

# Orchid Odyssey

**Holiday Report**  
**5 - 12 April 2014**



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**Introduction**

Rhodes, the capital of the Dodecanese group of islands in Greece, is situated just off the coast of east Turkey. Therefore, it is blessed with an interesting mixture of east Mediterranean and Asian flora and fauna. Although the island is a popular destination for sun and beach loving tourists, there is much natural beauty to discover, if one takes the time. Despite its relatively small size, the island has an impressive plant list, just shy of 1,500 species—soon to be documented in a new flora of Rhodes publication by a renowned botanist and author. It is perhaps one of the best Greek islands for orchids, with a large list of diverse and interesting species, particularly in the genus *Ophrys*.



The orchids were to be our main focus for the week long holiday and we based ourselves in central Rhodes, an ideal location for setting out on daily excursions to explore the island. Our aim was to spend a relaxing week exploring the mountains, river valleys, *Pinus brutia* dominated forests, phrygana, coastal and olive grove habitats, in the hope of seeing around 30-50 species of orchid and other interesting flora and fauna. The guests who joined us were Walter, Casper, Alan, Denise and Wendy. The tour was led by Yiannis Christofides, assisted by Julian Dowding and Matt Berry.





### Day 1: Saturday 5th April, day of arrival in Rhodes

A number of guests arrived at lunchtime so we had time to take them to our hotel in the mountains and settle in, then set out for a 2 hour excursion around some of the western and northern slopes of Profitis Ilias, close to the hotel. Within minutes we had found our first orchids of the holiday. The first were Reinhold's Orchid *Ophrys reinholdii*, Dense-flowered Orchid *Neotinea maculata*, Anatolian Orchid *Orchis anatolica* and then Rhodian Woodcock Orchid *Ophrys umbilicata* ssp. *rhodia*, including one with a bent stem which Julian 'repaired' with tape so it could be photographed. Later, a possible *Ophrys dodekanensis/polyxo* and a confirmed *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* were discovered high on the slopes. Matt had to use mountain goat agility to reach and photograph it to show the rest of the group, once he'd safely descended. We returned to the hotel in time to greet and collect the remaining guests and for everyone to enjoy a sumptuous and traditional Greek dinner of Pastitsio and accompanying salad, all washed down with some delicious local wine.



### Day 2: Sunday 6th April, Profitis Ilias

In the morning an amazing scene greeted those that had arrived later. Centuries old *Cypressus sempervirens* trees, draped in moss and lichen with carpets of Rhodes Cyclamen *Cyclamen rhodium* which were dotted with the beautiful blue and white Balkan Anemone *Anemone blanda* growing underneath. Growing from the rocks we chanced upon an interesting Fern, *Ceterach officinalis*, which curls up in the summer and unfolds in the winter. After a short search, and with much joy, we found ourselves in amongst a literally breath-taking display of Rhodes Paeony *Paeonia clusii* ssp. *rhodia*, the scent filling the air and guiding us to our target. The plants were in full flower, some with buds still to open and many of them buzzing with bees. It was a great start to the day to see one of our target species and a beautiful endemic to the island. Nearby, we also found a Navelwort *Umbilicus* sp. which was growing out of the rocky crevices. Here and there, small patches of *Rumex tuberosus* and one of the many *Ranunculus* species which was identified by looking at the achenes was seen, possibly *R. creticus*. We also discovered our first Dragon Arum in leaf, although not yet flowering. Yiannis explained that this plant occurs close by in Turkey, Crete and some of the other Aegean Islands. The most ubiquitous of birds, the Chaffinch, was almost always heard singing in the pine forested slopes of the mountain.



We continued our exploration and soon added *Ophrys sicula* to our list, with its beautiful yellow lip. Yiannis explained the difference between these and *Ophrys phrygana* which is slightly darker and with the lip bent at the base and also with a slightly wider lip and darker colour. Our specimen, being large, resembled very closely *Ophrys lutea* which has a wider margin. Walter then found an attractive *Romulea*. A number of delightful Eastern Festoon butterflies *Zerynthia cerisyi* were dancing through the forest glades in the dappled light. Denise regaled us with a little anecdote about searching for the pupae of the butterflies by watching the caterpillar for 4 hours but never finding one. This is a fairly widespread butterfly in Rhodes, possibly an endemic form, and like all Festoons uses *Aristolochia sp.* on which to lay its eggs. The females are more heavily marked than the males and also display small blue spots on the upper hindwing margins.



Ophrys sicula

We headed on, descending the mountain, and found a great spot for *Anacamptis papilionacea ssp. heroica*. One stately specimen growing tall and proud lived up to its sub specific epithet and so

Anacamptis papilionacea ssp. heroica



Denise took a photo during a pause in the wind. Some of these Butterfly Orchids displayed markedly different colour forms ranging from whitish background colours (semi albino) with pink markings to deep pink/violet. Yiannis remarked that it is a variable orchid species with different markings but in no way were any of these variations different subspecies. Alan concurred that in south-west France, they have similarly wide colour range with *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, but all of them just variations of one species. Along one of the small paths, we found *Ophrys polyxo* a recently identified endemic on Rhodes which is characterised by its large sepals and petals and forward pointing appendix. We found several of these. The first of numerous specimens was found growing beside a lovely iron slasher or billhook, discarded beside the pathway. It reminded us of the beautifully fashioned handmade tools once far more

common in Europe and bygone days. Yiannis pointed out a beautifully marked *Bellevia trifoliata*, resembling Grape Hyacinths and found in the southern Mediterranean regions. The blue/violet flowers are held on long upright pedicels which once open, hang down and develop white coloured ends. Meanwhile Matt and Casper found another Reinhold's Orchid and Walter some beautiful *Orchis provincialis* which were unfortunately just beginning to go over. The flowers are a wonderfully delicate pastel yellow colour. Here we also encountered *Ophrys oreas* and some of the

too-often overlooked, quite slender orchids, *Neotinea maculata* which upon inspection, show an interesting variation in colour.

Some white *Anacamptis pyramidalis* were spotted from the vehicle and we stopped to investigate. Wendy soon called us over to see a majestic spike of an *Ophrys* that didn't quite fit with what we expected to see. It turned out to be a new record for the island and was *Ophrys episkopalis* var. *samia*, until now only recorded on Samos island, lying just off the east coast of Turkey and north of Rhodes. This was quite something, the plant bearing a spike which stood possibly 2 feet off the ground. After our guests had taken many photos, Yiannis pointed out *Asphaltium bituminosum*, an interesting blue flower with leaves smelling strongly of tar when you crush them and also *Lathyrus cicera* with a beautiful red pea-like flower. Finally, Alan came upon some more *Ophrys reinholdii* and also a few *Ophrys sicula*. Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertiana* was also observed; again the flowers had gone over and so bore some large seed pods.



After the success of finding a new orchid for the island we felt we deserved some lunch and so stopped to rest in the village of Eloussa, next to the impressive and very large fountain, complete with shoaling Gizani fish. The small freshwater fish are endemic to the island and were introduced into the fountain. Their natural habitat is rivers and streams and despite their size they are tough; they need to be because rivers largely dry out in summer and so they survive in the deeper pools that remain - quite a precarious existence! We indulged in a sumptuous picnic including Greek salad and fruit, fresh bread, plus stuffed vine leaves and feta cheese pies, made by Matt's mother in law. Walter and Matt tempted large shoals of the Gizani fish to the surface with bread crumbs, taking the opportunity to photograph the writhing mass of fish.



We washed our tasty food down with local Rhodes wine, named Ilios, after the Greek God of Sun (appropriate since Rhodes is known as the island of sun). During lunch, Yiannis took the opportunity to identify and describe some of the more common Mediterranean plants growing by the fountain, including Clovers, Euphorbia, and a little member of the Madder family *Sherardia arvensis*, with its characteristic ring of leaves and pretty pink flowers. Also seen were the leaves of *Biarum tenuifolium*, Chickweed - *Stellaria media* a member of the of the Caryophyllacea family and in full



flower, a very common but nonetheless interesting Mediterranean plant with tiny yellow-green flowers called Dog's Cabbage. A rare plant in the UK, Shepherd's Needle and in Europe known by



the rather more exotic name, Venus's Comb, *Scandix pecten-veneris* was also seen and a number of Compositae were found including a daisy with hundreds of flowers. By plucking the flowers, you can identify them. When turned upside down, there are characteristic markings on *Anthemis chia*, but others don't have the markings, so plucking helps to identify the species since the scales remaining on the receptacle, are characteristic for each species, these plant's being long and narrow. Then we located Sow Thistle a species also found in the UK and then another UK plant, this time *Salvia verbenaca* or Wild Clary with its beautiful deep blue/purple hooded flowers pollinated usually by bees. Yiannis explained that sometimes these hooded flowers don't open at all, in which case they are referred to as being cleistogamous and are able to self-pollinate. A perennial yellow composite, with brown streaks on the underside, Tuberous Hawkbit *Leontodon tuberosus* a plant which is

related to the Dandelions was our next wild-flower to be identified and then the beautiful small, yellow-flowered *Securigera securidaca*, a member of the Crown vetch family. We also looked at an annual fern called *Anogramma leptophylla* growing out of the stone wall .

After lunch we visited a centuries old Church. Here, local Greek families took advantage of the day of rest, playing games and enjoying their picnic lunches together in the meadows and wooded groves surrounding the ancient church. Walter stopped by an old wall to photograph 3 Starred Agamas, *Laudakia stellio*, as some of the others were watching an Eastern Festoon Butterfly looking to nectar or find a mate. Yiannis showed us another vetch, *Vicia hybrida*. There, *Arisarum vulgare* (Friar's Cowl) and a number of Broomrapes were also growing and just as we were ending our stop, a very kind Greek family who'd noticed our interest in natural history brought us a box of cakes to share and agreed that spring was the best time to visit their beautiful island!



We continued our journey around Profitis Ilias seeing *Ophrys sicula*, *Ophrys polyxo*, *Anacamptis papilionacea*, *Orchis anatolica* and adding to the growing list of orchids. One specimen of the little blue iris *Gynandris sisyrrinchium* was also seen. We had by now made an almost complete circle around the mountain and our last stop produced the second specimens of *Ophrys umbilicata* ssp. *rhodia*, a member of the *Ophrys umbilicata* group with green sepals. As late afternoon turned to early evening we were greeted with the spectacle of numerous



Eastern Festoon butterflies settling down for the night on Asphodel and other plants. They made perfect models for photographs, albeit technically challenging due to the low light levels. Coming back to our hotel on the mountain at about 600 metres, we found swathes of *Ornithogalum* or Star of Bethlehem carpeting the alpine floor and in one spot, the whole area swathed in a dense matt of huge *Colchicum* leaves (the area would be a picture in autumn when they flowered!) and finally, a good show of *Orchis italica*. The gardens around the hotel were full of interesting plants such as *Symphytum circinale*, *Geranium lucidum*, and also the beautiful Cyclamen and Anemone we'd seen earlier.



### Day 3: Monday 7th April, The lowlands

After breakfasting we set off in our minibus heading for the lowlands to search for orchids and plants in olive groves as yet untouched by modern deep-ploughing methods and therefore good for wildflowers. We set off on the drive south, to find *Ophrys mammosa* whose common name is



Breasted Orchid. We arrived at our destination and were overjoyed to immediately find plenty still in flower. The display was very good and our guests were able to take some photos. Sardinian Warblers were singing merrily, their melodic little chattering song full of scratches and wheezes, emanating from many of the bushes all around. The area was much different to the Cypress forested woods of the mountain the day before, with clear examples of the phrygana or garrigue habitat, reminiscent perhaps of the Heathland in the UK and continental Europe. On the thorny Genistas and pink *Cistus cretica* and also on the Small-flowered Rockrose *Cistus parviflorus* we came upon our first Green-underside Blue butterflies, *Glaucopsyche alexis* and Green Hairstreaks, *Callophrys rubi*, the latter also nectaring on the abundant Small-fruited Asphodel, *Asphodelus aestivus*. On the Genistas, a solitary Eastern Baton Blue butterfly

was seen by one member of the group. Close by, Yiannis drew our attention to a Milkwort, *Polygala venulosa* and soon the group discovered a nice grouping of *Anacamptis papilionacea*. A little further

down the track, some very nice Italian Orchids *Orchis italica* with their soft pink hues were discovered and yet more *Ophrys mammosa*. On a bank, Walter and Casper found yet more *Ophrys umbilicata* ssp. *rhodia* with their characteristic greenish sepals, and maroon markings on the lip, and some Bumblebee Orchids *Ophrys bombyliflora* going over. Here we also discovered another plant so typical of this biotype, *Lithodora hispidula*, which forms dense mounds with bright cobalt blue coloured flowers and also plentiful *Salvia viridis* and a number of *Limodorum abortivum*. We also added a relatively rare Rhodian plant, *Muscari weissei*, and French Lavender *Lavandula stoechas*, together with a number of beautiful deep pink coloured Rhodian Horned Bee-Orchids *Ophrys polyxo*.

We continued our descent lower down into different habitat and searched in the sunlit olive groves. We soon found some fine specimens of *Serapias carica* (with its broad lip), *Anacamptis fragrans*, the small pink and white *Coronilla cretica*, *Muscari comosum* and *Bellardia trixago* in its two colour forms, pink or yellow. *Orobanche ramosa* was seen growing on *Oxalis pes-caprae*. Many other plants were also seen such as the enigmatic and glorious magenta coloured Gladiolus *Gladiolus italicus*, along with *Tragopogon porrifolius* aka Goat's beard, *Pallenis spinosa*, and *Cnicus benedictus*.



Serapias carica

Another field produced *Ophrys attaviria*, *Ophrys blitotherpa*, *O. polyxo* and *Parentucellia viscosa*. Here we found a potential *Ophrys oestrifera* ssp. *cornutula* which aroused interest and also a Tasselled Hyacinth. A Scarce Swallowtail made a leisurely flyover, and Denise and Wendy spotted a different butterfly which was identified as a Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alcea*.

A short drive led us to yet another Olive grove, again undisturbed. Beyond, a veritable sea of Crown Daisies *Chrysanthemum coronarium* greeted us. The appearance of each flower something akin to a fried egg but occasionally an all yellow flower poked through the sea of yellow and white - it was a sight to behold. By the vehicle, a small number of



Anacamptis fragrans

Pyramidal Orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and deeper into the grove, some Bug Orchids, *Anacamptis fragrans*, splendid flowers which are renowned for their sweet scent, were discovered. Here, Walter found an interesting Praying Mantis (*Empusa spp*) on a stem whilst he and the ladies discovered yet more orchids. At the same time Casper discovered a grouping of fusca or Sombre Bee Orchids with flowers arranged at 90 degrees to

the stem. In the throat of this flower there was a v-shaped depression and hairs, and turning the lip over the flowers revealed a white colour. There was intense blue on one or two specimens and Yiannis explained that these plants therefore were *Ophrys fusca* ssp. *attaviria*. Alan jested that this



plant was a typical *Ophrys* due to its questionable identity. Soon after we found our first and only *Ophrys lutea* ssp. *phryganae* with a deep yellow lip and margin and flowers set at 45 degrees, quite different from the many *Ophrys sicula* seen earlier on the trip.

A little further on we stopped to search for the diminutive yet beautiful Rhodes Fritillary *Fritillaria rhodia*. One of the most endearing endemic plants of Rhodes; it was still well in flower in little groups, growing in the most unlikely and inhospitable habitat. Easy to overlook, they are only a few cms tall but at least 4 perfect yellow specimens were still flowering, providing perfect photographic opportunities for the group. After a thoroughly enjoyable feast of flowers we set off further south, taking a long dirt track through rural Rhodes. Before we reached the main road, we paused to watch first a Common Buzzard and then a Montague's Harrier flying off.



Our final stop produced one of the rarest and most beautiful orchids, a subspecies of the Cretan Bee Orchid *Ophrys cretica* ssp. *beloniae*, which on Rhodes can only be found in the southern half of the island. In addition we recorded *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii*, King Ferdinand's Orchid, also called the Earwig Orchid on account of its similarity to an Earwig. Plus, we saw a couple of interesting *Astragalus*, *Astragalus spruneri* and *Astragalus austroaegaeus* growing amongst the plentiful Shrubby Gromwell *Lithodora hispidula*. The colourful parasitic plant *Cytinus hypocistis* was also seen growing under its Rockrose host plant. This trip was to be the furthest foray to the south of the island and proved very worthwhile. We ended the day at a village restaurant for a sumptuous Greek mezedes style dinner.

#### Day 4: Tuesday 8th April, Towards Mount Attaviros

We headed off in the direction of the largest mountain on the island, which boasts a peak of some 1200 metres in height. On the way up the mountain, we stopped the vehicle to take in some roadside species. Some large Aegean Butterfly Orchids, *Anacamptis papilionacea* ssp. *heroica*, Horseshoe Orchids *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* with both white and pink forms were seen. Some of the group also saw a hybrid between *Ophrys speculum* and *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii*. This proved to be the only *speculum* of any kind seen in flower during the week.



We made another brief stop at the only site on the island for Narrow-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*. This is a fairly late spring flowering plant on Rodos and so unfortunately,

although we found the single specimen (protected from harm by a ring of stones) the flower spike had barely risen above the leaves and so we quickly departed for our next destination.

On a plateau under a canopy of *Pinus brutia* a number of *Pyrus* sp and also Dense-flowered Orchids, *Neotinea maculata* (also known as *Orchis intacta*) were found along with Anatolian Orchids *Orchis anatolica* and Violet Limodores, and Enamel Bee Orchids *Ophrys candica*. All of these were a delight to behold. Omega Bee Orchids *Ophrys omegaifera* ssp. *omegaifera* were plentiful here too with the by now ubiquitous Reinhold's Orchid *Ophrys reinholdii*.

It was now time for a picnic lunch and so we parked our vehicle higher up the mountain, above the tree line. As always it wasn't long before the urge to explore a new area took over. It was just as well, since with Walter's hawk-like eyes we were able to find Shadow Bee Orchid *Ophrys fusca* ssp. *cinereophila*. Not far away, we watched a number of bird species including Stonechats, Ravens, Sardinian Warblers, Ravens, Common Buzzards and Corn Buntings, the latter species singing their jangling keys song from the wires which led up the mountain. Down below us, somewhere amongst the trees, a couple of Cuckoos were heard, first by Wendy and Denise. The area around us was now completely clear of trees, with only rocks and boulders and thick low-growing vegetation, including Shrubby Gromwell. Butterflies seen included Green-underside Blue, Green Hairstreak, Eastern Dappled White and Long-tailed Blue. Scrambling over the slopes, Walter, Yiannis, Matt and Alan were able to discover Milky Orchid *Neotinea* / *Orchis lactea* in good condition and a small number of Bug Orchids *Orchis fragrans*. After lunch, Julian, Denise and Wendy were able to re-locate the plants and take some nice photos.



*Ophrys candica*

With our delicious home-made lunch inside us, we set off back down the mountain in the direction



*Centaurea lactucifolia*

of Siana, one of the small villages in the region. Just before the village, we were able to park up by a small but nonetheless impressive gorge. Here on the steep faces, a number of Star Thistles *Centaurea lactucifolia* were growing. The flower buds of these plants are eaten by humans and goats alike. Here, their strange papery white flowers shine bright against the gorge face well out of reach of humans and livestock. Low on the walls, a pair of Large Wall Brown butterflies were glimpsed briefly before we looked at some of the other plants, including Large Rhodian Bellflower *Campanula hagiela*, with its beautiful violet flowers and Small Bellflower *Campanula erinus* while a lone Scops Owl called from the bushes high above the gorge.

Our final stop of the day was in the village itself. Here we were able to see more Milky Star Thistle growing from a wall and standing out against the deep blue sky.

Unfortunately, most of the shops were closed due to a political rally in Rhodes town but we were able to visit one shop and taste the 3 different local honeys; Thyme, Pine and Heather and also some honey with Pistachio and some of the alcoholic specialities, the foremost being souma! Just before we left the village a very kind and friendly gentleman opened his coffee shop for us and so we took refreshments, with the sea below us and Swifts screaming overhead.



Black-crowned night herons

### Day 5 Wednesday 9th April

This was to be an early morning start to try and combine a bit of leisurely birdwatching with Orchid hunting. When we finally arrived at the track leading onto the river, we paused fairly soon after for views of Crested Larks. The birds are similar looking to the more familiar Skylarks, but they lack the aerial song of the latter. Nonetheless, they are an interesting species and were quite confiding. In the bushes around, we also saw Greenfinches. Turning off the main track and heading to the river a flight of nine Night Herons flew over, providing some nice views.

At the river, we were able to see Marsh Harrier, Swift and Alpine Swift, House Martin, Swallow, Whinchat and Woodchat Shrike. Two of the latter were engaged in courtship activity and mutual feeding, the male flying up and down from on his perch, presenting the female with tasty morsels of food. A small group of three Wood Sandpipers were seen, along with a number of Little Ringed Plovers, with their bright yellow eye ring and pale legs. Casper pointed out a solitary Snipe which took off and in the background bushes, a couple of Sardinian Warblers were seen and heard and a Yellow Wagtail was heard but not seen. Away from the river, a flight of Lesser Short-toed Larks flew past and high in the sky, a Long-legged Buzzard with its pale tawny colours flew over. Orchid-wise, a number of different species were discovered along with other interesting plants; *Ophrys umbilicata*

*ssp. rhodia*, *Serapias bergonii*, and *Ophrys Calypso*. Yiannis identified *Linum bienne*, Sharp-tooth Clover *Trifolium argutum* and Crimson Pea *Lathyrus clymenum*, and was at pains to point out that the latter was actually a Vetchling with winged stems, large stipules and few leaflets! Narrow-leaved Bugloss *Echium angustifolium* was growing well here with its beautiful red flowers and the more common Purple Viper's Bugloss *Echium plantagineum*.



*Ophrys rhodia*

A Red Admiral butterfly was seen taking salts and moisture from the wet sands by the river, along with a female Clouded Yellow var. *helice* doing exactly the same and in flight, showing very pale colours compared to the nominate form.

We made a short excursion onto the beach by the river mouth. A small number of Long-haired Pinks, *Dianthus crinitus* were again seen on the beach as well as at the river together with some



other interesting plants including Sea Daffodil, a plant pollinated by Convolvulus Hawk-Moth. In the grasslands surrounding the river, Scarce Swallowtail butterflies occasionally floated over looking very relaxed in the heat of the day and an Aegean Meadow Brown was also observed. Wendy and Julian went for a paddle and dipped their toes in the refreshing Aegean which provided them with some relief from the heat of the day. High on the shingle as we were leaving, three Stone Curlews were spotted by Casper and made a welcome addition to the bird list. These birds are something of a rarity in the UK and elsewhere in Europe so we were fortunate indeed to see them here.

The temperature was getting quite high as we headed for some nearby Olive groves. Away from the deep ploughing, a number of Colossal Bee Orchids *Ophrys holoserica* ssp. *colossaea* were growing tall and proud, in a variety of forms and living up to their name which is taken from the somewhat mythical statue of the Colossus of Rhodes. In amongst the sward, occasionally we would find other species, including many Serapias, Rhodian Woodcock Orchids and Pyramidal Orchids. *Ophrys colossaea* is a Rhodes endemic and in real danger of disappearing due to the changes in farming practises, particularly the deep ploughing of groves, often funded by European grants. We were fortunate to see a good number of these but all of us were fearful that one day soon this species could disappear. Casper and Walter were soon onto another new orchid species for the day, Holy Orchid *Orchis sancta*, and some of these rather late-flowering plants were already in full bloom. There were also good specimens of *Ophrys rhodia* and *Ophrys mammosa*, including an individual with a plain lip much like *Ophrys helena*. Under the Olives, Matt did his best to photograph a Snake eyed Skink which was very lively in the heat of the midday sun.



*Ophrys holoserica* ssp. *colossaea*



*Ophrys mammosa*



*Anacamptis fragrans*



*Ophrys colossaea*

Few trips to Rhodes are complete without a visit to the ancient city of Lindos, whose acropolis is said to be the second largest in Greece. The ruins are situated on a high point above a cove and the walk up to the top is usually well worth the trouble, not only for the views but also for the spectacle of a very healthy breeding colony of Lesser Kestrels. Our group was happy to see these and a single Peregrine, along with Common Swifts, a single Alpine Swift and Rock Doves which occasionally

darted out from the sheer rock face, presumably to escape the clutches of the Peregrine. The lesser Kestrels with their brick red backs contrasted beautifully against the deep azure and turquoise colours of sea. At the temple itself, a couple of Scarce Swallowtails and a Common Swallowtail were engaged in hill-topping, a form of behaviour attributed to their need to find a mate. These butterflies are generally always found at the acropolis at this time of year in Lindos. On the walls and floors of the ruins, Large Bellflowers *Campanula hagiela* were again seen and provided some wonderful photo-opportunities.

### Day 6 Thursday 10th April

Our first stop in a south easterly direction from Profitis Ilias was made in search of Violet Limodores *Limodorum abortivum*. We arrived at our spot, crossing the upper reaches of the Gadouras River, and set off to find them. To our dismay most of the flower spikes had been recently picked, something which unfortunately the local people do all too frequently, for this large and beautiful plant probably looks wonderful in a glass vase. Notwithstanding, we were able to find a few that had not been cut, and so our guests were able to appreciate this spectacular flower. We even managed to find the red variety *Limodorum abortivum* var. *rubrum*. A number of other orchid species were also found including *Ophrys polyxo* and *Ophrys candica*.



Lesser Kestrel

En route to our second stop of the day, we caught sight of another Long-legged Buzzard; a nice little distraction from things botanical. At a small bridge, we found *Orchis italica*, and some of these were in superb condition with their delicate pink colours and darker markings; a deserved reward after sadly encountering them displayed in a vase at our hotel upon arrival on the first day. We also found Enamel Bee Orchid *Ophrys candica*, Sicilian Bee Orchid *Ophrys sicula*, with beautiful yellow petals and lips marked with maroon, and also Horseshoe Orchid *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*. A number of our group took the fairly steep path up beside a small tributary of the Gadouras. Here in some



Limodorum abortivum



Mantis & Ophrys candica

profusion, a number of Horseshoe Orchids, were found again and several of the group also enjoyed watching and photographing a Praying Mantis, probably *Empusa fasciata*.

The lake we went to next was formed a number of years ago after damming the Gaidouras river. As it has begun to naturalise, it's become a good spot for birdwatching and botany. As we lunched in the shade, somebody saw a bird of prey and with binoculars and telescope fixed, we were able to

identify a resplendent male Peregrine falcon, no doubt hunting for water birds. The whinnying calls of Little Grebes could often be heard from out on the water and although very small, these birds could be seen with the aid of our optics. We also managed to see more Wood Sandpipers, Coots, Moorhens and Mallards.



Anacamptis laxiflora

Our last visit of the day was made to a damp site in search of Lax-flowered Orchid *Anacamptis laxiflora*. This beautiful plant grows in swathes in the right places and here on the damp soils it was growing in profusion. Dotted around the area, we were also able to find good little stands of Bumblebee Orchid *Ophrys bombyliflora*, Sicilian Orchid *Ophrys sicula*, Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, Horned Bee Orchids *Ophrys polyxo* and Greek Plowshare *Serapias bergonii*. Darting under one of the culverts a couple of Balkan Green Lizards trying to catch a Pygmy Skipper, made their escape having been disturbed by the human interlopers. Meanwhile in amongst the orchids, Denise had managed to find a Black-veined White and photographed it. Later it settled on a Lax-flowered Orchid, affording a wonderful

photo opportunity for both species. In the distant field a lone Corn Bunting uttered his by now familiar jangling song. We had come to the end of our day and returned to the hotel, before moving off to nearby Apollona for a delightful Greek meal at one of the very good restaurants there.

#### Day 7 Friday 11th April

A day for exploring Profitis Ilias once more, revisiting some of the places we'd already looked at and some new ones... and it proved to be a good thing we did. Matt had seen some perfect specimens of Provence Orchid *Orchis provincialis* on the way in to meet us and so we stopped in the area to take a closer look and get some decent photos of these lovely creamy yellow flowers. The plant grows up to 35cm in height and the large flowers have longitudinally-folded lips that are marked with fine, red spots. Throughout the week we'd found specimens of this plant in pretty good condition but never quite perfect. Today was very different. We then walked down the road and explored a likely looking slope. Despite the darkening sky when we reached the top of the hill, several new interesting plants were seen; *Echium plantagineum*, and a beautiful poppy with short stem and blue anthers which turned out to be *Papaver argemone* and more *Ophrys reinholdii*. Here we also found Reinhold's, and Horseshoe Orchids, and finally two new species; firstly, Spotted Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio ssp. picta* and then a very nice group of Man Orchids *Orchis anthropophora*, a plant which is rarely seen on Rhodes .



Orchis anthropophora

We moved on down the mountain to a little spot where we'd stopped before earlier in the week. Here more Aegean Butterfly Orchids were seen, some of them quite majestic and standing over a foot high. There were also yet more Reinhold's, Profitis Ilias Bee Orchid *Ophrys oreas* along with



Anatolian Orchid *Orchis anatolica*, and finally Italian Orchid *Ophrys italica*. In the distance, we could hear another Cuckoo calling and the group caught the scent and sight of Rhodes Peony once again. All around, we were also amazed at the sheer profusion of Balkan Anemone *Anemone blanda*. A few more Oreas were seen, some in pretty good condition and as we left, the soft tones of a calling Raven were heard.

We decided to look again at the very special orchid we'd discovered earlier in the week, *Ophrys episcopalis* var. *samia*. The plant was still there and we took more photos of it, but despite diligent searching no others were to be found. However, we did locate Reinhold's, Sicilian and Dense-flowered orchids. Alan also found our first and only *Anacamptis collina* (although it had finished flowering) and growing in the sward were a couple of different varieties of Broomrape, with violet and white forms. In a nearby meadow we saw a number of jewel beetles and *Silene behen*, a beautiful little member of the Catchfly family.



We moved up to a little picnic spot, at about 400m above sea level, overlooking the western shores and beyond to Turkey and the island of Simi. We were fortunate to have spent a good morning and after discovering the new species, felt we deserved a leisurely lunch. Butterflies were on show with a beautiful female Cleopatra ssp. *fiori* drifting up the hillside and numerous Painted Ladies interspersed with the occasional Eastern Festoon and Scarce Swallowtail. In a little meadow behind, we made a quick foray to try and find some more orchids. Sure enough, Giant Orchid *Himantoglossum robertianum* was seen mainly in seed and also Greek Plowshare *Serapias bergonii* and a Tree Pipit seen by Julian and Casper.

We decided to move back up the mountain, approaching from the northern side. Stopping at a track leading into the mountain, we saw a wonderful Dragon Arum specimen growing beside an old stone building, making for a fine photo-opportunity and also came upon several perfect Sicilian and Reinhold's Orchids in a little meadow by some bee hives. With the afternoon sun beginning to lose its warmth, we headed back to the hotel and a short rest before our evening meal there.

**Day 8 Saturday 12th April.** Our holiday had come to an end and with Casper taking an early morning flight, Julian made a 4am start for the airport, to drop him off and a return trip at lunchtime with the rest of our party. It had been a fantastic holiday with around 40 species and varieties seen, including one which was new to the island, *Ophrys episcopalis ssp. samia* and one potentially new species altogether, *Ophrys Gadouri*.

### **Photo credits**

**Walter Kemp:** Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia left & right image page 3; Anacamptis papilionacea ssp. heroic page 4; Cyclamen rhodium page 5; Zerynthia cerisyi page 5; Laudakia stellio page 6; Ophrys polyxo page 6; Gynandriris sisyrinchium page 6; Orchis italica centre page 7; Ophrys mammosa page 7; Anacamptis fragrans page 8; Fritillaria rhodia page 9; Centaurea lactucifolia page 10; Black-crowned night herons page 11; Ophrys rhodia page 11; Anacamptis fragrans page 12; Ophrys colossaea page 12; Lesser Kestrel page 13; Limodorum abortivum page 13; Mantis & Ophrys candica page 13; Anacamptis laxiflora page 14; Orchis antropophora page 14

**Alan Ridgway:** Ophrys reinholdii page 3; Ophrys episkopalis var samia page 5; Orchis italica right page 7; Ophrys cretica ssp. beloniae page 9; Ophrys oreas page 15

**Matt Berry:** Ophrys episkopalis var samia cover image; Mt. Attaviros & group shot page 2; Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia middle image page 3; Ophrys sicula page 4; Zerynthia cerisy page 7; Serapias carica page 8; Fritillaria rhodia right image page 9; Ophrys colossaea page 12; Ophrys mammosa page 12;

Greenwings would like to thank the whole group for their support and enthusiasm, and for their help in compiling the species lists and photo galleries.

### **Photo Gallery overleaf**



Top: *Serapias bergonii*. Bottom: *Anacamptis fragrans*, by Walter





Top: *Ophrys attaviria*. Middle: *Ophrys blitopertha*. Bottom: *Ophrys Phryganae*, by Yiannis Christofides



Top L-R: *Orchis anatolica* & *Ophrys regis-fernandii* by Yiannis Christofides. Bottom: Eastern Festoon by Matt Berry





Top: Mt. Akramitis. Bottom: *Anacamptis fragrans*, by Matt Berry





Top: *Ophrys omegaifera*. Bottom: *Ophrys calypso*, by Alan



Top: *Ophrys cretica* ssp. *beloniae* & *Ophrys colossaea*. Bottom: *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*, by Yiannis Christofides



Top: Black-veined White & Orchis provincialis. Bottom: Limodorum abortivum, by Walter





Top: *Ophrys regis-fernandii*. Bottom: *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, by Alan



Top: Green-underside Blue. Bottom: Scarce Swallowtail, by Matt Berry





Top: *Campanula hagiela* & *Ophrys candica*. Bottom: *Ophrys speculum* x *Ophrys regis-fernandii*, by Matt Berry





Top: *Ophrys omegaifera* & *Ophrys polyxo*. Bottom: *Ophrys bombyliflora*, by Yiannis Christofides





Top: Walter. Bottom: Yiannis. Photographing *Orchis italica*





Top: Yiannis & *Anacamptis laxiflora*. Bottom: Yiannis photographing *Ophrys episkopalis* var *samia*





Top: *Dianthus crinitus* ssp. *crinitus*. Bottom: *Ophisops elegans*, by Matt Berry



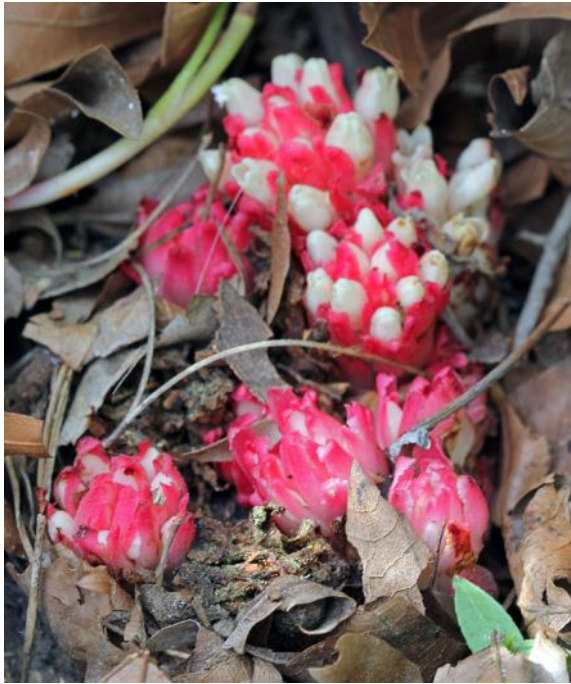


Top: View off the coast from Mt. Attaviros. Bottom: *Campanula hagielia*, by Matt Berry





Top: *Pseudophilotes vicrama*. Bottom: *Papaver argemone* ssp. *nigrotinctum*, by Matt Berry



Top left: *Cytinus hypocistis* ssp. *clusii*. Top right: *Styrax officinalis*. Bottom: Scorpion, by Walter





Top left: Starred Agama's by Wendy/Denise. Top right: Woodchat Shrike pair by Walter. Middle left: Green Hairstreak by Matt. Middle Right: Denise photographing orchids by Wendy. Bottom Left: picnic time by Wendy/Denise. Bottom right Male Odisque by Matt.

## Species Lists

Orchids		
	Scientific name	Common name
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
1	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Ophrys
2	<i>Ophrys regis-ferdinandii</i>	King Ferdinand's Ophrys
<b>Ophrys mammosa group</b>		
3	<i>Ophrys ferrum-equinum</i>	Horseshoe Ophrys
4	<i>Ophrys mammosa</i>	Breasted Ophrys
<b>Ophrys lutea group</b>		
5	<i>Ophrys phryganae</i>	Phrygana Ophrys
6	<i>Ophrys sicula</i>	Small Yellow Ophrys
<b>Ophrys reinholdii group</b>		
7	<i>Ophrys reinholdii</i>	Reinhold's Ophrys
8	<i>Ophrys cretica ssp. beloniae</i>	Cretan Ophrys
<b>Ophrys umbilicata group</b>		
9	<i>Ophrys rhodia</i>	Rhodian Woodcock Ophrys
<b>Ophrys fusca group</b>		
10	<i>Ophrys attaviria</i>	Attaviria Ophrys
11	<i>Ophrys blitopertha</i>	Beetle Ophrys
12	<i>Ophrys cinereophila</i>	Small-flowered Brown Ophrys
<b>Ophrys omegaifera group</b>		
13	<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i>	Royal Ophrys
<b>Ophrys holoserica group</b>		
14	<i>Ophrys candida</i>	White Ophrys
15	<i>Ophrys colossaea</i>	Giant "Colossus" Ophrys
16	<i>Ophrys oreas</i>	Profitis Ilias Ophrys
17	<i>Ophrys episkopalii var samia</i>	
<b>Ophrys heldreichii group</b>		
18	<i>Ophrys calypsus</i>	
19	<i>Ophrys polyxo</i>	Rhodian Horned Ophrys
<b>Ophrys oestrifera group</b>		
20	<i>Ophrys dodekanensis</i>	
21	<i>Serapias bergonii</i>	Bergoni's Serapias
22	<i>Serapias carica</i>	Carican Serapias
23	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Serapias
24	<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid
25	<i>Anacamptis collina</i>	Fan-Lipped Orchid
26	<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	Lax-flowered Orchid
27	<i>Anacamptis morio ssp. picta</i>	Spotted Green-winged Orchid
28	<i>Anacamptis papilionacea ssp. heroica</i>	Heroic Butterfly Orchid
29	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
30	<i>Anacamptis sancta</i>	Holy Orchid



31	<i>Anacamptis fragrans</i>	Bug Orchid
32	<i>Orchis anatolica</i>	Anatolian Orchid
33	<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid
34	<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian Orchid
35	<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid
36	<i>Neotinea intacta</i>	Dense flowered Orchid
37	<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky 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
<b>Hybrids</b>		
	<i>Ophrys speculum</i> x <i>Ophrys regis-fernandii</i>	Mirror Ophrys x King Ferdinand's Ophrys

## Other flora

### Scientific name

### Common

#### Pteridaceae

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Southern maidenhair fern
<i>Cheilanthes pteridioides</i>	Lip fern
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Annual maidenhair fern

#### Aspleniaceae

<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusty-back Fern
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#### Pinaceae

<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Turkish Pine
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#### Cupressaceae

<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
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#### Alliaceae

<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Wild Leek
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#### Amaryllidaceae

<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil
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#### Asphodelaceae

<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Small-fruited Asphodel
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#### Araceae

<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl
<i>Arum dioscoridis</i>	Dioscorides Arum
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum

#### Cyperaceae

<i>Cyperus capitatus</i>	Capitate Galingale
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#### Hyacinthaceae

<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Southern Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Garden Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Southern Grape Hyacinth
<i>Muscari weissii</i>	Weiss' Grape Hyacinth

<i>Bellevalia trifoliata</i>	Three-leaved Hyacinth
<b>Iridaceae</b>	
<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut Iris
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus
<b>Liliaceae</b>	
<i>Gagea graeca</i>	Greek Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Fritillaria rhodia</i>	Rhodian Fritillary
<b>Poaceae</b>	
<i>Arundo donax ssp. donax</i>	Giant Cane
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's Tail Grass
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree
<b>Apiaceae</b>	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's-needle
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean Hartwort
<b>Apocynaceae</b>	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>	
<i>Aristolochia guichardii</i>	Rhodian Dutchman's Pipe
<i>Aristolochia parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Dutchman's Pipe
<b>Asteraceae</b>	
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Small Globe-thistle
<i>Centaurea lactucifolia</i>	Lettuce-leaved Star-thistle
<i>Taraxacum hellenicum</i>	Greek Dandelion
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Saw-thistle
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Southern Salsify
<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>	Cretan Salsify
<i>Asteriscus aquaticus</i>	Golden Starwort
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Starwort
<i>Helichrysum conglobatum</i>	Mediterranean Strawflower
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Chios Chamomile
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>	Crown Daisy
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	
<i>Lithodora hispidula</i>	Shrubby Gromwell
<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>	Turkish Dyer's Alkanet
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss
<i>Anchusa aggregata</i>	Dense Alkanet
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	
<i>Arabis verna</i>	Blue Rock-cress
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	



<i>Campanula rhodensis</i>	Small Rhodian Bellflower
<i>Campanula hagielia</i>	Large Rhodian Bellflower
<i>Legousia pentagonia</i>	Large Venus'-looking-glass
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Cupanis Chickweed
<i>Dianthus crinitus ssp. crinitus</i>	Long-haired Pink
<i>Silene behen</i>	Hairless Catchfly
<b>Cistaceae</b>	
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rock-rose
<i>Cistus creticus ssp. creticus</i>	Grey Rock-rose
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered Rock-rose
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Rock-rose
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>Convolvulus oleifolius</i>	Pink Bindweed
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>	
<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>	Bitter Cucumber
<b>Cytinaceae</b>	
<i>Cytinus hypocistis ssp. clusii</i>	Red Cytinus
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	Urville's Widowflower
<b>Ericaceae</b>	
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry-tree
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge
<b>Fabaceae</b>	
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Scorpion Crown Vetch
<i>Securigera cretica</i>	Cretan Crown-vetch
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Burr Medick
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Clover
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Clover
<i>Trifolium clypeatum</i>	Helmet Clover
<i>Trifolium grandiflorum</i>	Large-flower Hop Clover
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Thorny Broom
<b>Gentianaceae</b>	
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser Centaury
<i>Centaurium tenuiflorum</i>	Slender Centaury
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Erodium gruinum</i>	Long-beaked Stork's-bill
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Soft Stork's-bill

<b>Lamiaceae</b>	
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage
<i>Prasium majus</i>	White Hedge-nettle
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Greek Sage
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Roman Hyssop
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Spanish Lavender
<b>Linaceae</b>	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>	
<i>Papaver argemone ssp. nigrotinctum</i>	Black-spotted Prickly Poppy
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	Red Horned-Poppy
<b>Platanaceae</b>	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
<b>Polygalaceae</b>	
<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	Veiny Milkwort
<b>Primulaceae</b>	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Cyclamen rhodium</i>	Rhodian Cyclamen
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	
<i>Anemone blanda</i>	Balkan Anemone
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i>	Autumn Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>	Jersey Buttercup
<b>Rosaceae</b>	
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Cultivated Pear
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	
<i>Rubia tenuifolia</i>	Donietti's Madder
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavyleaf Mullein
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Pale Figwort
<i>Orobancha pubescens</i>	Orobancha pubescens
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Red Broadleaf Glandweed
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
<b>Styracaceae</b>	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Snowdrop Bush
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	
<i>Valerianella vesicaria</i>	Bladder Cornsalad



## Butterflies

Scientific	Common
<b>Hesperiidae - Skippers</b>	
<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>	Pigmy Skipper
<b>Lycaenidae - Blues</b>	
<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	Eastern Baton Blue
<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>	Green-underside Blue
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Blue
<b>Lycaenidae - Coppers</b>	
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper
<b>Lycaenidae - Hairstreaks</b>	
<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Green Hairstreak
<b>Nymphalidae - "aristocrats"</b>	
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady
<b>Papilionidae</b>	
<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>	Eastern Festoon
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Scarce Swallowtail
<b>Pieridae</b>	
<i>Colias</i>	Clouded Yellow
<i>Gonepteryx Cleopatra fiorii</i>	Cleopatra
<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Black-veined White
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White
<b>Nymphalidae (Satyridae)</b>	
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown
<i>Maniola telmessia</i>	Aegean Meadow Brown

## Birds

Scientific	Common
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night-Heron
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey 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 peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon

<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian Coot
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Eurasian Stone-curlew
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove
<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Great Spotted Cuckoo
<i>Otus scops</i>	Common Scops-Owl
<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Common Swift
<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	Alpine Swift
<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Crested Lark
<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	Lesser Short-toed Lark
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Common House Martin
<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Woodlark
<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Eurasian Crag-Martin
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
<i>Lanius senator</i>	Woodchat Shrike
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay
<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Hooded Crow
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat
<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Stonechat
<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Blue Rock Thrush
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Sardinian Warbler
<i>Lanius senator</i>	Woodchat Shrike
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Spanish Sparrow
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common Chaffinch
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	European Greenfinch
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Corn Bunting

## Reptiles & amphibians

	Scientific	Common
1	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>	Starred Agama
2	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>	Snake-eyed Skink
3	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>	Snake-eyed Lizard
4	<i>Anatololacerta oertzeni</i>	Oertzen's Rock Lizard
5	<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>	Ocellated Skink
6	<i>Pelophylax bedriagae</i>	Levant Water Frog



## **Keep in touch with us!**

We are delighted to have an e-newsletter, Facebook page and Twitter account. This enables guests on Greenwings holidays to keep in touch after the holiday and share photos, memories and perhaps ideas and thoughts about future travel plans.

### **Receive our e-newsletter**

Join the Greenwings email list and be the first to find about new holidays, wildlife news, holiday reports and special offers. Subscribe by following the link [Greenwings Newsletter](#) or email us at [enquiries@greenwings.co](mailto:enquiries@greenwings.co) to sign up too!

### **Greenwings on Facebook**

We have a Facebook page so that Greenwings guests can stay in touch after the holiday and share their photos and experiences with others. You can find us at [www.facebook.com/GreenwingsWildlifeHolidays](http://www.facebook.com/GreenwingsWildlifeHolidays) or by following the link [Greenwings Facebook Page](#)

### **Greenwings on Twitter**

We are also on Twitter where you can tweet your holiday photos or chat with us and others about wildlife. Our username is [@\\_Greenwings](#) and you can find our profile by following the link [Greenwings](#)