

Botanical excursions to autumnal Corfu (Greece)

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Introduction

- Corfu is located in the Ionian Sea, the island lies near the coast of Epirus and Albania. The surface of the island amounts to some 590 km².
- Corfu, the green island, is the wettest place of Greece. The annual precipitation is about 1.100 mm. Due to the high rainfall, Corfu is worth also to be visited in autumn for the purpose of geobotanical excursions. All pictures are made in october 2009.
- The natural vegetation of Corfu is dominated by oak woods. Today the lower zones are covered by olive groves. The Venetians convinced the Corfiots to plant olive trees after the devastation of the woods. The number of olive trees is estimated today to 2.5 - 3 millions. The flora of the olive groves is very diverse. The total flora of Corfu comprises some 1.410 species (Borkowsky 1994).



Olea europaea (Oleaceae) and Cupressus sempervirens f. sempervirens
(Cupressaceae)

A close-up photograph of an olive tree branch. The branch is covered with numerous small, green olives in various stages of ripeness. Interspersed among the olives are long, narrow, dark green leaves with distinct veins. The lighting highlights the texture of the leaves and the smooth surface of the olives.

Olea europaea (Oleaceae)



Collecting olives by net



Cyclamen europaeum (Primulaceae)



Arum italicum (Araceae), Parietaria judaica (Urticaceae) and Hedera helix (Araliaceae)



Calamintha sylvatica (Lamiaceae)



Bellis sylvestris (Asteraceae)



Calamintha nepeta (Lamiaceae)



Ficus carica (Moraceae)



Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis (Fagaceae)

Quercus coccifera (Fagaceae)



Quercus pubescens (Fagaceae)





Arbutus unedo (Ericaceae)



Pistacia lentiscus (Anacardiaceae)



Ephedra campylopoda (Ephedraceae)



Ephedra campylopoda (Ephedraceae)



Smilax aspera (Smilacaceae)



Myrtus communis (Myrtaceae)



Paliurus spina-christi (Rhamnaceae)



Erica manipuliflora (Ericaceae)



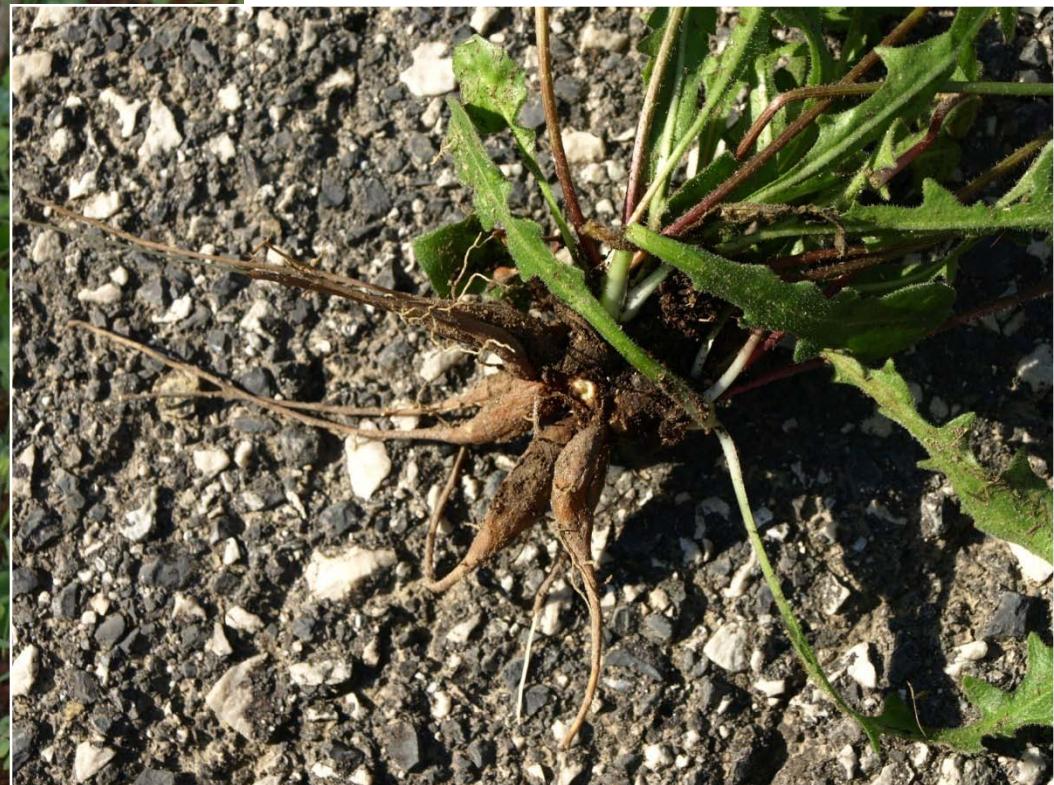
Asparagus acutifolius (Asparagaceae)

A close-up photograph of a flowering plant, identified as Coridothymus capitatus. The plant features slender, light green stems with small, pointed, dark green leaves. At the tips of the stems are clusters of small, tubular, two-lipped flowers in a vibrant shade of pink. A single fly is visible on one of the flower clusters, providing a sense of scale. The background is blurred, showing more of the plant's structure.

Coridothymus capitatus (Lamiaceae)



Leontodon tuberosus
(Asteraceae)





Colchicum cupanii (Colchicaceae)



Colchicum haynaldii (Colchicaceae)

A close-up photograph of several white Crocus boryi flowers. The flowers have six petals each, with prominent red stamens extending from the center. The background is dark green foliage.

Crocus boryi (Iridaceae)



Spiranthes spiralis (Orchidaceae)



Sternbergia lutea (Amaryllidaceae)



Urginea maritima (Hyacinthaceae)



Campanula versicolor (Campanulaceae)



Asplenium ceterach (Aspleniaceae)



Arundo donax (Poaceae)



A close-up photograph of several yellow flower heads of the plant *Dittrichia viscosa*. The flowers are arranged in a branched inflorescence. Each flower head consists of numerous small, yellow, pointed petals surrounding a central cluster of brown, protruding stamens. Some flowers are fully open, while others are still green buds. The background is a dark, neutral color.

Dittrichia viscosa (Asteraceae)

A close-up photograph of a plant identified as Echinophora spinosa. The plant features several green, spiny stems that branch out. At the ends of these branches are clusters of small, white, star-shaped flowers arranged in a umbelliferous pattern. The spines on the stems are sharp and pointed, giving the plant a prickly appearance.

Echinophora spinosa (Apiaceae)

A close-up photograph of a Euphorbia peplis plant. The plant has thick, fleshy, green leaves with distinct red mottling or spots. It features thick, reddish-pink stems and small, rounded, pale yellow-green flowers or fruit clusters. The overall texture is succulent and somewhat sprawling.

Euphorbia peplis (Euphorbiaceae)



Glaucium flavum (Papaveraceae)



Crithmum maritimum (Apiaceae)

The image shows a dense, sprawling plant community dominated by Atriplex portulacoides. The plants have a low-growing, prostrate habit with many small, green, oval leaves. Interspersed among them are taller, more upright plants with long, thin, yellowish-green spike-like flowers. The overall texture is somewhat weedy and scrubby, typical of coastal vegetation.

Atriplex portulacoides (Chenopodiaceae)



Inula crithmoides (Asteraceae)

A close-up photograph of a flowering plant, identified as Otanthus maritimus. The plant has a dense, sprawling growth habit with numerous thin, greyish-green stems. At the ends of these stems are clusters of small, rounded flower heads. Some flower heads are fully open, showing a bright yellow center surrounded by white, papery bracts. Others are still in bud form. The overall texture is somewhat silvery due to the color of the leaves and the way the light reflects off the surfaces.

Otanthus maritimus (Asteraceae)

Literature

- Borkowski, O. (1994): Übersicht der Flora von Korfu. – Braunschweig, 202 p. (Braunschweiger Geobotanische Arbeiten, 1.)
- Chilton, L. (1996): Provisional plant list for Corfu. – Retford, 24 p.
- Strid, A. & Tan, Kit (1997 -): Flora Hellenica. Vol. 1 - . – Königstein.
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