

Orchid Odyssey

Holiday Report 1-8 April 2017

Led by Yiannis Christofides



Ophrys polyxo © Ken

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Introduction

The island of Rhodes is part of the south-eastern Aegean Island complex known as the Dodecanese, and is situated just 18km from the south-west coast of Turkey. With over 300 days of sunshine a year, it's no surprise that it is a popular destination for tourists, who flock to the island for its sunny beaches or perhaps to visit its ancient and medieval ruins, of which there are plenty. However, its location and geology of schist and limestone means it is also blessed with a wonderful mixture of Mediterranean and Asiatic flora and fauna.

Away from the town of Rodos, which is the capital of Rhodes, one soon finds miles of unspoilt countryside full of wildlife. It has three mountains, the highest of these being Mt. Attaviros which rises to 1,215 m, followed by Mt. Profitis Ilias and Mt. Akramites. For orchids it is one of the best Greek islands, with a large list of diverse and interesting species, particularly in the genus *Ophrys*. The island also has an impressive plant list of over 1,500 species.

The orchids would be our main focus during the holiday and as we would explore the central and southern areas of the island, we based ourselves in two different locations, with 5 days in the south centre and the rest based on Mt. Profitis Ilias. This gave us a chance to make leisurely forays into the mountains, river valleys, forests, coastal and olive grove habitats. Our hope was to see around 30-40 species of orchids, together with some other very interesting flora and fauna.

The guests joining us were Derek, Jennie, Jude, Ken, Gillian, Eirian, Robert, Tom, Mark, Terence, John and Pam. The holiday was led by Yiannis Christofides. Yiannis is a respected botanical author and excellent all round naturalist. He has recently published the *Flora of Cyprus* and is currently working on a book of plants of the Eastern Mediterranean.



Serapias Bergonii (hypochromic) © Ken



Ophrys candica © Terry

The following is an outline of the week with a daily diary, followed by a gallery and species lists.

Day 1, Tuesday 1st April. Arrival at airport, hotel transfer and visit countryside north of Embonas.

Day 2, Wednesday 2nd April. South Rodos, Kattavia Plain and Apolakkia Bay.

Day 3, Thursday 3rd April. Mt. Attaviros, Mesanagros and Agios Isidoros.

Day 4, Friday 4th April. East coast and southern groves.

Day 5, Saturday 5th April. South of Attaviros, and Italian Bridge.

Day 6, Sunday 6th April. Transfer to second base, and visit to Mt. Profitis Ilias.

Day 7, Monday 7th April. South central Rhodes, Agios Isidoros again.

Day 8, Tuesday 8th April. Return to UK.

Day 1. Arrival, transfer to hotel and Southwest Attaviros

We arrived at Rhodes' Diagoras Airport around lunchtime. Most of the group were travelling from the UK, though Yiannis and Terry were travelling from Greece and Tom from the US. After collecting the vehicles we drove following a southerly direction skirting the west coast and then



Endemic Tulip © Ken

east towards the hotel at our first base in Embonas, a town renowned for its wine and Souma (a spirit made from grape must). Checking in to the hotel, we had the place pretty much to ourselves, it being just before Easter when the Rhodes summer season properly begins. Once we'd had a spot of lunch (Greek salad, feta cheese and bread) we made a couple of stops in the vicinity of the village, nestled in the foothills of Attaviros. It was 17deg C with plenty of blue sky outside.

Stop 1: We visited a little house to see native Rock Tulips. These were grown by a couple that had lived in the house for over 50 years. They gathered the plants when starting out on their married life, and continued nurturing them year after year as garden plants. Many years later, the plant virtually disappeared from Rhodes due to deep agricultural changes but the stock in this urban garden was rediscovered by conservationists and is now being used to successfully repopulate areas of the Rhodes countryside. The specimens we saw were going over which was a shame, but it was heartening to see that the plants were still thriving in this urban garden and to learn a little of its history on the island.

Stop 2: We journeyed northwards to a location where limestone rocks and scrub provided good habitat. Altogether 8 orchid species were found: *Orchis anatolica* (Anatolian Orchid), *Anacamptis papilionacea* (Aegean Butterfly Orchid) *Ophrys iricolor* (Rainbow Bee Orchid) *Himantoglossum robertiana* (Giant Orchid), *Ophrys sicula* (Sicilian Bee Orchid), *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* (Horseshoe Ophrys), *Ophrys reinholdii* (Reinhold's Ophrys) and *Ophrys omegaifera*, the lovely Royal Ophrys. Dinner was served at 7.30pm, a hearty a traditional moussaka. Woodlark was heard singing.

Day 2. South Rhodes, Kattavia Plain and Apolakkia Bay



Our aim today was to head towards the southern tip of the island stopping at Apolakkia and then the vast plain of Kattavia.

Stop 1: At 9am, we made an impromptu stop just outside the village to investigate some white-flowered plants on the verge which proved to be *Ornithogalum nutans* in excellent condition. We also spotted 2 Short-toed Eagles above us, drifting south, their white bellies, barred tail and dark head and chest clearly visible against the blue sky.

Stop 2: Our next stop was Apolakkia Bay. This is one of the richest habitats with many annuals and perennials of garrigue and deserted beaches. Here we had the opportunity to see for the first time, many of the typical plants that we would see every day for the rest of the week, and also some specially adapted species at home on or by the beach. In the first category were the beautiful pink/carmine flowers of *Echium angustifolium* (Narrow-leaved Bugloss), *Helichrysum*



stoechas, *Lithodora hispidula* (Shrubby Gromwell - a beautiful cobalt blue), *Pistacia lentiscus* (Mastic Tree), *Cistus creticus* (Grey Rockrose- which has pink flowers), *Cistus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Rockrose) and *Campanula rhodensis* (the endemic Rhodes' Campanula with beautiful violet flowers). Special plants seen included *Teucrium brevifolium* (Shortleaf Germander), and the yellow flowers of *Ononis hispanica* (Spanish Restharrow). The combined effect of these dazzlingly colourful plants reminded us of an impressionist painting.

At the bay, Terence soon found a rather good specimen of *Anacamptis papilionacea*. This interesting spot overlooking the beautiful blue Aegean had butterflies too, and here Terence saw and photographed a beautiful Long-tailed Blue butterfly and Mark spotted Small Tortoiseshell, possibly a new record for Rhodes.

Stop 3: After the beach, we moved eastwards before taking a stony hillside track leading north at Kattavia, and this proved very rich in orchids. Species seen here included *Anacamptis papilionacea*, *Ophrys iricolor*, *Ophrys speculum* (Eastern Mirror Bee Orchid) and *Ophrys cretica ssp. beloniae* (Naxos Bee Ophrys). Good number of butterflies were also here, including Green Hairstreak, Long-tailed Blue, Bath and Eastern Dappled Whites, Clouded Yellow, and Painted Lady. Mark found our first Eastern Baton Blue butterfly. The colour of this diminutive species matching perfectly the beautiful Aegean. Also seen was a group of crimson red *Ranunculus asiaticus* (Asiatic Buttercup), a particularly rare sight.

Stop 4: We moved south towards Kattavia plain on the way to Prasonisi. The military were practising their drill, with field guns and tanks firing shells across the plain in the distance. Fortunately, we were not within their sights! The area was rich in orchid numbers and species including *Ophrys iricolor*, *Ophrys cinereophila* (Shadow Bee Ophrys) and *O. ferrum-equinum*.



The highlight for many was the endemic Rhodes Fritillary *Fritillaria rhodia*. This diminutive little endemic with bright yellow flowers shaped a bit like those of an English Bluebell, though smaller, were delightful, and somewhat tricky to photograph on account of their size and proximity to the

ground. Nonetheless, very good photographs were taken!

Stop 5: As it was getting late, we started on our journey back to the hotel, stopping en route to add a beautiful specimen of *Orchis italica* (Naked Man Orchid) which Derek had noticed earlier. Here we also found *Ophrys dodekanensis*, and after photos, finally arrived home at 6pm, with time enough to complete our species lists before concluding with an excellent meal of stiffado at the hotel. A total 18 orchid species and 6 Butterfly species were seen today.

Day 3. Mesanagros, Agios Isidoros and Profilia

Today we would visit sites to the south of Attaviros, such as Mesanagros and Agios Isidoros. These sites held some promising species that we hadn't so far seen on previous trips. The forecast temperature meant we were in for a good day, with the early morning warmth of the sun already good enough for shorts and t-shirts.

Stop 1: We set off around 9am, but just outside the village we simply *had* to stop for a field of magnificent *Ornithogalum nutans*, growing with *Muscari neglectum*. Judy spotted a new species for the trip, *Ophrys umbilicata* (Woodcock Orchid). Nearby, *Aristolochia guichardii* (Rhodian Dutchman's Pipe) was in flower. This plant is the larval host for the Eastern Festoon butterfly, a colourful relative of the Swallowtail.

Stop 2: Continuing south on a dirt track, we started to ascend Mount Skiadi and soon saw the first orchids from the vehicles, beautiful specimens of *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*. Here we stopped and Yiannis clambered up a slope where he found masses of *Orchis anatolica* and an *Ophrys sitiaca* (Sitia Bee Ophrys) a species of the *fusca* group. We continued the track here and found the first of several Eastern Festoon butterflies. Only males were seen, indicative of the late spring. Pam and John also spotted Hoopoe.

Stop 3: Nearer the top we found *Ophrys mammosa* (Breasted Ophrys) and more *Ophrys ferrum-equinum*, all in excellent condition. Ken found and photographed Long-tailed Blue butterfly.

Stop 4: Our highest point was at the wind turbines. Here the ground levelled out somewhat which gave us a chance to spread out more. It was a wonderful location for orchids, finding one species after another, including several of the ones we were hoping for. These included *Ophrys leochroma* (Lion-mane Sawfly Orchid), *Ophrys phryganae* (Phrygana Bee Ophrys - with horizontally arranged bottom lip) and *Ophrys omegaifera*. More *Fritillaria rhodia* were also seen. Venturing further, even more *Ophrys leochroma* were found, with several large groupings of plants with flowers all in pristine condition. More swathes of *Orchis*



anatolica were found here, along with *Ophrys reinholdii* and others. After much botanizing, we stopped for lunch.

Stop 5: We then headed north to explore other sites but on the way back down, Jennie pointed out a large white *Paeonia clusii* ssp. *Rhodia*. Several specimens of this endemic Paeony were found, with their characteristic and beautiful cinnamon - like perfume. With the late spring, this was a good find as it was out in the open, and the plants are more normally seen in forested areas. Derek saw a bright yellow butterfly, but was unable to take pictures, though it must have been either *Cleopatra fiorrii* (the endemic Rhodes form of Cleopatra) or Powdered Brimstone *Gonepteryx farinosa*. We also found a few specimens of *Ophrys attaviria* (Attaviros Bee Ophrys) and also some very beautiful *Iris unguicularis* (Algerian Iris).

Stop 6: At this stop, *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii* (King Ferdinand's Orchid), *Ophrys speculum* and *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* were all found in good flower.

Stop 7: Once we'd reached the Profilia-Agios Isidoros road, we turned north through typical habitat, adding *Ophrys fusca* ssp. *attaviria* again and more very beautiful *Iris unguicularis*. We were somewhat taken aback by an unidentified blue butterfly. It must have been a bit too early for Loew's Blue, but it was intriguing nonetheless as it had the correct appearance when the underside was seen, and because the larval host-plant *Astragalus* was present. European Swallowtails were here as well as Scarce Swallowtail, and both Small and Large Whites.

Stop 8: Another stop produced *Ophrys phrygana*, a few Green Hairstreaks and Eastern Baton Blue.



Stop 9: Our last stop of the day was on the way west towards Siana. Here there were more *Ophrys speculum*, *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii*, a few *Ophrys phrygana* and our first *Ophrys rhodia* (Rhodian Woodcock Orchid), spotted by the eagle-eyed Terence. A total of 20 species of orchid were seen today, and 8 species of butterfly. Hoopoe, Stonechat, Buzzard, Sardinian Warbler, and Crested Lark added a little avian interest and Oertzen's Wall Lizard gave us our first reptile.

Day 4. East Coast, River Gadouras and southern olive groves

Today we would check the east coast and explore the river, beach and olive groves. With good weather forecast we optimistically set out, heading north via Apollona and then traversing east across the island. We arrived at the Gadouras river mouth around 9.30am.

Stop 1: At the beach, plenty was on offer but alas *Dianthus crinitus* (Long-haired Pink) was not in flower, although the fine stems and leaves were visible. Still, a number of nice orchid species could be found including, *Serapias carica* (Carian Plowshare Orchid), and *Ophrys rhodia*. *Serapias carica*

is the tallest and largest flowered members of the *Serapias* to be found on the island. The small lagoon on the beach was only half full of water, which was somewhat strange, given the wet winter. Only a Kingfisher was to be seen there, though Sedge and Great Reed Warblers could be heard. John and Pam also pointed out Black-crowned Night Herons flying over.

At the river itself, Crested Larks could be seen easily and an advance party saw and then heard a calling Wood Sandpiper. Derek and Jenny found 3 Badgers cuddled up together in a large drain.

Stop 2: Having explored the beach area we moved to a nearby site where amongst the olive groves we found our first orchids for the day, *Ophrys calypsus* (Calypso Bee Ophrys) named after Titan's daughter, *Ophrys mammosa*, *Ophrys rhodia* and *Serapias bergonii* (Greek Plowshare Orchid). *Orobanche ramosa* (Mutel's Broomrape) was growing upon *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Bermuda Buttercup). A possible *Ophrys colossaea* was seen but not in flower. With the late season, it would have been lucky to find a flowering specimen.

After an enjoyable two hours at this site, we moved back to the main road and stopped at a taverna for well deserved ice creams and coffee. This restored our energy and we drove to our next site where more new orchids awaited us.

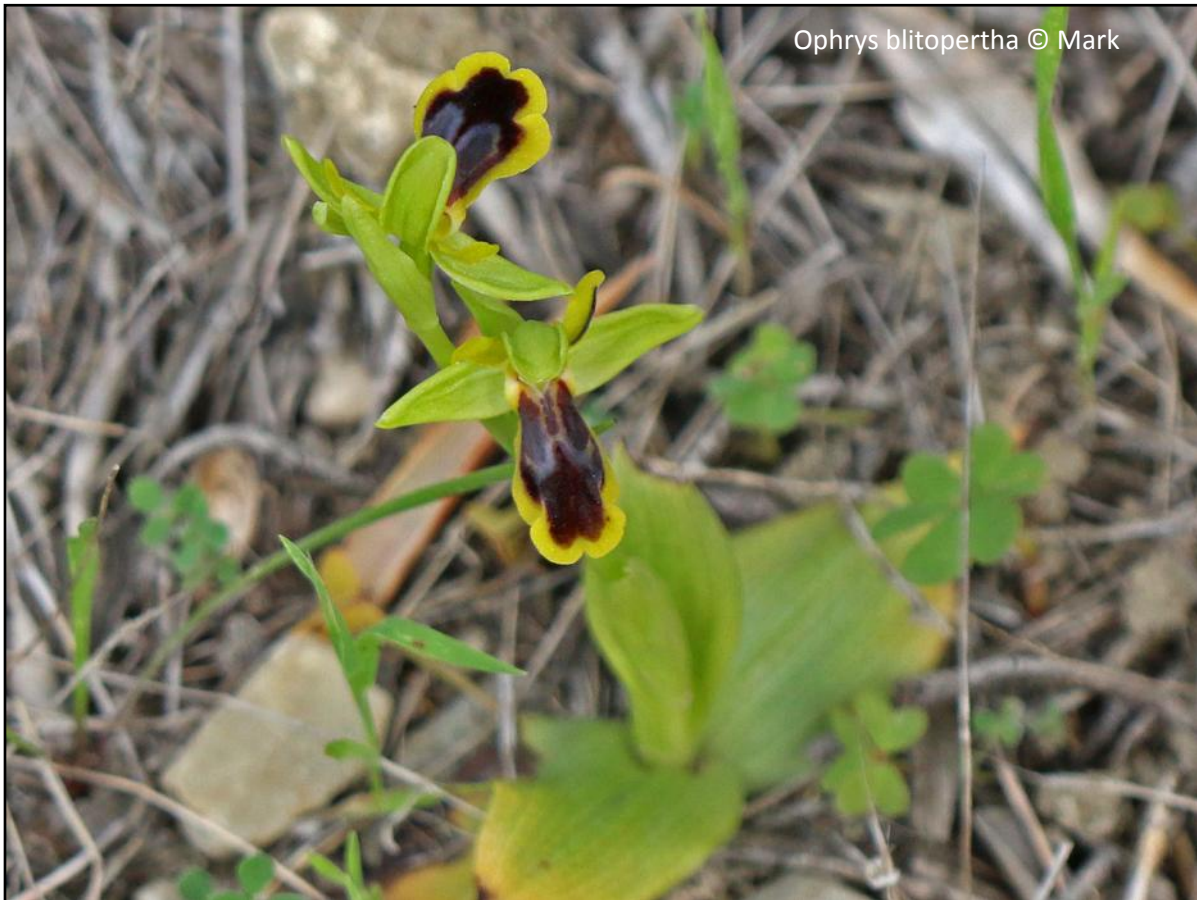


Stop 3: At some southern olive groves near Genadi we ate lunch and explored the area, finding two large *Serapias carica*, which were in good flower, and good numbers of *Ophrys dodekanensis* (Dodekanese Ophrys). A bank with deep red *Ranunculus asiaticus* provided splashes of colour.

Stop 4: At the next groves, we spotted some yellow orchids from the vehicles as we were arriving. Very quickly, Judy correctly confirmed these as *Ophrys blitopertha*, also known as Beetle Orchid. Soon *Ophrys attaviria* and more *Ophrys polyxo* (Rhodian Horned Bee Orchid) were spotted, together with *Ophrys sicula*, easily distinguishable from *Ophrys Phrygana* on account of their bent labellum.

Stop 5: It was now getting late so we started to make for the hotel, stopping at suitable habitats to explore. The last stop proved fruitful, with two spikes of *Limodorum abortivum* (Violet Limodore), unfortunately not yet in flower, as well as more specimens of *Ophrys attaviria*. On a

south facing slope we found some half grown Starred Agamas, basking by their entrance holes in a small cliff. More *Ophrys speculum* and several other orchid species were found too.



Day 5. Mount Attaviros, Apollona and Lake Gadouras

Today all eyes turned to Attaviros with thoughts of some exciting new species.

Stop 1: By the time we set out at 9am, most of the early morning wind had dissipated. We stopped a little way up the mountain track, looking for *Ophrys candica* (White Orchid/Enamel Bee Orchid). It was not found, although lots of *Ophrys reinholdii*, *Ophrys sicula* and *Cyclamen rhodium* were seen. Yiannis remained optimistic we would get to see it elsewhere!

Stop 2: At an area where the ground levels out under the pines, we found good numbers of *Ophrys omegaifera* (Omega Bee Ophrys). These gorgeous plants with their boxing glove shaped flowers, were in near perfect condition and afforded wonderful photographic opportunities.

Stop 3: Above the tree line we emerged into a much rockier terrain, full of the small blue flowers of *Lithodorum hispidula*. Many of these provided nectar for Green Hairstreak butterflies. The habitat is ideal for the butterfly, as they also use the plentiful *Genista anthoclada* which grows abundantly here, to lay their eggs upon. The butterfly also has a penchant for Asphodel nectar and some of these plants had up to 6 butterflies on each one. Yiannis went up the slopes, followed by Gillian, Eirian and Terry, seeking *Orchis lactea*, the Milky Orchid. None were found but as with *Ophrys candica*, we remained optimistic. We did find *Ophrys sicula* and lots of *Orchis anatolica* in amongst the rocks and shrubs. A rather nice discovery was the half a dozen or more Green-underside Blue

butterflies flitting around some of the low growing plants. Derek enjoyed finding a pair of Sardinian Warblers, the male quite striking in his grey and black livery set against the wonderful backdrop of the distant Mt. Akramitis. Eastern Festoon butterfly was also seen.

Stop 4: After a brief stop for fuel, we journeyed towards Apollona and a small church site reputed to be good for species. Here we found *Orchis italica*, a few *Ophrys rhodia*, and *Anacamptis papilionacea*. Ken and Rob watched Buzzards chasing Ravens over the mountain.

Stop 5: Moving southeast to our next spot, we parked beside a grove with several *Scilla hyacinthoides* (Hyacinth Squill), a rather stately species with bright blue flowers, standing around 3ft tall. A lot of Muscari (also in the Hyacinthaceae) were present alongside them.

Stop 6: We arrived at the old Italian bridge and ate our lunch in the shade, and took the chance to admire *Himantoglossum robertianum* before setting out excitedly on a search for *Ophrys candica* and other species. Soon the plant was found, with some in excellent condition. Terence was more than happy with *candica*, since it was a species he'd really wanted to see. Mission accomplished! Derek soon found our first *Ophrys bombyliflora* (Bumblebee Orchid), a species admired by all. We also found a couple of specimens of *Orchis lactea*, making up for the lack of them earlier on the higher slopes. *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii* (King Ferdinand's Orchid) was also present along with *Orchis italica* and *Anacamptis papilionacea*.



Ophrys reinholdii © Gillian

Stop 7: We then moved off to Lake Gadouras, which in English means Donkey Lake. Here some of the group watched intently for birds while others moved off for flowers or dragonflies. As it happened, the birds were very good, with Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Greenshank and Little Ringed Plover present. Further out on the lake, whinnying Little Grebe could be heard and seen, and lots of Coot and Shoveler.



Bittern © Ken

Despite the appearance of the barren slopes, these held a number of interesting plants such as *Gypsophila confertifolia*, the endemic *Silene Salamandra* (Rhodian Catchfly) and *Anthemis rhodensis* (Rhodian Chamomile). All three species are considered Rhodian endemics. We also added *Linaria micrantha* (Small-leaved Toadflax) to the *Linaria chalepensis* and *Linaria pelisseriana* found previously. *Lavandula stoechas* (French Lavender) was common here.

Stop 8: Our final stop was at a sensitive site for *Orchis laxiflora* (Lax-flowered Orchid). We found them on the roadside verge, which obviated the need for venturing onto another area which over

the past few years, has suffered a lot through drying out. Photos were taken, and, after listening to singing Corn Buntings, we made the short drive back to our hotel for the obligatory checklist and a lovely Sea Bream dinner.



Day 6. Transfer to second base on Profitis Ilias

Stop 1: We set out at about 9am, saying goodbye to our friends at the hotel, and drove to our second base at Mount Profitis Ilias. We arrived a little early, so left the cases and wandered up the first slope, looking for *Orchis morio* (Spotted Green-winged Orchid) which we found. Also present were a good number of *Ophrys reinholdii*, *Ophrys dodekanensis* and *Neotinea maculata*, the Dense-flowered Orchid. *Ranunculus creticus* (Cretan buttercup) was seen too. Butterflies here included Large Wall Brown, which alighted upon a rock and Eastern Fестoon. Good views of the Gadouras could be seen from this high viewpoint.

Crown anemone © Gillian



Stop 2: Our second location was a brief search for *Paeonia clusii* ssp. *Rhodia* (Rhodes Peony). We found them, mostly in rosette form but over the road and slightly lower down, half a dozen were fully open. A few *Orchis provincialis* (Provence Orchid) were seen by Judy, with *Anemone blanda* (Balkan Anemone), *Anemone coronaria* (Crown Anemone) *Cyclamen rhodium* (Rhodes Cyclamen) and *Aristolochia guichardii*.

Rhodes Paeony © Tom



Stop 3: A little lower down the mountain, we parked for lunch before setting out on another foray. Here, we found our first *Ophrys oreas* (Profitis Ilias Bee Orchid) in good numbers and in various hues, and also a single spike of *Ophrys lucis* (Rhodian Horseshoe Orchid) the undoubted highlight of the day. *Many other good species such as Ophrys reinholdii, Orchis provincialis, Orchis anatolica, Anacamptis morio and Ophrys cinereophila* were found, along with a few more *Neotinea Lactea* and *Anacamptis papilionacea*. A pair of Short-toed Eagles dashed overhead, their wings bent in characteristic swooping form. This was the second time we'd seen this magnificent species.

Stop 4: From there we moved up to a place known as 'Weathertop'. Here, no Hobbits were found but we did see *Orchis lactea*, *Anacamptis morio*, *Ophrys oreas*, and plenty of *Orchis provincialis*. Terry spotted a rather worn Red Admiral butterfly.

Stop 5: Our final stop was higher up near some goat sheds. A wander past swathes of *Colchicum* leaves, yielded more orchids including *Ophrys provincialis*, *Ophrys dodekanensis*, *Orchis italica*,

Anacamptis morio, *Orchis anatolica*, *Ophrys omegaifera*, *Orchis anthropophora* (Man Orchid) and lots of pristine *Neotinea lactea*. A fine specimen of *Iris unguicularis* was here too.



Day 7. Southern central Rhodes

Having seen just about all the orchids we were likely to see (over 40 species), and because of the late season, we decided to investigate the area of south central Rhodes, heading back through Embonas, towards Agios Issidoros.

Stop 1: A quick check for the only *Ophrys samia* plant on the island drew a blank. We were not altogether surprised, as the orchid had not been seen for two years.

Stop 2: A roadside with nearby habitat produced *Ophrys mammosa*, *Ophrys reinholdii* and *Silene Salamandra*. Several butterflies were seen including Green-underside Blue and Green Hairstreak.

Stop 3: At a wooded hillside, several *Ophrys* species were found including *Ophrys mammosa*, *Ophrys rhodia*, *Anacamptis papilionacea*, *Serapias bergonii*, *Ophrys reinholdii* and lots of *Fritillaria*

rhodia and *Iris unguicularis* (Algerian Iris). Woodlark was heard singing (again) and on the way in, we saw a beautiful male Stonechat.

Stop 4: We made a lunch stop and soon were on our way searching for new species, ultimately finding *Ophrys fusca* ssp. *eptapigiensis* named after a nearby village, Seven Springs. Terry's enthusiasm and eagle eyes had been busy again! The characteristic reddish tinge around the rim of the lip confirmed its identify. Mark photographed a male of the endemic Cleopatra here.

Stop 5: Moving on, a quick stop by the river enabled some of those travelling in the first minibus to see Balkan Terrapin and a Hawker dragonfly species, plus the endemic frog *Pelophylax cerigensis*. Rock Partridges, Hoopoe and the endemic form of the Fallow Deer, *Dama dama* were also seen.

Stop 6: Further on, we found more Rhodes Fritillary, and *Anacamptis papilionacea*. On a dry hillside near new road works, *Silene behen* (Hairless Catchfly) and yet more *Fritilaria rhodia* were seen. Our last stop of the day produced several *Orchis italica*, *Ophrys reinholdii*, *Ophrys sicula*, *Neotinea maculata* and another singing Woodlark.

We arrived home around 5pm, just in time to freshen up before doing the checklist and setting out for Apollona and one last Rhodian dinner together.



Hoopoe © Greenwings



Silene salamandra © Greenwings

Day 8. Return to the UK

In light of the lunchtime flight home, we made an early start after breakfast, said goodbye to our friends at the Hotel, and then made a leisurely drive back to the airport via the painted church at Fontoukli with its ancient Olive and Plane trees, and had a quick look at the endemic Gizani fish.

Footnote: A total of 42 orchid species were seen, together with a host of other interesting plants and wildlife. The number of *Ophrys* and other orchid species exceeded all expectations, and was due in part to the wet winter and excellent guiding. The high number of *Ophrys speculum* was especially pleasing. The weather was also excellent, with sunshine on most days, as befits Rhodes.

Acknowledgements: Greenwings would like to thank all their guests on this trip for their wonderful support, good humour and enthusiasm throughout the holiday, for their help in compiling species lists and for the use of their photographs. Special thanks must also go to Yiannis Christofides for his unbounded enthusiasm in every aspect of the botany, and for compiling the species lists and editing the report.

Species Lists & Gallery

Orchid Odyssey species lists, April 2017									
Orchids									
			Apr 1 st	Apr 2 nd	Apr 3 rd	Apr 4 th	Apr 5 th	Apr 6 th	Apr 7 th
	Scientific	Common name	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
Ophrys speculum group									
1	<i>Ophrys regis-ferdinandii</i>	King Ferdinand's Ophrys			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Eastern Mirror Orchid	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Ophrys iricolor group									
3	<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Rainbow Bee Orchid	✓	✓		✓			
Ophrys mammosa group									
4	<i>Ophrys ferrum-equinum</i>	Horseshoe Ophrys	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
5	<i>Ophrys lucis</i>	Rhodian Horseshoe Orchid						✓	
6	<i>Ophrys mammosa</i>	Breasted Ophrys			✓	✓			✓
Ophrys tenthredinifera group									
7	<i>Ophrys leochroma</i>	Lion-mane Sawfly Orchid			✓				
Ophrys lutea group									
8	<i>Ophrys phryganae</i>	Phrygana Bee Orchid			✓	✓			
9	<i>Ophrys sicula</i>	Small Yellow Ophrys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ophrys reinholdii group									
10	<i>Ophrys reinholdii</i>	Reinhold's Ophrys	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
11	<i>Ophrys cretica</i> ssp.	Naxos Bee Orchid		✓					
Ophrys umbilicata group									
12	<i>Ophrys rhodia</i>	Rhodian Woodcock Ophrys		✓				✓	✓
13	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Ophrys			✓				
14	<i>Ophrys umbilicata</i>	Rhodian Woodcock Orchid			✓				
Ophrys fusca group									
15	<i>Ophrys attaviria</i>	Attaviros Bee Orchid			✓	✓	✓		✓
16	<i>Ophrys attaviria eptapigiensis</i>	Seven Springs Bee Orchid							✓
17	<i>Ophrys blitopertha</i>	Beetle Ophrys		✓		✓			
18	<i>Ophrys cinereophila</i>	Small-flowered Brown Ophrys	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
19	<i>Ophrys sitiaca</i>	Sitia Bee Orchid			✓				
Ophrys omegaifera group									
20	<i>Ophrys omegaifera</i>	Royal Ophrys (Omega Bee Orchid)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Orchids continued									
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Ophrys holosericea group									
21	Ophrys candica	Enamel Bee Orchid/White					✓		
22	Ophrys saliarisii	Saliarisii's Bee Ophrys		✓				✓	
23	Ophrys oreas	Profitis Ilias Bee Orchid						✓	
Ophrys heldreichii group									
24	Ophrys calypsus	Calypso Bee Orchid				✓			
25	Ophrys dodekanensis	Dodekanese Ophrys		✓		✓		✓	
26	Ophrys polyxo	Rhodian Horned Bee Ophrys			✓			✓	✓
Ophrys oestrifera group									
27	Ophrys cornutula	Small Horned Bee Orchid		✓		✓			
Serapias group									
28	Serapias bergonii	Greek Ploughshare				✓	✓		✓
29	Serapias carica	Carian Plowshare		✓	✓	✓			
Anacamptis group									
30	Himantoglossum robertianum	Giant Orchid	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
31	Anacamptis laxiflora	Lax-flowered Orchid					✓		
32	Anacamptis papilionacea	Aegean Butterfly Orchid	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal orchid		✓					
34	Anacamptis morio	Green-winged Orchid						✓	
35	Orchis anatolica	Anatolian Orchid	✓		✓		✓	✓	
36	Orchis anthropophorum	Man Orchid						✓	
37	Orchis italica	Naked Man Orchid		✓			✓	✓	✓
38	Anacamptis fragrans/Sancta	Holy Orchid/Bug Orchid						✓	
Orchis mascula group									
39	Orchis provincialis	Provence Orchid						✓	
Neotinea group									
40	Neotinea maculata	Dense-flowered Orchid						✓	✓
41	Neotinea lactea	Milky Orchid					✓	✓	
42	Limodorum abortivum	Violet Bird's Nest Orchid						NIF	✓

Other flora									
Checks (✓) are given for plants only on first day seen and recorded.									
	Scientific	Common name	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Aspleniaceae									
1	Asplenium ceterach	Rusty-back Fern							
Pinaceae									
2	Pinus brutia	Turkish Pine/Rough Pine		✓					
Cupressaceae									
3	Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress				✓			
4	Juniperus oxycedrus	Large-fruited Juniper		✓					

			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
	Alliaceae								
5	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Neapolitan Garlic			✓				
	Asphodelaceae								
6	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Small-fruited Asphodel		✓					
	Araceae								
7	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	✓						
8	<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum		✓					
	Hyacinthaceae								
9	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Garden Star-of-Bethlehem			✓				
10	<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>			✓					
11	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth		✓					
12	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Southern Grape Hyacinth		✓					
13	<i>Muscari weissii</i>	Weiss' Grape Hyacinth				✓			
14	<i>Bellevalia trifoliata</i>	Three-leaved Hyacinth		✓					
15	<i>Scilla hyacinthoides</i>	Hyacinth Squill					✓		
	Iridaceae								
16	<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut Iris		✓					
17	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus		✓					
18	<i>Iris unguicularis</i>	Algerian Iris			✓				
	Liliaceae								
19	<i>Gagea graeca</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem		✓					
20	<i>Fritillaria rhodia</i>	Rhodian Fritillary		✓					
	Poaceae								
21	<i>Arundo donax</i> ssp. <i>donax</i>	Plinius' Giant Cane		✓					
22	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Bunny Tails		✓					
	Anacardiaceae								
23	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastix Tree		✓					
	Apiaceae								
24	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's-needle	✓						
25	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel		✓					
26	<i>Tordylium apulum</i>			✓					
	Aristolochiaceae								
27	<i>Aristolochia guichardii</i>	Rhodian Dutchman's Pipe					✓		
	Asteraceae								
28	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	White Plymouth Thistle		✓					
29	<i>Taraxacum hellenicum</i>	Greek Dandelion						✓	
30	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Southern Salsify		✓					
31	<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Starwort		✓					
32	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy						✓	
33	<i>Anthemis chia</i>	Chios Chamomile	✓						

			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
34	Glebionis segetum	Corn Marigold					✓		
35	Glebionis coronaria	Crown Daisy		✓					
36	Scorzonera				✓				
37	Senecio vernalis	Eastern Groundsel				✓			
	Boraginaceae								
38	Hormuzakia (Anchusa) aggregata					✓			
39	Lithodora hispidula	Shrubby Gromwell		✓					
40	Alkanna tinctoria	Dyer's Alkanet		✓					
41	Echium angustifolium	Narrow-leaved Bugloss		✓					
42	Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's-bugloss				✓			
43	Anchusa azurea	Garden Anchusa		✓					
44	Anchusa undulata ssp. hybrida	Hybrid Alkanet		✓					
	Brassicaceae								
45	Arabis verna	Blue Rock-cress	✓						
46	Biscutella didyma	Annual Buckler Mustard		✓					
47	Matthiola sinuata	Sea Stock				✓			
48	Alyssum sibiricum	Siberian Alyssum				✓			
	Campanulaceae								
49	Campanula rhodensis	Small Rhodian Bellflower		✓					
50	Campanula erinus	Small Bellflower		✓					
	Caryophyllaceae								
51	Gypsophila confertifolia	Rhodian Gypsophila					✓		
52	Saponaria officinalis	Soapwort					✓		
53	Silene behen	Hairless Catchfly							✓
54	Silene vulgaris	Bladder Champion		✓					
55	Silene salamandra	Rhodian Catchfly					✓		
	Cistaceae								
56	Fumana arabica	Arabian Rockrose		✓					
57	Tuberaria guttata	Spotted Sand-Rockrose							✓
58	Helianthemum apenimum	White Rockrose		✓					
59	Helianthemum salicifolium	Willow-leaved Rr.				✓			
60	Cistus creticus	Grey Rockrose		✓					
61	Cistus parviflorus	Small-flowered Rockrose		✓					
62	Cistus salviifolius	Sage-leaved Rockrose	✓						
	Convolvulaceae								
63	Convolvulus althaeoides	Mallow-leaved Bindweed				✓			
	Ericaceae								
64	Arbutus andrachne	E. Strawberry-tree			✓				

			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
	Euphorbiaceae								
65	<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnos</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge		✓					
	Fabaceae								
66	<i>Astragalus austroaegaeus</i>	South Aegaeon Milkvetch					✓		
67	<i>Astragalus spruneri</i>	Spruner's Milkvetch		✓					
68	<i>Genista acanthoclada</i>	Thorny Broom		✓					
69	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling			✓				
70	<i>Ononis hispanica</i>	Spanish Restharrow		✓					
71	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>			✓					
72	<i>Trigonella monspeliaca</i>	Hairy Trigonella		✓					
73	<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow-vetch	✓						
74	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Woollyseed Fodder Vetch		✓					
	Geraniaceae								
75	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill						✓	
76	<i>Erodium gruinum</i>	Long-beaked Stork's-bill		✓					
	Lamiaceae								
77	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	✓						
78	<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	Greek Sage		✓					
79	<i>Salvia viridis</i>	Annual Clary		✓					
80	<i>Teucrium brevifolium</i>	Shortleaf Germander		✓					
81	<i>Prasium majus</i>	White Hedgenettle		✓					
82	<i>Satureja thymbra</i>	Roman Hyssop		✓					
83	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender			✓				
	Linaceae								
84	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax				✓			
	Oxalidaceae								
85	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup		✓					
	Paeoniaceae								
86	<i>Paeonia clusii ssp. rhodia</i>	Rhodian Peony			✓				
	Papaveraceae								
87	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy		✓					
88	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>			✓					
	Plantaginaceae								
89	<i>Plantago afra</i>	Glandular Plantain				✓			
	Polygonaceae								
90	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned Dock		✓					
91	<i>Rumex tuberosus</i>	Cretan Dock					✓		
	Primulaceae								
92	<i>Cyclamen rhodium</i>	Rhodes Cyclamen						✓	

			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
	Ranunculaceae								
93	Adonis sp.			✓					
94	Anemone blanda	Balkan Anemone					✓		
95	Anemone coronaria	Crown Anemone		✓					
96	Ranunculus paludosus	Jersey Buttercup		✓					
97	Ranunculus asiaticus	Asiatic Buttercup		✓					
98	Ranunculus chius	Chios Buttercup		✓					
99	Ranunculus creticus	Cretan Buttercup						✓	
	Rosaceae								
100	Crataegus sp.	Hawthorn sp.		✓					
	Rubiaceae								
101	Sherardia arvensis	Blue Fieldmadder	✓						
	Scrophulariaceae								
102	Linaria chalepensis	Aleppo Toadflax					✓		
103	Linaria micrantha	Small-leaved Toadflax					✓		
104	Linaria pelisseriana	Jersey Toadflax		✓					
105	Orobanche ramosa	Branching Broomrape				✓			

Birds		
	Scientific	Common name
1	Otus scops	Scops Owl
2	Athene noctua	Little Owl
3	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco
4	Rock Partridge	Alectoris graeca
5	Coot	Fulca atra
6	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
7	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus
8	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
9	Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
10	Bittern	Botaurus stellaris
11	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata
12	Skylark	Alauda arvensis
13	Woodlark	Lullula arborea
14	European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola
15	Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka
16	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe
17	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica
18	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rusticola
19	Alpine Swift	Apus melba
20	Swift	Apus apus
21	House Martin	Delichon urbicum
22	Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris
23	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola

Birds continued		
24	Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
25	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius
26	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus
27	Hen Harrier (female)	Circus cyaneus
28	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo
29	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus
30	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus
31	Shoveler	Anas clypeata
32	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala
33	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca
34	Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus
35	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
36	Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos
37	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti
38	Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita
39	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
40	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris
41	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis
42	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs
43	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra
44	Linnet	Carduelis cannabina
45	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis
46	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix
47	Raven	Corvus corax
48	Black-capped Jay	Garrulus glandarius ssp. atricapilla
49	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus
50	Coal Tit	Periparus ater

Butterflies		
	Common name	Scientific
1	Eastern Festoon	Zerynthia cerisy
2	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon
3	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius
4	Cleopatra (endemic form)	Gonepteryx Cleopatra ssp. fiorii
5	Eastern Dappled White	Euchloe ausonia
6	Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa
7	Small White	Pieris rapae
8	Large White	Pieris brassicae
9	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea
10	Eastern Baton Blue	Pseudophilotes vicrama
11	Glaucopsyche alexis	Green-underside Blue
12	Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus
13	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi
14	Small Copper	Lycaena phleas
15	Large Wall Brown	Lasiommata maera
16	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta
17	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae
18	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui

Mammals		
1	Badger	Meles meles
2	Fallow Deer	Dama dama
Reptiles and amphibians		
1	Starred Agama	Laudakia stellio
2	Rhodes Marsh Frog	Pelophylax cerigensis
3	Oertzen Rock Lizard	Anatolacerta oertzeni
Other notable wildlife		
1	Egyptian Locust	Anacridium aegyptium
2	Mantid	Empusa fasciata
3	Blue Damsel sp.	
4	Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii
5	Hawker sp.	
6	Gizani	Ladigesocypris ghigii

Gallery overleaf



Ophrys lucis © Mark



Gypsophila confertifolium © Gillian



Orchis italica © Ken



Ophrys reinholdii © Mark



Ophrys rhodia © Mark



Ophrys ferrum-equinum © Ken





Orchis anthropophora © Ken



Ophrys attaviria *lindia* © Mark



Empusa fasciata © Ken





Orchis italica © Gillian



Orchis anatolica © Rob



Ornithogalum nutans © Rob



Crown Daisy © Rob



Campanula rhodensis © Rob



Mandragora autumnalis © Ken





Neotinea lactea © Mark



Rhodes Peony © Gillian



Himantoglossum robertianum © Ken

Scilla hyacinthoides © Gillian



Ophrys regis - ferdinandii © Mark



Serapias bergonii © Terry





Serapias bergonii © Ken



Ophrys leochroma © Ken



Anacamptis papilionacea © Rob



Orchis anatolica © Gillian



Serapias carica © Gillian



Eastern Dappled White © Mark



Cleopatra © Mark

Starred Agama © Mark



Green Hairstreak nectaring on *Asphodelus aestivus* © Gillian

Anacamptis papilionacea © Ken



Ophrys calypsus © Terry



Poppies © Yiannis





Campanula rhodensis © Gillian



Green Underside Blue © Gillian



Fritillaria rhodia © Gillian



Derek © Judy



Derek and Tom © Judy



Ken and Gillian © Judy



Serious botanising at Gadouras © Judy



Outside the hotel © Judy