

# **Bulbs in their Historical Setting**

## **The Southern Peloponnese**



*Sternbergia lutea* Monemvasia

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**30th October to 8th November 2013**  
**Merlin Trust**  
**Merlin 604**

**The Alpine Garden Society's Tour of the Southern Peloponnese was led by John and Sheila Richards.**

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## Introduction

In my role as Head Gardener at Myddelton House Gardens we cultivate and maintain a range of bulbous plant collections in containers and grow them directly in the soil. The gardens' creator Edward Augustus Bowles (E A Bowles) was an avid plant collector with particular interest in bulbous plants such as Crocus, Galanthus and Narcissus. He undertook many plant collection expeditions in Europe to places such as Malta, Egypt and Greece to mention only a few. These expeditions mainly took place in spring and early summer when Bowles suffered terribly with hay fever. Plant material would be packaged up and sent back to his Head Gardener for safe keeping until his return. It was therefore my intention on this trip to gain a greater understanding of my knowledge of cultivating bulbous plants and replicating their natural habitats and also to experience the thrill of discovering plants growing in the wild.

Although Bowles did not travel to Greece in the autumn he did so many times in the spring.

## Aims

My aim when applying to the Merlin Trust for a place on the Alpine Garden Society Tour was to enable me to develop my knowledge of bulbous plants, providing me with the opportunity to see autumn flowering species of Crocus, Colchicum, Sternbergia and the possibility of seeing Galanthus reginae-olgae growing in the wild.

This tour holds both a personal and professional interest for me as many bulbous plants were collected and grown by Edward Augustus Bowles at Myddelton House Gardens, where I am Head Gardener, restoring the renowned plants man's gardens.

Autumn 2013 was the ideal time for me to undertake such a study tour as the gardens at Myddelton are progressing rapidly; we have overcome the perennial weed problems and my attention now turns to planting and cultivation. Identifying and recording growing conditions in situ would enhance my knowledge of the cultivation of bulbous plants, and in turn inform my work, helping me to impart what I will have learned to others.

In 2006 I undertook a self-guided trip to Malta looking at the natural bulbous flora; learning from the guides on the Alpine Garden Society Tour would enable me to improve and develop my botanising skills in the field. This study would be very relevant to my current work: firstly in developing a good understanding of the natural habitat and growing conditions, but also to experience the thrill of discovering plants growing in the wild as E.A. Bowles once did. I am particularly interested in locating Crocus niveus which Bowles named after some lengthy correspondence with Kew and the Athens Botanical Garden.

**Itinerary** (supplied by the Alpine Garden Society prior to departure)

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** Fly from London Gatwick to Athens. Overnight in a hotel on the coast near the airport (Rafina?).

**October 31<sup>st</sup>** Drive west onto the Peloponnesus. Stops near Manthirea and Alepochori for *Crocus melantherus*, *C. hadriaticus*, *Sternbergias* etc. If time allows, drive up the Langhada gorge for cyclamens and many cliff chasmophytes (mostly out of flower), possibility of *Galanthus reginae-olgae*. Night at Mistras Hotel.

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** Day at the Byzantine churches, monasteries and fortress of Mistras. Many bulbs including *Crocus boryi*, *Colchicum cupanii* and *Allium callimischon*, *Arisarum*, *Biarum*, *Sternbergias* also *Erica manipuliflora*, *Bellis sylvestris*, *Campanula versicolor*, and good autumn colour. If time allows when we return to the village, we will walk up the Neokaria gorge. Cyclamens, possibility of *Galanthus reginae-olgae*. Night at Mistras.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** Drive to Monemvasia, via Lambokambos. The uplands around Richia have fine forms of *Crocus cancellatus*, with *C. laevigatus*. The village of Lambokambos itself is famous for its masses of *Crocus goulimy* and *Sternbergia*, but five crocus species are recorded from here. At Monemvasia we will stay on the mainland at Gefira, looking across to this spectacular island fortress.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** We will walk onto the island and spend the day exploring the fortress, climbing onto the summit. Some years there are spectacular displays of *Sternbergias*, *Cyclamen graecum* and three species of crocus. There are many other interesting plants such as *Campanula andrewsii* and the endemic *Stachys spreitzenhoferi*. If time allows we may explore the mainland shore where the endemic *Colchicum sfikasianum* and *Crocus boryi* grow. Night at Gefira.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>** On the mainland we will drive to Foutia to see *Crocus goulimy* var *leucanthus* in quantity, and then north to Gytheion. A short distance past Gytheion we will visit the hillside at Marathea where *Cyclamen (hederifolium* var) *crassifolium* grows, together with *Spiranthes spiralis* and other autumn bulbs. Later we will take the delightful walk to Vathy where we should see *Colchicum parlatoris*, much *Arisarum* and *Allium callimischon*, and may find *Narcissus miniatus (serotinus)*. Night in Gytheion.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** Drive south onto the Mani peninsula. Visit various sites seeing the endemic *Crocus niveus* and other bulbs. From Stavros walk to Cape Tigana where grow many interesting maritime species. Night back in Gytheion.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** We will pay our second visit to the Deep Mani, visiting the little ports of Gerolimenas and Porto Kagio, and the pass over to Lagia, and then walking to Cape Tenaron, the southernmost point of the Greek mainland. We should see countless millions of *Narcissus miniatus*, and other southern



specialities such as *Colchicum pusillum* and *Prospero autumnalis latifolia* as well as many species mentioned earlier. If time permits we will visit crocus sites north of Areopolis on the return. Night in Gytheion.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** Today we head north to spend the night in the Argolid, at the beautiful Venetian Port of Nafplio. En route we will visit Krioneri below the Taygetos to see quantities of the autumn snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae* and further north we will take the road to the summit area of Menalo to see *Crocus cancellatus*, *C. hadriaticus* and several *colchicums*.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** Today we depart Nafplio to drive to the airport and the journey home.

### **Why autumn in The Southern Peloponnese?**

The autumn rain has a dramatic effect on the southern Peloponnese. Dry barren ground starts to green almost overnight, not to mention the bulbs, corms and tubers which have lain dormant throughout the hot summer months beneath the soil. The blooms poised to come into active growth showing off their bright, brilliant blooms once they have received the necessary precipitation. *Crocus*, *Narcissi* and *Scilla* just to mention a few. Therefore the timing of one's visit is crucial and can be affected massively by when the rain starts and the quantity.

## Diary entries

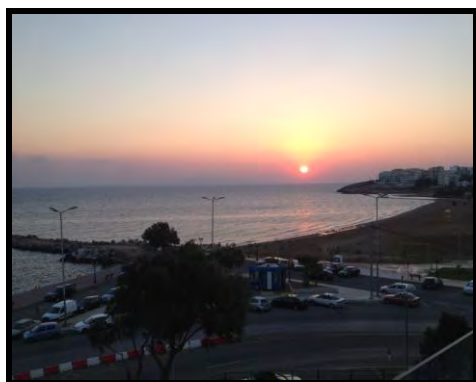
### October 30<sup>th</sup> Fly from London Gatwick to Athens

My first meeting with the tour group was in the departure lounge of Gatwick Airport on the Easy Jet flight to Athens, not knowing anyone else on the tour I was left to my powers of observation to deduce who else was on the Alpine Garden Society's tour. It did not take long to find them: ten khaki dressed explorers all with the glint of adventure in their eyes. We landed in Athens just after 7 pm. We boarded a small coach, and drove to the hotel which was on the coast (Rafina) and near the airport. Our first of several hotels as we travel to the Southern Peloponnese.

That evening we were provided with a delicious evening meal including salads, bread, savoury crepes, beef stroganoff, chicken with Parmesan and for dessert fruit salad. It gave us all an opportunity to meet one another. What a wonderful group of people; that evening the talk was about what we might see and the plants people had seen on previous tours.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>** Drive west onto the Peloponnesos. Stops near Manthirea and Alepochori then on Mistras.

### Day 1 Our first sightings



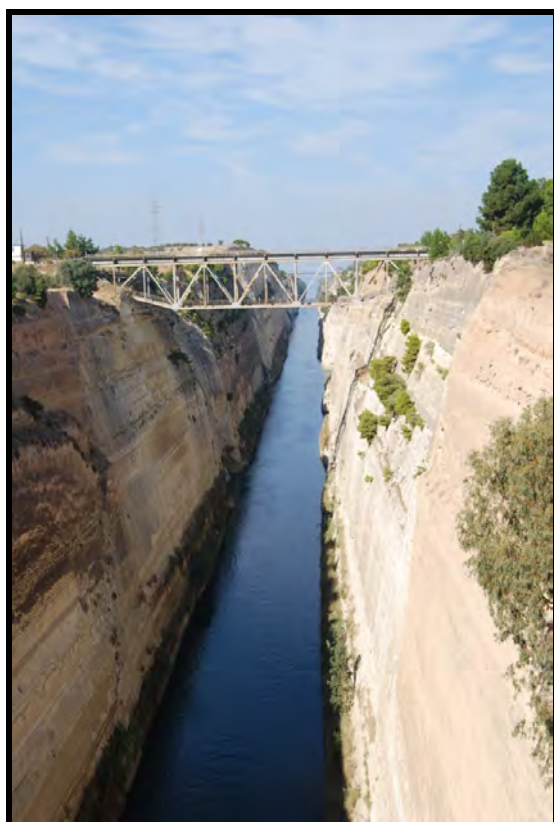
What a view to wake up to

We had a good breakfast followed by a 10 o'clock pick up; we all boarded the same coach that had collected us from the airport last night. Today we headed for Peloponnesos and our first of two nights in Mistra.

En route we stopped after an hour and fifteen minutes and had a loo and drink stop, however this stop came with an amazing tourist attraction: the Corinth Canal, a manmade cutting through the land to allow ships to pass.

The Corinth Canal is only 21.4 metres wide at its base but is 4 miles in length. It is now too narrow for modern ships. It was started in 1881 and took 12 years to complete. It was supposed to reduce sailing times allowing a short cut from the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea.

Unfortunately it does not appear to have fulfilled its creators' proposed potential and is now mainly used for tourists. It is a truly breath taking feat of engineering.



**Figure 1 Corinth Canal**

We then headed for the Peloponnesus range via Tripoli. Passing a stand-alone hill top fortress, Akrokorinthos, which is over 2500 years old; it has a real presence on the landscape.



**Figure 2 Hill Top Fortress Akrokorinthos**

The motorway journey entices you to what is ahead with glimpses of *Cyclamen*, *Sternbergia* and *Erica manipuliflora* in flower but as soon as you've spotted something your gaze is whisked away, with the speed of the coach it really is plant identification at speed.

We stopped for lunch at Manthirea, a small layby by the side of the road and a quick scramble up the opposite bank led to the discovery of our first two Crocuses *Crocus hadriaticus* and *Crocus melantherus*.

As a few of us came back down towards the coach we heard of talk of a sighting of *Sternbergia* up the road past the exit sign for Manthirea on the right hand side. Sure enough there were a handful of nibbled *Sternbergia sicula* blooms yet it was still a fantastic moment to see *Sternbergia* growing in the wild, and only metres from the road side. A few photographs and then we headed back to the coach. On the way back we spotted abnormal resin growths on the trunk of a tree, bacterial canker seemed the likely cause although the resin was forming in very large globules.



**Figure 3** Our first sighting of *Sternbergia sicula*



**Figure 4 Resin growths on the tree trunk**

We all quickly ate our lunch as none of us wanted to spend our time eating when we could be hunting for our first sighting of the trip.

After only a few minutes we started to see large drifts of *Sternbergia sicula* on the hillside to the right hand side of the road. We managed to stop next to a small memorial and then walk to see the most magnificent display of *Sternbergia*: there must have been thousands of blooms.



**Figure 5 Sternbergia blooms in their thousands**



**Figure 6** *Sternbergia* brought us to our knees

When we explored the other side of the road we found examples of *Bellis sylvestris*, *Pyrus spinosa*, *Euphorbia rigida* and more *Crocus hadriaticus* in very small numbers. We were at an elevation of about 800m, it had been a continuous steady climb in the coach.



**Figure 7** *Bellis sylvestris*

We drove on another 30 minutes to a site where we found three crocuses *Crocus melantherus* (black anthers) *Crocus laevigatus* (white anthers and feathering on side of petals dies down to a yellow colouration) and a small number of *Crocus boryi* (white anthers). There is a lot of variation amongst the crocuses I came across one which had a lilac tone to its petals, *C. laevigatus*.



Figure 8 *Crocus hadriaticus*



Figure 9 *Crocus hadriaticus* by E.A. Bowles



Figure 10 *C. hadriaticus* by E.A. Bowles



Figure 11 *Crocus melantherus* (black anthers)





**Figure 12** *Crocus melantherus*



**Figure 13** *Crocus laevigatus* lilac tone to it petals



**Figure 14** *Crocus boryi* (white anthers)



**Figure 15** *Crocus laevigatus* flowers die down to yellow



**Figure 16** The habitat where we were finding crocus in the open and cyclamen growing beneath the low scrub



**Figure 17** *Cyclamen hederifolium*



**Figure 18** *Cyclamen hederifolium*

The majority of *Cyclamen hederifolium* was found under woody scrubland and rarely in the open; at this point we had only seen small numbers of them flowering, therefore I'm assuming that they were smallish corms. It has two vertical purple-magenta stripes at the base of each petal. *Bellis* is growing in patches but not as prolific as I would have expected when you compare it to *Bellis perennis* growing in our lawns in the UK.



**Figure 19** The group discussing their latest discoveries

We discovered two small colchicums *Colchicum cupanii* (black anthers) *Colchicum psaridis* (yellow anthers) these are very different to the large *Colchicum speciosum* which we grow at Myddelton. The flowers on both species are no more than 25mm across.



**Figure 20** *Colchicum cupanii* (Black anthers)



**Figure 21** *Colchicum psaridis* (yellow anthers)

Our overnight stay was in the small and quiet town of Mistra just a few kilometres from Sparta. Our hotel was situated in the centre of town. That afternoon I swam in the unheated outdoor hotel swimming pool, which was very cool! When I got out I was able to see a small number of bats swooping down over the water.



**Figure 22** The amazing water spout at Mistra

A spring that rises in the centre of town, I can only imagine that the tree has enveloped the spout over a number of years.

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** Day at the Byzantine churches, monasteries and fortress of Mistras.

## **Day 2 The Monasteries**

We had breakfast at 8 am then went to forage for our lunch in a supermarket / mini market and a little bakery. I ended up with two bottles of water, a packet of chocolate chip biscuits and an apricot croissant in a packet and from the bakery I found what I thought was an apple turnover which later became clear was actually a cheese filled triangular parcel of pastry: unusual! Well let's just say the Mistra does not have much to offer when compiling a packed lunch.

We boarded the coach at 9:30 and headed 2 km up the hill from Mistra to the Byzantine churches, monasteries and the fortress of Mistras. We drove up to the second upper entrance of the fortress gates from here we paid five euros to enter and then climbed to the top of the ruined fortress. We walked up natural stone paths all very uneven and quite steep in places and far trickier on the descent. The views from the top were remarkable; the fortress was a ruin on the top of this high ridge. The vegetation was good as little clearance work had taken place. We found a lovely clump of *Crocus boryi* sunning itself in the morning light.

We were likely to come across two *Acers* on our trip *A. monspessulanum* and *A. sempervirens*. Its leaf forms are almost identical; therefore we are left to compare the differences in the samara. *A. monspessulanum*, its samaras in pairs hang down almost, where *A. sempervirens* samaras fan out almost horizontally. Unfortunately I did not find a good example to photograph.

Another tree that I could not identify completely however did recognise from its buds was *Fraxinus ornus*, although not in flower (white) or with its rich yellow and red autumn tints. The tree has a good habit with interesting foliage; I must plant one as it offers so much seasonal interest.

*Ecballium elaterium* Squirting cucumber was only seen much lower down near the exit of the monasteries. This is a spectacular plant that we grow at Myddelton mainly for its explosive seed dispersal mechanism. This plant is found throughout the Peloponnese most like due to its seed dispersal.



**Figure 23** A view of the monasteries being restored



**Figure 24** *Ficus carica*



Figure 25 *Hyoscyamus albus*



Figure 26 *Asplenium ceterach*



Figure 27 *Selaginella denticulata* Mediterranean Clubmoss





**Figure 28** *Polypodium cambricum*



**Figure 29** *Campanula versicolor*



Figure 30 *Ballota pseudodictamnus*



Figure 31 *Stachys candida*



Figure 32 *Celtis australis* Nettle tree



**Figure 33** *Allium callimischon*



**Figure 34** Hill top fortress ruin



**Figure 35** *Crocus boryi*



**Figure 36** On top of the fortress



**Figure 37** *Campanula andrewsii*



**Figure 38** *Fraxinus ornus*



**Figure 39** The beautiful ceiling inside one of the monasteries



Figure 40 *Phytolacca americana* American pokeweed



Figure 41 *Punica granatum* Pomegranate



Figure 42 *Petrorhagia glumacea*



**Figure 43** *Hypericum perforatum*



**Figure 44** *Ephedra fragilis* in flower



**Figure 45** The lower section of the monasteries before exiting

After walking down through the monasteries and exiting via the lower entrance we boarded the coach at 2 o'clock and travelled back to our hotel which was only five minutes away.

At 2:30 p.m. we left the hotel on foot to walk up through the Mistra Neokaria Gorge, this was excellent fun as we were starting to see lots of unusual plants that we had missed elsewhere such as *Smilax aspera*, lots of good cyclamen hederifolium plus a *Colchicum* species that we are still unsure about. At the top of the gorge we saw one lonely *Crocus boryi*.

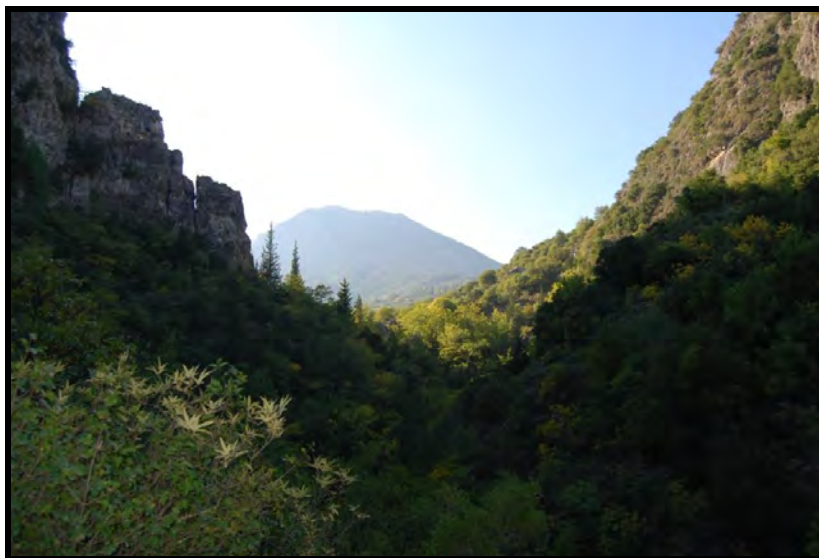


**Figure 46** Neokaria Gorge





**Figure 47** *Arisarum vulgare*



**Figure 48** Neokaria Gorge



**Figure 49** *Bupleurum fruticosum*



**Figure 50** *Sarcopoterium spinosum*

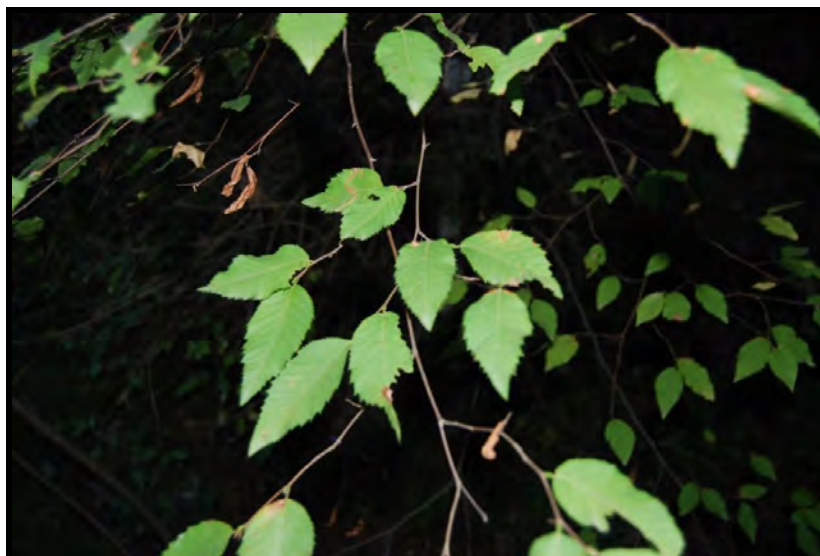


**Figure 51** *Arisarum vulgare* growing along a fissure

We came across an interesting find as we ventured off another branch of the gorge: a *Colchicum* which we couldn't identify. John feels it could possibly be a late *Colchicum lingulatum*. The area where I found it did look like there had been some mechanical land movement in the last year as this may have caused the late flowering.



**Figure 52** Possibly a late *Colchicum lingulatum*



**Figure 53** *Ostrya carpinifolia*

When coming across trees that I would normally recognise in our gardens and arboretum in the UK they now look so different when growing in amongst their dense woodland setting. The habit that we become familiar with when growing in open spaces is now lost. Identification is left solely to the characteristics of the one branch that you can reach offering up its buds and leaves and possibly fruiting bodies. Definitely a new challenge although very frustrating when someone comes by and identifies the plant and you kick yourself for the rest the day for not recognising it sooner!



**Figure 54** Orchid *Spiranthes itsspiralis*



**Figure 55** This beetle is referred to as the “fart of the priest’s wife”

I was told in good faith that this beetle is referred to as the “fart of the priest’s wife.” Although I can’t find any information on this I feel I must include it. (The beetle is similar to a shield bug in size with red markings.)

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** Drive to Monemvasia, via Lambokambos.

### **Day 3 A day of discoveries**

Same as yesterday regarding breakfast, finding what we could for lunch and departure at 9.30 am. We had to pack our entire luggage as we will not be staying another night in Mistra, a lovely little village with great charm. The plane tree with the water pipe that had been enveloped into the bark was a highlight of the village for me.

We travelled for about 1.5 hours. The flora and scenery changes in cycles from olive, citrus and the occasional fig planting to heavily rocked terrain which was left to grow evergreen scrub as it was unsuitable for cultivation. We then started to climb winding back and forth to an altitude of about 850m. We passed an open cast mine and pulled into a layby a mile on. We were on a plateau; low growing evergreen shrubs cover the entire area with small gaps in the vegetation for crocus and cyclamen to grow. The soil was a rich red colour referred to as Terra rossa (meaning red soil). We were also seeing signs of goats grazing in the form of faeces and the flowers that are blooming are all in sheltered positions or growing within the foliage of other plants.

This is our first sighting of the tree euphorbia *E. dendroides* which becomes far more common as we venture further down into the Mani. We found *Cyclamen graecum* although mainly in leaf we found only a very few in flower.

The Southern Peloponnesus



**Figure 56** The plateau



**Figure 57** *Cyclamen graecum* leaf only



**Figure 58** *Crocus cancellatus*



**Figure 59** *Crocus cancellatus*



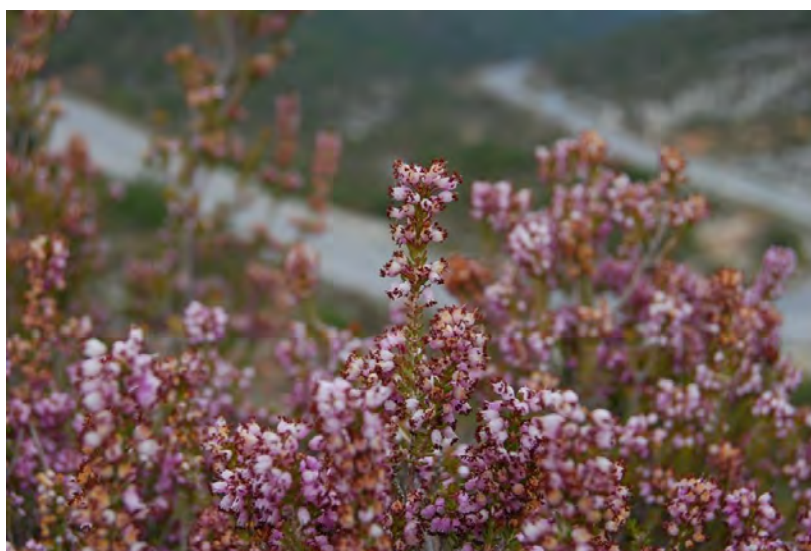
**Figure 60** *Crocus cancellatus* by E.A. Bowles

*Crocus cancellatus* has a very sub divided stigma.

We then continued on further, climbing higher and went across the pass at about 1000m then dropped down the other side to a lower elevation back in to farm land and winding back and forth down the hill we made two more stops before reaching the village of Lambokambos.

The second of the two stops provided us with no crocuses but it did however give us our first opportunity to see *Erica manipuliflora* up close and *Arbutus andrachne*, and the autumn tints of *Cotinus coggygria* the best autumn colour we saw all situated on a north facing ridge.

*Arbutus andrachne* stood out so much with its glossy evergreen foliage and its beautiful cinnamon red rich bark and yellow and red fruits.



**Figure 61** *Erica manipuliflora*



**Figure 62** *Arbutus andrachne*





**Figure 63 *Cotinus coggygia* with great autumnal tints**

By lunch time we reached the small and sleepy village of Lambokambos, only a single carriage road passes though.

As we got off the coach people started to radiate out. I had realised by this time that I needed to stick close to John as otherwise I might miss out on a new discovery. We walked down towards the village playground where we thought we may be able to sit to have our lunch, unfortunately this was locked. We continued up the road to the left and were admiring a stone floor circle with hundreds of *Crocus goulimy* blooms bathing in the mid-day sun. While we paused and took our photos all wishing we could go in for a close look, I spotted a very lightly worn path going up a bank on the opposite side of the road. I had a good feeling that we were going to find something if we ventured in. We weren't disappointed as we discovered the most amazing display of cyclamen, crocus and Sternbergia under a small wooded area. Within seconds of the discovery everyone was coming up the pathway and entered a small clearing to photograph what was in front of them. We did continue up further through the cyclamen in the hope of further finds however unfortunately it only opened up into a clearing surrounded by evergreen scrub land.

Within the village there were a number of stone circular outdoor threshing floors used most likely to separate grain or seed from the straw although there was no evidence of this happening recently it did now offer an idea for growing conditions amongst the gaps in the stone floors for crocus and other flora such as *Taraxacum minimum* to flourish. John had explained on the coach that we were not to cross any fences or boundary walls in the village and could only go into places that were easily accessible and had no physical barriers preventing access. Although we all abided by this it was unfortunate because the majority of the large numbers of crocus were tucked away, hidden out of reach of one of the villager's potbellied pigs which was roaming the village accessing all the areas that we could.



**Figure 64 A little worn path that lead to such treasure**



**Figure 65 Sternbergia and Cyclamen**



**Figure 66 The group followed up though the grove of Cyclamen**



**Figure 67** *Sternbergia lutea*



**Figure 68** *Sternbergia lutea*



**Figure 69** Masses of *Crocus goulimyi*



**Figure 70** *Crocus goulimyi*



**Figure 71** *Taraxacum minimum* growing in the stone circles

On the way back to the hotel, we stopped the coach at the side of the road because we saw a number of crocuses flowering and not as with most of the stops because it was known to be a good site.

The site had *Crocus boryi* in large areas and *Crocus goulimyi* in pockets. *Colchicum cupanii* and *Colchicum psaridis* very small and in little numbers although a succession of them coming up flowering and going over. *Prospero autumnalis* synonym *Scilla autumnalis* very small flowers less than 4mm across.

We also came across *Ceratonia siliqua* the carob tree which usually would not have drawn our attention however this tree was in flower a site none of us had seen before. It is far more common to see this tree with its distinct dark mahogany coloured seed pods hanging down from its canopy. This tree had female flowers growing from the bark. As this was a female a male flowering tree would need to be nearby. Male and female flowers on different plants are

called dioecious. The carob tree seed pods are used to make a chocolate substitute.

Interesting fact about *Cyclamen graecum*: its pedicels (flower stem) start to coil from the middle in both directions as the fruits start to swell, this is to enable the plant to draw its seed pods down beneath the canopy of leaves above, ensuring they are protected and have the best possible chance of development. *Cyclamen hederifolium* on the other hand coils from the top.



**Figure 72 *Ceratonia siliqua* carob tree**



**Figure 73** *Ceratonia siliqua* carob tree



**Figure 74** *Ceratonia siliqua* carob tree

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** we will walk onto the island and spend the day exploring the fortress, climbing onto the summit.

#### **Day 4 The Rock Monemvasia**

Monemvasia Rock is separate from the mainland; its name derives from two Greek words, mone and emvassi, meaning "single entrance". It is now linked by a single causeway which when it reaches the island continues around the western flank to the relatively small but impressive old fortress gates to the Lower town. The island is separated into the lower and upper town the former being the inhabited and the commercial part of the island and the steep upper town remain ruins reached by endless steep and well-trodden steps.

After taking breakfast at about 7.45 we met and walked down Gefira as far as the causeway, where we paid the one euro to get the coach shuttle across to the rock. Our tour coach was not permitted on the rock. We arrived at about 9:50 and as soon as we were off the coach we were spotting the dried flower heads of wild leek *Allium ampeloprasum* en mass. There were also Capers growing from the wall to the left of the entrance gate.

Anyone that wishes to enter must walk through the wooden gates that only allow pedestrian traffic as they are possibly only 12ft wide. Once inside all the numerous little shops lined the cobbled paths. In one of the squares in the lower town we saw the Indian bead tree *Melia azedarach* with its round yellow fruits.

We walked along the lower town until we reached the ruined German gunning point, which had been occupied during the Second World War and turned back ready to climb the narrow steep paths up to the castle. Once on top we saw the amazing views out to sea and the steep, almost vertical eastern side of the rock.



**Figure 75** *Capparis spinosa*



**Figure 76** *Heliotropium hirsutissimum*



**Figure 77** *Matthiola sinuata*



**Figure 78** Monemvasia Lower town





**Figure 79** *Stachys spreitzenhoferi* endemic to Monemvasia



**Figure 80** *Stachys spreitzenhoferi* endemic to Monemvasia



**Figure 81 Monemvasia Upper town**



**Figure 82 *Colchicum psaridis***



**Figure 83** *Sternbergia lutea*



**Figure 84** The view of the main land from the rock



**Figure 85 Entrance gate to the rock Monemvasia**

In the afternoon we headed back to the hotel and boarded our coach and travelled up the range of mountains above Monemvasia. We start to see the red soil terra rossa again. We also start to see *Arbutus unedo* which meant that we were now on acid soil, whereas up until now we had mainly been on limestone.

Macchia is the Italian word to describe the densely growing evergreen shrubs to a height of 2-4 m. Shrubs such as holm oak, tree heath, strawberry tree, sage, juniper, buckthorn, olive and myrtle. It is found throughout the Mediterranean region. Whereas garrigue is the Italian word to describe the low growing plant community and only reaching a height of 0.2-1m this is generally found near the coast.



**Figure 86** *Allium callimischon*



**Figure 87** *Prospero autumnalis* ssp. *latifolia*



**Figure 88 *Cyclamen graecum***

As you can see in the flowers above of *Cyclamen graecum* it has numerous dark magenta markings whereas *C. hederifolium* only had the two.



**Figure 89 *Arbutus unedo* with pick blushed flowers**

Out of interest *Arbutus unedo* comes from the Latin 'unum edo', meaning 'I eat one' this says quite a lot about this bland flavoured although enticing fruit.



**Figure 90** The rock Monemvasia

It was our last night in Monemvasia and we went to the Scorpion Restaurant for our second night. The first night I had Souvlaki pork on a skewer: a traditional Greek dish. On the second night I had traditional lemon pork with rice and large soft roasted potatoes - it was delicious.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>** On the mainland we drove to Gytheion. Later we will take the delightful walk to Vathy and then overnight at Gerolimani.

### **Day 5 The Giant of Crocuses, *Crocus niveus***

We breakfasted at 8am and we were advised to go shopping for food for the next couple of days for lunch and snacks as we were going to be traveling further south into Mani to an area that was very remote, and unlikely to have many shops.

We stopped en route to Gytheion to see a large cinnamon rich coloured ship wreck on the shore line. As with every opportunity, when the coach stopped we were all off and in search of our next find. I wouldn't say it was competitive however there was certainly a thrill to being the first person to find something new. At this stop on the opposite side of the road to the ship wreck our first Narcissus was found *N. tazetta* growing within a metre of the road and tucked alongside a metal road barrier. *C. boryi* and some *Cyclamen graecum* were also found much higher up the slope.



**Figure 91 Shipwreck north-east of Gytheion**



**Figure 92 *Narcissus tazetta***

*Narcissus tazetta* is usually found flowering in the spring, although we did find it flowering again later on in the southern Mani, east of Lagia.

As we arrived in Gytheion I had been asked to deliver a thank you letter to a shop owner who helped out a fellow plant explorer the previous autumn, when he was in need. While in Gytheion we traveled out to the little island of Cranæ a small peninsula that juts out from Gytheion; this is a very good site to see masses of *Cyclamen* and sea lavender *Limonium*. Unfortunately the island was also littered with rubbish. Legend has it that the island of Cranæ was where Paris of Troy took his abducted Helen of Sparta for their first night.





**Figure 93 Tzannetakis Tower**

After our short stop in Gytheion we boarded the coach and continued along the coastline. We stopped after about 40 mins close to the Vathi for a three kilometre walk along the road though Ageranos and nearly to Kamares. Finding *Crocus boryi*, *Asparagus*, *Drimia maritima* in flower as until now we had only seen in leaf or seed.

I found it so fascinating that in the autumn we have to go lower or further south to find things still in flower, the opposite to the spring where you would be climbing higher to find things in flower.



**Figure 94 The road from Vathi to Kamares**

As we walked closer to Kamares the sky was full of what we believed to have been smoke causing the sunlight to have an orange glow across the entire landscape and ourselves.

Our walk along the road gave us our first sighting of *Narcissus miniatus* however John was already saying that the amount of flowers we were seeing

was far less than when he visited previously and felt that we had maybe missed the optimum time by a week.



**Figure 95** *Narcissus miniatus*



**Figure 96** *Drimia maritima*



**Figure 97** *Drimia maritima*

We had two further stops that afternoon: firstly near the coast where we saw a definite sighting of *Crocus niveus* with its very large flower, the biggest of all crocus.



**Figure 98** *Crocus niveus*



**Figure 99** *Crocus niveus*



**Figure 100** *Crocus niveus*



**Figure 101 *Crocus niveus* by E. A. Bowles**

Our last stop was in the mountains and we saw more *Crocus goulimyi* and *Crocus boryi* en mass growing though the rocks more colchicum plus a praying mantis.



**Figure 102 Praying Mantis**



**Figure 103 *Ricinus communis* hardy to grow to a small tree**

That evening we then arrived at the Mani peninsula at the most beautiful four star hotel the Kyrimai built within the town's original trading house where goods were bought and sold to passing vessels. I went swimming in the sea that evening as the sea was still warm and far warmer than the swimming pool at the hotel in Mistra!

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** Drive south onto the Mani peninsula. From Stavros walk to Cape Tigana where grow many interesting maritime species.

## Day 6 The Big Walk

Breakfast was orange juice, tea, a plate of croissants, spinach pastries, ham, cheese and cucumber with feta cheese on top: this was very upmarket.

We boarded the coach at 9:45 and travelled five km to where we walked through the small village of Stavros and walked on towards the coast seeing *C. graecum* and *C. boryi* growing along the roadside and within the farmers' fields. Plants that five days ago would have brought us to our knees to photograph were no longer common place.



Figure 104 *Sternbergia lutea* escapee from gardens in the village.



Figure 105 John addressing the group





**Figure 106 A tenacious plant with difficult digging conditions!**



**Figure 107 Olive grove**

Along the road down to the coast we came across an elderly couple harvesting the olive groves. The man was up a ladder using a plastic handheld implement to comb the olives off the tree onto sheets laid beneath the canopy.



**Figure 108 Olive harvesting**

The harvesting of olives was happening a lot on the Mani at the end of our stay. using this grooming tool similar to a blueberry harvester but without the collector and wider and longer tines. It was very vigorously used and I was surprised that the fruit of the tree was not damaged.



**Figure 109 *Narcissus miniatus* coming up in the road**

Where the tarmac road finished and the concrete and gravel path began which leads you down to the Cape we found an albino *Allium callimischon*.



**Figure 110** *Allium callimischon* (albino)

The Southern Peloponnesus



**Figure 111 Marking new discoveries along our way**



**Figure 112 Cape Tigana**



**Figure 113** *Crocus goulimyi* bicoloured



**Figure 114** *Brassica cretica*

*Brassica cretica* is a relative of the cauliflower, although it's clearly a brassica it is difficult to see cauliflower growing here.



**Figure 115** *Ephedra fragilis* fruiting



**Figure 116** Spent flower heads of *Allium ampeloprasum*

This is the second coastal site on which we have seen *Allium ampeloprasum* growing in such large numbers. The first was on the Rock Monemvasia.



**Figure 117 The fortifications Cape Tigana**



**Figure 118 The settlement Cape Tigana subterranean all water storage**

A small number of us walked all the way out along the peninsula and came to the fortifications at the far end of the Cape. We continued to traverse the sometimes difficult terrain avoiding slipping on rocks or standing on the numerous cyclamen. I found a little worn path that took us up to the entrance of the fort via hand carved stone steps into the side of the rock outcrop. Once inside the fort, it was clear to see numerous ruins, some with very ornate carved marble columns that had fallen over. There was also the presence of large subterranean water storage spaces. Freshwater would have been a premium to the inhabitants of this settlement particularly during times of siege. The flora was even more windswept as we reached the far tip of the peninsula, it was here that we discovered the interesting Dianthus not only growing but flowering.



**Figure 119** *Dianthus* sp.

This was probably the hardest and most tiring walk of the entire trip but so rewarding reaching the Cape. We came back to the coach and travelled east across the mountains where we stopped and saw a small snake with diamond markings about one foot long, plus a praying mantis eating a cricket and a large ground dwelling spider.



**Figure 120** The deadheading team

Goats are the ideal livestock to have on these mountainous areas as they are so stable on their feet and able to eat pretty much anything. For us, however, a goat herd going through an area only days before us will strip the entire area of blooms. Some of the goat herd we saw must have been in excess of over one hundred beasts.



**November 6<sup>th</sup>** We will pay our second visit to the Deep Mani, visiting the little ports of Gerolimenas and Porto Kagio, and the pass over to Lagia, and then walking to Cape Tenaron, the southernmost point of the Greek mainland.

### **Day 7 The night after the big storm**

We woke that morning following a night of strong winds and crashing waves. When we came down to breakfast there was talk of a large fish that had washed up on shore and jokes about how we may be having fish for breakfast!



**Figure 121 Washed up Grouper fish**

After breakfast we boarded the coach and travelled to the little picturesque village of Vathia where we spent 20 minutes walking through the almost uninhabited village, taking photographs of the beautiful Mani architecture.



**Figure 122 Vathia**

We did come across a couple of interesting plant finds within the village. One was *Datura metel* which is similar to the thorn apple that grows in the UK *D. Stomernifra* although its leaf is thicker and not toothed like ours. The second find was *Ecballium elaterium* the squirting cucumber.



**Figure 123 *Datura metel***



**Figure 124** *Ecballium elaterium*

We travelled on to the little port of Kagio with the sky ahead of us getting darker and darker, and heavy with rain. As we arrived the heavens opened although only for a short period of time. On went all the wet weather kit for the first time in the entire trip, a few of us ventured out into the heavy rain while other sensible people allowed the rain to pass before venturing out while taking in one of the local taverns. We walked out to the little church on the headland and beyond towards the flashing light which marks the opening of the natural harbour. We saw a small number of *Crocus niveus* and a few *Colchicum Cyclamen*.



**Figure 125** Porto Kagio



**Figure 126 *Pistacia lentiscus* pistachio**

John explained the difference between the two Pistacias that we were seeing fruiting so well across the Mani as both looked very similar in stature and proportions. *P. terebinthus* has a further singular leaflet at the end of the pinnate leaf whereas *P. lentiscus* terminates in a pair of leaflets.



**Figure 127 Porto Kagio**



**Figure 128 Our converted Sternbergia**

If only we had known we would have found Sternbergia so easily!



**Figure 129 Omelette and chips!**

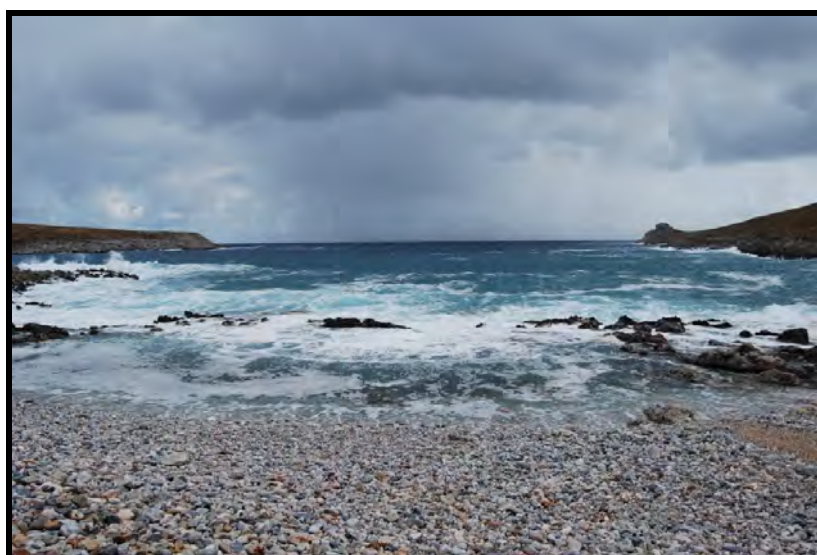
Warning: when reading the English section of the menu, when it says omelette with chips it really means that the chips are in the omelette, although saying that it was delicious!

After lunch we boarded the coach and travelled on to Cape Tenaron. The rain started again and we began our walk to reach the most southerly point of the Greek mainland.

With our heads down we walked through the driving rain that was coming from the south towards the cape and the lighthouse. We were able to see examples of *Narcissus miniatus*, *Colchicum pusillum*, *Prospero autumnalis* ssp. *latifolia* and *C. boryi*.



**Figure 130** Mosaics Cape Tenaron



**Figure 131** Cape Tenaron



**Figure 132** *Narcissus miniatus*

John Richards mentioned that the last time they come to the site *Narcissus miniatus* was in abundance whereas we had missed it by a couple weeks with the absence of flowers and signs of swelling ovaries.



**Figure 133 Heavy rain soils blooms**



**Figure 134 Windswept Cape Tenaron**

By the time we'd reached the lighthouse at the edge of the Cape the skies had cleared and the sun was shining through. It was interesting to see wild leek and a fig growing in such an exposed site. We were blessed with a lovely walk back to the coach with the sun on our backs drying us from the earlier downpour.



Figure 135 *Crithmum maritimum* Rock sapphire



Figure 136 The view at the Kyrimai Hotel, Gerolimani



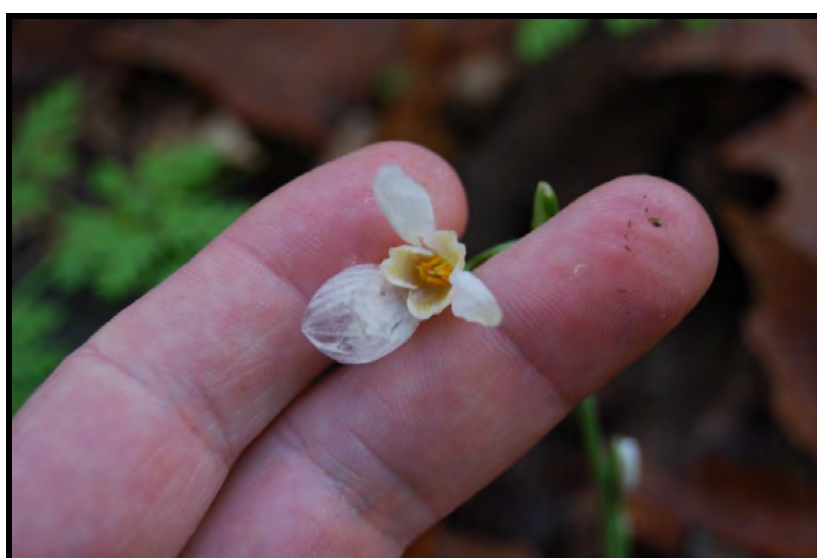
**November 7<sup>th</sup>** Today we head north to spend the night in the Argolid, at the beautiful Venetian Port of Nafplio. En route we will visit Krioneri below the Taygetos

### **Day 8 The day I was waiting for!**

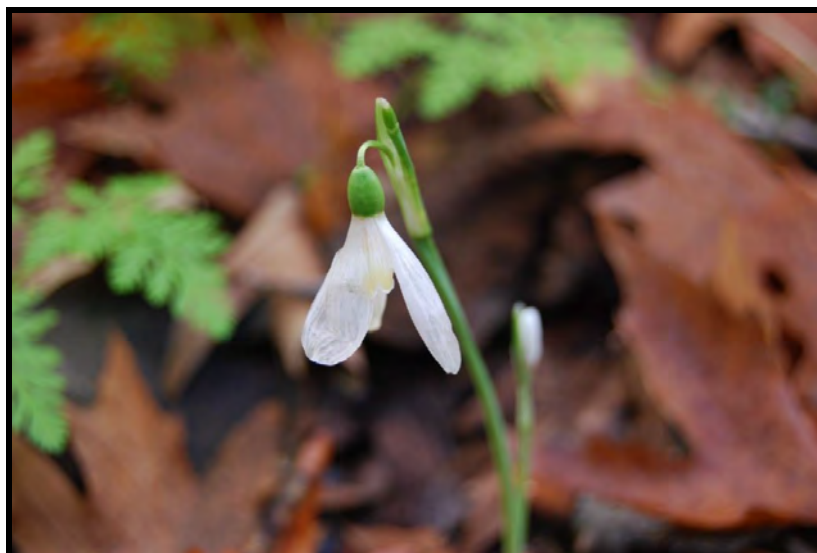
Up until this point there had been no sighting of the elusive autumn flowering snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, only hope that we might see the odd one in a few places along our journey. However this morning John was sure of this site on the eastern side of the Taygetos Mountain at the car park Krioneri. John has visited many times in the autumn and has always been rewarded with great displays.



**Figure 137** Krioneri car park



**Figure 138** Possible yellow *Galanthus reginae-olgae*

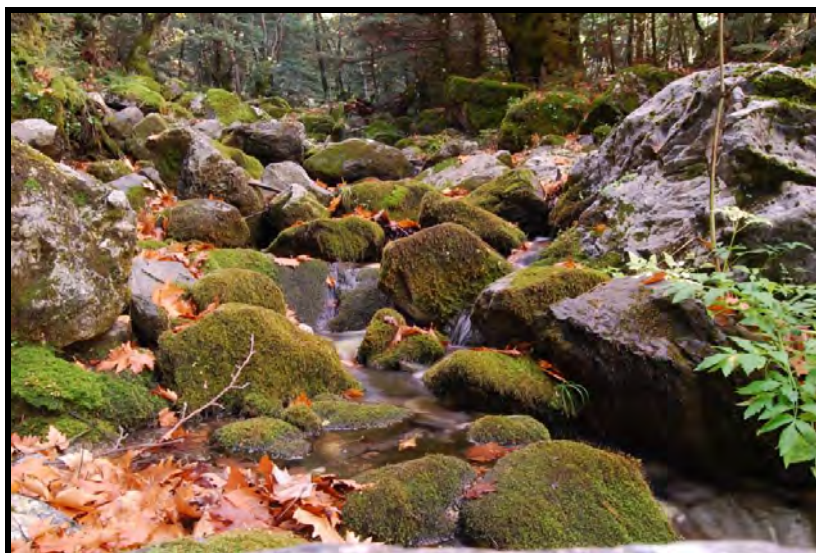


**Figure 139 Possible yellow *Galanthus reginae-olgae***

Is this a beautiful yellow form of *Galanthus reginae-olgae* or is this just a washed out old flower? If it is the former then it's a great find. I spend as much time as I can in February looking through the snowdrops at Myddelton trying to spot new ones. So when I found this one I was very excited however as John said at the time this could easily be an old flower that has faded or the green colouration been washed out. I guess only time will tell if a keen eyed Galanthophile spots it again in future years.



**Figure 140 *Galanthus reginae-olgae***



**Figure 141** Fallen leaves of the Plain trees trapped in the water



**Figure 142** *Galanthus reginae-olgae*

John did say that this was not as good a display had he as he had seen before at this site. For me it was wonderful; we grow one small clump of *G. reginae-olgae* which we believe to be originally planted by E A Bowles down in his beloved rock garden. It is always a pleasure to see it merge each autumn. Therefore for me to see them growing in their natural environment under the canopies of deciduous plane trees was delightful.



**Figure 143** *Galanthus reginae-olgae* by E.A. Bowles

After our lunch we boarded the coach and wound our way back down the mountain and headed for our last night in the Port of Nafplio



**Figure 144** The castle of Bourtzi

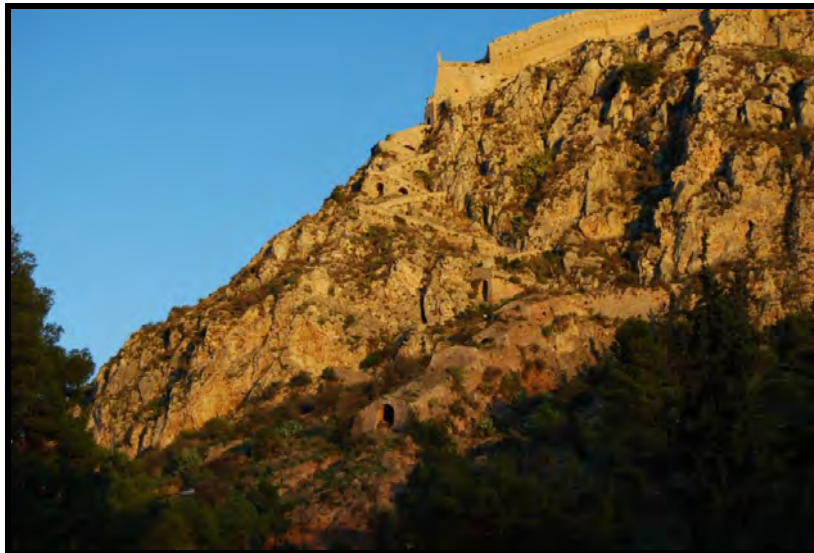
We arrived at the hotel late afternoon and John offered to take us on a short walk along a coastal path. It was a lovely warm evening and a fantastic walk with great views up to Palamidi Castle. It also gave me an opportunity to see a plant that I had seen earlier in the tour but had not taken closer notice of, it was *Euphorbia acanthothamnus*, and its common name is Greek Spiny Spurge. It is very effectively protecting itself by producing a thorny protective exterior, assisting this already toxic plant against grazing animals. A plant that has a very similar mechanism and habit is *Sarcopoterium spinosum*: we saw this growing at the Mistra gorge.



**Figure 145** *Euphorbia acanthothamnus*



**Figure 146** *Euphorbia acanthothamnus*



**Figure 147** View up to Palamidi Castle

That afternoon we found out that this would be John and Sheila's last tour.



**Figure 148 John & Sheila Richards: The Last Supper**

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** Today we depart Nafplio to drive to the airport and journey home.

### **Day 9 The final day**

John had organised with the coach driver for us to take a quick stop at the Palamidi Castle. We were driven to the top, paid the entrance fee and walked round the remarkable fortifications looking down to the port below. Within the Castle we found the medic tree *Medicago arborea* with its snail like shell seeds and *Convolvulus lineatus*.



**Figure 149 Palamidi Castle**



**Figure 150 Views from Palamidi Castle**

From here we drove to Athens, had lunch and spent the afternoon botanising on the hillside leading to the Koutouki Cave. It was lovely scenery although we did not have great finds; the best for me was a *Clematis cirrhosa* in bud. It was a sad afternoon as we knew that later that evening we would be flying home to Gatwick and these were our last finds of the trip.



**Figure 151 *Clematis cirrhosa***



## Conclusion

What a fascinating and rewarding tour. I would like to thank the Merlin Trust and the Alpine Garden Society for giving me the opportunity to see the autumn flora of the southern Peloponnesus in its natural habitat, with such knowledgeable and friendly tour guides. John and Sheila were truly wonderful: always helpful, always patient and always available to answer any question.

The two highlights of the tour have to be seeing *Crocus niveus* and *Galanthus reginae-olgae*. But I must also mention the people I met on the tour that helped to guide and explain the difference between the different crocus species, help me with the menu or just the general enjoyable conversation on the coach.

Although this tour has answered many of my questions regarding location and cultural condition it has left me wondering why some flora is located where it is and why not in similar locations elsewhere. Is this due to over collecting of plant material in certain areas, the cultivation of land for crops or is it purely down to the plants propagation methods and seed dispersal?

I was also considering that we didn't have to walk any distance to find plants as many of them were growing on the road side. I started to think why this was, is it just because we don't want to walk a long distance from the coach to see plants or is the richness of the flora along the road side verges so good because they are rarely disturbed following the completion of a road. It will also mean little or no grazing and often difficult locations to access.

I'm not sure when I'll be able to answer either of these questions, however it will certainly make me think.

Thank you for supporting my application.

## Additional information

### Peloponnesse Tour, October 30<sup>th</sup> - November 8<sup>th</sup> 2013: Plant List

#### Key

Plants seen (in red)

Plants not seen (black)

October 31<sup>st</sup>. Manthirea, Alepochori etc.

*Acer monspessulanum*

*Acer sempervirens*

*Arisarum vulgare*

*Atractylis gummifera*

*Bellis sylvestris*

*Calicotome villosa*

*Carlina corymbosa*

*Carthamus dentatus*

*Carthamus lanatus*

*Centaurea calcitrapa*

*Centaurea solstitialis*

*Chondrilla juncea*

*Cistus creticus*

*Cistus salvifolius*

*Colchicum bivonae* (? over)

*Colchicum cupanii*

*Coridothymus capitatus*

*Cornus mas*

*Cotinus coggygria*

*Crataegus heldreichii*

*Crataegus orientalis*

*Crataegus pycnoloba*

*Crocus boryi*

*Crocus hadriaticus*

*Crocus melantherus*

*Cupressus sempervirens*

*Cyclamen graecum*

*Cyclamen hederifolium*

*Drimia maritima*

*Euphorbia acanthothamnus*

*Euphorbia characias*

*Genista acanthoclada*

*Heliotropium europaeum*

*Juniperis oxycedrus*

*Lactuca viminea*

*Notobasis syriaca*

*Onopordum illyricum*

*Paliurus spina-christi*

*Picnomon acarna*  
*Pinus halepensis*  
*Pistacia lentiscus*  
*Prospero autumnalis*  
*Ptilostemon afer*  
*Pyrus eleagrifolia*  
*Pyrus spinosa*  
*Quercus ilex*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Scolymus hispanicus*  
*Silybum marianum*  
*Sternbergia lutea*  
*Sternbergia sicula*  
*Taraxacum minimum*  
*Xeranthemum annuum*

November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mistras and Parori.

*Acanthus spinosus*  
*Adiantum capillus-veneris*  
*Allium callimischon*  
*Asperula taygetea*  
*Aubrieta deltoidea*  
*Biarum tenuifolium*  
*Campanula topaliana* ssp. *topaliana*  
*Campanula versicolor*  
*Centranthus longiflorus*  
*Cercis siliquastrum*  
*Ceterach officinarum* now *Asplenium ceterach*  
*Cosantinia vellea*  
*Colchicum cupanii*  
*Colchicum psaridis*  
*Crocus boryi*  
*Cyclamen crassifolium*  
*Cyclamen graecum*  
*Cyclamen hederifolium*  
*Cymbalaria microcalyx* ssp. *alba*  
*Ephedra fragilis* ssp. *campylopoda*  
*Erica manipuliflora*  
*Euphorbia characias* ssp. *wulfenii*  
*Ferula communis*  
*Hypericum empetrifolium*  
*Hypericum perforatum*  
*Notholaena marantae*  
*Onosma frutescens*  
*Ptilostemon chamaepeuce*  
*Silene gigantea*  
*Smilax aspera*  
*Stachys candida*  
*Umbilicus erectus*

Lambokambos and Richia, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Crocus cancellatus*  
*Crocus goulimyi* ssp. *leucanthus*  
*Crocus laevigatus*  
*Crocus niveus* (dwarf form)  
*Crocus boryi*  
*Sternbergia lutea*  
*Sternbergia sicula*  
*Colchicum cupanii*  
*Colchicum psaridis*  
*Geranium tuberosum*  
*Prospero autumnalis* ssp. *latifolia*  
*Erica arborea*  
*Arbutus unedo*  
*Lavandula stoechas*  
*Putoria calabrica*  
*Rumex scutatus*  
*Cyclamen graecum*  
*Cyclamen confusum*

Monemvasia and Vatika, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Alkanna tinctoria*  
*Allium ampeloprasum*  
*Allium ritsii*  
*Anagyris foetida*  
*Ballota pseudodictamus*  
*Borago officinalis*  
*Campanula andrewsii* ssp. *hirsutula*  
*Capparis spinosa*  
*Centranthus ruber*  
*Cistus parviflorus*  
*Colchicum lingulatum*  
*Colchicum psaridis*  
*Colchicum sfakasianum*  
*Crocus boryi*  
*Crocus goulimyi* ssp. *leucanthus*  
*Crocus laevigatus*  
*Cyclamen crassifolium*  
*Cyclamen graecum*  
*Cymbalaria longipes*  
*Euphorbia dendroides*  
*Hyocyamus albus*  
*Inula candida*  
*Mandragora officinalis*  
*Matthiola sinuata*  
*Procopiana cretica*  
*Prospero autumnalis* ssp. *latifolia*  
*Scrophularia canina*  
*Solanum sodomium*  
*Stachys spreitzenhoferi* ssp. *virella*

*Sternbergia lutea*  
*Teucrium brevifolium*  
*Withania somnifera*

Marathea and Vathy, November 4<sup>th</sup>

*Allium callimischon* ssp. *haemostictum*?  
*Arisarum vulgare*  
*Colchicum cupanii*  
*Colchicum parlatoris*  
*Crocus boryi*  
*Crocus hadriaticus*  
*Cyclamen confusum*  
*Cyclamen crassifolium*  
*Cyclamen graecum*  
*Drimia maritima*  
*Narcissus serotinus*  
*Pancratium maritimum*  
*Quercus frainetto*  
*Quercus macrolepis*  
*Quercus pubescens*  
*Quercus trojana*  
*Spiranthes spiralis*

Deep Mani, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

*Anthyllis hermanniae*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Biarum spruneri*  
*Biarum tenuifolium*  
*Centaurea raphanina*  
*Colchicum cupanii*  
*Colchicum lingulatum*  
*Colchicum psaridis*  
*Colchicum pusillum*  
*Convolvulus oleifolius*  
*Crocus boryi*  
*Crocus goulimyi*  
*Crocus hadriaticus*  
*Crocus niveus*  
*Cyclamen confusum*  
*Cyclamen graecum*  
*Heliotropium hirsutissimum*  
*Inula verbascifolia* ssp. *methanaea*  
*Lilium candidum*  
*Limonium frederici*  
*Limonium ramossissimum*  
*Muscari parviflorum*  
*Narcissus serotinus*  
*Prospero autumnalis* ssp. *latifolia*  
*Senecio bicolor*  
*Sternbergia lutea*

Langada and Krioneri, November 7<sup>th</sup>

*Abies cephalonica*

*Colchicum boisseri*

*Colchicum cupanii*

*Colchicum parlatoris*

*Crocus boryi*

*Crocus hadriaticus*

*Cyclamen crassifolium*

*Cyclamen graecum*

*Cyclamen hederifolium*

*Galanthus reginae-olgae*

*Hypericum taygeteum*

*Platanus orientalis*

*Saxifraga chrysoplenifolia*

*Scutellaria rupestris* ssp. *parnassica*

*Silene goulimy*

*Verbascum daenzeri*

## **Bibliography**

### **Book references**

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### **Websites references**

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Alpine Garden Society John Richards blog entry

<http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/diaries/Northumberland/+November+/513/>

Alpine Garden Society John Richards blog entry

<http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/diaries/Northumberland/+November+/513/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corinth\\_Canal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corinth_Canal)

## Hotel References

### ACCOMMODATION

30 <sup>th</sup> October (1 night)	Hotel Avra, Rafina Tel. 0030 22940 22780 <a href="mailto:avra@otenet.gr">avra@otenet.gr</a>
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct/November 1 <sup>st</sup> (2 nights)	Byzantion Hotel, Nea Mistra Tel. 0030 27310 83309 <a href="mailto:byzanhtl@otenet.gr">byzanhtl@otenet.gr</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> November (2 nights)	Flower of Monemvasia Hotel, Gefira Tel. 0030 27320 61395 <a href="mailto:contact@liotrivi.info">contact@liotrivi.info</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> November (3 nights)	Kyrimai Hotel, Gerolimeni Tel. 0030 27330 54288 <a href="mailto:info@kyrimai.gr">info@kyrimai.gr</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> November (1 night)	Victoria Hotel, Nafplio Tel. 0030 27520 27420 <a href="mailto:nafpliovictoria@gmail.com">nafpliovictoria@gmail.com</a>

**All photographs taken by Andrew Turvey with a Nikon digital D40 SLR**

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Front Cover photograph:  
***Sternbergia lutea* Monemvasia**