Autumn Plants of the Peloponnese

Naturetrek Tour Report

28 October – 4 November 2020



Crocus boryi



Crocus goulimyi



Gythio



Vlychada Cave

Report and images by David Tattersfield



Tour Participants: David Tattersfield (tour leader) with 4 clients

Day 1

Wednesday 28th October

This year, our only available flight left Heathrow at midday. We arrived in Athens at 6.00pm and an hour later we set off along the motorway towards our destination. The weather was showery but the roads were quiet and we made the journey in record time, arriving in Kalavrita at 9.45pm. Some of us ventured out for a drink, before retiring to bed.

Day 2

Thursday 29th October

The unsettled weather of the previous evening had cleared and we awoke to a sunny morning with blue sky. As we climbed above the village, we found our first *Crocus mazziaricus*, scattered through the stony pasture. Most of the flowers were pure white, with feint yellow staining at their base but occasionally a pale lavender. In one small damp area we located a second species, *Crocus melantherus*, also white, but with smaller flowers, marked with purple feathering on the outer tepals and with characteristic black anthers. The surrounding woodland was made up of Prickly Juniper *Juniperus axycedrus*, the holly-like Kermes Oak *Quercus coccifera* and Greek Fir *Abies cephalonica*, which soon became dominant as we climbed higher.

At the ski resort, we took a short walk up to a ridge overlooking the Styx Valley and the steep, northern slopes of Chelmos. Like most of the isolated mountains of the Peloponnese, it has a rich flora with some localised endemic species. Notable plants included Olive-leaved Daphne *Daphne oleoides*, the spiny, pink-flowered *Astragalus thracicus*, *Drypis spinosa*, a shrubby member of the Pink family, the large-flowered *Viola graeca* and prostrate mats of *Globularia stygia* and *Thymus rechingeri*. Cartwheels of prostrate Common Juniper *Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis* were a prominent feature of the higher slopes with heavily grazed bushes Greek Plum *Prunus cocomilia* and the Hawthorn *Crataegus pycnoloba*, an attractive endemic with large, colourful fruit. By now, lunch was beckoning and we made our way over the plateau to a sheltered spot, with fine views over the Styx Valley. Around us were a number of dark pink flowers of *Colchicum boissieri* but an extensive population of *Sternbergia lutea* was a long way past its peak of flowering.

Interestingly, Sternbergia appears to flower later at lower altitudes and after retracing our route through Kalavrita, we found jaw-dropping carpets of its bright-yellow flowers on south-facing meadows. Growing alongside were the curious purple spathes of *Biarum tenuifolium*. We continued along scenic mountain roads and over a pass to the remote village of Plataniotissa. Here we saw its famous ancient Oriental Plane tree, the hollow bole of which contains a strange little chapel, before rounding off the afternoon with drinks in the adjacent taverna. In the evening we enjoyed a tasty selection of traditional dishes in a restaurant close to the hotel.

Day 3

Friday 30th October

We spent a little time exploring the town before leaving around 10.00am and heading over the mountains. In the forest, the rocky ground had many plants of *Cyclamem hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*, along with the leaf rosettes of Yellow Bee Orchid *Ophrys lutea* and Dense-flowered Orchid *Neotinea maculata*. We travelled south, through an open landscape of small ploughed fields and stony pasture with scrubby oak and a scattering of pristine white

flowers of *Crocus mazziaricus* that glistened in the sunshine. We made a stop to see Pausanias' Vine, a remarkable, multi-trunked specimen, festooning the canopy of adjacent oak trees. It is believed to represent an ancestral wild vine, *Vitis vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris* and is estimated to be between 2 and 3000 years old.

After passing through the busy market town of Klitoria, we investigated a shady roadside cliff, where a dense population of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium* displayed some attractive leaf patterns and, further on, we stopped by a chapel where abandoned cultivation terraces were ablaze with yellow drifts of *Sternberia lutea*. We had lunch by a roadside, north of Tripoli, surrounded by an extensive population of yet another white crocus, this time *Crocus hadriaticus*, easily identified by its multiple flowers, each with a three-lobed orange or red stigma. Growing nearby we found a few deep-blue flowers of the periwinkle *Vinca herbacea* and the showy, pink Eastern Hollyhock *Alcea pallida*.

Bypassing Tripoli on the motorway, we took the old road across the high plateau toward Sparta. The longabandoned terracing of the hillsides bore testimony to more productive times, but apart from a few small plantations of walnut and fruit trees, the land now only supports the ubiquitous sheep and goats. Among oak scrub, we found our first *Cyclamen graecum*, growing alongside *Cyclamen hederifolium*, each readily identified by differences in leaf shape and texture and the latter invariably growing in the shade. Fortunately the sun shone all day, an important factor when crocus-hunting, and we soon found our fourth white species. This was *Crocus boryi*, with goblet-shaped flowers and white anthers but even by 4.00pm they were starting to close. We descended to the plain of Sparta, with the long outline of the Taygetos Mountains filling the skyline to the west. We arrived at our waterfront hotel in Gythio just before 6.00pm, finishing off our day with dinner in a taverna overlooking the harbour.

Day 4

Saturday 31st October

West of Gythio, we had a successful search of some overgrown olive groves for flowering spikes of Autumn Lady's Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*. Growing alongside them was *Cyclamen graecum* and a few *Crocus boryi*. Further on, we stopped under a dense canopy of Valonia Oak *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis*. It has the largest of all acorn cups, which look like miniature bird's nests, and were used, in the past, for tanning leather. Under the trees, myriads of *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *crassifolium* scented the air with a sweet perfume. In places the plants were thickly crowded, with corms on top of their neighbours, and large enough to be of considerable age. The subspecies is a tetraploid, with thicker, fleshier leaves than the nominate diploid, that we had seen in the mountains. As far as is known, it appears to be restricted to low altitudes near the coasts of the Peloponnese and a number of the islands.

As we crossed over the northern end of the Mani peninsula, the hillsides were dominated by Tree Spurge *Euphorbia dendroides*. We stopped by the roadside to see a large number of our fifth crocus, the endemic lilac-blue *Crocus goulimyi*, mixed with a few *Crocus boryi*. Two small pink Colchicums were also common here; the widespread *Colchicum cupanii* and the endemic *Colchicum zahnii*.

We enjoyed our lunch near the beach, before our planned visit to the Vlychada Cave. It contains a maze of passageways extending over several kilometres and is one of the world's most richly-decorated show-caves. Much of it is flooded at sea level and accessible to the public by boat. Our excursion was shorter than usual this year, due to Covid 19 restrictions, but nevertheless we had an unforgettable experience as we glided through the

still waters, beneath incredible curtains of stalactites. Once back in daylight, we found interesting plants, along the cliffs, including Tree Medick, *Medicago arborea*, the shrubby *Dianthus fruticosus* subsp. *occidentalis*, still with a few late flowers, Golden Samphire *Limbarda crithmoides* and Woody Catchfly *Silene fruticosa*.

While we had been in the cave, the weather had made a dramatic change for the worse and black clouds were now blotting out the mountains. On our return journey we took a short diversion to the small village of Charia where most of the original tower houses have been restored to provide modern-day accommodation. The forms of *Sternbergia lutea* in the surrounding fields were particularly striking, with large flowers and broad leaves, lacking a central, pale stripe. Near Areopolis, we stopped to see the spectacular flowers of *Crocus niveus*, another species found only on the two eastern peninsulas of the Peloponnese. Its name is a bit of a misnomer as most its flowers have outer tepals of pale lavender or pink. At this point heavy rain started and we had to abandon our plans for the remainder of the afternoon. We returned to Gythio, where it had remained dry, and visited the wellpreserved Roman Theatre, before relaxing over drinks on the harbour.

Day 5

Sunday 1st November

A little way along the coast, we stopped near the rusting wreck of a cargo ship, the Dimitrios. Scrambling over shrubs was a fine show of pale-yellow *Clematis cirrhosa* and we located the first of the season's flowers of *Narcissus tazetta*. A short walk along the beach produced some noteworthy plants, including Sea Daffodil *Pancratium maritimum*, Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, Purple Spurge *Euphorbia peplis* and Sea Knotgrass *Polygonum maritimum*. We continued across the broad delta of the Evrotas River, much of it now given over to orange groves and turned inland, through wild and largely unpopulated hill-country, in the southern part of the Parnon mountains. In places, the vibrant autumn colours of Smoke Bush *Cotinus coggygria*, were mixed with Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo* and the pink-barked Eastern Strawberry Tree *Arbutus andrachne*. Autumn Heather *Erica manipuliflora* provided further colour and we found bushes of the silver-leaved daphne-relative *Thymelaea tartonraira* subsp. *tartonraira. Crocus niveus* grew plentifully along with a few *Crocus hadriaticus* and yet another white-flowered species, *Crocus laevigatus*. Like *Crocus boryi*, it also has white anthers and the two can be difficult to tell apart. *Crocus laevigatus* often has purple feathering on its outer tepals, although pure-white forms are plentiful in the Peloponnese. In full sun its flowers open widely, whereas those of *Crocus boryi* retain their goblet shape.

We stopped for lunch in Lambokambos, a typical, small and unassuming mountain settlement, but one that is well known for the huge drifts of *Crocus goulimyi*, that occur in the walled fields around the village. Afterwards, the road climbed steeply over the mountains. We made a brief stop to find some especially fine clusters of *Colchicum cupanii*, before continuing south down the peninsula for a coffee break in Gefira, overlooking the rock of Monemvasia. We crossed over to the island and spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the narrow streets and architecture of the Byzantine town, much of it now restored to its former glory. Once darkness fell, we enjoyed an evening meal in one of its many tavernas, before driving back to Gythio.

Day 6

Monday 2nd November

We visited the small cliff-top settlement of Ageranos, where there was an attractive church and a Maniot tower, once home to the Grigoraki family. Nearby, we found flowers of the sweetly-scented daffodil *Narcissus obsoletus* and some lovely plants of the endemic *Colchicum parlatoris*. We drove down to the deserted Kamares beach, where we enjoyed a mirror-calm sea and a beautiful cloud-scape of high cirrus. We had seen Plain Tiger butterflies near the coast, on a number of occasions. They are strong fliers and migrate from Africa, in late summer, often in large numbers. There is increasing evidence of them breeding in southern Europe and we were delighted to find a large number of their caterpillars, at various stages of development. Typically their food-plants are members of the toxic Apocynaceae and here they were feeding on the leaves of Silk Vine *Periploca graeca*, which grew along the edge of the salt marsh.

We drove north and followed a winding road up into the Taygetos Mountains. As we climbed higher, the oak woodland and maquis gradually merged into forest of Greek Fir, and Turkish Black Pine, *Pinus nigra* subsp. *nigra* var. *caramanica*. Oriental Plane follows the stream channels and at this time of year, in its autumn finery, forms conspicuous rivers of gold between the dark conifers. It was here that we found Queen Olga's Snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, along with abundant *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*. Lunch was followed by a walk and then a longish drive along a mountain road through the forest. In open areas *Crocus boryi* was common and at our highest point of 1300m, there were scattered plants of *Crocus hadriaticus*. Eventually, we emerged in the attractive and isolated mountain village of Anavriti and stopped to take in the views from the terrace of the taverna. From the village, the road made a rapid descent through a dramatic series of hairpin bends, and we were soon back in the sea of olives that surround Sparta.

Day 7

Tuesday 3rd November

The day started with a visit to the islet of Kranae, connected to the coast by a narrow causeway. In the limestone pavement, *Cyclamen graecum* is particularly plentiful and shows the astonishing diversity of its intricately patterned leaves.

We drove north to the Byzantine town of Mystras, perched high on a hill, above Sparta, and spent the morning wandering among its ruins. There were good displays of *Sternbergia lutea*, at the top of the site, and on the cliffs were the autumn-flowering onion *Allium callimischon* subsp. *callimischon* and lovely plants of *Campanula versicolor*, with large, two-toned, blue flowers. We then made the short drive to the neighbouring village of Parori and had a rather late lunch beside the fountains, in the village square. Curtains of Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris* festooned the damp walls together with the pale leaf rosettes of Brookweed *Samolus valerandi*. Afterwards, we made a short walk up the adjacent Parori Gorge, as far as a chapel, built inside a large cave. On the cliffs were more flowering plants of *Campanula versicolor* and the silver rosettes of the locally endemic *Campanula topaliana*. The fresh green leaves of Madonna Lily *Lilium candidum* were common in shaded areas and here and there were the striped, hooded spathes of Friar's Cowl *Arisarum vulgare*. After coffee in the village we were back in Gythio around 6.00pm.

Day 8

Wednesday 4th November

As our homeward flight was not until the evening, we had most of the day to make our journey back to Athens. After a leisurely start, we made a return visit to Friday's crocus site, in the hills above Sparta. The flowers of *Crocus hadriaticus* and *Crocus boryi* were all now fully open and covered the hillsides like confetti. Here and there, they mingled with the starry, pink flowers of *Colchicum cupanii*. At the northern end of the plateau, we stopped to find *Crocus melantherus*, at its type locality, where it is a common plant and usually flowers quite late in the season.

We made rapid progress along the motorway and made a short diversion to view the Corinth canal, an impressive sight but much too narrow for most modern shipping. On its banks there were the tall white flower spikes of Sea Squill *Drimia numidica*, the distinctive yellow Dandelion *Taraxacum hellenicum* and some fine plants of a lavender form of *Crocus mazziaricus*. The rest of our journey went smoothly and we were soon at the airport, with plenty of time to check in for our flight back to Heathrow.

Species Lists

Plants

Latin name PTERIDOPHYTES

Aspleniaceae Asplenium adiantum-nigrum Asplenium ceterach Aspleniun onopteris Asplenium trichomanes

Athyriaceae Athyrium felix-femina

Dennstaedtiaceae Pteridium aquilinum

Cystopteridaceae Cystopteris fragilis

Dryopteridaceae Dryopteris felix-mas Dryopteris pallida Polystichum aculeatum

Equisetaceae Equisetum arvense Equisetum ramosissimum Equisetum telmateia

Polypodiaceae Polypodium cambricum Polypodium vulgare

Pteridaceae Adiantum capillus-veneris

Selaginellaceae Selaginella denticulata

GYMNOSPERMS

Araucariaceae Araucaria heterophylla ‡

Cupressaceae *Cupressus sempervirens* forma. *sempervirens* ‡

Juniperus communis var. saxatilis Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus Juniperus phoenicea subsp. phoenicea Common name FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

Spleenwort Family Black Spleenwort Rusty-back Fern Acute-leaved Spleenwort Maidenhair Spleenwort

Lady-fern Family Lady Fern

Bracken Family Bracken

Bladder-fern Family Brittle Bladder Fern

Buckler-fern Family Male Fern Pale Buckler-fern Hard Shield-fern

Horsetail Family Field Horsetail Branched Horsetail Giant Horsetail

Polypody Family Southern Polypody Common Polypody

Maidenhair Fern Family Maidenhair Fern

Lesser Clubmosss Family Mediterranean Selaginella

CONIFERS

Monkey Puzzle Family Norfolk Island Pine

Juniper Family

Funeral Cypress Common Juniper Prickly Juniper Phoenicean Juniper Notes

Occasional. Shaded cliffs Common Frequent. Shaded cliffs Occasional. Shaded cliffs

Taygetos

Common

Shaded rocks

Shady places Shaded rocks Shady places.Taygetos

Occasional Hedges and scrub Ditches

Shaded rocks Taygetos

Parori fountain

Damp earth and rocks

Cultivated

Cultivated Chelmos Mountains Lowland scrub

Latin name Ephedraceae Ephedra foeminea

Pinaceae

Abies cephalonica Pinus halepensis Pinus nigra subsp. nigra var. caramanica Pinus pinea‡

ANGIOSPERMS

DICOTYLEDONS

Acanthaceae Acanthus spinosus

Aizoaceae Carpobrotus edulis ‡

Amaranthaceae

Arthrocnemum perenne Chenopodium album Salsola kali

Anacardiaceae Cotinus coggygria Pistacia lentiscus

Pistacia terebinthus

Apiaceae

Bupleurum fruticosum Crithmum maritimum Daucus carota Eryngium amethystinum Eryngium campestre Eryngium creticum Eryngium maritimum Ferula communis Foeniculum vulgare Scaligeria napiformis Scandix pecten-veneris Smyrnium olusatrum Smyrnium rotundifolium Tordylium officinale

Apocynaceae

Nerium oleander Periploca graeca Plumeria rubra ‡ Vinca herbacea

Araliaceae

Hedera helix

Common name Joint Pine Family A Joint Pine

- Pine Family
- Greek Fir Aleppo Pine Turkish Black Pine Umbrella Pine

FLOWERING PLANTS

Acanthus Family Spiny Bear's Breech

Dew Plant Family Hottentot Fig

Goosefoot Family Perennial Glasswort Fat-Hen Prickly Saltwort

Sumach Family Smoke Bush Mastic Tree Turpentine Tree

Carrot Family

Shrubby Hare's Ear Rock Samphire Wild carrot Blue Eryngo Field Eryngo Small-headed Blue Eryngo Sea Holly Giant Fennel Wild Fennel Scaligeria Shepherd's Needle Alexanders Round-leaved Alexanders Cretan Hartwort

Dogbane Family

Oleander Silk Vine Frangipani A Periwinkle

Ivy Family Ivy Notes

Common

Mountains Common near coasts Taygetos Cultivated

Occasional

Naturalised on coasts

Coastal salt-marsh Common weed Sandy beaches

Locally common Common Common

Frequent near coasts Maritime rocks Common Dry Grasslands Common Dry grasslands Sand dunes Common Common Shaded rocky places Common Frequent Frequent Cultivated areas

Frequent along watercourses Hedges and edge of saltmarsh Cultivated Local in rocky places

Frequent

Latin name Aristolochiaceae Aristolochia sempervirens

Asteraceae

Achillea ligustica Achillea maritima Bellis perennis Bellis sylvestris Bidens tripartita Calendula arvensis Carduus pycnocephalus Carlina corymbosa Carlina graeca Carlina gummifera Carthamnus lanatus Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea raphanina subsp. mixta • Centaurea solstitialis Chondrilla juncea Cichorium intybus Cirsium candelabrum Cirsium eriophorum Cynara cornigera Dittrichia graveolens Dittrichia viscosa Doronicum orientale Echinops sphaerocephalus Echinops spinosissimus Erigeron canadensis ‡ Filago pygmaea Galactites tomentosa Galinsoga guadriradiata Helichrysum italicum Helminthotheca echioides Inula verbascifolia Lactuca serriola Limbarda crithmoides Mycelis muralis Pallenis spinosa Phagnalon graecum Picnomon acarna Ptilostemon chamaepeuce Pulicaria odora Scolymus hispanicus Senecio vulgaris Silybum marianum Sonchus asper Sonchus oleraceus Taraxacum hellenicum Taraxacum officinale agg. Tripolium pannonicum Tussilago farfara Xanthium spinosum ‡ Xanthium strumarium ‡

Birthwort Family Evergreen Birthwort Daisy Family Southern Yarrow Cottonweed Daisv Southern Daisy Trifid Bur-marigold **Field Marigold** Slender Thistle A Flat-topped Carline Thistle A Flat-topped Carline Thistle **Pine Thistle** Wooly Safflower Red Star-thistle A Knapweed St. Barnaby's Thistle **Rush Skeletonweed** Chicory Candelabra Thistle Wooly Thistle A wild Artichoke Aromatic Inula Stink Aster Eastern Leopard'sbane Pale Globe-Thistle Spiniest Globe-Thistle **Canadian Fleabane** Pygmy Cudweed Galactites Shaqqy Soldier Curry Plant **Bristly Oxtongue** Mullein-leaved Inula **Pricky Lettuce** Golden Samphire Wall Lettuce Spiny Golden-star Shrubby Cudweed Yellow Spine-thistle Shrubby Ptilostemon Mediterranean Fleabane Spanish Oyster Plant Groundsel Milk Thistle Prickly Sow Thistle Smooth Sow Thistrle A Dandelion Dandelion Sea Aster Colt's-foot Spiny Cocklebur Cocklebur

Common name

Notes

Common

Common Sand dunes Common Common Occasional Frequent Waste places Common Abundant in garrigue Occasional Taygetos Occasional Rocky places Occasional Common Waste places Widespread in the mountains Frequent Frequent Waste places Abundant on roadsides Mountains Frequent Rocky places Common weed Dry stony places Common. Waste places Occasional weed Frequent Occasional weed Cliffs Waste places Coastal rocks Walls and rocks Frequent Walls and rocks Common Cliffs Chelmos Roadsides Waste places Waste places Waste places Waste places Corinth Widespread Coastal marsh Wet places in mountains Occasional weed Frequent weed

Latin name

Bignoniaceae Catalpa bignonioides ‡

Betulaceae Ostrya carpinifolia

Boraginaceae

Cynoglossum creticum Echium angustifolium Echium italicum subsp. biebersteinii Echium plantagineum Heliotropium europaeum Heliotropium hirsutissimum Onosma heterophylla Onosma frutescens Symphytum creticum •

Brassicacae

Aubrieta deltoidea Aurinia saxatilis Berteroa obliqua Cakile maritima Capsella bursa-pastoris Fibigia clypeata Lunaria annua subsp. pachyrhiza Matthiola incana

Cactaceae *Opuntia ficus-barbarica* ‡

Campanulaceae

Campanula andrewsii subsp andrewsii • Campanula andrewsii subsp. hirsutula • Campanula topaliana subsp. topaliana • Campanula versicolor

Cannabaceae Celtis australis

Capparaceae Capparis spinosa

Caprifoliaceae Lonicera etrusca

Caryophyllaceae Cerastium candidissimum Dianthus biflorus Dianthus fruticosus subsp. occidentalis • Drypis spinosa Paronychia capitata Petrorhagia illyrica Petrorhagia glumacea

Common name

Catalpa Family Indian Bean Tree

Birch Family Hop Hornbeam

Borage Family

Blue Hound's-tongue Narrow-leaved Bugloss Pale Bugloss Purple Viper's-bugloss Heliotrope A Heliotrope A Golden Drops Shrubby Golden Drops Cretan Comfrey

Cabbage Family Aubrieta Yellow Alyssum A Hoary Alison Sea Rocket Shepherd's Purse Fibigia Honesty Hoary Stock

Cactus Family Prickly Pear

Bellflower Family

Hackberry and Hemp Family European Nettle Tree

Caper Family Caper

Honeysuckle Family Etruscan Honeysuckle

Pink Family

A Shrubby Pink Drypis Notes

Cultivated

Common

- Frequent Coast. Common Roadsides. Common Common Common. Waste places Frequent. Waste places Rocky pasture Walls and rocks. Common Monemvasia
- Mountains Mystras Fields. Kalavrita Maritime sand Weedy places Taygetos Mystras Monemvasia

Widespread

Chelmos Monemvasia Mystras and Parori gorge Cliffs

Frequent

Common on cliffs

Occasional

Mountains Chelmos Coastal cliffs. Diros Mountains Occasional Occasional Frequent Latin name Silene fruticosa Silene gigantea subsp. hellenica • Silene goulimyi • Silene vulgaris

Cistaceae Cistus creticus subsp. creticus Cistus parviflorus Cistus salvifolius Fumana arabica Fumana thymifolia Helianthemum hymettium • Helianthemum nummularium

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus althaeoides Cuscuta epithymum Ipomoea indica ‡

Crassulaceae Petrosedum ochroleucum Petroedum sediforme Sedum album Sedum amplexicaule subsp. tenuifolium Sedum cepaea Umbilicus rupestris

Cucurbitaceae Bryonia cretica Ecballium elaterium

Dipsacaceae Knautia integrifolia Pterocephalus perennis Scabiosa argentea Scabiosa brachiata

Ericaceae Arbutus andrachne Arbutus unedo Erica arborea Erica manipuliflora

Euphorbiaceae Euphorbia acanthothamnos Euphorbia amygdaloides Euphorbia chamaesyce Euphorbia characias Euphorbia dendroides Euphorbia paralias Euphorbia peplis Euphorbia pulcherrima ‡ Euphorbia rigida Mercurialis annua Common name Woody Catchfly Giant Catchfly

Bladder Campion

Rock-rose Family Cretan Cistus Few-flowered Cistus Sage-leaved Cistus Mediterranean Rockrose Thyme Rockrose A Rockrose Common Rockrose

Bindweed Family Mallow-leaved Bindweed Common Dodder A Morning Glory

Stonecrop Family European Stonecrop Pale Stonecrop White Stonecrop

Wall Pennywort

Cucumber Family White Bryony Squirting Cucumber

Teasel Family A Scabious

Tremastelma

Heather Family Eastern Strawberry Tree Strawberry Tree Tree Heather Autumn Heather

Spurge Family

Greek Spiny Spurge Wood Spurge Small Spurge Large Mediterranean Spurge Tree Spurge Sea Spurge Purple Spurge Poinsettia Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge Annual Mercury Notes Cliffs Parori gorge Mystras Common

Common Frequent Locally common Frequent Frequent Mountains Taygetos

Frequent Frequent parasite Cultivated

Widespread Common Common Frequent on rocks Frequent on shaded rocks Common

Frequent Waste places

Waste places Mountains Rocky slopes. Taygetos Taygetos

Locally common Locally common Locally common Locally common

Locally common Occasional Common Locally common Common near coasts Sand dunes Maritime sands Cultivated Common Common

Latin name

Ricinus communis ‡

Fabaceae

Acacia saligna ‡ Anagyris foetida Anthyllis hermanniae Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. rubriflora Astragalus angustifolius Astragalus thracicus • Bituminaria bituminosa Calycotome villosa Ceratonia siliqua Cercis siliquastrum Coronilla valentina Erophaca baetica subsp. orientalis Genista acanthoclada Hippocrepis comosa Hippocrepis emerus Medicago arborea ‡ Medicago lupulina Medicago marina Medicago sativa Ononis spinosa subsp. diacantha Robinia pseudoacacia ‡ Spartium junceum Trifolium angustifolium

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa ‡ Quercus coccifera subsp. calliprinos Quercus frainetto Quercus ilex Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis Quercus pubescens

Gentianaceae Blackstonia perfoliata

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium Geranium molle Geranium purpureum Geranium robertianum

Globulariaceae Globularia stygia •

Grossulariaceae Ribes uva-crispa

Hypericaceae Hypericum empetrifolium Hypericum perforatum Hypericum triquetrifolium

Common name Castor-oil-plant

Pea Family Blue-leaved Wattle Bean Trefoil Herman's Kidney Vetch Kidney Vetch Narrow-leaved Milk Vetch

Pitch Trefoil Hairy Thorny Broom Carob Judas Tree Shrubby Scorpion Vetch

Horseshoe Vetch Scopion Senna Tree Medick Black Medick Sea Medick Lucerne Spiny Rest-harrow False Acacia Spanish Broom Narrow-leaved Clover

Beech Family

Sweet Chestnut Kermes Oak Hungarian Oak Holm Oak Valonia Oak White Oak

Gentian Family Yellow-wort

Geranium Family

Common Stork's-bill Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Little Robin Herb Robert

Globularia Family

Currant Family Gooseberry

St John's-wort Family Crowberry-leaved St John's-wort Perforate St John's-wort Wavy-leaved St John's-wort Notes Occasional

Cultivated Kamares Local in phrygana Common Mountains Chelmos Common Common Frequent Frequent Cliffs. Diros Roadside. Areopolis Common Chelmos Parori gorge Coastal cliffs.Diros Common Sand dunes Occasional . Roadsides Frequent Planted and naturalised Common. Roadsides Frequent

Taygetos Common Occasional Occasional Locally common Common

Parori gorge

Waste places Frequent Common Damp shady places

Chelmos

Chelmos

Frequent Occasional Rocky places

Latin name Hypericum vesiculosum

Juglandaceae Juglans regia ‡

Lamiaceae

Ballota acetabulosa Ballota nigra Clinopodium alpinum Clinopodium nepeta Clinopodium vulgare Lamium amplexicaule Lavandula stoechas Marrubium vulgare Mentha aquatica Mentha longifolia Micromeria graeca Micromeria juliana Nepeta argolica • Ocimum basilicum ‡ Origanum vulgare Phlomis fruticosa Prasium majus Salvia fruticosa Salvia verbenaca Satureja thymbra Stachys candida Stachys spreitzenhoferi subsp. virella • Teucrium chamaedrys Teucrium capitatum Thymbra capitata Thymus rechingeri • Vitex agnus-castus

Lythraceae Lythrum salicaria

Malvaceae

Alcea pallida Hibiscus rosa-sinensis ‡ Lavatera bryonifolia Malva arborea Malva sylvestris

Meliaceae Melia azedarach ‡

Moraceae Ficus carica Morus alba ‡

Morinaceae Morina persica

Common name

Walnut Family Walnut

Dead-nettle Family

Garden Horehound Black Horehound Alpine Calamint Lesser Calamint Wild Basil Henbit Dead-nettle French Lavender White Horehound Water Mint Horse Mint A Micromeria Micromeria A Catmint Basil Marjoram Jerusalem Sage Prasium Greek Sage Wild Clary Satureia A Woundwort A Woundwort Wall Germander Felty Germander Mediterranean Thyme A Thyme Chaste Tree

Loosestrife Family

Purple Loosestrife

Mallow Family

Eastern Hollyhock Hibiscus Bryony-leaved Mallow Tree Mallow Common Mallow

Mahogany Family Persian Lilac

Mulberry Family Fig White Mulberry

Morina Family A Morina Notes Mystras and Parori gorge

Cultivated

Rocky places Common Chelmos Common Shady places Common Locally common Waste places Damp places Ditches Rocky places Rocky places Chelmos Cultivated Frequent Common Widespread Common Common Rocky places Parori and Mystras Monemvasia Widespread Common Common Chelmos Frequent. Riverbeds

Ditches. Evrotas delta

Frequent Cultivated Frequent Coastal Common

Cultivated

Common Cultivated

Chelmos

Latin name Myrtaceae Eucayptus camaldulensis ‡ Melaleuca citrina ‡ Myrtus communis

Nyctaginaceae Bougainvillea ×buttiana ‡

Oleaceae Olea europaea var. sylvestris Fraxinus ornus Phillyrea latifolia

Oxalidaceae Oxalis pes-caprae ‡ Oxalis corniculata

Papaveraceae Glaucium flavum

Paulowniaceae Paulownia tomentosa ‡

Phytolaccaceae Phytolacca americana ‡

Pittosporaceae Pittosporum tobira ‡

Plantaginaceae Plantago coronopus

Platanaceae Platanus orientalis

Plumbaginaceae Armeria canescens Limonium virgatum Limonium vulgare Plumbago europaea

Polygalaceae Polygala myrtifolia ‡ Polygala monspeliaca Polygala venulosa Polygala vulgaris

Polygonaceae Polygonum aviculare Polygonum equisetiforme Polygonum maritimum Rumex bucephalophorus

Portulacaceae

Common name Myrtle Family River Red Gum Crimson Bottlebrush Common Myrtle

Bougainvillea Family Bougainvillea

Ash Family Wild Olive Manna Ash Mock Privet

Wood-sorrel Family Bermuda Buttercup Procumbent Yellow Sorrel

Poppy Family Yellow Horned-poppy

Paulownia Family Paulownia

Pokeweed Family American Pokeweed

Pittosporum Family

Plantain Family Stag's-horn Plantain

Plane Family Oriental Plane

Thrift Family A Thrift A Sea-lavender A Sea-lavender European Plumbago

Milkwort Family Myrtle-leaved Milkwort Mediterranean Milkwort Eastern Milkwort Common Milkwort

Dock Family Knotgrass Horsetail Knotgrass Sea Knotgrass Bull's Head Dock

Purslane Family

Notes

Cultivated Cultivated Occasional. Maquis

Cultivated

Frequent Widespread Frequent in maquis

Common weed Occasional

Coastal habitats

Cultivated

Waste areas

Cultivated

Waste areas near coast

Common

Chelmos Coastal Coastal Mystras

Cultivated Frequent Frequent Chelmos

Waste places Waste places Coastal sand. Gythio Common Latin name Portulaca oleracea

Primulaceae Cyclamen graecum subsp. graecum Cyclamen hederifolium subsp. crassifolium • Cyclamen hederifolium subsp. hederifolium Cyclamen rhodium subsp. peloponnesiacum

Lysimachia arvensis Samolus valerandi

Punicaceae Punica granatum ‡

Ranunculaceae

Anemone coronaria Anemone pavonina Clematis cirrhosa Clematis flammula Clematis vitalba Consolida ajacis Nigella damascena

Rhamnaceae Rhamnus lycioides subsp. graeca

Rosaceae

Agrimonia eupatorium Crataegus heldreichii Crataegus monogyna Crataegus pycnoloba • Cydonia oblonga ‡ Eriobotrya japonica ‡ Poterium sanguisorba Prunus avium Prunus cocomilia Prunus dulcis ‡ Prunus spinosa Pyracantha coccinea ‡ Pyrus spinosa Rosa canina Rosa sempervirens Rubus ulmifolius Sarcopoterium spinosum

Rubiaceae

Galium rotundifolium Rubia peregrina Rubia tenuifolia

Rutaceae

Citrus limon ‡ Citrus sinensis ‡ Common name Purslane

Primrose Family Greek Sowbread

Ivy-leaved Sowbread

Scarlet Pimpernel Brookweed

Pomegranate Family Pomegranate

Buttercup Family

Crown Anemone Peacock Anemone Virgin's Bower Fragrant Clematis Old Man's Beard A Larkspur Love-in-a-mist

Buckthorn Family

A Buckthorn

Rose Family

Hemp Agrimony A Hawthorn Hawthorn A Hawthorn Quince Japanese Loquat Salad Burnet Wild Cherry Greek Plum Almond Blackthorn Firethorn Wild Pear Dog Rose **Evergreen Rose** A Bramble Thorny Burnet

Bedstraw Family

Round-leaved Bedstraw Wild Madder

Rue Family Lemon Orange Notes Common. Waste areas

Common Common in lowland areas Common in mountains

Shaded forest. Taygetos Frequent Parori fountain

Cultivated

Frequent Common Coastal areas Common Frequent Frequent

Common

Occasional Taygetos Common Chelmos Cultivated Cultivated Common Forests Chelmos Cultivated Frequent Cultivated Common Common Frequent Common Common

Shady forests Shady places. Anavriti Rocky places. Diros

Cultivated Cultivated Latin name Salicaceae Populus alba Populus nigra ‡

Santalaceae Viscum album subsp. abietis

Sapindaceae Acer sempervirens

Saxifragaceae Saxifraga rotundifolia subsp. chrysospleniifolia

Scrophulariaceae Scrophularia canina subsp. bicolor Scrophularia heterophylla Scrophularia peregrina Verbascum macrurum Verbascum sinuatum Verbascum undulatum

Simaroubaceae Ailanthus altissima ‡

Solanaceae

Datura innoxia Datura stramonium ‡ Hyoscyamus albus Hyocyamus niger Nicotiana glauca ‡ Solanum elaeagnifolium ‡ Solanum nigrum Withania somnifera ‡

Tamaricaceae Tamarix parviflora

Thymelaeaceae Daphne oleoides Thymelaea tartonraira subsp. tartonraira

Ulmaceae Ulmus minor

Urticaceae Parietaria judaica Urtica dioica Urtica urens

Valerianaceae Centranthus ruber

Verbenaceae

Common name Willow Family White Poplar Black Poplar

Bastard-toadflax Family Mistletoe

Maple Family Cretan Maple

Saxifrage Family Chrysosplenium-leaved Saxifrage

Figwort Family French Figwort

Nettle-leaved Figwort

Wavy-leaved Mullein

Tree-of-heaven Family Tree-of-heaven

Nightshade Family

A Thornapple Thornapple White Henbane Henbane Shrubby Tobacco Silver-leaved Nightshade Black Nightshade Withania

Tamarisk Family Small-flowered Tamarisk

Mezereon Family Olive-leaved Daphne

Elm Family Small-leaved Elm

Nettle Family Pellitory-of-the-wall Nettle Small Nettle

Valerian Family Red Valerian

Vervain Family

Notes

Common. Damp habitats Cultivated

Common on Abies

Common

Shaded rocks. Taygetos

Frequent Cliffs Occasional Common Common Corinth

Naturalised and invasive

Roadsides. Corinth Waste ground Mystras and Parori Waste places Waste areas and roadsides Occasional Frequent Occasional. Waste places

Coast

Chelmos North of Lambokambos

Frequent

Common Widespread Common

Monemvasia, Mystras

Latin name Verbena officinalis

Veronicaceae Cymbalaria microcalyx subsp. alba • Cymbalaria muralis ‡ Digitalis laevigata Veronica beccabunga Veronica cymbalaria

Viburnaceae Sambucus nigra Viburnum tinus

Violaceae Viola graeca

Vitaceae Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris

Zygophyllaceae *Tribulus terrestris*

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae Allium ampeloprasum Allium callimischon subsp. callimischon Allium chamaespathum Galanthus reginae-olgae Narcissus obsoletus Narcissus tazetta Pancratium maritimum Sternbergia lutea

Araceae Arisarum vulgare Arum italicum Biarum tenuifolium

Asparagaceae

Agave americana ‡ Asparagus acutifolius Asparagus aphyllus subsp. orientalis Drimia numidica Muscari commutatum Ornithogalum montanum Ornithogalum sp. Prospero autumnale Ruscus aculeatus

Asphodelaceae Asphodeline lutea Asphodelus fistulosus Asphodelus ramosus **Common name** Vervain

Speedwell Family

Ivy-leaved Toadflax Greek Foxglove Brooklime White Speedwell

Viburnum Family Elder Laurustinus

Violet Family

Vine Family Wild Vine

Caltrop Family Maltese Cross

Daffodil Family Broad-leaved Wild Leek

Queen Olga's Snowdrop Late Daffodil Polyanthus Daffodil Sea Daffodil Common Sternbergia

Lords-and-Ladies Family Friar's Cowl Italian Lords-and-Ladies Narrow-leaved Biarum

Asparagus Family

Centuryplant Mediterranean Wild Asparagus Leafless Asparagus Sea Squill A Grape Hyacinth A Star of Bethlehem A Star of Bethlehem Autumn Squill Butcher's-broom

Asphodel Family Yellow Asphodel Hollow-stemmed Asphodel Branched Asphodel Notes Common

Mystras and Parori gorge Occasional on walls Taygetos Wet places Waste places

Parori Parori

Chelmos

Occasional

Waste places

Monemvasia, Gythio Locally common Stony places Taygetos Locally common Local Sand dunes Locally common

Common Locally common Locally common

Cultivated and naturalised Occasional Frequent Locally common Mystras Mountains and forests Mystras Common Shady places

Locally common Occasional. Mystras Common

Latin name

Colchicaceae Colchicum boissieri Colchicum cupanii Colchicum parlatoris • Colchicum psaridis •

Cyperaceae Cyperus capitatus Scirpoides holoschoenus

Iridaceae

Crocus boryi Crocus goulimyi subsp. goulimyi • Crocus hadriaticus subsp. hadriaticus Crocus laevigatus Crocus mazziaricus Crocus melantherus • Crocus niveus • Iris tuberosa Iris unguicularis subsp. angustifolia

Juncaceae Juncus acutus Juncus effusus

Liliaceae Lilium candidum

Orchidaceae Neotinea maculata Ophrys lutea Spiranthes spiralis

Poaceae Achnatherum miliaceum Ammophila arenaria Arundo donax ‡ Cynodon dactylon Cynosurus echinatus Dactylis glomerata Lagurus ovatus Lamarckia aurea Melica uniflora Phragmites australis Setaria viridis Stipa pennata

Posidoniaceae Posidonia oceanica

Smilacaceae Smilax aspera

Common name

Meadow Saffron Family

Sedge Family A Galingale Round-headed Clubrush

Iris Family

Snake's-head Iris Algerian Iris

Rush Family Sharp Rush Soft Rush

Lily Family Madonna Lily

Orchid Family Dense-flowered Orchid Yellow Bee Orchid Autumn Lady's-tresses

Grass Family Milo Grass Marram Grass Giant Reed Bermuda Grass Rough Dog's-tail Cock's-foot Hare's-tail Golden Dog's-tail One-flowered Melick Common Reed Green Bristle-grass Needle Grass

Neptune Grass Family Neptune Grass

Smilax Family Smilax Notes

Local in mountains Locally common Local Local

Sand dunes Sand dunes

Widespread in the south Locally common Locally common Locally common Locally common Locally common Widespread Locally common

Sandy places Damp habitats

Parori gorge

Chelmos Chelmos Rocky places

Dry Places Sand dunes Common Waste places Grassland Frequent Common Common Forests Common. Wet areas Occasional Common

Marine

Common

Latin name

Common name

Notes

• = endemic or near endemic to the Peloponnese and neighbouring islands, including Crete

‡ = naturalised or cultivated

Molecular studies, largely based on DNA, have modified our views on plant classification. The checklist follows a conservative view of these changes and is adapted from Stace C. A. (2019) New Flora of the British Isles 4th Edition. For ease of reference, taxa are presented in alphabetic order.

Birds

Common name			28 October - 4 November 202						
	Latin name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓	\checkmark	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto					✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo						✓		
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis						✓		
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		✓	✓	✓	✓	\checkmark	✓	
Common Magpie	Pica pica			✓	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula								
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	Corvus corax		~			~	✓		
Coal Tit	Periparus ater						✓		
Great Tit	Parus major						✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris						✓	~	
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti					н			
Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala				~	✓	✓		
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes				~	✓	✓		
Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea			~					
Western Rock Nuthatch	Sitta neumayer					~		~	
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris					 ✓ 			
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		~	~	~	~	✓	~	 ✓
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula					✓		~	
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros		~	~	~	~	✓	~	
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius					~			
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus		~	~		~	✓	~	 ✓
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea						✓		
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba						✓		
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		~	~	~	~	✓	~	✓
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		~	~		~	✓		

Other Vertebrates

			28 October - 4 November 2020						
Common name	Latin name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Mammals									
Eastern Hedgehog	Erinaceus concolor						D		
Mole	Talpa europaea		E	E					
Reptiles									
Peloponnese Wall Lizard	Podarcis peloponnesiacus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greek Algyroides	Algyroides moreoticus						✓		
Amphibians									
Balkan Stream Frog	Rana graeca				✓		✓		
D = Dead									
E = Evidence									

Invertebrates

			28	Octob	oer - 4	Novem	ber 20	20					
Common name	Latin name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4				
Butterflies													
	Hesperiidae												
Mediterranean Skipper	Gegenes nostradamus					✓							
	Pieridae												
Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea		\checkmark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa			✓				✓					
Large White	Pieris brassicae			✓		✓							
Small White	Pieris rapae							✓					
	Lycaenidae												
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas			✓			✓						
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	Leptotes pirithous					✓	✓	✓					
Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus							✓					
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus			✓				✓					
	Nymphalidae												
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui					\checkmark							
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta		\checkmark	✓		✓		\checkmark					
Plain Tiger	Danaus chrysippus					✓	✓	\checkmark					
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus					✓	✓	✓					
Southern Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria aegeria		\checkmark	✓									
Large Wall Brown	Lasiommata maera		\checkmark			✓		\checkmark					
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		✓				✓	✓	<u> </u>				
Moths													
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Macroglossum stellatarum				✓			✓					
Spurge Hawkmoth (larva)	Hyles euphorbiae				✓		✓						
Pine Processionary Moth (larva)	Thaumetopoea pityocampa						✓						
Dragonflies													
Blue Emperor	Anax imperator					✓							

Common name		28 October - 4 November 2020								
	Latin name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
Vagrant Emperor	Anax ephippiger					✓				
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum				✓		✓			
Scarlet Darter	Crocothemis erythraea			✓						
Grasshoppers and Mantids										
Migratory Locust	Locusta migratoria						✓			
Nosed Grasshopper	Acrida ungarica							✓		
Blue Band-winged Grasshopper	Oedipoda caerulescens		~							
Red Band-winged Grasshopper	Oedipoda germanica				~	~	✓			
Greek Marbled Bush Cricket	Eupholidoptera megastyla						✓			
House Cricket	Acheta domesticus					✓	✓			
Praying Mantis	Mantis religiosa				✓			✓		
Other Insects										
Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea			✓						
Paper Wasp	Polistes gallicus						✓			
Fire Bug	Pyrrhocoris apterus				✓		✓			
Devil's Coach Horse	Ocypus olens				√					
Miscellaneous										
Mediterranean Banded Centipede	Scolopendra cingulatus				~					

Butterfly nomenclature follows Wiemers et al (December 2018) 'An updated checklist of the European Butterflies' The checklist of Dragonflies is based on Dijkstra, Schröter and Lewington (2020) Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit <u>www.naturetrek.co.uk</u> to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.

