



Rhodes Orchid Odyssey

1st - 8th April 2025

Led by Sotiris Alexiou, Marinos Gogolos & Rachael Eele



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Day 1, 1st April. The winter was surprisingly wet this year in Rhodes, which was good news, as it meant we could expect an exceptionally good blooming performance by our beloved plants, orchids! The tail ends of the wet season were present this spring and the day of our arrival at Rhodes airport, the skies had opened. Heavy rain was pouring down, although the temperature was not below 18 degrees or so.

Zoë and Graham had arrived the previous night and were driven immediately to our hotel, so this morning and as the weather was calmer at the south of the island, they enjoyed their first walk in the Rhodian nature, with the company of Rachael. In a distance of a few hundred metres, they encountered *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii*, *O. iricolor*, *O. sicula*, *O. (mammosa) monolithia* and *O. cornutula*.

Hazel arrived earlier than the rest, so she was driven by Marinos to a nearby area to wait for the others and find her first flowers. In the openings of the weather, they found their first *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii*, very few *O. speculum* and the hybrid between them, *O. x butlerii*. *O. omegaifera*, a few *O. monolithia* and *O. rhodia*, the colourful *O. saliarisii* and *Orchis italica* were also spotted. *Fritillaria rhodia* were also there in good numbers.

In the afternoon, after everybody had landed (except Theo whose plane was returned to Thessaloniki due to the poor weather!), we drove south, to the village which would be our base for the next week. After greetings by Giorgos the owner and an introductory talk by our leaders, we drove to Apolakkia, to enjoy our dinner. Our first Fallow Deer, a mammal introduced by the Romans and now established on Rhodes, were seen while driving - a sighting that would be common almost every day. The sky was completely clear now and the stars shining when we arrived back at the hotel and that is when we heard our first Tawny Owls. Some of us would go for a night walk in this picturesque small Mediterranean village, as did Dermot who next morning showed us a nice short video of a badger running around outside our hotel!

Day 2, 2nd April. After all that heavy rain, to our relief the sun was shining this morning! The day would be devoted to Kattavia, at the southern part of the island, an area of mainly phrygic habitats, rightfully considered a hotspot for orchids. After breakfast and before we left our hotel, the first Red-rumped Swallows appeared flying over our heads and Fallow Deer emerged from their night refuges and escaping the sounds of our voices! En-route to Kattavia we couldn't avoid stopping the cars to enjoy Woodchat Shrikes, flocks of Bee-eaters, Alpine Swift, Pallid Harriers and, to our surprise and good fortune, a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater on the wires! In one of its rare appearances on European ground.

Our first stop, at a hill surrounded by cultivations was very productive. Our first *Ophrys saliarisii* and *O. cornutula*, *Ophrys calypsus* with its long petals, *O. (cretica) beloniae* especially in the surrounding cultivations, *O. speculum* and *O. regis-ferdinandii* with their hybrid, *Anacamptis fragrans* and *A. aegaea* and *Serapias carica*. We also heard Quail calling and enjoyed some other plants, like the endemic *Campanula rhodia* and *Pallenis spinosa*, with its long, spiky bracts. Huge numbers of a large, brownish dragonfly, that never rested to give us the opportunity to try and identify, were flying all around us, obviously on a migration. After a few hours of desperate 'hunting', Graham with the help of Marinos was able to put a name to them - *Anax ephippiger*, the Vagrant Emperor.

Ophrys regis-ferdinandii © Colin S





Fritillaria rhodia © Thelma O

We had our lunch break by a church, our second stop for the day. Matt's Greek mother-in-law always provides a wonderful lunch and today was no exception. Abundant Rhodian Fritillaries, *Fritillaria rhodia*, were in the surroundings of the chapel, in addition to *O. beloniae* and *O. regis-ferdinandii*. Our interest in general flora started to emerge as we saw other interesting flowering plants such as *Campanula rhodia*, three species of milk vetches, and other flora.

On our last stop of the day, we had the opportunity to wander within the famous Mediterranean phrygana, areas seemingly poor but with very rich biodiversity, full of aromatic thorny bushes, ephemeral annuals and bulbous plants. Among orchids we saw *Ophrys saliarisii*, *O. regis-ferdinandii*, *O. speculum*, *O. lutea*, *O. cornutula*, *O. cinereophila*, *O. beloniae*, *O. reinholdii*, *Serapias vomeracea* and *S. carica*. The robust plants of *O. rhodia* had just appeared, as well as

O. lutea, *O. cinereophila* and the Butterfly orchid, *Anacamptis aegaea*. A really robust plant got our attention, which as we approached proved to be a beautiful hybrid between *O. rhodia* and *O. beloniae*. Plenty of Rhodian Fritillaries were present, as well as Alkanets *Alkanna tinctoria*, *Anchusa hybrida*, the south Aegean endemic *Lithodora hispidula*, *Helichrysum stoechas*, the white flowering *Helianthemum appeninum*, two species of Asphodels, the parasitic *Cytinus* and all three *Cistus*. The first of the several Fallow Deer antlers that we found were collected today.

Theo finally arrived this afternoon to complete the group after the unfortunate delay of his arrival.



© Sotiris Alexiou

Day 3, 3rd April. This morning, and after the early heavy rain, the weather seemed promising, so we decided to ascend to higher altitudes. We drove to Apolakkia and took a dirt road that leads up into the surrounding hills. Our first stop proved very rich for flowering Peonies, *Paeonia rhodia*, some with leftover drops of rain on their white or pinkish petals. Additionally, a small group of *Ophrys creutzburgii*, the stabilised hybrid between probably a member of the *O. omegaifera* group and a member of *O. fusca* group were growing from within the thorny bushes. Another Rhodian endemic was also present, *Ophrys attaviria*, in addition to the brilliant blueish *O. iricolor*.



Paeonia rhodia © Vinny B

We moved further along the track and reached the top of the hill. The conditions were ideal, not as windy as it could be and cool, so we enjoyed a few hours of botanising amongst the low bushes. A huge collection of different orchids were flowering, most noticeably *Orchis anatolica*, *O. provincialis*, *O. italica* and *Anacamptis aegaea*. Among the tiniest was *Ophrys parvula*, with just one or two flat flowers, and *O. cinereophila*, with more and bending flowers. *Ophrys reinholdii*, *O. omegaifera*, *O. calypsus*, *O. cornutula* and *O. ferrum-equinum*

as well as *O. (tenthredinifera) leochroma* and *O. halia* were plentiful, and soon Walter found one hybrid between the two latter emerging out of a *Cistus* bush. Other interesting plants were there, as some Rhodian fritillaries, Algerian iris *Iris unguicularis* and the Grape Hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*. Some Swallowtails and Scarce Swallowtails were flying around.

Here would be our most amazing moment on this trip! A new species for Rhodos Island was identified. Not immediately, as Sotiris was not able to put a definite name to the four plants involved. It remained the 'un-named' one until after the trip ended and a full library was available, Sotiris finally understood what those plants were: *Ophrys chiosica*, a species only known from Chios Island. A short note with the new find was prepared by Sotiris and published soon after the trip was over.

Matt arrived with another excellent homemade lunch, after which we moved to a lower area close to the village of Apolakkia. We stopped at an area next to the main road where there were many *Ophrys iricolor* and *O. (mammosa) monolithia*. Walking up and down the road we spotted one *O. polyxo*, a few more *O. cornutula*, *O. lutea*, *O. creutzburgii* and *O. reinholdii*. A lucky find was the hybrid between *O. reinholdii* and *O. (mammosa) monolithia* located between its two parental species. The praying mantis *Empusa fasciata*, with its alien-like appearance was spotted on a bush and we did handle it with care in order to fully appreciate it.

Another nice dinner at our local taverna and, as most of our nights, Scops Owl and Little Owl could be heard within the village, accompanied by the calls of the male Green Toad, *Bufo viridis*.



Ophrys (mammosa) monolithia © Bob O

Day 4, 4th April. Another sunny day and we planned to visit the mountain of Profitis Ilias. At our first stop near Embonas village, a farmer had started ploughing amongst his vines when we parked our vans and visited a small meadow, where plenty of *Ophrys reinholdii* were flowering. Our main goal was to see *O. lucis*, and there it was! Maybe 20 plants in full flower. Among a few Giant Orchids, *Himantoglossum robertianum* still in full flower, was *Ornithogalum nutans*, the Star-of-Bethlehem with nodding flowers along with Wild Garlic.



Orchis anthropophora © Dermot C

We continued and drove up to the mountain and at our first stop we found some Man Orchids, *Orchis anthropophora* and Dense-flowered Orchid, *Neotinea maculata* among carpets of anemones, the Rhodian endemic *Anemone appenina* subsp. *blanda*. We did search for any Violet Bird's-nest Orchid, *Limodorum abortivum*, but in vain, it was still early for this species.

We enjoyed our lunch among the two Dutchman's pipes of the island, *Aristolochia guichardii* and *A. parviflora*, while a flock of Serins kept us company. Hazel, while enjoying her lunch under the sun shouted, and we all gathered around to see two Eastern Festoon in copula. Dutchman's pipes are their food-plant, so why not make the most out of their presence!? The couple stayed still until all of us had enjoyed the view and taken many photographs. *Ophrys oreas* and *Ophrys dodekanensis* were there, as well as thousands of the endemic *Cyclamen rhodium*, the Rhodian Cyclamen.

We moved further into this amazing mountain. Within the dense Cypress forest we enjoyed plenty of *Ophrys oreas*, *O. omegaifera*, *O. dodekanensis*, *O. reinholdii*, Milky Orchid, *Neotinea lactea* and *N. maculata*, *Anacamptis morio* ssp. *caucasica* and *Orchis provincialis*.

Our last stop for the day would be the entrance of a gorge. Rosettes of the Aegean endemic *Campanula hagiellii* were growing on the vertical rocks, alongside other interesting chasmophytes, like the rare and very impressive *Centaurea lactucifolia* and *Inula heterolepis*, both just before

flowering. Bushes of *Euphorbia dendroides* and *Quercus coccifera*, Fennels and *Ephedra* plants were hanging from those inaccessible sites. The rare endemic yellow-flowering *Erysimum rhodium* and the Aegean endemic *Achillea cretica* were among the highlights. Crag Martins were flying not far from our heads, but it was a rare surprise to see one land on a rock terrace a few meters above us and giving us the opportunity to enjoy it for several minutes.

Day 5, 5th April. We woke up to a cloudy day this morning. Our destination would be the east side of the island. However, before reaching the sea, we made a stop on a small roadside verge to enjoy the beautiful Rhodian endemic, pink flowering *Silene salamandra*. The plants of the beautiful *Dianthus crenatus* were unfortunately not yet in flower but we did enjoy the small knapweed, *Centaurea benedicta*. A short walk nearby revealed the lovely yellow *Ajuga chamaepitys* and more Fritillaries. Our second stop, just a few minutes away proved even more interesting as there by the road, we saw several Loose-flowered Orchid, *Anacamptis laxiflora* and a large number of Bumblebee Orchid, *Ophrys bombyliflora*. Also present were *Ophrys polyxo*, *O. cornutula*, *O. reinholdii* and a few *O. ferrum-equinum*. A few patches of two *Serapias* were also there, the small-flowered *Serapias parviflora* and *S. bergonii*.

Soon we reached our site on the east side of the island. Thunder could be heard around us, but we remained focused on our target: the famous *Ophrys colossaea*. Not long after we walked into the olive groves, alongside plentiful *Serapias bergonii* and a few *Ophrys rhodia*, we noticed *Ophrys colossaea*. The species grows with *O. calypsus*, but it can be readily identified by the large flower lip and the relatively tiny petals.

What a great site to enjoy our lunch! The rainclouds were looming, so we moved north to another interesting site, but due to the torrential rain that eventually erupted, we sadly missed much of it. A few *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* and *Orchis italica* were seen before we crossed the island westwards back to our hotel.

But we wouldn't end the day just yet. In a wet, shady forest we encountered many Peonies in fruit, surrounded by carpets of Rhodian Cyclamens. A few *Ophrys oreas* were there, our first *O. candica* for the trip and a nice patch of *Limodorum abortivum* not far from flowering. The huge leaves of the autumn-flowering *Colchicum macrophyllum* were there and we could compare them with those of Numidian Squill, *Drimis numidica*.



Orchis anatolica © Colin S

Day 6, 6th April. Under excellent weather conditions, we would visit the most famous of the mountains of Rhodes, Attaviros. We made our first stop at the very beginning of the road that leads to it and walked the gentle road. Plenty of *Ophrys reinholdii*, among some *O. candica*, *O. phryganae* and *Cyclamen rhodia*. The steep sided verges meant orchids were often at eye level, which allowed plentiful photographic opportunities. We enjoyed a lazy walk across the Cypress forest, until some of us reached the timberline and entered the dry, rocky area of the peaks.

Plenty of ephemeral, short mountain plants for those of us wishing to botanise them among the interesting rock formations. At this altitude (of about 900m), species like *Neotinea lactea*, *Orchis anatolica*, *O. provincialis*, *Ophrys omegaifera* and *O. cinereophila* were in full flower.



Anacamptis laxiflora © Colin S

After we enjoyed our lunch at the bakery of Embonas village, and a little leisure time at its shops, we visited a nice site close to the village and by the road. Immediately on leaving the vans we saw *Ophrys cornutula* and *O. polyxo*, as well as *O. ferrum-equinum*. A few steps away, and after we enjoyed the three *Astragalus* species present, one of them the beautiful, silvery-haired *Astragalus austroaegaeus*, we encountered *Ophrys cinereophila*, *O. reinholdii*, *O. dodekanensis* and the *O. monolithia*. Not bad in such a small area! Even a snake was seen basking out of its nest, a really black form of Montpellier snake, more than a meter long! A great find by Walter.

What a group photo that was, on the way to our hotel! All of us, content and pleased, with the Aegean Islands as a background...

Day 7, 7th April. Since Theo had missed our visit to Kattavia on the first day, as it is considered a hotspot for Rhodian orchids, and since we were missing one good species, the famous beetle pollinated *Ophrys blitopertha*, we decided to return and spend the morning there.



Ophrys reinholdii © Bob O



Ophrys iricolor © Vinny B

A few *Ophrys iricolor* and *Anacamptis heroica* were still there. *Anacamptis fragrans* had just started to flower along with the first *A. pyramidalis*. A huge *Laudakia stellio* lizard was sunbathing on the rocks and the Oertzen's Rock Lizard, *Anatololacerta oertzeni* was also seen. A very fresh Eastern Baton Blue, *Pseudophilotes vicrama*, was obliging on a Kermes Oak bush. We did concentrate on some non-orchid plants, as we did most of the days, like Fritillaries, *Muscari weisii* and *Gladiolus anatolicus*, until Hazel told Vinny, who told Collin, who told Marinos about a strange looking *Ophrys*! And it was indeed a strange looking *Ophrys*: *O. blitopertha*! One plant, with a couple of flowers, in perfect shape for us to enjoy! We could now enjoy our lunch.

We drove to Prassonissi, the very southern tip of Rhodes in order to enjoy the fabulous scenery, walk on the extensive sand, and enjoy some of the interesting sand plants such as *Juniperus macrocarpa* and *Hormuzakia aggregata*.

The castle of Monolithos, with its surrounding flora and view to the Aegean would be our last stop of the day. The inconspicuous plants that grow on the old rocks gained our attention. Alpine swifts were flying in swarms just over our heads, as we enjoyed our cool drinks in the coffee shop outside.

Day 8, 8th April. The departure day had arrived. Rhodes would say farewell to us under heavy rain, but we did well! We enjoyed each other's company, exchanged knowledge and shared moments and experiences. And all that under the Mediterranean sun, with a permanent smile on happy faces.

Species Lists

| Orchids | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Common Name | Scientific Name |
| Limodorum GENUS | |
| Violet Bird's-nest Orchid | <i>Limodorum abortivum</i> |
| Serapias GENUS | |
| Bergon's Tongue-orchid | <i>Serapias bergonii</i> |
| Small-flowered Tongue-orchid | <i>Serapias parviflora</i> |
| Long-lipped Tongue-orchid | <i>Serapias vomeracea</i> |
| | <i>Serapias carica</i> |
| Anacamptis GENUS | |
| Pyramidal Orchid | <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> |
| Scented Bug Orchid | <i>Anacamptis fragrans</i> |
| Loose-flowered Orchid | <i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i> |
| | <i>Anacamptis morio ssp. caucasica</i> |
| Butterfly Orchid | <i>Anacamptis aegaea</i> |
| Fan-lipped Orchid | <i>Anacamptis collina</i> |
| Neotinea GENUS | |
| Dense-flowered Orchid | <i>Neotinea maculata</i> |
| Milky Orchid | <i>Neotinea lactea</i> |
| Orchis GENUS | |
| Man Orchid | <i>Orchis anthropophora</i> |
| Naked Man Orchid | <i>Orchis italica</i> |
| Provence Orchid | <i>Orchis provincialis</i> |
| | <i>Orchis anatolica</i> |
| Himantoglossum GENUS | |
| Giant Orchid | <i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i> |
| Ophrys GENUS | |
| Ophrys iricolor group | |
| Rainbow Ophrys | <i>Ophrys iricolor</i> |
| Ophrys fusca group | |
| | <i>Ophrys cinereophila</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys parvula</i> |
| Ophrys attaviria group | |
| | <i>Ophrys attaviria</i> |
| Ophrys blitopertha group | |
| | <i>Ophrys blitopertha</i> |
| Ophrys lutea group | |
| Yellow Bee Orchid | <i>Ophrys lutea</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys phryganae</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys sicula</i> |
| Ophrys omegaifera group | |
| | <i>Ophrys creutzburgii</i> |
| Omega Bee Orchid | <i>Ophrys omegaifera</i> |
| Ophrys speculum group | |
| King Ferdinand's or Earwig Orchid | <i>Ophrys regis-ferdinandii</i> |
| Mirror Orchid | <i>Ophrys speculum</i> |
| Ophrys tenthredinifera group | |

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|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>Ophrys leochroma</i> |
| Bumblebee Orchid | <i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i> |
| Ophrys holoserica group | |
| Colossal Orchid | <i>Ophrys colossaea</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys halia</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys saliarisii</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys oreas</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys candica</i> |
| Ophrys oestrifera group | |
| | <i>Ophrys cornutula</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys dodekanensis</i> |
| Ophrys heldreichii group | |
| | <i>Ophrys calypsus</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys chiosica</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys polyxo</i> |
| Ophrys umbilicata group | |
| | <i>Ophrys rhodia</i> |
| Ophrys reinholdii group | |
| | <i>Ophrys reinholdii</i> |
| | <i>Ophrys beloniae</i> |
| Ophrys argolica group | |
| Rhodian Horseshoe Orchid | <i>Ophrys lucis</i> |
| Ophrys mammosa group | |
| | <i>Ophrys monolithia</i> |
| Horseshoe Bee Orchid | <i>Ophrys ferrum-equinum</i> |
| Hybrids | |
| <i>Ophrys regis-ferdinandii</i> x <i>Ophrys speculum</i> | |
| <i>Ophrys beloniae</i> x <i>Ophrys rhodia</i> | |
| <i>Ophrys reinholdii</i> x <i>Ophrys monolithia</i> | |
| <i>Ophrys halia</i> x <i>Ophrys leochroma</i> | |

| Other Plants | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
| Gymnosperms | | Cretan Arum | <i>Arum concinnum</i> |
| Italian Cypress | <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> | Asparagaceae | |
| Large-fruited Juniper | <i>Juniperus macrocarpa</i> | | <i>Bellevalia trifoliata</i> |
| Phoenician Juniper | <i>Juniperus phoenicea</i> | Tassel Hyacinth | <i>Muscari comosum</i> |
| | <i>Ephedra foeminea</i> | Grape Hyacinth | <i>Muscari neglectum</i> |
| Turkish Pine | <i>Pinus brutia</i> | | <i>Muscari weissii</i> |
| Monocotyledons | | Narbonne Star-of-Bethlehem | <i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i> |
| Alliaceae | | Drooping Star-of-Bethlehem | <i>Ornithogalum nutans</i> |
| Naples Garlic | <i>Allium neapolitanum</i> | Asphodelaceae | |
| Araceae | | Branched Asphodel | <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i> |
| Dragon Arum | <i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i> | Hollow-stemmed Asphodel | <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | <i>Asphodeline liburnica</i> | Barbary Nut | <i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i> |
| Iridaceae | | Liliaceae | |
| | <i>Gladiolus anaticolicus</i> | Rhodian Fritillary | <i>Fritillaria rhodia</i> |
| Algerian Iris | <i>Iris unguicularis</i> | | <i>Gagea graeca</i> |
| Dicotyledons | | | |
| Anacardiaceae | | Italian Alkanet | <i>Anchusa azurea</i> |
| Mastic | <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> | | <i>Anchusa undulata</i> |
| Terebinth | <i>Pistacia terebinthus</i> | Narrow-leaved Bugloss | <i>Echium angustifolium</i> |
| Apiaceae | | Purple Viper's Bugloss | <i>Echium plantagineum</i> |
| Giant Fennel | <i>Ferula communis</i> | | <i>Hormuzakia aggregata</i> |
| | <i>Pseudorhiza pumilla</i> | Shrubby Gromwell | <i>Lithodora hispidula</i> |
| | <i>Scandix australis</i> | Brassicaceae | |
| Shepherd's Needle | <i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> | Spring Rock Cress | <i>Arabis verna</i> |
| Aristolochiaceae | | Buckler Mustard | <i>Biscutella didyma</i> |
| | <i>Aristolochia guichardii</i> | Sea Rocket | <i>Cakile maritima</i> |
| | <i>Aristolochia parvifolia</i> | Rhodian Wallflower | <i>Erysimum rhodium</i> |
| Asteraceae | | Aegean Stock | <i>Malcolmia chia</i> |
| Cretan Yarrow | <i>Achillea cretica</i> | Campanulaceae | |
| Chios Chamomile | <i>Anthemis chia</i> | Small Bellflower | <i>Campanula erinus</i> |
| Rayless Chamomile | <i>Anthemis rigida</i> | Large Rhodian Bellflower | <i>Campanula hagiella</i> |
| Common Daisy | <i>Bellis perennis</i> | Small Rhodian Bellflower | <i>Campanula rhodensis</i> |
| Southern Daisy | <i>Bellis sylvestris</i> | Capparaceae | |
| Blessed Knapweed | <i>Centaurea benedicta</i> | Common Caper | <i>Capparis spinosa</i> |
| | <i>Centaurea lactucifolia</i> | Caryophyllaceae | |
| Maltese Hawksbeard | <i>Crepis pusilla</i> | | <i>Dianthus crinitus</i> |
| Pygmy Cudweed | <i>Filago pygmaea</i> | | <i>Paronychia macrosepala</i> |
| | <i>Geropogon hybridus</i> | Hairless Catchfly | <i>Silene behen</i> |
| Crown Daisy | <i>Glebionis coronaria</i> | Mediterranean Catchfly | <i>Silene colorata</i> |
| Shrubby Everlasting | <i>Helichrysum stoechas</i> | Cretan Catchfly | <i>Silene cretica</i> |
| | <i>Inula heterolepis</i> | Forked Catchfly | <i>Silene dichotoma</i> |
| Tuberous Hawkbit | <i>Leontodon tuberosus</i> | Rhodian Catchfly | <i>Silene salamandra</i> |
| Chamomile | <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> | | <i>Silene sedoides</i> |
| Spiny Golden Star | <i>Pallenis spinosa</i> | Bladder Campion | <i>Silene vulgaris</i> |
| Rock Phagnalon | <i>Phagnalon rupestre</i> | Cistaceae | |
| | <i>Ptilostemon chamaepeuce</i> | Cretan Cistus | <i>Cistus creticus</i> |
| Salsify | <i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> | Small-flowered Cistus | <i>Cistus parviflorus</i> |
| Prickly Goldenfleece | <i>Urospermum picroides</i> | Sage-leaved Cistus | <i>Cistus salvifolius</i> |
| Boraginaceae | | Mediterranean Rock Rose | <i>Fumana arabica</i> |
| Dyer's Alkanet | <i>Alkanna tinctoria</i> | White Rock-rose | <i>Helianthemum apenninum</i> |

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Convolvulaceae | | | <i>Micromeria nervosa</i> |
| Mallow Bindweed | <i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i> | Greek Oregano | <i>Origanum onites</i> |
| Dipsacaceae | | White Hedge-nettle | <i>Prassium majus</i> |
| | <i>Knautia integrifolia</i> | Greek Sage | <i>Salvia fruticosa</i> |
| Ericaceae | | Clary Sage | <i>Salvia viridis</i> |
| Greek Strawberry Tree | <i>Arbutus andrachne</i> | Whorled Savory | <i>Satureja thymbra</i> |
| Euphorbiaceae | | Spreading Germander | <i>Teucrium divaricatum</i> |
| Greek Spiny Spurge | <i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i> | Felty Germander | <i>Teucrium polium</i> |
| Tree Spurge | <i>Euphorbia dendroides</i> | | <i>Thymbra capitata</i> |
| Dwarf Spurge | <i>Euphorbia exigua</i> | Linaceae | |
| Sun Spurge | <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> | | <i>Linum strictum</i> |
| Sea Spurge | <i>Euphorbia paralias</i> | Myrsinaceae | |
| Fabaceae | | Rhodian Cyclamen | <i>Cyclamen rhodium</i> |
| Foetid Bean Trefoil | <i>Anagyris foetida</i> | Oleaceae | |
| Yellow Kidney Vetch | <i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i> | Olive | <i>Olea europaea</i> |
| Kidney Vetch | <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> | Orobanchaceae | |
| Southern Aegean Milkvetch | <i>Astragalus austroaegaeus</i> | Red Bartsia | <i>Bellardia latifolia</i> |
| | <i>Astragalus suberosus</i> | Bellardia | <i>Bellardia trixago</i> |
| European Milkvetch | <i>Astragalus hamosus</i> | Yellow Bartsia | <i>Bellardia viscosa</i> |
| | <i>Astragalus spruneri</i> | Paeoniaceae | |
| Pitch Trefoil | <i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> | Rhodian Peony | <i>Paeonia rhodia</i> |
| Spiny Broom | <i>Calicotome villosa</i> | Papaveraceae | |
| Carob | <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> | Rough Poppy | <i>Papaver hybridum</i> |
| | <i>Ebenus sibthorpii</i> | | <i>Papaver purpureomarginatum</i> |
| Thorny Broom | <i>Genista acanthoides</i> | Common Poppy | <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> |
| Spanish Restharrow | <i>Ononis hispanica</i> | Plantaginaceae | |
| | <i>Ononis viscosa</i> | Glandular Plantain | <i>Plantago afra</i> |
| Fagaceae | | Jersey Toadflax | <i>Linaria pelisseriana</i> |
| Kermes Oak | <i>Quercus coccifera</i> | Platanaceae | |
| Geraniaceae | | Oriental Plane | <i>Platanus orientalis</i> |
| Common Stork's-bill | <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> | Primulaceae | |
| Long-beaked Stork's-bill | <i>Erodium gruinum</i> | Scarlet Pimpernel | <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> |
| Lamiaceae | | Rafflesiaceae | |
| Ground Pine | <i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i> | Yellow Cytinus | <i>Cytinus hypocistis</i> |
| Hen-bit Dead-nettle | <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> | Ranunculaceae | |
| French Lavender | <i>Lavandula stoechas</i> | Balkan Anemone | <i>Anemone appenina</i> ssp. <i>blanda</i> |
| | <i>Micromeria juliana</i> | Crown Anemone | <i>Anemone coronaria</i> |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cretan Buttercup | <i>Ranunculus creticus</i> | Field Madder | <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> |
| Resedaceae | | Bristly Crosswort | <i>Valantia hispida</i> |
| White Mignonette | <i>Reseda alba</i> | Santalaceae | |
| Yellow Mignonette | <i>Reseda lutea</i> | Osyris | <i>Osyris alba</i> |
| Rafflesiaceae | | Solanaceae | |
| Yellow Cytinus | <i>Cytinus hypocistis</i> | Mandrake | <i>Mandragora officinarum</i> |
| Rosaceae | | Styracaceae | |
| Spiny Pear | <i>Pyrus spinosa</i> | Snowdrop Tree | <i>Styrax officinalis</i> |
| Spiny Burnet | <i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i> | Valerianaceae | |
| Rubiaceae | | Italian Valerian | <i>Valeriana italica</i> |

| Birds | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Common Name | Scientific Name |
| Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> |
| Short-toed Snake-Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> |
| Pallid Harrier | <i>Circus macrourus</i> |
| Long-legged Buzzard | <i>Buteo rufinus</i> |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> |
| Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> |
| Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> |
| Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> |
| Tawny Owl 🎵 | <i>Strix aluco</i> |
| Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> |
| Eurasian Scops Owl 🎵 | <i>Otus scops</i> |
| Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> |
| Alpine Swift | <i>Apus melba</i> |
| Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> |
| European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> |
| Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | <i>Merops persicus</i> |
| Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> |
| Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> |
| Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> |
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> |
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> |
| Nightingale 🎵 | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> |
| Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> |
| Stonechat | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> |
| Isabelline Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lesser Whitethroat 🎵 | <i>Sylvia curruca</i> |
| Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> |
| Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> |
| Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater</i> |
| Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> |
| Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> |
| Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> |
| Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> |
| Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> |
| House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> |
| Linnet | <i>Linaria cannabina</i> |
| Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> |
| Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> |
| Ortolan Bunting | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> |
| Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> |

| Butterflies | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Common Name | Scientific Name |
| Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> |
| Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> |
| Eastern Festoon | <i>Allancastris cerisy</i> |
| Eastern Bath White | <i>Pontia edusa</i> |
| Eastern Dappled White | <i>Euchloe ausonia</i> |
| Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> |
| Small Copper | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> |
| Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> |
| Geranium Bronze | <i>Cacyreus marshalli</i> |
| Long-tailed Blue | <i>Lampides boeticus</i> |
| Green-underside Blue | <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> |
| Eastern Baton Blue | <i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i> |
| Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> |
| Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> |

| Amphibians and Reptiles | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Common Name | Scientific Name |
| Green Toad | <i>Bufo viridis</i> |
| Oertzen's Rock Lizard | <i>Anatololacerta oertzeni</i> |
| Balkan Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta trilineata</i> |
| Starred Agama | <i>Laudakia stellio</i> |
| Montpellier Snake | <i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i> |

Photo Gallery

Anacamptis morio ssp. *caucasica*
© Colin S



Ophrys bomyliflora © Bob O



Ophrys colossaea © Vinny B

Anemone coronaria © Vinny B



Eastern Festoon © Dermot C

Neontinea maculata © Colin S



Empusa fasciata © Bob O



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Glebionis coronarium © Vinny B



Eastern Festoon © Colin S



Neotinea maculata © Vinny B



© Sotiris Alexiou

Arisarum vulgare © Dermot C



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© Thelma O



Sarcopoterium spinosum © Dermot C



Ophrys creutzburgii © Colin S



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Orchis italica © Vinny B



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Ophrys iricolor © Colin S



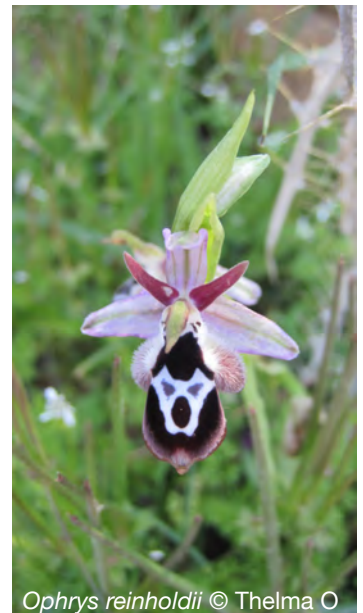
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Ophrys lucis © Colin S



Ophrys rhodia © Thelma O



Ophrys reinholdii © Thelma O



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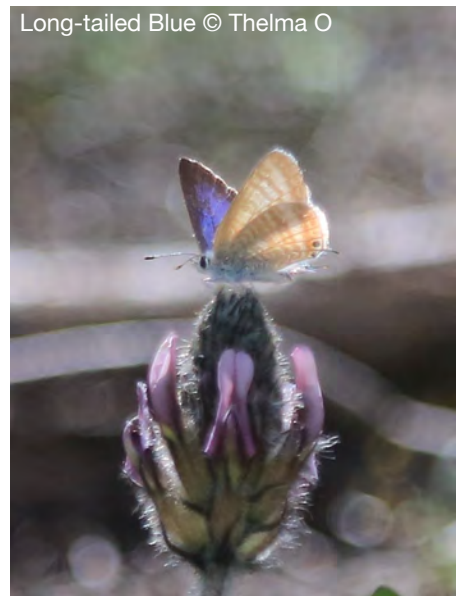
Ophrys lutea © Vinny B



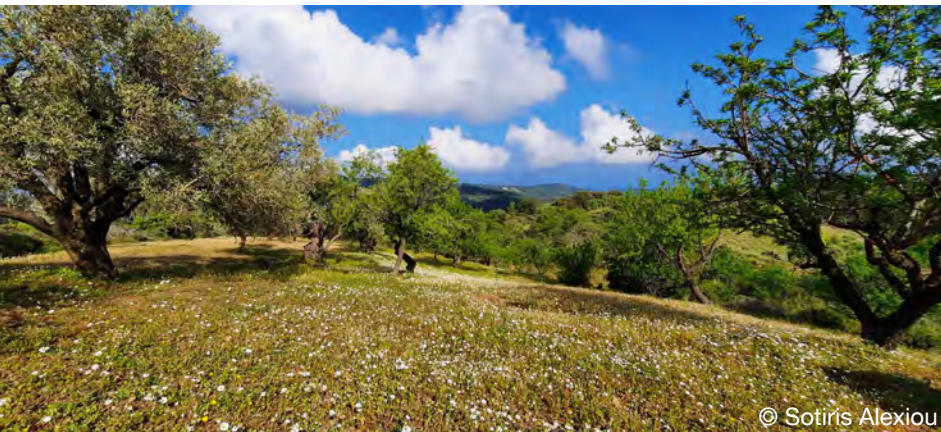
Ophrys ferum-equinum © Colin S



Serapias vomeracea © Vinny B



Long-tailed Blue © Thelma O



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Ophrys (mammosa) monolithia © Bob O



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Anacamptis pyramidalis © Dermot C



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Pseudorhiza pumila © Dermot C



Ophrys polyxo © Thelma O



Ophrys rhodia © Thelma O



Ophrys reinholdii © Vinny B



Paeonia rhodia © Thelma O



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Ophrys reinholdii © Bob O



Ophrys polyxo © Bob O



Ophrys leochroma x *Ophrys halia* © Bob O



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Ophrys rhodia © Thelma O



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Ophrys regis-ferdinandii © Vinny B



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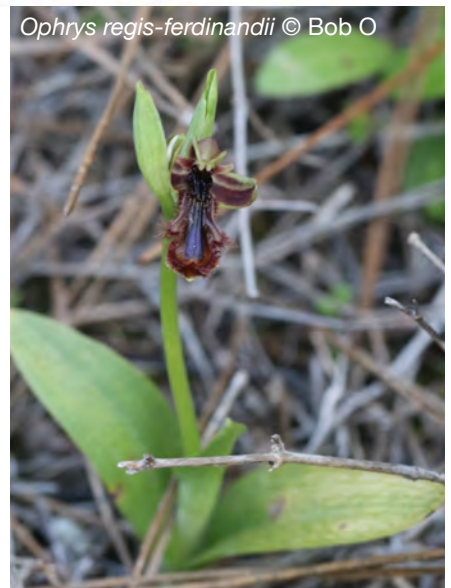
Ophrys regis-ferdinandii © Vinny B



Long-tailed Blue © Colin S



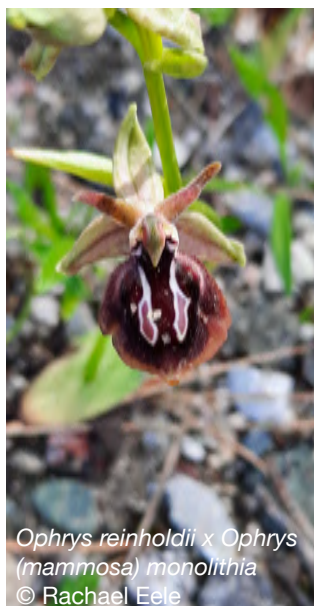
Ophrys reinholdii © Colin S



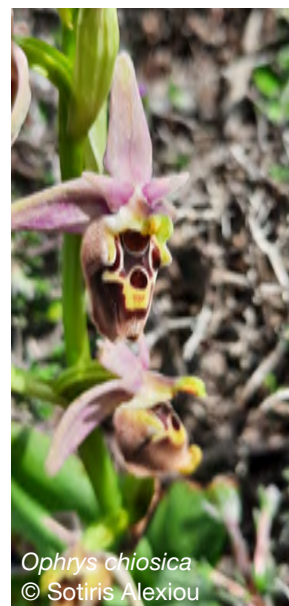
Ophrys regis-ferdinandii © Bob O



Ophrys beloniae x *Ophrys rhodia*
© Marinos Gogolos



Ophrys reinholdii x *Ophrys*
(*mammosa*) *monolithia*
© Rachael Eele



Ophrys chiosica
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