



Gargano, Orchid Paradise
8th - 15th April 2023

Led by Paul Harcourt-Davies and Lois Ferguson



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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 were in excellent flowering condition.

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

Our first morning coincided with Easter Sunday and our thoughts were of Monday when, by tradition, Italy goes on a family picnic, too often filling the countryside with refuse. We changed days and 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 selection of orchids which tended to be dwarf in stature given the dry and demanding habitat of the limestone pavement near the coast.

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.



Sawfly Orchid © Allan F

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.

We left the coast still watching the skies...a grey Italian day is still, in photographer's terms a couple of stops brighter than a UK grey day. The route inland to our picnic spot took us through the lower reaches of the Forest Umbra and then under the canopy of a mature beech forest in early leaf. Our target species



© Janet H

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.



Apennine Anemone © Janet H

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. We then travelled up into the Forest Umbra to a visitor centre (unpredictable opening but good maps when it is): on Easter Sunday it was closed. We walked to the small artificial lake in the forest where there are European Pond Terrapins.

The day was not over and the return to Vieste took in 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. And the first pink flowers of Rosy Garlic appearing along with Tassel Hyacinth .

Day 3 - Along the coast to the West of Peschici

Initially, the day looked far from promising with dark skies and rain outside the hotel. However, the weather forecast revealed it might become clear, at least partially and so we held back for a half hour whilst Paul showed some images on a laptop of what we might find. We then took the risk decided to make the first proposed stop the last of the day and set off...which worked for the whole of the day except for a few short showers of rain that could not be ignored.

We then took a shortcut up a narrow road through a vineyard to get to the fast road along the north coast. A few days before, 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, Woad and White Laceplant. There was a single flowering stem of the Siponto Ophrys which was the first time Paul had found this species on the northern side of the peninsula. A few butterfly species were on the wing, the most notable being the Cleopatra.



Siponto Ophrys © Allan F

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 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



Twin-flowered Iris © Janet H

(*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, and Tongue Orchid. There were also some lovely purple Twin-flowered Iris a Gargano endemic with the much smaller light yellow Sicilian Iris. The slopes beneath the trees bordering 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 South Wales, and white Star of Bethlehem. A single flowering spike of the pale yellow Roman orchid was spotted on a bank.



Pheasant's Eye Narcissus
© Janet H

We picnicked where the road levelled out with 'refreshing' spotting of light rain where Green-winged and Pink Butterfly Orchids grew with Irises and small spikes of Grape Hyacinth, Garden Anemones and other species. There was also a spike of the Archipelago Ophrys, a Gargano endemic that is very early flowering and there was just a last flower in reasonable condition.

The return journey 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.

The final stop 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.

Day 4 - Transfer to Monte Sant'Angelo (and the hidden Plateau)

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.

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, though it is still in good numbers along this valley but susceptible to bad weather...there were fortunately some good flowers for the camera. At the edges of the field where the tulips grow were a few flowers of the bright Red Adonis (Pheasant's Eye) and tiny flowers of Blue Woodruff.

This brought us to lunchtime and the skies had cleared so we took a small road to what we call our "hidden plateau" which is a superb area for orchids in number and variety. This is one of those wonderful natural rockeries which Gargano provides where plants shelter in limestone fissures and between stones offering them some protection from grazing animals and severe weather.

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

endemic 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 arisen via hybridisation with the Gargano Ophrys.

Green-winged and Pink Butterfly orchids were abundant and there were a few hybrids between them. Additionally there were hundreds of small plants of Man Orchid and then three new species some distance from the track; the yellow Few-flowered Orchid and the slender and often diminutive pink Four-spotted Orchid and, here and there, the Milky Orchid. This is one of the places you begin to find some strange Ophrys flowers because of the hybrids they can form.

The open gullies and rocky aspect led to a woodland of downy oak and other trees on a natural rockery with a rich ground flora. There were numerous Pheasant's Eye Narcissus just coming into flower and Anemones (both Apennine and Garden) with colourful Gargano Pansies and Wood Spurge plus numbers of plants of the Roman Orchid. This woodland has yielded the small intriguing flowers of Pale Birthwort before now and did this time. It is the food plant of the Southern Festoon butterfly which appeared on cue to the delight of several very keen butterfly photographers (and a feeling of having delivered from the leader!).

Day 5 - A Forest of Orchid stems...



Yellow Asphodel © Janet H

The day began with a trip down into the valley below Mont Sant'Angelo to travel towards San Giovanni Rotundo, a place dedicated to Padre Piu (now canonised). There is a very unprepossessing piece of ground just off a roadside on waste ground where there are many thousands of orchid spikes and innumerable (and variable) plants of the Bertoloni-like Ophrys bertoloniiformis. There were various confusing Ophrys hybrids as well as a wide 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.

There was a single plant of the Gargano Ophrys with green flowers completely lacking the usual anthocyanin pigmentation. A few flowers remained on a true Gargano speciality the Siponto Ophrys and also on the Giant Orchids that appeared in January this year. Both Naked Man and Man Orchids were in flower in profusion though we failed to find

any hybrids between them. More butterflies were on the wing including Clouded Yellow, Common Swallowtail and one Scarce Swallowtail.

An alert from a very knowledgeable friend suggested that, because of early flowering, it was not worth travelling off the high ground and down to Manfredonia to what has been a profitable site in spite of the refuse that offends the eye. We changed to another superb site of small enclosed fields once used as animal pens during the process of transhumance where herds were moved up to higher ground. There were more butterflies including Green Hairstreaks, and Italian Wall Lizards in abundance.



Swallowtail © Allan F

We did visit two places where there had been just a few Mirror Ophrys (*Ophrys speculum* - a rarity in Gargano) in the past to find, sadly, that they had been dug out...clearly by human hands who had misused the trust placed in them. However, as luck would have it there was a single flowering stem of a hybrid between the Mirror Ophrys and the Gargano Ophrys by way of compensation.

We made our way back towards Monte Sant'Angelo with a leisurely stop to photograph a superb range of colour varieties of the tall, Twin-headed Iris...not just in the dark blue purple which is the

Twin-flowered Iris © Allan F



dominant colour variant, but also two tone blue and purple, white and yellows and more to rival any garden varieties growing along with the tiny, and less variable, Sicilian Iris.

We passed our hotel after the climb to Monte Sant'Angelo to travel on to the monastery of Santa Maria in Pulsano, dramatically sited above gorges with a view down 700m to the plain below. It is a place long famed for the hermits who lived there in caves and the ruined church and buildings have been superbly restored. In the courtyard itself there are several plants of Golden Henbane. Close to the buildings themselves there were fantastic spikes of Siponto Ophrys and a delightful hybrid with *O.*

bombyliflora where the other parent was probably *O. tenthredinifera*.

The attraction for the naturalist is a walk down the Gorge with the sound of Rock Thrushes, possible raptors including Short-toed Eagle 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, Baton Blue, Orange Tip and Common Swallowtail. Several endemics were present, the Gargano Golden Drop (always some 10m above the path) and the grey leaves and dry flowering stems of another endemic, the Mullein-leaved Inula whose flowers appear in summer, whilst in a few crevices there were flowers of Gargano Bellflower.

There were numbers of Yellow Ophrys, Gargano Ophrys, Sawfly Ophrys and Bumblebee Ophrys growing close to the cliff edges in rough, sparse grassland. However, the most impressive were the large flowers of the Apulian Ophrys, one of the showiest of the Gargano Ophrys species.

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 Naked Man Orchid colouring some areas pink. There were also several albino forms and some hybrids with *A. papilionacea* and *A. morio*.

Ophrys included Sawfly Ophrys in its subsp. *neglecta* plus several *Serapias* species, all in good form amongst a host of bright flower annuals.

A short walk away lies another site for the Peony which produced a few magnificent blooms and much in promise for the next week or so.

We then travelled beyond San Giovanni Rotondo for another set of stony meadows, though there the grazing had begun earlier than last year, evidenced by the cowpats. It showed us how fragile and



Male Peony © Allan F

variable such environments are. Orchids were inevitable dwarf in stature and comparatively few in number. However there was time to get some Italian Wall Lizard images and working Dung Beetles as recompense.

Our lunch stop involved travelling beyond San Marco in Lamis and then up via a track into the beech woods. Lois drove the vehicle onwards whilst the rest of us were disgorged at the start to walk up to the picnic spread. Here the abundant Pheasant's Eye Narcissus were beginning to flower and eventually we came to meadows of tiny flowers...Gargano Pansies, Valerianella, Anemones and *Aristolochia* - two species: Pale Birthwort and Round-leaved Birthwort. There were



Italian Wall Lizard © Allan F

some extremely obliging Festoon butterflies and we saw what must be the last Crocus to flower this year.

A new Orchid was spotted, but in bud, amongst an assemblage of Pansies and Anemones. Another with yellow flower spike, the Elder-flowered Orchid. It occurs in a magenta form as well in the Alps but here only the yellow is found...just as the Roman Orchid has only yellow flowers in Gargano yet the same magenta and yellow colour forms elsewhere. We returned slightly earlier than usual to allow time for an exploration of the town of Monte Sant Angelo.

Day 7 - The Ridge Walk and then to Ruggiano.

The weather forecast was not exactly 'promising' and winds during the night were ferocious but had subsided by the time we came to leave for our walk. After the first heavily-grazed section many tiny orchids appeared dwarf thanks to early grazing and a harsh environment. Most species we had seen previously, but there is a joy in seeing now familiar friends such as Promontory Ophrys, Bertoloniiformis, Sawfly, Yellow Ophrys, Bumblebee Ophrys, Gargano Ophrys plus Naked Man, Four-spotted Orchid and Milky Orchid.

This is a very ancient area with stunted trees, small stony fields and numerous stone walls and you can walk up to the exposed rocky ridge for super views either side to the interior of the peninsula and then to the sea in the opposite direction. Tiny spikes of Four-spotted Orchid flourished between the exposed limestone strata. On one of the ancient buildings there were clumps of the near endemic Gargano Aubretia plus Large Red Deadnettle.

We reached a point where Paul had found the last of the Gargano endemics some three decades earlier- the Shield Ophrys or Spectacled Ophrys with two small eye spots, Rather than an out and back walk (and to avoid being blown away) we walked down to the main road where Lois picked us up and transported us back to the Hotel. She had prepared her picnic on a terrace where the dark skies changed rapidly and the sun shone occasionally.

In the afternoon we walked down a lane eventually reaching a field where Tulips bloomed in abundance. A highlight was the walled fields either side of the track with drifts of Pink Butterfly Orchid and Sicilian Iris. We also found several hybrid orchids close together, Gargano Ophrys with Bertoloniiformis (*O sphegodes subsp passionis* x *O. bertoloniiformis*) Sawfly with Bumblebee (*O. tenthredinifera* x *O bombyliflora*) and Sawfly with Bertoloniiformis (*O tenthredinifera* x *O bertoloniiformis*). Although all hybrid identifications are guesswork there seems to be the requisite shared characteristics between putative parents.

Our last stop was along the road to Ruggiano where there were yet more Twin-flowered Iris, some Siponto Ophrys, *Ophrys sphegodes subsp sipontensis*, another of Paul's nostalgic and historic sites, and a freshly emerged Cream spot Tiger Moth.

Day 8 - Bari and Departure

The journey down to Bari and the airport was much quicker than the arrival day and through a series of straight roads where the fields were already starting to look colourful with Poppies and Crown Daisies in abundance. We passed the Storks on pylons as an au revoir. Having said goodbye, Paul and Lois waited for a second group to arrive to begin revealing the delights of Gargano over again.



Systematic Species Checklists

Although the Gargano peninsula is 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 and wild Peony.

Plants		9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
Angiosperms								
Dicotyledons								
1	Aceraceae							
	Neapolitan Maple	<i>Acer opalus ssp. obtusatum</i>	✓	✓				
	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		✓				
2	Anacardiaceae							
	Mastic	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Terebinth	<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	✓	✓	✓			
3	Apiaceae							
	Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Laserwort	<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>				✓	✓	
	White Laceplant	<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	✓	✓	✓			
	Alexanders	<i>Smyrniolus olusatrum</i>	✓	✓				
	Perfoliate Alexanders	<i>Smyrniolus perfoliatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mediterranean Hartwort	<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Aquifoliaceae							
	Common Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>		✓				
5	Aristolochiaceae							
	Pale Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia pallida</i>			✓	✓		
	Round-leaved Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia rotundifolia</i>				✓		
6	Asteraceae							
	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>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

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			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆						✓		✓	
	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>	✓	✓					
		<i>Tragopogon sp.</i>				✓			
	Smooth Golden Fleece	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	✓	✓		✓			
	Prickly Goldenfleece	<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	✓						
	Betulaceae								
	Eastern Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>		✓		✓			
7	Boraginaceae								
	Dyer's Alkanet	<i>Alkanna lehmanii</i>	✓						
	Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</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	Brassicaceae								
	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>		✓					

Plants			9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆									
	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	Campanulaceae								
	Adriatic Bellflower ☆	<i>Campanula garganica</i>				✓			
10	Caprifoliaceae								
	Danewort	<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	✓	✓					
	Red Valerian	<i>Valeriana rubra</i>		✓					
		<i>Valerianella sp.</i>					✓		
11	Caryophyllaceae								
	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	Cistaceae								
	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	Chenopodiaceae								
	Sea Purslane	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	✓						
14	Convolvulaceae								
	Giant Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	✓						
	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	✓	✓	✓				
15	Crassulaceae								
	Spanish Stonecrop	<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>						✓	

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		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
16	Eleagnaceae							
	Sea Buckthorn (in fruit) <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	✓						
17	Ericaceae							
	Tree Heath <i>Erica arborea</i>			✓				
18	Euphorbiaceae							
	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	Fabaceae							
	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	Fagaceae							

Plants			9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆									
	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	✓						
	Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	✓						
	Holme Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	✓						
	Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Gentianaceae								
	Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>				✓			
22	Geraniaceae								
	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>	✓						
	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>		✓					
	Bloody Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>		✓					
23	Lamiaceae								
	Rock Thyme	<i>Acinos alpinus</i>		✓					
	Ground Pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	✓						
	Bifid Deadnettle	<i>Lamium bifidum</i>		✓					
	Large Red Deadnettle	<i>Lamium gargaricum</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	Linaceae								
	Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>			✓				
	Fairy Flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>		✓					
	Perennial Flax	<i>Linum perenne</i>		✓					
25	Malvaceae								
		<i>Malva multiflora</i>	✓						
	Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	✓						
26	Moraceae								
	Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	✓	✓					
27	Olaceae								
	Manna Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>		✓					

Plants			9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	✓	✓	✓				
28	Orobanchaceae								
	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	Oxalidaceae								
	Bermuda Buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>		✓					
30	Paeoniaceae								
	Male Peony	<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	✓				✓		
31	Papaveraceae								
	Dense-flowered Corydalis	<i>Corydalis densiflora</i>			✓	✓			
	White Ramping Fumitory	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>							
	Common Fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	✓						
	Rough Poppy	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	✓						
	Common Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>				✓		✓	
32	Plantaginaceae								
	Sicilian Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum siculum</i>	✓						
	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>				✓			
	Widow of the Meadows	<i>Globularia punctata</i>					✓		
	Weasel's Snout	<i>Misopates orontium</i>	✓						
	Buck's Horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	✓			✓			
	Mediterranean Plantain	<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	✓						
	Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	✓						
	Toothed Plantain	<i>Plantago serraria</i>	✓						
	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>		✓					
33	Polygalaceae								
	Nice Milkwort	<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>				✓			
	A Milkwort	<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	✓						
34	Primulaceae		✓						
	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	✓						
	Ivy-leaved Cyclamen (leaf only)	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>			✓	✓			

Plants			9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆									
	Spring Sowbread	<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	✓	✓					
35	Ranunculaceae								
	Adonis/Pheasant's Eye	<i>Adonis annua</i>		✓	✓				
	Apennine Anemone	<i>Anemone apennina</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Garden Anemone	<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>					✓		
	Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	✓		✓				
	Milfoil Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	✓						
	Fan-leaved Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>							
36	Resedaceae								
	White Mignonette	<i>Reseda alba</i>	✓						
	Yellow Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>		✓					
	Corn Mignonette	<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	✓						
37	Rosaceae								
	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	Rubiaceae								
	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	Saxifragaceae								
	Meadow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>				✓			
	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>			✓				
40	Scrophulariaceae								
	Gargano Mullein ☆	<i>Verbascum niveum ssp. garganicum</i>	✓						
	Wavy-leaved Mullein	<i>Verbascum undulatum</i>		✓					

Plants		9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
		Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆								
41	Solanaceae							
	Golden Henbane				✓			
42	Thymelaceae							
	Spurge Laurel		✓					
43	Urticaceae							
	Pellitory of the Wall	✓	✓					
	Stinging Nettle	✓						
44	Violaceae							
	Gargano Pansy ☆			✓		✓		
	Common Dog Violet		✓					
Monocotyledons								
45	Amarylidaceae							
	Wild Leek		✓					
	Naples Garlic	✓						
	Rosy Garlic	✓	✓					
	Pheasant's Eye Narcissus			✓	✓	✓		
	Bunch-flowered Daffodil					✓		
46	Araceae							
	Friar's Cowl (leaf only)		✓					
	Italian Arum	✓						
	Wild Arum	✓						
47	Asparagaceae							
	Wild Asparagus	✓						
	Tassel Hyacinth	✓						
	Grape Hyacinth	✓	✓					
	Star-of-Bethlehem	✓	✓					
48	Asphodelaceae							
	Yellow Asphodel				✓			
	Summer Asphodel				✓			
	Hollow-leaved Asphodel				✓			
49	Iridaceae							
	Neapolitan Crocus					✓		
	Field Gladiolus				✓			
	Twin-headed Iris ☆		✓		✓			

Plants			9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆									
	Sicilian Iris	<i>Iris pseudopumila</i>		✓		✓		✓	
	Widow Iris (seed pod only)	<i>Iris tuberosa</i>	✓		✓				
50	Liliaceae								
	Smilax	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	✓						
	Wild Tulip	<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>			✓			✓	
51	Orchidaceae								
	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>					✓		
	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>	✓		✓	✓		✓	

Plants			9th Apr	10th Apr	11th Apr	12th Apr	13th Apr	14th Apr	15th Apr
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Endemic and near endemic species are noted with ☆						✓	✓	✓	
	Neglected Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera ssp. 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>				✓	✓		
Hybrids for which positive ID is possible									
	<i>Anacamptis morio</i> x <i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>		✓						
	<i>Ophrys speculum</i> x <i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>							✓	
	<i>Ophrys bertoloniiformis</i> x <i>Ophrys biscutella</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	Ruscaceae								
	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!

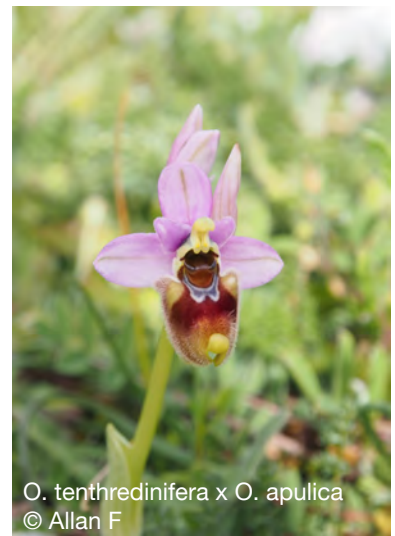
Butterflies

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	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>

Birds

Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephalus</i>

Photo Gallery





Green-winged Orchids © Allan F



© Janet H



Pine Processionary moth web © Janet H



Milfoil Buttercup © Janet H



Wild Clary © Janet H



Sand Catchfly © Janet H



Spotted Rockrose © Janet H



Star Clover © Janet H

Wall Brown © Allan F



Weasel's Snout © Janet H



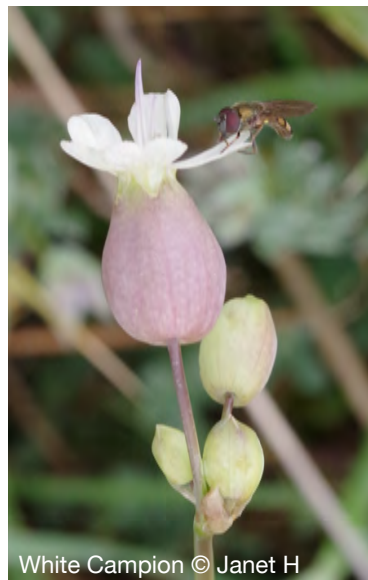
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Anagallis arvensis © Janet H



Vicia benghalensis © Janet H



White Campion © Janet H



Borage © Janet H