

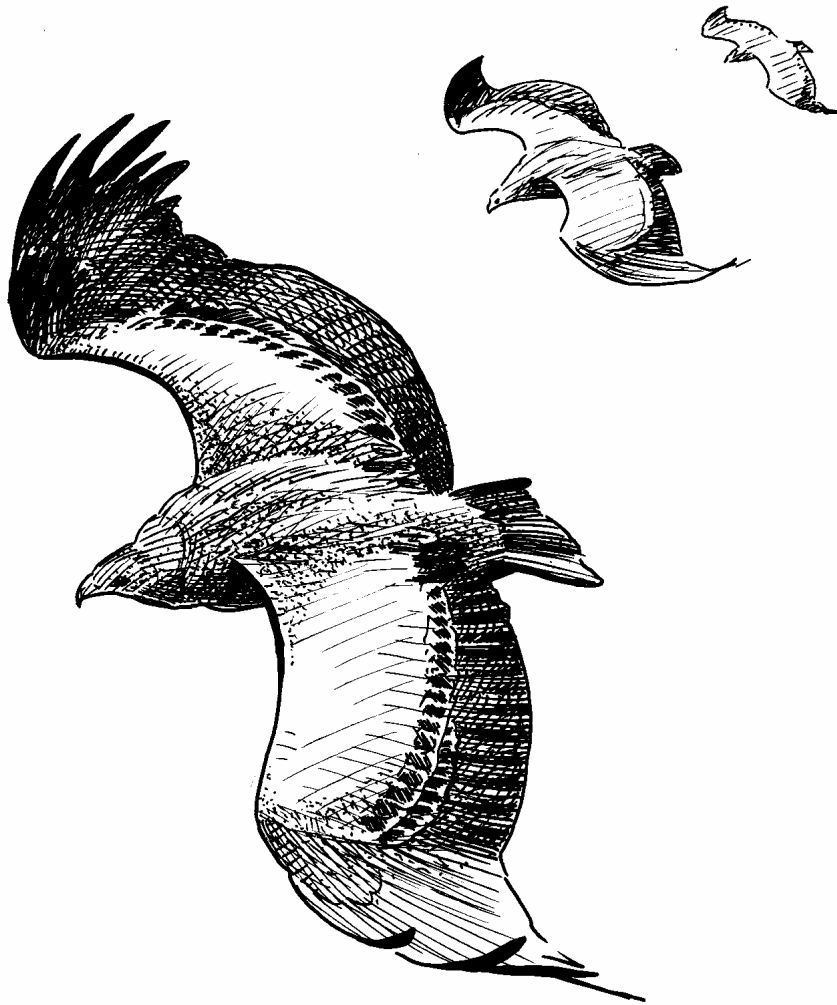
# Honeyguide

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Crete**

**14 - 21 April 1998**

**Crete**  
**14 - 21 April 1998**

The group

Margaret Biggs

Margaret Marris

Robert Lyndon  
Ethel Lyndon

Winifred Smith  
Martin Smith

Barbara Mullins  
Shelagh Hill

Maurice Hutt

Barbara Evans

Judith Dunworth

Bob Sharland  
Barbara Hare

Report written by Rob Macklin with plant list by Mick Rebane

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. £370 was sent this year – £25 per person plus £20 from Jane Ellison who booked for the holiday but later had to pull out. This brings Honeyguide's total contributions since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £1,345, and to conservation projects in Europe to more than £14,000. A thank-you letter from HOS and information about the lammergeier project work appear at the end of this report (but not this web version).

**CRETE**  
**14 - 21 April 1998**

**Tuesday 14 April - Outward Bound**

An overnight frost had left the south downs covered in white as we approached Gatwick airport before dawn. Our plane was subject to a twenty minute delay but we were soon in the air and anticipating high temperatures in Crete.

Touchdown was a little disappointing with overcast skies and temperatures at 19 Celsius with a light northerly breeze. Our two hour trip on the bus to Plakias gave us the opportunity to admire the wealth of colour in the masses of giant fennel, cistus, crown daisies, Jerusalem sage and hottentot figs on the roadsides and masses of yellow broom on the hillsides. Several griffon vultures, buzzards, ravens and hooded crows were seen from the bus and a kestrel was in the same place as last year, on the wires at Rethymnon! We also had a fleeting glimpse of an alpine swift.

Plakias was overcast, humid and warm with temperatures up into the mid-twenties and Mick Rebane was waiting to greet us in the town square. Our host, George Dimakis, made us all a cup of tea or coffee which was very welcome after our long journey. I carried out a quick recce to the east of the town before supper but things were very quiet with the only migrants being woodchat shrike and swallow. Crested larks, goldfinches and greenfinches were all in song here but there was very little evidence of spring movement.

After an introductory get together in the hotel we went off for the first of our excellent meals in the local tavernas, the first night being at the Sophia taverna.

**Wednesday 15 April - Plakias and Myrthios**

A dawn chorus from Italian sparrows accompanied us as several of us went for an early morning walk along the beach. A magnificent beech marten was dead on the road at the eastern end of the town; unfortunately this is the usual method of seeing this shy mammal on Crete. Two ravens flew overhead, two pairs of stonechats were in the flower-filled fields and a turtle dove showed itself briefly as it flashed inland. We all had our first excellent views of crested larks here, a swallow came in off the sea and our first butterfly put in an appearance, a painted lady.

After breakfast we took the path from Plakias to the hilltop village of Myrthios. Winifred decided to walk a little way with us and was then escorted back to Plakias by Maurice who felt in need of a brisk walk in catching us up later. Behind Plakias we came across yellow honeywort and salsify in flower plus the eye-catching red asparagus pea. Continual scanning of the air by the birders turned up two ravens and a buzzard before an osprey flew across the sky. Robert then had fleeting views of two hoopoes in the olive groves, several griffon vultures drifted over the tops of the gorge and the raven count rose to six birds. The first swifts of the trip scythed through the air and the first of many Sardinian and Cetti's warblers sang from the undergrowth. The latter's song is so loud and distinct and was to be with us wherever we went on the island.

Butterflies were plentiful on the walk with 13 species seen including the striking swallowtail, scarce swallowtail and Cretan festoon. One of the whites was identified by Martin as a mountain small white although the many books on offer seemed to differ as to what occurs where. For the purposes of this trip we relied on Martin's book, by Tom Tolman. Another Cretan favourite was seen here, the Egyptian locust or grasshopper, while several huge Carpenter bees buzzed the party. Reptiles made fleeting appearances although Barbara and I were lucky enough to get good views of a Balkan green lizard by the old mill.

The first morning gives everyone a chance to get to grips with new plants and Mick was working overtime to identify everything. Masses of branched broomrape were found, probably parasitising

Bermuda buttercup which almost smothers everything in its path. A superb three-foot tall specimen of the endemic Cretan wall lettuce was found among the olives, a late spider orchid was in flower below the old mill and two varieties of tongue orchids were so plentiful it was hard to avoid treading on them as we passed by!

After a tiring battle through the undergrowth we finally made it to Myrthios and a well-earned cold beer and lunch. The view from the taverna over the Libyan sea was truly remarkable and made the struggle up the hill seem very worthwhile.

The day had become very hot with temperatures in the mid-eighties and after an uneventful stroll down the hill through the olive groves a few of us walked out onto the west side of town. We immediately saw a flock of birds wheeling around the bay followed by another flock soon after. On closer inspection they turned out to be garganeys on their migration north out of Africa and the flock finally reached 130 birds. They settled on the sea, presumably to rest for the night, for in the morning they were nowhere to be seen! As we walked back to town a small flock of house martins came in off the sea and circled over the steep cliff which was literally covered in large bushes of Cretan ebony. A fluttering, rather worn-out butterfly turned out to be a Lang's short-tailed blue bringing an end to a rather tiring yet exhilarating day.

#### **Thursday 16 April - Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Kedros Foothills**

Before heading off inland we stopped for a look at the fields and beach on the edge of town. Waders were represented by three little-ringed plovers and a common sandpiper while a tawny pipit gave us fleeting views. Three whinchats were on the fields and as we were about to depart a black-eared wheatear disappeared into the beach scrub.

Our next stop was at the imposing Kourtaliotiko Gorge where a series of recently cut steps led down to the river below. At least eight griffon vultures and four kestrels soared over the ridges while three crag martins skimmed along the rocks. A pair of blue rock thrushes was singing from the towering crags and gave us fleeting views as did a displaying, male black-eared wheatear. At least five rock doves flashed through the gorge, a chough called from the high tops and a white wagtail was very obliging on the rocks by the tumbling river. Masses of yellow asphodel were in flower here and we also managed to find several specimens of the endemic Cretan cyclamen nestling among the rocks; another endemic found here was hanging mullein. As we climbed back up the steps several house martins were flying through the gorge and an alpine swift made a brief appearance overhead.

Just beyond the gorge we stopped to admire the view across the open fields and to see corn buntings singing from telephone wires; both woodlark and stonechat were also in song here. A nearby field looked promising and the botanists turned up pink butterfly orchid, tongue orchid, Cretan bee-orchid and fan-lipped orchid. Ethel then found a small copper butterfly and Martin's trusty net captured a mallow skipper - quite a selection of species for a quick stop! Lunch was then taken in Spili where swallows were nesting and buzzards, kestrels and ravens circled the town.

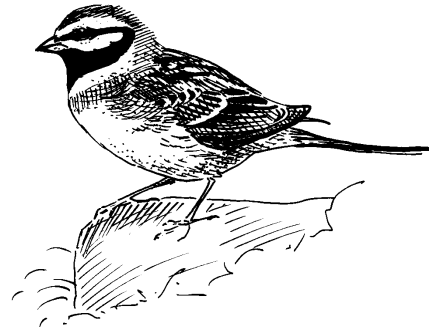
The afternoon was spent in the Kedros foothills above Spili at a botanically famous site, particularly for its range of orchids. We were not to be disappointed as the display of a whole host of species was utterly breathtaking, apparently the best show for years! The fields surrounding this area were literally covered by masses of Cretan tulips, Barbary nut and corn marigolds. Robert spotted a very unusual "red-phase" cuckoo in the poplars and corn buntings were singing all over the place. A woodlark in song was finally located high up in the sky and three alpine swifts passed quickly over. A harrier put in a brief appearance before spending up to an hour hunting the local fields; I managed to get very good views of the bird and confirmed it as a female pallid harrier, a tremendous coup! As we were leaving the area I noticed a large shape over the ridge which turned into a lammergeier when I was able to get the bird in the telescope. Unfortunately most of the group had gone back to the bus and only Mick and Martin were able to see the bird.

As we were driving back towards Spili, Mick stopped to have a look at a singing ciril bunting which hung around long enough to be viewable in the telescope. A cleopatra butterfly fluttered past as we were watching the bird. As we got nearer to Plakias we kept a look out for a dragon arum which we had seen in flower on the way. We located the specimen in question and as cameras were clicking away I scanned the ridge and, unbelievably located another lammergeier drifting from left to right. This time most of the group was able to see the bird even though it was a fair way off. A splendid end to a splendid day!!

### Friday 17 April - Phaestos and Aghia Triada

A pre-breakfast walk along the front was fairly productive and began with a marsh harrier flying over the hotel as we left. Two common sandpipers were feeding on the beach where a wood warbler was rather out of context feeding on the sand. Perhaps the best sighting was a squacco heron which was lurking in scrub in the roadside fields. Three kestrels were in the air and several house martins were hawking insects on their long journey north.

After breakfast we were faced with the long journey to Phaestos but the weather was again very warm and we set off in high spirits. We stopped on the way at the Platis valley above Agia Galini where at least 300 alpine swifts had obviously just arrived from Africa as they wheeled around in the sky - a superb sight! Four buzzards were seen here and a ciril bunting was in full song.



We arrived at Phaestos, after negotiating the street market at Timbaki, to find the ruins closed until the afternoon so resolved to have a quick coffee before walking down to the Minoan summer palace at Aghia Triada. The skies at Phaestos were fairly quiet though four jackdaws were another species for the list. The walk along the road to Aghia Triada was dominated by masses of Cretan ebony and several orchids including six spikes of mambose orchid, a single giant orchid and a superb eastern tongue orchid. A purple turban buttercup was another good find. Birds were a little thin on the ground here although we managed to find up to six woodchat shrikes and four pied flycatchers among the pines at the summer palace. Ten species of butterflies were located with two new species for the trip, meadow brown and small heath. A brown skipper was almost certainly the Lulworth skipper while the small blue found here turned out to be *Pseudophilotes vicrama* which has no other English name; perhaps we should call it Eastern baton blue? We searched for orchids around the summer palace but found that most had already gone over with only six specimens of monkey orchids left. We then drove back up to Phaestos where we had a late lunch and time for a look around the ruins.

The long drive back was enlivened by eight griffon vultures, two ravens and a pied flycatcher on the northern edge of the Kourtalioitiko gorge.

### Saturday 18 April - Damnonia and Moni Preveli

A quick look at the beach after breakfast turned up two little ringed plovers and two common sandpipers plus a wood sandpiper atop a rock in the middle of a field - very odd. Four whinchats were in the field and the squacco heron was again skulking among the undergrowth, still proving difficult to see. Another white wagtail was on the beach, up to 20 alpine swifts were in the air with several swallows and a skylark was singing high up in the air and defying all of our efforts to find it!

Our second stop was at the small beach resort of Damnonia which turned up five crag martins, two singing corn buntings, a raven and a solitary moorhen. This used to be a good area for birds but has largely been ruined by tourist development.

Moving on we made a brief stop at the old monastery of Moni Preveli which was largely uneventful except for two singing woodlarks in the area and Cretan houndstongue in flower. The current monastery at the end of the road has the usual cafe where we took morning coffee as a wood warbler searched for insects in the nearby trees. After coffee we walked down the track below the monastery and found a further two wood warblers in the scrub. Several pied flycatchers were also found in the scrub and a nightingale broke into song. A trickle of water across the path seemed to be attracting migrants and residents alike and we were fortunate enough to have great views of a black-eared wheatear having a wash only yards away! Winifred sat on a rock as we walked a little further on and was rewarded with views of two woodchat shrikes. We then returned to the monastery and searched the slopes unsuccessfully for Ruppell's warblers although we did see a blue rock thrush and two buzzards and ravens engaged in aerial combat! Butterflies in the area included Cretan festoon, eastern baton blue, common blue and brown argus.

With a free afternoon for everyone we dropped some of the group back at Plakias while a few of us took lunch at the regular taverna at Myrthios.

### **Sunday 19 April - Kotsiphos Gorge, Georgioupolis and Lake Kournas**

A pre-breakfast walk along the beach gave us superb views of two squacco herons standing on the wall alongside the road. They soon decided this was the wrong place to be and disappeared into the scrub in the nearby fields. Three common sandpipers and a little ringed plover were on the beach, two whinchats were on the fields but the star of the show was undoubtedly a superb male black-headed wagtail which showed itself off very well right in front of the group.

As we headed off to the north coast of Crete we made our first stop at the top of the Kotsiphos gorge. Flocks of corvids over the crags were identified as 20 ravens and at least 20 jackdaws, a fairly scarce species on the island. Ten crag martins skimmed through the gorge and appeared to be nesting under the main road bridge while at least two wrens sang incessantly from the gorge slopes. As two kestrels hunted over the crags two pairs of blue rock thrushes were seen giving us excellent views of what can be a difficult species. A mass of yellow flowers growing out of the side of the gorge was identified as tree flax.

Our next stop was for a swift coffee at Georgioupolis before we made the short drive to an area of open water on the River Almyros. There were at least 20 moorhens and five coots here and careful searching gave us at least four little grebes and five garganeys, comprising three males and two females. A female marsh harrier then came into view before dropping into the reeds where she presumably had a nest. Several waders were feeding on the edge of the marsh and were identified as two wood sandpipers, a green sandpiper and a common sandpiper. Up to 20 swifts and two alpine swifts were hawking insects across the area and closer inspection revealed lumps of rock turning into several stripe-necked terrapins.

We then had a look around the marsh and fields at Georgioupolis which boasted a superb field of deep-red poppies and a colourful stand of yellow bartsia. I was particularly pleased to find and identify a loose-flowered orchid but Mick countered by locating a tree pipit which was very obliging in a eucalyptus tree. Birds were a little scarce here although a Montagu's harrier soared high over the nearby ridge and a female blue rock thrush looked a little out of place perched on a telegraph pole.

Our lunch stop was at one of the tavernas overlooking Lake Kournas. The good weather was probably responsible for the absence of wintering black-necked grebes on the lake although a little egret did its best to compensate by staging a couple of fly-byes! The lake itself turned up

approximately 30 coots and two little grebes, a raven called overhead and a woodchat shrike and five whinchats were found in fields on the west end of the lake. Butterflies included clouded yellow, painted lady, wall brown, southern speckled wood and holly blue.

The last stop of the day was at a marshy area on the Petres river which turned up two common sandpipers, at least five ravens and a couple of hooded crows. A Cetti's warbler sang incessantly from the scrub but a large grey warbler singing from the undergrowth was probably an olivaceous warbler although this could not be confirmed. A group vote was not to visit Rethymnon but to head back to Plakias and home!

### **Monday 20 April - Frangocastello and Imbros Gorge**

A pre-breakfast walk rewarded Margaret and Bob with good views of a collared pratincole on the beach, a splendid find. A little ringed plover was also there.

The penultimate day was along the coast road towards Frangocastello and the western gorges. A brief look in the bay at Rodakino gave us brief views of a blue rock thrush plus the ubiquitous buzzard and kestrel. As we continued our journey, our bus was very fortunate to get reasonable views of a Bonelli's eagle which was moving away from us. Woodlarks could also be heard singing from the open skies - much more easily heard than seen.

We had coffee at Frangocastello before exploring the surrounding plain. Many swifts were hawking for insects along the coast but otherwise the area was very quiet. Six brown blobs on the rocks turned out to be migrating whimbrels and two white wagtails were also seen. Robert and Mick were fortunate enough to see two Cory's shearwaters a long way offshore while most of the group were fascinated by a kestrel feeding on a lizard on a fence-post. Butterflies here included both swallowtail and scarce swallowtail plus painted lady.

After lunch in a taverna below the old fort we moved on to the Imbros gorge. We decided to drive to the top of the gorge and look out for soaring raptors. This plan worked really well as we had fabulous views of two Bonelli's eagles soaring over the crags and being constantly mobbed by the local ravens and kestrels.

The long, winding drive home produced a female marsh harrier on the plain at Frangocastello. After a couple of photo stops we parked up at Myrthios to buy olive oil, herbs and local crafts to take back home.

### **Tuesday 21 April - Homeward Bound**

Our final day dawned sunny and very warm yet again. With the flight in late afternoon there was time for a last look around Plakias before the bus departed at 1100 hours. Rubbish burning on the beach meant there were few birds about except for a common sandpiper.

The journey to Heraklion was enlivened by sightings of numerous buzzards and Robert catching sight of two collared doves near Rethymnon. A three-hour wait at the airport gave us ample time for lunch and to see Greek airforce fighter planes taking off and landing. Our plane was pretty much on time and we bade farewell to sun-baked Crete, looking forward to a distinctly cooler landing at Gatwick airport.

A good week in much warmer temperatures than usual for mid-April. Many thanks to the group from Mick and myself for being good company.

## Bird List

Little grebe  
Squacco heron  
Purple heron  
Lammergeier  
Marsh harrier  
Montagu's harrier  
Bonelli's eagle  
Kestrel  
Coot  
Little ringed plover  
Green sandpiper  
Common sandpiper  
Rock dove  
Turtle dove  
Swift  
Hoopoe  
Woodlark  
Crag martin  
House martin  
Tree pipit  
White wagtail  
Nightingale  
Stonechat  
Black-eared wheatear  
Blackbird  
Sardinian warbler  
Wood warbler  
Blue tit  
Woodchat shrike  
Jackdaw  
Raven  
Chaffinch  
Greenfinch  
Linnet  
Corn Bunting

Cory's shearwater  
Little egret  
Garganey  
Griffon vulture  
Pallid harrier  
Buzzard  
Osprey  
Moorhen  
Collared pratincole  
Whimbrel  
Wood sandpiper  
Yellow-legged gull  
Woodpigeon  
Cuckoo  
Alpine swift  
Crested lark  
Skylark  
Swallow  
Tawny pipit  
Yellow wagtail (*Motacilla f. feldegg*)  
Wren  
Whinchat  
Wheatear  
Blue rock thrush  
Cetti's warbler  
Blackcap  
Pied flycatcher  
Great tit  
Chough  
Hooded crow  
Italian sparrow  
Serin  
Goldfinch  
Cirl bunting



**69 species**

## Butterfly List

Swallowtail  
Cretan Festoon  
Small White  
Bath White  
Eastern Dappled White  
Pale Clouded Yellow  
Red Admiral  
Cretan Small Heath  
Wall Brown  
Lang's Short-tailed Blue  
Holly Blue  
Common Blue  
Lulworth Skipper

Scarce Swallowtail  
Large White  
Mountain Small White  
Clouded Yellow  
Cleopatra  
Painted Lady  
Meadow Brown  
Speckled Wood  
Small Copper  
Eastern Baton Blue  
Brown Argus  
Mallow Skipper





25 species

## HONEYGUIDE WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

CRETE

14th - 21st APRIL 1998

### PLANT LIST

The following list comprises the more obvious plants seen and identified during the week.

**Key and nomenclature:** Latin names of plants follows those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), any alternative names as used in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993) follow in brackets.

\* Endemic to Crete

# Introduced and not native to Crete and cultivated or planted species

### 1 PTERIDOPHYTES

#### *Aspleniaceae*

*Ceterach officinarum* subsp. *officinarum* Rusty Back Fern

#### *Hypolepidaceae*

*Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken

#### *Selaginellaceae*

*Selaginella denticulata* Mediterranean Selaginella

### 2 SPERMATOPHYTES

#### i) Gymnosperms

##### *Cupressaceae* - Cypress Family

*Cupressus sempervirens* forma. *horizontalis* Cypress

*C. sempervirens* forma. *sempervirens* Funeral Cypress

#### ii) Angiosperms

##### a) Dicotyledons

##### *Aceraceae* - Maple Family

*Acer sempervirens* Cretan Maple

##### *Aizoaceae* - Aizoon Family

# *Carpobrotus edulis* var. *rubescens* Hottentot Fig

##### *Anacardiaceae* - Pistacio Family

*Pistacia lentiscus* Mastic Tree

*Pistachia terebinthus* Turpentine Tree

##### *Apocynaceae* - Oleander Family

*Nerium oleander* subsp. *oleander* Oleander

##### *Boraginaceae* - Borage Family

*Anchusa italica* (*A. azurea*) Large Blue Alkanet

*Anchusa variegata* Variegated Anchusa

*Borago officinalis* Borage  
*Cerintho major subsp. major* Honeywort  
*Cynoglossum creticum* Blue Hound's Tongue  
*Echium angustifolium subsp. angustifolium* Narrow-Leaved Bugloss  
*Echium italicum subsp. biebersteinii* Pale Bugloss  
*Echium plantagineum* Purple Viper's Bugloss  
*Onosma erecta* Golden Drops  
*Symphytum creticum (Procopiana cretica)* Procopiana

**Cactaceae - Cactus Family**

# *Opuntia ficus-barbarica (O. ficus-indica)* Prickly Pear

**Campanulaceae - Bellflower Family**

\* *Petromarula pinnata* Cretan Wall Lettuce

**Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family**

# *Sambucus nigra* Elderflower

**Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family**

*Cerastium scaposum*  
*Petrorrhagia velutina (Kohlruschia velutina)*  
*Silene behen*  
*Silene bellidifolia*  
*Silene colorata subsp. colorata*  
*Silene conica* Sand Catchfly  
*Silene gallica* Small-flowered Catchfly  
*Silene vulgaris* Bladder Campion  
*Spergularia marina* Lesser Sand-spurrey

**Chenopodiaceae - Fathen Family**

*Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima* Sea Beet

**Cistaceae - Rockrose Family**

*Cistus creticus* Cretan Cistus  
*Cistus salvifolius* Sage-Leaved Cistus  
*Fumana thymifolia* Thyme-Leaved Fumana

**Compositae - Daisy Family**

*Anthemis chia*  
*Anthemis rigida subsp. rigida* Rayless Chamomile  
*Asteriscus spinosa (Pallensis spinosa)*  
*Bellis sylvestris* Southern Daisy  
*Calendula arvensis* Field Marigold  
*Centaurea idaea* Star Thistle  
*Chrysanthemum coronarium var. coronarium* Crown Daisy  
*C. coronarium var. discolor* Crown Daisy  
*Chrysanthemum segetum* Corn Marigold  
*Crepis rubra* Pink Hawksbeard  
*Crupina crupinostrum* Crupina  
*Dittrichia viscosa subsp. viscosa* Stink Aster  
*Evax pygamae* A cudweed  
*Galactites tomentosa* Mediterranean Thistle  
*Helichrysum barrelieri (H. conglobatum)* Golden Cassidony  
*Notobasis syrica* Syrian Thistle  
*Phagnalon graecum (P. rupestre)* Shrubby Cudweed  
*Ptilostemon chamaepeuce* Shrubby Knapweed

*Tragopogon sinuatus* (*T. porrifolius*) Wild Salsify

**Convolvulaceae - Bindweed Family**

*Convolvulus althaeoides* Mallow-leaved Bindweed

*Cuscuta epithymum* Dodder

**Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family**

*Umbilicus parviflorus* Small-Flowered Navelwort

**Cruciferaeae - Cress Family**

*Biscutella didyma* Buckler Mustard

*Cakile maritima* Sea Rocket

*Eruca sativa* Eruca

*Matthiola tricuspidata* Three-Horned Stock

*Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *raphanistrum* Wild Radish

\**Ricotia cretica* Ricotia

**Cucurbitaceae - Cucumber Family**

*Bryonia cretica* subsp. *cretica* White Bryony

**Dioscoraceae - Yam Family**

*Tamus communis* Black Bryony

**Dipsacaceae - Teasel Family**

*Knautia integrifolia* subsp. *mimica* A Scabious

**Ericaceae - Heath Family**

*Erica arborea* - Tree Heather

**Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family**

*Euphorbia acanthothamnus* Greek Spiny Spurge

*Euphorbia characias* Mediterranean Spurge

*Euphorbia dendroides* Tree Spurge

*Euphorbia helioscopia* Sun Spurge

*Euphorbia paralias* Sea Spurge

*Mercurialis annua* Annual Mercury

# *Ricinus communis* Castor Oil Plant

**Fagaceae - Oak Family**

*Quercus pubescens* Downy Oak

**Geraniaceae - Geranium Family**

*Geranium dissectum* Cut-leaved Crane's-bill

*Geranium rotundifolium* Round-leaved Crane's-bill

**Guttiferae - Hypericum Family**

*Hypericum empetrifolium* subsp. *empetrifolium* Shrubby St. John's Wort

**Labiatae - Mint Family**

*Ballota pseudodictamnus* subsp. *pseudodictamnus* False Dittany

*Coriodothymus capitatus* (*Thymus capitatus*) Shrubby Thyme

*Mentha spicata* Spear Mint

*Origanum vulgare* subsp. *hirtum* Marjoram

*Phlomis fruticosa* Jerusalem Sage

*Prasium majus* Spanish Hedge-nettle

*Salvia fruticosa* Three-Leaved Sage  
*Salvia scalarea* Clary  
*Salvia viridis* Red-Topped Sage  
*Satureja nervosa*  
*Satureja thymbra* Savory  
\* *Scutellaria sieberi* A Skullcap

### **Leguminosae - Pea Family**

# *Acacia spp* Mimosa  
*Anagyris foetida* Bean Trefoil  
*Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora* Red Kidney Vetch  
*Bituminaria bituminosa (Psoralea bituminosa)* Pitch Trefoil  
*Calicotome villosa* Hairy Thorny Broom  
*Ceratonia siliqua* Carob Tree  
# *Cercis siliquastrum* Judas Tree  
\* *Ebenus creticus* Shrubby Sainfoin  
*Lotus edulis* Edible Pea  
*Lupinus micranthus* Hairy Lupin  
*Medicago arabica* Spotted Medick  
*Medicago marina* Sea Medick  
*Medicago orbicularis* Large Disk Medick  
*Onobrychis aequidentata* A Cockscomb Sainfoin  
*Onobrychis caput-gallii* A Cockscomb Sainfoin  
*Ononis natrix* Large Yellow Rest-harrow  
*Scorpiurus muricatus* Scorpiurus  
*Tetragonolobus purpureus* Asparagus Pea  
*Trifolium pilulare* Ball Cotton Clover  
*Trifolium stellatum* Star Clover  
*Trifolium tomentosum* Woolly Trefoil  
*Trifolium uniflorum* One-Flowered Clover  
*Tripodion tetraphyllum (Anthyllis tetraphyllum)* Bladder Vetch  
*Vicia hybrida* Hairy Yellow Vetchling  
*Vicia lutea* Yellow Pea  
*Vicia sativa* Fodder Vetch

### **Linaceae - Flax Family**

*Linum arboreum* Tree Flax  
*Linum bienne* Pale Flax

### **Lythraceae - Loosestrife Family**

*Lythrum junceum* Creeping Loosestrife

### **Malvaceae - Mallow Family**

*Lavatera cretica* Lesser Tree Mallow  
*Malva cretica* Cretan Mallow  
*Malva sylvestris* Common Mallow

### **Moraceae - Fig Family**

*Ficus carica* Fig  
# *Morus alba* White Mulberry

### **Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family**

*Myrtus communis subsp. communis* Common Myrtle

### **Oleaceae - Olive Family**

*Olea europaea subsp. europaea* Olive

**Orobanchaceae - Broomrape Family**

*Orobanche ramosa* Branched Broomrape  
*Orobanche crenata*

**Oxalidaceae - Sorrel Family**

# *Oxalis pes-caprae* Bermuda Buttercup

**Papaveraceae - Poppy Family**

*Glaucium flavum* Yellow-Horned Poppy  
*Glaucium leiocarpum*  
*Papaver rhoeas* Common Poppy

**Plantaginacea - Plantain Family**

*Plantago afra*  
*Plantago lanceolata* Ribwort Plantain

**Platanaceae - Plane Tree Family**

*Platanus orientalis* Oriental Plane

**Polygalaceae - Milkwort Family**

*Polygala venulosa* Eastern Milkwort

**Polygonaceae - Dock Family**

*Rumex bucephalophorus subsp. gallicus* Red Dock

**Primulaceae - Primrose Family**

*Anagallis arvensis* Scarlet Pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms)  
\**Cyclamen creticum* Cretan Cyclamen

**Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family**

*Adonis microcarpa subsp cretica* Yellow Pheasant's-Eye  
*Anemone coronaria* Crown Anemone  
*Anemone hortensis ssp. heldreichii*  
*Nigella damascena* Love-in-a-Mist  
*Ranunculus asiaticus* Turban Buttercup  
*Ranunculus scleratus* Celery-leaved Crowfoot

**Resedaceae - Mignonette Family**

*Reseda lutea* Wild Mignonette

**Rosaceae - Rose Family**

*Prunus dulcis* - Almond  
*Pyrus amygdaliformis* Almond-leaved Pear  
*Rubus sanctus* Bramble  
*Sanguisorba minor subsp. verrucosa* Mediterranean Salad Burnet  
*Sarcopterium spinosum* Thorny Burnet

**Rubiaceae - Bedstraw Family**

*Crucianella sp.*

**Rutaceae - Rue Family**

# *Citrus limon* Lemon  
# *Citrus sinensis* Orange  
*Ruta chalepensis subsp chalepensis* Fringed Rue

**Santalaceae - Sandalwood Family**

*Osyris alba* Osyris

**Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family**

*Bellardia trixago* Bellardia

*Linaria chalapensis*

*Linaria pelisseriana* Jersey Toadflax

*Misopates orontium* Lesser Snapdragon

*Parentucellia latifolia*

*Parentucellia viscosa* Yellow Bartsia

*Scrophularia lucida* Shining Figwort

*Scrophularia peregrina* Nettle-leaved Toadflax

\* *Verbascum arcturus* Hanging Mullein

*Verbascum sinuatum*

*Veronica* sp.

**Solanaceae - Potato Family**

*Withania somnifera* Withania

*Hyoscyamus albus* White Henbane

**Styracaceae - Storax Family**

*Styrax officinalis* Storax

**Tamaricaceae - Tamarix Family**

*Tamarix smyrnensis* Tamarisk

**Thymelaeaceae - Daphne Family**

*Daphne sericea*

*Thymelaea hirsuta* Thymelea

**Ulmaceae - Elm Family**

*Ulmus canescens* Mediterranean Elm

**Umbelliferae - Carrot Family**

*Apium nodiflorum* Fools Water-cress

*Bupleurum gracile* A Thorow Wax

*Daucus carota* Wild Carrot

*Eryngium maritimum* Sea Holly

*Ferula communis* subsp. *communis* Giant Fennel

*Foeniculum vulgare* Fennel

*Oenanthe pimpinelloides* Corky-Fruited Water Dropwort

*Tordylium apulum* Mediterranean Hartwort

*Torilis arvensis* Spreading Hedge-parsley

*Torilis nodosa* Knotted Hedge-parsley

**Urticaceae - Nettle Family**

*Parietaria judaica* Pellitory of the Wall

*Urtica membranacea* Membranous Nettle

*Urtica pilulifera* Roman Nettle

**Valerianaceae - Valerian Family**

\**Valeriana asarifolia* Cretan Valerian

*Valerianella discoidea* A Corn Salad

**Verbenaceae - Verbena Family**

*Vitex agnus-castus* Chaste Tree

**Vitaceae - Vine Family**

*Vitis vinifera* subsp. *vinifera* Grape Vine

**b) Monocotyledons**

**Agavaceae - Agave Family**

# *Agave americana* Century Plant

**Amaryllidaceae - Daffodil Family**

*Narcissus tazetta* Rose of Sharon (in fruit only)

*Pancratium maritimum* Sea Daffodil (leaves only)

**Araceae - Arum Family**

*Arum concinatum*

*Arum creticum* Cretan Arum

*Dranunculus vulgaris* Common Dragon Arum

**Graminaceae - Grass Family**

*Arundo donax* Giant Reed

*Briza maxima* Giant Quaking Grass

*Lagurus ovatus* Hare's-tail

*Phragmites australis* Reed

**Iridaceae - Iris Family**

*Gladiolus italicus* Field Gladiolus

*Gynandris sisyrrinchium* Barbary Nut

*Hemodactylus tuberosus* Widow Iris

# *Iris albicans* White Flag Iris

\* *Iris unguicularis* ssp. *cretensis* Cretan Iris

**Liliaceae - Lily Family**

*Allium commutatum* Wild Leek

*Asphodeline lutea* Yellow Asphodel

*Asphodelus aestivus* Common Asphodel

*Drimia maritima* (*Urginea maritima*) Sea Squill

*Gagea graeca*

*Muscari comosum* Tassel Hyacinth

*Ornithogalum exscapum* A Star of Bethlehem

*Ornithogalum narbonense* A Star of Bethlehem

*Smilax aspersa* Common Smilax

\* *Tulipa cretica* Cretan Tulip

\* *Tulipa doerfleri* (*T. orphanidea*) Orange Wild Tulip

*Tulipa sylvestris* Wild Tulip

**Orchidaceae - Orchid Family**

*Aceras anthropophorum* Man Orchid

*Anacamptis pyramidalis* Pyramidal Orchid

*Barlia robertiana* Giant Orchid

*Ophrys bombyliflora* Bumble Bee Orchid

*Ophrys doerfleri* (*O. cretica*) Cretan Bee Orchid

*Ophrys fusca* Sombre Bee Orchid

*Ophrys heldreichii* (*O. scolopax* ssp. *heldreichii*) Marengo Orchid

*Ophrys holoserica* subsp. *holoserica* (*O. fuciflora* subsp. *fuciflora*) Late Spider Orchid

*Ophrys iricolor* Rainbow Orchid  
*Ophrys lutea* Yellow Bee Orchid  
*Ophrys mammosa* (*O. sphegodes* ssp. *mammosa*) Mammose Orchid  
*Orchis boryi*  
*Orchis collina* (*O. saccata*) Fan-Lipped Orchid  
*Orchis italica* Italian Man Orchid  
*Orchis lactea* Milky Orchid  
*Orchis laxiflora* subsp. *laxiflora* Lax-Flowered Orchid  
*Orchis papilionacea* Pink Butterfly Orchid  
*Orchis pauciflora* (*O. provincialis* subsp. *pauciflora*) Few-flowered Orchid  
*Orchis quadripunctata* Four-Spotted Orchid  
*Orchis simia* Monkey Orchid  
*Serapia bergonii* (*S. vomeracea* ssp. *laxiflora*) Bergon's Tongue Orchid  
*Serapia cordigera* Heart-flowered Serapia  
*Serapia orientalis* ssp. *orientalis* Eastern Tongue Orchid  
*Serapia parviflora* Small-flowered Tongue Orchid

**Palmae - Palm Family**

*Phoenix theophrasti* Cretan Palm

**Typhaceae - Reedmace Family**

*Typha domingensis* A reedmace

Michael Rebane - June 1998