

## The Gargano

6th - 13th April 2024

Led by Paul Harcourt Davies & Lois Ferguson



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#### Day 1 - Arrival

The late afternoon arrival of the incoming flight to Bari meant reaching Monte Sant' Angelo just in time to see the glow of yellow tulips illuminated via the low angle of the sun before the final ascent to our hotel.

#### Day 2 - Below Mte Sant' Angelo

As we left our hotel in the morning, we noted the clumps of an Aubretia (*Aubrieta columnnae* subsp. *italica*) as well as the white Garden Rockcress (*Arabis caucasica*) and a few plants of

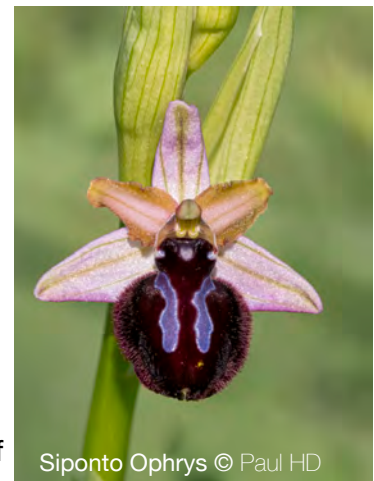


Naked Man Orchid © Ken E

Eastern Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum orientale*) growing on rocky walls of the town.

The intention was first to re-visit the tulips before travelling further west and filling the day. We left the tulips and journeyed to an extensive rough meadow for an introduction to the orchid riches of Gargano. Here there were numerous spikes of insect-mimicking orchids (*Ophrys*) masses of Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*) with several spikes of Giant Orchid (*Himantoglossum robertianum*) in good condition, along with an array of other colourful wildflowers such as the Sicilian Iris (*Iris pseudopumila*) and Dyer's Alkanet (*Alkanna lehmannii*) all plants to become familiar in the the ensuing days. Next we took the opportunity to photograph some of the spectacular wild Peonies (*Paeonia mascula*) that grow scattered on the Gargano peninsula.

Roadside stops throughout the Mediterranean region can be profitable because of the sparsity of the soil, the alkaline nature of the gravel and rubble, and the important fact they are not grazed. Numerous fascinating plants can then flourish without becoming overwhelmed by competition and soon, one such roadside, a favourite stop for many years, supplied its riches again as we took a gentle amble along a quiet country road to our picnic spot. Here we encountered the Siponto Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *sipontensis*), an impressive endemic of Gargano, with the Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*) and the Gargano Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *passionis*) amongst them. Our picnic, in a field amongst the orchids and irises was laid out on a portable table by Lois.



Siponto Ophrys © Paul HD

A spectacular species here is the endemic Twin-flowered Iris (*Iris bicapitata*) most often found in deep bluish purple but with a variety of scattered coloured forms from white through cream to yellow and bicolored light lilac blue. The rocky roadsides were adorned with



Wild Tulips © Paul Harcourt Davies

clumps of yellow Rock Alyssum (*Alyssum saxatile*) and intense blue patches of the low-growing Dyer's Alkanet (*Alkanna lehmannii*).

Suitably fortified, we walked along a local path where, in places, the ground was coloured with a innumerable spikes of the Pink Butterfly Orchid (*Anacamptis papilionacea*) growing with Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) and dwarf yellow Sicilian Irises (*Iris pseudopumila*). The particular prize was a display of Yellow Tulips (*Tulipa sylvestris*) in cultivated fields and it

did not disappoint. Numerous orchid spikes were encountered along the walk, including a number of distinct and identifiable Ophrys hybrids.

### Day 3 - Ridge walk and Monastery

The ridge leading west from Monte Sant' Angelo can prove extremely profitable for a number of the Gargano endemic orchids as well as numerous other wild flowers. There is a timeless feel about this area with stone walls built centuries ago to create small fields for grazing. On ancient walls and ruins (as well as back in the town) an Aubretia grows (*Aubrieta columnae* subsp. *italica*).

Orchids survive here, often dwarf in stature because of the exposed nature of the environment, which is often snow covered in winter. We found the Sawfly Ophrys (*Ophrys tenthredinifera* subsp. *neglecta*), the Promontori Ophrys (*O. 'promontori'*) one of a number of endemics of stabilised hybrid origin along with numerous Small Yellow Ophrys (*Ophrys lutea* subsp. *sicula*) and the ubiquitous Gargano Ophrys (*O. sphegodes* subsp. *passionis*).

Orchid species also featured with the Four-spotted Orchid (*Orchis quadripunctata*), Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*), Man Orchid (*Orchis anthropophorum*), and some faded spikes of Milky Orchid (*Neotinea lactea*). Before reaching our picnic spot where Lois was waiting with the day's spread we visited a small population of another endemic the Spectacled Ophrys (*Ophrys argolica* subsp. *biscutella*) and spikes of the yellow Few-flowered Orchid (*Orchis pauciflora*).



Apulian Orchid © Ken E



We finally reached the spectacularly placed monastery at Santa Maria di Pulsano that seems to grow out of the rocks where the cliffs are peppered with caves of hermits long dead. The view down to the Gulf of Siponto is spectacular and a walk from here always produces a number of Ophrys species including the delightful Siponto Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *sipontensis*) flowering above the gulf after which it takes its name, plus the Apulian Ophrys (*O. fuciflora* subsp. *apulica*), one of the most spectacular of its genus with comparatively large flowers.

Warm, dry areas of sparse grass always produce numbers of butterflies, even early in the year. Here we also found a number of plants regarded as Gargano endemics or near endemics including the Adriatic Bellflower (*Campanula garganica*) and the Puglian endemic Golden Drop (*Onosma helvetica* subsp. *lucana*) growing well out of reach.

### Day 4 - Southern Slopes and Woodlands

South-facing slopes of Gargano produce their first orchid flowers as early as January and February. This year, in one of the sites we visit there was a veritable forest of the Giant Fennel sheltering thousands of spikes of Ophrys and numerous other species including the Giant Orchid (*Himantoglossum robertianum*). A succession of interesting Ophrys hybrids flowers were here, several of them with *Ophrys 'bertoloniiformis'* or the Gargano Ophrys (*O. sphegodes* subsp. *passionis*) and Apulian Ophrys (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *apulica*). They are never easy to identify and required careful examination



plus informed guesswork. Among them were *Ophrys tenthredinifera* x *O. garganica*, *Ophrys tenthredinifera* x *O. bertoloniiformis* and *Ophrys tenthredinifera* x *Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *passionis*. Some species were well past their best even though we were a week earlier than usual.



Pale Birthwort © Paul Harcourt Davies

By way of a complete contrast, we then travelled up into mountain woodlands along a well-hidden track that we have known for decades. There are veritable acres of wild Poet's Narcissus (*Narcissus poeticus*) growing with Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), two species of anemone the blue or white Apennine Anemone (*A. apennina*) and the pink Broad-leaved Anemone (*A. hortensis*). Of course, there were orchids such as yellow Roman Orchid (*Dactylorhiza romana*)... and also a couple of species of Birthwort (*Aristolochia pallida* and *A. longa*) with a carpet of Gargano pansies (*Viola merxmulleri*).

After the picnic, our group walked on hoping to see the Southern Festoon butterflies (*Zerynthia polyxena cassandra*) whose food plants (Birthworts) were in evidence, but the temperature was on the cool side: a couple of individuals were seen but they did not settle. One surprising find was the magenta form of the Elder-flower Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*) whereas in previous years we have only found the yellow form. Displays of the Gargano Violet (*Viola merxmulleri*), a variable wild pansy, in plain blue, white and yellow and in bicoloured forms. were just beginning which would peak in the coming weeks to create a colourful carpet with anemones.

We arrived back in Monte Sant' Angelo in time for people to visit the fascinating complex of the rock church where the Archangel Michael conveniently appeared at times of religious doubt spreading in the populace. It is a spectacular site and atmospheric place, even for the non-religious.

## Day 5 - Transfer to Peschici

This was the day to transfer to our next base on the other side of the peninsula at Peschici. We never waste a day and this was planned to be a full one with stops en-route. There is a particular area of stony ground that we always visit where the abundance of individuals and sheer variety of species of wild orchid is astonishing. We met a few of those that have become familiar friends from previous days such as Pink Butterfly Orchid (*Anacamptis papilionacea*) and Green winged Orchid (*A. morio*) as well as some hybrids between them (*Anacamptis x gennarii*). There were many more Four-spotted Orchids (*Orchis quadripunctata*), Few-flowered Orchid (*Orchis pauciflora*) and also the Spectacle Ophrys (*Ophrys argolica* subsp. *biscutella*) as well as other taxa including Bumblebee Orchids (*Ophrys bombyliflora*) and the Burnt Orchid (*Neotinea ustulata*). Hundreds of spikes of Naked Man (*Orchis italica*) and Man Orchids (*O. anthropophorum*) flowered in the rocky terrain and so we searched for (and found!) a few spectacular hybrids between them (*Orchis x bivonae*).



*Anacamptis x gennarii* © Ken E

Close by there are dry open woods of Downy Oak with a rich ground flora of numerous wild Narcissus (*N. poeticus*), growing with yellow Roman Orchids (*D. romana*), Birthworts (*A. pallida* and *A. longa*) Anemones and Eastern Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum orientale*).

The picnic was set on a couple of tables in a deserted picnic site. We were later able to visit an ancient watering hole which had been colonised by water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*) and, in muddy patches tainted with animal droppings, there were small groups of Mazarine Blue butterflies feasting on the mineral cocktail.

Coralroot Bittercress © Paul Harcourt Davies



We took the opportunity to see the very early-flowering species in the latest flowering site we know. This is the Archipelago Ophrys (*Ophrys 'archipelago'*) another endemic of hybrid origin and there were just two or three spikes with flowers: this year it was well past flowering everywhere else. We continued our journey mid-afternoon to the heights through the magnificent beechwood of the Forest Umbra and then down to the northern coast with inevitable stops on the way...for Coralroot Bittercress (*Cardamine bulbifera*) Ivy-leaved Bittercress (*C. plumieri*) and the orchid-like Bird-in-a-bush (*Corydalis solida*).

## Day 6 - West of Peschici

Our hotel was a very friendly place that fed us extremely well and was convenient for a walk on the beach, evening or early morning as the mood takes. Sicilian Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum siculum*) grew on the walk up to the old town, a maze of narrow streets. We set out west along the north coast, which is distinctly more verdant than the exposed slopes of the south and the flora is consequently different. The first stop revealed a number of plants of the Horned Ophrys (*Ophrys scolopax* subsp. *cornuta*) which is rare and has an extremely limited distribution in Gargano, roughly centred on the Peschici - Vieste area. It requires some finding each year, even when you know where it is and we were not disappointed. There were also a few plants of the tiny small-flowered tongue orchid (*Serapias parviflora*) and bush of Sodom Apple (*Solanum sodomaeum*) with both flower and fruit, plus Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*) in full bloom.

A chance stop a decade ago revealed a rough roadside area with numerous spikes of tongue orchid (*Serapias* sp.) including the Tongue Orchid (*Serapias lingua*), Ploughshare orchid (*S. vomeracea*) Eastern Serapias (*S. orientalis*) Bergon's Serapias (*S. bergonii*) and the Small-flowered Serapias (*S. parviflora*) plus those that defy exact description being intermediates. Amongst a large number of spikes of the Gargano Ophrys (*O. sphegodes* subsp. *passionis*) was one where the 'h' pattern on the lip had expanded to become a bluish-violet central area. Such so-called apochromic forms are occasionally encountered in Gargano.

The turning point on this route is an area where we picnic and some new orchids were encountered such as the highly variable Small-patterned (*Ophrys fuciflora* subsp. *parvimaculata*). Just by walking along a deserted roadside we encountered countless purple

Small-pattered Ophrys © Gillian E



Dense-flowered Orchid © Gillian E



Cyclamen (*Cyclamen repandum*) extending up the hillside under trees plus the distinctive Blue Gromwell (*Buglossoides pupureocaeruleum*) a rare species on limestone in the UK but frequent in Gargano. Two small, yet attractive species on this route were the small rosettes of Evax (*Evax pygmaea*) and the Southern Red Bartsia (*Parentucellia latifolia*).

The benefit of having keen-eyed observers was obvious on an afternoon wander near our picnic spot and the shout went up for a 'new' orchid species... the Dense-flowered Orchid (*Neotinea maculata*) one of the most insignificant of orchids with tiny white flowers. As a bonus, just around the corner were several stately Peony plants with fresh flowers growing amongst the rocks in the shade.

A slight detour on the return journey took us to an olive grove with numerous stately spikes of the Lady Orchid (*Orchis purpurea*)

which is restricted to a limited area in Gargano though frequent in many other parts of Italy and has reliably flowered here for over 30 years.

## Day 7 - East from Peschici to the coast

Our last full day was spent along the coast to the east of Peschici with a visit to one of the ancient fish traps, a Trabucco, a fascinating structure of wooden poles and a veritable cats cradle of wires and pulleys to facilitate the raising and lowering of nets to catch fish. They were said to have been introduced by the Phoenicians and are found around Gargano and then further north along the Adriatic coast to Pescara.

There is a rich and colourful coastal flora and also a number of orchids that survive in very harsh and dry conditions in the shelter provided by various low growing bushes. Colourful displays of a pink Campion (*Silene colorata*) with intense blue Dyer's Alkanet (*Alkanna lehmanii*), white Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*) and various yellow lotus species occurred in patches, and here and there were the low spikes of Thyme Broomrape (*Orobanche alba*) There was a remarkable display of Pink Cistus (*Cistus creticus*) along with other flowering shrubs such as the Germander (*Teucrium fruticans*) and the white flowered Prasium (*Prasium majus*) ...two species that that make up the coastal garigue with the honey-scented Spiny Spurge (*Euphorbia spinosa*) and several other shrubby species.



© Paul Harcourt Davies

A keen wind and grey skies dictated the need for a change of picnic spot which is never a problem when you know Gargano well. We took a drive inland to a picnic spot beneath the tall beech trees with tables, again deserted at this time of year, but which often has spectacular displays of wild Peonies. However the season had beaten us and they were well over.

We returned to Peschici making several stops along the way. The first was to an area devastated by fire some years ago and it is very encouraging to see how nature is once again colonising the area though the grass was already growing high and obscuring a number of orchid species including the Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*) and several Tongue Orchids (*Serapias* sp.) plus Rosy Garlic (*Allium roseum*).

Just out of curiosity, we stopped near a lane that had once led to a rich orchid site which provided a great introduction to the wealth of species for which Gargano is justifiably famed. Then came a devastating coastal fire and the area was used as nothing more than a rubbish tip. For the first time in a number of years there were some delightful orchids flowering....the Apulian ophrys (*O. fuciflora* subsp. *apulica*), Naked Man Orchid (*Orchis italica*), additionally, several Cleopatra butterflies (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*) were on the wing and a very considerate Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*) posed patiently for photographs. We were very grateful throughout the trip for the butterfly expertise of Gillian and Ken. Gillian also recorded and submitted records in real time, a great example of citizen science at work collecting important distribution and flight data in an area not previously well covered.



Scarce Swallowtail © Paul Harcourt Davies

## Day 8 Time to go home

An afternoon flight meant that we could take our time to get to Bari Airport with some stops that, in previous years, have been made on arrival day. This was, to all intents and purposes, an extra day. We set off from Peschici taking a road to Mattinata with a short walk via Mte Saraceno where all three Cistus species grew in colourful cliff-side display...white Sage-leaved Cistus (*Cistus*

*salviifolius*), Narrow-leaved Cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*) with the Pink Cistus (*C. creticus*) and Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*).



We travelled down to coast past the Salinas (saltpans) of Santa Margherita di Savoia reported to be the largest in Italy dating from Roman times and reputedly the most ancient in Europe. The bird fauna attracted here is spectacular and, with several stops en route we were able to get good views and photographs of White Storks, Flamingos, Black-winged Stilts, Avocets and a number of waders. There were also Lesser Kestrel and several sightings of distant Harriers. Extensive fields of brightly coloured mixes of yellow Crown Daisies and intense scarlet Poppies provided a final flourish.

We arrived safely at Bari Airport where our group departed, some returning to the UK and others staying on a few days. Leaders Paul and Lois began their journey home to Umbria for just one full day and then back to Rome again, flying this time to Sicily for the next Greenwings Holiday.

## Systematic Species Lists

Plants (not including Orchids) ☆ denotes endemic or near endemic species.		
	Scientific Name	Common Name
	Dicotyledons	
	<b>Aceraceae</b>	
1	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
2	<i>Acer opalus</i> ssp. <i>obtusatum</i>	Neapolitan Maple
	<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	
3	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Lentisk
4	<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Terebinth
	<b>Apiaceae</b>	
5	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
6	<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	Laserwort
7	<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	Orlaya
8	<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
9	<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders
10	<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean Hartwort
	<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>	
11	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Common Holly
	<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>	

12	<i>Aristolochia pallida</i>	Pale Birthwort
13	<i>Aristolochia lutea</i>	Yellow Birthwort
14	<i>Aristolochia rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Birthwort
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
15	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
16	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian Thistle
17	<i>Crepis rubra</i>	Pink Hawksbeard
18	<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Eastern Leopard's-bane
19	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	Evax
20	<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Yellow Crown Daisy
21	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Daisy
22	<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	Curry Plant
23	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's Ear
24	<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	Pig Chicory (Italian)
25	<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire
26	<i>Inula verbascifolia</i>	Mullein-leaved Inula
27	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Chamomile
28	<i>Reichardia picroides</i>	Common Brighteyes
29	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
30	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Smooth Golden Fleece
31	<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	Prickly Golden Fleece
<b>Betulaceae</b>		
32	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Eastern Hornbeam
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
33	<i>Alkanna lehmanii</i>	Dyer's Alkanet
34	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
35	<i>Buglossoides pupureocaeruleum</i>	Blue Gromwell
36	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's Tongue
37	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss
38	<i>Onosma helvetica</i> ssp. <i>lucana</i> ☆	Pale Golden Drop
39	<i>Pulmonaria montana</i>	Mountain lungwort
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		

40	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
41	<i>Alyssoides sinuata</i>	Alyssoides
42	<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>	Yellow Alyssum
43	<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Caucasian Rock Cress
44	<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rock Cress
45	<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Tower Cress
46	<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rock Cress
47	<i>Aubrieta columnae</i> subsp. <i>italica</i>	Aubretia of Colonna (Italian)
48	<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Buckler Mustard
49	<i>Bunias erucago</i>	Corn Rocket
50	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot Bittercress
51	<i>Cardamine graeca</i>	Greek Billeri
52	<i>Cardamine plumieri</i>	Ivy-leaved Bittercress
53	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad
54	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress
55	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum
56	<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	Turnipweed
57	<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
58	<i>Campanula garganica</i> ☆	Adriatic Bellflower
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
59	<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Danewort
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
60	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Coloured Campion (Italian)
61	<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly
62	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
63	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
64	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
65	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
66	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus
67	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus

68	<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink Cistus
69	<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White Rock Rose
70	<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>	Hoary Rockrose
71	<i>Tuberaria guttatum</i>	Spotted Rock Rose
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>		
72	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
73	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Giant Bindweed
74	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
75	<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>	Spanish Stonecrop
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
76	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
77	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge
78	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge
79	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
80	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glauous Spurge
81	<i>Euphorbia spinosa</i>	Spiny Spurge
82	<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Upright Myrtle Spurge
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
83	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch (red form, ssp. <i>praepropera</i> )
84	<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil, Bitumen Pea
85	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
86	<i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Broom
87	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch
88	<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna
89	<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	Red Vetchling
90	<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	Grey Birdsfoot Trefoil
91	<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Birdsfoot Trefoil
92	<i>Lotus ornithopodioides</i>	Clustered Birdsfoot Trefoil
93	<i>Onobrychis aequidentata</i>	A Sainfoin

94	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wild Pea
95	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
96	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Star Clover
97	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Subterranean Clover
98	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch
99	<i>Vicia melanops</i>	Black-eyed Vetch
100	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Hairy Vetch
	<b>Fagaceae</b>	
101	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
102	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
103	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
	<b>Gentianaceae</b>	
104	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort (leaves only)
	<b>Geraniaceae</b>	
105	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill
106	<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mediterranean Storksbill
107	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Cranesbill
108	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's Foot Cranesbill
109	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin
110	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Cranesbill
111	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill
	<b>Globulariaceae</b>	
112	<i>Globularia punctata</i>	Widow of the Meadows
	<b>Lamiaceae</b>	
113	<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Rock Thyme
114	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine
115	<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	Bifid Deadnettle (Italian)
116	<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large Red Deadnettle
117	<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium, White Hedge-nettle
118	<i>Salvia argentea</i>	Silver Sage
119	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
120	<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Tree Germander

	<b>Linaceae</b>	
121	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
122	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax
123	<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax
	<b>Malvaceae</b>	
124	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
	<b>Moraceae</b>	
125	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
	<b>Oleaceae</b>	
126	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash
127	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
	<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	
128	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
129	<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape
130	<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Clove-scented Broomrape
131	<i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Bean Broomrape
132	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Red Bartsia
	<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	
133	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup
	<b>Paeoniaceae</b>	
134	<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Male Peony
	<b>Papaveraceae</b>	
135	<i>Corydalis densiflora</i>	Dense-flowered Corydalis
136	<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush
137	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory
138	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory
139	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	Rough Poppy
140	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
	<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	
141	<i>Antirrhinum siculum</i>	Sicilian Snapdragon
142	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
143	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's Horn Plantain

144	<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Mediterranean Plantain
145	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea Plantain
146	<i>Plantago serraria</i>	Toothed Plantain
147	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell
<b>Polygalaceae</b>		
148	<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Nice Milkwort
149	<i>Polygala venulosa</i>	A Milkwort
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
150	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel (blue and red forms)
151	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Ivy-leaved Sowbread (leaves only)
152	<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
153	<i>Anemone apennina</i>	Apennine Anemone
154	<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	Broad-leaved Anemone
155	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Common Water-Crowfoot
156	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
157	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
158	<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Milfoil Buttercup
159	<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>	Fan-leaved Buttercup
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
160	<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette
161	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Yellow Mignonette
162	<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>		
163	<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Crown of Thorns
<b>Rosaceae</b>		
164	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
165	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
166	<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved Pear
167	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
168	<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Holy Bramble
169	<i>Poterium verrucosum</i>	Mediterranean Salad Burnet

170	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
171	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
172	<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
173	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Common Madder
174	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>		
175	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage
	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage
176	<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	
177	<i>Verbascum niveum</i>	Gargano mullein
178	<i>Verbascum undulatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
179	<i>Solanum sodomium</i>	Sodom Apple
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>		
180	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel
<b>Urticaceae</b>		
181	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory of the Wall
182	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle
<b>Valerianaceae</b>		
183	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<b>Violaceae</b>		
184	<i>Viola merxmulleri</i>	Gargano Pansy
185	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet
Monocotyledons		
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>		
186	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Wild Leek
187	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples Garlic
188	<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic
189	<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Poet's Narcissus
190	<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Polyanthus Narcissus
<b>Araceae</b>		

191	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl (leaves only)
192	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Arum
193	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Wild Arum
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
194	<i>Crocus neapolitanus</i>	Neapolitan Crocus (leaves only)
195	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus
196	<i>Iris bicapitata</i>	Twin-headed Iris
197	<i>Iris pseudopumila</i>	Sicilian Iris
198	<i>Iris tuberosa</i>	Widow Iris (Seed pods only)
199	<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Sand Crocus
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
200	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Wild Asparagus
201	<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel
202	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Summer Asphodel
203	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel
204	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
205	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth
206	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
207	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax
208	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom
209	<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	Wild Tulip

<b>Orchids</b> ☆ denotes endemic or near endemic species.	
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid (formerly <i>Orchis papilionacea</i> )
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid (in rich colour variety)
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> subsp. <i>saccata</i>	(spotted leaves only)
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>	Roman Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flower Orchid (mainly yellow form, also a single magenta flower spike)

<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid (leaves only)
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid (formerly <i>Barlia robertianum</i> )
<i>Neotinea lactea</i>	Milky Orchid (formerly <i>Orchis lactea</i> )
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid
<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	Burnt or Burnt-tip Orchid (formerly <i>Orchis ustulata</i> )
<i>Ophrys 'archipelagi'</i> ☆	Archipelago Ophrys (formed from stable hybrids)
<i>Ophrys argolica subsp. biscutella</i> ☆	Shield or Spectacle Ophrys
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i> ☆	Bertoloni's Ophrys
<i>Ophrys 'bertoloniiformis'</i> ☆	Bertoloni-like Ophrys (stabilised hybrid origin)
<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	Bumblebee Ophrys
<i>Ophrys fuciflora subsp. apulica</i>	Apulian Ophrys
<i>Ophrys fuciflora subsp. parvimaculata</i>	Small-patterned Ophrys
<i>Ophrys fusca subsp. lojaconi</i>	Dull Ophrys
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Ophrys
<i>Ophrys lutea subsp. sicula</i>	Small-flowered Yellow Ophrys
<i>Ophrys 'promontori'</i> ☆	Promontory Ophrys (stabilised hybrid origin)
<i>Ophrys scolopax subsp. cornuta</i>	Horned Ophrys
<i>Ophrys sphegodes subsp. atrata</i>	Dark Ophrys
<i>Ophrys sphegodes subsp. passionis</i>	Gargano Ophrys (a.k.a <i>Ophrys garganica</i> )
<i>Ophrys sphegodes subsp. sipontensis</i> ☆	Siponto Ophrys
<i>Ophrys sphegodes subsp. sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Ophrys sphegodes subsp. tarquinia</i>	
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera subsp. neglecta</i>	Neglected Orchid
<i>Orchis anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid (formerly <i>Aceras anthropophorum</i> )
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid
<i>Orchis pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid

<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>	Four-spotted Orchid
<i>Serapias apulica</i>	Puglian Tongue Orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid
<i>Serapias orientalis</i>	Eastern Serapias
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Serapias
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Ploughshare Orchid
<b>Hybrids (Those for which positive ID is possible)</b>	
<b>Parents</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> x <i>A. papilionacea</i>	<i>Anacamptis</i> x <i>gennari</i>
<i>Ophrys speculum</i> x <i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	
<i>Ophrys bertoloniformis</i> x <i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	<i>O. x lupiae</i>
<i>O. biscutella</i> x <i>O. bertoloniformis</i>	<i>O. x permutata</i>
<i>Ophrys speculum</i> x <i>O. sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>garganica</i>	
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> x <i>O. bertoloniiiformis</i>	
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> x <i>O. bombyliflora</i>	
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i> x <i>O. garganica</i>	
<i>Orchis anthropophorum</i> x <i>Orchiis italica</i>	<i>Orchis</i> x <i>bivonae</i>

Names follow the scheme currently set out in **Field Guide to the Orchids of Europe and the Mediterranean** Paperback by [Rolf Kuhn](#) (Author), [Henrik Pedersen](#) (Author), [Phillip Cribb](#) (Author).

- 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.
- 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 though many authors in Europe hang on to ‘holoserica’ a recent papers suggest the latter has precedence.

<b>Butterflies &amp; Moths</b>			7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th
			April	April	April	April	April	April	April
Sightings are marked with a ✓			Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Butterflies</b>									
<b>Family Papilionidae</b>									
1	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>			✓				
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓
3	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
<b>Family Pieridae</b>									
4	Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
5	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
6	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓	✓			✓	
7	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓				✓		
8	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>						✓	
9	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓				
10	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>						✓	
11	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓
12	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
<b>Family Lycaenidae</b>									
13	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	✓	✓					✓
14	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
15	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓				✓	
16	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>				✓			
17	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		✓					
18	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓			✓		
19	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
<b>Family Nymphalidae</b>									
20	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>			✓				
21	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>			✓				
22	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓		✓			✓	
23	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓					
24	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	✓		✓				
25	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
26	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
27	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓		✓	

	Family <b>Hesperiidae</b>								
28	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>			✓				
<b>Moths</b>									
	Family <b>Arctiinae</b>								
1	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>		✓	✓				
	Family <b>Sphingidae</b>								
2	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓						

<b>Birds</b> seen and heard included	
Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Greater Flamingo
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Eagle
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Marsh Harrier
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel
<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt
<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear
<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Stonechat
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Sardinian Warbler
<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler

## Photo Gallery



Sand Crocus © Paul Harcourt Davies



Lady Orchid © Gillian E



© Paul Harcourt Davies



Wall © Paul Harcourt Davies



Male Peony © Gillian E

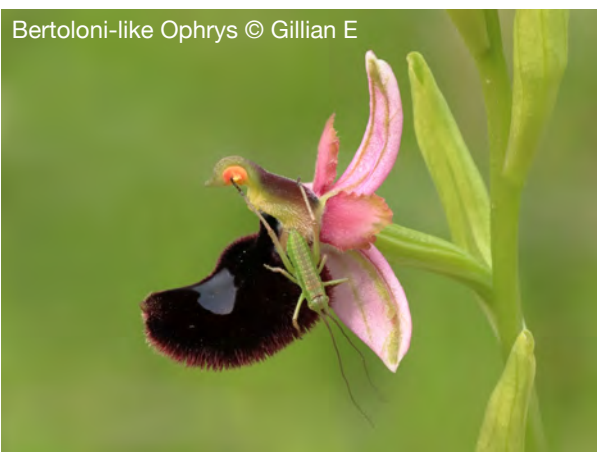
Italian Wall Lizard © Paul Harcourt Davies



Swallowtail © Ken E



Bertoloni-like Ophrys © Gillian E



Greater Flamingos © Ken E

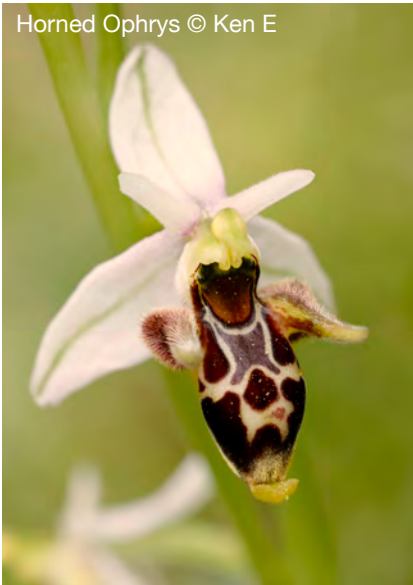




Eastern Bath White © Paul Harcourt Davies



Sodom Apple © Paul Harcourt Davies



Horned Ophrys © Ken E



Male Peony © Paul Harcourt Davies



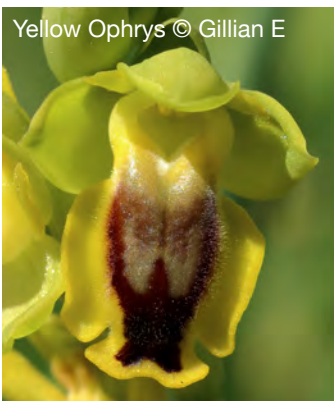
Apulian Ophrys © Gillian E



Eastern Leopard's-bane © Paul Harcourt Davies



Swallowtail © Gillian E



Yellow Ophrys © Gillian E



Dull Ophrys © Ken E



© Paul Harcourt Davies



Gargano Ophrys apochromatic form  
© Paul Harcourt Davies



Aubretia of Colonna © Paul Harcourt Davies



Grape Hyacinth © Gillian E



Adonis Blue © Gillian E



Green-winged & Pink Butterfly Orchids © Paul Harcourt Davies



© Paul Harcourt Davies



Blue Cromwell & Bee-fly © Paul Harcourt Davies



Rose Chafer © Paul Harcourt Davies



Sawfly Orchid © Ken E



© Paul Harcourt Davies



Four-spotted Orchid © Ken E



Apuglian Tongue Orchid  
© Paul Harcourt Davies



Gargano Ophrys © Gillian E



Wild Tulip © Ken E



Dense-flowered Orchid © Ken E



Green-winged Orchid © Ken E



Sheild or Spectacle Ophrys © Gillian E



Pink Butterfly Orchid © Ken E



*Orchis x bivonae* © Gillian E

Horned Ophrys © Gillian E



Man Orchid © Gillian E



Burnt-tip Orchid © Gillian E



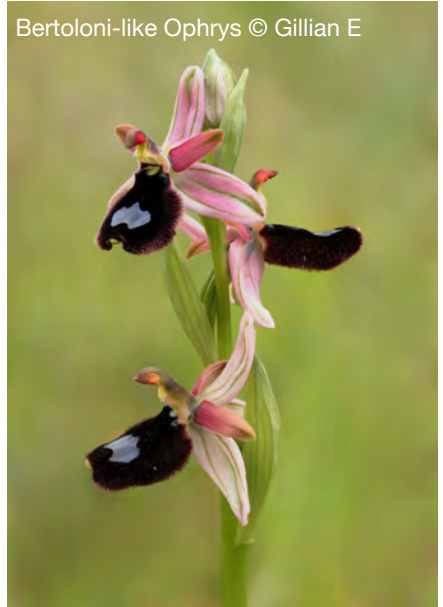
Giant Orchid © Paul Harcourt Davies



Twin-headed Iris © Gillian E



Bertoloni-like Ophrys © Gillian E



Few-flowered Orchid © Ken E



Tongue Orchid © Gillian E



Roman Orchid © Gillian E



*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *tarquinia*  
© Ken E



Elder-flower Orchid  
© Paul Harcourt Davies



Dark Ophrys © Ken E