

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Crete

U3A Cambridge Bird Club

15 – 23 April 2009

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Holiday participants

Sally Head
Ann Knight
Thea Cockcroft
Holly Anderson
Claude Smith
Graham and Jill Garrett
Malcolm and Ann Ruel
Peter and Caroline Chamberlain

David and Clare Blatherwick
Suki Sharples
Robin Harrison
Jean Walker
Jane Bett
Cathy Edwards
Eve Corder
Moir Robinson

Leaders

Robin and Rachel Hamilton; Chris Durdin

Daily diary by Chris Durdin, with additional bits by Rachel and Robin. Plant list by Rachel Hamilton, other lists by Robin Hamilton.

Photos by Chris Durdin, except the mass of *Cyclamen creticum* (page 7) by Rachel Hamilton.

Front cover: tulips on the Omalos plateau. Below: freshwater crab and *Fritillaria messanensis*

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £35 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the lammergeier project of the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS), which is based in Athens but whose work covers the whole of Greece and its islands. The conservation contribution this year of £35 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust plus £25 for the use of wildlife checklists kindly supplied free of charge by Stephanie Coghlan, a total of £905 (€960). This was handed over to HOS President Michalis Probonas who kindly met us at Heraklion airport shortly before we left Crete.

This brings Honeyguide's total contributions to HOS since the first Honeyguide holiday in Crete in 1995 to £7,238. The total for conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was **£56,741** at the end of April 2009.

Information on the lammergeier project is at <http://www.ornithologiki.gr/en/lib/engypbar.htm>



Crete
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Wednesday 15 April – arriving in Crete

A typical group arrives in Crete with Honeyguide leaders, but this year we were doing it differently. Robin, Rachel and Chris had already been on Crete for two days, were waiting in the crowd at Heraklion airport for the incoming flight from Aegean Air and were very happy to see the 20 from Cambridge U3A emerge safely into arrivals.

The flight had gone fairly smoothly, we learnt, though a delayed take-off meant it was more than half an hour late arriving. This had given plenty of time to organise the three Budget minibuses, so despite the traffic chaos outside we were parked nearby and facing in the right direction and we were able to load quickly and make a quick getaway for an evening meal. This meant a very short drive into Alikarnassos and the Seven Seas restaurant, where we made the 9.30 start we'd hoped for. A pre-arranged spread of starters, Greek salads and main courses helped fill tummies and recharge batteries while keeping the timing tight. We were away about 11 o'clock for the drive to Plakias, arriving at one o'clock – though that was a slightly less daunting 11 o'clock UK time. Kostas and Vangelis from the Hotel Sofia had kindly stayed up, and even former owner George was there to help with bags. Then it was swiftly to rooms and bed.

Thursday 16 April – walk to Myrthios

After a late breakfast and introductory words at the hotel, we were still ready to move at 10.30, firstly walking down to the beach to take in the geography of Plakias Bay and town. We noted piles of seagrass on the beach, including the remains tumbled by the sea into fibrous balls known in Menorca as 'nuns' farts', as Robin pointed out. Distant birds over the cliff were tricky to make out but were probably buzzards and ravens, with a few yellow-legged gulls, but there were soon plenty of views of closer buzzards and kestrels as we moved out of the town. We paused by the bridge over the river that comes from Kotsifóu gorge, noting the showy endemic Cretan wall lettuce on a rocky bank. With a large and sometimes spread out group it's difficult to give an account of what was seen as it may not apply to everyone, but certainly all took in many of the showy wayside flowers like crown daisies, yellow honeywort and both blue and scarlet forms of scarlet pimpernel. It was warm enough to tempt butterflies on the wing and there were many of the orangey southern speckled woods, lots too of mustard-coloured clouded yellows, holly blues and a few swallowtails.

Sardinian warblers chattered everywhere, and some but not all saw them well. Two red-rumped swallows zapped though, plus several 'ordinary' swallows and eight little egrets were spotted flying into land over the bay. A Cetti's warbler was, characteristically, heard but not seen; goldfinches, blackcaps and chaffinches were probably the most noted birds. The flower observations continued apace, with pink *Cistus creticus*, tongue orchids and three-lobed sage just three of scores. The scent-scape – is that a word? – included shrubby Mediterranean thyme and pitch trefoil. Showy invertebrates included stripy-eyed Egyptian locusts, black and white flower chafers *Oxythyrea funesta* and a bright yellow crab spider waiting for prey but appallingly camouflaged on a purple galactites thistle.



Rachel was busying ferrying some of the group up the steeper bits of the hill, and bit by bit we wound our way past olive trees and pomegranate towards Myrthios. Here the Panorama taverna was waiting for us with beers and other cold drinks; it lives up to its name as the views down to Plakias Bay are superb. From here, as indeed from Plakias onwards, we could see the chestnut crown on sparrows that confirmed their identity as Italian sparrows. Lunch was a leisurely affair, as was the return down the hill, much of it by a different route. Robin's little group listened to a green toad in a concrete irrigation channel. Many of the group then had tea by the seaside, but Suki, Holly and Jill earned a mention in despatches by swimming in the sea.

After meeting to look at plans for tomorrow and checklists, we took the short hop, skip and jump (distance-wise, not literally) to the Sofia tavern. We'd pre-arranged a selection of starters, everyone chose their own main meal and one or two (no names mentioned!) even had a pudding – oh and raki and baklava for anyone who fancied them afterwards.

Friday 17 April – Moní Préveli and Kourtaliotiko Gorge

There was a good contingent up early for a little pre-breakfast birdwatching, helped by a warm, still morning. Under the bridge in the centre of Plakias a common sandpiper was feeding, and the usual yellow-legged gulls were noted around the harbour. On the open land to the east of the town a bright male whinchat perched on a fence; scanning round we quickly found two more. Goldfinches were feeding on weed seeds and a crested lark settled on some open land.

Passing a Naturetrek group on the way, we were quickly at the famous monastery of Moni Preveli. Before there was time to explain that the first plan was to look down over the trees in the sheltered area below we were all doing that anyway as a wood warbler was flitting around in a cypress tree. A stonechat sat proudly on a nearer cypress, as did a male Sardinian warbler. After a while of searching out distant flycatchers and blue rock thrushes we descended below the monastery, pausing very briefly for two turtle doves flying past and rather longer for a black-eared wheatear on the fence. Robin Harrison scanned the rocky horizon and picked out the silhouette of a beautiful chukar for us all to see. There were more and better views of wood warblers and both pied and spotted flycatchers, especially on a tall dead tree. Alpine swifts kept up their aerial manoeuvres. At the end of the track, by the barking dogs and goat enclosure, there were fine views over the rocks and down to the sea plus a closer view of the blue rock thrush seen in the distance. We retraced our steps to the café and were reunited with Ann K, who had been exploring the extensive and fascinating monastery itself. A brief burst of willow warbler song in the trees next to the café alerted us to a cluster of migrant warblers, conveniently near to our cold drinks, which included at least two close wood warblers and what was probably a female whitethroat.

After drinks and loos it was already approaching lunchtime so we drove to the old Venetian bridge to find some shade by the river Megalapotamus. We were lucky enough to find two freshwater crabs in a shallow backwater of the river, though both were too shy to be photographed. Going over the bridge there was a selection of small flowers in the cracks in the stones, including the tiny bellflower *Campanula erinus*, evax and the thyme-like *Micromeria*, with the deliciously vanilla-scented white flowers on storax trees completing a magical riverside picture.



Next stop was briefly to retrace our route to the memorial for the monks at the monastery who sheltered British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers during the German occupation in WW2. This was surrounded by garrigue, yellow with Jerusalem sage, Greek spiny broom and spikes of yellow asphodels. My attempt to explain about the distinctive vegetation – phrygana on Crete – was interrupted by a singing ortolan bunting, though it then disappeared and stopped singing.

It was then a short drive to the magnificent Kourtaliotiko gorge, which we had passed through in darkness two days ago. Immediately griffon vultures appeared and we watched ravens attending a nest with three chicks high on the cliff-face. Crag martins, a black-eared wheatear and another blue rock thrush added to the mix. Walking into the gorge is easy, with stone steps leading past a chapel and to the river at the bottom. It was like a rock garden with large tree spurge, various 'chicken netting' and other garrigue plants, and several Cretan specialities. The last included pink ricotia, like a tiny honesty, Cretan rock comfrey (procopiana), Cretan valerian and Cretan cyclamen, with turban buttercups and a host of others in the supporting cast. At the bottom looking up there was a trickle of griffon vultures, then Suki was alert to a raven chasing a big bird of prey – a Bonelli's eagle! This went on for several minutes so all who'd made the descent had good, if a little distant, views of this often elusive raptor. We trudged back up the steps, the botanists, as usual, lingering over the tiny flowers. Moira nobly and agilely ran back down to the bottom and back to check that we had left the little chapel properly locked!

We headed home but Robin's group stopped at Holly's shout of a woodchat shrike, then back at Plakias three squacco herons were found on a rock in the sea to the west of the harbour: tired migrants on their way to eastern Europe.



Tonight's taverna meal was at the family-run Korali with a large spread of starters, some excellent fish and a home-made dessert of jam made from carrots, and very good it was too. Then we enjoyed a brief dancing display by the waiter, Jean and two other customers – perhaps the raki played a part?

Saturday 18 April – Festos and Agia Triada

Jill went off to see the common sandpiper under the bridge, and the rest of the early risers started at the squacco rocks – though they had gone – and walked west from there. Here we admired Crete's most famous endemic plant, Cretan ebony (not an ebony at all – more like a sainfoin), which grows by the beach and in profusion on the hillside beyond the edge of town. It was more than a bit quiet bird-wise until it was almost breakfast-time when a nightingale started to sing from the cliff-side scrub and a red-rumped swallow flew along the cliff-top.

The drive to Festos took us through Kourtaliotiko Gorge and Spili, past the acres of tomatoes grown under rather ugly plastic sheeting near Agia Galini, alongside hillsides sprinkled liberally with the white of turban buttercups and the statuesque yellow spikes of giant fennel, through Timbaki and finally, 90 minutes later, into the car park at the famous Minoan site of Festos. Two coach parties arrived just after us prompting a quick walk up the steps to the café and the historic site for some. Those who took their time found a close chukar, standing in the shade under a very small tree and calling to compete with another male somewhere on the hillside. Whether or not history grabs you,



Festos's landscape setting on the side of the hill is very striking; everyone certainly grabbed a drink in the café. By chance, entrance into the historic site was free today encouraging many to take a trip around, self-guided with a guidebook. There was natural history as well as history in the shape of an ocellated skink that slipped away under a rock and in spite of Moira's coaxing, refused to show itself again. Peter, David and Clare returned with wonderful descriptions of a golden oriole that settled in a pine tree 20 feet from them. Graham and Claude, guarding the telescopes back at the café, studied a southern comma butterfly and there was the briefest of views of a golden oriole too as we looked out towards the snow-capped Psiloritis Mountains.

The chukar was still there in the shade as we descended towards the car park, with another (the female?) squatting besides it. Agia Triada is three kilometres away and many walked all of it, with others accepting a lift for part of the way, past large areas of hillside dominated by Cretan ebony. After eating picnics we looked for

orchids, notably Cretan bee orchid and two fan-lipped orchids that were almost over. Some then went into the Agia Triada site itself but most walked round the outside of it finding mammo, pyramidal and gone-over giant orchids on the descent. In the river flood plain below, once orchards but now semi-derelict, there was the briefest view of a distant oriole, four turtle doves on a wire and a whinchat on a fence, as well as the usual suspects like buzzards, hooded crows and stonechats. Happily this year there was plenty of water in the river, with two wood sandpipers in the shallows. We watched a night heron, standing behind a tamarisk, its plumes waving in the breeze; it eventually

flew up and a shout from Eve found us a squacco heron then just as we were leaving, Holly spotted two little ringed plovers and a moment later, two little egrets were added to the wetland birds list.

We filled up the minibus tanks with diesel outside Plakias, where the lady at the garage kindly fetched orange blossom for us to take away, plus four lemons picked off a tree.

The evening meal was back in the Sofia taverna, speeded along by choosing a selection of starters and main courses to share in advance. The speed was to allow time to prepare for a 10.30pm departure to Moni Preveli. Tonight was Easter Saturday in the Greek Orthodox Easter calendar when many villages have services and celebrations, and the monastery at Moní Préveli is a special place to visit at this time, and they are very happy to welcome visitors. Two minibus loads set off in good time, hoping to witness the arrival of a specially lit flame flown in from Jerusalem. However, this had happened earlier and, with too much background light to look at stars, we made our way into the bright and highly decorated Monastery Chapel. The service was already in full swing, though the congregation was only beginning to drift in. We followed what we could of the majestic and colourful spectacle: singing, chanting and bell ringing. More and more people arrived, with brightly dressed children carrying highly decorated candles and eventually the procession began headed, we understood later, by the Archbishop of Crete. Candles were lit throughout the chapel from the light flown in from Jerusalem, and the congregation processed outside. Chanting and bell-ringing continued but candles quickly got blown out by the wind. A little unauthorised activity began – village lads throwing firecrackers from the darkness of the bushes and parked cars. We decided it was probably time to make our way home and were rewarded by a nice view of a beech marten as we drove down the hill.

Sunday 19 April – Kotsifóu Gorge and beyond

The early birders, slightly later than normal, drove to Damnoni beach, round the headland from Plakias. A sedge warbler was singing as we arrived, though out of sight. We wandered round, seeing very little, then back at the minibus we found the sedge warbler moving along a fence-line, singing as it went.

After breakfast, our first stop today was at Souda Bay, just west of Plakias. In theory this was to be a brief stop to see the near-endemic Cretan palm, of which there is a nice grove in the sheltered valley running up from the beach. But in practice there was much more to see. The field flowers included large patches of mixed pure yellow and two-coloured crown daisies, and by the side of the road were both many large purple flowers of salsify and the smaller



flowers of its sister *Tragopogon hybridus*: the flower heads are smaller but it still has the usual huge bracts. I caught a ground bug *Lygaeus equestris* (left) that Eve kindly allowed to crawl over her jacket while I photographed it so we could later confirm its ID. A fine black-eared wheatear, black-throated form, showed for a while on a large rock, then two woodchat shrikes perched on hillside bushes, often against the skyline. So much for the advice that telescopes wouldn't be needed, which so often seems to help bring out the birds. We had just looked closely at some naked man orchids – after yesterday examining the 'breasts' on mammose orchids you can imagine the comments when examining these orchids' dangly bits – and were moving back towards the minibuses when an unusual *Sylvia* warbler started to sing from a lentisc bush. It turned out to be a spectacled warbler, and we had excellent if brief views of the strong chestnut panel on its wings, white throat and eye ring (its spectacles). A few rich opening notes to its song, reminiscent of blackbird or blackcap, was a clinching feature when we checked the song on Robin's iPod. Peter was kindly stationed to point out tawny mining bees as we descended to the minibuses by the beach.

We returned through Plakias, where lambs were already being spit-roasted to mark Easter, and then we climbed (in the minibuses) out of Myrthios towards Kotsifóu gorge. We stopped by the road this time for a genuinely quick stop to scan for vultures, which were there but distant. It's a good place to look down on the old Venetian water mill that once helped with olive oil production, and beyond that to Plakias Bay. We noted the peculiar but attractive one-flowered clover, of which there was much more at following stops. Beyond the gorge we stopped again, pottering on a small area that overlooks the top of the gorge. Three crow species – jackdaw, hooded crow and raven – were perhaps of less note than a pied flycatcher in 'scope view across the other side of the valley. Flowers here included hundreds of the pretty white lily *Gagea graeca* and many *Anemone hortensis* ssp. *heldreichii*. A quick clamber past some spiny broom took a few of the more keen or agile up to four monkey orchids and some bishop's ophrys. Our first scarce swallowtail and a Cretan festoon flew all too quickly past us.

Lunch was in the mixed wood of cypresses and downy oaks beyond the next village of Kanevos. We'd nicknamed this the 'bus-stop' due to a wooden structure by the track; by now we were slightly off-road. This was mostly to disguise the natural history treat here: dense sheets of Cretan cyclamen carpeting the woodland floor with white, like wood anemones in an English wood. Robin was alert to some flycatchers in the oaks above; with quite an effort we were able to see them both well enough to know we had a male pied flycatcher and, better still, a male collared flycatcher.



A few hundred metres towards Kali Sikea we made our final stop by a roadside bank, albeit behind a fence, rich in orchids. Showy pink Italian man orchids and the pale green spikes of man orchid were the most obvious. Entering the area from a farm track the list grew: marengo orchid (*Ophrys heldreichi*), bumblebee ophrys, creberrima ophrys (a sombre bee *Ophrys fusca* type), *Serapias orientalis*, giant orchid (almost over) and the yellow bee orchid *Ophrys sicula*. The birders found serins, corn bunting and whinchat, and amazingly, on the other side of the road, another collared flycatcher, showing better, though more distant, than the earlier one, on an almond-leaved pear bush.

It was time to return, but taking a small detour over the hill to the east of Plakias led to another surprise as a nightingale shot across the road and into a bush. A wood sandpiper had joined the usual common sandpiper in the river this evening, too. We returned to the Korali taverna where the pre-ordered mix of starters – *mezes* – seemed to go down very well, as did the Greek yoghurt and honey kindly provided by the taverna for afters.

Monday 20 April – Agia reservoir and Omalos Plateau

Before breakfast we had a fruitless search for the Spanish sparrow I'd found the previous evening, but we found a whitethroat as we walked towards Jill's preferred bakery on the road out of Plakias.

We managed a prompter getaway at 9.10 today to allow for the long journey, though there was a very brief stop on the road to Rethymnon to collect some large and distinctive acorn cups from vallonias oaks. Then the long road to Hania before heading off the bypass on the Omalos road to Agia and the turn with the swan sign that takes you to Crete's best wetland birdwatching site, an hour and three-quarters after our departure. That description sounds like one that might end in disappointment, but far from it. We'd barely climbed the steps to the embankment overlooking the reservoir when two small crakes appeared in the gaps in the vegetation right in front of us. First to show was tiny Baillon's crake, showing well the white scribbles on its back and sides; then a slightly larger female little crake on which the red base to its bill was just about visible. We also later found grey male little crakes farther away through the telescopes.



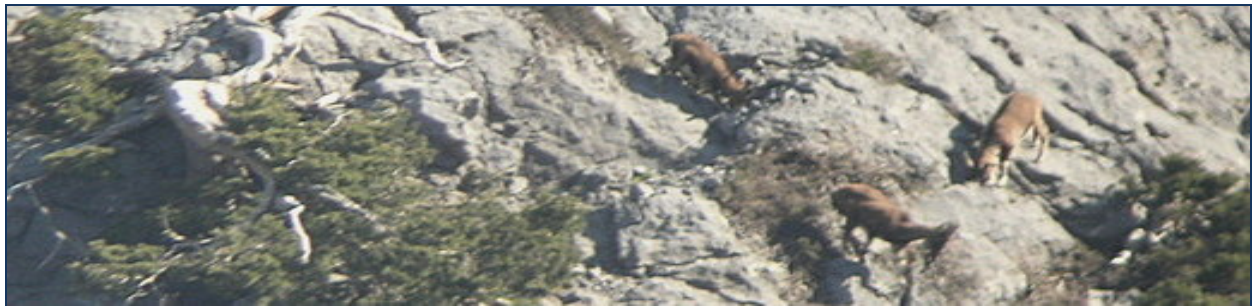
A black-winged stilt feeding on floating vegetation didn't need binoculars to be seen well, and two wood sandpipers moved around, often quite close to the watching group. Walking right, Malcolm and Ann had seen what they thought might be a little bittern in the edge of the reedmace, and when we found a squacco heron there were brief doubts as to whether this was the bird. But a superb male little bittern did appear, and we watched it feeding with great energy - as Caroline pointed out, stretching its neck, body and legs like an extending shaving mirror, to reach for a fish - before it flew



past, showing its large pink patches on the wings. (Proof, if proof were needed, in the pictures on the previous page and left.) A couple of little egrets, a male shoveler, several sedge warblers, a black-headed wagtail and a marsh harrier added to the mix. We had fresh orange

juice and coffee at the taverna by the shrubby milkwort bushes and lunched on the reservoir's edge.

An hour later we had taken the long and winding road up to our first stop on the amazing Omalos plateau, high in the Lefka Ori, or White Mountains. We pulled up to admire a field rich with thousands of tulips *Tulipa saxitalis* (*ssp bakeri*), if you are inclined to split the species into its low and high altitude subspecies). Woodlarks, whinchats, wheatears, a woodchat shrike and six tree pipits kept the birders happy. Then it was on to the viewpoint over the start of Samaria Gorge before climbing the steps to the café where the bewhiskered Aristotelis served drinks before working his magic to locate some *kri-kris* – the Cretan wild goat – far away on the hillside opposite. We found four, eventually, by that pine with the twisty trunk, and many other café users came to peer through our telescopes.



We drove the long way round the plateau on the return journey, stopping by a temporary pond, complete with EU-funded sign explaining its importance and some local history. Some of the botanists went off to enjoy, and photograph, a fantastic spectacle of tulips, irises and anemones in an area that was less firmly fenced against goats and sheep than some. A flock of sheep was followed by some 20 yellow wagtails, which showed well in the late afternoon sunshine; males were blue-headed with one black-headed.

After the descent from the plateau we paused at Ann R's suggestion at a roadside stall selling local honey (rather over-priced) and other local produce, but opposite it, and run by the same delightful family, was a taverna with plenty of seats so we took the impromptu decision to drop the planned evening meal in Rethymnon and eat here. Dinner included plates of *horta* – wild greens, in this case, wild asparagus – that were generally well-received, and the usual over-generous portions. Almond biscuits and loquats were presented to us for afters. Blackcap and Cetti's warbler sang and tree frogs started to call in the surrounding orange grove as dusk fell. We were back in Plakias just before 11 o'clock.



Tuesday 21 April – Spili bumps and beyond

There seemed to be a lot of bird activity and Thea pointed out a group of thermalling griffon vultures as we drove through Kourtalio Gorge, so we stopped in the open area at the gorge's top. Griffons were numerous, ravens, jackdaws, kestrel, alpine swift and possible choughs the supporting cast. Up with the griffons – and to Claude's great delight (he had not been down to see the first one) – was a Bonelli's eagle, much as on our previous visit. Then, joy of joys, a lammergeier flew in to join the griffons, allowing comparisons of size and shape. It flew just below the top of the ridge, circled for a while against the sky then disappeared over the top and didn't return. It appeared to be an adult bird with a pale belly, though it was too high to see any face pattern.

We took the scenic high road to Spili, which seemed a good idea until a dustcart wished to come in the opposite direction, leading to reversing and manoeuvring into a small side road, all with patience and good humour. The monastery area in Spili by which we turned up the Gerakari road was chock-a-block with parked cars; from the waiting priest and police it appeared that there was a sizeable gathering, perhaps involving a visiting dignitary. But we eased safely through, heard a cirl bunting on the way up the hill and parked a little way above the famous Spili 'bumps', the Kedros foothills, where botanists (alive or dead?) are in heaven. It can be good for birds; a shout from Sally drew our attention to a lovely display of a woodlark singing against the snow-capped mountains behind but the good fortune of finding the lammergeier in Kourtaliotiko Gorge meant that Holly and David were relieved of their sky-searching duties here.



A list of orchids doesn't do justice to the area, which is always brilliant, though rarely the same. But here's a list – complete I hope – of what we saw as a group: loose-flowered orchid, Cretan ophrys, sawfly ophrys, Marengo (Heldreich's) ophrys; *Orchis boryi*, four-spotted orchid, few-flowered orchid, Italian man orchid in their scores (*above*), man orchid, bishop's ophrys, milky orchid and the yellow bee orchid *Ophrys sicula*. Add in an unidentified tongue orchid, a probable pyramidal orchid in bud and few *Ophrys fusca* types and that's 15, and we know there are others there which we may have missed or were just not in flower today.

Added to this there were splashes of red tulips (the Cretan endemic *Tulipa doerfleri*), purple fodder vetch, bright green perfoliate alexanders, white one-flowered clover and gagea and yellow corn marigolds, to name just a few. Plus birds too, especially two short-toed larks, woodlarks, a singing quail and griffon vultures. Rachel crossed the ditch near the road with some of the keenest botanists, across the fallen tree that for many also provides the way onto the 'bumps'.



Lunch was in Spili town, for many *gyros* eaten in the square by the lion-head water fountains, with Cretan festoon butterflies and a scarce swallowtail flying past. Then time to have a drink or buy bathmats, slippers or herbs for feta cheese.

The afternoon walk was Honeyguide's first venture beyond Spili bumps, a track to the left of the road just after a garage, checked out by Robin, Rachel and me in the two days before the group arrived. The star of the show here were fritillaries *Fritillaria messanensis*, in bud on our reccy nearly a week ago but perfect now, and bushes of the fragrant *Daphne sericea*, now in very good flower. There was a nice clump of the tiny bartsia called *Parentucellia* (*above*), more tulips and cyclamen. Jean located a singing turtle dove and many in the group had a fine view of a

male girl bunting on a fence. Though windy, there were butterflies around, notably a fine male Cleopatra and an eastern dappled white for all to study in the bugbox – much to Clare's delight. Then back to Plakias, a swim for some and dinner at the Korali taverna.

Wednesday 22 April- Frangocastello and Imbros Gorge

There was a flock of sand martins, then joined by house martins and swallows, over the breaking waves in the bay before breakfast. We then walked through the olive groves beyond the bridge that takes you up to Myrthios, finding the tiny bellflower *Solenopsis* on a stone face, Eve's first red-rumped swallow and two or three turtle doves.

Heading west after breakfast, I saw the first land/freshwater crab just too late but the whole group helped the second across the road. It's a spectacular, winding drive, through narrow villages and across a beautiful bridge at Rodakino. At Frangocastello, it was very, very windy. We looked at the mandrake plants outside and inside the fort, noting white henbane too. On the beach there were five gull-billed terns which we thought we'd try to get nearer to, but another beach visitor got there first and off they flew, though three did land again soon after. After drinks, and admiring the café's stuffed buzzard, we tried to find some migrants; the wind meant few birds, though we did have excellent views of a singing crested lark that seemed to fly slowly backwards into the wind and Jane and Cathy, botanically minded to the last, hunkered down out of the wind and enjoyed the amazing diversity of tiny plants thriving in this exposed and arid environment. A purple heron flew off the sea as we reached the minibuses by the fort. The wind was whipping up dust, so we headed away from the coast and soon found a sheltered pull-in off the road, overlooking the coastal plain, which did nicely for picnics. There was a superb dragon arum by the bus, a pied flycatcher in a sheltered spot and common blue and small heath (a Crete subspecies) were new butterflies for the week and a large clump of delphinium *Delphinium staphysagria* (sadly not yet in flower) was a new Honeyguide record.

Imbros gorge was still having the road widened so we had to go through road works as well as negotiate 39 bends (Ann R was counting) before stopping at the top. There were six griffon vultures in the sky, ravens and a kestrel, but having seen raptors so well in Kourtaliotiko Gorge we decided against a longer stay and headed down. A Montagu's harrier flew across by the petrol station near the foot of the gorge, but like most things today it wasn't hanging around. We paused on the return journey for photos of Plakias Bay and to drop shoppers in Myrthios. Our final meal was in the Gio-Ma taverna, including short speeches from Claude and Graham and a chance to compare holiday highlights.

Thursday 23 April – Heraklion, Athens and home

We had a very civilised departure time of an hour or so after breakfast and a safe and smooth drive to Heraklion. Michalis Probonas, President of the Board of the Hellenic Ornithological Society, works at the museum in Heraklion and he kindly made his regular trip to the airport to meet us and to receive the Honeyguide cheque for HOS. Bearded vultures, as they prefer to call lammergeiers here, are making good progress on Crete, he reported. Most of the five or six pairs – some 30 individuals – are in the mountains in the western part of Crete, making our good view of one in Kourtaliotiko Gorge in central Crete an added privilege. But it was soon time to head into departures and away on our two-leg journey with Aegean Air to Athens and on to Stansted.



Highlights, Crete 2009: Clockwise round the table, starting with...

Claude: watching one of the group giving careful manoeuvring instructions to a minibus driver as he reversed: “Right hand hard down...back a bit...back a bit...Ow!...could you go forward just a bit – you’ve run over my foot!”

Ann Knight: such a beautiful island; the lammergeier and Bonelli’s eagle; the collared flycatcher among the cyclamen.

Sally: the woodlark rising and singing with the snowy mountains behind; the crakes; the giant fennel.

Peter: the little bittern; the golden oriole, so close, at Festos; the little crane; the spectacular and extraordinary drive up to top of the Imbros Gorge.

Thea: the scenery, particularly the patterns of trees seen from high vantage points; the thermalling vultures; the little bittern; all the variety of orchids.

Jane: the walk down into Kourtaliótiko Gorge, with the little pockets of cyclamens; the baby vultures in the nest; the little bittern with its feet clutching the reed stems; Spili Bumps.

Suki: the size and elegance of the griffon vultures thermalling, and the view of their nest; the scent of the bay leaves scattered on the floor at Moní Préveli for the Easter eve service; so many first experiences.....

Holly: all these things.....; and the baby ravens; the turban buttercups everywhere; the green veining on the underside of the dappled white.

Cathy: the black-winged stilt; Spili Bumps – the scrambling over the rocks, and the flowers; lying out with Rachel and Jane, looking at the tiny plants at Frangocástello.

Maira: so many kindred spirits all enjoying everything: good company, the food and the drink.

Malcolm: the cyclamen in the wood and the ‘Easyjet’ tee-shirt teasing; the reservoir with baby coots; the little bittern.

Ann Ruel: the beautiful island in constant sunshine; Spili Bumps – orchid heaven; saying to Chris “could that be a little bittern?”...and it was!

Graham: the little bittern, squacco heron and little crane all together; the view of the Omalós plateau, with its fields of flowers and the surrounding mountains.

Jill: seeing the common sandpiper regularly, every day; the view of the mountains from the sea while swimming in the beautiful bay; the flowers, especially the tulips, lupins and yellow Bermuda buttercups; the friendship of everyone.

Jean: the reservoir with the little bittern; the great company; the golden oriole; stopping on spec on the way back from Omalós and finding the wonderful taverna.

Clare: the little bittern, little crane and squacco heron all in one view; the cyclamens with the collared flycatcher; the wonderful close view of the dappled white.

Eve: an altogether fantastic holiday; seeing the night heron with its plumes blowing in the breeze; the walk beyond Spili Bumps; the dragon arum.

David: the magic of Crete in general – a super place; Festos: seeing the golden oriole drop down only 20 feet away and being able to pose as a competent birdwatcher!

Robin Harrison: super company; Crete is gorgeous; the flowers are amazing – the profusion of colour; the birds – two stood out for personal reasons: finding the chukar at Moní Préveli and, for the first time seeing a Sardinian warbler really well there.

Caroline: a beautiful island, so unspoilt in comparison with Cyprus; the Cretan people are a delight. The little bittern’s lunge at a fish, reminiscent of an extending shaving mirror.

And finally:

Chris: the flowers: Spili Bumps; the yellow hillsides covered in broom, Jerusalem sage and crown daisies; the birds: especially Baillon’s crane (a lifer); the fact that it all worked logistically, despite the size of the group.

Rachel: a lovely week; one special highlight to remember forever: the glade in the wood full of cyclamen with the collared flycatcher overhead.

Robin: the Bonelli’s eagle being mobbed by a raven; the cyclamen glade with the collared flycatcher.

BIRD LIST CRETE 15 – 23 April 2009

Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Several at Agia reservoir
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	One offshore at Moní Préveli
Little bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	One seen well at Agia Reservoir
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	One at Geropotamos river
Squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Three at Plakiás, one at Geropotamos river and one at Agia Reservoir
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Ones and twos at Plakiás, Geropotamos river and Agia Reservoir
Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A migrating individual at Frangocástello
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	A drake at Agia Reservoir
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	One seen well at Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Seen regularly over hills and gorges; a pair at nest in Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Single birds at Spili and Agia Reservoir
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	One over the coast road near Imbros Gorge
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common and widespread
Bonelli's eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>	An adult seen twice at Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common and widespread
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One seen briefly near Frangocástello
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Several seen or heard at Festós and Moní Préveli
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	One heard at Spíli
Little crane	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Several at Agia Reservoir
Baillon's crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	One at Agia Reservoir
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Several at Agia Reservoir
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Several at Agia Reservoir
Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	One at Agia Reservoir
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Two at Geropotamos river
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Single birds at Geropotamos river, Plakiás and Agia Reservoir
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	One seen most days at Plakiás beach; one at Agia Reservoir
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Common and widespread
Gull-billed tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Five on the beach at Frangocástello
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	A few apparently wild birds at most gorges
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Small numbers in wooded areas and gorges
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Small numbers seen every day
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Small migrating groups seen every day
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard at Omalós and Spili Bumps
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Small flocks at Agia Reservoir and Festós
Alpine swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	A few seen every day
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A migrating flock at Moní Préveli
Short-toed lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Two at Spili Bumps
Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Widespread; seen on most days
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Seen and heard at Spíli and Omalós
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Small migrating flocks on most days
Crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Seen every day in rocky coasts and gorges
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Small migrating flocks every day
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Ones and twos on most days
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Small migrating flocks on most days
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Ones and twos at Plakiás, Moní Préveli, Omalós and Festós
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Small numbers of blue-headed <i>M f flava</i> at several sites. These and a few black-headed <i>m f feldegg</i> at Agia Reservoir
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	One or two at Moní Préveli and Spili Bumps
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Heard on most days
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Seen or heard twice near Plakiás

Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	One at Moní Préveli
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Small numbers seen on most days
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Seen well on most days
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	A few at Omalós
Black-eared wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	A few seen nearly every day
Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Ones and twos in gorges and rocky coasts
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread; seen every day
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	One at Spili Bumps
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard and occasionally seen on most days in damp and scrubby places
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	One or two at Damnoni and Agia Reservoir
Sardinian warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Common and widespread
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Singles at Moní Préveli, Plakiás and Spíli
Spectacled warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	One at Souda
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Seen or heard nearly every day
Wood warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	A few at Moní Préveli
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	One at Moní Préveli
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	One or two at Moní Préveli and Omalós
Collared flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	One near Kanevos and one near Kali Sykia
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Small numbers seen on most days
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Common and widespread
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Common and widespread
Golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A few at Festós
Woodchat shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	One or two seen on most days
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	A few at Omalós; one near Rodakino
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Heard and glimpsed at Samariá gorge
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Common in Kourtaliótiko and other gorges
Hooded crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Common and widespread
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen often in gorges and mountainous areas
Italian sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	Common and widespread
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common and widespread
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	One or two seen on most days
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Common and widespread
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common and widespread
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Small flocks near Plakiás, Moní Préveli and Omalós
Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Two singing males near Spili Bumps
Ortolan bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	A singing male at Moní Préveli
Corn bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Seen or heard on most days

MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Eastern hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	Several road casualties, one live one
Ship (black) rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	One road casualty
Beech marten	<i>Martes fiona</i>	Singles at Moní Préveli and Souda; two or three seen dashing across roads; several road casualties
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Two road casualties
Wild goat (Kri-kri)	<i>Capra aegagrus</i>	Four seen well at Samariá Gorge
Green toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	One heard near Mirthios
Common tree frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Heard at Agia Reservoir
Marsh frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Several at Agia Reservoir
Balkan terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	A few at Geropotamos river and many at Agia Reservoir
Balkan green lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	One or two on several days
Erhard's wall lizard	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>	A few on most days
Ocellated skink	<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>	One at Festós and one at Frangocástello
Dice snake	<i>Natrix tesellata</i>	One at Agia Reservoir

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidespodalirius</i>
Cretan festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisyi f cretica</i>
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Dappled white	<i>Euchloë ausonia</i>
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Southern comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>
Painted lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Cretan heath	<i>Coenonympha thyrsis</i>
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Mallow skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>

OTHER INSECTS

Flower chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>
Violet carpenter-bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Tawny mining bee	<i>Andrena fulva</i>
Egyptian locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptiacum</i>
Nosed grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>
Ground bug	<i>Lygaeus equestris</i>
Pond skater	<i>Gerris sp</i>
Shield bug (Millwall bug)	<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>
Devil's coach horse	<i>Staphylinus olens</i>
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
Paper wasp	<i>Polistes gallicus</i>

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Freshwater crab	<i>Potamon potamios</i>
Crab spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i>
Banded snail	<i>Cepaea sp</i>

Two crossing the road near Rodakino and a few in the river at the Venetian Bridge

HONEYGUIDE WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS CRETE PLANT LIST APRIL 2009

Key and nomenclature: Latin names of plants follow those used in *Flora of the Cretan Area* (Turland et al 1993), with additions from *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* (Blamey & Grey-Wilson 1993). Also used as references: *Wild Flowers of Crete* by Vangelis Papiomitoglou; *Orchids: Crete and Dodecanese* by Horst and Gisela Kretzschmar & Wolfgang Eccarius; *The Orchids of Crete and Karpathos* by Albertis Antonis (a photoguide); *Wild Flowers of Crete* by George Sfikas; and of course, *Flowers of Crete* by J Fielding & N Turland (Kew 2005).

Ssp - Subspecies

* - Endemic to Crete

- Introduced and not native to Crete; a cultivated or planted species

// - New to Honeyguide in 2009

Latin Name	Common Name	Comments on species particularly noted during the Honeyguide visit in April 2009
NON-FLOWERING PLANTS		
FERNS AND ALLIES		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Kourtaliótiko Gorge
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	Shady rocks in Spíli area
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	A horsetail	Waste ground above Plakiás
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Frequent on less alkaline soils
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Club-moss	Shady, damp rocks
CONIFERS AND ALLIES		
Cupressaceae -- Cypress Family		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens ssp horizontalis</i>	Cypress	Scattered throughout, occasionally forming woodland
<i>C. sempervirens ssp sempervirens</i>	Funeral Cypress	Occasional throughout
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus ssp. macrocarpa</i>	Juniper	Scattered on rocky slopes on Omalós Plateau
Pinaceae -- Pine Family		
# <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	Norfolk Island Pine	Planted in villages; Hotel Sofia courtyard
<i>Pinus halapensis ssp brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	Occasional specimens. Common near top of Samariá Gorge
FLOWERING PLANTS		
Dicotyledons		
Aceraceae -- Maple Family		
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Maple	Rocky hillsides especially around Omalós Plain
Aizoaceae – Aizoon Family		
# <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig	Bare rocks and walls, especially near habitations
Anacardiaceae – Pistacio Family		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc	Common in scrub and phrygana
<i>P. terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	Woodland understory and maquis
Apiaceae (=Umbelliferae) – Carrot Family		
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Watercress	Abundant on waysides and field margins Dry grassland and phrygana Very abundant on roadsides, field margins and wasteland
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	
<i>Ferula communis ssp. communis</i>	Giant Fennel	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Occasional, roadsides
<i>S. pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle	Frequent on waysides and cultivations; olive groves
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Occasional on rich soils; Kourtaliótiko Gorge
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum subsp rotundifolium</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Abundant in disturbed habitats
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean Hartwort	Stony waysides and olive groves;

Asteraceae (=Compositae) – Daisy Family		
<i>Anthemis chia</i> <i>Anthemis rigida</i> ssp. <i>rigida</i> <i>Asteriscus (Pallenis) spinosus</i> <i>Calendula arvensis</i> * <i>Centaurea raphanina</i>	Greek Chamomile Rayless Chamomile Spiny Golden Star Field Marigold	Common and widespread in rocky places Common at Frangocástello Frequent in stony grassland Occasional; field margins beside road to Agía Triada Stony ground near Frangocástello. Rocks above the Ímbros gorge Very widespread and abundant
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> (now <i>Glebionis coronaria</i>) <i>Chrysanthemum</i> (now <i>Glebionis</i>) <i>segetum</i> <i>Crupina crupinastrum</i> <i>Dittrichia viscosa</i> <i>Filago (Evax) pygmaea</i> <i>Galactites tomentosa</i> <i>Geropogon (Tragopogon) hybridus</i> <i>Helichrysum (stoechas</i> ssp.) <i>barrelieri</i> <i>H. conglobatum</i> <i>Phagnalon graecum</i> <i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i> <i>Reichardia picroides</i> <i>Silybum marianum</i> <i>Tragopogon sinuatus (porrifolius)</i>	Crown Daisy Corn Marigold Crupina Stink Aster Evax Mediterranean Thistle Curry-plant a curry-plant without scent Shrubby Cudweed Cretan Viper's-grass Milk Thistle Salsify	Widespread in disturbed ground Rocky hillsides; road to Agía Triada Widespread in disturbed and rocky places Dry, rocky places; Venetian Bridge Widespread; waysides, wasteland, olive groves Occasional in dry grassland Rocky hillsides, phrygana; road to Agia Triada Rocky hillsides, phrygana; road to Agia Triada Rocky ground and phrygana Occasional on low cliffs and rocky hillsides Rocky crevice in the Kourtaliótiko Gorge Occasional in field margins and lush grassland Common in grassland near cultivations
Apocynaceae – Oleander Family		
<i>Nerium oleander</i> subsp. <i>oleander</i>	Oleander	Occasional, in damp or sheltered gullies; widely planted
Berberidaceae – Barberry Family		
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Rocky hillside above Samariá Gorge
Boraginaceae – Borage Family		
<i>Anchusa italica (azurea)</i> <i>Cerinthe major</i> <i>Cynoglossum creticum</i> <i>Echium angustifolium</i> <i>E. italicum</i> ssp. <i>biebersteinii</i> <i>E. plantagineum</i> <i>Symphytum creticum (Procopiana cretica)</i>	Large Blue Alkanet Honeywort Blue Hound's-tongue Narrow-leaved Bugloss Pale Bugloss Purple Viper's-bugloss Procopiana or Cretan Gorge Comfrey	Widespread in waysides, olive groves and disturbed ground Widespread in waysides, olive groves and disturbed ground Rocky hillside above Plakiás; road to Agía Triada Road to Agía Triada; Plakias beach Widespread on disturbed ground and roadsides Widespread on disturbed ground and roadsides Cliffs and sheltered rocks at the bottom of Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Brassicaceae (=Cruciferaeae) – Cabbage Family		
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i> <i>Biscutella didyma</i> <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> <i>Erophila verna</i> <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> * <i>Ricotia cretica</i> <i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Aubrieta Buckler Mustard Shepherd's-purse Whitlow-grass Wild radish Ricotia Charlock	Among rocks near café on Omalós Plain Occasional among rocks especially Kourtaliótiko Gorge and Spíli Bumps Frequent in disturbed ground especially near habitation Occasional on dry stony ground In abandoned cultivations and disturbed ground Beside path into Kourtaliótiko Gorge Widespread on roadsides; sometimes gathered as 'horta'
Cactaceae – Cactus Family		
# <i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica (O. ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly Pear	Widely planted and naturalised

Campanulaceae – Bellflower Family		
<i>Campanula erinus</i> * <i>Petromarula pinnata</i> * <i>Solenopsis minuta ssp. annua</i> (= <i>Laurentia gasparrinii</i>)	Cretan Wall Lettuce	Venetian Bridge A large clump beside the stream above Plakiás; among rocks near Spíli On rocky cliffs above Plakiás, near Spíli and near Frangocástello
Caprifoliaceae – Honeysuckle Family		
# <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Fine specimen above the fountains in Spíli
Caryophyllaceae – Pink Family		
<i>Petrorrhagia velutina</i> (<i>Kohlrauschia velutina</i>) <i>Silene bellidifolia</i> <i>S. cretica</i> <i>S. colorata</i>	Kohlrauschia Mediterranean Catchfly	Widespread in stony places and waysides Beside the road above Souda Stony ground, olive groves Abundant on seaside sand and occasional on sandy ground inland
<i>S. gallica</i> <i>S. vulgaris</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly Bladder Campion	Roadsides and rocky places Waysides and disturbed ground
Cistaceae – Rockrose Family		
<i>Cistus (incanus ssp.) creticus</i> <i>C. parviflorus</i> <i>C. salvifolius</i> <i>Fumana arabica</i> <i>F. thymifolia</i>	Cretan Cistus Sage-Leaved Cistus Thyme-leaved Fumana	Abundant on rocky hillsides Among rocks and in phrygana Widespread on hillsides, in phrygana and maquis On Spíli Bumps Rocky slopes above Plakiás and on Spíli Bumps
Clusiaceae (=Hypericaceae) – St John's-wort Family		
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium ssp. empetrifolium</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort	Beside the road towards Omalós
Convolvulaceae – Bindweed Family		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i> <i>C. elegantissimus</i> (cut leaves, pale in centre of flower) <i>Cuscuta</i> (? <i>epithymum</i>)	Mallow-leaved Bindweed Dodder	Waysides and abandoned cultivations Rocky and sandy places; hillside above Plakiás Widespread, often on <i>Coridothymus capitatus</i>
Crassulaceae – Stonecrop Family		
* <i>Sedum. praesidis</i> <i>S. rubens</i> <i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i> <i>U. parviflorus</i>	 Small-Flowered Navelwort	Gravel track at picnic stop west of Frangocástello Gravel track at picnic stop west of Frangocástello Common in rock crevices and on old walls Common in rock crevices and on old walls
Cucurbitaceae – Cucumber Family		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber	Car park at Agía Reservoir
Dipsacaceae -- Scabious Family		
<i>Scabiosa maritima</i>	Mournful widow	Occasional on dry disturbed ground
Ericaceae - Heather Family		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i> <i>Erica arborea</i> <i>E.manipuliflora</i>	Strawberry-tree Tree-heath (white, spring-flowering) Tree heath (purple, autumn flowering)	Frequent in open woodland and maquis on non-calcareous soils Frequent in open woodland and maquis on non-calcareous soils Frequent on open rocky hillsides and in phrygana, on acid or calcareous soils
Euphorbiaceae – Spurge Family		
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamno</i> <i>E. characias</i> <i>E. dendroides</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge Mediterranean Spurge Tree Spurge	A 'chicken-wire' plant, frequent in phrygana Frequent on rocky slopes and waysides Occasional in sunny places among calcareous rocks

<i>E. helioscopia</i> <i>E. paralias</i> # <i>Ricinus communis</i> <i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Sun Spurge Sea Spurge Castor Oil Plant Annual Mercury	Frequent in field margins and disturbed ground Plakiás beach Occasional, near habitation Disturbed ground, fertile soils
Fabaceae (=Leguminosae) – Pea Family		
# <i>Acacia</i> spp <i>Anagyris foetida</i> <i>Anthyllus vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>praepropera</i> (= <i>rubriflora</i>) <i>Bituminaria</i> (<i>Psoralea</i>) <i>Calicotome villosa</i> # <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> <i>Coronilla scorpioides</i> * <i>Ebenus cretica</i> <i>Genista acanthoclada</i> <i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i> <i>Hymenocarpus circinnatus</i> <i>Lathyrus annuus</i> (yellow flowers, often red-veined) <i>L. aphaca</i> <i>L. setifolius</i> <i>Lupinus pilosus</i> (<i>L. varius</i> ssp <i>orientalis</i>) <i>Medicago arabica</i> <i>M. lupulina</i> <i>M. minima</i> <i>M. marina</i> <i>Onobrychis crista-galli</i> ? <i>Ononis reclinata</i> # <i>Robina pseudoacacia</i> <i>Spartium junceum</i> <i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i> <i>T. campestre</i> <i>T. fragiferum</i> <i>T. nigrescens</i> <i>T. resupinatum</i> <i>T. stellatum</i> <i>T. tomentosum</i> <i>T. uniflorum</i> <i>Tripodion</i> (<i>Anthyllis</i>) <i>tetraphyllum</i> <i>Vicia villosa</i>	Mimosa Bean trefoil Red (Mediterranean) Kidney Vetch Pitch Trefoil Spiny Broom, Hairy Thorny Broom Judas Tree Carob Tree Scorpion-vetch Shrubby Sainfoin (Cretan Ebony) Mediterranean horseshoe vetch Disk Trefoil Yellow vetchling Brown vetch Hairy Lupin Spotted Medick Black Medick Bur medick Sea Medick A Cock's-comb Sainfoin Small Rest-harrow False acacia Spanish Broom Asparagus Pea Hop Trefoil Strawberry clover (an annual white clover) Reversed Clover Starry Clover Woolly Trefoil One-Flowered Clover Bladder Vetch Fodder Vetch	Widely planted especially in towns and villages Occasional in waysides and ditches Spíli Bumps Widespread in rocky places, disturbed ground, olive groves Very common and widespread on open hillsides and phrygana Widely planted especially in towns and villages Wiespread; common near habitation Common by the coast west of Plakiás; occasionally abundant on rocky hillsides and in phrygana Rocky hillsides; beside steps into the Kourtaliótiko Gorge Orchid bank near Kali Sikea; top of Kotsiphou Gorge Spíli Bumps Frequent in cultivations, olive groves Frequent in grassland, roadsides and ditches Spíli Bumps, large clump beside the coast road near Rodakino Abundant in grassland above Plakiás Occasional in grassland and cultivations Occasional in grassland and cultivations Occasional on Plakiás beach Occasional in grassland; top of Kotsiphou Gorge Beside tracks Frangocástello American sp., widely planted Abundant beside the track beyond Spíli Bumps Lush grassland, olive groves; hillside above Plakias Frequent in grassland Frequent in dry grassland and beside roads The commonest white clover Frequent in dry grassland and beside roads Frequent in dry, stony grassland and beside roads Abundant on sand at Frangocástello Widespread on stony ground, often trampled Occasional on stony ground; above Kotsiphou Gorge Often abundant on fertile soils and waysides
Fagaceae – Oak Family		
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> <i>Quercus ilex</i> <i>Quercus pubescens</i> <i>Q. ithaburensis</i> ssp <i>macrolepis</i>	Kermes Oak, Prickly Oak Holm or evergreen oak Downy oak Valonia oak (acorn cups like little bird's nests)	Widespread (away from the sea) as trees and bushes sometimes heavily shaped by browsing ('topiary'), usually on limestone: Omalós, Spíli etc Occasional large trees on more acid soils. Not browsed Possibly native; occasional isolated trees or woodland component: near 'bus stop' beyond Kánevos Doubtfully native. A concentration south of Rethymnon
Gentianaceae – Gentian Family		
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser Century	Dotted about on sandy soils esp at Frangocástello

Geraniaceae – Geranium Family		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> <i>E. gruinum</i> <i>E. malacoides</i> <i>Geranium molle</i>	Common Storksbill Long-beaked Storksbill Mallow-leaved Storksbill Dove'sfoot Cranesbill	Common, especially on light soils and near paths Scattered, in stony places; Frangocástello Beside the path below Moni Preveli monastery Occasional in disturbed ground and waysides near paths
<i>G. purpureum</i> <i>G. rotundifolium</i>	Little Robin Round-leaved Cranesbill	Frequent in disturbed ground and waysides Frequent in disturbed ground and waysides
Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) – Mint Family		
<i>Coridothymus (Thymus) capitatus</i> <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> <i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Shrubby Thyme Henbit Dead-nettle French Lavender	Abundant and widespread in phrygana Occasional in disturbed ground Abundant on rocky hillsides beside the road to Omalós
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	White Horehound Jerusalem Sage	Frangocástello Very widespread and abundant on rocky slopes, phrygana and maquis, with <i>P. cretica</i> Very widespread and abundant on rocky slopes, phrygana and maquis, with <i>P. fruticosa</i>
<i>P. cretica</i>		
<i>Prasium majus</i> <i>Salvia fruticosa (S. triloba)</i>	Spanish hedge-nettle Shrubby or 3-leaved Sage	Olive groves and waysides, sprawling among rocks Abundant on rocky slopes and in phrygana and maquis
<i>S. verbenaca</i> <i>Satureja(Micromeria) thymbra</i> <i>Sideritis curvidens</i>	Wild Clary Savory	Occasional in grassland Occasional in rocky places; hillside above Plakias Rocky steps into the Kourtaliótiko Gorge
Linaceae – Flax Family		
<i>Linum arboreum</i> <i>L. bienne</i>	Tree Flax Pale Flax	Rocky crevices in cliffs; Kotsiphou Gorge Frequent in rocky places and phrygana
Lythraceae – Loosestrife Family		
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>		Occasional, sprawling out of damp ditches
Malvaceae – Mallow Family		
<i>M. parviflora</i> <i>M. sylvestris</i>	Small-flowered Mallow Common Mallow	Frequent in disturbed ground, roadsides etc Frequent as a weed of cultivation
Moraceae - Fig Family		
<i>Ficus carica</i> # <i>Morus alba</i>	Fig White Mulberry	Wild plants on cliffs (calcareous); also widely cultivated and frequently escaped Widely cultivated
Myrtaceae – Myrtle Family		
<i>Myrtus communis subsp. communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Occasional, in scrub and around olive groves; hillside above Plakiás
Oleaceae – Olive Family		
# <i>Jasminum fruticans</i> <i>Olea europaea</i>	Jasmine Olive	Frequently cultivated and occasionally escaped Widespread and frequently cultivated, apparently wild in phrygana and scrub
Orobanchaceae – Broomrape Family		
<i>Orobanche crenata</i> <i>O. pubescens</i> <i>O. ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	Meadow near the Venetian Bridge Several places on roadsides, apparently on umbellifers Very frequent, apparently on Bermuda Buttercup, waysides, olive groves and cultivations
Oxalidaceae – Sorrel Family		
# <i>O. pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Very abundant and widespread near habitations and in olive groves

Papaveraceae – Poppy Family		
<i>Glaucium flavum</i> <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	Sandy and disturbed soils, near and away from the sea Widespread in cultivations, olive groves and disturbed ground
Pittosporaceae – Pittosporum Family		
# <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporum	Evergreen, fragrant shrub, frequently planted
Plantaginaceae – Plantain Family		
<i>Plantago afra</i> <i>P. lanceolata</i> <i>P. weldenii</i> (= <i>P. coronopus</i> ssp <i>commutata</i>)	Ribwort Plantain Buckshorn plantain	Occasional among rocks on dry slopes and fields Waysides, in lush grassland Stony soils; Frangocástello
Platanaceae – Plane Tree Family		
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	Frequent and widespread, singly or groups, often by water
Polygalaceae – Milkwort Family		
<i>Polygala venulosa</i> # <i>Polygala x dalmaisia</i>	Eastern Milkwort Sweet pea shrub	Frequent in phrygana, growing through prickly plants Planted outside Taverna Panorama in Myrthios and taverna beside Agía Reservoir
Primulaceae - Primrose Family		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> * <i>Cyclamen creticum</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel (Scarlet and blue forms) Cretan Cyclamen	Widespread and very common on all light soils A few plants in Kourtaliótiko Gorge; a mass of plants in flower in woodland under <i>Quercus pubescens</i> above Kánevos
Punicaceae – Pomegranate Family		
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	Occasional, often planted near habitation
Ranunculaceae – Buttercup Family		
<i>Anemone coronaria</i> <i>A. hortensis</i> ssp. <i>heldreichii</i> <i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> // <i>Delphinium staphysagria</i> <i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i> * <i>R. cupreus</i> <i>R. ficaria</i> ssp. <i>chrysocephalus</i>	Crown Anemone Maiden's Bower Delphinium Turban Buttercup Lesser Celandine	Spectacular drifts on Omalós plateau Hillside above Plakiás, Spíli Bumps Occasional in scrub At picnic stop west of Frangocástello Abundant and widespread in rocky grassland Beside the concrete track beyond Spíli Occasional in damp ditches
Resedaceae – Mignonette Family		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	Hillside above Plakiás and top of Kotsiphou Gorge
Rosaceae – Rose Family		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ssp. <i>azarella</i> # <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> <i>Pyrus spinosa</i> (amygdaliformis) <i>Rubus sanctus</i> <i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Hawthorn Loquat Almond-leaved or Wild Pear Bramble Thorny Burnet	Occasional hedgerow tree, especially in evidence on the Spíli – Rethymnon road and on Omalós Plateau Frequent near habitation; fruit served at the taverna at the bottom of the Omalós road Frequent in hedgerows and scrub Hedgerows and waysides on more fertile ground. Frequent on dry rocky hillsides and in phrygana – a 'chicken-wire plant'
Rubiaceae – Bedstraw Family		
<i>Galium aparine</i> <i>Rubia peregrina</i> <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> <i>Valantia hispida</i>	Cleavers Wild Madder Field Madder	Fertile waste ground, olive groves In woodland, among <i>Cyclamen creticum</i> above Kánevos Widespread in grassland In dry, rocky places, often where trampled; on the

		Venetian Bridge below Moni Preveli
Rutaceae – Rue Family		
# <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Widely grown especially in the north
# <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	Widely grown especially in the north
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Rue	Fine plant at picnic stop north of Frangocástello
Salicaceae – Willow Family		
# <i>Populus nigra</i> or hybrid	Black or hybrid Poplar	Occasional, singly or in groups
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow	Geropotamos valley below Festós
Santalaceae – Sandalwood Family		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	Occasional beside the road below Festós
Scrophulariaceae – Figwort Family		
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	Widespread in waysides and olive groves
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax	In stonework on the Venetian Bridge
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Lesser Snapdragon (Weasel's Snout)	Occasional among rocks on stony or disturbed ground
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>		Field margins and stony grassland
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	Damp grassland and waysides
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort	Fields and waysides
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>		Roadsides and dry hillsides
<i>V. sinuatum</i>		Non-flowering rosettes frequent on roadsides
Solanaceae – Potato Family		
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane	Occasional at Frangocástello, especially near the Fort
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	Occasional at Frangocástello, especially near the Fort
# <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Tree tobacco	Occasional bushes beside the road
Styracaceae – Storax Family		
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	Occasional plants or small groups near to streams
Tamaricaceae – Tamarix Family		
// <i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	Tamarisk	Beside river Geropotamos below Agía Triada
<i>T. smyrnensis</i>	Tamarisk	Widely planted in towns and villages
Thymelaeaceae – Daphne Family		
<i>Daphne sericea</i>		On sheltered rocky slopes: beyond Spíli, beside the road up to Omalós
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Thymelea	Widespread and frequent beside tracks, in rocky places and near the sea
Ulmaceae – Elm Family		
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	Occasional in hedgerows
Urticaceae – Nettle Family		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the Wall	Walls and rocky waysides
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle	Frequent on disturbed ground near habitation: Myrthios, Plakiás, Moni Preveli, Spíli, Frangocástello etc
Valerianaceae – Valerian Family		
* <i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>	Cretan Valerian	Among rocks down in the Kourtaliótiko Gorge, at the top of the Kotsiphóu Gorge; occasionally in sheltered rocky places elsewhere
<i>Valerianella sp</i>	Corn Salad	Frequent in disturbed ground and at the edge of cultivations
Verbenaceae – Verbena Family		
<i>Verben officinalis</i>	Vervain	
// <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree	Beside the track above Plakias

Vitaceae – Vine Family		
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Grape Vine	Vineyards, with frequent escaped plants in hedgerows and scrub (the wild ssp is a rare native)
Monocotyledons		
Agavaceae – Agave Family		
# <i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant	Incongruous on rocky hillsides near main roads and habitations
Amaryllidaceae – Daffodil Family		
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Leaves only, in clumps on Plakiás beach
Araceae – Arum Family		
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	Occasional in rocky and grassy places and woodland; Spíli and with <i>Cyclamen creticum</i> near Kánevos
<i>Arum concinatum</i>		Large clump near the Venetian Bridge
<i>A. creticum</i>	Cretan Arum	Yellow spathes standing out in rocky grassland
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum	Individuals at Spíli, Festós, Frangocástello, Omalós
Arecaceae – Palm Family		
# <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Date Palm	Widely planted
<i>P. theophrasti</i>	Cretan Palm	An important stand in the valley above Souda
Cyperaceae – Sedge Family		
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Saw-sedge	Large stand at Agía Reservoir
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush	Spíli Bumps
Iridaceae – Iris Family		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus	Abundant and widespread in cultivations and olive groves
<i>Gynandriris sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut	Occasional in dry grassland and beside tracks: Spíli, top of Kotsiphóu Gorge
<i>Hermodactylus tuberosus</i>	Widow Iris	Group of very dark plants on Omalós Plateau
<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Large stand beside Agía Reservoir
Liliaceae – Lily Family		
<i>Allium nigrum</i>		Several plants conspicuous above Kotsiphou Gorge; occasional in rocky habitats elsewhere
<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>	Wild asparagus	Rocky and stony habitats; served as 'horta' at the Taverna beside the Omalós Road
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	Frequent in stony and rocky habitats and phrygana
<i>Asphodelus ramosus (aestivus)</i>	Common Asphodel	Occasional in rocky and disturbed habitats on poor soils
<i>Charybdis (Drimia, Urginea) maritima</i>	Sea Squill	Leaves only, very widespread in stony and rocky habitats, woodland and olive groves. (Some confusion with <i>Colchicum</i> spp is possible)
// <i>Fritillaria messanensis</i>	Fritillary	Some small groups beside the track beyond Spíli Bumps
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	Gagea	Scattered on stony soils and in phrygana
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Abundant in fields, roadsides and olive groves
<i>Ornithogalum exscapum</i>	A very short Star of Bethlehem	Frequent in dry stony places
<i>O. narbonense</i>	A spiked Star-of-Bethlehem	Frequent in ditches and fields and in phrygana
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	A sand crocus	Tiny rosettes of leaves occasional in dry, stony places; Kourtaliótiko Gorge
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom	Several clumps beside the steps down Kourtaliótiko Gorge
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax or Sarsparilla	Frequent in phrygana
* <i>Tulipa. doerfleri</i>		The red-flowered tulip at Spíli Bumps
* <i>T saxatilis ssp bakeri</i>	Rock tulip	The pink tulip with yellow centres and yellow stamens abundant on Omalós Plateau

<i>T. saxatilis ssp saxatilis</i>	Has black stamens, though the two ssp grade into one another. Distribution is altitude related	The faded pale tulip at Spíli may have been this
Orchidaceae – Orchid Family		
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid	Frequent in all the orchid sites especially Kali Sikea and on Spíli Bumps
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> <i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Pyramidal orchid Giant orchid	Occasional plants in bud at all the orchid sites Several gone over plants on the Orchid Bank near Kali Sikea and near Agía Triada
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i> * <i>O. creberrima</i>	Bumble bee orchid	Several plants on the orchid bank near Kali Sikea A few plants on Kali Sikea Orchid Bank and on Spíli Bumps
<i>O. cretica</i>	Cretan bee orchid	Good specimens in the scrub above the road and around the ruins near Agia Triada; a few at Spili
<i>O. fleischmannii</i> <i>O. heldreichii</i> <i>O. episcopalidis/holoserica</i>	Fleischmann's orchid Marengo orchid Bishop's ophrys	Several in good flower at Kali Sikea and at Spili A good group in burnt scrub above the top of Kotsiphóu Gorge; a few at Spíli Bumps
<i>O. sicula</i>	Sicilian orchid	Several clumps both on the Kali Sikea Orchid Bank and on Spíli Bumps
<i>O. mammosa</i> <i>O. tenthradinifera</i>	Mammose orchid Sawfly orchid	Several nice plants near Agia Triada Several plants in good flower on Spíli Bumps
<i>Orchis boryi</i> <i>O. coriophora ssp. fragrans</i> <i>O. collina</i> <i>O. italica</i>	Bug orchid Fan-lipped orchid Italian man orchid	Abundant on Spíli Bumps In bud at Souda A few flowers gone over near Agia Triada In profusion at Souda, Kali Sikea and Spíli, and widespread in grassland, roadsides on a range of substrates. The species is less confined to alkaline soils than most.
<i>O. lactea</i> <i>O. laxiflora</i>	Milky orchid Loose-flowered orchid	A few faded plants at Spili Abundant at Spíli and widespread. As <i>O. italica</i> , tolerant of acid soils
<i>O. pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered orchid	One flower at the top of the Orchid Bank at Kali Sikea and several on Spíli Bumps
<i>O. quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted orchid	A lovely display on a rocky terrace (with <i>Fritillaria</i> and <i>Daphne</i>) beside the track beyond Spíli; several on Spíli Bumps
<i>O. simia</i>	Monkey orchid	A small group in burnt scrub above Kotsifóu Gorge
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid	Several on the stony hillside between Plakiás and Myrthios
<i>S. orientalis</i> <i>S. parviflora</i>	Small tongue-orchid	A small group at Kali Sikea Several on the stony hillside between Plakiás and Myrthios; frequent on Spíli Bumps and the Kali Sikea Orchid Bank
Poaceae – Grass Family		
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i> # <i>Arundo donax</i>	Marram Giant Reed	Sand dunes behind the beach in Plakiás Bay Widely naturalized and planted as a wind break and for the canes.
<i>Briza maxima</i> <i>Lagurus ovatus</i> <i>Phragmites australis</i> <i>Poa bulbosa</i> <i>Triticum markgrafi</i> (<i>Aegilops dichasians</i>) <i>Typha domingensis</i>	Greater Quaking-grass Hare's-tail Common Reed Bulbous Meadow-grass	Frequent among the wayside grasses Frequent among the wayside grasses Large stands beside Agía Reservoir Frequent among the wayside grasses Large stands beside Agía Reservoir