

Crete in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 – 28 October 2014



Ephedra foeminea



Cyclamen confusum



Roman Villa



Topolia Gorge

Report & images by David Tattersfield



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Day 1

Tuesday 21st October

The group arrived in Hania on direct flights from Gatwick and Manchester, an hour or so apart. The hotel provided a lunch for those that required one, leaving the remaining part of the afternoon to settle in and explore the town. We reassembled in the early evening and went to a nearby taverna to sample a delicious selection of traditional Cretan food.

Day 2

Wednesday 22nd October

Travelling westwards from Hania, we made our first stop along the coast at a sandy bay, backed by a small area of dunes. A typical coastal flora included Cottonweed *Otanthus maritimus*, Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, the striking grey hummocks of Spiny Knapweed *Centaurea spinosa* and Sea Daffodil *Pancreatium maritimum*, mostly in fruit, but a few still displaying their spectacular sweetly-scented flowers.

At Kolimbari we turned south to the pretty village of Marathocephala, above a sea of Olives. Our attention was immediately drawn to the deep-yellow goblets of *Sternbergia lutea*, growing in parched conditions at the edge of a garden. Although we were to see this species on other occasions it was always as a cultivated plant. On the rocky hillsides above the village there were many flowers of *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *graecum*, common in southern mainland Greece, but restricted to the north-west of Crete. The tall flower spikes and huge bulbs of Sea Squill *Charybdis maritima* were prominent but the Autumn Squill *Prospero autumnale*, although extremely common, was much less obvious. Insects were abundant, including a number of Swallowtail Butterflies laying eggs on Fennel, their larval host plant. Praying Mantis *Mantis religiosa* and an adult female European Dwarf Mantis *Ameles spallanzania* were also seen. A conveniently situated table and chairs provided an excuse for lunch before we continued our journey.

We drove down to Spilia, back to Kolimbari and out onto the rocky Rodopou Peninsula to see more extensive populations of *Cyclamen graecum* in the Olive groves and rocky fields around Astratigos. We then continued to Falasarna at the foot of the most westerly peninsula and visited the ruins of the Hellenistic city and harbour that was an important naval and trading port from the 4th century BC until it was destroyed by the Romans in 69 BC. Along the present-day coast, a fossil cliff bears testimony to the tectonic forces that uplifted western Crete by nine metres in 365 AD and left the harbour high and dry. On a small area of sand dune was more Sea Daffodil and Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, on which a number of caterpillars of the Spurge Hawk-moth *Hyles euphorbiae* were feeding. On the cliffs were the silver-leaved near-endemic *Inula candida* and the autumn-flowering Heath

Erica manipuliiflora. We returned to Hania after a long and varied day and drove down to the harbour to eat in one of the many restaurants.

Day 3

Thursday 23rd October

We awoke to rain and a very unpromising day. Undaunted and optimistic, we drove south through the rugged landscape of the White Mountains. Here, as in other areas of Crete and southern Greece, a combination of faulting in the limestone rocks and millions of years of karstic weathering has created flat fertile depressions of red iron-rich soils, technically known as poljes. The Askifou plateau is one of the largest of these on Crete and now funnels its drainage underground. Originally, rivers would have drained south, carving out the Imbros and adjacent gorges before being captured by a lowering of the land surface.

Before setting off down the gorge, we enjoyed a local speciality of pancakes with cheese and honey at the taverna. It was windy and wet as we set off, but soon cleared to give us ideal conditions for our walk. Our first find was Autumn Lady's Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* and a few delicate *Crocus laevigatus*, as we followed the bed of the gorge. A few plants of the endemic *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *candicum* were wedged into tight crevices in the boulders and on the cliffs were many of Crete's endemic chasmophytes, including Dittany *Origanum dictamnus*, Cretan Sainfoin *Ebenus cretica*, the striking shrubby composite *Staehelina petiolata* and the shrubby Bedstraw *Galium fruticosum*. The autumn-flowering Buttercup *Ranunculus bullatus* was common and Friar's Cowl *Arisarum vulgare* displayed its curious hooded spathes in shady places, indicating there had been significant rain in the preceding weeks. With some patient searching we found a few yellow *Sternbergia sicula*, flowering from crevices in the hard limestone and the onion *Allium callimischon* subsp. *haemostictum*, with delicate red-spotted flowers. The gorge dramatically deepened beneath towering cliffs and after several narrow sections, we eventually emerged onto a broad apron of cobbles that led down to the road. It had been a thrilling walk, with new discoveries around every corner and took us an amazing five and a half hours. A late lunch was enjoyed at the taverna while the minibus was retrieved, and we arrived back in Hania around 6.30pm before a very cheap evening meal just up the road.

Day 4

Friday 24th October

Good weather was forecast as we made our first stop at Agia Lake, where natural freshwater springs have been dammed to create one of the finest wetland sites in Crete. Among the usual Coot and Moorhen were Shoveler, Teal, Widgeon, Tufted Duck and Pintail. Grey Heron and Little Egret stood sentinel in the reeds, Little Grebe dabbled around the margins and Kingfisher flashed by. We drove on upwards towards Omalos stopping at Lakki for the view. At this point the weather took a turn for the worse and we headed for the shelter of the Omalos Taverna and a cosy log fire. The storm worsened, rain and hail lashed down, with thunder and lightning and a wind that threatened to blow the van over. We were extremely grateful to be allowed to eat our picnic indoors.

Miraculously the weather abated to allow us an hour's foray onto the plateau, where we saw some rather bedraggled *Crocus laevigatus* and the endemic *Colchicum cretense*. In a small enclosure we were able to see a family of Kri-kri, Crete's ancestral wild goat, which is still to be found in the Samaria National Park. We made a brief visit to the head of the Samaria Gorge, where there are some fine trees of *Zelkova abelicea*, before the storm returned. The roads were covered in boulders from the torrents of water that were cascading down the hillsides and our attempt to complete a circuit of the plateau was stopped by a raging torrent, rolling boulders the size of footballs across the road. It was an experience that will remain long in our memories. After leaving Omalos, on the

recently completed new road, we managed a short break to see a dense population of *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *candicum* with a tremendous range of exquisitely patterned leaves. It was growing in tight crevices in hard water-worn limestone, along with *Colchicum cretense* and *Crocus laevigatus*. Back in Hania we took an opportunity to visit the covered market, as it would be closed on our last day. Once again we drove down to the harbour to sample the food in another restaurant.

Day 5

Saturday 25th October

We made our way west along the New National Road and then south to the village of Topolia. On the hillside, below a chapel there were many plants of *Cyclamen confusum* growing in lightly-shaded conditions under scrub. This plant is no doubt descended from the familiar *Cyclamen hederifolium* but was relatively recently elevated to the rank of species on account of its hexaploid chromosome number and some consistent morphological differences. Growing on the same site were numbers of sweetly-scented *Narcissus serotinus* and tiny pink *Colchicum pusillum*. Higher up the Topolia Gorge we stopped for drinks at a taverna, before climbing the steps to the impressive cave of Agia Sophia. Several plants of *Sternbergia sicula* were found as well as a number of *Cyclamen* and many of the chasmophytes we had seen previously in the Imbros Gorge. A short distance up the road, we made another stop to see a prolific population of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*, the typical diploid species, under the deep shade of woodland.

Continuing south, we passed through woodlands of Oriental Plane *Platanus orientalis* and Chestnut *Castanea sativa*, and extensive areas of colourful maquis with Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo* and purple *Erica manipuliflora*. On reaching the coast we lunched in the shade of Calabrian Pine *Pinus halepensis* subsp. *brutia* near a very interesting beach made up of limestone breccias. The spiny phrygana here was dominated by the aromatic *Cordiothymus capitatus*, the aromatic *Satureia* *Satureja thymbra* and the endemic *Verbascum spinosum*, with the addition of many large Sea Squill and several little colonies of *Spiranthes spiralis*.

Our final destination, a little way down the coast, was the island of Elaphonisi, an increasingly popular beach destination but one with a fascinating natural history which is recognised and protected under its designation as a Natura 2000 site. Many trees of the large-fruited *Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp. *macrocarpa* dominate the shore with large areas of sand-dunes containing abundant Sea Daffodil and Sea Spurge, as well as local specialities such as *Silene succulenta* and *Limonium elaphonesiacum*. We had time to explore or relax here in the sunshine but the long journey back to Hania, with yet more rain, meant we were quite late. We walked down to the Venetian harbour in the evening for another delicious meal.

Day 6

Sunday 26th October

After a late evening, at least we had an extra hour, as the clocks changed. The Akrotiri peninsula has been the traditional home to monastic settlements for many centuries. We visited the Agia Triada Monastery first and then drove to the Gouverneto Monastery on the rocky headland. From here we walked down the path to the Cave of St John and a number of us continued down to the ruins of the Katholikou Monastery, in the bottom of the gorge. A number of tiny *Colchicum pusillum* were seen on the walk and on the cliffs and walls of the ruins were more special plants, including the endemic shrubby Pink *Dianthus fruticosus* subsp. *creticus* and Cretan Sneezewort *Achillea cretica*.

We drove through Souda to the hilltop archaeological site of Apta where we visited the impressive Roman site before lunch and the Roman villa and Turkish fort afterwards. New shrubs were the pungent Bean Trefoil *Anagyris foetida*, the strange *Withania somnifera*, a naturalised member of the Tomato Family with a host of medical properties, and the shrubby Wormwood *Artemisia arborescens*. A short walk led to the impressive walls and gateway of the Roman walled city. We boarded the minibus for the return journey to Hania, stopping briefly at the Allied War Cemetery at the head of Souda Bay. As darkness fell, the rain started again, so to avoid a possible soaking, we took the bus to the nearby taverna.

Day 7

Monday 27th October

After thunderstorms and rain overnight, the weather improved as we drove west. Just before Kastelli, we turned south again to Topolia and followed a minor road into the hills. We made a short walk into a small valley to the west where there were a number of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*. This population apparently links with the plants we had seen south of Topolia. Most of the valley was given over to Olive groves and vegetables, including Okra but there were some interesting natives such as the Evergreen Birthwort *Aristolochia sempervirens*, *Osyris alba*, with red berries, and the little endemic onion *Allium tardans*. At Sirikari, we started our walk by a little chapel, descending steeply, at first, through Oak woodland to gain the main trail down the gorge. *Cyclamen confusum* was very common, mostly with flowers of a dark pink, growing on cliffs and abandoned terraces. The path descended to a dry riverbed lined with Oleander and magnificent Plane trees, at which point I returned to move the minibus to the bottom of the gorge.

Many *Sternbergia sicula* were seen in flower amongst the Cyclamen, on the cliffs and boulders and small clumps of *Colchicum pusillum* dotted the rocky hillsides. At the bottom of the gorge we had lunch in an olive grove, just in time, as rain returned. We drove up to the hilltop village of Polyria and spent some time exploring its narrow streets and alleyways, the Roman cisterns and aqueducts and eventually finding a raki still and an olive-wood shop, where many interesting souvenirs were purchased. In several places in the village there were impressive displays of *Sternbergia lutea*. Rain put us off any further exploration and we returned to Hania, walking down to the old Venetian City for our last evening meal.

Day 8

Tuesday 28th October

After a busy week of rather mixed weather, we dodged the rain and spent the morning exploring Hania. We met back at the hotel for last minute packing and departed for the airport around midday. Three of us remained for another night in Hania, before flying to Athens to continue our explorations in the Peloponnese.

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Species Lists

Plants (• = endemic or near endemic to Crete; † = cultivated or naturalised)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
LYCOPODIOPSIDA		
CLUBMOSES		
Selaginellaceae <i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Lesser Clubmoss Family Mediterranean Selaginella	Damp shady places
EQUISETOPSIDA		
HORSETAILS		
Equisetaceae <i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i> <i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Horsetail Family Branched Horsetail Giant Horsetail	Hedges. Agia Lake Ditches and lake margin. Agia
PTEROPSIDA		
FERNS		
Aspleniaceae <i>Asplenium ceterach</i> <i>Asplenium onopteris</i> <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> subsp. <i>quadrivalens</i>	Spleenwort Family Rusty-back Fern Acute-leaved Spleenwort Maidenhair Spleenwort	Common on rocks Shaded cliffs Rock crevices
Dennstaedtiaceae <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Family Bracken	Locally common
Dryopteridaceae <i>Dryopteris pallida</i>	Buckler-fern Family Pale Buckler-fern	Shady cliffs. Imbros
Polypodiaceae <i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Polypody Family Southern Polypody	Shady rocks. Imbros
Pteridaceae <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> <i>Anogramma leptophylla</i> <i>Cheilanthes acrosticha</i> <i>Cosentinea vellea</i>	Maidenhair Fern Family Maidenhair Fern Jersey Fern Scented Cheilanthes Scaly Cheilanthes	Damp shaded cliffs Damp shaded earth Rock crevices Dry rocks near the sea
Woodsiaceae <i>Athyrium felix-femina</i> <i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Lady-fern Family Lady-fern Brittle Bladder-fern	Shady cliffs. Imbros Gorge Mountain rocks. Uncommon
PINOPSIDA		
CONIFERS		
Araucariaceae <i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> †	Monkey Puzzle Family Norfolk Island Pine	Cultivated. Coastal
Cupressaceae <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> forma. <i>horizontalis</i> <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> forma. <i>sempervirens</i> † <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>macrocarpa</i> <i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>oxycedrus</i>	Juniper Family Cypress Funeral Cypress Sea Juniper Prickly Juniper	Common. Sea level to treeline Cultivated Elaphonisi Frequent. Mountains

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician Juniper	Occasional. Maquis
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> subsp. <i>brutia</i>	Calabrian Pine	Frequent native tree
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> subsp. <i>halepensis</i> †	Aleppo Pine	Cultivated
<i>Pinus pinea</i> †	Umbrella pine	Cultivated near coasts
GNETOPSIDA	GNETOPHYTES	
Ephedraceae	Joint Pine Family	
<i>Ephedra foeminea</i>	A Joint Pine	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
MAGNOLIOPSIDA	FLOWERING PLANTS	
MAGNOLIIDAE	DICOTYLEDONS	
Acanthaceae	Acanthus Family	
<i>Acanthus spinosus</i>	Spiny Bear's Breech	Frequent
Aceraceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer sempervirens</i>	Cretan Maple	Common. Mountains
Aizoaceae	Dew Plant Family	
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> †	Hottentot Fig	Coastal alien
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Common in maquis
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	Frequent in maquis and gorges
<i>Schinus molle</i> †	Californian Pepper Tree	Cultivated
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Maritime rocks
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Frequent
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	Rocky fields
<i>Eryngium creticum</i>	Cretan Eryngo	Roadsides. Waste places
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	Sand dunes
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Common
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>piperatum</i>	Fennel	Common
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Aptera
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Locally common
Apocyanaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Riverbeds. Planted on roadsides
<i>Plumeria rubra</i> †	Frangipani	Cultivated
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Common
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
<i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Birthwort	Frequent
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea cretica</i>	Cretan Sneezewort	Cliffs. Katholikou

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Achillea ligustica</i>	Southern Yarrow	Common
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	Shrubby Wormwood	Aptera
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	Common
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Common
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i> subsp. <i>graeca</i>	A Flat-topped Carlina Thistle	Rocky places
<i>Carlina gummifera</i>	Pine Thistle	Phrygana and fallow fields
<i>Centaurea argentea</i> subsp. <i>macrothysana</i> •	A Knapweed	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star Thistle	Occasional
<i>Centaurea idaea</i> •		Rock crevices in phrygana
<i>Centaurea pumilio</i>		Sand dunes. Falasarna and Elaphonisi
<i>Centaurea raphanina</i> subsp. <i>raphanina</i> •		Common on rocks
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	St. Barnaby's Thistle	Occasional
<i>Centaurea spinosa</i>	Spiny Knapweed	North coast beaches
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush Skeletonweed	Sandy and waste places
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Roadsides
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chicory	Common
<i>Cynara cornigera</i>	A wild Artichoke	Rocky places
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Aromatic Inula	Common
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	Common
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i>	A Globe Thistle	Common
<i>Eupatorium adenophorum</i> ‡	A Shrubby Hemp-agrimony	Roadsides below Lakki
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Common
<i>Helichrysum conglobatum</i>	An Everlastingflower	Rocky places
<i>Helichrysum microphyllum</i>	A Curry Plant	Rocky places in mountains
<i>Helichrysum orientale</i>		Cliffs. Katholikou
<i>Inula candida</i>		Coastal cliffs
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Elaphonisi
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle	Common. Roadside and waste areas
<i>Onopordon bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i> •		Coastal sand and rocky places
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed	Sand dunes
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Golden-star	Common
<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	Shrubby Cudweed	Rocks, cliffs and walls
<i>Picnomon acarna</i>	Yellow Spine Thistle	Stony ground and roadsides
<i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i>	Shrubby Ptilostemon	Cliffs and rocky banks
<i>Pulicaria odora</i>	Mediterranean Fleabane	Maquis and woodland
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>	Star Hawkbit	Common
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Spanish Oyster Plant	Waste areas
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Common. Waste areas
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow Thistle	Waste areas
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow Thistle	Waste areas
<i>Staezelina petiolata</i> •		Cliffs
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i> ‡	Spiny Cocklebur	Alien weed
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> ‡	Cocklebur	Alien weed
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis cretica</i>	Cretan Barberry	Mountains
Bignoniaceae	Jacaranda Family	
<i>Jacaranda ovalifolia</i> ‡	Jacaranda	Street tree
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
<i>Echium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Bugloss	Common near coast

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Echium italicum</i> subsp. <i>biebersteinii</i>	Pale Bugloss	Common
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope	Common
<i>Symphytum creticum</i>	Cretan Comfrey	Shady cliffs
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i>	Burnt Candytuft	Dry rocky places
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	Aubretia	Omalos
<i>Brassica cretica</i> subsp. <i>cretica</i> •	Cretan Cabbage	Cliffs
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Sand dunes
<i>Erysimum candicum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i> •	A Treacle Mustard	Imbros Gorge
<i>Erysimum raulinii</i> •	A Treacle Mustard	Imbros Gorge
<i>Lunaria annua</i> subsp. <i>pachyrhiza</i>	Honesty	Occasional
Cactaceae	Cactus family	
<i>Opuntia ficus-barbarica</i> ‡	Prickly Pear	Cultivated
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Petromarula pinnata</i> •	Cretan Wall Lettuce	Common
<i>Campanula cretica</i> •		Imbros Gorge
Capparaceae	Caper Family	
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	Frequent on cliffs
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	Occasional
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Dianthus fruticosus</i> subsp. <i>creticus</i> •		Cliffs. Katholikou
<i>Dianthus xylorrhizus</i> •		Rocks. Polyrinia
<i>Petrorhagia dianthoides</i> •	A Tunic Flower	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Silene succulenta</i> subsp. <i>succulenta</i>		Elaphonisi Island
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family	
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly Saltwort	Sandy beaches
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i> subsp. <i>creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	Common
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Frequent in maqius
<i>Cistus parviflorus</i>	Few-flowered Cistus	Local in maqius
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Locally common
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	Mediterranean Rock-rose	Common. Rocky places
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme Rock-rose	Common. Rocky places
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Common
<i>Convolvulus oleifolius</i>	Olive-leaved Bindweed	Dry rocky places
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	Frequent parasite
<i>Ipomoea indica</i> ‡	A Morning Glory	Cultivated
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Rosularia serrata</i>		
<i>Sedum amplexicaule</i> subsp. <i>tenuifolium</i>		Rocky places
<i>Sedum creticum</i> var. <i>monocarpicum</i>		Cliffs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Sedum praesidis</i> •		Rocky phrygana
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Reddish Stonecrop	Rocky places
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	Mediterranean Stonecrop	Rocky places
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	A Pennywort	Shaded cliffs
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family	
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	Frequent
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Waste places
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	A Scabious	Occasional in phrygana
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Locally common
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Locally common
<i>Erica manipuliflora</i>	Autumn Heather	Locally common
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>	Small Spurge	Bare ground
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Maritime cliffs
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	Sand dunes
<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Petty Spurge	Sandy beaches
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> ‡	Poinsettia	Cultivated
<i>Euphorbia sultan-hassei</i> •	A Tree Spurge	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Common
<i>Ricinus communis</i> ‡	Castor Oil Plant	Frequent naturalised weed
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	Scrub and waste areas
<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>	Herman's Kidney Vetch	Occasional
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>rubriflora</i>	Kidney Vetch	Common
<i>Astragalus angustifolius</i>	A Milk Vetch	Common above Omalos
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Common
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	Common
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	Common
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> ‡	Judas Tree	Cultivated
<i>Ebenus cretica</i> •	Shrubby Sainfoin	Cliffs
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Spiny Broom	Common
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	Grey Bird's-foot Trefoil	Coastal sand and rocks
<i>Medicago arborea</i> ‡	Tree Medick	Cultivated and naturalised
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	Sand dunes
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> subsp. <i>diacantha</i>	Spiny Rest-harrow	Rocky places
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> ‡	False Acacia	Cultivated and naturalised
<i>Securigera globosa</i> •	A Crown Vetch	Cliffs. Imbros Gorge
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides and maquis
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanea sativa</i> ‡	Sweet Chestnut	Cultivated and occasionally naturalised
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> subsp. <i>calliprinos</i>	Kermes Oak	Common
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Frequent
<i>Quercus ithaburensis</i> subsp. <i>macrolepis</i> ‡	Valonia Oak	Cultivated

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	Locally common
Hypericaceae	St John's-Wort Family	
<i>Hypericum empetrifolium</i>	Crowberry-leaved St John's-Wort	Frequent
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-Wort	Rocky places
<i>Hypericum triquetrifolium</i>	A St John's-wort	Common
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family	
<i>Juglans regia</i> ‡	Walnut	Cultivated
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Ballota acetabulosa</i>	Garden Horehound	Riverbeds near sea level
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	Waste places
<i>Ballota pseudodictamnus</i>	False Dittany	Rocky phrygana
<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i> subsp. <i>alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	Rocky places
<i>Clinopodium creticum</i> •	Cretan Calamint	Imbros Gorge
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	Maquis and phrygana
<i>Coridothymus capitatus</i>	Shrubby Thyme	Common
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	Local in maquis
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	Waste places
<i>Micromeria juliana</i>	Micromeria	Rocky places
<i>Micromeria nervosa</i>		Rocky places
<i>Origanum dictamnus</i> •	Cretan Dittany	Cliffs
<i>Origanum microphyllum</i> •		Omalos plateau
<i>Phlomis cretica</i>	Cretan Jerusalem Sage	Locally common
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Jerusalem Sage	Common
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	Common
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Three-leaved Sage	Common
<i>Salvia pomifera</i>		Frequent
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Common
<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Satureia	Maquis and phrygana
<i>Scutellaria sieberi</i> •	A Skullcap	Cliffs and rocky banks
<i>Sideritis syriaca</i> subsp. <i>syriaca</i> •	Mountain Tea	Mountains
<i>Teucrium alpestre</i> •		Cliffs and rocks
<i>Teucrium capitatum</i>	Felty Germander	Rocky places
<i>Teucrium cuneifolium</i> •		Rare. Imbros Gorge
<i>Teucrium divaricatum</i>		Rocky places
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum arboreum</i>	Shrubby Flax	Cliffs in gorges
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> ‡	Okra	Cultivated
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> ‡	Hibiscus	Cultivated
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	Coast. Hania
<i>Lavatera bryoniifolia</i>		Common
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Common
Meliaceae	Mahogany Family	
<i>Melia azedarach</i> ‡	Indian Bead Tree	Cultivated
Mimosaceae	Acacia Family	
<i>Acacia retinoides</i> ‡	Swamp Wattle	Cultivated

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
Moraceae <i>Ficus carica</i> <i>Morus alba</i> †	Mulberry Family Fig White Mulberry	Frequent Cultivated
Myrtaceae <i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle Family Common Myrtle	Occasional in maqiis
Nyctaginaceae <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> †	Bougainvillea Family Bougainvillea	Cultivated
Oleaceae <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>oleaster</i> <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Olive Family Wild Olive Mock Privet	Occasional in phrygana Occasional in maquis
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> †	Wood Sorrel Family Bermuda Buttercup	Common
Paeoniaceae <i>Paeonia clusii</i> subsp. <i>clusii</i> •	Peony Family Clusius' Peony	Omalos
Papaveraceae <i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Poppy Family Yellow Horned-poppy	Coast
Phytolaccaceae <i>Phytolacca americana</i> †	Pokeweed Family American Pokeweed	Naturalised
Pittosporaceae <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> †	Pittosporum Family	Cultivated
Platanaceae <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Family Oriental Plane	River valleys
Plumbagiaceae <i>Limoniastrum monopetalum</i> † <i>Limonium elaphonicum</i> • <i>Limonium graecum</i>	Thrift Family Limoniastrum A Sea-lavender A Sea-lavender	Cultivated. Hania West coast Falasarna
Polygalaceae <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> †	Milkwort Family Myrtle-leaved Milkwort	Cultivated
Polygonaceae <i>Persicaria salicifolia</i> <i>Polygonum equisetiforme</i> <i>Polygonum maritimum</i> <i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Dock Family Willow-leaved Knotgrass Horsetail Knotgrass Sea Knotgrass Bull's Head Dock	Agia Lake Coastal sands Common
Primulaceae <i>Cyclamen confusum</i> • <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i> <i>Cyclamen graecum</i> subsp. <i>candicum</i> • <i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> subsp. <i>hederifolium</i> <i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Primrose Family Greek Sowbread Brookweed	Topolia and Sirikari Spilia and Rodopos Imbros and White Mountains South and west of Topolia Wet cliff. Falasarna

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
Punicaceae <i>Punica granatum</i> ‡	Pomegranate Family Pomegranate	Cultivated
Ranunculaceae <i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> <i>Delphinium staphisagria</i> <i>Ranunculus bullatus</i> <i>Ranunculus creticus</i> <i>Ranunculus cytheraeus</i>	Buttercup Family Virgin's Bower Lice Bane Cretan Buttercup	Frequent Imbros Gorge Locally common Shaded cliffs Local
Rhamnaceae <i>Rhamnus lycioides</i> subsp. <i>oleoides</i>	Buckthorn Family A Buckthorn	Frequent in phrygana
Rosaceae <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> ‡ <i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> subsp. <i>verrucosa</i> <i>Prunus dulcis</i> ‡ <i>Prunus prostrata</i> <i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> ‡ <i>Pyrus spinosa</i> <i>Rubus sanctus</i> <i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Rose Family Hawthorn Japanese Loquat Salad Burnet Almond Rock Cherry Firethorn Wild Pear A Bramble Thorny Burnet	Frequent Cultivated Frequent Cultivated Omalos Cultivated Common Common Common
Rubiaceae <i>Galium fruticosum</i> • <i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Bedstraw Family A Bedstraw Wild Madder	Cliffs Common
Rutaceae <i>Citrus limon</i> ‡ <i>Citrus sinensis</i> ‡ <i>Ruta chalepensis</i> subsp. <i>chalepensis</i>	Rue Family Lemon Orange Fringed Rue	Cultivated Cultivated Occasional
Salicaceae <i>Populus alba</i>	Willow Family White Poplar	Common
Sapindaceae <i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> ‡	Sapinda Family Balloon Vine	Cultivated
Santalaceae <i>Osyris alba</i>	Bastard-toadflax Family Osyris	Frequent
Saxifragaceae <i>Saxifraga chrysosplenifolia</i>	Saxifrage Family A Saxifrage	Locally common
Scrophulariaceae <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> <i>Kickxia elatine</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> <i>Scrophularia lucida</i> <i>Scrophularia peregrina</i> <i>Verbascum arcturus</i> • <i>Verbascum macrurum</i> <i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Figwort Family Creeping Toadflax Sharp-leaved Fluellen Shining Figwort Nettle-leaved Figwort Shrubby Mullein Wavy-leaved Mullein	Walls. Hania Agia Lake Frequent Common. Imbros Gorge Cliffs and walls Common Common

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Verbascum spinosum</i> •	Spiny Mullein	Common
Simaroubaceae	Tree of Heaven Family	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> ‡	Tree of Heaven	Naturalised
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i> ‡	Night-blooming Jasmine	Cultivated. Hotel Halepa
<i>Datura stramonium</i> ‡	Thornapple	Naturalised
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	Henbane	Weedy places and walls. Hania
<i>Lycium barbarum</i>	Duke of Argyll's Tea Plant	Naturalised near the coast
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	Mandrake	Frequent
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> ‡	Shrubby Tobacco	Naturalised
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Weedy places
<i>Solanum villosum</i>	Hairy Nightshade	Damp places
<i>Withania somnifera</i> ‡	Withania	Aptera
Styracaceae	Storax Family	
<i>Styrax officinalis</i>	Storax	Sirikari Gorge
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	A Tamarisk	Coasts
Thymelaeaceae	Mezereon Family	
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	A Daphne	Locally common in mountains
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>	Hairy Thymelaea	Rocky places near the sea
Ulmaceae	Elm Family	
<i>Celtis tournefortii</i>	A Nettle Tree	Imbros Gorge
<i>Zelkova abelicea</i> •	A Zelkova	Omalos plateau
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	Rocks and walls
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Valeriana asarifolia</i> •	A Valerian	Imbros Gorge
Verbenaceae	Vervain Family	
<i>Lantana camara</i> ‡	Lantana	Cultivated
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Frequent. Waste areas
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree	Gorge and stream-beds
Vitaceae	Vine Family	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> subsp. <i>sylvestris</i>	Wild Vine	Occasional
Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop Family	
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Maltese Cross	Waste places
LILIIDAE	MONOCOTYLEDONS	
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
<i>Allium ameloprasum</i>	Wild Leek	Occasional
<i>Allium bourgeaui</i> subsp. <i>creticum</i> •		Topolia Gorge
<i>Allium callimischon</i> subsp. <i>haemostictum</i>		Imbros Gorge and Omalos

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Allium chamaespathum</i>		Occasional
<i>Allium circinnatum</i> subsp. <i>circinnatum</i> •		Akrotiri
<i>Allium suhirsutum</i>		Frequent
<i>Allium tardans</i> •		Frequent
<i>Narcissus serotinus</i>	Late Daffodil	Locally common
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Sand dunes
<i>Sternbergia greuteriana</i> •		Sirikari
<i>Sternbergia lutea</i>	Common Sternbergia	Cultivated
<i>Sternbergia sicula</i>	Slender Sternbergia	Locally common
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	Common
<i>Arum concinnatum</i>		Common
<i>Biarum davisii</i> subsp. <i>davisii</i> •		Local
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Agave americana</i> †	Century Plant	Cultivated and naturalised
<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	Leafless Asparagus	Common
<i>Charybdis maritima</i>	Sea Squill	Common
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Imbros Gorge
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Southern Star of Bethlehem	Topolia
<i>Prospero autumnale</i>	Autumn Squill	Common
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	Frequent in shade
Colchicaceae	Meadow Saffron Family	
<i>Colchicum cretense</i> •		Omalos
<i>Colchicum pusillum</i>		Frequent at low elevations
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
<i>Cyperus capitatus</i>	A Galingale	Sand dunes
Dioscoreaceae	Yam Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	Woodland and scrub
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Crocus laevigatus</i>		Imbros and Omalos
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
<i>Juncus littoralis</i>	Shore Rush	Elaphonisi
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Lady's Tresses	Local. Phrygana
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Arundo donax</i> †	Giant Reed	Common
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass	Sand dunes
<i>Briza minor</i>	Lesser Quaking-grass	Frequent
<i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	Fern Grass	Frequent
<i>Melica ciliata</i>	Hairy Melick	Imbros Gorge
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Marshes and riverbanks
<i>Sesleria doerfleri</i> •		Imbros Gorge

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
Posidoniaceae <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune Grass Family Neptune Grass	Marine
Smilacaceae <i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax Family Smilax	Common
Typhaceae <i>Typha domingensis</i>	Reedmace Family Southern Reedmace	Agia Lake
Xanthorrhoeaceae <i>Asphodeline lutea</i> <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Asphodel Family Yellow Asphodel Branched Asphodel	Common Common
Zosteraceae <i>Zostera marina</i>	Eelgrass Family Eelgrass	Marine

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>				✓				
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓				
3	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓				
4	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓				
5	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				✓				
6	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓				
7	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			4		4		3	
8	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓					1	
9	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
10	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>		✓						
11	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		✓						
12	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓				
13	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓				
14	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓			
15	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓			✓				✓
19	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				✓				
20	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>				✓				
21	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				✓				
22	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓					✓	
23	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓			✓		
26	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓						
27	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓					
28	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓		✓			
29	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				✓				
30	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				✓				
31	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓				
32	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
33	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			H					
34	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
35	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓						
36	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						✓	✓	
38	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
39	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓		
41	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓						
42	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
43	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	50	✓	✓	✓	

Mammals (D = dead; E = evidence of)

1	Kri-kri	<i>Capra hircus cretensis</i>				✓				
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>						E	E	
3	Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>		D			D			
4	Cretan Badger	<i>Meles meles</i> subsp. <i>arcalus</i>							E	
5	Cretan Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i> subsp. <i>bunites</i>			D					

Reptiles

1	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>					✓			
2	Cretan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis cretensis</i>					✓	✓		
3	Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>				✓				

Amphibians

1	Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>		D						
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Butterflies

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓						
2	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓				✓		
4	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓					✓
5	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓
6	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓				✓		
7	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>					✓			
8	White-banded Grayling	<i>Pseudochazara anthelia</i>		✓						
9	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>						✓		
10	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓				✓		
11	Mediterranean Skipper	<i>Gegenes nostradamus</i>						✓		

Moths

1	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>			✓					
2	Spurge Hawk-moth (larva)	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>		✓						
3	Oleander Hawk-moth	<i>Daphnis nerii</i>								✓

Dragonflies

1	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>		✓				✓		
2	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>				✓				
3	Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>		✓				✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Other Insects

1	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>		✓						
2	Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes gallicus</i>		✓						
3	Potter Wasp	<i>Odynerus spinipes</i>		✓						
4	Oriental Hornet	<i>Vesps orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
5	Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>		✓						
6	European Dwarf Mantis	<i>Ameles spallanzania</i>		✓						
7	Migratory Locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>		✓						
8	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>		✓						
9	Nosed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>		✓			✓			
10	Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulea</i>							✓	
11	Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>							✓	
12	Cicada	<i>Tibicen plebejus</i>	H				E			
13	Devil's Coach Horse	<i>Ocypus olens</i>				✓			✓	

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