

# Crete in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 - 25 October 2011

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*Allium callimischon haemostictum*



*Colchicum cretense*



*Cyclamen confusum*



*Mantis religiosa*

Report and images compiled by David Tattersfield



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## Day 1

Tuesday 18th October

The group met at Gatwick airport for the mid-morning direct flight to Hania. Clear weather during the flight allowed us splendid views of the Adriatic coast, the mountains and peninsulas of the Peloponnese and the islands that form the geological link with western Crete. We were met by our coach driver, Miros, for the short journey to our hotel. After settling in to our new surroundings we finished off a long day with a delicious selection of traditional Cretan food in a nearby taverna.

## Day 2

Wednesday 19th October

We left Hania travelling westwards and after shopping for lunch supplies we made our first stop along the coast at sandy bay, backed by a small area of sand dunes. The site affords some protection to nesting marine turtles and a typical coastal flora. Notable plants included Cottonweed, *Otanthus maritimus*, Sea Holly, *Eryngium maritimum*, and the striking spiny grey hummocks of the endemic *Centaurea spinosa*. Masses of Sea Daffodil, *Pancreatium maritimum* dominate the dunes and although most were in fruit, a few still displayed their spectacular sweetly-scented flowers.

South of Kolimbari, we explored the rocky hillsides above the pretty village of Marathocephala, finding abundant *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *graecum*, which is restricted to the north-west of the island, and the tall flower spikes of Sea Squill, *Charybdis maritima*. After a pleasant walk down to Spilia, we drove on to Falasarna on the west coast. While lunch was being prepared, several took the opportunity of a dip in the sea, before walking to Ancient Falasarna and exploring the ruins of the Roman harbour.

We returned along a section of raised beach with a fascinating geology, including a fossil cliff that bore testimony to the tectonic forces that had uplifted western Crete by 9 metres around 400A.D. and left the harbour high and dry. Of special botanical interest, here on the cliffs, was the silver-leaved near-endemic *Inula candida*. After returning to Hania, we walked round the coast and through the harbour of this enchanting city, before dining in one of its many restaurants.

## Day 3

Thursday 20th October

Today we drove south to the Askifou Plateau through the rugged landscape of the White Mountains. Here, as in other areas of Crete, a combination of faulting in the limestone rocks and millions of years of karstic weathering has created a flat fertile depression of red iron-rich soils, technically known as a polje. In the much wetter times of its formation, the plateau would have been drained by a river, which carved what is now the Imbros Gorge, before waters found alternative routes underground. Further erosion reduced the surface to its present level, completely surrounded by hills.

Before setting off down the gorge, we enjoyed a local delicacy of pancakes with cheese and honey at the café. At a slow pace we followed the meandering gorge, as it dramatically deepened beneath towering cliffs. Many of Crete's endemic chasmophytes have found a refuge here and in similar gorges and cliffs all over the island. The more obvious included Dittany, *Origanum dictamnus*, Cretan Sainfoin, *Ebenus cretica*, the striking shrubby composite, *Stachelina petiolata* and the shrubby Bedstraw, *Galium fruticosum*. Two striking silver-leaved dwarf shrubs were *Centaurea argentea* subsp. *macrothysana* and the very local *Teucrium cuneifolium*. With a little luck and some patient searching we located *Sternbergia sicula*, flowering from crevices in the limestone and the endemic onions, *Allium callimischon* subsp. *baemostictum* with delicate red-spotted flowers and *Allium tardans*. After the seemingly endless twists and turns of the dry river-bed and the narrowest sections of the gorge, we finally emerged at the Taverna Komitades, where we enjoyed a late lunch before heading back to Hania.

## Day 4

Friday 21st October

With the possibility of limited fuel supplies at garages we changed our itinerary to a shorter journey. A half-hour drive took us past the airport onto the rocky headland of the Akrotiri Peninsula. First we visited the monastery of Agia Triada. The architecture and richly decorated interior of the church was fascinating and large specimens of Poinsettia and the Mexican native, Frangipani, were greatly admired.

Further on some of us walked down the steep track to the ruins of the Katholikou Monastery, where the rocky gorge is spanned by a bridge. The buildings and cliffs were festooned with endemic plants including Cretan Wall Lettuce, *Petromarula pinnata*, Shrubby Mullein, *Verbascum arcturus*, Cretan Sneezewort, *Achillea cretica*, and the interesting shrubby Pink, *Dianthus fruticosus* subsp. *creticus*, still in flower.

Retracing our route, we travelled through Souda to the hilltop archaeological site of Aptera, where we picnicked among the olive groves. We explored the impressive Roman sites on the hill and visited the Turkish fort, overlooking Souda Bay, before walking down to the cafe at Megala Horifa. Our final stop on the way back was at the Allied War Cemetery at the head of the bay.

## Day 5

## Saturday 22nd October

Beyond Kolimbari, we turned south to the mountain village of Topolia. By a small chapel we explored a rocky hillside covered in *Cyclamen confusum*. In 2009 this interesting close relative of *Cyclamen hederifolium* was shown to be tetraploid and raised to specific rank. Numbers of sweetly scented *Narcissus serotinus* were growing in the surrounding scrub.

A welcome coffee break, followed by a visit to the impressive cave of Agia Sophia gave us an opportunity to see the cliff flora at close quarters and we were treated to superb views of Griffon Vultures, including a late-nesting pair with chicks.

Continuing south, we passed through woodlands of Oriental Plane, *Platanus orientalis*, and Chestnut, *Castanea sativa*, and extensive areas of colourful maquis, with Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus unedo* and purple *Erica manipuliflora*.

On reaching the coast we lunched under Calabrian Pine, *Pinus halepensis* subsp. *brutia* in an area of spiny phrygana, where the dominant plants were aromatic *Cordithymus capitatus* and the endemic *Verbascum spinosum* which occurs from sea level to over 2000m.

A short while later, on reaching Elaphonisi, we took advantage of the warm sunshine and crossed the sand bar to the island. Several of us took the chance of a swim, while others explored the dunes and beach. It was notable that, despite increasing tourism, significant measures are being taken to preserve the diversity of coastal habitats and flora.

## Day 6

## Sunday 23rd October

Today we headed south to the Omalos Plateau in the White Mountains. We stopped first at Agia Lake, one of the finest wetland sites in Crete and were rewarded with a number of new birds, including Little Egret and a number of Kingfishers.

On the tortuous mountain road above Lakki, we stopped to search for the endemic *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *candicum* and soon found its heavily patterned leaves and a few flowers, growing in the company of *Colchicum cretense* in tight crevices in the jagged limestone. At Omalos, after a brief coffee break, we photographed some more nice specimens of the *Colchicum* in the adjacent rough pasture.

We had our lunch at the southern edge of the plain in open mixed woodland. *Cupressus sempervirens* forma. *horizontalis* dominates the landscape here, together with Cretan Maple, *Acer sempervirens*, Kermes Oak, *Quercus coccifera* and the rare Elm relative, *Zelkova abelicea*, frequently grazed into bizarre shapes by the local goat population. A little patient searching was required to find our first *Crocus laevigatus*, before we went to the viewpoint, overlooking the dramatic Samaria Gorge. Some of group explored the steep E4 footpath, above the cafe, before descending mist forced a retreat.

On our return, we made another stop at Agia Lake, where the highlight was an excellent display by a fishing Osprey.

## Day 7

## Monday 24th October

From Topolia we followed a minor road into the hills to the start of our walk into the Sirikari Gorge. A steep descent, through olive groves and abandoned terraces led us into a wild gorge, with abundant *Cyclamen confusum* and a dry river bed lined with Oleander, *Nerium oleander* and Oriental Plane, *Platanus orientalis*. In places, lovely displays of *Sternbergia sicula* adorned the cliffs, along with many of the now familiar chasmophytes.

A steep final ascent brought us to Polyrinia, where we enjoyed a tasty traditional lunch in the Taverna. Time remained for us to wander through the maze of streets and visit the traditional raki still and hilltop archaeological sites, before our journey back to Hania.

## Day 8

## Tuesday 25th October

We enjoyed a leisurely morning in Hania, visiting the market and exploring the rich mixture of architecture and archaeology in the streets surrounding the harbour. We met back at the hotel at 12.00 am for last minute packing and departed for the airport at 12.30 pm.

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## Species Lists

Systematic list of plants noted

The term 'endemic' applies to taxa restricted to Crete.

### PTERIDOPHYTA

### FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

#### Selaginellaceae

*Selaginella denticulata*

#### Lesser Clubmosses Family

Mediterranean Selaginella Shaded damp rocks

#### Equisetaceae

*Equisetum ramosissimum*

*Equisetum telmateia*

#### Horsetail Family

Branched Horsetail

Giant Horsetail

Agia Lake

Agia Lake

#### Adiantaceae

*Adiantum capillus-veneris*

#### Maidenhair Fern Family

Maidenhair Fern

Imbros, Agia Sophia cave

Falasarna

#### Aspleniaceae

*Ceterach officinarum*

#### Spleenwort family

Rusty-back Fern

Frequent on rocks

#### Dennstaedtiaceae

*Pteridium aquilinum*

#### Bracken Family

Bracken

Common

#### Polypodiaceae

*Polypodium cambricum*

subsp. *australe*

#### Polypody Family

Southern Polypody

Occasional on rocks and

trees

#### Sinopteridaceae

*Cheilanthes acrosticha*

Occasional. Rock crevices

### GYMNOSPERMAE

### CONIFERS

#### Ephedraceae

*Ephedra foeminea*

#### Joint Pine Family

Imbros Gorge

#### Araucariaceae

*Araucaria heterophylla*

#### Monkey Puzzle Family

Norfolk Island Pine

Planted

#### Cupressaceae

*Cupressus sempervirens*

forma *sempervirens*

*Cupressus sempervirens*

forma *horizontalis*

*Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp.

*oxycedrus*

*Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp.

*macrocarpa*

*Juniperus phoenicea*

#### Juniper Family

Funeral Cypress

Widely planted

Cypress

Imbros, Omalos and

Samaria Gorge. Native

Mountains

Prickly Juniper

Sea Juniper

Coastal. Elaphonisi

Phoenician Juniper

Lowland scrub

**Pinaceae***Pinus halepensis* subsp.  
*brutia**Pinus halepensis* subsp.  
*halepensis**Pinus pinea***Pine Family**

Calabrian Pine

Aleppo Pine

Umbrella pine

Stunted coastal forest,  
Elaphonisi

Occasional. Planted

Occasional. Planted

**ANGIOSPERMAE****FLOWERING PLANTS****DICOTYLEDONS****Acanthaceae***Acanthus spinosus***Acanthus Family**

Spiny Bear's Breech

Rocky places. Occasional

**Aceraceae***Acer sempervirens***Maple Family**

Cretan Maple

Gorges and mountains.  
Often heavily grazed**Aizoaceae***Carprobrotus edulis***Dew Plant Family**

Hottentot Fig

Coast. Alien

**Anacardiaceae***Pistacia lentiscus**Pistacia terebinthus***Sumach Family**

Mastic Tree

Turpentine Tree

Often dominant in maquis  
Imbros Gorge**Apiaceae***Crithmum maritimum**Daucus carota**Eryngium campestre**Eryngium maritimum**Ferula communis**Foeniculum vulgare* subsp.  
*piperatum**Smyrniium perfoliatum***Carrot Family**

Rock Samphire

Wild carrot

Field Eryngo

Sea Holly

Giant Fennel

Fennel

Perfoliate Alexanders

Coastal rocks and sand  
Waste ground. Common  
Rocky places  
Coastal dunes  
Aptera  
Waste ground. Common

Agia Sophia

**Apocyanaceae***Nerium oleander**Plumeria rubra***Periwinkle Family**

Oleander

Frangipani

Widely planted and native  
along watercourses  
Cultivated. Agia Triada**Araliaceae***Hedera helix***Ivy Family**

Ivy

Gorges

**Asteraceae***Achillea cretica**Artemisia arborescens**Atractylis gummifera**Bellis sylvestris**Carlina graeca**Carlina gummifera**Centaurea argentea*subsp. *macrothysana***Daisy Family**

Cretan Sneezewort

A stemless thistle

Southern Daisy

*(C. corymbosa)*Katholikou monastery  
Aptera  
Falasarna and Sirikari  
Frequent  
Abundant in garrigue  
Falasarna  
Cliffs. Imbros Gorge  
Endemic

<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>		Omalos
<i>Centaurea idaea</i>	A yellow thistle	Imbros Gorge
<i>Centaurea raphanina</i> subsp. <i>raphanina</i>		Widespread. Endemic
<i>Centaurea spinosa</i>		North coast
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>		North coast
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Waste places
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chicory	Common. Omalos
<i>Cynara cornigera</i>	A wild artichoke	Occasional. Rocky places
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>		Occasional. Waste places
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	Abundant on roadsides
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	A Globe Thistle	Lowlands
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Abundant
<i>Helichrysum conglobatum</i>	( <i>H. stoechas</i> )	Frequent
<i>Helichrysum microphyllum</i>	A Curry Plant	Omalos
<i>Helichrysum orientale</i>		Cliffs. Katholikou
<i>Inula candida</i>		Cliffs. Falasarna
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Elaphonisi
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle	Frequent
<i>Onopordon bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>		North coast. Endemic
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	Sand dunes
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		Frequent
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>		Walls and rocks
<i>Picnomon acarna</i>		Roadsides. Common
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby Ptilostemon	Cliffs. Imbros, Topolia
<i>Pulicaria odora</i>	A Fleabane	Occasional
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	Occasional
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Spanish Oyster Plant	Occasional. Apteris
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Waste places
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow Thistle	Olive Groves
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow Thistle	Olive Groves
<i>Staelhelina petiolata</i>	( <i>S. arborea</i> )	Cliffs. Endemic
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Spiny Cocklebur	Weed. Falasarna
<b>Berberidaceae</b>	<b>Barberry Family</b>	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Common in mountains
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>	
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Coast. Red flowers
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>biebersteinii</i>	Pale Bugloss	Common. White flowers
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope	Waste ground. Frequent
<i>Symphytum creticum</i>	( <i>Procopiana</i> )	Katholikou monastery
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>		Occasional. Mountains
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta	Omalos
<i>Brassica cretica</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i>	Cretan Cabbage	Imbros and Topolia Gorges



<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Coasts
<i>Erysimum candicum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i>		Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Erysimum raulinii</i>		Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Lunaria annua</i> subsp. <i>pacyrhiza</i>	Honesty	Aptera
<b>Cactaceae</b>	<b>Cactus family</b>	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	Widespread alien
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>	
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Petromarula	Widespread on rocks. Endemic
<i>Campanula cretica</i>	( <i>Symphyandra</i> )	Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<b>Capparaceae</b>	<b>Caper Family</b>	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	Cliffs. Widespread
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>	
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	Topolia Gorge
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>	
<i>Dianthus fruticosus</i> subsp. <i>creticus</i>	A shrubby pink	Katholikou monastery Endemic
<i>Petrorhagia dianthoides</i>		Imbros Gorge Endemic
<i>Silene succulenta</i> subsp. <i>succulenta</i>		Coastal Sand. Elaphonisi (Greek Red Data Book)
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>	<b>Goosefoot Family</b>	
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort	Sandy Beach
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Rock-rose Family</b>	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>		Common in maquis
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Local in maquis
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Few-flowered Cistus	Lowland maquis
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Locally common
<i>Fumana arabica</i>		Local in maquis
<b>Clusiaceae</b>	<b>St John's-Wort Family</b>	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i>		Frequent in maquis
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-Wort	Occasional
<i>Hypericum triquetrifolium</i>		Frequent
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>		Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus oleifolius</i>		Akrotiri
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	A Morning Glory	Roadsides. Alien
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	<b>Stonecrop Family</b>	
<i>Rosularia serrata</i>		Imbros Gorge. Agia Sophia.

<i>Sedum amplexicaule</i> subsp. <i>tenuifolium</i>		Rocks. Imbros. Omalos
<i>Sedum creticum</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Sedum praesidis</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Sedum rubens</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Pennywort	Imbros Gorge
<b>Cuscutaceae</b>	<b>Dodder Family</b>	
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	A dodder	Frequent
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>	<b>Cucumber Family</b>	
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	Frequent
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Waste places
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>	<b>Teasel Family</b>	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	A Scabious	Waste Places
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heath Family</b>	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	In flower and fruit
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Common in maquis
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>		Locally common in maquis. In flower
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Locally common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Coastal hillsides
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	Elaphonisi
<i>Euphorbia pepelis</i>		Elaphonisi
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	Poinsettia	Cultivated. Agia Triada
<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>		Sand dunes
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Occasional weed
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Occasional
<b>Fabaceae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>	
<i>Acacia retinoides</i>		Widely planted
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	Aptera
<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>		Local in phrygana
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>rubriflora</i>		Rocky places
<i>Astragalus angustifolius</i>		Spiny shrub. Omalos
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Frequent
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	Often dominant.
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	Frequent tree, in fruit
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Frequent. Planted
<i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby Sainfoin	Imbros and Topolia. Endemic
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>		Common
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree Medick	Hania. Roadsides

<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	Coastal sand dunes
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> subsp. <i>diacantha</i>	Spiny Rest-harrow	Rocky places. Frequent
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	Widely planted
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Common. Roadsides
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Damp valleys
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> subsp. <i>calliprinos</i>	Kermes Oak	Common. Often heavily grazed
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Frequent. Imbros Gorge
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	Locally common
<b>Juglandaceae</b>	<b>Walnut Family</b>	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Planted
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Mint Family</b>	
<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	Garden Horehound	Rocky places
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>		Rocky places
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	Near habitation
<i>Coridothymus capitatus</i>	A shrubby Thyme	Common, in flower
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	Occasional
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	Waste ground
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i>	Dittany	Cliffs, Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Origanum microphyllum</i>		Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>		Endemic
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	Common
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	Common
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Three-leaved Sage	Topolia
<i>Salvia pomifera</i>		Imbros, Sirikari Gorge
<i>Salvia verbenacea</i>		Aptera
<i>Satureja alpina</i> subsp. <i>meridionalis</i>		Omalos
<i>Satureja cretica</i>	( <i>Calamintha</i> )	Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Satureja juliana</i>	( <i>Micromeria</i> )	Common
<i>Satureja nervosa</i>	( <i>Micromeria</i> )	Common
<i>Satureja spinosa</i>		Omalos. Endemic
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Satureia	Rocky places. Aromatic
<i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	A Skullcap	Widespread
<i>Sideritis syriaca</i>		Omalos
<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>		Rocky hillsides. Omalos Endemic
<i>Teucrium cuneifolium</i>		Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flax Family</b>	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Flax	Imbros and Topolia Gorges. Chasmophyte
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<b>Mallow Family</b>	
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Hibiscus	Cultivated
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	Coast. Hania

<i>Lavatera bryonifolia</i>		Frequent
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Common
<b>Meliaceae</b>	<b>Mahogany Family</b>	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian Bead Tree	Cultivated. Roadsides
<b>Moraceae</b>	<b>Mulberry Family</b>	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Frequent
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Commonly cultivated. Leaves uses as fodder
<b>Myrtaceae</b>	<b>Myrtle Family</b>	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Occasional
<b>Nyctaginaceae</b>	<b>Bougainvillea Family</b>	
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	Widely planted
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Ash Family</b>	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	Occasional, wild
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Mock Privet	Frequent in maquis
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<b>Wood Sorrel Family</b>	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Common weed
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	Coast
<b>Phytolaccaceae</b>	<b>Pokeweed Family</b>	
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeweed	Occasional. Waste places. Alien
<b>Pittosporaceae</b>	<b>Pittosporum Family</b>	
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>		Commonly cultivated
<b>Platanaceae</b>	<b>Plane Tree Family</b>	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	Common in damp valleys
<b>Plumbagiaceae</b>	<b>Thrift Family</b>	
<i>Limonium ?elaphoniscum</i>	A Sea-lavender	Elaphonisi Island Endemic
<b>Polygalaceae</b>	<b>Milkwort Family</b>	
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>		Cultivated
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Dock Family</b>	
<i>Persicaria salicifolia</i>	A Knotgrass	Agia Lake
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea Knotgrass	North coast
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Bull's Head Dock	North coast
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<b>Primrose Family</b>	
<i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i>	Greek Sowbread	Spilia
<i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i>		Omalos, Imbros

<i>Cyclamen confusum</i>		Topolia, Sirikari and Polyrinia
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed	Wet rocks. Falasarna
<b>Punicaceae</b>	<b>Pomegranate Family</b>	
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	Planted
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>	
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Virgin's Bower	Imbros, Aptera, in flower
<i>Delphinium staphisagria</i>		Imbros, Sirikari
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>		Widespread
<i>Ranunculus creticus</i>		Imbros Gorge
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	<b>Buckthorn Family</b>	
<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>		Frequent. Rocky places
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Frequent
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Japanese Loquat	Cultivated
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	Widely cultivated
<i>Prunus prostrata</i>	Rock Cherry	Omalos
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	Roadsides. Planted
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Wild Pear	Common
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	A Bramble	Common. Pink flowers
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Common in garrigue
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>	
<i>Galium fruticosum</i>		Cliffs. Imbros. Endemic
<b>Rutaceae</b>	<b>Rue Family</b>	
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Cultivated
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	Cultivated
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	Occasional
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	Occasional. Planted
<b>Sapindaceae</b>	<b>Sapinda Family</b>	
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	Balloon Vine	Annual climber. Alien
<b>Santalaceae</b>	<b>Sandalwood Family</b>	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	Hemi-parasite. Red berries
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Saxifrage Family</b>	
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i> subsp. <i>chrysosplenifolia</i>		Shaded rocks. Imbros
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Creeping Toadflax	Walls. Hania
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort	Occasional
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	Occasional

<i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	Shrubby Mullein	Imbros Gorge, Agia Sophia cave. Endemic
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>		Common
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>		Common
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i>	Spiny Mullein	Hillsides and mountains. Endemic low shrub
<b>Simaroubaceae</b>	<b>Tree of Heaven Family</b>	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	Occasional. Alien
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<b>Potato Family</b>	
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thornapple	Waste ground. Alien
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	Henbane	Polyrinia, Hania
<i>Mandragora officinarum</i>	Mandrake	Frequent
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrubby Tobacco	Waste ground. Alien
<i>Solanum villosum</i>	Hairy Nightshade	Waste ground. Fruit red or yellow
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Waste ground. Fruit black
<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Withania	Waste ground. Apta
<b>Styracaceae</b>	<b>Storax Family</b>	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	Frequent. In fruit
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>	<b>Tamarisk Family</b>	
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>		Sandy coast
<b>Thymelaceae</b>	<b>Daphne Family</b>	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>		Evergreen shrub. Omalos
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		Rocky places near the sea
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	<b>Elm Family</b>	
<i>Celtis tournefortii</i>		Rare tree. Yellow fruit. Imbros Gorge
<i>Zelkova abelicea</i>		Rare endemic tree. Omalos.
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<b>Nettle Family</b>	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	Walls. Common
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	<b>Valerian Family</b>	
<i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>		Occasional. Imbros Gorge
		Endemic
<b>Verbenaceae</b>	<b>Verbena Family</b>	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Spilia
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree	Frequent. River beds
<b>Vitaceae</b>	<b>Vine Family</b>	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Vine	Occasional

## MONOCOTYLEDONS

<b>Agavaceae</b>	<b>Agave Family</b>	
<i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant	Planted
<b>Alliaceae</b>	<b>Onion Family</b>	
<i>Allium ameloprasum</i>	Wild Leek	Polyrinia
<i>Allium bourgeaui</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>		Topolia Gorge
<i>Allium callimischon</i> subsp. <i>haemostictum</i>		Imbros Gorge, Omalos
<i>Allium suhirsutum</i>		Topolia. In seed
<i>Allium tardans</i>		Marathocephala, Imbros
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	<b>Daffodil Family</b>	
<i>Narcissus serotinus</i>		Occasional
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Coastal dunes.
<i>Sternbergia lutea</i>	Common Sternbergia	Marathocephala, Elos, Polyrinia
<i>Sternbergia sicula</i>		Imbros, Topolia, Sirikari
<b>Araceae</b>	<b>Arum Family</b>	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	In flower, Imbros Gorge
<i>Arum concinatum</i>		Sirikari Gorge
<b>Asparagaceae</b>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>	
<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>		Frequent
<b>Asphodelaceae</b>	<b>Asphodel Family</b>	
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	Imbros
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>		Common
<b>Colchicaceae</b>	<b>Colchicum Family</b>	
<i>Colchicum cretense</i>		Common around Omalos. Endemic
<i>Colchicum pusillum</i>		Sirikari Gorge
<b>Cyperaceae</b>	<b>Sedge Family</b>	
<i>Cyperus capitatus</i>		Sand dunes
<b>Dioscoridaceae</b>	<b>Yam Family</b>	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	Occasional
<b>Graminae</b>	<b>Grass Family</b>	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Common. Naturalised
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass	Sand dunes
<i>Melica rectiflora</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Wet areas
<i>Sesleria doerfleri</i>		Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<b>Hyacinthaceae</b>	<b>Hyacinth Family</b>	
<i>Charybdis maritima</i>	( <i>Urginea</i> ) Sea Squill	Locally common

<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Imbros Gorge. Leaves
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>		Topolia. In seed
<i>Prospero autumnale</i>	( <i>Scilla</i> ) Autumn Squill	Common
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>	
<i>Crocus laevigatus</i>		Omalos
<b>Juncaceae</b>	<b>Rush Family</b>	
<i>Juncus littoralis</i>		Elaphonisi
<b>Posidoniaceae</b>	<b>Posidonia Family</b>	
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune Grass	Washed-up remains on beaches
<b>Ruscaceae</b>	<b>Butcher's Broom Family</b>	
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	Sirikari Gorge. Topolia
<b>Smilacaceae</b>	<b>Smilax Family</b>	
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	Common
<b>Typhaceae</b>	<b>Reedmace Family</b>	
<i>Typha domingensis</i>		Agia Lake

## Birds

Little Grebe – *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 20+ at Agia Lake  
 Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta* 2 at Agia Lake  
 Grey Heron – *Ardea cinerea* 3 at Agia Lake  
 Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos* 20+ at Agia Lake  
 Shoveler – *Anas clypeata* 50+ at Agia Lake  
 Ferruginous Duck – *Aythya nyroca* 6 at Agia Lake  
 Pochard – *Aythya farina* 4 at Agia Lake  
 Griffon Vulture – *Gyps fulvus* Seen every mountain day  
 Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus* Agia Lake  
 Buzzard – *Buteo buteo* Seen every day  
 Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus* Seen every day  
 Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus* 50+ at Agia Lake  
 Coot – *Fulica atra* 200+ at Agia Lake  
 Yellow-legged Gull – *Larus cachinnans* Souda Bay  
 Feral Pigeon – *Columba livia* Seen every day  
 Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocta* Seen every day  
 Kingfisher – *Alcedo atthis* 2 at Agia Lake and in Hania  
 Crested Lark – *Galerida cristata* Several seen at Elaphonisi  
 Crag Martin – *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Seen every mountain day  
 Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica* Seen occasionally  
 House Martin – *Delichon urbica* Seen occasionally  
 White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba* Small flocks at Falasarna and Omalos  
 Wren – *Troglodytes troglodytes* Seen occasionally but elusive  
 Robin – *Erithacus rubicula* I seen at Polyrinia  
 Black Redstart – *Phoenicurus ochruros* Seen occasionally  
 Stonechat – *Saxicola torquata* Seen occasionally



Northern Wheatear – *Oenanthe oenanthe* Omalos  
 Blue Rock Thrush – *Monticola solitarius* Imbros Gorge  
 Blackbird – *Turdus merula* Seen every day  
 Cetti's Warbler – *Cettia cetti* Heard at Agia Lake  
 Sedge Warbler – *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 1 at Agia Lake  
 Whitethroat – *Sylvia communis* Occasional singles  
 Sardinian Warbler – *Sylvia melanocephala* Seen occasionally in scrub  
 Chiffchaff – *Phylloscopus collybita* Singles seen occasionally  
 Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata* Singles seen occasionally  
 Blue Tit – *Parus caeruleus* Seen every day  
 Great Tit – *Parus major* Seen every day  
 Short-toed Treecreeper – *Certhia brachydactyla* 1 in Imbros Gorge  
 Chough – *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Several seen at Omalos  
 Raven – *Corvus corax* Singles seen every day  
 Hooded Crow – *Corvus corone cornix* Small numbers seen every day  
 Starling – *Sturnus vulgaris* Small numbers seen most days  
 Italian (House) Sparrow – *Passer domesticus italiae* Common near habitation  
 Chaffinch – *Fringilla coelebs* Small numbers seen occasionally  
 Goldfinch – *Carduelis carduelis* Small flocks seen every day

### Mammals

Kri-kri	<i>Capra hircus cretensis</i>	Omalos (captive)
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### Reptiles

Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	Occasional
Erhard's Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>	Common
Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	Agia Lake

### Butterflies

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Cretan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia cretica</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>

## Moths

Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Occasional individuals
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## Dragonflies

Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>	Agia
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Agia
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Aeshna parthanope</i>	Agia
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	Agia
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Agia

## Other insects

Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Occasional
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>	Occasional
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	Marathocephala
Migratory Locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	Occasional
Nosed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida hungarica</i>	Falasarna