside ephemeral pools, before we left the plateau and returned to Agia Lake. European Reed Warbler, Grey Heron, and Black-crowned Night Heron were new, since our last visit and a thorough search of the reed margins was eventually rewarded with sightings of three Little Crake. It was a good way to end the trip and we returned to Hania for our last evening meal, beside the harbour.

Day 8

Tuesday 19th April

After breakfast and packing, we had some time left to explore the old city and harbour, before a short journey to airport, in time for our homeward flight.

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Species lists

Plants

Latin name PTERIDOPHYTES	Common name FERNS AND FERN ALLIES	Notes
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
Asplenium ceterach	Rustyback	Rock crevices. Common
Asplenium onopteris	Acute-leaved Spleenwort	Shaded banks. Uncommon
Asplenium trichomanes subsp. quadrivalens	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Rock crevices. Uncommon
Athyriaceae	Lady-fern Family	
Athyrium felix-femina	Lady-fern	Shaded cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Cystopteridaceae	Bladder-fern Family	
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle Bladder-fern	Mountain rocks. Uncommon
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Locally common
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
Dryopteris pallida	Pale Buckler-fern	Shaded cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
Equisetum ramosissimum	Branched Horsetail	Hedges
Equisetum telmateia	Giant Horsetail	Wet areas. Agia Lake
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
Polypodium cambricum	Southern Polypody	Shaded cliffs. Imbros Gorge
Pteridaceae	Maidenhair Fern Family	
Adiantum capillus-veneris	Maidenhair Fern	Damp cliffs
Anogramma leptophylla	Jersey Fern	Damp shaded earth
Cheilanthes acrostica	Scented Cheilanthes	Rock crevices
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family	
Selaginella denticulata	Mediterranean Clubmoss	Damp earth
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS AND ALLIES	
Araucariaceae	Monkey-puzzle Family	
Araucaria heterophylla ‡	Norfolk Island Pine	Cultivated. Coastal
Cupressaceae Cupressus sempervirens forma.	Juniper Family	
horizontalis Cupressus sempervirens subsp.	Cypress	Common. Sea-level to treeline
sempervirens ‡	Italian Cypress	Cultivated
Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. macrocarpa	Sea Juniper	Coastal. Plakias
Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus	Prickly Juniper	Frequent. Mountains
Juniperus phoenicea subsp. phoenicea	Phoenicean Juniper	Occasional. Lowland
Ephedraceae	Joint-pine Family	
Ephedra foeminea	A Joint-pine	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge

Latin name Common name Notes

Pinaceae Pine Family

Pinu brutiaTurkish PineFrequent native treePinus pinea ‡Stone PineCultivated near coasts

ANGIOSPERMS FLOWERING PLANTS

DICOTYLEDONS

Smyrnium perfoliatum subsp.

Acanthaceae Bear's-breeches Family

Acanthus mollis ‡Bear's-breechesCutivatedAcanthus spinosusSpiny Bear's-breechesFrequent

Aizoaceae Dewplant Family

Carpobrotus edulis var.edulis † Yellow Hottentot-fig Coastal alien

Amaranthaceae Goosefoot Family

Amaranthus retroflexus ‡PigweedWeedy placesBeta vulgaris subsp. maritimaSea BeetMaritime sandChenopodium albumFat-henWaste areasSalsola kaliPrickly SaltwortPlakias beach

Anacardiaceae Sumach Family

Pistacia lentiscus Mastic Tree Common in maquis

Pistacia terebinthus Turpentine Tree Frequent in maquis and gorges

Schinus molle ‡ Californian Pepper Tree Cultivated

ApiaceaeCarrot FamilyApium nodiflorumFool's WatercressOccasional. Wet places

Crithmum maritimumRock SamphireMaritime rocksDaucus carotaWild CarrotFrequent

Daucus guttatus A Wild Carrot Coastal sand. Plakias

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo Common Eryngium creticum Cretan Eryngo Frequent Sand dunes Eryngium maritimum Sea Holly Ferula communis Giant Fennel Common Foeniculum vulgare Wild Fennel Common Lagoecia cuminoides Fluffy Thimbleweed Rocky phrygana Lecokia cretica Lecokia Damp roadsides

Oenanthe pimpinelloides Corky-fruited Water Dropwort Moist woodland and fields

Orlaya daucoides An Orlaya Frequent

Pseudorlaya pumilaDune CarrotSand dunes. PlakiasScaligeria napiformisScaligeriaFrequent. Rocky phryganaScandix australisSouthern Shepherd's-needleOccasional. Rocky places

Scandix pecten-venerisShepherd's-needleCommonSmyrnium olusatrumAlexandersCommon

Smyrnium perfoliatum subsp. perfoliatum Perfoliate Alexanders Locally common

rotundifoliumPerfoliate AlexandersLocally commonThapsia garganicaThapsiaRocky places. Fields

Tordylium apulumMediterranean HartwortCommonTorilis leptophyllaA Bur-parsleyFrequentTorilis nodosaKnotted Bur-parsleyCommon

Latin name Common name **Notes**

Apocynaceae Dogbane Family

Riverbeds. Planted on roadsides Nerium oleander Oleander

Plumeria rubra ‡ Cultivated Frangipani Vinca major ‡ Greater Periwinkle Garden escape

Araliaceae Ivy Family

Hedera helix Common lvy

Aristolochiaceae **Birthwort Family**

Aristolochia cretica • Cretan Birthwort Locally common Aristolochia sempervirens Evergreen Birthwort Agia Lake

Asteraceae Daisy Family

Carduus pycnocephalus

Achillea cretica Cretan Sneezewort Avlaki gorge Achillea ligustica Southern Yarrow Frequent Achillea maritima Cottonweed Sand dunes Aetheorhiza bulbosa Tuberous Hawk's-beard Widespread

Anthemis arvensis Corn Chamomile Frequent. Fallow fields Anthemis chia Greek Chamomile Common

Anthemis rigida Rayless Chamomile Common Artemisia arborescens Shrubby Wormwood Roadsides near Souda

Atractylis cancellata Cage Thistle Frequent in phrygana Bellis annua **Annual Daisy** Frequent in phrygana

Bellis perennis Daisy Common Bellis sylvestris Southern Daisy Common Bellium minutum Plakias headland

Calendula arvensis Common Field Marigold

Carduus argentatus Locally common below cliffs Plymouth Thistle

Carlina graeca A Flat-topped Carline Thistle Rocky places

Carlina gummifera Pine Thistle Phrygana and fallow fields

Rocky places. Waste ground

Carthamus lanatus subsp. baeticus Woolly Safflower Rocky places Centaurea argentea subsp.

macrothysana • A Knapweed Imbros Gorge

Occasional Centaurea calcitrapa Red Star-thistle Centaurea idaea • Rock crevices in phrygana

Centaurea poculatoris • Cliffs. Imbros Gorge Centaurea raphanina subsp. raphanina • A Knapweed Common on rocks

Centaurea redempta • Imbros Gorge

Centaurea solstitialis Yellow Star-thistle Occasional

Centaurea spinosa Spiny Knapweed North coast beaches Rush Skeletonweed Chondrilla juncea Sandy and waste places

Cichorium intybus Chicory Roadsides Cichorium spinosum Spiny Chicory Common Spear Thistle Weedy places Cirsium vulgare

Crepis auriculifolia • A Hawk's-beard Cliffs and rocky places

Crepis cretica . Cretan Hawk's-beard Rocky places Beaked Hawk's-beard Crepis vesicaria

Olive groves and stony places Crupina crupinastrum Crupina Rocky places and roadsides

A Wild Artichoke Cynara cornigera Rocky places Cynara scolymus ‡ Globe Artichoke Cultivated Aromatic Inula Dittrichia graveolens Common Stink Aster Common Dittrichia viscosa Echinops spinossisimus Spiniest Globe Thistle Common

Latin name Common name **Notes** Erigeron bonariensis ‡ Argentine Fleabane Frequent on roadsides Evax pygmaea Evax Frequent Broad-leaved Cudweed Filago pyramidata Common Galactites tomentosa Galactites Common Plakias headland Geropogon hybridus Slender Salsify Glebionis coronaria Crown Daisy Common Glebionis segetum Corn Marigold Frequent Phrygana and fallow fields Hedypnois rhagadioloides Scalv Hawkbit Helichrysum stoechas subsp. barrelieri Golden Cassidony Rocky places Rocky places in mountains Helichrysum microphyllum A Curry Plant Eastern Everlastingflower Helichrysum orientale Cliffs. Katholikou Helminthotheca echioides **Bristly Oxtongue** Olive groves and fallow fields Hypochaeris achyrophorus Mediterranean Cat's-ear Rocky places Southern Cat's-ear Widespread Hypochaeris cretensis Hypochaeris glabra Smooth Cat's-ear Rocky places Hypochaeris radicata Common Cat's-ear Rocky places Lactuca serriola Prickly Lettuce Waste areas Lamyropsis cynaroides Rocky places Leontodon tuberosus **Tuberous Hawkbit** Phrygana Matricaria recutita Scented Mayweed Roadsides near sea-level Common. Roadsides and waste Notobasis syriaca Syrian Thistle Onopordum bracteatum subsp. creticum • Cretan Cotton Thistle Coastal sand and rocky places Pallenis spinosa Spiny Golden-star Common Rocks, cliffs and walls Phagnalon graecum Shrubby Cudweed Picnomon acarna Yellow-spine Thistle Stony ground and roadsides Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Shrubby Ptilostemon Cliffs and rocky banks Pulicaria odora A Fleabane Maguis and woodland Rhagadiolus stellatus Star Hawkbit Common A Reichardia Rocky places and coastal sand Reichardia picroides Scolymus hispanicus Spanish Oyster Plant Waste areas Scorzonera cretica • Cretan Viper's-grass Cliffs Senecio rupestris Rock Groundsel Kotsifou Gorge Senecio vulgaris Groundsel Common Milk Thistle Common. Waste areas Silybum marianum Sonchus asper Prickly Sow-thistle Waste areas Sonchus bulbosus subsp. microcephalus Tuberous Hawk's-beard Widespread Smooth Sow-thistle Waste areas Sonchus oleraceus Staehelina petiolata • Cliffs Tolpis barbata **Tolpis** Occasional in phrygana Common Tragopogon porrifolius Salsify Tyrimnus leucographus White-spotted Thistle Disturbed ground Disturbed ground Urospermum picroides Prickly Goldenfleece Xanthium spinosum ‡ Spiny Cocklebur Alien weed Xanthium strumarium ‡ Cocklebur Alien weed Xeranthemum Xeranthemum inapertum Stony phrygana Berberidaceae **Barberry Family** Berberis cretica Cretan Barberry Mountains **Bignoniaceae Jacaranda Family**

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Cultivated

Jacaranda

Borage Family

Jacaranda mimosifolia ‡

Boraginaceae

Latin name Common name Notes

Alkanna sieberi An Alkanet Dyer's Alkanet Dry rocky places

Anchusa hybrida Occasional. Weedy places and phrygana

Dyer's Alkanet Dry rocky places

Roadsides

Anchusa aegyptiaca Eastern Alkanet Dry places near sea-level

Anchusa aegyptiaca

Anchusa azurea

Anchusa variegata

Borage

Borago officinalis

Cerinthe major

Cynoglossum columnae

Eastern Alkanet

Large Blue Alkanet

Variegated Anchusa

Borage

Weedy places

Turkish Bridge

Occasional

Cynoglossum columnaeA Hound's-tongueOccasionalCynoglossum creticumBlue Hound's-tongueCommon

Echium angustifolium Narrow-leaved Bugloss Common near coast

Echium italicum subsp. biebersteiniiPale BuglossCommonEchium plantagineumPurple Viper's BuglossCommonMyosotis incrassataA Forget-me-notRocky places

Neatostema apulumYellow GromwellRocky phrygana. CoastalOnosma graecumA Golden-dropsArmeni Minoan Cemetery

Symphytum creticum Cretan Comfrey Shady cliffs

Brassicaceae Cabbage Family

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

Alyssum simplexAn AlisonDry rocky placesArabidopsis thalianaThale CressCommonArabis vernaSpring Rock-cressFrequentAubrieta deltoideaAubretiaOmalosAurinia saxatilisYellow AlyssumCliffs

Biscutella didyma **Buckler Mustard** Common Brassica cretica subsp. cretica Cretan Cabbage Imbros Gorge Brassica nigra ‡ Black Mustard Roadsides Bunias erucago Bunias Weedy places Cakile maritima Sea Rocket Plakias beach Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse Common

Cardamine hirsutaHairy Bitter-cressCommonCheiranthus cheiri ‡WallflowerGarden escapeCoronopus didymusLesser Swine-cressGarden weedErophila vernaCommon Whitlow-grassCommon

Eruca sativaGarden RocketOlive groves and fallow fieldsErucaria hispanicaSpanish MustardFallow fields

Erysimum raulinii • A Treacle Mustard Imbros Gorge

Hirschfeldia incanaHoary MustardFallow fields and roadsidesLepidium drabaHoary CressArmeni

Lunaria annua subsp. pachyrhiza Honesty Occasional

Malcolmia chiaA MalcomiaPhrygana near sea-levelMalcolmia flexuosa subsp. naxensisA MalcomiaRocks and walls near sea-le

Malcolmia flexuosa subsp. naxensisA MalcomiaRocks and walls near sea-levelMatthiola tricuspidataThree-horned StockCoasts

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

Sinapis alba White Mustard Roadsides
Sisymbrium officinale Hedge Mustard Weedy places

Cactaceae Cactus Family

Opuntia ficus-indica ‡ Prickly Pear Cultivated and naturalised

Campanulaceae Bellflower Family

Latin name

Campanula cretica • Campanula erinus

Campanula tubulosa • Legousia speculum-veneris Petromarula pinnata •

Cannabaceae

Celtis tournefortii

Capparaceae

Capparis spinosa

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera etrusca

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium comatum Cerastium glomeratum Cerastium scaposum •

Moenchia graeca

Paronychia macrosepala Petrorhagia dianthoides •

Petrorhagia velutina Sagina apetala Silene bellidifolia Silene colorata Silene cretica

Silene gallica Silene gigantea

Silene integripetala subsp. greuteri •

Silene vulgaris Spergula arvensis Spergularia bocconei Stellaria cupaniana Stellaria media

Cistaceae

Cistus creticus Cistus monspeliensis Cistus salvifolius Fumana arabica

Helianthemum hymettium • Helianthemum salicifolium

Tuberaria guttata

Fumana thymifolia

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus althaeoides Convolvulus arvensis Convolvulus dorycnium Convolvulus elegantissimus

Convolvulus siculus Cuscuta campestris ‡ Cuscuta epithymum Common name Notes

Imbros Gorge
Annual Bellflower Frequent

Large Venus's-looking-glass Rocky places
Petromarula Common

Plakias headland

Hackberry and Hemp Family

Oriental Hackberry Imbros Gorge

Caper Family

Caper Frequent on cliffs

Honeysuckle Family

Etruscan Honeysuckle Occasional

Pink Family

Levantine Mouse-ear Occasional Sticky Mouse-ear Omalos

Cretan Mouse-ear Locally common
An Upright Chickweed Frequent
A Paronychia Frequent

A Paronychia Frequent
A Tunic Flower Imbros Gorge

Kohlrauschia Frequent. Rocky places

Annual Pearlwort Common

Daisy-leaved Catchfly Waste areas

Mediterranean Catchfly Common

Cretan Catchfly Frequent

Small-flowered Catchfly Common

Giant Catchfly Cliffs. Kotsifou Gorge

Rocky places in gorges

Bladder Campion Frequent
Corn Spurrey Fallow fields
A Sea Spurrey Maritime sand
A Chickweed Weedy places

Common Chickweed Common. Weedy places

Rock-rose Family

Pink Cistus Common

Narrow-leaved Cistus Frequent in maquis
Sage-leaved Cistus Locally common

Mediterranean Rock-rose Common. Rocky places
Thyme-leaved Rock-rose Common. Rocky places
A Rock-rose Rocky places in mountains

Willow-leaved Rock-rose Phrygana

Spotted Rock-rose Open rocky phrygana

Bindweed Family

Mallow-leaved Bindweed Common

Field Bindweed Frequent. Waste places
A Bindweed Coastal phrygana
Elegant Bindweed Frequent in phrygana

Small Blue Bindweed Rocky places
Field Dodder Moni Preveli
Common Dodder Frequent parasite

Latin nameCommon nameNotesIpomea indica ‡A Morning GloryCultivated

Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family

Rosularia serrata Cliffs

Petrosedum sediformePale StonecropRocky placesSedum acreBiting StonecropRocks and wallsSedum albumWhite StonecropRocky placesSedum amplexicaule subsp. tenuifoliumRocky places

Sedum creticum var. monocarpicum • Cliffs

Sedum litoreum Coastal Stonecrop Rocky places near the sea

Sedum praesidis •Rocky phryganaSedum rubensRed StonecropRocky placesUmbilicus horizontalisA PennywortShaded cliffs

Cucurbitaceae Cucumber Family

Bryonia creticaWhite BryonyFrequentEcballium elateriumSquirting CucumberWaste places

Cytinacae Cytinus Family

Cytinus hypocistis subsp. clusii Cytinus Parasitic on Cistus creticus

Dipsacaceae Teasel Family

Knautia integrifolia A Scabious Occasional in phrygana

LomelosiabrachiataTremastelmaRocky placesPterocephalus plumosusAnnual PterocephalusRocky places

Ericaceae Heather Family

Arbutus unedoStrawberry TreeCommon in maquisErica arboreaTree HeatherCommon in maquis

Erica manipuliflora Autumn Heather Locally common. Autumn-flowering

Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family

Euphorbia acanthothamnos Greek Spiny Spurge Common Euphorbia chamaesyce Small Spurge Bare ground Large Mediterranean Spurge Euphorbia characias subsp. characias Widespread Euphorbia dendroides Tree Spurge Maritime cliffs Euphorbia exigua **Dwarf Spurge** Bare ground Euphorbia helioscopia Sun Spurge Widespread Euphorbia paralias Sea Spurge Maritime sand

Euphorbia peplusPetty SpurgeBare groundEuphorbia sultan-hassei •A Tree SpurgeCliffs. Imbros Gorge

Mercurialis annua Annual Mercury Common

Ricinus communis ‡ Castor-oil-plant Frequent naturalised weed

Fabaceae Pea Family

Acacia saligna ‡ Blue-leaved Wattle Cultivated

Anagyris foetida Bean Trefoil Scrub and waste areas

Anthyllis hermanniaeHerman's Kidney VetchOccasionalAnthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubrifloraA Kidney VetchCommon

Astragalus angustifolius A Milk-vetch Common above Omalos

Bituminaria bituminosaPitch TrefoilCommonCalicotome villosaHairy Thorny BroomCommonCeratonia siliqua ‡CarobCommon

Cercis siliquastrum ‡ Judus Tree Frequently cultivated

Latin name Common name **Notes** Coronilla scorpioides Annual Scorpion Vetch Common Ebenus cretica • Cliffs and hillsides Shrubby Sainfoin Genista acanthoclada Common Spiny Broom

Hippocrepis biflora A Horseshoe Vetch Rocky places Hymenocarpus circinnatus Disc Trefoil Widespread Lathyrus annuus Fodder Pea Widespread Widespread Lathyrus aphaca Yellow Vetchling

Olive groves and stony hillsides Lathyrus cicera Red Vetchling

Lathyrus clymenum Crimson Pea Frequent Lathyrus ochrus Winged Vetchling Armeni Lathyrus setifolius Red Vetchling Frequent Lathyrus sphaericus Round Pea Frequent Lotus conimbricensis A Bird's-foot Trefoil Fallow fields Lotus corniculatus Bird's-foot Trefoil Damp places

Lotus cytisoides Grey Bird's-foot Trefoil Sands and rocks near the sea

Lotus edulis Edible Lotus Widespread Lotus ornithopodioides Clustered Bird's-foot Trefoil Widespread Lotus pedunculatus Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil Damp places

Lotus tetragonolobus

Securigera securidaca

A Bird's-foot Trefoil Occasional near the sea Lotus peregrinus

> Widespread Asparagus Pea

> > Widespread

Locally common. Sometimes Lupinus pilosus A Hairy Lupin cultivated Spotted Medick Medicago arabica Occasional

Medicago arborea Tree Medick Cultivated and naturalised Disc Medick Stony ground near the sea Medicago disciformis **Black Medick** Medicago lupulina Common

Medicago marina Sea Medick Sand dunes Medicago murex A Bur Medick Rocky places

Medicago orbicularis Disc Medick Rocky or sandy places

Medicago polymorpha Toothed Medick Widespread Medicago sativa ‡ Lucerne Occasional

Rocky places near the sea Cock's-comb Sainfoin Onobrychis caput-galli

Ononis reclinata Small Restharrow Widespread Ononis spinosa subsp. diacantha Spiny Restharrow Rocky places Ornithopus compressus Compressed Bird's-foot Rocky places

Robinia pseudoacacia ‡ False Acacia Cultivated and naturalised Scorpiurus muricatus Scorpion Vetch Rocky and sandy places

Cretan Crown Vetch Securigera cretica Weedy places Securigera globosa • A Crown Vetch Cliffs. Imbros Gorge Hatchet Vetch

Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Roadsides and maquis

Narrow-leaved Clover Trifolium angustifolium Widespread Trifolium arvense Hare's-foot Clover Weedy places

Trifolium campestre Hop Trefoil Rocky and sandy places

Trifolium fragiferum Strawberry Clover Bare ground **Annual White Clover** Moist habitats Trifolium nigrescens White Clover Trifolium repens Widespread Trifolium stellatum Starry Clover Common

Trifolium subterraneum **Burrowing Clover** Olive groves and fallow fields Trifolium tomentosum Woolly Trefoil Fields and rocky places

One-flowered Clover Widespread Trifolium uniflorum

Trigonella balansae A Fenugreek Mostly coastal in north Trigonella graeca A Trigonella Disturbed ground

Tripodion tetraphyllum Bladder Vetch Common

Latin name
Vicia bithynica
Vicia cretica
Vicia hybrida
Vicia lathyroides
Vicia lutea
Vicia pubescens

Vicia sativa subsp. sativa ‡

Vicia tenuifolia Vicia villosa Wisteria sinensis‡

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa ‡

Quercus coccifera subsp. calliprinos

Quercus ilex

Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis

Quercus pubescens

Frankeniaceae

Frankenia hirsuta

Gentianaceae

Blackstonia perfoliata subsp. intermedia

Centaurium erythraea Centaurium pulchellum

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium
Erodium gruinum
Erodium malacoides
Erodium moschatum
Geranium columbinum
Geranium dissectum

Geranium molle Geranium purpureum Geranium robertianum

Geranium lucidum

Geranium rotundifolium

Hypericaceae

Hypericum aegypticum Hypericum empetrifolium subsp.

empetrifolium

Hypericum perfoliatum Hypericum perforatum Hypericum triquetrifolium

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia ‡

Lamiaceae

Ballota acetabulosa Ballota nigra

Ballota pseudodictamnus

Common name Notes

Bithynian Vetch Widespread
Cretan Vetch Rocky places
Hairy Yellow Vetchling Common
Spring Vetch Phrygana
Yellow-vetch Common
A Vetch Occasional

Common Vetch Escape from cultivation

Fine-leaved Vetch Common
Fodder Vetch Common
Wisteria Cultivated

Beech Family

Cultivated and occasionally

Sweet Chestnut naturalised
Kermes Oak Common
Holm Oak Frequent

Valonia Oak Common around Armeni Downy Oak Common around Armeni

Sea-heath Family

Hairy Sea-heath Maritime rocks and sand

Gentian Family

Yellow-wort Damp places
Common Centaury Rocky places
Lesser Centaury Rocky places

Crane's-bill Family

Common Stork's-bill Disturbed areas and coastal sands

Long-beaked Stork's-billPhrygana and riverbedsMallow-leaved Stork's-billOlive groves and rocky placesMusk Stork's-billOlive groves and rocky places

Long-stalked Crane's-bill Rocky places
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Damp ground
Shining Crane's-bill Shady places

Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Olive groves and rocky places
Little Robin Olive groves and rocky places

Herb Robert Shady places

Round-leaved Crane's-bill Olive groves and rocky places

St John's-wort Family

Shrubby St John's-wort Coastal cliffs and phrygana

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

Walnut Family

Walnut Cultivated

Dead-nettle Family

Garden Horehound Riverbeds near sea-level

Black Horehound Waste places
False Dittany Rocky phrygana

Latin name Common name **Notes** Clinopodium alpinum subsp. alpinum Alpine Basil Thyme Rocky places in mountains Clinopodium creticum • Cretan Calamint Imbros Gorge Wild Basil Clinopodium vulgare Maquis and phrygana Lamium amplexicaule Henbit Dead-nettle Common French Lavender Lavandula stoechas Local in maquis Marrubium vulgare White Horehound Waste places **Bastard Balm** Melittis melissophyllum subsp. albida Gorge bed. Imbros Water Mint Wet places Mentha aquatica Mentha longifolia Horse Mint Wet places Mentha spicata Spear Mint Damp places Micromeria Micromeria juliana Rocky places Micromeria nervosa Rocky places A Cat-mint Nepeta melissifolia Rare. Agia Triada Origanum dictamnus • Cretan Dittany Cliffs Origanum microphyllum • Small-leaved Dittany Omalos plateau Phlomis cretica Cretan Jerusalem Sage Locally common Phlomis fruticosa Jerusalem Sage Common Prasium majus Prasium Common Cut-leaved Self-heal Occasional. Fallow fields Prunella lacinata Prunella vulgaris Self-heal Occasional. Damp places Salvia fruticosa Greek Sage Common Salvia verbenaca Wild Clary Common Satureja thymbra Satureia Maquis and phrygana Scutellaria sieberi • A Skullcap Cliffs and rocky banks Sideritis curvidens Rocky places Sideritis syriaca subsp. syriaca • Mountain Tea Mountains.Omalos Mediterranean Woundwort Common Stachys cretica subsp. cretica Stachys ocymastrum A Woundwort Waste places Stachys spinosa • Spiny Wounwort Local Stachys spinulosa A Woundwort Local. Moni Preveli Teucrium alpestre • A Germander Cliffs and rocks Teucrium capitatum Felty Germander Rocky places Teucrium cuneifolium • Rare. Imbros Gorge Teucrium divaricatum Rocky places Teucrium microphyllum Small-leaved Germander Rocky places Thymbra capitata Mediterranean Thyme Common Vitex agnus-castus Chaste Tree Gorge-beds and damp places

Linaceae Flax Family

Linum arboreumShrubby FlaxCliffs in gorgesLinum bienneBiennial FlaxFrequentLinum pubescensHairy FlaxRocky places

Malvaceae Mallow Family

Althaea hirsutaHairy MallowFrequentHibiscus rosa-sinensis ‡HibiscusCultivatedLavatera bryoniifoliaBryony-leaved MallowCommonMalva arboreaTree MallowCoast. HaniaMalva creticaCretan MallowWaste areas

Malva parviflora Least Mallow Rocky places near the sea

Malva sylvestris Common Mallow Common

Meliaceae Mahogany Family

Melia azedarach ‡ Persian Lilac Cultivated

Latin name Common name **Notes** Moraceae **Mulberry Family** Ficus carica Fig Frequent Ficus elastica ‡ Rubber Plant Cultivated Morus alba ‡ Cultivated White Mulberry Myoporaceae **Myoporum Family** Myoporum laetum ‡ Cultivated Ngaio Myrtaceae Myrtle Family Eucalyptus camaldulensis ‡ River Red Gum Cultivated Melaleuca viminalis ‡ Weeping Bottlebrush Cultivated Myrtus communis Common Myrtle Occasional along watercourses Nyctaginaceae **Bougainvillea Family** Bougainvillea ×buttiana ‡ Bougainvillea Cultivated Oleaceae **Olive Family** Olea europaea var. sylvestris Wild Olive Occasional in phrygana Mock Privet Phillyrea latifolia Occasional in maquis Onagraceae Willowherb Family Greater Willowherb Wet ditches Epilobium hirsutum Orobanchaceae **Broomrape Family** Bellardia trixago Bellardia Frequent in meadows Orobanche alba Occasional Thyme Broomrape Parasitic on Vicia faba Orobanche crenata Bean Broomrape Parasitic on Bituminaria Orobanche lavandulacea Lavender Broomrape Orobanche pubescens Downy Broomrape Parasitic on Umbellifers Southern Red Bartsia Parentucellia latifolia Common Yellow Bartsia Parentucellia viscosa Occasional. Damp places Phelipanche ramosa **Branched Broomrape** Common on Oxalis pes-caprae Oxalidaceae **Wood-sorrel Family** Oxalis pes-caprae ‡ Bermuda Buttercup Common weed Paeoniaceae **Peony Family** Paeonia clusii subsp. clusii • Clusius' Peony **Omalos Papaveraceae Poppy Family** Fumaria capreolata White Ramping Fumitory Frequent Fumaria officinalis Common Fumitory Weedy places and fields Glaucium flavum Yellow Horned-poppy Coast Hypecoum procumbens Sickle-fruited Hypecoum Akrotiri peninsula Papaver argemone subsp. nigrotinctum **Prickly Poppy** Cropped land Papaver dubium subsp. dubium Long-headed Poppy Uncommon Papaver hybridum Rough Poppy Uncommon Papaver rhoeas Common Common Poppy **Phytolaccaceae Pokeweed Family** Phytolacca americana ‡ American Pokeweed Naturalised

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Pittosporum Family

Pittosporaceae

Latin name Common name **Notes** Pittosporum tobira ‡ A Pittosporum Cultivated

Plantain Family Plantaginaceae Plantago afra Glandular Plantain

Common Plantago bellardii Hairy Plantain Common

Plantago cretica A Plantain Rocky places near coast

Hare's-foot Plantain Plantago lagopus Frequent

Ribwort Plantain Olive groves. Damp places Plantago lanceolata

Greater Plantain Plantago major Damp places A Buck's-horn Plantain Plantago weldenii Coastal

Platanaceae Plane Family

Platanus orientalis **Oriental Plane** River valleys

Plumbaginaceae **Thrift Family** Limonium graecum A Sea-lavender

Cliffs, Plakias Limonium sinuatum Winged Sea-lavender Coastal sands

Polygalaceae Milk-wort Family

Mediterranean Milkwort Occasional Polygala monspeliaca Polygala myrtifolia ‡ Myrtle-leaved Milkwort Cultivated Polygala venulosa Eastern Milkwort Frequent

Polygonaceae **Dock Family**

Emex spinosa Emex Occasional. Bare ground

Persicaria maculosa Willow-leaved Knotgrass Agia Lake

Disturbed ground Polygonum aviculare Knotgrass

Polygonum equisetiforme Horsetail Knotgrass Olive groves. Roadsides

Rumex bucephalophorus Bull's-head Dock Common Rumex conglomeratus Clustered Dock Wet places **Curled Dock** Rumex crispus Occasional Fiddle Dock Rumex pulcher Damp places **Tuberous Dock** Rumex tuberosus subsp. creticus Rocky places

Portulaca oleracea Purslane Disturbed ground

Purslane Family

Primulaceae **Primrose Family**

Portulacaceae

Cyclamen creticum • Cretan Sowbread Locally common Cyclamen graecum subsp. candicum • A Greek Sowbread Imbros Gorge Lysimachia arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel Common Lysimachia foemina Blue Pimpernel Common Lysimachia linum-stellatum Asterolinon Frequent

Samolus valerandi Wet rocks. Georgioupolis **Brookweed**

Punicaceae Pomegranate Family Cultivated

Punica granatum ‡ Pomegranate

Ranunculaceae **Buttercup Family** Adonis microcarpa subsp. cretica • Yellow Pheasant's-eye Akrotiri peninsula

Anemone coronaria Crown Anomone Gious Kambos. Omalos

Anemone hortensis subsp. heldreichii Heldreich's Anemone Widespread Clematis cirrhosa Virgin's Bower Occasional. Maquis and roadsides

Delphinium staphisagria Lice Bane Imbros Gorge

Latin nameCommon nameNotesFicaria verna subsp. chrysocephalaA Lesser CelandineCommon

Nigella damascena Love-in-a-Mist Occasional in phrygana

Ranunculus arvensis Corn Buttercup Fields

Ranunculus asiaticusTurban ButtercupLocally commonRanunculus bulbosus subsp. aleaeBulbous ButtercupMoist shady placesRanunculus bullatusAutumn ButtercupLocally commonRanunculus creticusCretan ButtercupShady cliffs

Ranunculus lateriflorus • Seasonal pond. Omalos plateau

Ranunculus muricatus Rough-fruited Buttercup Moist places
Ranunculus paludosus Jersey Buttercup Locally common

Ranunculus peltatus subsp. fucoides Pond Water-crowfoot Seasonal pond. Omalos plateau

Ranunculus sprunerianus Open areas. Mountains

Resedaceae Mignonette Family

Reseda albaWhite MignonetteWaste areasReseda luteaMignonetteWaste areasReseda luteolaWeldWaste areas

Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family

Rhamnus lycioides subsp. oleoides A Buckthorn Frequent in phrygana

Rosaceae Rose Family
Crataeaus monogyna Hawthorn

Crataegus monogynaHawthornCommonCydonia oblonga ‡QuinceCultivatedEriobotrya japonica ‡Japanese LoquatCultivated

Poterium creticum • Cretan Salad Burnet Cliffs. Imbros Gorge

Poterium sanguisorba subsp. verrucosaSalad BurnetFrequentPrunus dulcis ‡AlmondCultivatedPrunus persica ‡PeachCultivated

Prunus prostrata Rock Cherry Mountain rocks. Omalos

Cultivated Pyracantha coccinea ‡ Firethorn Pyrus communis ‡ **Domestic Pear** Cultivated Almond-leaved Pear Pyrus spinosa Common Rosa canina Dog-rose Frequent Evergreen Rose Rosa sempervirens Frequent Rubus sanctus A Bramble Common Common

Sarcopoterium spinosum Thorny Burnet Comme

Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family

Asperula pubescens • Cliffs. Kotsifou Gorge

Galium aparine Cleavers Waste places

Galium fruticosum • A shrubby Bedstraw Cliffs
Galium incrassatum • A Bedstraw Phrygana. Akrotiri peninsula

Rubia peregrina Wild Madder Frequent in scrub

Sherardia arvensis Field Madder Common

Valentia hispida Valantia Dry rocky places

Valentia muralis Wall Valantia Dry rocky places

Valentia muralis Wall Valantia

Rutaceae Rue Family

Citrus limon ‡LemonCultivatedCitrus sinensis ‡OrangeCultivatedRuta chalpensis subsp. chalepensisFringed RueOccasional

Salicaceae Willow Family

Latin name Populus alba ‡ Salix alba ‡

Santalaceae

Osyris alba

Sapindaceae Acer sempervirens

71001 30111porvirons

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga rotundifolia subsp. chrysospleniifolia

Scrophulariaceae

Scrophularia lucida
Scrophularia peregrina
Verbascum arcturus •
Verbascum macrurum
Verbascum sinuatum
Verbascum spinosum •

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima ‡

Solanaceae

Hyoscyamus albus Mandragora autumnalis Nicotiana glauca ‡ Solanum nigrum Solanum villosum

Styracaceae

Styrax officinalis

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix parviflora Tamarix smyrnensis ‡

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne gnidioides Daphne sericea Thymelaea hirsuta

Ulmaceae

Ulmus minor ‡ Zelkova abelicea •

Urticaceae

Parietaria cretica
Parietaria judaica
Urtica membranacea
Urtica pilulifera
Urtica urens

Common nameNotesWhite PoplarCommonWhite WillowBy rivers

Bastard-toadflax Family

Osyris Locally common

Maple Family

Cretan Maple Common. Mountains

Saxifrage Family

Chrysosplenium-leaved

Saxifrage Locally common

Figwort Family

Shining Figwort Occasional

Nettle-leaved Figwort Common. Imbros Gorge Shrubby Mullein Common on cliffs

A Mullein Common
Wavy-leaved Mullien Common
Spiny Mullein Common

Tree-of-heaven Family

Tree-of-heaven Naturalised

Nightshade Family

White Henbane Weedy places and walls. Hania

Mandrake Frequent

Shrub Tobacco Naturalised along roadsides

Black Nightshade Weedy places
Hairy Nightshade Damp places

Storax Family

Mediterranean Storax Frequent

Tamarisk Family

Small-flowered Tamarisk Coastal

A Tamarisk Planted, Plakias beach

Mezereon Family

A Daphne Plakias headland
A Daphne Common in mountains
Hairy Thymelaea Rocky places near the sea

Elm Family

Small-leaved Elm Occasional. Planted Cretan Zelkova Omalos plateau

Nettle Family

Cretan Pellitory Rocks and walls
Pellitory-of-the-Wall Rocks and walls
Membranous Nettle Weedy places
Roman Nettle Weedy places
Small Nettle Weedy places

Latin name Common name Notes

Valerianaceae Valerian Family

Centranthus calcitrapaAnnual ValerianRocky placesCentranthus ruber ‡Red ValerianWalls

Fedia cornucopiae Fedia Rocky places

Valeriana asarifolia • Cretan Valerian Cliffs and rocky places

Valerianella coronataA Corn SaladRocky placesValerianella echinataA Corn SaladRocky places

Verbenaceae Vervain Family

Lantana camara ‡ Lantana Cultivated

Phyla nodifloraDamp grassland. SoudaVerbena officinalisVervainFrequent. Waste areas

Veronicaceae Speedwell Family

Cymbalaria muralis ‡ Ivy-leaved Toadflax Walls

Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax Frequent in phrygana

Misopates orontiumWeasel's-snoutOccasionalVeronica anagallis-aquaticaWater SpeedwellStreamsVeronica arvensisWall SpeedwellWidespreadVeronica cymbalariaCymbalaria-leaved SpeedwellWidespread

Veronica persica ‡ Common Field Speedwell Naturalised near the sea

Viburnaceae Viburnum Family

Sambucus nigra ‡ Elder Naturalised around villages

Vitaceae Vine Family
Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris Wild Vine

Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestrisWild VineOccasionalVitis vinifera subsp. vinifera ‡Grape VineCultivated

Zygophyllaceae Caltrop Family

Tribulus terrestris Maltese Cross Waste areas

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Zantedeschia aethiopica‡

Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family

Allium ampeloprasum Broad-leaved Wild Leek Occasional

Allium circinnatum subsp. circinnatumAkrotiri peninsulaAllium neapolitanumNaples GarlicOccasionalAllium nigrumBlack GarlicMeadowsAllium roseumRosy GarlicOccasional

Allium subhirsutum Hairy Garlic Occasional
Allium rubrovittatum • Stony ground. Akrotiri

Allium trifoliatum Pink Garlic Abandoned fields

Narcissus tazettaPolyanthus DaffodilSpili hillPancratium maritimumSea DaffodilSand dunes

Araceae Arum Family

Arisarum vulgareFriar's CowlCommon. Damp placesArum concinnatumAn ArumCommon. Olive groves

Arum creticumCretan ArumKotsifou GorgeArum idaeum •Cretan Mountain ArumOmalos plateauDracunculus vulgarisDragon ArumCommon

Arum Lily

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Cultivated

Notes

Latin name Common name

Arecaceae Palm Family

Phoenix canariensis ‡Canary PalmCultivatedPhoenix dactylifera ‡Date PalmCultivatedWashingtonia filifera ‡Californian Fan-palmCultivated

Asparagaceae Asparagus Family

Agave americana ‡ Centuryplant Cultivated and naturalised

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. orientalisLeafless AsparagusCommonDrimia numidicaSea SquillCommonLeopoldia comosaTassel HyacinthCommonLeopoldia spreitzenhoferiA Tassel HyacinthFrequent

Muscari neglectum A Grape Hyacinth Mountain rocks. Omalos

Ornithogalum divergens A Star-of-Bethlehem Frequent

Ornithogalum creticum • A Star-of-Bethlehem Occasional. Limestone crevices

Ornithogalum narbonenseSouthern Star-of-BethlehemFrequentRuscus aculeatusButcher's-broomShady areas

Asphodelaceae Asphodel Family

Asphodeline lutea Yellow Asphodel Common

Asphodelus fistulosus Hollow-stemmed Asphodel Ditches and roadsides

Asphodelus ramosus Branched Asphodel Common

Cyperaceae Sedge Family

Bolboschoenus maritimusSea Club-rushCoastal marshesCarex otrubaeFalse Fox SedgeDitches and springs

Cladium mariscus
Cyperus capitatus
Schoenoplectus lacustris
Great Fen-sedge
Agia Lake
Cymen Club-rush
Agia Lake
Agia Lake

Dioscoreaceae Yam Family

Tamus communis Black Bryony Woodland and scrub

Iridaceae Iris Family

Crocus sieberi ●A CrocusOmalosGladiolus italicusField GladiolusFrequentIris albicans ‡White IrisPlantedIris germanica ‡German IrisPlantedIris pseudacorusYellow FlagAgia Lake

Iris tuberosa Snake's-head Iris Gious Kambos and Omalos

Iris unguicularis subsp. cretensis •Cretan IrisLocally commonMoraea sisyrinchiumBarbary NutCommonRomulea bulbocodiumA Sand-crocusOmalos plateau

Romulea linaresii subsp. graeca A Sand-crocus Omalos plateau

Juncaceae Rush Family

Juncus acutusSharp RushMaritime sandsJuncus articulatusJointed RushWet placesJuncus bufoniusToad RushWet placesJuncus effususSoft RushWet places

Liliaceae Lily Family

Gagea chrysanthaA Yellow Star-of-BethlehemOmalos plateauGagea graecaGreek LloydiaCommonTulipa bakeri •Baker's TulipOmalos plateau

Latin name

Tulipa doerfleri • Tulipa saxatilis

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis boryi Anacamptis collina

Anacamptis laxiflora subsp. laxiflora Anacamptis papilionacea subsp.

papilionacea

Anacamptis pyramidalis Himantoglossum robertianum

Neotinea lactea

Neotinea tridentata subsp. tridentata

Ophrys bombyliflora Ophrys cretica

Ophrys fuciflora subsp. candica Ophrys fuciflora subsp. fuciflora Ophrys fusca subsp. cinereophila

Ophrys fusca subsp. fusca
Ophrys fusca subsp. iricolor
Ophrys lutea subsp. galilaea
Ophrys lutea subsp. lutea

Ophrys scolopax subsp. heldreichii Ophrys sphegodes subsp. cretensis Ophrys sphegodes subsp. mammosa Ophrys sphegodes subsp. spruneri

Ophrys tenthredinifera

Ophrys x sommieri Orchis anthropophora

Orchis italica
Orchis pauciflora
Orchis quadripunctata
Serapias cordigera
Serapias lingua
Serapias orientalis
Serapias parviflora

Serapias vomeracea subsp. laxiflora

Common name

Doerfler's Tulip Gious Kambos Rock Tulip Rocky places

Notes

Spili hill

Orchid Family

Bory's Orchid

Saccate-lipped Orchid Locally common Lax-flowered Orchid Damp meadows

Pink Butterfly Orchid Occasional
Pyramidal Orchid Locally common
Giant Orchid Locally common
Milley Orchid

Milky Orchid Spili hill
Toothed Orchid Spili hill

Bumblebee Orchid Spili hill and Armeni

Cretan Bee Orchid Frequent

Candia Orchid Plakias headland

Late Spider Orchid Frequent Dingy Bee Orchid Local Dingy Bee Orchid Spili hill Rainbow Orchid Spili hill Yellow Bee Orchid Frequent Yellow Bee Orchid Common Heldreich's Orchid Common Cretan Early Spider Orchid Local An Early Spider Orchid Local

Spruner's Orchid Sawfly Orchid

Ophrys bombyliflora x O.

Lax-flowered Tongue-orchid

tenthredinifera Gious Kambos Man Orchid Spili hill and Armeni

Local

Locally frequent

Widespread

Naked Man Orchid Common

Sparse-flowered Orchid Locally common
Four-spotted Orchid Locally common
Heart-lipped Tongue-orchid Occasional
Common Tongue-orchid Locally common
Eastern Tongue-orchid Agia Triada
Small-flowered Tongue-orchid Occasional

Poaceae

Achnatherum miliaceum Arundo donax ‡

Ammophila arenaria
Anthoxanthum odoratum

Avena barbata Avena sterilis

Brachypodium retusum Brachypodium sylaticum

Brachypodium syll Bromus tectorum Briza maxima Briza minor

Catapodium marinum Catapodium rigidum Cynodon dactylon Cynosurus echinatus **Grass Family**

Smilo Grass Olive groves. Waste areas
Giant Reed Naturalised and common

Marram Sand dunes

Sweet Vernal-grass Damp places. Fields
Slender Oat Disturbed ground
Winter Wild-oat Fallow land
Mediterranean False-brome Widespread
False Brome Shaded areas

False Brome Shaded areas
Drooping Brome Rocky places
Large Quaking-grass Disturbed ground
Lesser Quaking-grass Moist ground
Sea Fern-grass Maritime

Fern-grass Bare stony ground
Bermuda Grass Disturbed ground
Rough Dog's-tail Rocky places. Fields

Latin nameCommon nameNotesDigitaria sanguinalisHairy Finger-grassRoadsides

Hordeum leporinum Wall Barley Roadsides. Waste places

Hordeum spontaneum ‡Wild BarleyOccasionalHyparrhenia hirtaThatching GrassWidespreadLagurus ovatusHare's-tail GrassCommonLamarckia aureaGolden Dog's-tailFrequentLolium perennePerennial Rye-grassWidespread

Lolium temulentum Darnel Fields and waste places

Melica ciliataHairy MelickImbros GorgeParapholis incurvaCurved Hard-grassMaritime sands

Phragmites australis Common Reed Marshes and riverbanks

Poa annuaAnnual Meadow-grassWaste placesPolypogon monspeliensisAnnual Beard-grassWet placesRostraria cristataCrested Hair-grassWidespreadSesleria doerfleri ●Doerfler's Moor-grassKotsifou Gorge

Stipa capensisMediterranean Needle-grassRocky places and fieldsVulpia ciliataBearded FescueBare stony ground and fields

Posidoniacae Neptune-grass Family

Posidonia oceanica Neptune-grass Marine

Ruppiaceae Tasselweed Family

Ruppia maritima Beaked Tasselweed Kokkinos lagoon

Smilacaceae Smilax Family

Smilax aspera Common Smilax Common

Typhaceae Reedmace Family

Typha domingensis Southern Reedmace Agia Lake

Zosteraceae Eelgrass Family

Zostera marina Eelgrass Marine

• = endemic or near endemic to Crete

‡ = cultivated or naturalised

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name									
	Latin name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Chukar	Alectoris chukar		Н						
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Garganey	Spatula querquedula			6		5			
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata			✓		✓			
Common Swift	Apus apus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alpine Swift	Apus melba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus			1					
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus		✓					2	
European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur						1		
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Crake	Porzana parva						3		

			April 2022							
Common name	Latin name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus			8		✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra					✓	✓	✓		
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis					5		2		
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus			4						
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius			2						
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax			6						
Little Stint	Calidris minuta			15						
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			1						
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos							5		
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus			2						
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis			3						
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola			100	4			3		
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		✓	✓		✓	√	✓		
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		40							
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax			11				1		
Squacco Heron	Aedeola ralloides		2	8	5			<u> </u>		
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			2		1		1		
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea			80+		'	3			
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta			1	40	10	2			
Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus	4	20	10	6	2	1	✓		
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	4	20	10	0		- 1	1		
Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata		2		1			I I		
		✓	∠ ✓	✓	I ✓	✓		✓		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk Western Marsh Harrier	Accipiter nisus	v	V	V	_ v	V	2	V		
	Circus aeruginosus	✓		✓	✓	✓	<u>∠</u>	✓		
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	v	√	V	V	V	V	•		
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops		2	40						
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster		4	12						
Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla		1							
Red-footed Falcon	Falco vespertinus						1			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		✓					_		
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator						1	3		
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius				✓			3		
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax		10	10	✓	✓		✓		
Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus							✓		
Western Jackdaw	Corvus monedula					10				
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	Corvus corax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Coal Tit	Periparus ater				4					
European Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Tit	Parus major		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Woodlark	Lullula arborea		Н							
Crested Lark	Galerida cristata		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Sand Martin	Riparia riparia					✓	✓	✓		
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica		3							
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti		Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н		
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus orientalis						5			
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus			1						

	Latin name	April 2022								
Common name		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita				Н		1			
European Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus							1		
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Н	Н	Н	Н	✓	Н	Н		
Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans		1							
Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata				1		5			
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula							1		
Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos						Н			
Collared Flycatcher	Ficedula albicollis		1			1	1			
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros						1			
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius				3	3		1		
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetta	3		2						
Common Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe					1		✓		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe melanoleuca			10	1			3		
Italian Sparrow	Passer italiae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava			1	✓			4		
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis				✓					
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris			✓			Н	Н		
Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina						8	✓		
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		✓	✓	✓			✓		
European Serin	Serinus serinus	✓		✓	✓					
Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra		✓		✓					
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		Н					4		

Other vertebrates

Common name					April	2022			
	Latin name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mammals									
Kuhl's Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus kuhlii					✓			
Reptiles									
Balkan Green Lizard	Lacerta trilineata	✓							
Cretan Wall Lizard •	Podarcis cretensis		✓			✓		✓	
Ocellated Skink	Chalcides ocellatus				✓				
Red-eared Slider ‡	Trachemys scripta elegans							✓	
Balkan Terrapin	Mauremys rivulata					✓	✓	✓	
Amphibians									
Green Toad	Bufo viridis							Н	
Cretan Water Frog •	Pelophylax cretensis		Т						
• = endemic to Crete									
‡ = introduced									
T = tadpole									
H = heard									

Invertebrates

	April 2022								
Common name	Latin name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Butterflies									
	Papilionidae								
Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalinus			✓					
Swallowtail	Papilio machaon	✓	✓	✓					
Cretan Festoon •	Zerynthia cretica		✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Pieridae								
Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra						✓		
Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa		✓	✓					
Large White	Pieris brassicae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Small White	Pieris rapae						✓		
Eastern Dappled White	Euchloe ausonia		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Lycaenidae								
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas		✓		✓				
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus					✓			
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Nymphalidae								
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta					✓	✓	✓	
Southern Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria		✓	✓					
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Moths									
Pine Processionary Moth	Thaumetopoea pityocampa			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dragonflies									
Blue Emperor	Anax imperator						√		
Other Insects									
Egyptian Grasshopper	Anacridium aegyptium		√			✓	√		
Nosed Grasshopper	Acrida ungarica		✓	√			√		
Fire Bug	Pyrrhocoris apterus		√	√	√	√	√		
Honey Bee	Apis mellifera adami		✓	✓	✓	√	√		
Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea					✓	√		
Oriental Hornet	Vespa orientalis						✓		
Dark-edged Bee Fly	Bombylius major						✓		
Molluscs									
Cretan Door Snail	Albinaria inflata					✓		✓	
Garden Snail	Helix aspersa							✓	
• = endemic to Crete									