

## **False Apollo and Spring Butterflies of North-eastern Greece**

Holiday Report 9-16 April 2018

Led by Michael de Courcy Williams and Dan Danahar



Gillian Elsom: False Apollo female

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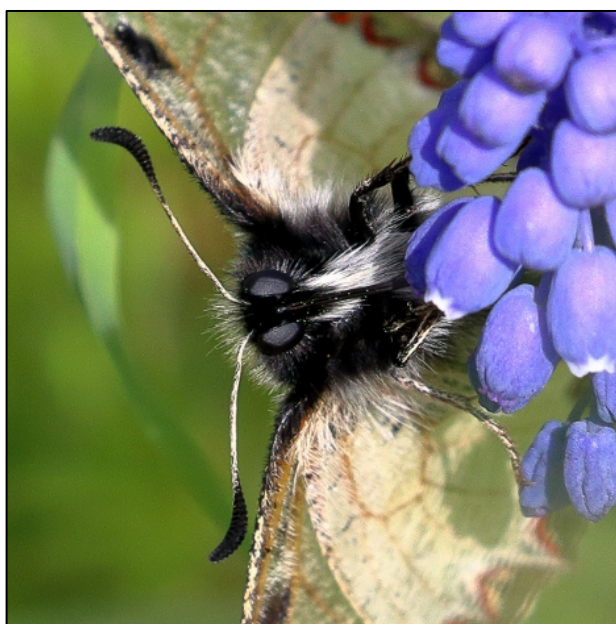
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## Introduction

This tour built upon the very successful first tour of the previous year to see the early flying, rare and very localised False Apollo butterfly at probably one of its last remaining European mainland localities. During the tour we travelled from beside the Mediterranean Sea and on up to the mountain snow line to visit a wide range of habitat types to also try and see as many other butterfly species as possible flying in North East Greece. The tour was based first in the town of Alexandroupoli, in the county of Evros, which is close to the Greek border with Turkey. From here a wide range of sites were visited including the limestone valleys, deciduous forests and evergreen maquis of the Evros

and Ismaros Hills as well as the scrubland and grasslands of the extensive Evros river delta and surrounding coastlands of the North Aegean. From Alexandroupoli we moved westwards and inland to our second base in the mountain village of Volakas in the county of Drama. From there we were able to visit a range of sites on the foothills and mid-altitudes on the mountains of Falakro and Orvilos. The 12 guests joining our two guides were: Hilary, Harry, Thomas, Michael, Bill, Trevor, Ian, Ken, David and Barbara as well as Gillian and Ken.



Ken Elsom: False Apollo (m) on Grape Hyacinth

## Day 1: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

The tour started its Greek section with a group rendezvous at Thessaloniki airport. After boarding our buses, we started the near three - hour drive over hills, across agricultural plains and along the beautiful coastline to Alexandroupoli in the very eastern corner of mainland Greece. As soon as the luggage was dropped off at our destination hotel we were straight out for a walk in the bright, late afternoon sunshine. A nearby coastal path took us to the Cyclops Cave, situated above the small but active fishing harbour of the village of Makri. The path goes through some ancient olive groves, which were a stopping point for camels along the silk route and has marvellous views to the North Aegean island of Samothrace with its 1600m mountain peak.

The wonderfully weird Nettle Tree Butterfly put in an appearance and its host plant Nettle Tree is frequent at the site. Indeed Gillian and Ken observed Nettle Tree butterfly laying an egg at the tip of a twig close to a couple of swollen leaf buds. Common Swallowtails flitted around in the late sunshine along with Queen of Spain Fritillary, Eastern Dappled White Clouded Yellows and Orange tip. Our adventure had begun!



Ken Elsom: Nettle Tree Butterfly laying eggs

Gillian Elsom: Nettle Tree Butterfly egg

**Day 2: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Bright warm sunshine greeted us on the first morning of the trip and indeed the good weather remained fortunately with us throughout our visit. Full of optimism we headed off in search of the elusive and extraordinarily beautiful False Apollo. Leaving the lowland agricultural fields, we passed through forests of oak and scattered pine plantations before taking a rough dirt track winding its way up and down through the forested hills to one of the most secluded and best sites in the region for False Apollo. This site has a strong population of False Apollo, which is known to our guide Michael to be present there for over a decade. Alongside False Apollo, both the other species of butterflies that also depend on *Aristolochia* plants for their caterpillars, the Southern and Eastern Festoons, occur here in good numbers but their flight times are slightly different. Nonetheless, we hoped to see all three.



Thomas Gerwing: Eastern Festoon female

Trevor Davenport: Southern Festoon female

No sooner had we parked, than False Apollo was flying around the vans, and following soon after our arrival, the clatter of unpacking camera bags and boots and the frequent shouts of "False Apollo coming your way" was heard throughout our secluded site. As we had the place to ourselves each could settle down to concentrate on seeing and photographing this glittering species. The males are more cream coloured and the females have a richer colouring and more dark markings on the hindwings.



**Dan Danahar: False Apollo male**

**Ken Elsom: False Apollo female hindwing**

After the initial excitement, we could start exploring why the species occurs at this site in such a strong population. One reason certainly was the variety of species of *Aristolochia* and Michael gave a crash course in finding and identifying the various species including *A. hirta*, *A. rotunda*, *A. pallida* and the yet to flower *A. clematitis* (see plant list and photos for details). It's interesting to note that *Aristolochia* is considered to be the ancestral plant group for all Swallowtail butterflies and many of the most dramatic tropical Swallowtails feed on related plants. Here the plants are distinctive, in their saxophone-shaped flowers with pungent aromas that trap and release quite specific small fly species for pollination. We would return to ecological matters later in the week on a second visit to the site.

***Aristolochia* flowers (not to scale)**

**Ken Elsom: *A. hirta***

**Gillian Elsom: *A. rotunda* (left) & *A. pallida* (right)**



By lunch time no one quite felt the need to chase after the False Apollo but the butterfly continued to fly past us while we sat around, ate lunch and relaxed on site. David snapped a photo of a pair of Wood Whites and later examination of the photo allowed us to definitively identify the species as Eastern Wood White. This was going to be helpful in subsequent efforts to identify a range of 'difficult' whites and actually this developed into a second theme of the tour. The glorious Southern Festoon was numerous but a fleeting glimpse of the Eastern Festoon stirred us to continue our searches. We left the site to visit two other localities for False Apollo and other Festoons in an area with open fields surrounded by mixed oak forest. En - route, one of the vans got temporarily stuck in some roadside mud, which reminded us that it was still early in the year and despite the sunshine with us there were still patches of saturated ground. However, 'many inventive hands' made light work of the mud and we were soon on the way again.



**Barbara Coupe: On our way again!**

**Michael de Courcy Williams: False Apollo?**

False Apollo was harder to find here but both Southern and Eastern Festoon put in appearances. A particular highlight was the sighting of two Brimstone species, the frequent Powdered Brimstone and the breathtakingly beautiful Cleopatra. The latter, known to be common elsewhere in Greece, is frequently questioned as breeding in NE Greece but somehow it knew otherwise! Southern Swallowtail, Large Tortoiseshell and Camberwell Beauty provided some high-flying drama and Grecian Copper were like glittering jewels in the undergrowth.



**Michael Dolderer: Cleopatra fly-past**

**Trevor Davenport: Grecian Copper male**

We pushed on to another site in search of more Eastern Festoons, which were still found only in very low numbers. Unfortunately the winter rains had completely blocked with debris and mud the road access to the forest site of our destination. Nevertheless Harry managed to rapidly survey around with his camera and get photos of a pair Wood White here, which we could later also clearly identify as Eastern Wood White. Whites were now a firm theme! Time was running out for the day and after a short stop we made a reluctant return to the hotel for a badly needed rest before dinner.



**David Coupe: Eastern Wood White (left) & Wood White pair (right)**

### **Day 3: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Flushed with success and the prospect of good warm and sunny weather, our guide Michael decided we would try our hand at finding a range of other elusive species in the area such as Pygmy Skipper in the Evros Delta, and in the neighbouring hills there was always the tantalising possibility of Eastern Bath White or Duke of Burgandy Fritillary. As it turned out, we were not fortunate with finding any of these species, possibly because it was still too early in the season. Although both Grecian Copper and Eastern Dappled White were flying around, we soon found ourselves investigating the hills. A first stop was in higher ground at an open rocky area along one of the main river valleys of the area where Eastern Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus andrache*) meets forests of Hungarian Oak (*Quercus frainetto*). Unfortunately no Eastern Bath Whites were seen in a known breeding locality. Despite that we embarked on a master-class in spotting and identification of obscure whites. The Eastern Dappled White proved more common than the rarer



**Gillian Elsom: Green Underside Blue**

Eastern Bath White of the previous day. Other species which were confirmed by photographs were Southern Small White, Mountain Small White, Green-veined White, Small White and Large White. Wood Whites proved to be the *sinapis* type. Orange tip was seen laying eggs on Hoary Cress (*Lepidium draba*), which is a common ruderal species. Grecian Copper was in evidence as well as Green-underside Blue and Brown Argus. Both Common and Scarce Swallowtail were seen along with Large Tortoiseshell.

**Trevor Davenport: Orange Tip**

**Dan Danahar: Eastern Bath White**



**Dan Danahar: Eastern Dappled White**

**Gillian Elsom: Eastern Dappled White**

It was still too early for Glanville Fritillary to be on the wing but its caterpillars were common, trudging around looking for more food or somewhere to pupate. Grizzled and Mallow Skippers were also seen here. After lunch we moved further through the Dadia National Park and on up to some higher ground outside the National Park in a locality known as Treis Vrises (the Three Taps). Here, although Cowslip was in evidence, no Duke of Burgundy were seen although Michael knows that a thriving population occurs here in its "unofficial" most easterly location in Greece. It was probably just a little too early this year and certainly caterpillars of Glanville and Spotted Fritillary seemed to confirm that. The food plant (*Corydalis*) of Clouded Apollo which also occurs here, was evident but when the butterfly is on the wing the plant is not to be seen. It was now quite late in the day so we drove back to base and the comfort of the hotel.

## Day 4: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Today we would visit a range of coastal sites and some rocky grassland locations in search of that elusive Eastern Bath White. Our first destination was in the foothills of the Ismaros Hills right beside the sea at Mesembria. This is an idyllic, long pebbly beach behind which the low limestone hills are covered in prickly Oak maquis. Although frequently grazed by goats the almost impenetrable thorny maquis protects a rich and varied vegetation. Almost everywhere here are ancient sites from classical times. In the overgrown fields and maquis are some old trees of Valonia Oak (*Quercus ithaburensis*) and Thrace has one of its few remaining Greek strongholds.



Harry Clarke: Berger's Clouded Yellow



Ken Elsom: Holly Blue

Nettle Tree Butterfly was seen and Grecian Copper provided a touch of the exotic. Although welcome to see, most of the other butterflies in evidence were familiar species including Mallow Skipper, Holly Blue, Green Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow, Green-veined White, Small White and Wall Brown. Amongst the Clouded Yellows we confirmed Berger's Clouded Yellow from photographs taken by both David and Harry. Returning inland, we subsequently headed back towards the sea through a wide valley in the hills taking us through a little visited but expansive landscape comprised of limestone grasslands and granitic prickly oak Maquis with Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*). Our first stop was in the heavily grazed limestone grasslands around the rock of Petrota. A little further on is an unusual but natural "forest" of stunted low trees of Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*), more usual of the Greek mountains.



Limestone grassland and prickly oak maquis around the Rock of Petrota



A little further on we stopped at a stream bed running through thick Maquis just in sight of the sea. Here Southern Festoon greeted us again and Grecian Coppers showed themselves to be widespread in the area. Scarce Swallowtails provided a bit of drama amongst other common early spring butterflies such as Green Hairstreak, Orange Tip, Brown Argus Common Blue, Green-underside Blue, Small Copper, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Wall Brown, Clouded Yellow and Mallow Skipper.



**David Coupe: Scarce Swallowtail Gillian Elsom: Green Underside Blue & Green Hairstreak**

Following lunch, we made another circuit inland and back to the coast at Maoria. Putting views across the vast agricultural plain of Komotini behind us, we headed into the dramatic coastal limestone and granite hills clothed with ancient Olive trees forming a classical savanna landscape. Renowned for its birdlife we seemed to be just too early for the first generation of Grass Jewel at a strong colony here known to our guide Michael, also at its "unofficial" most easterly Greek location. The mosaic of ancient Olive trees, rocky ground and prickly Oak maquis makes this a wonderful location but it is remote, little known and difficult to work. Most of what we encountered were generally common butterflies of early spring time.



**Michael de Courcy Williams: Ismaros Hills at Maoria looking out to sea**

A Camberwell Beauty that was flitting between the wet ground and nearby bushes along a stream bed gave us wonderfully close sightings of this extraordinarily beautiful maroon coloured species. Before our trip back to base we visited a coffee shop in the sleepy village of Maronia for a much needed boost and rest from the rigours of field work.

### **Day 5: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

This was the day to leave our hotel in Alexandroupoli and move inland and upwards to our next base in the Western Rodopi Mountains. A discussion during dinner the previous evening made it clear that the whole group really wanted another opportunity to visit our very special site for False Apollo, where it was in such abundance. Quite rightly, as it was simply too good an opportunity to miss. A quick change in the agenda allowed us to spend most of the day at that wonderful location before eventually journeying on to our second hotel. With the warm morning sunshine on our backs we checked out of the first hotel and headed to the now familiar ground where we were greeted once again by a profusion of False Apollos.

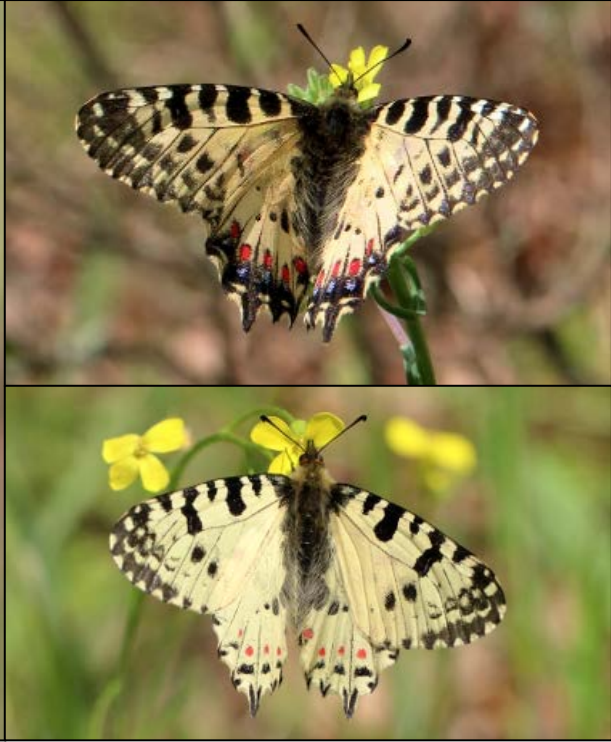


**Hilary Raeburn: Clearing in oak forest with False Apollo**

The second visit allowed everyone to get another opportunity for fresh views and even better photographs, and also to learn a little more about this gorgeous butterfly. The few days of warm weather since our first visit brought many changes including a wider range of butterflies. This time the lovely Eastern Festoon was found in much greater numbers and along with Southern Festoon it was wonderful to complete the trio of festoons.



**Trevor Davenport: Southern Festoon**

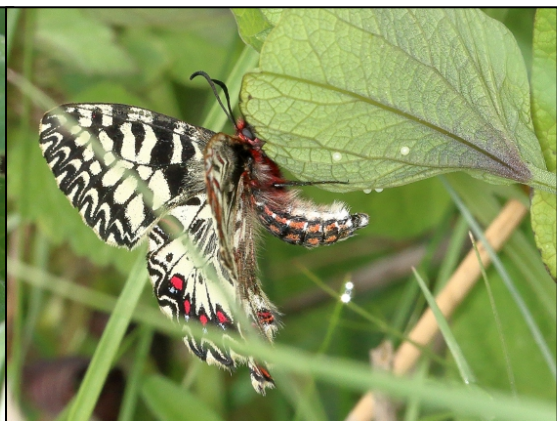


**Gillian Elsom: Eastern Festoon female (above)  
male (below)**

We were also able to find False Apollo eggs on *Aristolochia hirta* and indeed some caterpillars of False Apollo in a number of "nests" on *A. rotunda*, where young caterpillars had sewn together a couple of developing leaves and were already feasting away. Many of the earliest caterpillars take refuge in the dark coloured flowers of *A. hirta*. The caterpillars feed up rapidly and then wander off and pupate in the soil for protection during the dry summer and cold winter, unlike Southern Festoon which spins a cradle on a stem or twig and remains above ground until the following spring.



**Gillian Elsom: False Apollo mating pair**



**Ken Elsom: Southern Festoon laying eggs on  
*Aristolochia rotunda***



**Harry Clarke: False Apollo caterpillar nest (left) & caterpillars (right) on *A. hirta***

Continuing the caterpillar hunt, we were able to see Black-veined white larvae but the dramatic adults are on the wing much later. Glanville Fritillary caterpillars were wandering around as usual. Grecian Copper was by now a frequent sight along with Small Copper, Green Hairstreak, Holly Blue and Brown Argus. Grizzled skipper was present along with Marbled Skipper. Amongst the Whites, Orange Tip was common along with Eastern Dappled White. The 'whites specialists' showed photo-confirmation of Southern Small White, in amongst the 'ordinary' Small White, Large White and Green-veined White. In such an under-recorded region, all records are valuable data.



**Trevor Davenport: Grizzled Skipper**

**Gillian Elsom: Mallow Skipper**

After a late lunch on site and satisfied with our new encounters with one of Europe's most localised and gorgeous butterflies, we bade farewell to the Festoons, before driving to the mountain village of Volakas on Falakro Mountain where we were greeted with a warm welcome and delicious dinner at our second hotel.

## Day 6: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018

After a good night's rest and a hearty country breakfast we were ready to see what the mountains had in store for us as a contrast to the lowlands of the Eastern Rodopi. It was still early and rather cool, so our first stop was the sunniest location just fifteen minutes from the hotel on a limestone rocky headland at about 980m altitude.



**Ken Elsom: Snow covered peaks and forested foothills of Mt. Falakro**

Here, Southern Small White was confirmed again with photographs amongst Small White. Eastern Bath White was flitting around along with Clouded Yellow, Small Copper, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Painted Lady, Peacock and Common Swallowtail. Wall Butterfly was 'hill topping' at the highest point of the headland. The Latticed Heath moth was also seen and a Short-toed Eagle graced us with a pass-by. The foodplant (*Aethionema saxatile*) of Gruner's Orange Tip was around but sightings of the butterfly had to wait until the next day. As it had started to warm up we headed back towards the summit area of Falakro Mountain. Our first stop was a rocky slope of limestone grassland at 1450m.

We observed a Red Admiral doing the typical Vanessa thing of feeding on the "delicious" carcass of a dead goat! We simply had to stop for the lovely plants species at this altitude, which included the spectacular anemone-like and Balkan endemic, Alpine Pasque Flower which was in evidence everywhere we looked. Our resident plant experts Gillian and Ken found a number of interesting orchids including Red Helleborine, Few-flowered Orchid and some Early Purple Orchids with heavily speckled basal leaves making them look very much like *Orchis ovalis*. However this spotting is not a stable characteristic and *O. ovalis* is now recognised as not distinct from *O. mascula*. Flowers also intrigued a little further on at the end of the road at the Ski centre. Here amongst patches of snow at 1800m the rocky ground was lit up by bunches of Alpine flowers including Greek Alpine Squill (a Greek endemic), Snow Crocus, Alpine forget-

me-not, *Viola perinensis* (a local endemic of N Greece & S. Bulgaria) and golden Woolly-fruited Whitlowgrass. After a brief stop we dropped down into the relative warmth just below the tree-line to have lunch surrounded by Beech Trees and the green-flowered Greek form of the Balkan endemic Hellebore.



**Alpine endemic plants on Falakro:  
Pasque Flower (L, Barbara Coupe); Viola perinensis & Alpine Squill (C & R, Gillian Elsom)**

Following lunch we moved further downhill (770m) to take advantage of the sunshine and any warmth on offer. The open forested tracks on the north side of Falakro offered the best opportunity. Here a freshly emerged Eastern Baton Blue stole the show and posed obligingly and patiently at the track edge. Holly Blue and Common Blue were around too. A Brimstone completed a hat-trick of the Brimstone tribe for the trip. Southern Small White was again confirmed amongst Small Whites, Wood Whites, Orange Tip and Clouded Yellows. A Comma was the first sighting of it during the trip along with the regulars of Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Wall Butterfly.



**Ken Elsom: Eastern Baton Blue**



**Hilary Raeburn: In the foothills of Falakro**

As the time was getting on and although we were not far from base we headed back in good time as there were some "difficult" dirt tracks to negotiate to take us out of the forest. Safely back at the hotel, which we had to ourselves, allowed us to enjoy the evening meal with much lively discussion of the trip. Dan kindly gave a fascinating and most thought provoking presentation on his work on habitat reconstruction with schools in Brighton, which was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. He also told us about his work recording butterflies in Corfu.

### **Day 7: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Our last day in the field was an adventurous trip to the nearby mountain of Orvilos (Tsolias Peak, 2213m). Our route took us away from Falakro, through some agricultural valleys and up again past some very remote villages with only the occasional need to retrace our steps to regain the right road. The mountain of Orvilos straddles the Greek Bulgarian border and is unusual because the higher reaches of limestone grassland are not grazed.



**Orvilos: Tsolias Peak, 2213m**

Our first stop (880m) on Orvilos was in a mosaic of forest and open fields and with the snow covered peak way above us it was still cool and fresh. The highlight here was a sighting of Weaver's Fritillary (also known as Violet Fritillary). Once word got out, we tracked down a small colony in an abandoned field. Quite some time was taken photographing this wonderful looking species that posed nicely and displayed the violet tints on its undersides. Along a second track (900-1000m) above a stream bed we had a number of sightings of Gruner's Orange Tip. It posed eventually for the patient among us to show off its most delicate and exquisite pastel colours. We also saw Orange Tip, Wood Whites, Small White, Green-veined White and Clouded Yellow. Black-veined White caterpillars were around too. A nice sighting of Chapman's Blue by Harry was accompanied by Holly Blue, Small Copper and Green Hairstreak. Scarce Swallowtail always catches the attention as it did here too.



**Ken Elsom: Gruner's Orange Tip**



**Harry Clarke: Weaver's Fritillary**

Our trip back to Falakro was broken by a low altitude (400m) stop near to the village of Potamoj, along the Dopsatos river, a tributary of the now-damned Nestos river. Here in a field next to the river a strong colony of Dingy Skipper provided us with an additional species. Speckled Wood was also a first for the trip showing the season marched on! Gruner's Orange Tip was also present along with Orange Tip. Eastern Baton Blue was evident along with Green-underside Blue. Scarce and Common Swallowtails were also seen along with Large Tortoiseshell, Comma, Peacock, Brimstone and Eastern Wood White. The strangely marked Burnet Companion Moth posed for a photo and after getting our own group photo we brought our field work for the trip to an end and returned to the hotel.



**Ken Elsom: Dingy Skipper**



**Harry Clarke: Chapman's Blue**





Harry Clarke: The group at Potamoi (Drama county)

### Day 8: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

An early start had us on the road to Thessaloniki straight after breakfast to pick up everyone's respective flights back home. The drive went smoothly and everyone was delivered in readiness for the last leg of their journey home after a most enjoyable trip for all concerned.

**Overview.** The trip was very successful with plentiful opportunities to see and photograph the very beautiful, rare and enigmatic False Apollo in its natural setting and to learn a little about its ecology. In addition to seeing both males and females in very good numbers, including mating pairs, we were also fortunate to see eggs on the foodplant as well as some young caterpillars in their characteristic nests. We were blessed with good weather which allowed us to see both Southern and Eastern Festoon, completing a hat-trick of early season *Aristolochia* feeding Papilionidae butterflies. We had frequent encounters with a range of other spectacular species including many Grecian Coppers, Scarce Swallowtail, all three Brimstone species, Large Tortoiseshell, Camberwell Beauty and the most unusual Nettle Tree Butterfly, including an egg-laying female. In addition we were able to positively identify a number of interesting whites including Eastern Bath White, Eastern Dappled White, Southern Small White, Mountain Small White as well as Eastern Wood White. A change of scenery with a visit to higher mountains brought a handful of other species including Weavers Fritillary, Eastern Baton Blue, Dingy Skipper and, at a couple of sites, the exquisite and delicately coloured Gruner's Orange Tip. All of the 47 species seen are most useful records in a generally poorly worked

area. This trip also gave us the opportunity of seeing a range of specialist early spring flowers including some regional and local endemics of the northern Greek mountains. A total of 160 plant species were recorded.

Greenwings would like to thank all of their guests on this holiday, for their goodwill, enthusiasm and dedication throughout the week. We would also like to record a note of special thanks to Michael and Dan for their expert guiding and to Gillian for helping with the plant species list.

### Photo gallery and species lists:



Row 1: False Apollo male & False Apollo caterpillar (Ken Elsom)  
Row 2: Eastern Festoon male, Eastern Festoon female & Southern Festoon (Ken Elsom)  
Row 3: Gruner's Orange Tip (Gillian Elsom) & Grecian Copper male (Ken Elsom)  
Row 4: Eastern Baton Blue (Michael Dolderer) & Weaver's Fritillary male (Gillian Elsom)



1. *Crocus chrysanthus*, 2. *Viola kitaibeliana* (Gillian Elsom); 3. *V. perinensis* (Barbara Coupe); 4. *Globularia bisnagrica* (Gillian Elsom); 5. *Legousia pentagonia*; 6. *Euphorbia myrsinites*; 7. *Pulsatilla halleri* ssp. *rhodopaea* (Trevor Davenport); 8. *Anemone coronaria* (Barbara Coupe); 9. *Corydalis solida* (Michael Dolderer); 10. *Pyrus spinosa* (Gillian Elsom); 11. *Ophrys mammosa* (Ken Elsom); 12. *Orchis pauciflora*; 13. *O. purpurea* (Gillian Elsom); 14. *Dactylorhiza romana* (Gillian Elsom); 15. *O. Mascula* (Ken Elsom); 16. *Centaurea cyanus*; 17. *Iris reichenbachii* & 18. *Draba lasiocarpa* (Gillian Elsom).



1. Pyralidae, *Eurryhpis polinaris* (Thomas Gerwing); 2. Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*; 3. Hummingbird Hawkmoth, *Macroglossum stellatarum* (Ken Elsom); 4. Glanville Fritillary caterpillars, *Melitaea cinxia* (Hilary Raeburn); 5. possible Knapweed Fritillary caterpillar, *Melitaea phoebe*; 6. aberrant Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus* (Harry Clarke); 7. cricket nymph (Gillian Elsom); 8. *Empusa* mantid nymph (Ken Elsom); 9. Swallows (Michael Dolderer); 10. Three-lined Lizard, *Lacerta trilineata* (Ken Elsom); 11. Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca* & 12. Hermann's Tortoise, *Eurotestudo hermanni* (David Coupe).

## Butterfly List: Greenwings trip to NE Greece, 9-26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Species	English Name	Trip	DAY						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Dingy Skipper	✓							2
<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	Mallow Skipper	✓		2	2	1,2	1		
<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grizzled Skipper	✓			2		1	5	1
<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	Southern Festoon	✓		1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2	1		
<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>	Eastern Festoon	✓		1,2			1		
<i>Archon apollinus</i>	False Apollo	✓		1,2			1		
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Scarce Swallowtail	✓		1,2,3	2	1,2	1		1,2
<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Swallowtail	✓	1	1,2	1,2		1	1	2
<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Wood White	✓		1,2,3	1,2,3		1	4,5	1,2
<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>	Eastern Wood White	✓		1,3					2
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange-tip	✓	1	1,2,3	1,2	1,2,3	1	5	1,2
<i>Anthocharis gruneri</i>	Gruner's Orange-tip	✓							1,2
<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	Eastern Dappled White	✓	1	1	1,2	1	1		
<i>Aporia crataegi</i> ①	Black-veined white ①	✓					1		1
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	✓	1	1,2	1,2	1	1		
<i>Pieris mannii</i>	Southern Small White	✓		2	1		1	1,5	
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White	✓	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1	1,3-5	1
<i>Pieris ergane</i>	Mountain Small White	✓			1				
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	✓			1,2	1	1		1
<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Eastern Bath White	✓		1				1	
<i>Colias crocea</i>	Clouded Yellow	✓	1	1,2,3	1,2	1,2,3	1	1,4,5	1,2
<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	Berger's Clouded Yellow	✓				1			
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	✓						5	2
<i>Gonepteryx farinosa</i>	Powdered Brimstone	✓		2,3					
<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Cleopatra	✓		2					
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	✓	1	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1	1,2,3	1,2
<i>Lycaena ottomana</i>	Grecian Copper	✓		1,2,3	1,2	1,2	1		
<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Green Hairstreak	✓		1,2		1,2,3	1		1
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	✓		1,3	2	1,2	1	5	1
<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	Eastern Baton Blue	✓						5	2
<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	Green-underside Blue	✓		1	2	1,2			2
<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Brown Argus	✓		1,3	1,2	1,2,3		3	2
<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	Chapman's Blue	✓							1
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	✓		2		1,2,3		5	2
<i>Libythea celtis</i>	Nettle-tree Butterfly	✓	1			1			

Species	English Name	Trip	DAY						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Queen of Spain Fritillary	✓	1	1,2	1,2	1,2,3	1	1-4	1,2
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	✓	1	1,2		3	1	2,5	
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady	✓	1	1,2	1,3	1,2,3	1	1-3,5	
<i>Aglais io</i>	Peacock	✓			2			1	2
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma	✓						5	2
<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Camberwell Beauty	✓		2		3			
<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Large Tortoiseshell	✓		1,2	2	1			2
<i>Melitaea cinxia</i> ①	Glanville Fritillary ①	✓		1	1,2,3		1		
<i>Melitaea phoebe</i> ①	Knapweed Fritillary ①	?							1
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood	✓							2
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown	✓	1	2	1,2	1,2,3		1,5	1
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	✓			1	2			

① = caterpillars only

(47 species)

Day 1: Monday 9th April: 1=Makri (Cyclops Cave).

Day 2: Tuesday 10th April: 1=Kirki Woods, 2=Kirki (Brachoi), 3=Esimi picnic site.

Day 3: Wednesday 11th April: 1=Evros Delta, 2=Evros Hills (Pesani Bridge), 3=Evros Hills (Treis Vrisis).

Day 4: Thursday 12th April: 1=Mesembria, 2=Petrota (3 sites), 3=Maronia.

Day 5: Friday 13th April: 1=Kirki Woods (return visit - am)

Day 6: Saturday 14th April: 1=Aghios Nikolaos (980m), 2=Kouri Peak (1400m), 3=Falakro ski centre (1800m), 4=Lunch site (1380m), 5=Mesovouni (770m).

Day 7: Sunday 15th April: 1=Orvilos (880-1000m), 2=Potamoi (400m).

## Plant List: Greenwings trip to NE Greece 9-26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Compiled by Gillian Elsom.

(Edited & supplemented by Michael de Courcy Williams)

Nomenclature: Dimopoulos, P. et al. 2013, Vascular Plants of Greece: An annotated checklist. Berlin:  
Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum & Athens: Hellenic Botanical Society.

Species	English Name	DAY						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES</b>								
<b>ASPLENIACEAE</b>								
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rust-back Fern						✓	
<i>A. viride</i>	Green Spleenwort						✓	
<b>EQUISETACEAE</b>								
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail							✓ <sup>ⓐ</sup>
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>								
<b>CUPRESSACEAE</b>								
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> subsp. <i>deltoides</i>	Prickly Juniper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>PINACEAE</b>								
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Brutia Pine			✓ <sup>①</sup>				
<i>P. nigra</i>	Black Pine				✓			
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>								
<b>ACERACEAE</b>								
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier Maple		✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>APIACEAE</b>								
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock			✓				
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle						✓ <sup>ⓑ</sup>	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needle			✓				
<i>Tordylium</i> sp.		✓						
<b>ARACEAE</b>								
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum				✓			
<b>ARISTOLOCHIACEAE</b>								
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	Birthwort		✓	✓		✓		
<i>A. hirta</i>			✓			✓		
<i>A. pallida</i>			✓			✓		
<i>A. rotunda</i>	Round-leaved Birthwort		✓	✓		✓		
<b>ASPHODELACEAE</b>								
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel		✓ <sup>ⓒ</sup>					
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Asphodel				✓			
<b>ASTERACEAE</b>								
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Greek Chamomile			✓	✓			
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower				✓			
<i>C. triumfettii</i>				✓ <sup>ⓒ</sup>				
<i>Crepis sancta</i> (?)			✓					
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Oriental False Leopard's Bane						✓ <sup>ⓑ</sup>	
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	Broad-leaved Cudweed				✓			
<i>Hypochaeris</i> spp.				✓				
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur							✓ <sup>ⓐ</sup>
<i>Senecio rupestris</i>				✓	✓			

Species	English Name	DAY						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle			✓	✓			
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sowthistle				✓			
<b>BETULACEAE</b>								
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam			✓				
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b>								
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large Blue Alkanet				✓			
<i>A. undulata</i> subsp. <i>hybrida</i>				✓				
<i>A. officinalis</i>	Alkanet			✓				
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss				✓			
<i>Buglossoides purpureocaeruleum</i>	Purple Gromwell		✓					✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i> ssp. <i>suaveolens</i>	Alpine Forget-me-not						✓ <sup>④</sup>	
<i>M. discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not			✓				
<i>Symphytum bulbosum</i>	Bulbous Comfrey			✓			✓	
<b>BRASSICACEAE</b>								
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i> subsp. <i>graecum</i>	Burnt Candytuft						✓ <sup>⑤</sup>	
<i>Aurinaria saxatilis</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	Golden Alyssum						✓ <sup>⑥</sup>	
<i>Draba lasiocarpa</i>	Woolly-fruited Whitlowgrass						✓ <sup>④</sup>	
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress		✓	✓		✓		
<i>Malcolmia graeca</i>						✓		
<i>Microthlaspi perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Penny-cress						✓ <sup>⑥</sup>	
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard	✓						
<i>S. arvensis</i>	Charlock		✓	✓	✓			
<b>CAMPANULACEAE</b>								
<i>Legousia pentagonia</i>	Large Venus's Looking Glass				✓			
<b>CARYOPHYLLACEAE</b>								
<i>Cerastium holosteoides</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	Common Mouse-ear						✓	
<i>Petrorhagia dubia</i>	Childing Pink				✓			
<i>Silene bellidifolia</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly				✓			
<i>S. colorata</i> (?)								✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<b>CONVALLARIACEAE</b>								
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal						✓	
<b>ERICACEAE</b>								
<i>Arbutus andrachne</i>	Eastern Strawberry Tree				✓			
<i>A. unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree				✓			
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>								
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge						✓	
<i>E. caracas</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge						✓	
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge		✓	✓			? <sup>⑤</sup>	
<i>E. herniariifolia</i>							✓	



Species	English Name	DAY						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>E. myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge				✓			✓ <sup>⑧</sup>
<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.							✓	
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	✓						
<b>FABACEAE</b>								
<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Bean Trefoil	✓						
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>								✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Broom		✓					✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Thorny Broom				✓			
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	Red Vetchling			✓				
<i>L. hirsutus</i>			✓					
<i>L. vernus</i>	Spring Pea						✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>Lotus</i> sp.					✓			
<i>Medicago</i> sp.					✓			
<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>					✓			
<i>Onobrychis</i> spp.								✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	Cupped Clover				✓			
<i>T. repens</i>	White Clover			✓				
<i>T. stellatum</i>	Starry Clover			✓				
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow-vetch		✓					
<i>Vicia</i> sp.			✓					
<b>FAGACEAE</b>								
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut						✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech						✓	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	✓			✓			
<i>Q. cerris</i>	Turkey Oak		✓	✓ <sup>①</sup>				
<i>Q. frainetto</i>	Hungarian Oak		✓	✓ <sup>①</sup>		✓		
<i>Q. ithaburensis</i>	Valonia Oak				✓ <sup>⑦</sup>			
<i>Q. petraea</i>	Sessile Oak						✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>Q. pubescens</i>	White Oak		✓	✓ <sup>①</sup>		✓		
<b>FUMARIACEAE</b>								
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush			✓			✓	
<b>GERANIACEAE</b>								
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill			✓			✓	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill				✓			
<i>G. pyreniacum</i>	Hedgerow Cranesbill		✓					
<b>GLOBULARIACEAE</b>								
<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>						✓ <sup>⑥</sup>		
<b>HYCINTHACEAE</b>								
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassle Hyacinth			✓	✓			
<i>M. neglectum</i>	Common Grape Hyacinth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Ornithogallum umbellatum</i> (?)	Common Star-of-Bethlehem	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Scilla subnivalis</i> (?)	(Greek Alpine Squill)						✓ <sup>④</sup>	
<b>HYPERICACEAE</b>								
<i>Hypericum cerastoides</i>	Trailing St John's Wort			✓				

Species	English Name	DAY						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>IRIDACEAE</b>								
<i>Crocus chrysanthus</i>	Snow crocus						✓④	
<i>Iris reichenbachii</i>				✓①				
<b>JUGLANDACEAE</b>								
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut						✓②	
<b>LAMIACEAE</b>								
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	Basil Thyme				✓			
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine				✓			
<i>A. orientalis</i>	Oriental Bugle				✓			
<i>Galeobdolon montanum</i>	Yellow Archangel							✓⑩
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle			✓				
<i>L. garganicum</i>	Large Red Dead-nettle						✓	
<i>L. purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle		✓					
<b>LILIACEAE</b>								
<i>Gagea peduncularis</i>	("Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem")						✓④ ⑥	
<b>LORANTHACEAE</b>								
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Yellow Mistletoe		✓	✓	✓			
<b>MORACEAE</b>								
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig Tree				✓			
<b>OLEACEAE</b>								
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash		✓					
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering Ash		✓	✓		✓		
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild Jasmine	✓						
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	✓	✓	✓				
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Wild Olive				✓			
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>ORCHIDACEAE</b>								
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red Helleborine						✓⑥	
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>	Roman Orchid		✓③					
<i>Orchis pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered Orchid						✓⑥	
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid							✓⑩
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>mammosa</i> <sup>1</sup>	Early Spider Orchid		✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Orchis mascula</i> <sup>2</sup>	Early Purple Orchid						✓⑥	
<b>OROBANCHACEAE</b>								
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort							✓⑩
<i>Orobanche crenata</i>					✓			
<i>Pehelipanche purpurea</i>	Purple Broomrape				✓			
<b>PAPAVERACEAE</b>								
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy			✓				
<b>PLATANACEAE</b>								
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane		✓					✓⑩
<b>POACEAE</b>								
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed			✓⑨				

Species	English Name	DAY						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>POLYGALACEAE</b>								
<i>Polygala supina</i> subsp. <i>rhodopaea</i>	("Milkwort")						✓ <sup>⑥</sup>	
<b>PRIMULACEAE</b>								
<i>Anagallis foemina</i>	Blue Pimpernel				✓			
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip			✓			✓	✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<b>RANUNCULACEAE</b>								
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Crown Anemone	✓	✓					
<i>A. nemerosa</i>	Wood Anemone						✓	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy						✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>Helleborus odorus</i> subsp. <i>cyclophyllus</i>	Hellebore				✓ <sup>⑦</sup>			
<i>Pulsatilla halleri</i> subsp. <i>rhodopaea</i>	Alpine Pasque Flower						✓ <sup>④</sup>	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup		✓					
<i>R. neapolitanus</i>				✓				
<i>R. trichophyllus</i>				✓ <sup>⑨</sup>				
<b>RHAMNACEAE</b>								
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Garland Thorn				✓			
<b>ROSACEAE</b>								
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry		✓				✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>Malus</i> sp.							✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>Potentilla micrantha</i>				✓			✓	✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>P. pedata</i>							✓ <sup>④</sup> ⑥	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry						✓ <sup>②</sup>	
<i>P. spinosa</i>	Blackthorn			✓				✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>Pyrus spinosa</i>	Almond-leaved Pear		✓	✓				
<b>RUBIACEAE</b>								
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort			✓				
<b>SALICACEAE</b>								
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow			✓				
<b>SCROPHULARIACEAE</b>								
<i>Verbascum undulatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein			✓				
<b>TAMARICACEAE</b>								
<i>Tamarix</i> spp.	Tamarisk			✓ <sup>⑨</sup>				
<b>ULMACEAE</b>								
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Nettle Tree	✓						
<b>URTICACEAE</b>								
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-Wall				✓ <sup>⑩</sup>			
<i>P. officinalis</i>	Eastern Pellitory-of-the-Wall				✓ <sup>⑩</sup>			
<b>VERONICACEAE</b>								
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey Toadflax				✓			
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia			✓	✓			
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell		✓	✓		✓		

Species	English Name	DAY						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>VIOLACEAE</b>								
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy			✓			✓	✓ <sup>⑩</sup>
<i>V. odorata</i>	Sweet Violet						✓	
<i>V. perinensis</i>							✓	
<i>V. reichenbachiana</i>	Pale Dog Violet						✓	
<i>V. riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet		✓	✓			✓	

(160 species)

- Notes:
- ① Potamoi (DAY 7), 400m asl.
  - ① Evros Hills (Pessani Bridge, Dadia National Park, DAY 3), 300m asl.
  - ② Falakro (deserted village of Mesovouni, DAY 6), 770m asl.
  - ③ Kirki (Brachoi, DAY 2), 660m asl.
  - ④ Falakro (ski centre, DAY 6), 1740m asl.
  - ⑤ Falakro: Aghios Nikolaos (rocky limestone ridge, DAY 6), 950m asl.
  - ⑥ Falakro: Kouri Peak (DAY 6), 1400m asl.
  - ⑦ Ismaros Hills (Mesembria, DAY 4), 5m asl.
  - ⑧ Orvilos (DAY 7), 880-1000m asl.
  - ⑨ Evros Delta (DAY 3), 0m asl.
  - ⑩ Alexandroupoli (park by seaside, DAY 5), 5m asl.

<sup>1</sup> *Ophyrys mamosa* is an earlier flowering species than the closely related and more widespread *O. leucophthalma*, from which it is distinguished by the entirely black stigmatic cavity (*O. leucophthalma* has a white band extending to the contrasting black pseudoeyes.)

<sup>2</sup> Plants with speckled basal leaves in this group are often referred to as a separate species (*Orchis ovalis*) but this characteristic is not stable and *O. ovalis* is not considered to be a valid name and is synonym of *O. mascula*.