

**Gargano, Orchid Paradise**  
15th - 22nd April 2023

Led by Paul Harcourt Davies



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# **Gargano, Orchid Paradise**

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### **Led by Paul Harcourt-Davies and Lois Ferguson**

For this trip to the Gargano peninsula, we stayed in two separate areas: Peschici on the North East of the peninsula and Monte Sant'Angelo high in the centre. This provided us with two visibly different regions to explore with corresponding differences in flora and fauna. From Peschici we explored the northern coast with noticeably lush woodlands on the hills and a good coastal flora. From Monte Sant'Angelo we spent a lot of our time in a botanically rich limestone region with stony fields and innumerable kilometres of ancient stone walls, many small fields and access to the wonderful Beech wood of the Forest Umbra and the more open woods of Downy Oak.

The season was certainly earlier than 2022 year and some days in the week were cloudy with limited, but usually avoidable, rain. However, this was to our advantage for plants flowering in the first week had not gone over by the time this second week arrived. This week the annual plants colouring roadside banks and stony meadows were more plentiful in number and even if a few orchid species were past their best there were the last photographable flowers.

Gargano was once an island somewhere off the Dalmatian coast that moved on its tectonic plates over the millennia and in its uplands the weather is as variable (and unpredictable) as island weather can be. We always make small changes in order of travel given in the itinerary to accommodate the weather and fine-tune to avoid the worst, which worked well yet again. From a leaders' point of view, the group was great to be with, keen and prepared to share with one another which made for a very happy atmosphere.

#### **Day 1 - From Bari to Peschici**

The choice of journey to the Hotel Incontro in Peschici lies between a lengthy motorway journey before we turn east into the Gargano peninsula or a more leisurely drive up the east coast to Manfredonia and then inland crossing to Vieste and finally Peschici. The coastal route is our choice for it takes us via the vast and ancient salt pans- Le Saline di Margherita di Savoia, dating from Roman times until we reach Manfredonia. En route, as a welcome to this part of Italy there are Flamingos, Black-winged Stilts, various birds of prey and and Storks nesting on pylons.

We found the Hotel Incontro a few years ago when another hotel, long used, was closed for renovation. The accommodation is modern, clean and no frills but the food is very good, abundant and the whole atmosphere extremely friendly and helpful. The beach is just a matter of minutes away and this was the base for 3 nights.

#### **Day 2 - Around the coast towards Vieste and into the Forest**

On the first trip, our first morning had coincided with Easter Sunday and we changed the order of days in the itinerary. It worked well and so we retained the change for this second week. First we travelled east, just inland from the coast, towards Vieste and then to the coastal area close to one of the traditional fishing traps (Trabucco) reputed to have been brought to this part of Italy by Phoenician traders and a coastal watchtower.

Being at a few metres above sea level, spring is always well advanced at the coast ground was covered in places by a carpet of intense blue Dyers's Alkanet, a pink Campion and yellow Vetches. There were also small spikes of Grape Hyacinth, the Red Version of Kidney Vetch and the intriguing yellow flowered Ground Pine, a member of the Dead-nettle family. It was here we found our initial



Coastal flowers © Paul Harcourt-Davies

selection of orchids which tended to be dwarf in stature given the dry and demanding habitat of the limestone pavement near the coast. Italian Wall Lizards seemed abundant and a large, dark Moorish Wall Gecko was spotted, appropriately, on a ruined wall.



Tree Germander © Paul Harcourt-Davies

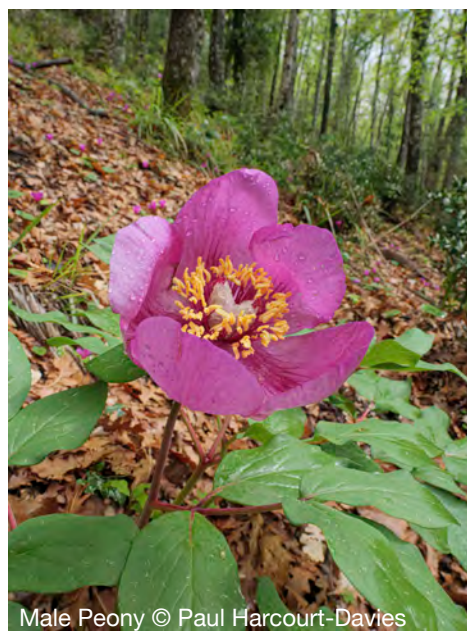
The first orchid found was a tongue orchid - the Small-flowered Serapias followed by several members of the 'Bee orchid' family, those insect mimics of the genus Ophrys: Archipelago Orchid, the Bumblebee orchid, the Small-flowered Yellow Ophrys, The Gargano Ophrys and the Sawfly Ophrys.

Close to the vehicle Pitch Trefoil was just coming into flower, there were berries of Sea Buckthorn, White Hedge-nettle and the lilac-coloured Tree Germander. The first Cistus flowers were beginning to appear, pink Cretan Cistus, white Sage-leaved Cistus and the smaller white flowered Montpellier Cistus.

We left the coast and followed the route inland to our picnic spot through the lower reaches of the Forest Umbra and then under the canopy of a mature beech forest in early leaf. Our target species was the lovely Male Peony (*Paeonia mascula*) which has increased in numbers of plants in this site over the past few years. There were plants with single flowers and also numbers of blind, younger plants which was extremely encouraging. The open woodland had a rich ground flora of Wood Spurge, light blue (and white) Apennine Anemone, Pink Garden Anemone and Spring Sowbread a delightful small cyclamen in patches of intense magenta.

We were the only people at the picnic site beneath the hillside where the peonies were and there was the first group experience of one of Lois' unrivalled picnics with salads, meats and local breads and cheeses.

The day was not over and we returned towards Vieste via a hillside that is, once again, becoming a good orchid site after being burned, along with pine woodland, a number of years ago. There were Pink Butterfly Orchids, Pyramidal Orchid, Giant Orchid, Naked man Orchid and a further Ophrys - The Dark Ophrys plus another tongue orchid, the Eastern Serapias. This week there were more flowers of both Rosy Garlic and Tassel Hyacinth too.



Male Peony © Paul Harcourt-Davies

### Day 3 - Along the coast to the West of Peschici

The first stop of the day was close to Peschici and a hillside archaeological site with numerous tombs. In previous years this had shown considerable botanical promise but, as with many places in Gargano things are fragile. Clearly, the area had been grazed by cattle and wooden fences knocked over. Someone had strimmed areas recently and there was little of botanical interest. However, the Horned Ophrys which is very local in Gargano (restricted to the Peschici area and well hidden from view) was in good flower along with two different species of tongue orchid; Eastern Serapias just coming out and the Small-flowered Serapias. We also found the Sodom Apple, a highly poisonous plant in the Nightshade family (Solanaceae).

We took a shortcut up a narrow road through a vineyard to get to the fast road along the north coast. A week or so before the previous trip, Paul and Lois had discovered a roadside site at a lay-by where hundreds of stems of the Gargano Ophrys grew along with Eastern Serapias, Small-flowered Serapias and Tongue orchid (*Serapias lingua*) grew in a very small area. Accompanying them was quite an array of flower species Branched Broomrape, Thyme Broomrape, Woad and White Laceplant. The single flowering stem of The Siponto Ophrys that we'd found previously was

barely recognisable in this second week. A few butterfly species were on the wing though, most notable being the Cleopatra, Wall, Common Swallowtail and both male and female Orange Tip.

We left the fast road to take a country road and then a tarmac track up into the lush, northern slopes. A problem in Gargano is the extent to which areas are being fenced not to keep keen botanists out but to keep animals grazing within. There was, until a few years ago, access to a once excellent site near a quarry now inaccessible thanks to fencing but thankfully orchids, being what they are, still survived close by. First, was the Small-Patterned Ophrys, one of the many related species in the Late Spider Orchid (*Ophrys fuciflora*) group. It was also encountered later in several places along the road along with Gargano Ophrys, Yellow Ophrys Pink butterfly Orchid, Naked-man Orchid The Tongue Orchid plus some lovely purple Twin-flowered Iris, a Gargano endemic, with the much smaller light yellow Sicilian Iris. The slopes beneath the trees bordering



Spring Sowbread © Paul Harcourt-Davies

the road were magenta in places with hundreds of Spring Sowbread and there were plants of the Purple Gromwell a rarity in the UK (on northern limestone and a few sites in coastal S. Wales) and white Umbellate Star of Bethlehem. There were several flowering spikes of the pale yellow Roman orchid on a bank.

We picnicked where the road levelled and both Green-winged and Pink Butterfly Orchids grew with Irises and small spikes of Grape Hyacinth, Tassel Hyacinth, Garden Anemones and other species such as the inconspicuous Broad-leaved Bartsia a parasitic plant on grasses.

The return was back the way we had come but with a different descent to Peschici and a stop to visit a superb site for stately Lady Orchids, not widespread in Gargano. There were numerous, strong flowering spikes some around 70-80cm tall, well hidden from view under old Olive trees.

#### Day 4 - Transfer to Monte Sant'Angelo (and Santa Maria di Pulsano)

As the crow flies, the town of Monte Sant'Angelo, place of pilgrimage for historical apparitions of the Archangel Michael is not far from Peschici. However the roads into the mountains via the Forest Umbra would take us eventually to 750m altitude and effectively back several weeks in time, compared to flowering at the coast. We made a detour to the lakelet in the Forest Umbra before travelling onwards with roadside stops where we found both Pink Butterfly and Green-winged Orchids growing with the Gargano Ophrys. Here, too, were yellow clumps of Rock Alyssum, Grape Hyacinth, Apennine Rockrose, Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge and also the small but distinctive Corn Mignonette.

The road descends from the heights into a valley across which you get the first sight of Monte Sant'Angelo high up on the other side. Here is where we had the first glimpse of the Yellow Tulip which is becoming rarer thanks to deep ploughing, although it is still in good numbers along this valley but susceptible to bad weather...there were fortunately some flowers for the camera though many had suffered a battering from heavy rains and, I was told, hail.

This took us to lunchtime but the threatening skies meant we decided to have our picnic on a balcony at the next hotel before travelling on afterward to the monastery of Santa Maria in Pulsano. This old rock church and its buildings are almost cemented to the cliff with numerous hermit's caves nearby, all dramatically sited above gorges with a view down 700m to the plain below. The church and buildings have been superbly restored and in the courtyard there are several plants of Golden Henbane. Close to the buildings, there were superb plants of Siponto Ophrys and a delightful hybrid with *O bombyliflora* where the other parent was probably *O. tenthredinifera*.

*O. bombyliflora* x *O. tenthredinifera*



© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Adriatic Bellflower © Paul Harcourt-Davies

The attraction for the naturalist is a walk down the Gorge with the sound of Rock Thrushes, possible raptors including Short-toed Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and Lesser Kestrel, and some special endemic plants as well as good orchid populations, colourful annuals and butterflies.

The sun had brought out several butterfly species including Common Blue and Baton Blue. One of the endemic plants, the Gargano Golden Drop was always some 10m above the path, while another, the grey leaves and dry flowering stems of the Mullein-leaved Inula whose flowers appear in summer was nearer and in a few crevices there were flowers of Gargano or Adriatic Bellflower.

The tiny insect-faces of various species of Ophrys were much in evidence: Yellow Ophrys, Gargano Ophrys, Sawfly Ophrys and Bumblebee Ophrys growing close to the cliff edges in rough, sparse grassland, however the most impressive finds were the large flowers of the Apulian Ophrys one of the showiest of the Gargano Ophrys species.

## Day 5 - A Forest of Orchid stems and a ridge walk

The hunting began with a trip down into the valley below Monte Sant' Angelo on the southern side. where we travelled towards San Giovanni Rotondo dedicated to Padre Piu.

There is a very unprepossessing piece of ground just off a roadside on waste ground which produces many thousands of orchid spikes and innumerable (and variable) plants of the Bertoloni-like *Ophrys bertoloniiformis* one of those species, like the Archipelago Ophrys thought to have hybrid origins and eventually becoming stabilised. There were various confusing hybrids as well as an excellent selection of other plants in lush surroundings within a veritable jungle of giant fennel. Scarlet poppies were beginning to brighten the area with yellow Crown Daisies and a striking dark purple, brown and greenish Black-eyed Vetch with three species of Asphodel (Summer, Hollow-stemmed and Yellow) plus *Tragopogon* and pink *Crepis* among the many species in flower. A few flowers remained on the Siponto Ophrys and on the Giant orchids that appeared in January this year. Both Naked Man and Man Orchids were in flower in



Purple Salsify © Paul Harcourt-Davies



Shield Orchid © Paul Harcourt-Davies

profusion though we failed to find the hybrids between them. More butterflies were on the wing including clouded yellow, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Dingy Skipper, and both Common and Scarce Swallowtails.

Lunch was back under cover on our hotel balcony where we could watch the rain clouds in safety and see the skies clear for an afternoon walk along the ridge. When we reached lands beyond the grazing area, orchids appeared often dwarf in stature after grazing in the earlier months. There were many old 'friends' but also new ones such as *Ophrys promontori* (another of the endemics arisen from hybrids), a new orchid, the Four-spotted Orchid (*Orchis quadripunctata*) and the Milky Orchid, *Neotinea lactea* (formerly *Orchis lactea*).

The final 'treasure' was another new species, the fancifully-named Shield or more realistically Spectacle Ophrys. This time it was just beyond where we had found it the previous week (and

PHD had found it 30 years before...) for those plants had been munched by grazing cows. The name derives from the pattern of two small eyes or shields. A diversion on the way back revealed another excellent site for this species where there were more than a dozen plants in pristine condition.

## Day 6 - Fields of Orchids, Peonies and Iris....

Again we headed down into the valley and along in the direction of San Giovanni Rotondo, with our first stop near the Bosco Quarto where there is a vast rough field with thousands of *Orchis italica* colouring some areas pink. There were also Pink Butterfly Orchids with several albino forms and some hybrids with *A. morio* plus good numbers of the Burnt-tip Orchid now fully out. Butterflies included a Grizzled Skipper freshly emerged and Berger's Clouded Yellow.

Ophrys included Sawfly Ophrys in its *subsp neglecta* guise, as well as Gargano and Dark Ophrys. There were several Tongue Orchid species, the Serapias, which were in good form among lots of bright flowered annuals, plus the Dyer's Alkanets and the most attractive powder-blue Perennial Flax.

A short walk away grow several plants of Peonies which are always a thrill to see and hard to regard as a wild flower. Next stop along the route was an extensive open area with limestone rocks creating pockets in which a rich array of plants grow.



Burnt-tip Orchid © Paul Harcourt-Davies

Twin-flowered Iris © Paul Harcourt-Davies



There were 'hummocks' of the sweet-scented Tiny Spurge and the Twin-flowered Irises (*Iris bicapitata*) in veritable thousands with the dominant colour forms being dark bluish-purple with small groups of other colours...lighter blue, white, cream and yellow and still in good condition. The smaller yellow Sicilian Irises were fewer in number this week having a very short flowering season with flowers lasting no more than a day or so.

Further along the road we took a side track and down into an area of south-facing walled fields, once animal holding pens and still with cows and their bells as part of the rural idyll. Those fields that had not been grazed had species of Ophrys,

Eastern Serapias and the Plough Share Serapias, *Serapias vomeracea* with the Apulian Ophrys (*Ophrys fuciflora subsp apulica*). being the most showy of all. Lois chose a picnic site beneath almond trees with good numbers of Burnt-tip orchid.

The final detour was along a road to the village of Ruggiano with fewer Irises this week, especially the small yellow Sicilian Iris, and a final encounter with the rather special Siponto Ophrys as well as various butterflies, both Swallowtails, Common and Scarce plus Green Hairstreaks, Eastern Dappled White, Southern Small White, Orange Tip and Brimstone.

## Day 7 High stony plateau and a flower-filled wood

The final day in the field took in two very different sites: what we have come to call the high plateau which is an extensive area of limestone with gullies and rocky aspect where orchids thrive, and a woodland of Downy Oak and other trees on a natural rockery where Pheasant's-Eye Narcissus, Anemones (both *A. appenina* and *A. hortensis*) and colourful pansies thrive.

The hidden limestone plateau limestone did not disappoint with numerous Ophrys and other orchids. There were the familiar such as the Sawfly Ophrys but also the Promontory Ophrys and

another which lacks a contrived English name so we just call it Bertoloniiformis (which means it is like Bertoloni's Ophrys from which it is thought to have arise through hybridisation).

By choosing a part of the landscape where there was a more northerly and sheltered aspect on the limestone plateau we found a great density of plants with particularly large specimens of Four-spotted orchid and several attractive Few-flowered orchids - a distinctive mix of pale tepals and darker yellow lip. Amongst numerous Ophrys were many more fine flowers of the Shield or Spectacle Ophrys (*Ophrys biscutella*).

When we travelled on to our mountainside wood beyond San Macro in Lamis the weather was fine but ominous and eventually it rained but not before we had seen and photographed the Italian Festoon butterfly (*Zerynthia cassandra*), and two species of Aristolochia (birthworts), *A. pallida* and *A. rotundifolia*. A new orchid for the list was the yellow *Dactylorhiza sambucina*, a more robust flower spike than the Roman orchid (*D. romana*) we had seen in the morning. The flowers also have a broader lip and fine red speckling at the lip base near its attachment to the rest of the flower. The Roman orchid has a narrower often folded lip and the flower spike less densely packed. *D. sambucina* also has much broader leaves and is an unusual plant to find in Gargano for it is a species of high mountains where it occurs in magenta, yellow and intermediate colour forms. Only the yellow form of both these species of *Dactylorhiza* is found in Gargano, though they both have different colour forms.



Round-leaved Birthwort  
© Paul Harcourt-Davies

The final stop was at a site where we knew that the mirror orchid (*Ophrys speculum*) once occurred, although sadly this year the plants have been stolen. However ,what remains are various hybrids...we had seen one with *Ophrys tenthredinifera* when we did our pre-trip exploration (and that too had been dug up) and this time eagle-eyed Colin found one that is possibly a hybrid between Bertolonii's Ophrys and the Mirror Ophrys - a truly spectacular find to end the trip.

## Systematic Species Checklists

Although the Gargano peninsula its famed for both the number of species of wild orchid (including several endemics and numerous *Ophrys* hybrids) and their abundance, it also has a very rich general flora of flowering plants, insects and birds.

Our visit in April 2022 followed a mild and fairly dry winter resulted in a season that was slightly early. During our stay the weather was often cloudy but no temperature rises so that we were able to catch numerous Orchid species in full bloom and such delights as Pheasant's Eye Narcissus.

Plants		16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆							
<b>Angiosperms</b>							
<b>Dicotyledons</b>							
1	<b>Aceraceae</b>						
	Neapolitan Maple		✓	✓			
	Sycamore			✓			
2	<b>Anacardiaceae</b>						
	Mastic	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Plants			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
	Terebinth	<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	✓	✓	✓			
3	<b>Apiaceae</b>							
	Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Laserwort	<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>					✓	✓
	White Laceplant	<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	✓	✓	✓			
	Alexanders	<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	✓	✓				
	Perfoliate Alexanders	<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Mediterranean Hartwort	<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>							
	Common Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>		✓				
5	<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>							
	Pale Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia pallida</i>			✓		✓	
	Round-leaved Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia rotundifolia</i>					✓	
6	<b>Asteraceae</b>							
	Field Marigold	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	✓		✓			
	Pink Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis rubra</i>			✓	✓		
	Leopard's Bane	<i>Doronicum columnae</i>			✓	✓		
	Evax	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	✓	✓				
	Boar Thistle	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Crown Daisy	<i>Glebionis coronaria</i>				✓		✓
	Corn Marigold	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	✓	✓		✓		
	Curry Plant	<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>				✓	✓	✓
	Smooth Cat's Ear	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Pig Chicory	<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>						✓
	Golden Samphire	<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	✓					
	Mullein-leaved Inula	<i>Inula verbascifolia</i>				✓		
	German Chamomile	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	✓					
	Common Bright-eyes	<i>Reichardia picroides</i>	✓					
	Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	✓	✓				
	Purple Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>				✓		
	Smooth Golden Fleece	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	✓	✓		✓		
	Prickly Goldenfleece	<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	✓					
	<b>Betulaceae</b>							



Plants			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
	Eastern Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>		✓		✓		
7	<b>Boraginaceae</b>							
	Dyer's Alkanet	<i>Alkanna lehmanii</i>	✓					
	Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	✓					
	Greater Honeywort	<i>Cerinth major</i>	✓					
	Blue Hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	✓					
	Purple Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	✓					
	Purple Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum erythrorhizon</i>		✓				
	Gargano Golden-drops ☆	<i>Onosma lucana</i>				✓		
	Mountain Lungwort	<i>Pulmonary montana</i>		✓				
8	<b>Brassicaceae</b>							
	Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>		✓				
	Alyssoides	<i>Alyssoides sinuata</i>	✓	✓				
	Yellow Alyssum	<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>	✓				✓	✓
	Caucasian Rock-cress	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>				✓	✓	✓
	Hairy Rock-cress	<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>				✓		
	Tower Cress	<i>Arabis turrita</i>		✓				
	Spring Rock-cress	<i>Arabis verna</i>					✓	
	Gargano Aubretia ☆	<i>Aubretia columnae</i>						✓
	Buckler Mustard	<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	✓					
	Corn Rocket	<i>Bunias erucago</i>		✓				
	Coralroot Bittercress	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>		✓				
	Greek Billeri	<i>Cardamine graeca</i>	✓					
	Woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>		✓				
	Hoary Cress	<i>Lepidium draba</i>		✓				
	Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>		✓				
	Turnipweed	<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	✓					
	White Mustard	<i>Sinapis alba</i>		✓				
9	<b>Campanulaceae</b>							
	Adriatic Bellflower ☆	<i>Campanula garganica</i>				✓		
10	<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>							
	Danewort	<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	✓	✓				
	Red Valerian	<i>Valeriana rubra</i>		✓				
		<i>Valerianella sp.</i>					✓	

Plants			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
11	<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>							
	Coloured Campion	<i>Silene colorata</i>	✓					
	Sand Catchfly	<i>Silene conica</i>	✓					
	White Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	✓	✓			✓	
	Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	✓					
	Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>		✓				
	Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	✓					
12	<b>Cistaceae</b>							
	Pink Cistus	<i>Cistus creticus</i>	✓	✓				
	Montpellier Cistus	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	✓					
	Sage-leaved RCistus	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	✓					
	White Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>				✓	✓	✓
	Hoary Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>				✓	✓	
	Spotted Rock-rose	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>					✓	
13	<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>							
	Sea Purslane	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	✓					
14	<b>Convolvulaceae</b>							
	Giant Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	✓					
	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	✓	✓	✓			
	Lesser Dodder	<i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>	✓					
15	<b>Crassulaceae</b>							
	Spanish Stonecrop	<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>						✓
16	<b>Eleagnaceae</b>							
	Sea Buckthorn (in fruit)	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	✓					
17	<b>Ericaceae</b>							
	Tree Heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>			✓			
18	<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>							
	Wood Spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	✓		✓			
	Mediterranean Spurge	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>						
	Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	✓	✓	✓			
	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>				✓	✓	
	Spiny Spurge	<i>Euphorbia spinosa</i>				✓	✓	
	Upright Myrtle Spurge	<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>		✓				
19	<b>Fabaceae</b>							

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			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
	A Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. praeprope</i>	✓					
	Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	✓					
	Hairy Broom	<i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i>				✓		
	Horseshoe Vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	✓					
	Scorpion Senna	<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	✓					
	Red Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	✓					
	Grey Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	✓					
	Edible Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus edulis</i>	✓					
	Clustered Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i>		✓				
	A Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	✓	✓				
	Wild Pea	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	✓	✓		✓		
	Pitch Trefoil	<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	✓					
	Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	✓					
	Star Clover	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	✓					
	Subterranean Clover	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	✓					
	A Vetch	<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>	✓					
	Yellow Vetch	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	✓					
	Hairy Yellow Vetch	<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	✓					
	Black-eyed Vetch	<i>Vicia melanops</i>	✓			✓		
	Hairy Vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	✓					
20	<b>Fagaceae</b>							
	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	✓					
	Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	✓					
	Holme Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	✓					
	Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>				✓	✓	✓
21	<b>Gentianaceae</b>							
	Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>				✓		
22	<b>Geraniaceae</b>							
	Red-stem Stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	✓					
	Soft Stork's-bill	<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	✓					
	Shining Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>		✓				
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	✓					
	Little Robin	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	✓					

Plants			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>		✓				
	Bloody Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>		✓				
23	<b>Lamiaceae</b>							
	Rock Thyme	<i>Acinos alpinus</i>		✓				
	Ground Pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	✓					
	Bifid Deadnettle	<i>Lamium bifidum</i>		✓				
	Large Red Deadnettle	<i>Lamium garganicum</i>					✓	✓
	White Hedge-nettle	<i>Prasium majus</i>	✓	✓				
	Silver Sage	<i>Salvia argentea</i>		✓				
	Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	✓					
	Tree Germander	<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	✓					
24	<b>Linaceae</b>							
	Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>			✓			
	Fairy Flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>		✓				
	Perennial Flax	<i>Linum perenne</i>		✓				
25	<b>Malvaceae</b>							
	Cretan Hollyhock	<i>Malva multiflora</i>	✓					
	Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	✓					
26	<b>Moraceae</b>							
	Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	✓	✓				
27	<b>Olaceae</b>							
	Manna Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>		✓				
	Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	✓	✓	✓			
28	<b>Orobanchaceae</b>							
	Bellardia	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	✓					
	Thyme Broomrape	<i>Orobanche alba</i>	✓					
	Clove-scented Broomrape	<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>					✓	
	Bean Broomrape	<i>Orobanche crenata</i>		✓				
	Branched Broomrape	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>		✓				
	Red Bartsia	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	✓		✓			
29	<b>Oxalidaceae</b>							
	Bermuda Buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>		✓				
30	<b>Paeoniaceae</b>							
	Male Peony	<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	✓				✓	

Plants		16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆							
31	<b>Papaveraceae</b>						
	Dense-flowered Corydalis			✓	✓		
	White Ramping Fumitory						
	Common Fumitory	✓					
	Rough Poppy	✓					
	Common Poppy				✓		✓
32	<b>Plantaginaceae</b>						
	Sicilian Snapdragon	✓					
	Ivy-leaved Toadflax				✓		
	Widow of the Meadows					✓	
	Weasel's Snout	✓					
	Buck's Horn Plantain	✓			✓		
	Mediterranean Plantain	✓					
	Sea Plantain	✓					
	Toothed Plantain	✓					
	Ivy-leaved Speedwell		✓				
33	<b>Polygalaceae</b>						
	Nice Milkwort				✓		
	A Milkwort	✓					
34	<b>Primulaceae</b>	✓					
	Scarlet Pimpernel	✓					
	Ivy-leaved Cyclamen (leaf only)			✓	✓		
	Spring Sowbread	✓	✓				
35	<b>Ranunculaceae</b>						
	Adonis/Pheasant's Eye		✓	✓			
	Apennine Anemone	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Garden Anemone	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Bulbous Buttercup					✓	
	Lesser Celandine	✓		✓			
	Milfoil Buttercup	✓					
	Fan-leaved Buttercup						
36	<b>Resedaceae</b>						
	White Mignonette	✓					
	Yellow Mignonette		✓				

<b>Plants</b>			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
	Corn Mignonette	<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	✓					
37	<b>Rosaceae</b>							
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	✓					
	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	✓					
	Almond-leaved Pear	<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>					✓	
	Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	✓					
	Holy Bramble	<i>Rubus sancta</i>		✓				
	Mediterranean Salad Burnet	<i>Poterium verrucosum</i>		✓				
	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>						✓
38	<b>Rubiaceae</b>							
	Blue Woodruff	<i>Asperula arvensis</i>			✓			
	Crosswort	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	✓					
	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>		✓				
	Common Madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>		✓				
	Field Madder	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	✓					
39	<b>Saxifragaceae</b>							
	Meadow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>				✓		
	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>			✓			
40	<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>							
	Gargano Mullein ☆	<i>Verbascum niveum</i> ssp. <i>garganicum</i>	✓					
	Wavy-leaved Mullein	<i>Verbascum undulatum</i>		✓				
41	<b>Solanaceae</b>							
	Golden Henbane	<i>Hyoscamus aureus</i>				✓		
	Sodom Apple	<i>Solanum linnaeanum</i>			✓			
42	<b>Thymelaceae</b>							
	Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>		✓				
43	<b>Urticaceae</b>							
	Pellitory of the Wall	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	✓	✓				
	Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	✓					
44	<b>Violaceae</b>							
	Gargano Pansy ☆	<i>Viola merxmulleri</i>			✓		✓	
	Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>		✓				
	<b>Monocotyledons</b>							

Plants			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
45	<b>Amarylidaceae</b>							
	Wild Leek	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>		✓				
	Naples Garlic	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	✓					
	Rosy Garlic	<i>Allium roseum</i>	✓	✓				
	Pheasant's Eye Narcissus	<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>			✓	✓	✓	
	Bunch-flowered Daffodil	<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>					✓	
46	<b>Araceae</b>							
	Friar's Cowl (leaf only)	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>		✓				
	Italian Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>	✓					
	Wild Arum	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	✓					
47	<b>Asparagaceae</b>							
	Wild Asparagus	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	✓					
	Tassel Hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	✓					
	Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	✓	✓				
	Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	✓	✓				
48	<b>Asphodelaceae</b>							
	Yellow Asphodel	<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>				✓		
	Summer Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>				✓		
	Hollow-leaved Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>				✓		
49	<b>Iridaceae</b>							
	Neapolitan Crocus	<i>Crocus neapolitanus</i>					✓	
	Field Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>				✓		
	Twin-headed Iris ☆	<i>Iris bicaipitata</i>		✓		✓		
	Sicilian Iris	<i>Iris pseudopumila</i>		✓		✓		✓
	Widow Iris (seed pod only)	<i>Iris tuberosa</i>	✓		✓			
50	<b>Liliaceae</b>							
	Smilax	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	✓					
	Wild Tulip	<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>			✓			✓
51	<b>Orchidaceae</b>							
	Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>		✓	✓			
	Pink Butterfly Orchid	<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	✓					
	Roman Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>		✓	✓			
	An Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> ssp. <i>saccata</i>					✓	

Plants			16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
Elder-flowered Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>					✓		
Giant Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	✓			✓			
Milky Orchid	<i>Neotinea lactea</i>			✓				✓
Burnt-tip Orchid	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>					✓		✓
Archipelago Orchid ☆	<i>Ophrys archipelagi</i>	✓	✓					
Bertonloni's Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	✓			✓			
Bertoloni-like Ophrys ☆	<i>Ophrys bertoloniiformis</i>			✓	✓			✓
Shield/Spectable Ophrys ☆	<i>Ophrys biscutella</i>							✓
Bumblebee Orchid	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	✓			✓			✓
Apulian Ophrys	<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> ssp. <i>apulica</i>				✓			
Small-patterned Ophrys	<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> ssp. <i>parvimaculata</i>		✓					
Dull Ophrys	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>				✓			
Yellow Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>		✓		✓			✓
Small-flowered Yellow Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys lutea</i> ssp. <i>galilea</i>	✓						
Horned Ophrys	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i> spp. <i>cornuta</i>		✓					
Dark Ophrys	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> ssp. <i>atrata</i>	✓						
Gargano Ophrys	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> ssp. <i>passionis</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓
Siponto Ophrys ☆	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> ssp. <i>sipontensis</i>		✓		✓			
Promontory Ophrys ☆	<i>Ophrys promontori</i>			✓				✓
Sawfly Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓
Neglected Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> ssp. <i>neglecta</i>				✓	✓	✓	
Man Orchid	<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>			✓	✓			
Naked Man Orchid	<i>Orchis italica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Few-flowered Orchid	<i>Orchis pauciflora</i>			✓				
Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>		✓					
Four-spotted Orchid	<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>			✓				✓
Tongue Orchid	<i>Serapias lingua</i>		✓					
Eastern Serapias	<i>Serapias orientalis</i>	✓	✓					
Small-flowered Serapias	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	✓	✓					
Ploughshare Orchid	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>				✓	✓		
<b>Hybrids for which positive ID is possible</b>								
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> x <i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>			✓					



Plants		16th Apr	17th Apr	18th Apr	19th Apr	20th Apr	21st Apr
		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆							
	<i>Ophrys speculum</i> x <i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>						✓
	<i>Ophrys speculum</i> x <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>passionis</i>				✓		
	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> x <i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>				✓		✓
	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> x <i>Ophrys bertoloniiformis</i>						✓
	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> x <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>passionis</i>					✓	
	<i>Ophrys bertoloniiformis</i> x <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>passionis</i>						✓
52	<b>Ruscaceae</b>						
	Butcher's Broom		✓				
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>						

### A note from Paul about the Orchids:

- I have used the scheme set out clearly in **Field Guide to the Orchids of Europe and the Mediterranean** by Rolf Kuhn (Author), Henrik Pedersen (Author), Phillip Cribb (Author) though many disagree with the idea of subspecies and want everything to be a species if it has its own pollinator. There might never be a one-size fits all scheme though phylogenetic study has made many links clear and dispenses with others.
- Some *Ophrys* have origins from hybrids probably arising in different places and these have stabilised but are extremely confusing for example *Ophrys 'archipelago'* was considered to be one of many versions of *Ophrys arachnitiiformis* a kind of catch all umbrella for orchid waifs and strays that had obvious close links. "Arachnitiiformis suggests it is spider-like, the old name for *Ophrys sphegodes* was *Ophrys arachnites*.
- What many of us learned as *Orchis* is now three genera *Anacamptis*, *Neotinea* and *Orchis*.
- I have used *Ophrys fuciflora* rather than *Ophrys holoserica* as recognised in the Index Kewensis. Although many authors in Europe hang on to 'holoserica', it was wrongly published and fuciflora has precedence. It is a question of what institution had the best bray and that goes to the Herbarium at Kew!

### Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>
Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>

### Wall Brown

Southern Comma

### Birds

Greater Flamingo  
Black-winged Stilt  
Kestrel  
Lesser Kestrel  
Marsh Harrier  
Short-toed Eagle  
Slender-billed Gull  
White Stork  
Northern Wheatear  
Stonechat  
Sardinian Warbler

### *Lasiommata megera*

*Polygonia egea*

*Phoenicopus roseus*

*Himantopus himantopus*

*Falco tinnunculus*

*Falco naumanni*

*Circus aeruginosus*

*Circaetus gallicus*

*Chroicocephalus genei*

*Ciconia ciconia*

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

*Saxicola rubicola*

*Sylvia melanocephalus*

## Photo Gallery



Greater Honeywort  
© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Round-leaved Birthwort  
© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Mallow-leaved Bindweed  
© Paul Harcourt-Davies



© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Golden Henbane © Paul Harcourt-Davies



Sawfly Orchid © Paul Harcourt-Davies



Poet's Narcissus © Paul Harcourt-Davies



*O. speculum* x *O. sphegodes* ssp. *passionis*  
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© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Perennial Flax © Paul Harcourt-Davies



Apulian Ophrys © Paul Harcourt-Davies



© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Lesser Dodder © Paul Harcourt-Davies



© Paul Harcourt-Davies



Ophrys of the Gargano © Paul Harcourt-Davies

