

# Crete in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 19 October 2010



*Ipomea purpurea* – by V. Shrubbs



*Sternbergia lutea* – by V. Shrubbs



*Ecballium elaterium* – by R&D.Cole



*Pancratium maritimum* – by R&D.Cole



*Cyclamen* – by R&D.Cole

Report compiled by David Tattersfield

Images by kind courtesy of Valerie Shrubbs and Rob & Diane Cole



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## Day 1

Tuesday 12th October

The group met at Gatwick airport for the mid-morning direct flight to Hania. We were met by our coach driver for the short journey to our hotel. After settling in to our new surroundings we finished off a long day with a delicious selection of traditional Cretan food in a nearby taverna.

## Day 2

Wednesday 13th October

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

South of Kolimbari, we explored the rocky hillsides above the pretty village of Marathocephala, finding abundant *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *graecum*, which is restricted to the north-west of the island, and the tall flower spikes of Sea Squill, *Charybdis maritima*. After a pleasant walk down to Spilia, we drove on to Falasarna on the west coast. While we lunched on the beach, several took the opportunity of a dip in the sea, before walking to Ancient Falasarna and exploring the ruins of the Roman harbour. We returned along a section of raised beach with a fascinating geology, including a fossil cliff that bore testimony to the tectonic forces that had left the harbour high and dry. Of special botanical interest here was the silver-leaved near-endemic *Inula candida*.

We finished our excursion at the rather noisy cliff-top cafe before returning to Hania. In the evening we walked round the coast and through the harbour of this enchanting city, before dining in one of its many restaurants.

## Day 3

Thursday 14th October

Today we drove south to the Askifou Plateau through the rugged landscape of the White Mountains. Here, as in other areas of Crete, a combination of faulting in the limestone rocks and millions of years of karstic weathering has created a flat fertile depression of red iron-rich soils, technically known as a polje. In the much wetter times of its formation, the plateau would have been drained by a river, which carved what is now the Imbros Gorge, before waters found alternative routes underground. Further erosion reduced the surface to its present level, completely surrounded by hills. Before setting off down the gorge, we enjoyed a local delicacy of pancakes with cheese and honey at the café. At a slow pace we followed the meandering gorge, as it dramatically deepened beneath towering cliffs. Many of Crete's endemic chasmophytes have found a refuge here and in similar gorges and cliffs all over the island. The more obvious included Dittany, *Origanum dictamnus*, Cretan Sainfoin, *Ebenus cretica*, the striking shrubby composite, *Staehelina petiolata* and the shrubby Bedstraw, *Galium fruticosum*. With a little luck and some patient searching we located *Allium callimischon* subsp. *haemostictum* with delicate red-spotted flowers and *Sternbergia sicula* flowering from crevices in the limestone. After the seemingly endless twists and turns of the dry river-bed and the narrowest sections we finally emerged at the Taverna Komitades, where we enjoyed a late a lunch before heading back to Hania.

## Day 4

Friday 15th October

Beyond Kolimbari, we turned south to the mountain village of Topolia. Here, by a small chapel we explored a rocky hillside covered in *Cyclamen confusum*. This interesting taxon was raised to specific rank as recently as 2009 and is a tetraploid. We had timed our arrival badly as a heavy shower of rain descended by the time we got back on the coach. A welcome coffee break below the impressive cave of Agia Sophia gave us further opportunities to see the cliff flora at close quarters. From this high vantage point we had very close views of Griffon Vulture as they glided below the cliffs. Continuing south we passed through woodlands of Oriental Plane, *Platanus orientalis*, and Chestnut, *Castanea sativa*, and extensive areas of colourful maquis, with Strawberry Tree and purple *Erica manipuliiflora*. On reaching the coast we lunched under Pine trees, *Pinus halepensis* subsp. *brutia* and an area of spiny phrygana where the dominant plants were *Cordiothymus capitatus* and the endemic *Verbascum spinosum* which occurs from sea level to over 2000m. Our final destination was Elaphonisi, where in warm sunshine we paddled through the shallow water to the island. Several of us took the chance of a swim, while others explored the dunes. On the way back to Hania, we stopped to photograph *Sternbergia lutea* growing in a churchyard.

## Day 5

Saturday 16th October

A half-hour drive took us past the airport onto the rocky headland of the Akrotiri Peninsula. First we visited the Monastery of Agia Triada. The architecture and richly decorated interior of the church was fascinating and the large specimens of Poinsettia and Mexican native, Frangipani, were greatly admired. Further on we walked down the steep track towards the ruins of the Katholikou Monastery, where the rocky gorge is spanned by a bridge. The buildings and cliffs here are festooned with endemic plants including Cretan Wall Lettuce, *Petromarula pinnata*, Shrubby Mullein, *Verbascum arcturus* and Cretan Sneezewort, *Achillea cretica*. Retracing our route, we travelled through Souda to the hilltop archaeological site of Aptera, where we picnicked among the olive groves.

We explored the impressive Roman sites on the hill and visited the Turkish fort, overlooking Souda Bay, before walking down to the cafe at Megala Horifa. Our final stop on the way back was at the Allied War Cemetery at the head of the bay.

## Day 6

Sunday 17th October

Heading south to the Omalos Plateau in the White Mountains, we stopped first at Agia Lake, one of the finest wetland sites in Crete. We were rewarded with many new birds, including Little Egret and a number of Kingfishers. On the tortuous mountain road we stopped to search for the endemic *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *candicum*. We soon located its heavily patterned leaves and a few flowers, growing in the company of *Colchicum cretense* in tight crevices in the jagged limestone. After a short coffee break the weather threatened and the cafe owner very obligingly allowed us to prepare our lunch indoors. He had recently acquired a number of Kri-kri, the Cretan Wild Goat, hopefully to breed for release and we had a rare opportunity to see these magnificent creatures at close quarters. In rough pasture near the cafe, we photographed some nice specimens of *Colchicum cretense* and *Crocus laevigatus*

Forest of *Cupressus sempervirens* var. *horizontalis* dominates the landscape around Omalos together with other endemic trees and shrubs, which include Cretan Maple, *Acer sempervirens*, Cretan Barberry, *Berberis cretica* Spiny Mullein, *Verbascum spinosum*, and the rare Elm relative, *Zelkova abelicea*, invariably grazed into bizarre shapes by the local goat population. We made our way across the plateau to the viewpoint overlooking the Samaria Gorge and explored a little further up the hillside on the E4 footpath. On our return journey, we made another visit to Agia Lake. A young Hobby, perched on the balustrade, allowed us to approach within a few feet, allowing some stunning photographs. Amazingly, it flew off several times to catch dragonflies over the water before returning to the same perch.

## Day 7

Monday 18th October

From Topolia we followed a minor road into the hills to the start of our walk into the Sirikari Gorge. A steep descent, through olive groves and abandoned terraces lead us into a wild gorge, with abundant *Cyclamen confusum* and a dry river bed lined with Oleander, *Nerium oleander* and Oriental Plane, *Platanus orientalis*. A steep final ascent brought us to Polyrinia, where the taverna had obligingly opened for us, as usual, and we enjoyed a tasty traditional lunch. Nearby, growing in a damp seepage were several plants of Brookweed, *Samolus valerandi*. Time remained to wander through the maze of streets and visit the hilltop archaeological sites and traditional raki still, in what must be one of the longest-inhabited villages in Europe.

## Day 8

Tuesday 19th October

Our late flight meant we were able to enjoy a leisurely morning in Hania, visiting the market and exploring the rich mixture of Turkish and Venetian architecture in the streets surrounding the harbour. We met back at the hotel at 2.00 pm for last minute packing and departed for the airport at 3.30 pm.

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## Species Lists

Systematic list of plants noted

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

### PTERIDOPHYTA

### FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

#### Selaginellaceae

*Selaginella denticulata*

#### Lesser Clubmosses Family

Mediterranean Selaginella Shaded damp rocks

#### Equisetaceae

*Equisetum ramosissimum*

*Equisetum telmateia*

#### Horsetail Family

Branched Horsetail Agia Lake

Giant Horsetail Agia Lake

#### Adiantaceae

*Adiantum capillus-veneris*

#### Maidenhair Fern Family

Maidenhair Fern Imbros, Agia Sophia cave  
Falasarna

#### Aspleniaceae

*Ceterach officinarum*

#### Spleenwort family

Rusty-back Fern Frequent on rocks

#### Dennstaedtiaceae

*Pteridium aquilinum*

#### Bracken Family

Bracken Common

#### Polypodiaceae

*Polypodium cambricum*  
subsp. *australe*

#### Polypody Family

Southern Polypody Occasional on rocks and  
trees

#### Sinopteridaceae

*Cheilanthes acrosticha*

Occasional. Rock crevices

### GYMNOSPERMAE

### CONIFERS

#### Ephedraceae

*Ephedra foeminea*

#### Joint Pine Family

Imbros Gorge

#### Araucariaceae

*Araucaria heterophylla*

#### Monkey Puzzle Family

Norfolk Island Pine Planted

#### Cupressaceae

*Cupressus sempervirens*  
forma *sempervirens*

*Cupressus sempervirens*  
forma *horizontalis*

*Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp.  
*oxycedrus*

#### Juniper Family

Funeral Cypress Widely planted

Cypress Imbros, Omalos and  
Samaria Gorge. Native

Prickly Juniper Mountains

<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	Sea Juniper	Coastal. Elaphonisi
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician Juniper	Lowland scrub
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>	
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> subsp. <i>brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	Stunted coastal forest, Elaphonisi
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> subsp. <i>halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	Occasional. Planted
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Umbrella pine	Occasional. Planted
<b>ANGIOSPERMAE</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>	
	<b>DICOTYLEDONS</b>	
<b>Acanthaceae</b>	<b>Acanthus Family</b>	
<i>Acanthus spinosus</i>	Spiny Bear's Breech	Rocky places. Occasional
<b>Aceraceae</b>	<b>Maple Family</b>	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple	Gorges and mountains. Often heavily grazed
<b>Aizoaceae</b>	<b>Dew Plant Family</b>	
<i>Carprobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig	Coast. Alien
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	<b>Sumach Family</b>	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Often dominant in maquis
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	Imbros Gorge
<b>Apocyanaceae</b>	<b>Periwinkle Family</b>	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Widely planted and native along watercourses
<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Frangipani	Agia Triada
<b>Araliaceae</b>	<b>Ivy Family</b>	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Gorges
<b>Berberidaceae</b>	<b>Barberry Family</b>	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Common in mountains
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>	
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Coast. Red flowers
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>biebersteinii</i>	Pale Bugloss	Common. White flowers
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope	Waste ground. Frequent
<i>Heliotropium hirsutissimum</i>		Komitades

<i>Symphytum creticum</i>	( <i>Procopiana</i> )	Katholikou monastery
<b>Cactaceae</b>	<b>Cactus family</b>	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	Widespread alien
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>	
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i>	Petromarula	Widespread on rocks. <b>Endemic</b>
<b><i>Campanula cretica</i></b>	<b>(<i>Symphyandra</i>)</b>	<b>Imbros Gorge. Endemic</b>
<b>Capparaceae</b>	<b>Caper Family</b>	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	Cliffs. Widespread
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>	
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	Topolia Gorge
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>	
<i>Dianthus fruticosus</i>	A shrubby pink	Polyrinia Endemic
<i>Petrorhagia dianthoides</i>		Imbros Gorge Endemic
<i>Silene succulenta</i> subsp. <i>succulenta</i>		Coastal Sand. Elaphonisi (Greek Red Data Book)
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family	
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort	Sandy Beach
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Rock-rose Family</b>	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>		Common in maquis
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Local in maquis
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Few-flowered Cistus	Lowland maquis
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Locally common
<i>Fumana arabica</i>		Local in maquis
<b>Compositae</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>	
<i>Achillea cretica</i>	Cretan Sneezewort	Katholikou monastery
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>		Aptera
<i>Atractylis gummifera</i>	A stemless thistle	Falasarna and Sirikari
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	Frequent
<i>Carlina graeca</i>	( <i>C. corymbosa</i> )	Abundant in garrigue
<i>Carlina gummifera</i>		Falasarna
<i>Centaurea argentea</i>		Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>		Omalos
<i>Centaurea idaea</i>	A yellow thistle	Imbros Gorge
<i>Centaurea raphanina</i> subsp. <i>raphanina</i>		Widespread. Endemic
<i>Centaurea spinosa</i>		North coast

<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>		North coast
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Waste places
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chicory	Occasional. Omalos
<i>Cynara cornigera</i>	A wild artichoke	Occasional. Rocky places
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>		Occasional. Waste places
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	Abundant in lowlands and on roadsides.
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	A Globe Thistle	Lowlands
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Abundant
<i>Helichrysum conglobatum</i>	( <i>H. stoechas</i> )	Frequent
<i>Helichrysum microphyllum</i> A	Curry Plant	Omalos
<i>Inula candida</i>		Cliffs. Falasarna
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Elaphonisi
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle	Frequent
<i>Onopordon bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>		North coast. Endemic
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	Sand dunes
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		Frequent
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>		Walls and rocks
<i>Picnomon acarna</i>		Roadsides. Common
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby Ptilostemon	Cliffs. Imbros, Topolia
<i>Pulicaria odora</i>	A Fleabane	Occasional
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	Occasional
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Spanish Oyster Plant	Occasional. Aptaera
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Waste places
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow Thistle	Olive Groves
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow Thistle	Olive Groves
<i>Staebelina petiolata</i>	( <i>S. arborea</i> )	Cliffs. Endemic
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Spiny Cocklebur	Weed. Falasarna

**Convolvulaceae****Bindweed Family**

<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>		Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus oleifolius</i>		Akrotiri
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	A Morning Glory	Roadsides. Alien

**Crassulaceae****Stonecrop Family**

<i>Rosularia serrata</i>		Imbros Gorge. Agia Sophia.
<i>Sedum creticum</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Sedum praesidis</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Sedum rubens</i>		Imbros Gorge
<i>Sedum amplexicaule</i> subsp. <i>tenuifolium</i>		Rocks. Imbros. Omalos
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Pennywort	Imbros Gorge



<b>Cuscutaceae</b>	<b>Dodder Family</b>	
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	A dodder	Frequent
<b>Cruciferae</b>	<b>Cress Family</b>	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>		Occasional. Mountains
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubrieta	Omalos
<i>Brassica cretica</i> subsp. <i>retica</i>	Cretan Cabbage	Imbros and Topolia Gorges
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Coasts
<i>Erysimum candicum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i>		Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Erysimum raulinii</i>		Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Lunaria annua</i> subsp. <i>pacyrbiza</i>	Honesty	Aptera
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>	<b>Cucumber Family</b>	
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	Frequent
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Waste places
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>	<b>Teasel Family</b>	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	A Scabious	Waste Places
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heath Family</b>	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	In flower and fruit
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Common in maquis
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>		Locally common in maquis. In flower
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Locally common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Coastal hillsides
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	Elaphonisi
<i>Euphorbia pepelis</i>		Elaphonisi
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	Poinsettia	Agia Triada
<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>		Sand dunes
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Occasional weed
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Occasional
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Damp valleys
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> subsp. <i>calliprinos</i>	Kermes Oak	Common. Often heavily grazed
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Frequent. Imbros Gorge

<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	Locally common
<b>Guttiferae</b>	<b>St John's-Wort Family</b>	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i>		Frequent in maquis
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-Wort	Occasional
<i>Hypericum triquetrifolium</i>		Frequent
<b>Juglandaceae</b>	<b>Walnut Family</b>	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Planted
<b>Labiatae</b>	<b>Mint Family</b>	
<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	Garden Horehound	Rocky places
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>		Rocky places
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	Near habitation
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	Occasional
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	Waste ground
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i>	Dittany	Cliffs, Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>		Endemic
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	Common
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	Common
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Three-leaved Sage	Topolia
<i>Salvia pomifera</i>		Sirikari Gorge
<i>Salvia verbenacea</i>		Aptera
<i>Satureja alpina</i> subsp. <i>meridionalis</i>		Omalos
<i>Satureja cretica</i>	( <i>Calamintha</i> )	Imbros Gorge. Endemic
<i>Satureja juliana</i>	( <i>Micromeria</i> )	Common
<i>Satureja nervosa</i>	( <i>Micromeria</i> )	Common
<i>Satureja spinosa</i>		Omalos. Endemic
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Satureia	Rocky places. Aromatic
<i>Scutellaria sieberi</i>	A Skullcap	Widespread
<i>Teucrium alpestre</i>		Rocky hillsides. Omalos <b>Endemic</b>
<i>Coridothymus capitatus</i>	A shrubby Thyme	Common, in flower
<b>Leguminosae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>	
<i>Acacia saligna</i>		Widely planted
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	Aptera
<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>		Local in phrygana
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>rubriflora</i>		Rocky places
<i>Astragalus angustifolius</i>	Spiny shrub.	Omalos
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	Often dominant.
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	Frequent tree, in fruit

<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Frequent. Planted
<i>Ebenus cretica</i>	Shrubby Sainfoin	Imbros and Topolia. <b>Endemic</b>
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>		Common
<i>Medicago arborea</i>	Tree Medick	Hania. Roadsides
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	Coastal sand dunes
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> subsp. <i>diacantha</i>	Spiny Rest-harrow	Rocky places. Frequent
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Frequent
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	Widely planted
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Common. Roadsides
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flax Family</b>	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Flax	Imbros and Topolia Gorges. Chasmophyte
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<b>Mallow Family</b>	
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Hibiscus	Gardens
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	Coast. Hania
<i>Lavatera bryonifolia</i>		Frequent shrub
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Common
<b>Meliaceae</b>	<b>Mahogany Family</b>	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian Bead Tree	Planted. Roadsides
<b>Moraceae</b>	<b>Mulberry Family</b>	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Frequent
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Commonly planted. Leaves uses as fodder
<b>Myrtaceae</b>	<b>Myrtle Family</b>	
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	Occasional
<b>Nyctaginaceae</b>	<b>Bougainvillea Family</b>	
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	Widely planted
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Ash Family</b>	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	Occasional, wild
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Mock Privet	Frequent in maquis
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<b>Wood Sorrel Family</b>	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Common weed
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>	
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	Coast

<b>Phytolaccaceae</b> <i>Phytolacca americana</i>	<b>Pokeweed Family</b> American Pokeweed	Occasional. Waste places. <b>Alien</b>
<b>Pittosporaceae</b> <i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	<b>Pittosporum Family</b>	Commonly planted
<b>Platanaceae</b> <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	<b>Plane Tree Family</b> Oriental Plane	Common in damp valleys
<b>Plumbagiaceae</b> <i>Limonium ?elaphonisicum</i>	<b>Thrift Family</b> A Sea-lavender	Elaphonisi Island <b>Endemic</b>
<b>Polygalaceae</b> <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	<b>Milkwort Family</b>	Cultivated
<b>Polygonaceae</b> <i>Persicaria salicifolia</i> <i>Polygonum maritimum</i> <i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	<b>Dock Family</b> A Knotgrass Sea Knotgrass Bull's Head Dock	Agia Lake North coast North coast
<b>Primulaceae</b> <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i> <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i> <i>Cyclamen confusum</i> <i>Samolus valerandi</i>	<b>Primrose Family</b> Greek Sowbread  Brookweed	Spilia  Omalos, Imbros  Topolia, Sirikari and Polyrinia Polyrinia
<b>Punicaceae</b> <i>Punica granatum</i>	<b>Pomegranate Family</b> Pomegranate	Planted
<b>Ranunculaceae</b> <i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> <i>Delphinium staphisagria</i> <i>Ranunculus bullatus</i> <i>Ranunculus creticus</i>	<b>Buttercup Family</b> Virgin's Bower Seedlings	Imbros, Aptera, in flower Sirikari gorge Widespread Imbros Gorge
<b>Rhamnaceae</b> <i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>	<b>Buckthorn Family</b>	Frequent. Rocky places
<b>Rosaceae</b> <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	<b>Rose Family</b> Hawthorn Japanese Loquat	Frequent Planted

<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	Widely planted
<i>Prunus prostrata</i>	Rock Cherry	Omalos
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn	Roadsides. Planted
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Wild Pear	Common
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	A Bramble	Common. Pink flowers
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Common in garrigue
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>	
<i>Galium fruticosum</i>		Cliffs. Imbros. <b>Endemic</b>
<b>Rutaceae</b>	<b>Rue Family</b>	
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	Occasional
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	Occasional. Planted
<b>Sapindaceae</b>	<b>Sapinda Family</b>	
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	Balloon Vine	Annual climber, bladder- like fruits. Alien
<b>Santalaceae</b>	<b>Sandalwood Family</b>	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	Hemi-parasite.Red berries
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Saxifrage Family</b>	
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i> subsp. <i>chryso-splenifolia</i>		Shaded rocks. Imbros
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Creeping Toadflax	Walls. Hania
<i>Scrophularia lucida</i>	Shining Figwort	Occasional
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	Occasional
<i>Verbascum arcturus</i>	ShrubbyMullein	Imbros Gorge, Agia Sophia cave. Endemic
<i>Verbascum macrurum</i>		Common
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>		Common
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i>	Spiny Mullein	Hillsides and mountains. Endemic low shrub
<b>Simaroubaceae</b>	<b>Tree of Heaven Family</b>	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	Occasional. Alien
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<b>Potato Family</b>	
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thornapple	Waste ground. Alien
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	Henbane	Polyrinia, Hania

<i>Mandragora officinarum</i>	Mandrake	Frequent
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrubby Tobacco	Waste ground. Alien
<i>Solanum villosum</i>	Hairy Nightshade	Waste ground. Fruit red or yellow
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Waste ground. Fruit black
<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Withania	Waste ground. Apter
<b>Styracaceae</b>	<b>Storax Family</b>	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	Occasional. In fruit
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>	<b>Tamarisk Family</b>	
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>		Sandy coast
<b>Thymelaceae</b>	<b>Daphne Family</b>	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>		Evergreen shrub. Omalos
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		Rocky places near the sea
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	<b>Elm Family</b>	
<i>Celtis tournefortii</i>		Rare tree. Yellow fruit. Imbros Gorge
<i>Zelkova abelicea</i>		Rare tree, related to Elm Omalos. <b>Endemic</b>
<b>Umbelliferae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>	
<i>Cribthum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Coastal rocks and sand
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	Waste ground. Common
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	Rocky places
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	Coastal dunes
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Apter
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>piperatum</i>	Fennel	Waste ground. Common
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Agia Sophia
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<b>Nettle Family</b>	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	Walls. Common
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	<b>Valerian Family</b>	
<i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>		Occasional. Imbros Gorge <b>Endemic</b>
<b>Verbenaceae</b>	<b>Verbena Family</b>	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Spilia
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree	Frequent. River beds
<b>Vitaceae</b>	<b>Vine Family</b>	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Vine	Occasional

## MONOCOTYLEDONS

<b>Agavaceae</b> <i>Agave americana</i>	<b>Agave Family</b> Century Plant	Planted
<b>Alliaceae</b> <i>Allium ameloprasum</i> <i>Allium callimischon</i> subsp. <i>  haemostictum</i> <i>Allium paniculatum</i> <i>Allium subirsutum</i>	<b>Onion Family</b> Wild Leek	Topolia Gorge, Polyrinia Imbros Gorge, Omalos  Marathocephala Topolia. In seed
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b> <i>Narcissus serotinus</i> <i>Pancratium maritimum</i> <i>Sternbergia lutea</i> <i>Sternbergia sicula</i>	<b>Daffodil Family</b>  Sea Daffodil Common Sternbergia	Occasional Coastal dunes. Elos, Polyrinia Imbros
<b>Araceae</b> <i>Arisarum vulgare</i> <i>Arum concinnatum</i> <i>Biarum davisii</i> subsp. <i>davisii</i>	<b>Arum Family</b> Friar's Cowl	In flower, Imbros Gorge Sirikari Gorge Komitades. Endemic
<b>Asparagaceae</b> <i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>	Frequent
<b>Asphodelaceae</b> <i>Asphodeline lutea</i> <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	<b>Asphodel Family</b> Yellow Asphodel	Imbros Common
<b>Colchicaceae</b> <i>Colchicum cretense</i>  <i>Colchicum pusillum</i>	<b>Colchicum Family</b>	Common around Omalos. Endemic Sirikari Gorge
<b>Cyperaceae</b> <i>Cyperus capitatus</i>	<b>Sedge Family</b>	Sand dunes
<b>Dioscoridaceae</b> <i>Tamus communis</i>	<b>Yam Family</b> Black Bryony	Occasional
<b>Graminae</b> <i>Arundo donax</i> <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> <i>Melica rectiflora</i>	<b>Grass Family</b> Giant Reed Marram Grass	Common. Naturalised Sand dunes Imbros Gorge

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

## Birds

Little Grebe – *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 20+ at Agia Lake  
 Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta* 2 at Agia Lake  
 Grey Heron – *Ardea cinerea* 3 at Agia Lake  
 Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos* 20+ at Agia Lake  
 Shoveler – *Anas chapeata* 50+ at Agia Lake  
 Ferruginous Duck – *Aythya nyroca* 6 at Agia Lake  
 Pochard – *Aythya farina* 4 at Agia Lake  
 Griffon Vulture – *Gyps fulvus* Seen every mountain day  
 Buzzard – *Buteo buteo* Seen every day  
 Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus* Seen every day  
 Eurasian Hobby - *Falco subbuteo* Agia Lake  
 Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus* 50+ at Agia Lake  
 Coot – *Fulica atra* 200+ at Agia Lake  
 Yellow-legged Gull – *Larus cachinnans* Souda Bay  
 Feral Pigeon – *Columba livia* Seen every day  
 Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocta* Seen every day



Turtle Dove – *Streptopelia turtur* 1 seen in Hania  
 Kingfisher – *Alcedo atthis* 4 at Agia Lake and in Hania  
 Crested Lark – *Galerida cristata* 1 seen at Elaphonisi  
 Crag Martin – *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Seen every mountain day  
 Barn Swallow – *Hirundo rustica* Seen occasionally  
 House Martin – *Delichon urbica* Seen occasionally  
 White Wagtail – *Motacilla alba* Small flocks at Falasarna and Omalos  
 Yellow Wagtail – *Motacilla flava* 1 seen at Falasarna  
 Wren – *Troglodytes troglodytes* Seen occasionally but elusive  
 Robin – *Erithacus rubicula* 1 seen at Polyrinia  
 Black Redstart – *Phoenicurus ochruros* Seen occasionally  
 Stonechat – *Saxicola torquata* Seen occasionally  
 Northern Wheatear – *Oenanthe oenanthe* Omalos  
 Blue Rock Thrush – *Monticola solitarius* Imbros Gorge  
 Blackbird – *Turdus merula* Seen every day  
 Cetti's Warbler – *Cettia cetti* Heard on several days  
 Sedge Warbler – *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 1 at Agia Lake  
 Whitethroat – *Sylvia communis* Occasional singles  
 Sardinian Warbler – *Sylvia melanocephala* Seen occasionally in scrub  
 Chiffchaff – *Phylloscopus collybita* Singles seen occasionally  
 Spotted Flycatcher – *Muscicapa striata* Singles seen occasionally  
 Blue Tit – *Parus caeruleus* Seen every day  
 Great Tit – *Parus major* Seen every day  
 Short-toed Treecreeper – *Certhia brachydactyla* 1 in Imbros Gorge  
 Chough – *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* 3 seen at Omalos  
 Raven – *Corvus corax* Singles seen every day  
 Hooded Crow – *Corvus corone cornix* Small numbers seen every day  
 Starling – *Sturnus vulgaris* small numbers  
 Italian (House) Sparrow – *Passer domesticus italiae* Common near habitation  
 Chaffinch – *Fringilla coelebs* Small numbers seen occasionally  
 Goldfinch – *Carduelis carduelis* Small flocks seen every day

## Mammals

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

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

## Butterflies

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>

Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
White-banded Grayling	<i>Pseudochazara anthelia</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>

### Moths

Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Occasional individuals
Spurge Hawkmoth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>	Caterpillars. Falasarna On <i>Euphorbia paralias</i>

### Dragonflies

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

### Other insects

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

## References

Flora of the Cretan Area - Annotated Checklist & Atlas N J Turland, Lance Chilton & J R Press HMSO  
The Natural History Museum 1995  
Flowers of Crete John Fielding and Nicholas Turland Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2005

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