

Orchid Odyssey

Holiday Report

10 – 16 April 2013



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Day 1: Tuesday 9th April, Arrival

An afternoon arrival time for the group left little time for any excursions. After the transfer to the hotel and some time to settle in, we headed out to a fine taverna to sample our first delicious mezedes style Greek meal and discuss plans for our exploration of the island over the coming days.

Day 2: Wednesday 10th April, Profitis Ilias and Loutani River Valley

After a good breakfast we headed out for our first foray, with a drive through the River Loutani Valley and then on up into the mountains of central Rhodes - where we found the strange parasitic plant *Cytinus hypocistis*, a parasite of Rockroses, which are a common feature of the landscape. With a superb mountain backdrop, we were able to watch nesting Kestrels sometimes interacting with Ravens, their deep croaking calls appeared somewhat kinder than that of the Hooded Crows.



Arum dioscoridis

En route we stopped off at the centuries old Fountouki Church. Set amidst a number of clearly ancient Olive and Oriental Plane trees, it was an impressive sight. Here we got our first sighting of Eastern festoon butterflies and Green-underside Blue. Here, our local guide stopped next to some *Pinus brutia* and explained how a fairly strong flavoured honey is produced on the island from this tree. He described how bees collect the honeydew excreted by the scale insect *Marchalina hellenica*, an eastern Mediterranean species, found mainly in Greece or Turkey. The Scale insect sucks the pine sap and escapes predation by hiding under a fluffy white substance, much like woolly aphis. The branches of the trees are often covered in this white fluff, and eventually the tree succumbs to a secondary fungal which turns the branches black. Before we moved off we sampled some delicious wild Asparagus tips and enjoyed an impressive display of *Arum dioscoridis* with its distinctive spathe, marked with satiny black leopard blotching over a paler green ground colour.

Moving up to the higher altitudes we searched for one of the special floral delights the island has to offer - the endemic Rhodes Peony *Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia*. We stopped off at a known site for them at about 500m where the cool mountain air was filled with the sweet fragrance of this fabulous plant, a divine and refreshing combination! Many flowers had been cut, most probably by locals, but on the difficult 45-60 degree slopes, the flowers were still intact and we were able to get close to them and take some good photos. Here also, butterflies were seen in good numbers with Cleopatra *ssp. fiorii*, Eastern Festoon *ssp. martini*, Eastern Bath White, Large White, Long-tailed Blue and Green Hairstreak. The festoons were all in pristine condition and were looking either for mates or Rhodian Pipevine plants on which to oviposit.



Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia

The hairstreaks were happily dancing in any sunlit mountain glade, nectaring on the sugar rich Wild Asphodel flowers.

It wasn't long before we saw our first orchids: *Ophrys attaviria* and *Ophrys dodekanensis*. *Ophrys attaviria* gets its name from the highest peak on the island – Mt. Attaviros 1215m, from where the species was first described. We quickly added *Ophrys Oreas* and *Neotinea maculate*, finding them under the forest canopy of the Pines and beautiful gnarled and ancient Mediterranean Cypress



Ophrys reinholdii

trees. We also saw a member of the Broomrape family, *Parentucellia latifolia ssp. latifolia* whose pink flowers measure from 10 to 15mm long, and are joined together in dense spike-shaped inflorescence from 2 to 8cm long. Another beautiful flower we found on the forest slopes was *Anemone blanda*, which ranges from purple to pink and white. The orchids species were being notched up regularly by now and the next seen were *Ophrys reinholdii*, *Ophrys sicula* (with its beautiful purple centred yellow lip), *Ophrys Omegaifera* whose lip is shaped like a boxing glove and whose pollinia are carried by the belly of a small bee, and *Ophrys cinereophila* (one of the fusca or sombre bee orchid group).

A Cuckoo was heard at the Hotel (built by the Italians during their occupation of the island) we stopped at for lunch, close to the peak on Mt. Profitis Ilias. In the small churchyard there were numerous butterflies present enjoying the warmth of the sun, including Red Admiral, Small Copper, and Painted Lady. Hidden from sight in the mountain, we heard the alarm call of a Blackbird, which on Rhodes is incredibly shy and more at home in the forests than gardens.

As we continued our exploration of the area we discovered our first Green winged Orchid, *Anacamptis morio*, a species we are more familiar with in the UK but here, as is often the case, it is a subspecies, *picta*. One of our target species, *Orchis lactea* had gone over, but we were treated to a good show of *Orchis anatolica ssp. anatolica* with beautiful pink purple flowers and long up-curved spurs. We also encountered *Echium italicum ssp. biebersteinii*, a species of Viper's Bugloss.



Ophrys provincialis

Further along the mountain we were treated to *Ophrys rhodia* with its green sepals and more *Ophrys dodekanensis*. In the same spot we also saw more *O. oreas* and a wonderful hybrid *O. oreas* x *O. dodekanensis*. The Orchid finding continued at pace, with *Anacamptis papilionacea ssp. heroica*, *Ophrys polyxo*; *Orchis anthroporum*s, *Orchis provincialis*, and also a lone but very large *Himantoglossum robertianum*. One last look for the endemic peony, led us down a little track carpeted with the yellow peal like flowers of *securigera securidaca* and again, the fragrance led us to the Peonies, but most of them had gone over in this

particular location. A Starred Agama watched our antics from a small rock face, bobbing its head up and down characteristically – or perhaps out of curiosity as to what these strange beings were up to!

All in all it had been a very successful day of Orchid spotting and the group returned to our base satisfied and hungry for both more wildlife to come the next day and for their evening meal.

Day 3: Thursday 11th April, Southern Rhodes



In contrast to the previous day we stayed at low altitudes and in coastal, low intensity agriculture and phrygana type habitats towards the southern end of the island. Our first stop on the road heading south was on a dirt track between farmland that our local guide had chosen. Here, Peter found *Serapias carica*, a very large stately specimen. In an olive grove beyond where the Serapia was we were treated to a dazzling display of *Gladiolus italica*, whose magenta flowers carpeted the area and made for a must-do photo session! In amongst them were also Tassel Hyacinth and another member of the Broomrape family, *Bellardia trixago*. Again, the butterflies were abundant with Scarce Swallowtails, Long tailed Blue, and Clouded Yellows. We were even fortunate enough to get good views of the helice form of Clouded Yellow, laying eggs on clovers.

Our next stop was again made in an olive grove. Here we found lots of Orchids: *Ophrys attaviria*, *Ophrys phrygana*, *Anacamptis papilionaceae ssp. heroica*, *Ophrys oestriifera* (with its long horns) *Anacamptis fragrans* (a really fragrant species), *Ophrys blitopertha*, a hybrid, probably *O.attaviria x O.polyxo* and the Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. We took a little time to photograph a pair of fairly obliging Clouded Yellows that were mating in low vegetation. On the other side of the track we ventured into a field that was a blaze of colour – literally full with Crown Daisies, both



yellow and bi-coloured form. It made for a beautiful scene and we took time to enjoy it and take a few photos for posterity! Almost unnoticed against this backdrop was a more subtle colour combination of orange and brown - our first sighting of Aegean Meadow Brown *Maniola telmessia*.



An off piste venture into another grove yielded *Ophrys polyxo*, and our first *Serapias begonia* and, Purple broomrape. We also stumbled upon an unusual and large flower spike of *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, which was likened to the hairdo sported by Marge in the Simpsons cartoon! As we admired this bouffant style flower Matt commented on a nearby Green Hairstreak, saying that now all we want is the Hairstreak to land on the orchid for a great shot opportunity. This duly happened and Matt was christened the 'butterfly whisperer' from that moment on!

We continued to a little church hoping to find the enigmatic King Ferdinand's Orchid. Unfortunately most of the specimens had gone over but there were a few remaining with reasonable flowers. The site proved valuable for other species too including, *Ophrys cretica ssp. beloniae*, *Anacamptis fragrans* (with its strong almond scent), and the yellow flowered *Ophrys parvula*. A good number of bird species were present too with Eurasian Bee-eater, Sardinian warbler, Common Buzzard, and a fly over from an Eleonora's falcon.

We made our final stop for the day at Kattavia. Here on the dry slopes out in the sun we located *Ophrys cornuta* (with its small 10mm lip), *Ophrys rhodia*, *Ophrys parviflora* (another of the fusca or Sombre Bee Orchid group) *Ophrys iricolor*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Ophrys cornutula*, *Ophrys cretica. beloniae* and *Ophrys blitopertha*. We were also treated to an eye-catching display of *Lithodora hispidula*, a shrubby low growing bush with bright cobalt blue flowers carpeting the hillsides, *Pulicaria Arabica* (yellow flower), a very spikey *Genista acanthoclada ssp. echinus* and the endemic annual, *Campanula rhodia* with its beautiful blue/purple bell shaped flowers. Here too we saw a few more butterflies including good numbers of Painted Lady and Green Underside Blue and in the distance we observed several Eleonora's Falcons. Other species of orchid seen in the area were: *Ophrys reinholdii*, *Ophrys ferrum equinum*, *Ophrys cinereophila* (small flowered fusca), *Ophrys sicula*, *Ophrys regis fernandii*, and *Anacamptis papilionaceae ssp. heroica*



It was getting late in the day then and we were a long way from our hotel base, but we couldn't resist investigating some of the birds which were perched on the wires above the barley fields. It was no surprise to find that they were Corn Buntings. Our diversion also led us to spot Montague's

Harrier, Italian Sparrow, Crested Lark, Red rumped Swallow, Long legged Buzzard, and Eleonora's Falcon flying high over the distant escarpment. Matt also recorded a 2nd instar *Papilio machaon* caterpillar on Fennel through his bins, with its tell-tale saddleback coloration, which makes it look like a bird dropping.

Day 4: Friday 12th April, Attaviros & Akramitis

Our focus today was back in the mountains and so we headed to Mt. Attaviros in west and centre of Rhodes. We started our day in a hidden spot under the forest canopy on the lower slopes. Here we were able to find more *Ophrys reinholdii*, and also a single *Cephalanthera longifolia*. Unfortunately, it was too early to see it flowering but it was well worth the visit as it was the only known site for this species on the island. Orchid enthusiasts had protected it by small group of rocks to stop people or animals trampling it. We moved on across a little stream continuing our botanical search, flushing a Hare as we went on our way. When we arrived in our target meadow the first thing we noticed was a very short Wild Pear, bearing about a dozen Black-veined White caterpillars, nearly fully grown.

Rhodes is very good botanically, with almost 1,500 species, and this part of the island has many Ornithogalums. Naturally enough on the mountain, we found the beautiful *Ornithogalum Montanum* in this little meadow and a very pretty member of the Campion family, *Silene behen*. The site was tucked into the mountain, surrounded by trees and the microclimate this created afforded plenty of warmth for butterflies and we found many Clouded Yellows, Eastern Festoons, and Eastern Dappled Whites. As we left the meadow, walking back



Silene behen



Centaurea lactucifolia

through the trees to our vehicle, we came across Violet Bird's Nest Orchid *Limodorum abortivum*, and at the roadside, an amazing Red Basket Fungus *Clathrus ruber*, literally buzzing with flies which were attracted to its rather noxious smell of rotting flesh.

We continued our journey around the mountain by road, stopping at a striking gorge. Here, we were able to see Venus' Looking Glass, *Legousia speculum-veneris* and a stunning Campanula, *Campanula hagielia* which was adorning the rock face. The very unusual looking *Centaurea lactucifolia* was found here too, its white flower buds are often eaten by animals and humans alike so rock faces are the best place to find them intact. It is found only on Rhodes and nearby Halki Island. We found more of this plant in one of the mountainside villages, where we stopped to sample the various homemade honeys for which the area is famous, including a delicious thyme and pine variety. Also

of note was *Arum cretica*, not thought to be on the island, and the few plants found here are cause of some debate, as to whether they are introduced or a natural population. Overhead were numerous Crag Martins, providing us with some great aerial displays and obviously using the rock face for nesting.



Deciding it was time to eat we headed for a quiet village restaurant, where we feasted on the chef's speciality of grass fed lamb and some delicious salads including a sublime aubergine salad, made with 17 ingredients. From the restaurant we had great views of 2 Little Owls on a rooftop, a Jay *ssp. atricapillus* with its all black cap and a flock of Swifts which included Alpine and Common.

After we ate and enjoyed an extended rest in the relaxing surroundings we moved on, first stopping to view Monolithos Castle beneath us and for a panoramic view of Mt.Akramitis (which means 'nose of the edge of the island'). We headed into an area of forest to search for *ophrys umbilicata*, but despite our best efforts it wasn't to be found and we had to settle for a Green Toad and some rather large Centipedes found hiding under rocks. We weren't disappointed however, as it had been another fruitful day overall!

Day 5: Saturday 13th April, Apolona-Laerma-Profilia

Our plan for the day was to explore several areas in the central part of the island, where the vast majority of the islands springs, forests and fresh water can be found. We began the day with a roadside stop to look for the endemic Rhodes Fritillary *Fritillaria rhodia*, a very dainty plant which has beautiful yellow flowers. We managed to see several in bloom, so a successful start!

We moved off along the Archipoli Road near Psinthos and had good sightings of Stonechat, and Hoopoe. Arriving at our next site along a little track we found our target species, *Ophrys mammosa*. Nearing the river, we found *Serapias bergonii*, *Ophrys cretica beloniae*, *Limodorum arbortivum*, *Orchis itlaica*, *Ophrys saliarisi* (with its wide lip, short sepal) *Ophrys reinholdii*, *Anacamptis papilionaceae ssp. heroica*, *Anacamptis picta*, along with *Ophrys polyxo* or *oestriifera* with its short horn, and longer lip. Near the source of River Gadouras we were able to get close to see some of the islands only native fresh water and endemic fish the Gizani *Ladigesocypris ghigii*.



This endangered species survives the hot summer in Rhodes in any remaining deep pools and parts of the river network, when most riverbeds run dry! We also saw what might possibly be a Rhodian

subspecies of the Karpathos Frog *Pelophylax cerigensis*. Our guide is conducting research with an expert herpetologist colleague by testing 'the voice' to identify any difference with that of the Karpathos population.



Ophrys saliarisii

Our next orchid find was the Bumblebee Orchid, *Ophrys bombyliflora*, our first encounter with this species. This plant is pollinated by males of solitary bees of the genus *Eucera*. We moved away from the river in search of a Rhodes' speciality, the rare pink atypical form of the Violet Bird's Nest Orchid *Limodorum abortivum*. We found several good specimens, amongst the more typical and darker form. Whilst looking at these Matt's eagle eyes also found our first *Ophrys candica*, which was also a first record of the species for the site. Later, at another site we saw more *candica*, as well as *Serapias parviflora* and *Orchis italica*.

Having spent most of our time on flowers, we decided to have lunch and a little avian diversion at the Gadouras Lake. We enjoyed homemade Greek cuisine provided by Matts Greek girlfriend, including Dolmathes (stuffed Vine leaves), and Tiropita (Feta cheese pies). The birds have slowly begun to move into this relatively new lake (created by damming the river), and we were observed Marsh Harrier hunting over the lake, Little Grebes with their whinnying call carrying far across the lake, Grey and Purple Herons, Common Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Yellow legged Gull, Mallard, Moorhen, Little Egret, Little Ringed plover, and Common Kestrel. A short walk around the lake margins produced a number of Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*, several of which were feeding on clumps of beautiful Wild Lavender.

Our final stop of the day was along a rough track whose upper reaches were impassable for vehicles. We continued on foot and were partly rewarded for an uphill climb in the hot sun with our target species, *Ophrys lucis*. Although we found them, the flowers had all but gone over. We also observed the endemic *Anthemis rhodensis* whose yellow flowers form clumps and *Silene salamandra*, which has small pink flowers and grows particularly well on the metal rich soils in the area. There were many birds too including Long-legged Buzzards, Blue Tit feeding its mate and sounding more like a Goldcrest, the lilting song of a Woodlark, and a flock of about 25 Bee eaters.



Silene salamandra

Day 6: Sunday 14th April, Gadouras River

The River Gadouras is one of the many interesting sites on the island, offering a good mix of habitats including marsh, river, dry stony river bed, olive grove and estuary, all amongst low intensity farming and small holdings. At any time of year, one can expect to find much of interest here in terms of

Crested Lark



flowers, birds and invertebrates. The first birds we saw were Crested Larks, which appeared all around us, making use of any available fence post, or mound of earth, from which to deliver their very beautiful song. Although not a species to be found in the UK, upon hearing their song and call one is immediately struck with the similarity by way of notes and syllables to our own Skylark. These birds are actually shot in Rhodes, something which local bird groups are trying to address but here at the river, it didn't seem to matter for the bird was very common. Elsewhere, in some of the scrubby bushes near to a cereal field, Peter and John soon had identified both Italian and Spanish Sparrow, the former being hybrid of House and Spanish Sparrow. Singing from the Giant Reeds, a very loud Reed Warbler let us know that it was the breeding season and proclaimed his

presence. Although he was barely visible, his voice more than made up for it. Onto the stony river itself and Peter and John again picked up on yet more interesting bird species, in particular a lone Greenshank, Squacco Heron in flight, Curlew Sandpiper, several Stone Curlew, Mallard, Wood Sandpipers with their spangled backs, Black-headed Yellow Wagtail, Little Egret, Glossy Ibis in flight and also feeding in the River, and Montague's Harrier male and female. Matt quietly watched a Red-throated Pipit further upstream.

As we moved away from the river towards the beach, a flock of about 20 Short toed Lark flew up. Giorgos pointed to a lone palm, *Phoenix theophrasti*. This proved worth investigating, since a little beyond it we saw a male Woodchat Shrike singing from its perch, Common Swift, and a small flock of Yellow Wagtails which included among their number both Grey and Blue headed forms. On the shingle of the beach one notable plant species we were all pleased to see was the member of the Pink family, *Dianthus crinitus ssp. crinitus*, which has

incredible papery pink to white flowers. We were shown *Pancratium maritimum* (Sea daffodil) growing on coastal sands or just above the high tide mark. The plant is pollinated by hawk-moth named *Agrius convolvuli* and can only be cross pollinated. Here too we saw a Stock with which we are all familiar in the UK, *Matthiola longipetala* and the *ssp. pumilio* with its white flowers. A quite beautiful and widespread species we also found is *Salvia viridis*, with its bright blue flowers. It



Green-underside Blue

contrasted well with *Echium angustifolium* (a red flowered Viper's bugloss) and *Paronychia macrosepala* whose tiny flowers have large semi-transparent silvery bracts giving this plant an ethereal appearance. Butterflies recorded included good numbers of Small Copper, Green Underside Blue, Painted Lady, and many Clouded Yellows.



Ophrys rhodia

After a quick bite to eat back at the vehicle, we made our way back up river, stopping by an olive grove. Here, in areas left unspoiled by deep cultivation, we were delighted to find *Orchis italica*, *Serapias bergonii*, *Ophrys colossaea*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (both white and pink form), *Ophrys rhodia*, and *Ophrys sicula*. With perfect conditions, we were able to add a few more butterfly species to the day's tally, including: Eastern Festoon, Swallowtail and Pigmy Skipper.

We left the river and spent time at sites in and around Lardos and Laerma. Here we found *Ophrys bombyliflora*, *Ophrys polyxo*, *Orchis laxiflora* and *Anagallis arvensis*. The latter Scarlet Pimpernels interspersed with blue plants of the *ssp. coerulea* made a colourful show. Under some planted Eucalyptus trees, we found *Ophrys polyxo*, *Orchis Laxiflora*, the Lax flowered Orchid, *Ophrys sicula* with its beautiful yellow flowers and *Serapias bergonii*. We investigated a small pond nearby and put up a pair of Chukar Partridges that exploded from under our feet and quickly disappeared, only to be heard calling again almost immediately. At the pond, there were a number of Odonates including Broad Scarlet Darter and Red veined Darter.

On our way back to base we stopped off at Tsambika Monastery to look at a very special and ancient Oak *Quercus acheri*. We also noted Caper plants and in a garden a Greek father was clearly warning his child of the dangers of Snakes and other scary animals in there, which we all agreed was a sad lesson to be teaching the next generation of would be naturalists!

Our final stop of the day was to a piece of land owned by our local guide, where he wanted to show us some of the other Oaks present on the island. Upon our arrival we flushed a Long-legged Buzzard from its tree top perch and had a good look at it as it left. The Oaks seen were: *Quercus infectoria ssp. veneris* (puckered leaf edge), *Quercus coccifera*, and *Quercus ithaburensis ssp. macrolepi*, a plant which has frilly and decorative acorn cups. Butterflies present here were Swallowtail, Eastern



Ophrys polyxo

Dappled White, Clouded Yellow helice form and Cabbage white caterpillars. Peter also found an attractive Praying Mantis *Empusa fasciata*, which provided us with the day's final photo opportunity.

Day 7: Monday 15th April, Loutani River Valley

After a hearty breakfast we set off on our last day towards the Loutani River Valley, a beautiful area which because of its conservation value has been afforded some protection. We found a few *Ophrys Regis fernandii* going over, a good number of *Anacamptis Papilionaceae ssp. heroica*, *Ophrys lucis*



Serapias bergonii

which had finished flowering, *Serapias bergonii* and *Serapias parviflora*. Here also we could compare the 3 different colour forms of Broomrape, small Purple, large pink and large yellow varieties. The impressive Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris* was showing well, its tall purple spadex (from which it gets its name being likened to a hiding dragon), was easily visible from the road because it is such a tall stately plant. All around the air was filled with the scent of Wild Oregano and Sage. Butterflies seen here included Aegean Meadow Brown, and male Common Blues.

At Epta Piges we found more Dragon Arum, plus Mandrake *Mandragora autumnalis* - but it was not flowering yet. Growing out of the rocks, *Gagea graeca* or Greek Star-of-Bethlehem and more, *Ornithogalum*s were flowering. Broomrapes had become quite a feature of this tour and we found more here too, of the violet coloured variety. *Securigera parviflora* with its little yellow pea like flowers was ever present and a

lone White form of *Limodorum abortivum* which is, according to our local guide, very rare on the island. The small parasitic plant, *Cytinus hypocistis ssp. clusii* (both red and white forms was seen growing under its host plant *Cistus* and under the canopy, we also discovered the atypical pink form of *Limodorum abortivum* – so 3 forms at one site!

The area is a good spot for trees and here we were shown *Phillyrea latifolia ssp. latifolia* (the Green Olive Tree with its toothed waxy leaves) and *Ceratonia siliqua*- the Carob/Locust Bean/ or St John's Bread. During harsh times, people fed on these and its nutritional value has not escaped notice today, since they are being cultivated for flour and sugar. The beans are found in long pods which dangle from the tree and our local guide informed us that one bean weighs one carat and is used as the measure of weight for gold. The Arabic word for Carab is carat. As one final surprise we found the Rhodian Peony *Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia* growing on the rock faces alongside *Allium subhirsutum ssp. subhirsutum*-Hairy Garlic, which has beautiful star shaped white flowers with brownish red anthers.

With surprisingly dull weather closing in we made a slight detour to look for Odalisque Damselflies, which one of the group had been keen to see. By the path of the search area, more Dragon Arums were seen and the Rhodian Pipevine *Aristolochia guichardi* was found in amongst the vegetation

under the olives. This interesting plant is the larval food plant of the *Eastern Festoon* butterfly, an insect which we had seen much of on this holiday. Sticking to the butterfly theme we found Scarce Swallowtail ova that had been laid on *Pyrus amygdaliformis* Almond-leaved Pear.

Further plants picked out were *Salvia viridis*, *Limodorum abortivum*, *Ophrys polyxo*, *Cystus creticus* (a Rockrose which prefers less dry soils), we were treated to *Quercus pubescens*, *Lonicera etrusca* or Etruscan honeysuckle, and *Biarum tenuifolium ssp. zeleborii*. The latter plant is a type of arum, whose leaves eventually disappear leaving the flower only. Our site provided the target species as we were able to locate a single male Odalisque Damselfly, at rest on vegetation by the side of a stream. If the weather had been kinder we would surely have seen more, but one jewel was still enough to lift the spirits and made a pleasant end to the day.



Odalisque damselfly

Day 8: Tuesday 16th April, Departure

A very early flight back to England meant there was no time for any further excursions. The holiday had come to an end but the Orchid hunting had been very rewarding as was all the other wildlife seen during the week, proving what a special and wildlife rich place Greece is to be during spring.



Limodorum abortivum var. rubrum

Species lists

Orchids

No.	Scientific	Common
1	<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid
2	<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Rainbow Ophrys
3	<i>Ophrys fusca</i> ssp. <i>cinereophila</i>	Small-flowered Brown Ophrys
4	<i>Ophrys fusca</i> ssp. <i>parvula</i>	Small Rhodian Ophrys
5	<i>Ophrys fusca</i> ssp. <i>attaviria</i>	Attaviria Ophrys
6	<i>Ophrys fusca</i> ssp. <i>blitopertha</i>	Beetle Ophrys
7	<i>Ophrys lutea</i> ssp. <i>phryganea</i>	Phrygana Ophrys
8	<i>Ophrys sicula</i>	Small Yellow Ophrys
9	<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i>	Royal Ophrys
10	<i>Ophrys regis-fernandii</i>	King Ferdinand's Ophrys
11	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Ophrys
12	<i>Ophrys candica</i>	White Ophrys
13	<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> ssp. <i>colossaea</i>	Giant "Colossus" Ophrys
14	<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> ssp. <i>oreas</i>	Profitis Ilias Ophrys
15	<i>Ophrys holosericea</i> ssp. <i>saliarisi</i>	Saliarisi's Ophrys
16	<i>Ophrys oestriifera</i> ssp. <i>cornutula</i>	Small Horned Ophrys
17	<i>Ophrys oestriifera</i> ssp. <i>polyxo</i>	Rhodian Horned Ophrys
18	<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i> ssp. <i>rhodia</i>	Rhodian Woodcock Ophrys
19	<i>Ophrys cretica</i> ssp. <i>beloniae</i>	Cretan Ophrys
20	<i>Ophrys reinholdii</i>	Reinhold's Ophrys
21	<i>Ophrys lucis</i>	Light Ophrys
22	<i>Ophrys ferrum-equinum</i>	Horseshoe Ophrys
23	<i>Ophrys mammosa</i>	Breasted Ophrys
24	<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	Bergoni's Serapias
25	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Serapias
26	<i>Serapias orientalis</i> ssp. <i>carica</i>	Carican Serapias
27	<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	Lax-flowered Orchid
28	<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> ssp. <i>thaliae</i>	Spotted Butterfly Orchid
29	<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> ssp. <i>heroica</i>	Heroic Butterfly Orchid
30	<i>Anacamptis morio</i> ssp. <i>picta</i>	Spotted Green-winged Orchid
31	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
32	<i>Anacamptis fragrans</i>	Bug Orchid
33	<i>Orchis anatolica</i>	Anatolian Orchid
34	<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid
35	<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian Orchid
36	<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky Orchid
37	<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid
38	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's Nest Orchid
39	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i> var. <i>rubrum</i>	Violet Bird's Nest Orchid
40	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine
41	<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid
42	<i>Ophrys dodekanensis</i>	Dodecanese Ophrys
43	<i>Ophrys oestriifera</i>	Woodcock Ophrys
44	<i>Ophrys oreas</i> x <i>Ophrys dodekanensis</i>	Hybrid
45	<i>Ophrys attaviria</i> x <i>Ophrys polyxo</i>	Hybrid

Birds

Scientific	Common
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Chukar
<i>Ardeola ralliodes</i>	Squacco Heron
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Marsh Harrier
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleanora's Falcon
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian Coot
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	European Turtle Dove
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo
<i>Otus scops</i>	European Scops Owl
<i>Athena noctua</i>	Little Owl
<i>Apus melba</i>	Alpine Swift
<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift
<i>Apus pallidis</i>	Pallid Swift
<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Crested Lark
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla / rufescens</i>	Greater / Lesser Short-toed Lark
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin
<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Eurasian Crag Martin
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Red-rumped Swallow
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit
<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Red-throated Pipit
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
<i>Trogladytes trogladytes</i>	Wren
<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Black-eared Wheatear
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	European Reed Warbler
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Sardinian Warbler
<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit
<i>Lanius senator</i>	Woodchat Shrike
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Eurasian Jay
<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Hooded Crow

Passer domesticus
Passer hispaniolensis
Fringilla coelebs
Carduelis chloris
Carduelis carduelis
Emberiza calandra

House Sparrow
Spanish Sparrow
Chaffinch
European Greenfinch
European Goldfinch
Corn Bunting

Plants

Scientific	Common
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Small-fruited Asphodel
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel
<i>Ornithogalum brachystylum</i>	Short-styled Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Convolvulus dorycnium</i>	Splendid Bindweed
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Red bartsia
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Italian Bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's- bugloss
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss
<i>Echium italicum</i> ssp. <i>biebersteinii</i>	Pale Bugloss
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Cretan Hound's tongue
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Common Knotgrass
<i>Cyclamen rhodium</i>	Rhodian Cyclamen
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Turkish Pine
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Juniperus turbinata</i> ssp. <i>turbinata</i>	
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Large-fruited Juniper
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	Autumn Heather
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Snowdrop Bush
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Mediterranean Lineseed
<i>Collutea arborescens</i>	Bladder Senna
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Wild Asphodel
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted rockrose
<i>Salvia triloba</i>	Three-lobed Sage
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Greek Sage
<i>Salvia viridis</i>	Annual Clary
<i>Satureja thymbra</i> <i>Lithodorum hispidula</i>	Roman Hyssop
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> var. <i>coerulea</i>	Blue-flowered Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Western Salsify
<i>tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Purple Salsify
<i>Tragopogon hybridus</i>	Pasture Goatsbeard
<i>Aristolchia guichardii</i>	Pipevine
<i>Aristolochia parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Dutchman's Pipe
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive Tree

<i>Antirrhinum majus ssp. majus</i>	Snapdragon
<i>Knautia integrifolia ssp. urvillei</i>	Urville's Widowflower
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Mediterranean Strawflower
<i>Helichrysum orientale</i>	Eastern Strawflower
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>	Cretan Phlomis
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	Venus' Looking Glass
<i>Campanula hagielia</i>	Large Rhodian Bellflower
<i>Ornithogalum brachystylum</i>	Star of Bethlehem
<i>Centaurea lactucifolia</i>	Lettuce-leaved Star-thistle
<i>Achillea cretica</i>	Chamomile-leaved Lavender Cotton
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Chios Chamomile
<i>Cistus creticus ssp. creticus</i>	Grey Rock-rose (pink flower)
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered Rock-rose
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Rock-rose
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Fiddle Dock
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle
<i>Cytinus hypocistis ssp. hypocistis</i>	Yellow Cytinus
<i>Cytinus hypocistis ssp. clusii</i>	Red Cytinus
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	Horizontal navelwort
<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut Iris
<i>onobrychis ebenoides</i>	
<i>Onobrychis gracilis</i>	Sainfoin
<i>Onobrychis caput-galli</i>	Cock's-head Sainfoin
<i>Campanula rhodensis</i>	Rhodian Bellflower
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Hirschfeldia incana ssp. incana</i>	Hoary Mustard
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard
<i>Matthiola longipetala ssp. pumilio</i>	Dwarf Night-scented Stock
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Rough Bindweed
<i>Anagallis arvensis var. coerulea</i>	Blue-flowered Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Papaver setigerum</i>	Dwarf Breadseed Poppy
<i>Papaver rhoeas ssp. rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple tree
<i>Quercus aucheri</i>	Aucher's Oak
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus infectoria ssp. veneris</i>	Dyer's Oak
<i>Quercus ithaburensis ssp. macrolepis</i>	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat
<i>Acacia saligna</i>	Golden Wreath Wattle
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob / St. John's Bread
<i>Eucalyptus globulosus</i>	Southern Blue-gum
<i>Liquidambar orientalis</i>	Oriental Sweetgum
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Garden Fig
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall

<i>Securigera securidaca</i>	Goat Pea/Scorpion Vetch
<i>Securigera parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Crown-vetch
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum
<i>Arum dioscoridis</i>	Dioscorides Arum
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cow
<i>Vicia angustifolia</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Hairy vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Garden Vetch
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow-vetch
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>Medicago disciformis</i>	Disk Medick
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Stinking Bean Trefoil
<i>Sanguisorba magnolii</i>	Mediterranean Sheep's-burnet
<i>Silene slamandra</i>	Rhodian Catchfly
<i>Arenaria rhodia ssp. rhodia</i>	Rhodian Sandwort
<i>Colchicum macrophyllum</i>	Autumn Crocus
<i>Colchicum balansae</i>	White Autumn Crocus
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Tooth-leaved clubmoss
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone
<i>Anemone blanda</i>	Balkan Anemone
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Limonium aucheri</i>	Thyme-leaved Sea-lavender
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
<i>Hypericum empetrifoliu</i>	Crowberry-leaved St.John's -wort
<i>Biarum tneuiifolium ssp.zeleborii</i>	Narrow-leaved Biarum
<i>Colutea insularis</i>	Rhodian Bladder Senna
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Astragalus echinatus</i>	Hedgehog Milkvetch
<i>Neatostema apulum</i>	Yellow Gromwell
<i>Alkanna tinctoria ssp. subleiocarpa</i>	Turkish Dyer's Alkanet
<i>Lamium moschatum ssp. moschatum</i>	Musk Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium moschatum ssp. moschatum</i>	Musk Dead-nettle
<i>Dianthus crinitus ssp. crinitus</i>	Long -haired Pink
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Silver Nailwort
<i>Paronychia macrosepala</i>	Large-flowered Nailwort
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus
<i>Gladiolus anatolicus</i>	Anatolian Gladiolus
<i>Silene behen</i>	Hairless Catchfly
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-purslane
<i>Kali pontica</i>	Pontus Saltwort
<i>Linum strictum</i>	Stiff Flax
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle
<i>Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia</i>	Rhodes Peony
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Common Grape Vine
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	Morning-glory
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Autumn Mandrake

Ferula communis
Allium junceum
Genista acanthoclada ssp. echinus
Hyoscyamus aureus
Gagea graeca
Allium neapolitanum
Allium subhirsutum ssp. subhirsutum
Muscari comosum
Asparagus aphyllus
Ranunculus chius
Reseda lutea
Rubus sanctus
Pallensis spinosa
Genista acanthoclada
Orobanche pubescens
Phelipanche mutelii var. nana
Orobanche minor
Orobanche crenata
securigera securidaca
Pulicaria Arabica
Ornithogalum Montanum
Arum cretica
Fritillaria rhodia
Silene salamandra
Phoenix theophrasti
Pancreatium maritimum
Matthiola longipetala
Matthiola longipetala ssp. pumilo
Mandragora autumnalis
Phillyrea latifolia ssp. latifolia
Aristolochia guichardi
Pyrus amygdaliformis

Giant Fennel
 Red Serpentine Leek
 Thorny Broom
 Golden Henbane
 Greek Star-of Bethlehem
 Neapolitan Garlic
 Hairy Garlic
 Tassel Hyacinth
 Mediterranean Asparagus
 Chios Buttercup
 Wild Mignonette
 Holy Bramble
 Spiny Golden Star
 Thorny Broom
 Downy Broomrape
 Dwarf Broomrape /Mutel's Broomrape
 Common Broomrape
 Bean Broomrape
 Goat Pea
 Ladies' False Fleabane
 Mountain Star-of-Bethlehem

Rhodes Fritillary
 Rhodian Catchfly

Sea Daffodil
 Night-scented Stock
 Dwarf Night-scented Stock
 Mandrake
 Green Olive Tree
 Rhodian Dutchman's Pipe
 Almond-leaved Pear

Butterflies

Scientific	Common
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White
<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Eastern Bath White
<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Black-veined White
<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	Eastern Dappled White
<i>Colias crocea</i>	Clouded Yellow
<i>Colias croceus croceus f. helice</i>	Clouded yellow Helice
<i>Gonepteryx Cleopatra ssp. fiori</i>	Cleopatra
<i>Papilio machaon</i>	European Swallowtail
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Scarce Swallowtail
<i>Allancastris cerisyi</i>	Eastern Festoon
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral
<i>Spialia orbifor</i>	Hungarian Skipper
<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>	Pigmy Skipper

Carcharodus alceae
Lasiommata maera
Maniola telmessia
Lycaena phaelas
Lycaena thersamon
Polyommatus icarus
Celastrina argiolus
Lampides boeticus
Glaucopsyche alexis
Calophrys rubi

Mallow Skipper
 Large Wall Brown
 Aegean Meadow Brown
 Small Copper
 Lesser Fiery Copper
 Common Blue
 Holly Blue
 Long-tailed Blue
 Green Underside Blue
 Green Hairstreak

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Scientific

Anax parthenope
Anax imperator
Crocothemis erythraea
Onychogomphus forcipatus
Epallage fatime
Sympetrum fonscolombii
Orthetrum coerulescens ssp. anceps

Common

Lesser Emperor
 Emperor
 Broad Scarlet
 Small Pincertail
 Odalisque
 Red-veined Darter
 Keeled Skimmer southern form

Reptiles & Amphibians

Scientific

Blanus strauchi
Carphophis amoenus amoenus
Platyceps najadum
Coluber caspius
Chalcides ocellatus
Trachylepis aurata
Ablepharus kitaibelii
Anatololacerta oertzeni
Lacerta trilineata
Ophisops elegans
Laudakia stellio
Hemidactylus turcicus
Mauremys caspica
Hyla arborea
Pelophylax cerigensis
Bufo viridis

Common

Anatolian Worm Lizard
 Worm Snake
 Dahl's Whip Snake
 Large Whip Snake
 Ocellated Skink
 Levant Skink
 Snake-eyed Skink
 Oertzen's Rock Lizard
 Balkan Green Lizard
 Snake-eyed Lizard
 Starred Agama
 Turkish Gecko
 Caspian Terrapin
 European Tree Frog
 Karpathos Water Frog
 Green Toad

Other notable fauna

Scientific	Common
<i>Empusa fasciata</i>	Devil's Horse Praying Mantis
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Hare
<i>Martes foina</i>	Beech Marten (roadkills)
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog (roadkills)
<i>Ladigesocypris ghigii</i>	Gizani fish

Photo Gallery







Ophrys phryganae



Ophrys blitoptertha



Ophrys ferrum equinum



Peter & John photographing Rhodes Peonies



Peter photographing insects on Asphodel



Red Basket Fungus



Clouded Yellows



Parentucellia latifolia



Green Hairstreak on Asphodel



Wild Gladioli



Large Wall Brown



Anenome blanda



Green Hairstreak on Cistus creticus



Yellow Cytinus



Red Cytinus



O.attaviria x O.polyxo



O.attaviria x O.polyxo