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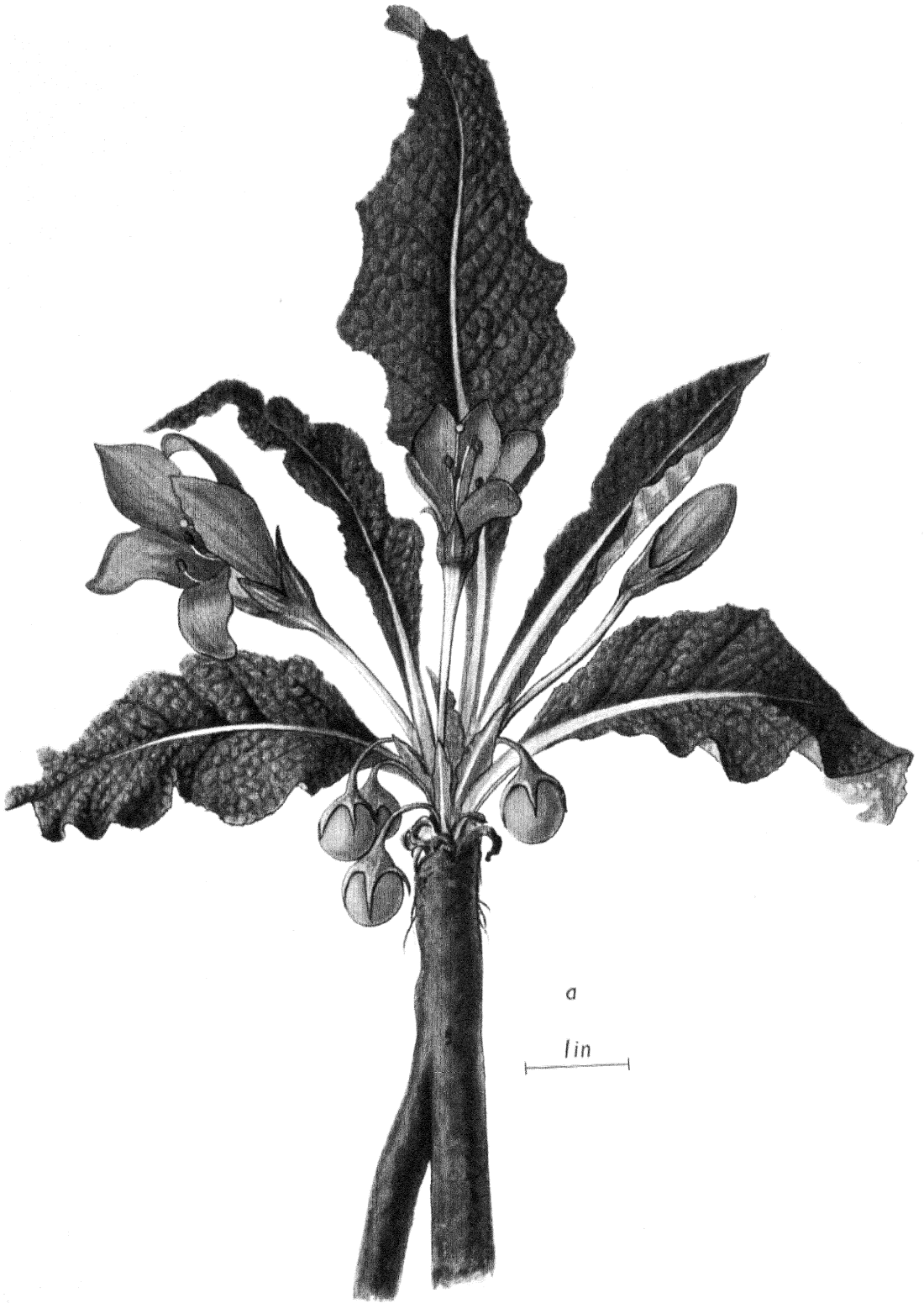
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WILD FLOWERS OF ATTICA



Mandragora autumnalis Bertol

WILD FLOWERS OF ATTICA



BY THE LATE

SHIRLEY CLIFFORD ATCHLEY, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Illustrated with coloured plates by W. O. Everett

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY

W B TURRILL, D.Sc., F.L.S.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1938

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
AMFEN HOUSE 1 C 4
LONDON EDINBURGH GLASGOW NEW YORK
TORONTO MELBOURNE CALCUTTA BOMBAY
CALCUTTA MADRAS
HUMPHREY MILFORD
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

FOREWORD

THIS book contains, although only partially, the fruit of one of the loves of Shirley Atchley, which were several and yet one, for who that knew him can make any separation in thought between the wild flowers of Greece, its mountains, and its people? People, mountains, flowers, he knew them all as no other man has ever known them, and he loved them as an indivisible whole. He was a single-hearted being, if there ever was, and it was his single-heartedness, his utter simplicity and innocence that, by some indefinable magic, made this lover of wild things a botanist, and, by the same token, this student of Greece, her people and her history the shrewdest of political advisers to a long series of diplomatic representatives.

I am privileged, as the last of that succession who worked with him, to say a word here in his memory. The value of his official work must, from the nature of the case, remain unknown to the public and unassessed. But this much may be said, that he brought to it the same patient and loving care, the same power of precise and individual observation, that these pages show in another field. And it is probably in this field that he would like best to be remembered. How often, as I walked with him on the hills of Attica and stopped with him to look for specimens or to lament the destruction of woodland, have I heard him wish that beauty might be saved, if need be by the extermination of the whole human race! So great was the love of wild things in this kindest of men, who could look on no man as his enemy.

SYDNEY WATERLOW

BRITISH LEGATION, ATHENS, 1938

NOTE

TO all those friends of my Father whose generous response has enabled his book to appear I am deeply grateful, and in particular to Miss Dorothy Lowe, without whose sympathetic initiative, unfailing patience, and constant labour no publication would have been possible

Dr W B Turrill places all readers of the book, as well as myself, under a debt of gratitude for giving freely of his time and expert knowledge in arranging and editing it

I should also like to express my sincerest thanks to Sir Arthur Hill whose support and advice were invaluable, to Dr David Russell who so generously gave the paper for the letterpress, and to the Oxford University Press for their courtesy and kindness throughout

ISMENE DIXON

ROME, 1938.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

IN undertaking to edit the manuscript of the late Mr S C Atchley and the coloured plates made under his direction by Mr W O Everett of Athens, all the property of Mr Atchley's daughter, Mrs Dixon, I accepted a pleasant, though somewhat time-consuming task. Owing a great deal to Atchley, both for the help he willingly gave me in my studies on the flora of the Balkan Peninsula and as a member of the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, I could do no more than assist in the publication of this memorial volume to the best of my limited ability. It is not easy to edit a friend's manuscript, especially when it is known that the writer intended to do much more to it before having it published. Certain alterations have had to be made, for the sake of uniformity and accuracy, but as nearly as possible the brief accounts of the plants are as Atchley wrote them. Many of them convey something of his whimsicality and love of humour. Botanically they are often valuable because they give the observations of a keen field botanist. In reading them one feels that he not only knew his plants by name but understood them in a subtle sense which words cannot express. Some of the plates published had no letterpress, and I have ventured to write short notes for these.

A valuable feature of the text is the inclusion, for the majority of the plants, of the modern Greek name or names. Students of the Greek classics will recognize that many of these are modifications, often slight, of the names used by the ancient Greeks, especially by Theophrastus. It is of interest to note that the names in use to-day in Crete are, fairly frequently, more like those of classical times than are the names now in use in parts of the mainland. Possibly this is due to the greater admixture of the population with Slav and Albanian racial elements in the Peloponnese and northern Greece than in Crete. Some authors have even suggested that the old Greek stock became practically replaced on the mainland by invaders from the north and west in Roman and Byzantine times. This is probably a too extreme view, but a full history of plant names might well throw some light upon this subject. In a letter,

EDITOR'S PREFACE

written in 1935, Atchley expressed a hope that he would one day publish a book on modern Greek plant names.

Another reason for welcoming the publication of the manuscript is that it supplements, though actually to a very small degree, the great collections Atchley sent to Kew. Sir Arthur Hill has stated that over 4,000 sheets of his collecting are in the Herbarium here. They include several species new to science (as *Bellevalhia Atchleyi* A. K. Jackson et Turrill) and new records, as well as material filling many gaps in the Kew collections. The range of localities in his collections is remarkable and indicates his wide personal knowledge of Greece and especially of the mountains. Crete, the Peloponnese, the mountains north of the Gulf of Corinth, Epirus, Euboea, Thessaly, and parts of South Macedonia were all traversed by him and searched for plants.

The sequence followed in the text is that of Halácsy, *Conspectus florum graecae*, Lipsiae 1901-4, suppl. I, 1908, suppl. II, 1912. The names of the families are given as adopted by Halácsy, and the species standard followed is also that of this author. As few changes as possible have been made in the nomenclature used in the *Conspectus*, and where it has been necessary to adopt another name the synonym is given. As far as possible the plates follow the sequence of the text, but certain exceptions have had to be made, on the advice of the experts, because of the technical difficulties of colour printing and the need for keeping the cost within reasonable bounds.

The original coloured figures are of varying artistic and botanical merit. In making the selection the following principles have been kept in mind: to use those figures that were completed, those that were botanically and artistically the best, those for which there were manuscript notes, and those most characteristic of the Attic flora.

For assistance in preparing what it is hoped will be found to be a satisfactory index thanks are due to my wife. I also express my gratitude to Prof. R. M. Dawkins, F. B. A., M. A., for checking the Greek names, and to H. K. Airy Shaw, Esq., B. A., F. L. S., for great help in reading the proof.

W. B. TURRILL.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
KEW, SURREY
June 1938

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INTRODUCTION

By THE DIRECTOR, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

THE numerous friends of the late Shirley Clifford Atchley will welcome this volume as a memorial to a remarkable personality. The wide response to the appeal for funds to enable the coloured plates to be published is an indication of the high regard in which he was held by those who knew him in this country or in Greece. His generous assistance to botanists and horticulturists has enriched British gardens and added much to our botanical knowledge of the mountains and islands he loved so well. Atchley's knowledge of Greece was unique, not only had he a perfect mastery of the language but he covered in unconventional travel, largely on foot, a very considerable part of the country, mixing and talking with the peasants and learning to appreciate their lore and their outlook. His love of Greece can be traced back to his early school days at Bristol, and a visit to the country at the age of seventeen confirmed his affection. thenceforward Athens was his home.

In his early days in Greece he followed various occupations, as a partner in an English photographic company, for he was a very skilled photographer, a conjuror's assistant, and as a correspondent with the Greek army in Thessaly in the war of 1897, when he shared in its disastrous retreat. He was also associated with the Gresham Insurance Company, and for some time was with the Ionian Bank. His opportunity came at last when he was appointed to the post of Translator and Local Secretary at the British Legation at Athens, where for twenty-five years his unrivalled knowledge of Greece and the Greeks was of invaluable assistance to the various Ministers whom he served. He spoke and wrote Greek as well as any native of the country, and could pass for a Greek without question. This, with his remarkable knowledge of Greek politics and politicians, and the personal contacts he had with Greeks of all classes, enabled him to carry out not only his work at the Legation with conspicuous success, but also enabled him to travel where he would in the country and make careful studies of the vegetation, and large collections of the flowering plants, without let or hindrance.

INTRODUCTION

The Greeks fully appreciated his lovable, open, and unselfish character and gave him their confidence in a way few Englishmen can ever have enjoyed. Atchley was a most versatile man, as may be judged from his many activities, and was blessed with a keen and somewhat whimsical sense of humour, which endeared him to his numerous friends both in this country and in Greece, for he was always ready to help and advise the many visitors who sought his aid when visiting Athens.

It is with regard to his knowledge of the Greek flora, however, that we are particularly concerned, for he had travelled over nearly the whole of the country studying the wild flowers, and the mountains with their flowers were his spiritual refreshment. The summer holidays invariably found him in the hills living as a Greek, deeply absorbed in his botanical studies and filled with unbounded energy—though he was not a strong man—energy which he maintained until the day of his death when climbing Mt. Kyllene in the Peloponnese engaged in his favourite pursuit.

I first wrote to Atchley in 1929 and asked if, in his wanderings through Greece, he would collect and dry plants for the Kew Herbarium. His response was immediate and sustained, and there resulted as gifts to Kew a magnificent series of specimens of over 4,000 sheets, in addition to duplicates which have been presented to other institutions. The specimens were carefully collected, well dried, and nearly always abundant. They have all been mounted and laid into the Herbarium, where they form a permanent record of his botanical activities.

On his many visits to Kew we always found him a delightful conversationalist, and his amusing stories, not always botanical, included many connected with his life and experiences in Greece. He thoroughly enjoyed strolling round the Gardens, pointing out his favourite species and genera, offering to send additions, and sometimes asking for bulbs or seeds to be sent to Athens.

Atchley was a good botanist and identified many of the plants he collected, and as a result of his travels and careful observation he had acquired an exclusive knowledge of the local species which he was always ready to impart to others. No serious student ever applied to Atchley in vain. Honours he never sought, but he greatly prized the honorary degree given him by the University of Athens, and fully appreciated the honours of the C M G and O B E and that of a Knight of the Order of

INTRODUCTION

the Redeemer which were very fittingly conferred upon him His sudden death of heart failure on the evening of Saturday, June 20th, 1936, when climbing Mt Kyllene in search of plants, came as a great shock to his many friends He died, however, enjoying his favourite pursuit; a happy end to a life devoted, as his had been, to the flowers and to the country where he had made his home

He was buried on June 21st at the village of Trikala in the Peloponnese, and we like to think of him enjoying the delights of the Elysian fields and discovering the Amaranth, which has baffled the researches of the earthly botanist

‘Immortal amarant, a flower which once
In Paradise, fast by the Tree of Life,
Began to bloom, but soon for man’s offence
To Heaven removed, where first it grew, there grows
And flowers aloft, shading the Fount of Life,
And where the River of Bliss through midst of Heaven
Rolls o’er Elysian flowers her amber stream ’

We may well think of him saying on his last climb,

‘I am going to my Father’s, and tho’ with great Difficulty I have got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the Trouble I have been at to arrive where I am My Sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my Pilgrimage, and my Courage and Skill to him that can get it My Marks and Scars I carry with me, to be a Witness for me, that I have fought his Battles who now will be my Rewarder ’

ARTHUR W HILL

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE flora of Attica is one of great variety, though, owing to the wholesale destruction of the woods by fire during the last thirty years and to over-grazing by those enemies of all vegetation, the goats, and in a less degree to the increase of population, with the consequent demand for increased quantities of fuel, not a few plants are rapidly becoming rare or even extinct. But enough still remains to afford the greatest pleasure and interest to lovers of flowers.

This little book is meant for such amateurs of flowers, and not for professional botanists. As far as possible, scientific terms have been avoided. The nomenclature adopted is that to be found in Halácsy's *Conspectus florae graecae*. The references to the works of Theophrastus are taken, more or less literally, from the Loeb edition of that ancient author.

The plants chosen for illustration are, as a general rule, those which are the most typical of the vegetation of Attica, exceptions being made in the case of such as are common in England also. They, naturally, do not exhaust the interesting or beautiful species of the Attic flora, and it is proposed, should the present volume meet with favour at the hands of those for whom it is written, to follow it with a second volume.

Few bushes or trees, and no grasses or ferns have been included in the selection of plants now offered, but on the other hand, the species illustrated include a considerable number of those bulbous plants which flower during the winter and spring, the seasons when travellers most frequently visit Greece.

The illustrations are due to the brush of Mr W O Everett, of Athens, to whose merits as an artist they are sufficient witness.

ATHLNS

S C ATCHLEY

[*The above Preface is left, almost exactly, as written by Mr Atchley—Ed*]

RANUNCULACEAE

CLEMATIS CIRRHOSA L

(PLATE I a)

Necessity makes strange bedfellows, and so does the classification of plants. At first sight, no two plants could differ more than do the anemone and the clematis, yet both belong to the buttercup family. *Clematis cirrhosa* resembles some of the species of clematis cultivated in gardens rather than the 'travellers' joy' or 'old man's beard' of England. Its pale lemon yellow pendent flowers look, from a short distance, like strings of ivory bells, hanging from the bushes and rocks amid which this clematis loves to climb.

The flowers are large and hang at intervals along the branches. The leaves are of two distinct kinds, placed crosswise and growing at fairly regular intervals along the stem, one oval the other three-lobed like a duck's foot. The colour is brilliant glossy green not unlike that of the holly. The long trailing branches may be found springing through the clefts of the rocks 20 feet or more from the root. It flowers in winter months, and very often is seen peeping out through the snow drifts seeming to say that spring is not far off.

The modern Greek name for *Clematis cirrhosa* is perikokláda - a name which is given to many other creeping or trailing plants as well.

CLEMATIS FLAMMULA L

(PLATE I d)

This climbing, evergreen plant, like the 'old man's beard', is usually to be found in hedges and thickets supported by the sturdy branches of some small deciduous tree or bush. Its leaves are bipinnate and glabrous, and its creamy white and strongly scented blossoms appear in early summer. It prefers a rather damp locality, and especially the banks of rivers and ditches. Its fruits resemble those of 'old man's beard', but are more ornamental.

The modern Greek name is chelidoniá, or chelidroniá (swallow-plant).

ANEMONE CORONARIA L

(PLATE II c)

The name anemone (which should be accentuated on the third syllable) is said to be connected with the worship of the Syrian Adonis. *A coronaria*

RANUNCULACEAE

loves open spaces in the foot-hills and the sides of country tracts and paths, and it strongly dislikes the propinquity of trees. Those who are fortunate enough to see a field of these astonishingly brilliant flowers under the sun and sky of Attica, will not easily forget the sight. The colours vary from white (the earliest) through mauve and purple to the most brilliant scarlet (the latest). There is a late variety, red-wine coloured, which has not the family objection to trees. The flowers appear in some varieties as early as November, but April is the season for the finest display.

This anemone is a low-growing plant, with finely divided leaves and a tuberous root. The leaves die down in summer.

The modern Greek name is *anemone*, in Crete *paparouina*.

ANEMONE PAVONINA Lam

Three varieties of this anemone, more or less distinct, are common in Greece. The form from which it derives its name is of a deep scarlet with a large yellow eye. This and an entirely scarlet form are usually to be found in open sandy places, often under the shelter of the chaste-tree (*Vitex Agnus-castus* L.), whose leaves do not appear until after those of the anemone have died down. The variety *purpureo-violacea* is most distinct in colour and habitat, and prefers damp, shady places. The flower is of a rich mauve colour above and silvery-pink below. The leaves of all three are palmate. The mauve variety flowers in February and March, whilst the scarlet varieties do not appear until March and April. The roots of all are a roughly spherical tuber.

ANEMONE BLANDA Schott et Kty (PLATE II d)

Anemone blanda is sometimes known as the Greek anemone. It resembles *Anemone apennina* L. of Italy (and might almost be a blue edition of our own wood anemone) but is usually of a richer blue, although pale blue and even white varieties are to be found. The backs of the sepals are often of a rich purple. Unlike its sister, *Anemone coronaria*, it loves the seclusion of the woods and rocks, and it might with better reason than the violet have been chosen as the emblem of modesty. The deep blue star-like blossoms, with a pale yellow centre, appear in February and

RANUNCULACEAE

March, often from the shelter of a stunted goat-browsed bush of holly-oak or of the lentisk. The root is a rudely spherical tuber, and the leaves, which are often purple on the back, die down in May, to reappear in mid-winter.

ADONIS CUPANIANA Guss

(PLATE I *b*)

The name *Adonis* is derived from that of the favourite of Venus whose tragic end is described in Shakespeare's poem, but it is really not the flower which is fabled to have sprung from the blood of the beautiful youth slain by the wild boar. That flower was the scarlet anemone.

Adonis Cupaniana is found in cornfields and vineyards and in damp ditches. Its small scarlet blossoms appear in April and May on a branched plant about 10 inches high, the leaves of which are very finely divided into linear segments.

A yellow variety is to be found.

NIGELLA TUBERCULATA Griseb and *N. ARISTATA* S et S

These are small plants, producing, in summer, pale blue flowers, resembling those of the 'love-in-a-mist' cultivated in gardens.

They grow in fields and uncultivated ground.

Another member of the genus, *N. damascena* L., well known to gardeners as 'love-in-a-mist' or 'devil-in-a-bush', is also common in Attica. It is found in vineyards and borders of fields.

DELPHINIUM JUNCEUM DC and *D. TENUISSIMUM* S et S

(PLATE II *a* and *b*)

There are several species of *Delphinium* to be found in Attica.

D. junceum, which flowers in midsummer, is about a foot in height, with small dark blue flowers. The lower leaves are twice palmate with linear segments. It grows in vineyards and uncultivated ground.

D. tenuissimum, is, as its name implies, a delicate little plant, much branched, with small bright blue flowers and minute leaves. It is found on mountains at about 3,000 feet.

A third species, rarer than the preceding, *D. Staphisagria* L., resembles the cultivated larkspurs of gardens, with its dark blue flowers and palmate leaves.

BERBERIDACEAE

LEONTICE LEONTOPETALUM L.

(PLATE I c)

Few plants, at first sight, could be more different than the barberry and the plant here illustrated, but they belong to the same family

Leontice comes into flower in early spring From a large tuber, shaped somewhat like a Jerusalem artichoke, there springs a stem bearing a raceme of yellow flowers, like small buttercups, and glabrous leaves, resembling those of the rue, but much longer

It is to be found in fields and vineyards The seeds are contained in inflated pods

The modern Greek name is pordalás

PAPAVERACEAE

HYPECOUM GRANDIFLORUM Benth

(PLATE III c)

Hypecoum is represented in Greece by several species

H grandiflorum, despite its sonorous name, is only comparatively large flowered The flower is bright yellow and is composed of two pairs of petals, one pair being considerably larger than the other The beautiful feathery blue-green leaves are bipinnatifid, and the seed-vessel is shaped like a sickle

It grows in cornfields and on fallow ground, and flowers in April and May

The plant is mentioned by the Latin naturalist Pliny, who states that it grows in cornfields and has a leaf like the rue

HYPECOUM PROCUMBENS L.

This delicately beautiful little plant has brilliant yellow corollas composed of two large and two small petals The leaves, which are usually glaucous, are twice pinnately cleft into narrow segments The seed vessel is shaped like a sickle and divided into many compartments, each containing one seed The plant is usually more or less prostrate

Hypecoum grandiflorum differs chiefly in its larger flowers and more upright habit

PAPAVERACEAE

Both species are common, the former in sandy places, especially near the sea, and the latter in cornfields with light soil.

CORYDALIS DENSIFLORA J et C Presl

C densiflora is a small plant a few inches in height with purplish flowers, resembling those of the common fumitory, but larger. The tuber is a roundish white tub, which sends up in spring a solitary stem on which leaves and flowers are borne. The plant grows on mountain tops at altitudes of 4,000 feet and above, usually in company with *Scilla bifolia* L.

If, which seems doubtful, the identification of *Corydalis* with the *thesum* of the ancients is correct, it was used by the physicians of old as a purge.

Corydalis is said to be known in some parts of Greece as *chionístra* or *chilblain*, the origin of which appellation is not obvious.

CRUCIFERAE

MATTHIOLA BICORNIS (S et S) DC

The night-scented stock is a small plant belonging to the crucifer family, and rarely exceeding 9 inches in height. The flowers, about half the size of the wallflower, are usually of a rather dull pink, which grows lighter towards the centre. The lower leaves are lance-shaped and pinnately cleft, the upper ones linear. It flowers in April and May, and grows in vineyards, or amongst the barley or by the wayside, often in such quantity as to scent the evening breezes for a mile away. Another species, *Matthiola tristis* (L.) Boiss (with which *Matthiola bicornis* freely hybridizes), furnishes an example of a well-applied epithet, for a colour more expressive of 'sorrow and leaden-eyed despair' than its dull grey-yellow purple can scarcely be imagined.

The modern Greek name of *Matthiola bicornis* is *agrioviolétta*.

CHEIRANTHUS CHEIRI L

(PLATE III a)

The common wallflower is a native of Greece, from which country it has spread to most parts of the temperate civilized world, and in many countries it has become naturalized.

It is found on rocks and cliffs, especially near the sea, and flowers in spring

The well-known scent of the wallflower must have been developed by cultivation, for Theophrastus describes the plant as scentless. The plant was formerly employed in medicine as a diuretic and anti-spasmodic

The modern Greek name is violétta, but in ancient times it was called phlox

ERUCA SATIVA Lam

This rocket-like plant belongs to the cabbage family. Its blossom, which appears in the spring months, is very much like that of the wallflower in shape and size, but the colour is pale yellow, with violet veins. The leaves are lyrate, but very variable in shape. The plant grows to the height of from 6 to 10 inches and is very common in Attica on rubbish heaps, by the roadside, and in olive orchards and vineyards. It is eaten either cooked or raw, and used in moderation it forms a very pleasant ingredient in salad

The modern Greek name is róka, or azoúmata

CAPPARIDACEAE

CAPPARIS SICULA Duham

This plant, the buds of which are pickled and sold as capers, is described by Theophrastus, who states, wrongly, that it has spines on its leaf as well as on its stems. He adds, correctly, that it is low-growing and that it flowers in summer

The caper plant dies down every winter, but in late spring puts forth a number of shoots bearing roundly oval leaves, with two curved spines at the base of every leaf-stalk. In the species known as *C. rupestris* S et S the leaves are oval and glaucous, and the spines are lacking

The leaves of *C. sicula* are slightly hairy. The flowers of both species are composed of four large white petals, often flushed with violet or

CAPPARIDACEAE

purple, and a large number of stamens, from the midst of which protrudes the pistil. The fruit of both resembles a tiny melon, which opens out like a rosette when the seeds ripen.

C. sicula grows in dry fields and waste ground, old walls, &c., whilst *C. rupestris* is to be found on rocks, especially near the sea.

The modern Greek name is κάππαρι

CISTACEAE

CISTUS CRETICUS L.

(PLATE IV a)

The family *Cistaceae* is practically confined to the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. By some botanists considered a separate species, *Cistus creticus* is by others held to be a variety of *Cistus villosus* L. The blossom is fairly large and of a rich rose colour, a white variety, with smaller blossoms, is rare. It is very common throughout Greece and may be distinguished from its near relative, *Cistus incanus* L., by its sticky leaves and smell, both of which are due to the presence of a gum known as ladanum which was formerly much in demand for making incense for use by the Arabs. The old French traveller and botanist, Tournefort, describes the method of gathering this gum by striking or caressing the plants with a flail of leather thongs. A still older traveller, Herodotus, describes the ladanum as being collected from the beards of he-goats which browse on the cistus. The gum was formerly an important article of commerce, but has now been superseded by other preparations.

The modern Greek name of the plant is kounoúkla, but in Crete the ancient names survive as angíssaros and ladanés.

CISTUS PARVIFLORUS Lam.

Notwithstanding the rather contemptuous name applied to it by its botanical sponsor, this cist-rose is one of the most beautiful of its tribe. It forms a little bush about 2 feet high, with silvery-green, slightly woolly foliage, and flowers of a lovely pink, sometimes with a shade of salmon, about 1½ inch in diameter, appearing in spring.

It is rather local in its occurrence, but very plentiful near Mount

Pentelikon A rare hybrid between *Cistus parviflorus* and *Cistus monspeliensis* L , known as *Cistus Skanbergu* Lojac , with similar flowers but greener and more pointed leaves, is also to be found there

The modern Greek name is kounoúkla , in Crete, angíssaros

CISTUS SALVIIFOLIUS L

The sage-leaved cistus is one of the most beautiful of white-flowered shrubs It forms a small bush, about 2 or 3 feet in height, with yellow-green rough leaves which are very slightly scented The petals are dead white in colour, save for a yellow blotch at the base of the petals, and it resembles a white wild rose Like all the Greek cist-roses it rejoices in a dry well-drained soil, and the company of such plants as French lavender, Greek thyme, spring genista, &c , whose predilection is also for a dry part of Greece A distinguishing feature of the plant is its pentagonal seed capsule, which looks as if it had been pinched in at the sides

The modern Greek name is kounoúkla , in Crete, asprangíssaros

CISTUS MONSPELIENSIS L

This cist-rose covers large tracts of land in Attica, where the pine woods have been exterminated by repeated fires It is easily to be recognized by its height, which often exceeds 5 feet, its small white flowers, sticky, sessile, lance-shaped leaves, and the delicious scent which it exhales, especially in early summer The resinous gum exuded by the plant seems to protect it from the ravages of the all-devouring goat, whose by no means fastidious taste does not go so far as to include this cistus in its menu

The flowers appear in April and May , during the hot summer months the plant presents a shrivelled and forlorn appearance until the autumn rains come to refresh it

A hybrid between *Cistus monspeliensis* and *Cistus salvifolius* L is not uncommon It may be distinguished from the former by the lack of stickiness and the short-stalked leaves

The modern Greek name is kounoúkla

HELIANTHEMUM GUTTATUM (L) Mill (PLATE III *d*)

The English representative of this genus of rock-roses is *Helianthemum vulgare* Gaertn , which is a low-growing perennial plant *Helianthemum*

CISTACEAE

guttatum, on the contrary, is an erect and annual plant, usually about 6 inches in height. It bears small yellow flowers in a raceme, the petals having a dark purple base in the type, but there is a variety in which this is lacking. The plant is very variable in the size of the flower and other details.

It grows in sunny dry places from sea-level up to 4,000 feet.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

SILENE COLORATA Poir

This beautiful little *Silene* is found in abundance in fields and waste ground, especially near the sea, where, in the spring, it often forms sheets of brilliant rose-pink. The flower resembles that of the ragged robin, *Lychnis Flos-cuculi* L., but the plant usually grows only 4 or 5 inches in height. The stem is usually branched, and bears lanceolate or linear leaves on the upper part, those on the lower part of the stem being obtusely spatulate. The black seeds ripen in May. A variety grows in fields inland to a height of nearly 2 feet, but the flower of this has not the brilliance of the type.

SILENE BEHEN L

(PLATE IV *b*)

Nearly eighty species of *Silene* are to be found in Greece, and more than a quarter of the total grow in Attica.

Amongst these, *Silene Behen* is one of the commonest, and may be seen in the fields and vineyards and in waste ground in the low-lying country.

The plant grows to a height of about 2 feet. It is rather straggly, with lance-shaped bright green leaves and rose-coloured blossoms. The calyx, after flowering, becomes inflated and assumes the shape of a pear on an elongated stalk. It is not viscous as are so many of the family.

DIANTHUS PUBESCENS S et S

This pretty perennial plant is branched from the root, its leaves are linear and the branching stems bear bright rose scented flowers in the summer months. The undersides of the petals are yellow, inclined to emerald. The plant is sticky. It grows on dry hills at altitudes from 300

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

to 3,500 feet, and at the higher altitudes it may be found in flower as late as November.

The name of the plant is an abbreviation of the ancient name, diosanthos, signifying the plant of Zeus or Jupiter. In modern Greek it is known as ágrio garouphaliá

HYPERICACEAE

HYPERICUM EMPETRIFOLIUM Willd

The genus *Hypericum* contains many beautiful undershrubs, not the least among which is this dainty little plant, whose golden blossoms adorn the rocky hill-sides, often under the pine woods, in the months of May and June. The flowers are borne in a sparse pyramidal raceme, the small leaves are linear and covered with minute pellucid dots. The whole plant is much branched, and smells strongly of resin when crushed. It is usually a foot or less in height.

The modern Greek name is válsamon.

Another member of the tribe, *H. crispum* L., is very common in olive orchards and vineyards and on waste ground. It forms a pyramidal, bushy, very much branched plant, about 9 inches in height, with very small, lance-shaped leaves, spotted with black, and with minute yellow blossoms which appear in summer. This plant is called in modern Greek agoútharos, or agoúthouros.

GERANIACEAE

GERANIUM TUBEROSUM L.

According to the Latin naturalist Pliny, this geranium, which he considers the true geranium, has leaves like the anemone, but deeper cut, and a round root like an apple. It is, he adds, good for convalescents regaining strength.

The plant grows in damp fields and vineyards. The round, tuberous root grows deep down in the soil, and sends up a stem about 8 inches above ground which divides into branches bearing rosy-purple flowers about an inch in diameter. At the points where the stem divides and

GERANIACEAE

where the flower stalks spring are sessile divided leaves From the tuber there spring long stalked palmatisect leaves The whole plant is covered with small leaves

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

TRIBULUS TERRESTRIS L

(PLATE III *b*)

Among the instruments employed by our ancestors to annoy their enemies in battle was one called a caltrop, which, as the dictionary informs us, had four iron points so arranged that, three of them being on the ground, the other projects upwards Our present plant derives its name from the caltrop employed by the ancient Greeks and Romans

Our plant lies prostrate on the ground, and the leaves are paripinnate Its pretty but small yellow flowers appear in the summer and are followed by the seed-vessels which give the plant its name Nothing is more unpleasant than to step with bare feet upon one of these natural caltrops *Tribulus* is found in or near cultivated ground It retains its ancient name in a slightly altered form, trivolas, trivóli or (in Crete) strívolos and atrívolos

TEREBINTHACEAE (ANACARDIACEAE)

PISTACIA LENTISCUS L

The lentisk, or mastic-tree, as usually seen in Greece, is a bush of between 3 and 4 feet high, but occasionally it is allowed to reach a height of as many as 12 feet It is an evergreen, much branched bush, with paripinnate leaves and small greenish flowers which are borne, male and female, on separate plants The fruit is a small berry, which becomes a shiny black colour when ripe

The plant is very resinous, and in the island of Chios incisions are made in the bark, from which the well-known 'gum-mastic' is collected This gum is used in the preparation of varnish for oil paintings, and in that of the liqueur known as 'mastic' Turkish women are fond of chewing the gum, which is supposed to make the teeth white, and it is also

TEREBINTHACEAE

mixed with sugar to make a sweetmeat very popular in the Near East (mastícha).

The lentisk grows from sea-level up to an altitude of about 3,000 feet.

The modern Greek name is mastichiá

CAESALPINIACEAE (LEGUMINOSAE p.p.)

CERATONIA SILIQUA L

The carob tree loves the sun and grows on dry rocky soil. It is found in Attica and some of the neighbouring districts, and in the island of Crete it forms small woods. The tree grows to a height of over 35 feet, and possesses beautiful evergreen foliage. The leaves are paripinnate, leathery in texture, and shiny on the upper surface. The flowers are borne, male and female, on separate trees. They are insignificant in size, and greenish-yellow in colour. The long bean-like pods are black when ripe, and form the locust-beans or carobs of commerce, whilst the brown seeds are of especial interest, since they were anciently used as weights (carats, from the Greek name of the tree keration) for weighing valuable metals or stones.

The modern Greek name is xylokeratiá or kharoupiá

CERCIS SILIQUASTRUM L

(PLATE IV *d*)

The Judas-tree is a small tree, reaching from 12 to 20 feet in height, with leaves of the shape known as cordate-orbicular, that is, heart-shaped without the point at the apex of the leaf. The beautiful magenta butterfly shaped flowers, which appear before the leaves, turn the tree into a purple glory as long as they last. The foliage is also very pleasing, the bright green of the almost circular leaves contrasting well with the black branches and twigs. The Judas-tree is found all over the mainland of Greece and on the Ionian Islands, on mountain-sides, and by the banks of streams and rivers.

The modern Greek name is kótsikas

PAPILIONACEAE (LEGUMINOSAE p.p.)

SPARTIUM JUNCEUM L

(PLATE V d)

The Spanish broom or esparto grass is a bush usually between 6 and 10 feet in height, producing, on long straight branches, a raceme of large bright yellow, sweet-scented flowers. The plant, which belongs to the leguminous tribe of *Gemsteae*, bears, in spring, a few oblong-linear leaves, which soon fall off.

It grows, from sea-level to about 2,000 feet, in dry situations and on the banks of streams.

The fibres of this plant are used in some countries as a substitute for hemp in the manufacture of ropes.

The modern Greek name is spárto.

CALYCOTOME VILLOSA (Vahl) Link

(PLATE V c)

This gorse-like plant, or its equivalent in the western Mediterranean, is known as 'Tue-chèvres', or goat-destroyer—would that its reputation were rightly won—and is a bush of about 8 feet in height. It is armed with formidable spines and would make an impenetrable hedge. The rocky slopes of the hills are covered in spring with a blaze of yellow wherever the bush grows, but during the winter it is leafless. The pods containing the seeds are about an inch in length and black in colour.

The ancient name of the plant, aspalathos, survives in Crete, but is used elsewhere in Greece in corrupted forms, such as asphálaklos, sphálaktro, aspálaktro, &c.

MEDICAGO ARBOREA L

(PLATE V a)

The abundance of leguminous plants of the tribe *Trifolieae* is one of the characteristics of the Greek flora. The conditions of soil and climate appear to be very favourable to these plants, perhaps because of the bacteria-containing nodules found on their root systems. The clovers (*Trifolium*) are represented in Greece (excluding Macedonia and Thrace) by over sixty species. The medicks (*Medicago*) have between twenty and thirty species in the same area. *M. arborea*, unlike most species of the genus, is a shrub of from 1 to 4 m. in height, with pale-coloured branches.

PAPILIONACEAE

and 'heads' of golden-yellow flowers. The fruits are coiled in a single spiral, thus contrasting with those of many species in which several close coils give a resemblance to a small green concertina. It is a southern species in Greece and occurs in rocky habitats in the warmer parts.

The modern Greek name is *évenos* —*Ed*

ANTHYLLIS HERMANNIAE L.

This is a woody shrub growing up to 4 or 5 feet in height, with minute oblong-linear leaves and very small yellow, pea-like flowers appearing in April and May. It usually forms part of the undergrowth in pine woods, mixed with *Hypericum empetrifolium* Willd., *Arbutus*, thyme, *Cistus*, and other shrubs.

TETRAGONOLOBUS PURPUREUS Moench (PLATE VI *b*)

The name of this plant is derived from the curious shape of its pods, which are quadrangular in section, with four wings at the angles.

The blossoms are dark red and usually grow in pairs. They appear in March and April. The leaves are trifoliolate and the plant prostrate.

Tetragonolobus purpureus grows usually in fields and vineyards, especially near the sea.

PSORALEA BITUMINOSA L. (PLATE IV *c*)

This plant is usually about 2 feet high, branched, with blue pea-like flowers in a roundish head. The upper leaves are composed of three lanceolate leaflets. The blossoms appear in spring and summer. The seed-pods are small and contain one seed. The whole plant, when bruised, smells of bitumen —hence its name.

A variety, *Psoralea bituminosa* var. *plumosa* (Reichb.) Reichb. [var. *palaestina* (Gou.) Hal.], is a taller plant, more hairy, and with a rather larger head of florets.

It is common throughout Greece, especially in Crete.

The modern Greek name is *vromóchorito* (or stink weed) in Crete it is known as *kalosýki*.

COLUTEA ARBORESCENS L. (PLATE VII *a*)

The bladder-senna is well known in cultivation in the British Isles. Its pinnate leaves, relatively large deep yellow flowers, and above all its

PAPILIONACEAE

inflated pods, give this much-branched shrub a very characteristic appearance. It flowers in Greece from April to July, and flowers and pods are often to be seen on an individual shrub at the same time. It occurs in brushwoods, at wood-edges, and in light-canopied woods in the hill and montane altitudinal zones. The bladder-senna is not limited to Greece, but has a wide distribution in the countries around the Mediterranean Basin (S. Europe, Asia Minor, Transcaucasus, Morocco, Algeria) and also extends into southern Central Europe in more scattered localities. The leaves, and especially the seeds, are said to be poisonous when eaten in quantity, and the leaves have for at least several centuries been used as a substitute for senna, but are said to have only a weak purgative effect. Modern Greek names are *phoúska* and *agriosinamiké* —*Ed*

ASTRAGALUS SPRUNERI Boiss

It is stated that there are over a thousand species of *Astragalus* known to botanists. Fortunately, they do not all grow in Attica, as otherwise there would be no room for any other plant. As it is, Attica possesses but nine species, of which the most common is *A. Spruneri*, a prostrate plant, some 6 or 7 inches long, with leaves comprising from five to twelve pairs of leaflets, producing in spring a head of flowers of a rather dirty red colour which, at first glance, might be taken for a honeysuckle.

Our species is found on dry, stony ground at low altitudes. The seeds are contained in a curved pod about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long.

CORONILLA EMEROIDES Boiss et Sprun (PLATE V b)

The species of *Coronilla* are mostly herbaceous, but some members of the genus, including that here illustrated, are small shrubs.

Coronilla emeroides, as is implied by its name, resembles the *Coronilla Emerus* L. of Central Europe. It attains sometimes a height of 8 feet, and it produces in spring moderately large yellow flowers in loose bunches of four to eight. The seed-pods are very narrow and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

It is found on rocky hills and in shady ravines at low altitudes.

EBENUS SIBTHORPII DC (PLATE VI a)

The genus *Ebenus* has no connexion with the tree producing the black wood known as ebony.

PAPILIONACEAE

Ebenus Sibthorpi is a small plant usually prostrate, with imparipinnate leaves furnished with three to four pairs of leaflets and rose-coloured flowers in a short spike reminding one of sainfoin

It flowers in May and June, and is to be found in hot, sunny situations among the rocks and scrub at low altitudes.

OROBUS DIGITATUS M Bieb (PLATE VI c)

The plant illustrated has sessile, very narrow, pointed leaves and bright rosy-purple flowers the size of a small pea. It grows at fairly high altitudes among the pine or fir forests, or on the rocks, and flowers from April to June [This plant is also known as *Orobus sessilifolius* S et S]

AMYGDALACEAE (ROSACEAE p.p.)

AMYGDALUS COMMUNIS L (PLATE VII b)

The common almond tree hardly needs any description. The wild plant is smaller than the cultivated varieties in all its parts, but its blossoms make up in brilliancy of colour for lack of size.

The trees, wild and cultivated, may be seen in their glory during the winter months among the vineyards and in the hedges, when their white or rose-coloured blossoms cover the branches.

In summer, the almond is a rather ragged tree, ill-shapen and scantily covered with leaves.

The modern Greek name amygdaliá is a slight corruption of the ancient name.

ROSACEAE

POTERIUM SPINOSUM L (PLATE VI d)

Poterium belongs to the same family as the rose, strange though it may seem. *Poterium spinosum* forms a small bush, from 2 to 3 feet in height where it is allowed free growth, composed of a mass of intricate branches somewhat resembling the thorny spurge.

The blossoms grow in oval heads resembling, on a smaller scale, those

ROSACEAE

of the common burnet The leaves are imparipinnate, like those of the rose, but very small, and are shed in winter.

Poterium spinosum is one of the principal components of the phrygana or scrub on the moorland and hills of Attica, and is largely used as fuel by bakers and others Too often, it is almost the only plant surviving where the pine woods have been permanently destroyed by fire

It is called, in modern Greek, stivída, a corruption of the ancient name stoibe (Theophrastus) According to Pliny, this *Poterium*, boiled in wine, is a remedy for a black eye, whilst an infusion is a cure for haemorrhage and dysentery

CUCURBITACEAE

ECBALLIUM ELATERIUM (L.) A. Rich (PLATE VIII a)

This poisonous plant belongs to the cucumber family It is commonly called the squirting cucumber, from its disagreeable habit of firing off its seed, accompanied by an acrid poisonous juice, at the unwary pedestrian who disturbs it The thick succulent stems are, like the rest of the plant, covered with fine hairs The yellow flowers (May to September) are monoecious, i e the male and female flowers both grow on the same plant, and they resemble those of the cucumber in shape The fruit is like a minute melon in shape, and when it is ripe a slight touch on the stem causes it to detach itself and expel the seed with sufficient force to carry it a distance of 20 to 25 feet The coarse leaves are more or less triangular in shape The plant is usually found in ruins and on rubbish-heaps on the outskirts of towns and in dry river-beds

The modern Greek name is agriangouría in Crete pikrangourá

UMBELLIFERAE

THAPSIA GARGANICA L

This plant belongs to the great family of umbellifers, containing about 1,500 species, which seems to have been created for the purpose of plaguing botanists It has, however, a distinct character of its own, and is not likely to be mistaken for any of its relations The plant is from 2

UMBELLIFERAE

to 4 feet in height, thick-stemmed, and with large, finely divided, bipinnatisect leaves. The umbel of small yellow flowers, which appear in May or June, is 6–15-rayed, and the flat fruits are nearly an inch in length by $\frac{2}{3}$ inch wide. The plant dies down in summer, to reappear in late winter. It is very common in Attica, a fact which is mentioned by Theophrastus, who describes the plant as having a leaf like that of fennel, but broader, a stem like that of ferula, and a white root, which has emetic and purgative properties. It can also, he says, remove bruises, but it is avoided by cattle, to which it is fatal if eaten. It is important, according to this authority, to stand to windward of the plant when cutting its roots, and to anoint oneself with oil, otherwise swelling of the body is occasioned.

ECHINOPHORA TENUIFOLIA L.

This species is an erect, branched, herbaceous plant, giving out a strong odour resembling that of fennel.

The leaves which spring from the root are larger and thrice pinnate, with small leaflets, the lower leaves on the branches are twice pinnate, whilst the upper are pinnate or simple, and very small. The yellow flowers are borne in numerous little umbels.

It is found in fields, olive groves, and vineyards, and flowers in August and September.

BUPLEURUM FRUTICOSUM L.

B. fruticosum is a shrubby plant, 3 or 4 feet in height, evergreen, with oval or lanceolate, sessile leaves and small yellow flowers growing in an umbel of about 2 inches in diameter. It is to be found on dry hill-sides and at moderately low altitudes.

Its modern Greek name is *anemopyri*.

COMPOSITAE

BELLIS SILVESTRIS CYR

(PLATE VIII *b*)

This is a larger plant in every respect than the common daisy of the English fields (*B. perennis* L.)

COMPOSITAE

The inflorescence stalk is usually about 6 inches long. The corollas of the outer florets are white or pinkish on the upper, and deep pink on the underside. The flowers appear from October to April.

As the name *silvestris* implies, it is a denizen of the woods, but it may often be seen on the banks of rivulets.

A much smaller daisy, *Bellis annua* L., is common in Attica, where it covers the ground, in clearings in the woods or in grassy spaces among the rocks, with a sheet of white in spring.

A *Bellis* is mentioned by Pliny, but this is probably the common daisy of the field.

PALLENIS SPINOSA (L.) Cass (PLATE VIII c)

This plant is sometimes called *Asteriscus spinosus* (L.) Sch Bip or *Bupthalmum spinosum* L., the latter of which names signifies ox-eye.

It is an annual or biennial composite, about 10 inches in height, covered with minute hairs. The lower leaves are spatulate, but the upper are sessile and lance-shaped. The heads of the flowers are borne on very short stems, and the bracts of the involucre form a spiny star round the heads.

It is found by waysides, in olive groves, and on dry hills, at low altitudes.

Modern Greek names are *astrátégos* (Crete) and *stavrángathos*.

INULA ATTICA Hal

This species is a white, felted plant, about a foot in height, with spatulate leaves, and very small heads of yellow flowers borne on a long branched stalk.

It flowers in June and July, and is to be found on rocks and cliffs, in dry sunny situations, up to about 3,000 feet. It is plentiful on the rocks of the Acropolis at Athens.

INULA VISCOSA (L.) Ait and *INULA GRAVEOLENS* (L.) Desf

Both these species are common in Attica and are found in waste ground, fields, and ditches. Both are extremely viscous and heavily scented in all their parts, which emit a strong odour of camphor. They are plants of about 15 inches in height and bear yellow flowers in summer and

COMPOSITAE

autumn. The blossoms and leaves of *I. graveolens* are smaller than those of *I. viscosa*, the leaves of both are lanceolate, but those of the latter are more conspicuously toothed

Theophrastus describes these two plants under the name of konyza—a name which they retain in Crete and the Aegean Islands. He dubs them male and female respectively, and says that they are useful against wild beasts on account of their strong smell

Another name in modern Greek for both species is psyllithra (flea-bane)

CHRYSANTHEMUM CORONARIUM L. (PLATE VIII *d*)

This beautiful yellow daisy is to be found in Attica in cornfields and on railway embankments, where it sometimes grows in masses, but it is in Crete that one can see it in all its glory, gilding the road-sides and fields in April with millions of golden blossoms. There are three common varieties, one all yellow, another with white ray florets yellow at the base, and a third with pale yellow ray florets also yellow at the base. The plant usually grows to a height of 18 inches to 2 feet, but in favourable circumstances it may attain 5 or more feet

The leaves are twice pinnately cleft like those of the wild chamomile. In cultivation *Chrysanthemum coronarium* has produced a number of beautiful varieties

The modern Greek name (Crete) is mandilída

ECHINOPS GRAECUS Mill. (PLATE XI *c*)

The Greek *Echinops*, or globe thistle, is perhaps the most beautiful of all blue 'thistles'. It loves heat, and may be seen covering the dry and otherwise bare cornfields, in the height of summer, with its rich ultramarine flowers. Another *Echinops*, with smaller heads of blossoms but of an even brighter blue (*Echinops microcephalus* S. et S.), prefers damper fields as its habitat, and though rare in Attica is common in the neighbouring province of Bocotia

Both species are branched plants with pinnatisect spiny leaves, and the head of flowers is roundly conical in shape

The modern Greek name is kephalangáthi

COMPOSITAE

NOTOBASIS SYRIACA (L) Cass.

This annual thistle, which is common in ditches and on waysides throughout the country, grows to a height of 2 or 3 feet.

Its spinous, roughly oblong leaves are smooth and mottled and veined with white above, and covered with minute hairs beneath. The upper leaves embrace the stem, but the lower ones are furnished with short stalks.

The flowers appear in early summer at the end of the branches. They are rosy-purple in colour and are encircled by a row of spines at the base of the involucre, and furnished with a pair or more of sharp spiny leaves below that. It is perhaps owing to all this defensive armour that the plant seems to escape the attentions of the goat.

It bears in modern Greek, like many other spring thistles, the contemptuous name of *gaidourángathos* or donkey-thistle.

CENTAUREA PINARDI Boiss (*C depressa* Hal non M Bieb.)

(PLATE IX *d*)

This species is an annual closely resembling the cornflower or corn blue-bottle of the English fields, the favourite flower of the ex-Kaiser Wilhelm, than which it is larger in almost all its parts and less hairy.

It is found in cornfields and vineyards, and flowers in spring.

Another *Centaurea*, with a somewhat similar blossom but often pink in colour, is *Centaurea variegata* Lam. This plant, however, is a perennial, and its leaves are silvery-green. It is found only at high altitudes.

CENTAUREA SOLSTITIALIS L

(PLATE X *c*)

This is another member of the large genus *Centaurea*, one which belongs to that large group of plants contemptuously called thistles by those who fail to appreciate the keenness of their spines.

The star-thistle is not unknown in England, and is extremely common in Crete, where a closely allied species grows on the top of Mount Ida, over 8,000 feet high.

It frequents roadsides and dry fields and waste ground, and grows to about 18 inches in height. The plant is many-branched, the inferior leaves are lyrate, the upper sessile and lanceolate.

COMPOSITAE

The heads of flowers are bright yellow and the involucre is furnished with six to eight sharp spines.

The modern Greek name is asprangáthi or 'white thorn', a name shared with other 'thistles'.

CRUPINA CRUPINASTRUM (Mor) Vis (PLATE IX *b*)

Crupina closely resembles *Centaurea*, and the species were at one time included in that genus

Two species are said to be found in Attica, that called *Crupina vulgaris* Cass. being rare, if, indeed, it exists there

Crupina Crupinastrum is a slender plant, sometimes 2 feet in height. It has pinnately cleft leaves with linear segments, and small, purple, thistle-like heads of flowers which appear in summer

It is found in pine woods and on rocky ground at moderately low altitudes

SCOLYMUS HISPANICUS L (PLATE X *b*)

The golden thistle is usually biennial. The plant stands about 2 feet high and produces in summer flowers of a rich golden hue. The leaves are sessile, spiny, sinuate, and pinnatifid

Theophrastus mentions that the golden thistle flowers at the summer solstice. It is one of those plants, he adds, that depend upon the stars for their blossoming time. He says that the root is edible, cooked or raw, and that it is best when it is flowering. The root is still eaten in some countries, and the young leaves are used as food. The ancients used the plant as a diuretic, and a decoction made from it is still used medicinally in some countries. The yellow petals are said to be employed by unscrupulous persons to adulterate saffron

The modern Greek name, skólymvros, is an evident corruption of the ancient skolymos

TOLPIS UMBELLATA Bertol

This is a lanky branched plant covered with minute hairs. The root-leaves form a rosette; they are spatulate and pinnately cleft or dentate. The upper leaves are linear

COMPOSITAE

The medium-sized heads of flowers are lemon-coloured

It is found in rocky and sandy places, on old walls and ruins, and flowers in spring and early summer

TRAGOPOGON PORRIFOLIUS L

(PLATE IX c)

The goat's-beard has a thick tapering root from which springs an erect stem, branched or simple, with narrow lance-shaped leaves. Large deep purple flowers appear in April and May, followed by an immense head of fruits like that of a gigantic dandelion

It is found on dry hill-sides and vineyards

The modern Greek name (Crete) is pigounitis

SCORZONERA LANATA (L.) M Bieb

(PLATE X d)

The genus *Scorzonera* is closely related to *Tragopogon*, but has the involucre bracts imbricated. Three species are recorded from Attica. *S. lanata* is common in the lower and hill to montane altitudinal zones in dry stony habitats. It may be found in flower from March to May. The root-stock or rhizome is thick and almost, or quite, tuberous, and usually produces a single short leafy and flowering stem with one to several yellow heads. The narrow linear-lanceolate leaves are gradually acuminate, and the whole plant is provided with long silky wool.

The modern Greek name is stoumbil —*Ed*

LACTUCA CRETICA Desf

(PLATE X a)

This plant is a sturdy member of the lettuce family, which by some strange chance has been named after the island of Crete, where it is by no means as common as it is in Attica.

The plant, which contains an abundance of milky juice, grows to somewhat less than a foot in height and is of a purple-brown colour. The few inferior leaves are strongly dentate, the middle ones have linear segments, and the upper are linear. The flower-heads are borne each on a separate stalk, and are fairly large, with pale yellow florets. The root is a thick tuberous rhizome.

It is found in cultivated and uncultivated ground at moderate altitudes, and flowers in spring.

COMPOSITAE

CREPIS RUBRA L.

This delightful little hawk's-beard deserves to be better known than it is. Its silver-pink flower-heads are borne on stems usually about 4 to 5 inches long and appear from April to June, according to the altitude, amid the bushes or in the grass, where the soil is good, on the rocky foot-hills and mountains, less commonly on slopes with a southern aspect. It is not now common in Attica

The leaves are usually pinnately cleft and toothed with the lobes pointing backwards, much as in the dandelion

A white variety is occasionally found

The modern Greek name is *starída*

CAMPANULACEAE

CAMPANULA CELSII DC.

(PLATE IX *a*)

This *Campanula* is one of those which grow close to the surface of the rocks, above which only on rare occasions do they venture to rise, and then only with the help of a friendly neighbour

The root leaves form a pretty rosette they are roughly lyrate in shape, but much indented. From the root spring branches, sometimes more than a foot in length, bearing minute leaves of a different shape from the root leaves, and in spring and early summer, at intervals along the branches, there appear bell-shaped, erect, pale blue-violet flowers of the size of the harebell

The plant is thickly covered with minute hairs, which give it a grey-green appearance

CAMPANULA DRABIFOLIA S et S

(PLATE XIII *a*)

This little annual is common in Attica in dry situations. It is a plant growing only a few inches high, usually branched, with small, oval, toothed leaves and violet bell-shaped flowers, the throat of which, inside and outside, is white.

ERICACEAE

ERICA ARBOREA L.

(PLATE XI *b*)

The tree heath, a shrub sometimes over 10 feet in height, is to be found in most Mediterranean countries. The scent of its white—rather dirty-white—blossoms reminds one of that of the may-blossom of more northern climes. This plant grows in schistose soil and is common on the eastern slopes of Mounts Pentelikon and Parnes.

The trunk provides the wood for the briar beloved of smokers, the word 'briar' being in this case a corruption of the French 'bruyère'.

ERICA VERTICILLATA Forsk

The Greek heath is very similar to its sister *E mediterranea* L., but, as its name implies, its leaves are arranged in whorls. It grows on schistose soil by preference, and is to be found from sea-level up to 3,000 feet in Attica. In Crete it grows up to 6,000 feet. The colour of the sweet-scented blossoms varies from deep crimson to pale pink. It flowers in spring and autumn, and the honey of the blossoms is much sought after by bees.

The modern Greek name of the plant is *eríkí*, or *ríkí*.

STYRACACEAE

STYRAX OFFICINALIS L

This deciduous shrub or small tree is about 6 to 20 feet high, with obtusely ovate leaves, which are white beneath. It is found on the banks of streams and brooks, and is very common in Crete. The flowers are scented, ivory-white in colour, and grow in little drooping bunches of three to six. The fruit is spherical, about the size of a large cherry, green or greenish-yellow in colour.

Anciently a gum obtained from this plant was used, under the name of storax, for the manufacture of incense. The gum is used nowadays to some extent in medicine.

In Crete it is called *astýrakas* or *styrákí*.

APOCYNACEAE

NERIUM OLEANDER L.

(PLATE XIII *d*)

The oleander, sometimes called the rose-laurel, belongs to the same family as the periwinkle. As found in Greece it is an evergreen shrub, usually about 4 to 8 feet in height, with smooth and leathery lanceolate leaves, growing in whorls of three. The blossoms are bright rose in colour, about 2 inches in diameter, and borne in bunches at the summit of the branches. The plant is poisonous, and was formerly used in medicine. The oleander loves the borders of streams or the beds of torrents. Pale pink, white, and even yellow varieties exist in cultivation, but the double, scented, oleander usually found in greenhouses in northern climates is a different species from the European one, and comes from India.

The modern Greek name is pikrodáphne (bitter laurel) or sometimes rhododáphne (rosebay).

VINCA MAJOR L.

(PLATE XIII *e*)

The large-flowered periwinkle is cultivated in gardens in Greece and has several times been recorded as a garden escape, but it is doubtful if it be a native species in Attica. With its ovate leaves, rounded or cordate at the base and attenuated towards the apex, it is readily distinguished from *V. herbacea* W. et K. This latter species, in the broad sense, is fairly common in the lower altitudinal zones on some of the Attic hills, in brushwood or shady habitats, where it flowers from February to May. Its prostrate stems do not root at the nodes, and the elliptic or ovate-lanceolate leaves taper both towards the apex and towards the base.

The modern Greek name for the congener *V. minor* L. is agrioliza —*Ed*

CONVOLVULACEAE

CONVOLVULUS ELEGANTISSIMUS Mill. (*C. tenuissimus* S. et S.)

(PLATE XV *a*)

This charming little trailing plant is common on the borders of roads and paths and on dry stony hill-sides. The lower leaves are cordate-

CONVOLVULACEAE

oblong and resemble those of some forms of mallow, whilst the upper ones are extremely delicately cut. The leaves are of a beautiful silver-green and the blossoms a rich rose

It is known by different names in different districts of Greece, one of them being foustanáki, or petticoat, whilst in Crete it is usually called chónos or chonáki, meaning funnel

BORRAGINACEAE (BORAGINACEAE)

HELIOTROPIUM EUROPAEUM L

This heliotrope is a small, erect, downy, grey-green plant, about 5 inches in height, which grows in dry fields and waste ground

The flowers are whitish, scentless, and very small, and appear in summer. The hairy leaves are oval

There are several other species of heliotrope to be found in Greece, one of which possesses a not unpleasant scent

The plant, as observed by Theophrastus, remains in flower for a long time.

The ancient name was heliotropion, which is retained in a corrupted form in some parts of Greece. Another modern name for the plant is agriovaníllia, vaníllia being the name given to the Peruvian species cultivated for its delightful perfume

CERINTHE MAJOR L

(PLATE XI *d*)

This plant is known sometimes in England as 'honey drop'. It grows 1 to 2 feet in height, with oval leaves embracing the stem, pale green, spotted with white, and furnished with stiff small hairs. The blossoms are tubular, about an inch in length, pale yellow, with a dark red ring at the base. A variety found in Crete lacks this crimson ring. It grows in damp ditches and by the side of rivulets. Each flower produces one black seed

The epithet *major* given to this plant distinguishes it from another species with smaller flowers, known as *C minor* L

ANCHUSA HYBRIDA Ten

This handsome plant is common in Attica. It is biennial, grows to a height of about 18 inches, and bears, in spring and summer, violet or

BORRAGINACEAE

purple flowers, smaller in size but deeper in colour than those of the well-known *Anchusa italica* Retz

The leaves are narrow and lance-shaped, undulating at the edge, and the whole plant is covered with stiff hairs.

It is found in vineyards and olive groves at low altitudes

The modern Greek name is voidó glossa or ox-tongue, a name which it shares with other members of the genus

ANCHUSA VARIEGATA (L.) Lchm

This is another, but smaller, member of the same genus, growing but a few inches high. Its leaves are broadly oblong and toothed, and variegated with white blotches. As in the case of all the Attic species of *Anchusa*, they are bristly. The flower is blue and purple, often with white markings, and possesses a very sweet scent, resembling a mixture of primrose and freesia.

It is found on rocky ground and field edges up to an altitude of 2,500 feet, and flowers in spring.

ONOSMA ECHIOIDES (L.) L. sensu Hal

The species named *O. echioides* by Halácsy is a small bushy plant with rather long oblong leaves, producing, in early summer, bunches of pale yellow, drooping flowers.

The whole plant is covered with stiff greyish bristles.

It is found on limestone rocks, up to an altitude of over 3,000 feet, in sunny positions.

Besides the beautiful plant here described, two or three other species of *Onosma* are to be found on the hot rocky hills of Attica.

ECHIUM PLANTAGINEUM L.

(PLATE XII *b*)

This species of viper's bugloss has a wide distribution throughout Greece in the lower regions, especially in grassy places and on dry hill-slopes. It flowers from March to June in its first or second year, behaving most often as a biennial. Several other species of the genus are also typical plants of the Attic flora. Thus, the tall erect-growing *E. italicum* L., with

BORRAGINACEAE

its strongly setose-hispid vegetative parts, is found throughout Greece. The common viper's bugloss, *E vulgare* L., is very rare in Attica and in Greece generally. *E elegans* Lehm., *E parviflorum* Moench, and *E arenarium* Guss. are other species found in Attica.

The modern Greek name is vouǵlosson or voudóǵlosson —*Ed.*

ALKANNA TINCTORIA (L.) Tausch (PLATE XII a)

The dyer's alkanet was once an important article of commerce and, earlier still, the ladies of ancient Greece employed it in the way in which their successors use rouge. It is mentioned by Aristophanes in this connexion, whilst Theophrastus states that it has a red root. Since the discovery of the aniline dyes the plant has lost its value.

The plant is very hairy. Its branches are usually prostrate, but sometimes erect, and the leaves obtusely lance-shaped. The blossoms, which appear in the spring, are of a lovely deep blue, rivalling that of the gentian in intensity. It is very common near Athens, and may be found in dry, sandy, and rocky places at a low altitude and especially in dry sunny fields and in uncultivated ground.

It is the anchusa of the ancients, and in modern Greek is known as vaphórizá (dye-root).

ALKANNA GRAECA Boiss. et Sprun

This species is a hairy erect plant about 1½ feet in height. Its bright yellow flowers, ¼ inch in diameter, grow in small cymes and appear in April. The leaves are oblong-lanceolate with wavy edges.

The plant, which is biennial, is to be found among the scrub in pine woods at an altitude of between 1,200 and 1,800 feet.

SOLANACEAE

HYOSCYAMUS ALBUS L.

The henbane belongs to the family *Solanaceae* which includes a number of very poisonous plants, of which the henbane is one, as well as such useful species as the potato, the tomato, the egg-plant, and the tobacco.

SOLANACEAE

Pliny states that our plant is used in medicine and that, like wine, it goes to the head and upsets the mind. A decoction of the plant was used in the Middle Ages as an anaesthetic at surgical operations. A drug, hyoscyamin, is still prepared from the plant.

MANDRAGORA AUTUMNALIS Bertol. ex Spreng. (FRONTISPIECE)

The aerial parts of the mandrake spring from a thick, horse-radish-like root. The leaves, which are oblong-lance-shaped, with wavy edges, form a large rosette, in the middle of which spring, on short stalks, the violet-blue flowers, which resemble at first glance those of the crocus. The flowers, which appear in autumn after the first rains, are succeeded by berries the size of a small cherry, orange-red in colour.

Mandragora was said by the ancients to utter a shriek if uprooted. According to Theophrastus, on cutting the root 'one should draw three circles round mandrake with a sword, and cut it with one's face towards the west; and at the cutting of the second piece one should dance round the plant and say as many things as possible about the mysteries of love'. He adds that the root, scraped and steeped in vinegar, is useful for erysipelas, gout, sleeplessness, and for love potions.

The ancient name, mandragóras, still survives.

SOLANUM NIGRUM L.

The black nightshade has an evil reputation which is doubtfully deserved. Whilst, in northern European countries, it is looked upon as poisonous, it is a common article of food in Greece and other southern countries. Theophrastus tells us that in his time it was eaten raw, and that previously it was cultivated in gardens, but nowadays it is only eaten boiled, when it resembles spinach in taste.

The plant is common on waste ground, in vineyards, and gardens. It is usually about 7 or 8 inches in height, with simple, sinuate-dentate leaves and small white, five-petalled corollas arranged in a cyme. The blossoms appear from January to July, and are succeeded by small round berries which, when ripe, vary in colour, in different varieties, from black to red and yellow.

The ancient name of the plant was strychnos, which may still be recognized in its modern form of stýphnos.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

VERBASCUM UNDULATUM Lam

(PLATE XI a)

The mulleins are very common plants in Greece, especially on the hills and in the mountains. About forty species are recorded from Greece, from Thessaly southwards, and additional species are known from Macedonia and Thrace. Some of the species hybridize very freely, and many have less well-marked characters than that figured here. It is probable that the abundance of mulleins on some of the hills is an indirect result of deforestation by man, largely in prehistoric and early classical times. The cutting down of the forests caused the appearance of dry hill-slopes which, with their hollows and, for the limestone areas, tendency to form 'karst', made ideal habitats for certain plants, including many species of *Verbascum*. The mulleins are largely avoided by grazing animals and so can compete advantageously with many other plants so far as this important biotic factor is concerned. In various parts of Greece species of *Verbascum* are used as fish poisons. The commonest name given in modern Greek to various species of the genus (and to some other plants of a poisonous nature as well) is phlómos.

V. undulatum is extremely common in Attica and in certain other parts of Old Greece. It usually behaves as a biennial, the rosettes sending up a flowering stem in their second year and the flowers opening in June and July —*Ed*

VERBENACEAE

VITEX AGNUS-CASTUS L

(PLATE XII c)

The chaste-tree is a deciduous bush. It is usually between 4 and 10 feet in height with digitate leaves bearing from 5 to 7 lanceolate leaflets, whitish beneath. The blossom is usually of a fairly deep blue, but it varies greatly in shade and is not uncommonly quite white or pale rose in colour. The plant is not unpleasantly scented. It is to be found in stony river-beds and gravelly waste ground, especially near the sea, and always at a low altitude.

VERBENACEAE

The supple twigs and branches are used all over Greece to make baskets

The virtue attributed by the ancients to the chaste-tree, and to which its name is due, does not seem to have survived to modern times

The modern Greek name is *lygariá* in Crete, *lygiá* (*liyá*)

LABIATAE

TEUCRIUM POLIUM L

The germander genus is represented in Attica by five species, of which the most common is *T Polium*

T Polium is a small evergreen shrubby plant, 6 to 10 inches in height, with sessile, narrow-oblong leaves, the edges of which are crenate. The flowers, which are small and white (in the more northern parts of Greece they are purple), are borne in dense heads, shaped like a compressed sphere, and appear in summer

The plant grows everywhere on cultivated ground, from sea-level up to over 3,000 feet

According to Theophrastus (if this is really the plant called by him *polion*) it was used to prevent moths from attacking clothes

The modern Greek name is *panayóchorto*, and in Crete *lagokimithiá*, meaning, respectively, 'the Virgin's wort' and 'hare-form'

SALVIA TRILOBA L fil

The sage genus is represented in Attica by six species, of which the most common is *S triloba*, a bushy plant growing to a height of 2 or 3 feet. The leaves, which are strongly scented like the sage of kitchen gardens, are mostly oblong, but the plant also bears the three-lobed leaves which give it its specific epithet. The leaves, and the blossoms which appear in spring, are thickly covered with minute velvety hairs. *S triloba* grows on rocky ground at low altitudes

On this, and another species common in Crete, *S pomifera* L., are found the 'apples' which give to the latter its specific epithet. These 'apples' are a kind of gall produced by an insect. They are said to be useful, when chewed, in quenching thirst

LABIATAE

An infusion is made of the dried leaves of both species, and sold at coffee-houses, &c , under the name of faskómelo

The modern Greek names of both plants are faskomeliá and alisphakiá, corruptions of the ancient sphakos and elelisphakos

MARRUBIUM VULGARE L (PLATE XVI *b*)

This is a coarse bushy plant about 2 feet in height, with greyish-green stems and roundly ovate, crenate leaves, the underside of which is lighter in colour than the upper

The flowers grow in dense whorls at intervals on the stem, in the axils of each pair of opposite leaves They are small and white, and appear in summer

The plant, which is known in England as white horehound, is unpleasantly aromatic

It is found by waysides, and in uncultivated and waste ground, at altitudes from sea-level to about 2,500 feet

Many modern Greek names have been given to this plant These include skoulóchorto, ásphaka, and lisphakiá

PHLOMIS FRUTICOSA L

The 'Jerusalem sage' is an undershrub, usually between 1½ and 3 feet in height, with felted, pale green leaves and stems The blossoms grow in whorls at the top of the branches and are of a rich deep golden yellow, appearing in late spring and summer It grows in dry rocky soil, and in the province of Acarnania covers large tracts of deforested land It may be found at any altitude up to about 3,000 feet The 'felt' with which the plant is covered detaches itself in minute portions if the plant is roughly handled and, in consequence, proves very annoying if one pushes one's way through a thicket of the plant, when the eyes become inflamed by the felt thus detached

The modern Greek name is spháka, a corruption of the ancient name sphakos In Crete it is known as angáratheros

STACHYS CRETICA L

Many of the species of *Stachys* are perennial, covered with downy hairs, and their flowers are borne in whorls at intervals on the stems above the pairs of opposite leaves

LABIATAE

Stachys cretica is an erect plant, almost a foot in height, covered with dense white tomentum. The leaves are oblong, the edges being furnished with small rounded teeth, and those on the upper part of the plant are nearly sessile. The rose-coloured flowers occur in whorls about 2 inches apart.

It is found in dry stony places at altitudes up to about 2,500 feet, and flowers in June and July.

BALLOTA ACETABULOSA (L.) Benth

This plant is sometimes called false dittany, from its resemblance to the Cretan dittany. It is usually about a foot or less in height, with oval or round, velvety, grey-green leaves, an inch or more in length. The flower is small and dull purple in colour, appearing in the spring. The plant is common throughout the country, on dry and rocky ground, up to an altitude of about 3,000 feet.

A closely similar species, *Ballota pseudodictamnus* (L.) Benth, is said to be peculiar to Crete. It differs from our plant chiefly in its much smaller leaves.

The seed-vessels of both species are used by the peasants and others as a wick for floating in olive-oil lamps, and the plants are consequently known in some parts of the country as loumínia (from the Italian).

The ancients attributed marvellous virtues to the Cretan dittany (*Origanum Dictamnus* L.), and it is said by Theophrastus, when taken in water, to ease the pains of labour. The false dittany, he adds, though useful in the same way, is far inferior in power.

SATUREIA THYMBRA L.

This *Satureia* (savory) is one of the many plants which, like the marjoram, thyme, and lavender, give to the Attic country-side its aromatic scent, and provide the bees with the famous Hymettos honey.

Owing to the presence in the plant of thymol, it emits a strong scent when crushed.

Satureia Thymbra is a stiff, branching plant, a foot or less in height, with leaves obovate-cuneate in shape. The rose-coloured flowers grow in dense heads at intervals around the branches.

LABIATAE

It is to be found in dry stony ground at low altitudes, together with *Thymbra capitata* (L.) Griseb., *Lavandula Stoechas* L., *Hypericum empetrifolium* Willd., *Cistus* species, &c

The plant is mentioned by Theophrastus, who calls it thymbron, a name which survives in the modern form of throúmbi

THYMBRA CAPITATA (L.) Griseb

(PLATE XII *d*)

The 'thyme', which gives its characteristic flavour to the famous honey of Mount Hymettus, is sometimes known as *Thymus capitatus* Hoffm. et Link, or as Cretan thyme. It is a stiff undershrub, usually about a foot in height, and rounded in shape. Where, however, it is able to escape the attentions of the goat it grows to twice that height. The grey-green leaves are very small, oblong-linear, and sessile, and are strongly aromatic, especially when crushed. The flowers are slightly scented, rosy-purple, rose, or rarely white in colour and appear in May and June when the little bushes are covered with blossom and are very attractive—especially to the bees.

Theophrastus remarks truly that the seed is not easy to come at as it is mixed with the flower, 'for men sow the flower and plants come up from it.' He adds that it is sought and collected in Athens by exporters of herbs and that it is said that it will not grow away from the sea air.

LAVANDULA STOECHAS L.

The French lavender is a small, grey, shrubby plant, usually between 1 and 2 feet in height, with short, linear, opposite leaves. The dark purple florets are borne in a curious, four-cornered spike, from the summit of which spring a number of purple bracts, resembling petals. The whole plant is aromatic, and is to be found on dry, sunny hills, up to an altitude of about 2,500 feet, among the phrygana or scrub. It is plentiful on the slopes of Mount Pentelicon and elsewhere, and flowers in spring and summer.

The lavenders of commerce, employed in the manufacture of the well-known perfume, belong to other species of *Lavandula*.

The modern Greek name of our lavender is levánta. In Euboea it is known also as sindóni.

PRIMULACEAE

CYCLAMEN NEAPOLITANUM Ten

This *Cyclamen* is at home in humid places, on the rocky banks of mountain brooks, or under trees and bushes, except when it grows high up (up to 5,500 ft) on the mountains, when it can dispense with shade but retains its affection for the society of rocks

The flower is hardly distinguishable from that of *C. graecum* Link, but it is rather more strongly scented. The leaves are angulate, but vary in shape, sometimes resembling ivy-leaves, and are marbled on the upper surface. The under surface is generally reddish but occasionally green. A pure white variety is rare. The corm is shaped like a compressed sphere, and the roots spring from all over the upper surface and sides.

The most common modern Greek name is triklamía

CYCLAMEN GRAECUM Link

The Greek *Cyclamen* is a true child of the sun, and never thrives so well as when it is ensconced among the rocks, fully exposed to its rays. But it also grows under the pine trees where, however, it produces few flowers. The blossom is white or of a soft rosy pink, always changing to deep rose at the base of the petals, and the leaves are almost as beautiful as the flower. Regularly heart-shaped, their upper surface is sometimes marked most beautifully with silver, whilst the underside of the leaf is usually of a splendid deep red-purple and the edge serrated.

The corm is spherical, but owing to its habit of forcing its way down and adapting itself to the irregularities of the rocks or stones it encounters, it often becomes distorted into queer amorphous masses. The roots are few, but thick, and sprout only from the underside of the corm.

The modern Greek name is triclamiá, or stríméro. In Crete, choirópsomo (= sow bread)

PLUMBAGINACEAE

STATICE SINUATA L

This is one of the sea lavenders and a member of the family to which the sea pink also belongs. It is a small plant about a foot in height, never

PLUMBAGINACEAE

found far from the sea but common on sandy shores and on the borders of roads near the sea

The hairy leaves are lyre-shaped and form a rosette at the base of the flower stems. The flowers (March to July) are borne in a compact raceme, the corolla is small and whitish, but the calyx, to which the beauty of the plant is due, is large and pale blue.

The flowers, when cut and dried, will last for years like everlastings, and the plant is cultivated in some countries on that account.

THYMELAEACEAE

THYMELAEA HIRSUTA L. (PLATE XIV *d*)

A shrubby plant, belonging to the same family as the daphne, which reminds one of those stunted forest-trees grown by the Japanese in pots. It is to be found in dry sunny places at a low altitude, and usually grows to a height of about 2 feet.

The plant is much branched with very small leaves overlapping one another like the scales of a fish, and with minute, pale yellow flowers, which appear from October to May.

The modern Greek name is *therókalo*, in Crete, *phinokaliá*.

Another member of the same genus, *T. Tartonraia* L., is a handsome little shrub, growing to 4 feet in height, with small silvery-green leaves and minute orange flowers. It grows in similar places to those favoured by *T. hirsuta*, and also under the pines, together with such aromatic plants as thyme, marjoram, and lavender. Its modern Greek name is *kolophoúsa*.

EUPHORBIACEAE

EUPHORBIA ACANTHOTIAMNOS Hledr. et Sart. (PLATE XIV *a*)

The *Euphorbia* genus is one of the largest in the botanical world, and one of the most varied in form. Those of the tropical and semi-tropical regions of Africa are often most strange in shape. Even in England the spurges are well represented.

EUPHORBIACEAE

E acanthothamnos is by no means one of the least curious of the forty-four species to be found in Greece (south of Macedonia)

It is a compact little bush, shaped like an inverted bowl, formed of innumerable intricate branches, which give a first impression of network. The dark green leaves are very small, oblong-lanceolate. The flowers are much sought after by bees, and appear in spring, after which the leaves fall.

It grows on rocky ground up to an altitude of 3,500 feet.

The plant was known to the ancient Greeks as hippopheos, and is mentioned by Theophrastus.

EUPHORBIA SIBTHORPII BOISS

(PLATE XIV b)

This species (or variety of *E veneta* Willd.) is found in olive woods, on dry hills, and on the banks of small streams in the lower and montane altitudinal regions in Attica, the Peloponnese, and the Greek Islands. It is a perennial herb, of a habit typical of many spurges of the Balkan Peninsula. The vegetative parts are covered with a fine down. The inflorescence bracts are yellowish and fused together, the glands are of a 'honey-colour' and are more or less truncate or have short entire horns.

Spurges of this habit are often common on dry hill-slopes, in olive plantations, and generally on 'karsted' ground. Some are definitely poisonous, and their biochemical properties probably cause them to be avoided by the almost omnivorous goats and sheep.

The modern Greek name is phlómos, a name also applied to various other and quite different plants, as, for example, species of *Verbascum* --
Ed

EUPHORBIA MYRSINITES L

This handsome spurge is one of seventeen members of the genus found in Attica.

The root is a thick tuber, from which spring leafy stems, trailing a foot or more over the rocks, and bearing umbels of bright yellow flowers. The glaucous leaves, which give the plant its specific name, are shaped, as Theophrastus remarks, like those of the myrtle, but with a spine at the top. They turn red in late summer, and the plant is then very ornate.

EUPHORBIACEAE

It is found all over Greece on rocky ground, up to 4,000 or more feet, and is in flower during spring and early summer.

According to Theophrastus, a decoction of the seeds, or 'nuts' as he calls them, was used for medicinal purposes by the ancient Greeks

Its name in modern Greek is galatsída, in allusion to the milky juice exuded by all the spurge family

CUPULIFERAE

QUERCUS COCCIFERA L

The kermes oak, as usually found in Greece, is a prickly evergreen bush, resembling the holly, but when it is protected from the goats it forms a small but handsome forest tree, over 50 feet in height

The leaves vary considerably in different trees, as regards both size and shape, more commonly they are prickly like those of the holly, but there are varieties with serrate or even entirely spineless leaves. The young shoots in spring are bronze coloured. The acorn also varies much in size and shape

Theophrastus mentions the fact that, besides leaves and flowers, the kermes oak bears a scarlet berry. This 'berry' is really a gall produced by an insect, and it was at one time a valuable article of commerce in Greece and Asia Minor, as a scarlet dye was manufactured therefrom. It is this gall which gives the tree its distinctive name, *coccifera*, or berry-bearing

According to Theophrastus the wood of this oak was used in ancient times for axles of wheelbarrows and the 'yokes' or cross-bars of lyres and psalteries. It is still known by its ancient name *prinos*, or a modern diminutive, *prinári*, sometimes corrupted into *pournári*

ORCHIDACEAE

SERAPIAS OCCULTATA Gay et Dur

(PLATE XVI a)

The genus *Serapias* is very typical of the Mediterranean flora, which contains a relatively high percentage of plants with bulbs, corms, rhizomes,

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and tubers—that is, of geophytes. The underground habit enables the plants to survive the hot dry summer.

S. occultata is a rather 'critical' species characterized by having two callosities at the base of the labellum or lip, relatively narrow leaves, bracts, and tepals, a small labellum, and hidden lateral lobes. In superficial appearance, with its tongue-like lip, it is very similar to the more widely ranging *S. Lingua* L., which is also recorded from Attica and is known in modern Greek as glossári —*Ed*

BARLIA LONGIBRACTEATA (Biv.) Parl. (PLATE XVII a)

This striking plant is rather rare in Greece, but has been found in several localities in Attica and elsewhere. It grows on grassy hills and amongst low brushwood in the hill altitudinal zone, flowering in March and April. It was originally described as a species of *Orchis*, but is distinguished by both the pollen-masses (pollinia) being attached to a single adhesive disc (retinaculum). A similar condition is found in the genus *Anacamptis*, well known in limestone grassland and amongst chalk and oolitic brushwoods in England. The British species, *A. pyramidalis* (L.) L.C. Rich., also occurs in Greece, including Attica.

Barlia longibracteata differs in very obvious characters from *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and is, indeed, a very distinct plant not to be confused with any other Mediterranean orchid. The rather broad leaves, dense, many-flowered, usually fairly long inflorescence, sordidly purple and green flowers, short thick spur, spreading outer tepals, and somewhat obcordate middle lobe of the lip make it easily recognized. Its nearest relative is probably the widely ranging lizard-orchid, *Himantoglossum hircinum* (L.) Spreng., which is common in many parts of the Balkan Peninsula, as in South Macedonia, but is not known from Attica. —*Ed*

ORCHIS QUADRIPUNCTATA Cyr. (PLATE XVIII d)

The family of orchids contains some of the most remarkable plants known to botanists, but those found in Europe cannot compare with the weird and beautiful tropical species.

Orchis quadripunctata is a small plant, very common on the hills of Attica and growing up to an altitude of about 3,500 feet. It has purple

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flowers, varying in intensity of colour, with two to four small spots of darker purple on the lip of the flower. A white variety, which is delightfully scented, is occasionally found. The leaves are lance-shaped.

It grows on rocky hills and among pine woods, and flowers in April and May.

This and other species of *Orchis* and *Ophrys* are usually known as *salépi* in modern Greek.

ORCHIS LAXIFLORA Lam var *PALUSTRIS* (Jacq.) Koch

(PLATE XVIII *b*)

Marsh orchids occur locally in Greece, and for the most part belong to different species from those found in the British Isles. Like their British congeners they are polymorphic, and it is not easy to draw sharp lines between what are best regarded as distinct species and what are most conveniently considered varieties of one species. Thus the plant figured here under the above name is often considered a distinct species from the *Orchis laxiflora* Lam. sensu stricto. It has the middle lobe of the lip often retuse and equal in length to, or longer than, the lateral lobes. The bracts are 3- to 7-nerved, the lower often reticulate-nervose, the inflorescence elongated, and the spur shorter than the ovary. It flowers from April to June.—*Ed*

OPHRYS TENTHREDINIFERA Willd

(PLATE XVII *e*)

OPHRYS FUSCA Link

(PLATE XVII *d*)

The *Ophrys* genus of the orchid family differs from the genus *Orchis* chiefly in the absence of the spur which characterizes the flower of the latter.

Ophrys tenthredinifera is one of the prettiest species of the genus. Its sepals and petals are usually bright pink, though occasionally greenish-pink or even white. The lip is velvety brown with a yellowish border.

It occurs on rocky hills at low altitudes and flowers in April and May.

Ophrys fusca has greenish-yellow sepals and petals, and a velvety purplish-brown lip, at the top of which are two oblong leaden-coloured marks with a narrow yellowish border.

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The latter species is found in pine woods and in rocky hills, and flowers in March and April. The leaves of both are oval-oblong, or sometimes lanceolate.

The modern Greek name of both is *salépi*

IRIDACEAE

IRIS ATTICA Boiss et Heldr (PLATE XIX *a*)

The Attic iris is a member of the *pumila* section of irises. It is a dwarf plant, rarely over 6 inches in height, with fairly large flowers and scimitar-shaped leaves about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad. The flowers vary much in colour from pale to deep yellow, and from pale blue to rich purple. They appear at low altitudes near the sea in February, but on the hills the flowering season lasts until April.

The plant grows, always in rocky ground, from sea-level to 5,000 feet, and is common on all the Attic hills.

The modern Greek name is *krínos*, a name which it shares with numerous other petaloid Monocotyledons.

IRIS CRETENSIS Janka (*I. CRETICA* Herb.) (PLATE XIX *b*)

The Cretan iris belongs to the same group of irises as *I. unguicularis* Poir., and differs little from the species found in Algeria.

The beautiful, fragile, fragrant, violet-blue (very rarely mauve) flowers are borne upon slender stems 6 or more inches in length during the months of February, March, and April. The grass-like leaves are very tough, but are relished by the omnivorous goat.

This iris is found in Attica in sandy soil near streams. In Crete, however, it grows up to an altitude of over 3,000 feet on dry and rocky ground.

The root is fibrous and very tough.

The modern Greek name is *krínos*. In Crete it is variously known as *máza* and *nevrida* (an allusion to the sinew-like toughness of its leaves).

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HERMODACTYLUS TUBEROSUS (L) Salisb. (PLATE XIV c)

Sometimes called *Iris tuberosa* L This plant is the snake's head iris. It is a curious plant, with a short, horizontal, tuber, from one end of which spring the leaves, which are followed by flower-bearing stems. The leaves are linear-tetragonous, i e grass-like, but showing a square section when horizontally cut The blossom is greenish, but the turned-down interior of the outer segments is brown-purple It is to be found in damp open situations or on rocky ground, and the flowers appear in the early spring It is one of the numerous plants which have to put up with the name, in modern Greek, of *ágrios krínos*, a wild lily, for want of a proper title

GYNANDRIRIS SISYRINCHIUM (L) Parl (PLATE XX c)

This plant, also known as *Iris Sisyrinchium* L, and in English sometimes as barbary nut, belongs to the bulbous division of the irises It puts forth in April or May a stalk from which, at intervals, spring bright blue blossoms with white blotches Occasionally the blossoms are entirely white The leaves, of which there are two, are narrowly linear and very tough Like the saffron crocus, the barbary nut seems to like being trodden upon, and it is partial to pathways It is to be found especially in dry, rocky ground near the sea, and in some places it covers large spaces with a sheet of blue

The modern Greek (Cretan) name is *vourlítás*, or *vroula* (i e reed), or sometimes *ágrios krínos* (wild lily)

ROMULEA LINARESII Parl (PLATE XX a)

The genus *Romulea* rather closely resembles the crocus This little plant charms one by its minuteness and the rich dark violet colour of its blossom It is to be found on rocky ground and hill-sides, and seems to like a hard-beaten path as well as any other spot on which to grow, and here it greets the passer-by—

Nor claims the culture of his hand
To bloom along the fair land,
But springs as to preclude his care
And sweetly woos him—but to spare!

The little bulbs produce fine grass-like leaves, together with the blossoms, in the spring

The modern Greek name is *kátsa*, which it shares with the crocus

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CROCUS AUREUS S et S

The golden crocus, though included in the Greek flora by earlier botanists, is rejected by Halácsy in his *Conspectus florae graecae*. But Mr E A Bowles, who recently revisited Greece, has rediscovered it, and shown conclusively that its supposed non-existence was due to a confusion with *Crocus Olivieri* Gay which happens, as a matter of fact, to be a rarer species.

Of a deep and glorious golden yellow, the rather small flowers appear with the leaves in January and February. They are almost indistinguishable from *Crocus Olivieri*, but the leaves, which in both plants appear with the flowers, have a narrower white line in *Crocus aureus*, whilst they do not lie more or less flat on the ground like those of *Crocus Olivieri*, but stand, or endeavour to stand, erect. Both kinds grow under pine woods in fairly dry situations.

The modern Greek name is kátsa.

CROCUS LAEVIGATUS Ch et B

One of the most charming of the many beautiful crocuses to be found in Greece is *C. laevigatus*, so called on account of its smooth corm, which has been compared to a hazel-nut in appearance. The rather small flower varies from pure ivory white to a rich mauve, usually with dark purple feathering on the outer segments. The throat of the flower is orange.

Crocus laevigatus is found only in Greece. It is very common in Attica, where it grows from sea-level up to 3,500 feet. The flowers appear at the beginning of November, together with the leaves.

The modern Greek name is kátsa.

CROCUS SIEBERI Gay

This beautiful species of *Crocus* is peculiar to Greece. Its colour is usually a rich lavender, but paler amethystine shades are common, and pure or ivory-white specimens are to be found occasionally. The throat of the blossom is always orange, the stigmata are orange-scarlet. *Crocus Sieberi* is very common in the neighbourhood of Mounts Pentelicon and Parnes, amid the scrub and under the pine trees. It begins to blossom

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in January on the lower ground, then on the mountain slopes, where it reaches an altitude of 5,000 feet. The leaves appear with the flowers

An exceedingly beautiful variety is to be found in the higher mountains in Crete and some of the Aegean islands, where it grows to an altitude of over 7,000 feet. This variety is deep cream in colour, usually with purple feathering on the outer segments

The modern Greek name is *kátsa*

CROCUS CANCELLATUS Herb

This is the first of the crocuses to make its appearance in the autumn. The white or amethystine flowers begin to appear in September, and may sometimes be found as late as December. The texture of the blossom is very fine, almost transparent, and this roughly distinguishes it from other autumn-flowering crocuses. The leaves appear after the flowers, which have a yellow throat and bright orange stigmata. The corm is covered with fibres, and somewhat resembles a tuft of coco-nut matting. It is sometimes eaten by the peasants, who call it *kastaneá* (chestnut)

Crocus cancellatus begins to blossom in the higher altitudes before it is to be seen in the plains

Kátsa is the name by which this and other crocuses are generally known in Greece

CROCUS CARTWRIGHTIANUS Herb (PLATE XX *d*)

This is the Greek representative of the well-known saffron crocus, which used to be a valuable article of commerce as a drug, or a dye. The flowers appear in November, and vary from white to a fairly deep purple (the commoner form), always veined beautifully with a deeper violet. This crocus is strongly scented, and it is one of the few species whose flowers, when once open, remain open day and night until they fade, except in cold weather, when they close. A distinguishing feature is the long scarlet stigmata, which hang out of the flower

C. Cartwrightianus is to be found in dry, stony soil, in open ground, and it seems to prefer hard-trodden ground, a fact which was noticed by the old Greek author, Theophrastus, who says that it 'loves even to be

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trodden on and grows fairer when the soil is crushed into the ground by the foot, wherefore it is fairest along the roads and in well worn places'.

The modern Greek name is zaphorá, derived from the Arabic name from which our 'saffron' also comes.

AMARYLLIDACEAE

PANCRATIUM MARITIMUM L.

This handsome member of the Amaryllis family is to be sought in the sands of the sea-shore at a few feet from the water's edge. The large, sweet-scented, white flowers appear in the summer months and grow in an umbel of from three to twelve blossoms. Six pointed tepals, each with a green stripe on the back, surround a white tubular corona, surmounted by twelve teeth. The blue-green, strap-shaped leaves are more or less evergreen. The bulb is large and grows deep down in the sand. According to Theophrastus the bulb is edible, and a woolly matter found between the outer skin of the bulb and the edible interior was used in the manufacture of slippers and other wearing apparel. In some countries the bulbs are still employed in medicine.

The modern Greek name is 'krínos tes thalásses', or 'sea-lily', as in English.

NARCISSUS TAZETTA L.

The 'polyanthus' narcissus has sweet-scented white flowers, with yellow cups, appearing shortly after the narrow, strap-like, glaucous leaves, as early as December in one variety, the usual flowering time being March or April. The size and shade of the yellow cup differ in different varieties, that occurring in Crete being taller and with a smaller but deeper yellow cup.

This narcissus may be found in damp ground, sometimes on the banks of streams and among the rocks by the sea-side.

The modern Greek name is zambáki, in Crete it is called manousáki. It is the leirion of the ancients.

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NARCISSUS SEROTINUS L

This delightful little plant resembles a miniature poet's narcissus, and is the narkissos or leirion of the ancients. Its very sweetly scented blossoms spring up soon after the first autumn rains have fallen, and are followed later on by the rush-like leaves. The bulb is oval and about the size of a small cherry. It is to be found in dry, open ground, generally not far from the sea-shore. The flowers, usually growing singly on a stem 6 inches or more in height, are white with a pale yellow cup. The leaves are longer than the flower stem. It flowers from September to November. The modern Greek name zambáki—applied equally to *N. Tazetta*—is borrowed from the Turks.

STERNBERGIA SICULA Tin

(PLATE XVII c)

This crocus-like plant has splendid golden blossoms which appear like magic from the ground after the first autumn rains have fallen, and are closely followed by the rather broadly linear, dark green leaves. *Sternbergia* is thought by some to be the true 'lily of the field', and it would deserve the appellation were it not that the fields are the last place in which it is likely to be found. It loves a dry, rocky, situation fully exposed to the sun, and it is surprising with how little soil it can satisfy itself. A variety, *Sternbergia sicula* var *graeca* (Reichb.) Heldr., has smaller blossoms and narrow leaves. Both are to be found up to an altitude of about 4,000 feet on the Attic mountains.

SMILACEAE

SMILAX ASPERA L

(PLATE XXI a)

Generally included in the lily family, the genus *Smilax* is, by some authorities, placed in a special family.

Smilax aspera is an evergreen, weedy, climbing plant, often growing to the height of 40 feet or more, with leathery, shiny, hastate leaves furnished with small, hooked spines at the edges. The branches bear spines at intervals. The flowers are borne in summer and autumn in pendent racemes, composed of a string of little umbels, and are whitish in colour.

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They are succeeded in autumn by red berries the size of a currant. A more or less spineless variety with heart-shaped leaves, and another with black berries, are also to be found

Theophrastus describes the smilax at length, and remarks that the white flower is scented like that of a lily

The modern Greek name is arkoudóvatos, or akrévatos

ASPARAGACEAE

ASPARAGUS ACUTIFOLIUS L

The genus *Asparagus* is often placed in the lily family; some botanists, however, associate it with such plants as butcher's broom, lily of the valley, &c, in a separate family

Asparagus acutifolius is a wiry, straggling plant, occasionally reaching 5 feet in height or, rather, length its leaves, which are really branchlets (the real leaves are reduced to scales), grow in clusters of four to twelve, at intervals along the branches

The small, bell-shaped, yellowish flowers are scented somewhat like mignonette They appear in summer, and are followed by berries the size of a dry pea, which are at first greenish-white and then black

The plant is described by Theophrastus

The young shoots are gathered in the spring and sold as salad.

The ancient name aspharagos survives in slightly corrupted forms, as asparangiá, spharangiá, &c

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ASPHODELUS MICROCARPUS Viv.

The greater asphodel is to be found in abundance, especially near the sea, under pine trees, or on rocky hills and dry stony ground up to an altitude of 1,600 feet Seen in masses amongst the rocks it is a thing of great beauty, but the flower loses much on close inspection Its brownish-white blossoms are borne in the spring on a branching stalk 3 feet in height, and the plant gives out what to many people is a rather disagreeable odour The root is rich in sugar and starch, and in ancient

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times the whole plant was used as food. Theophrastus tells us that the stalk is edible when fried, the seeds when roasted, and the root when cut up with figs. During the Great War the roots were again pressed into the service of the cook in some parts of Greece

The modern Greek name of the plant is spherdoukla, in Crete asphódelos or asphendylíá

ASPHODELUS FISTULOSUS L

(PLATE XVIII c)

The small asphodel grows in shallow rocky soil. Its flesh-coloured petals have each a line of amber colour in the centre. The branched stems attain a height of more than a foot. The leaves are narrow, rounded, almost reed-like. The graceful lines of this plant are particularly charming, and may account for the ancients having chosen it as the ornament of the Elysian fields, in which the heroes disport themselves after death. The roots are fleshy and fibrous.

There is another species, *A. tenuifolius* Cav., which resembles *A. fistulosus*, but is smaller in all its parts, and also rarer.

The modern Greek (Cretan) name is asphendylíá

ASPHODELINE LIBURNICA (Scop.) Reichb

(PLATE XVII b)

The genus *Asphodeline* is closely related to *Asphodelus* and has been included in it by some authors. It differs in having leaf-bearing aerial stems and yellow flowers.

Asphodeline liburnica occurs in brushwood in rocky places in the montane region, flowering from May to July. It is found in various parts of the kingdom of Greece from Crete northwards. It is a perennial herb with a short rhizome which has rather thick elongated cylindrical roots. Typically, the main stem is leafy below and bare above and is often simple but is sometimes, as in the figure reproduced in this work, branched below. The leaves are very narrow (filiform) and have scabrous margins. The yellow tepals are made more conspicuous by single green mid-nerves.

The only other Greek species, *A. lutea* (L.) Reichb., is common on the Attic hills. Its modern Greek name is peridromóchoro —*Ed.*

LILIACEAE

FRITILLARIA GRAECA Boiss et Sprun

(PLATE XIII *b*)

The fritillaries belong to the tulip section of the lily family. The flowers are bell-shaped, and appear in spring on the rocky hills, at altitude between 500 and 4,000 feet. The lance-shaped leaves grow alternately on a stem, which is usually between 4 and 9 inches in height and spring from a white bulb shaped like a compressed sphere

Of the two species illustrated here, *F. graeca* is brown, chequered with greenish-yellow, with a yellowish vertical band in the centre of every segment. The stem carries one, or sometimes two, and rarely three flowers.

FRITILLARIA OBLIQUA Ker-Gawl

(PLATE XIII *c*)

F. obliqua is chocolate-brown in colour, and has usually two, but sometimes as many as nine, flowers on a stem. It is scented like the lily of the valley

LLOYDIA GRAECA (L.) Kunth

This little member of the lily family, only about 4 inches in height, is common on rocky ground at altitudes up to about 2,500 feet

It has a small fibrous bulb, from which rise in spring narrow grass-like leaves and a stem bearing from one to three small white flowers, sometimes purplish outside

Another species, *Lloydia serotina* (L.) Reichb., is common on the Alps of Central Europe, and occurs on Snowdon in North Wales

GAGEA PEDUNCULARIS (Presl) Pasch

(PLATE XV *c*)

Gagea peduncularis is another small member of the lily family, found on rocky ground at altitudes up to about 3,000 feet. A small bulb sends up narrow, slightly hairy leaves and a stalk bearing, in spring, one to three small golden flowers in the shape of an umbel

A closely similar species, *G. lutea* (L.) Ker-Gawl, is found rarely in England

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TULIPA BOEOTICA Boiss et Heldr.

TULIPA AUSTRALIS Link

(PLATE XV *b*)

Both these handsome tulips are found in Attica, but, whilst the former is to be sought at comparatively low altitudes, in fields with a deep humid soil, the latter grows on rocky ground and may be found as high up as 4,500 or more feet

Tulipa boeotica is, as its name implies, commoner in the adjoining province of Boeotia than in the drier Attica. It is there to be seen, dotting the fields of growing barley, by thousands in the spring. It is scarlet, with a black blotch surrounded by bright yellow at the interior base of each tepal, and a yellow corresponding blotch outside. The leaves are prettily undulated at the edges.

Tulipa australis is a smaller plant, with yellow tepals usually reddish at the base and tip outside. The leaves are narrow and channelled. There is a smaller variety found in early summer as high as 7,000 feet, in which the outsides of the tepals are red.

ORNITHOGALUM NUTANS L

(PLATE XV *d*)

The ornithogalums, which include the star of Bethlehem, all bear white or greenish-white flowers and broadly linear leaves. Most of them grow in dry, sunny places, but *Ornithogalum nutans* is an exception to this rule and is to be found in the spring in damp fields, or on the tops of mountains between 3,000 and 4,500 feet. In the former localities it is usually about a foot in height but, at the higher altitudes, it does not exceed half that stature. The white bulbs grow down in the soil and produce a one-sided spike of white blossoms with green stripes on the outside.

URGINEA MARITIMA (L) Baker

In early autumn this plant's enormous bulbs, the upper portion of which protrudes from the soil, send up a tall spike, generally between 3 and 4 feet in height, the last 10 or 12 inches of which bear numerous small white, star-shaped flowers. Later on, the broad, strap-shaped leaves make their appearance.

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The reason for the epithet *maritima*, as applied to this plant, is not obvious, as it has no preference for the sea-side, and is to be seen in thousands inland on rocky ground, preferably in the open but also in sparse pine woods

The old Greek botanist, Theophrastus, correctly observes that 'the bulb even lives when hung up, and continues to do so for a very long time', and he adds that 'it is even able to keep other things that are stored, for instance the pomegranate, if the stalk of the plant is set in it'

The modern Greek name is skyllokrómmyda (dog-onion) In Crete it is called askillitoúra It will be observed that the old name of the plant, skilla, is embodied in both modern names

STRANGWEIA SPICATA (S et S) Boiss

This little plant resembles a squill in its general appearance Its grey-blue, almond-scented flowers appear on the hill-sides between January and the end of March, together with its narrow leaves

It is one of those plants whose resemblance to each of several genera has caused them to be variously classified by different botanists *Strangweia spicata* has thus been placed in *Puschkina*, *Bellevalia*, and *Hyacinthus* by different authorities

SCILLA BIFOLIA L

The two-leaved squill is to be found in Greece at altitudes exceeding 3,000 feet The bright blue flowers appear in April and May among the rocks on the mountain tops and under the fir trees It is probably the plant known to the ancients as wild hyacinth

The var *subnivalis* (Nym) Hal is commoner in Greece than the type, than which it has often more than twice as many blossoms on a stem

SCILLA AUTUMNALIS L.

(PLATE XVIII a)

The autumn squill puts forth its small lilac flowers in September and October The narrow, grass-like leaves do not make their appearance until the flowers have passed It is to be found in dry, open ground, or under the pine trees, and is very plentiful round Athens The bulb is whitish and about the size of a cherry The flowers are small and none too easy to distinguish, perhaps it is for this reason that the plant seems

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to lack a name in modern Greek, though the ancient Greeks called it tiphyon, and it is mentioned by the father of botany, Theophrastus

LEOPOLDIA COMOSA (L.) Parl

This is a bulbous plant, sometimes placed in the genus *Muscari*, and known in England as purse-tassels

The leaves are broadly linear and channelled, and the flowers are borne in a spike on a stem about a foot in height. The apex of the spike is formed of upright, violet, sterile flowers, below which the fertile, brownish flowers project more or less horizontally at intervals

The flowers appear, with the leaves, in spring, and are plentiful in cultivated or uncultivated ground

This plant was cultivated by the ancients for food, and is still sold for salad during Lent

The ancient name, bolbos (bulb), is still in use in its modern form, volvós, sometimes corrupted into vorvós

MELANTHACEAE

MERENDERA ATTICA (Sprun.) Boiss et Sprun

The genus *Merendera* is closely allied to *Colchicum*, of which the 'autumn crocus' is the only British example

Merendera attica possesses a 'corm' resembling that of a *Colchicum*, from the base of which grow the roots. The flowers, which appear in autumn, at the same time as the leaves, have free tepals which are white or pale lilac in colour. The leaves are narrow and channelled

It is to be found in quantity on the dry moorland near Athens, but it also grows in marshy ground near the sea

ARACEAE

DRACUNCULUS VULGARIS Schott (PLATE XX b)

This wonderfully handsome member of the arum family is very common in olive orchards, hedges, and ditches at low altitudes. The blossom

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appears in April and May and resembles that of the arum lily of our florists, but the interior of the spathe is of a rich brown-purple, and the stem of the plant is marbled and spotted with yellow. The leaves, which die down in late summer, are finely divided. The fruits are handsome, scarlet berries. Unfortunately, *Dracunculus* is cursed with a terrible odour which, while it attracts the flies that help to pollinate the blossoms, repels the more fastidious human being, and thus prevents it from becoming a popular ornament of our gardens.

According to Theophrastus, the root of the drakontion, as this plant was anciently called, is useful mixed with honey to cure a cough.

The modern Greek names of *Dracunculus* are drakontiá, or dragon-plant, and pheidóchorto, meaning snake-plant, appellations no doubt due to the snake-like markings on the stem, as is the English name adderwort.

ARISARUM VULGARE Targ -Tozz

(PLATE XXI *b*)

This plant is sometimes known as *Arum Arisarum* L.

It is a quaint little plant, usually about 4 inches, though occasionally reaching a foot, in height, producing, in spring, inflorescences something like the pitchers of the pitcher-plant, brownish inside and white striped with green outside. The plant is monoecious, that is, it bears male and female flowers on the same plant.

The leaves resemble, on a small scale, those of the common 'Lords and Ladies' (*Arum maculatum* L.) of the English wayside.

The modern Greek name is lýchnos or lychnaráki.

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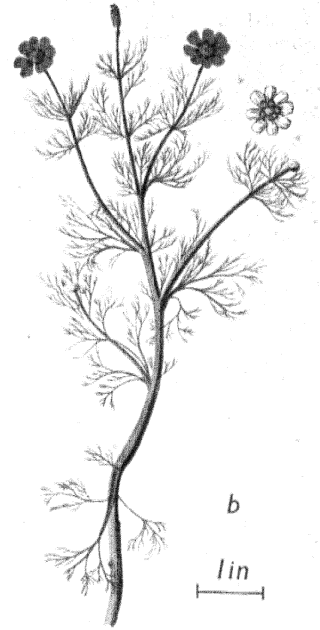
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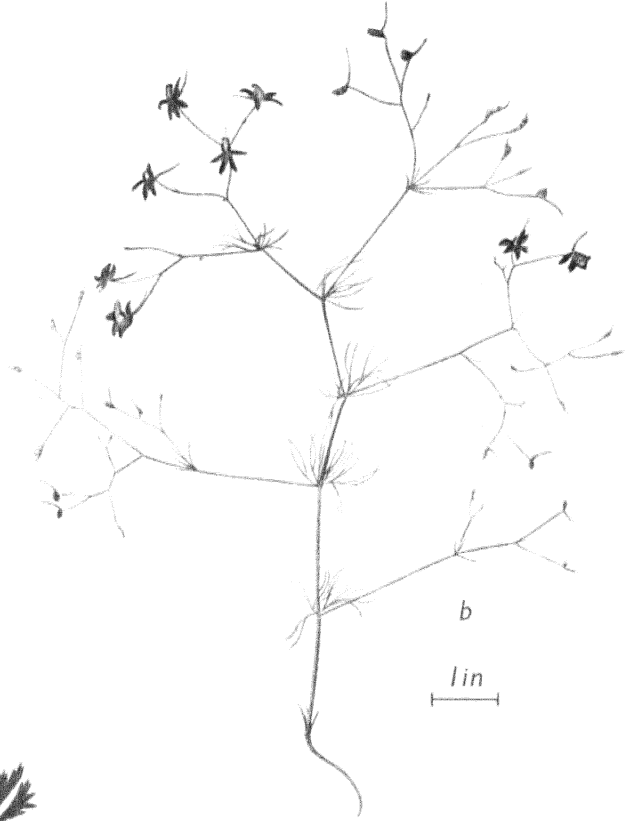
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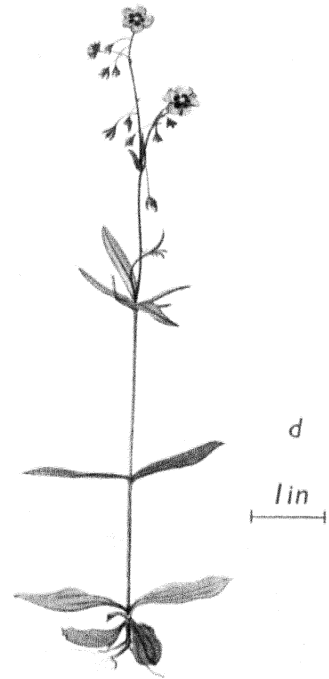
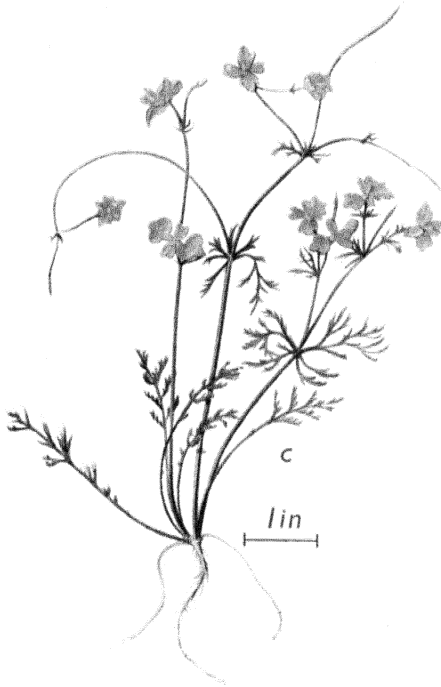
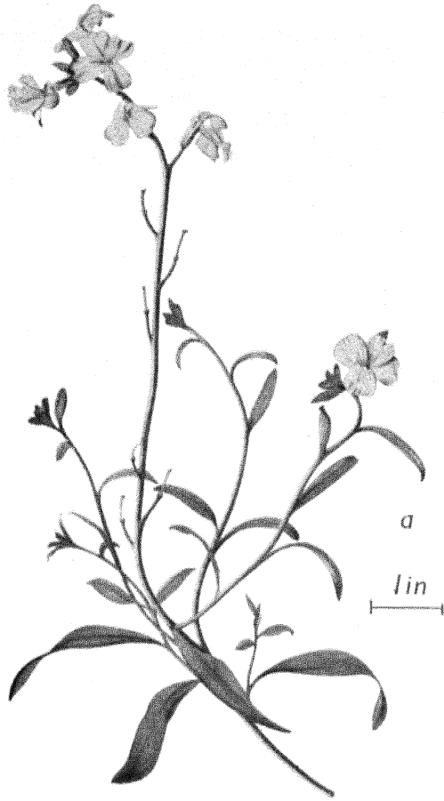
(a) *Clematis crinosa* L
 (c) *Leontice Leontopetalum* L.

(b) *Adonis Cupaniana* Guss
 (d) *Clematis Flammula* L.



(a) *Delphinium junceum* DC
(c) *Anemone coronaria* L

(b) *Delphinium tenuissimum* S et S
(d) *Anemone blanda* Schott et Kty



(a) *Cheiranthus Cheiri* L.
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(b) *Tribulus terrestris* L.
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(a) *Cistus creticus* L.
(c) *Psoralea bituminosa* L.

(b) *Silene Behen* L.
(d) *Cercis Siliquastrum* L.



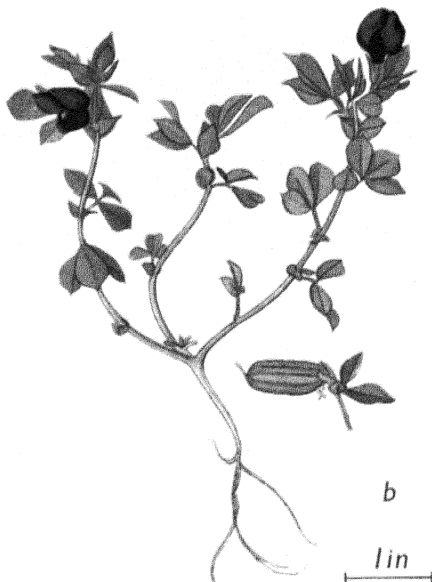
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 (c) *Calycotome villosa* (Vahl) Link

(b) *Coronilla emeroides* Boiss et Sprun
 (d) *Spartium junceum* L



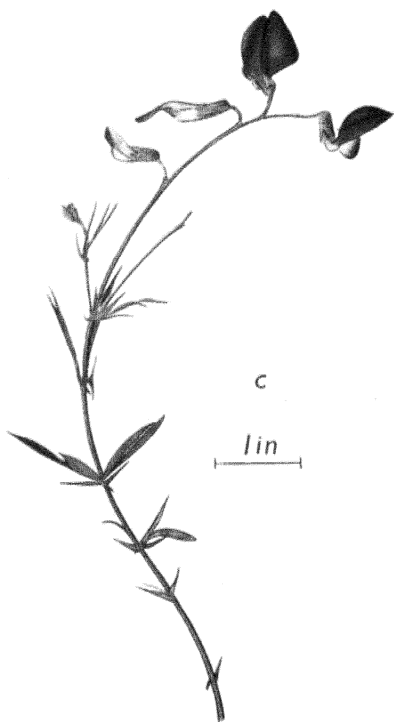
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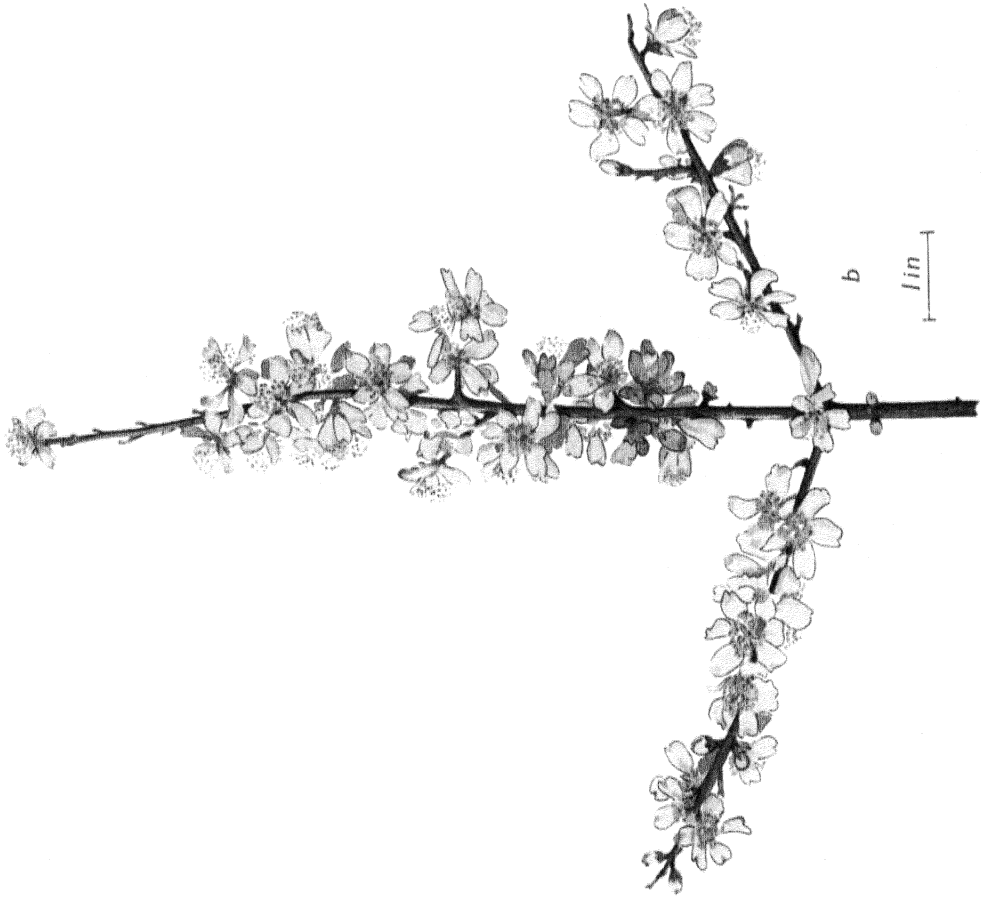


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(a) *Ebenus Sibthorpii* DC
(c) *Orobus digitatus* M. Bieb.

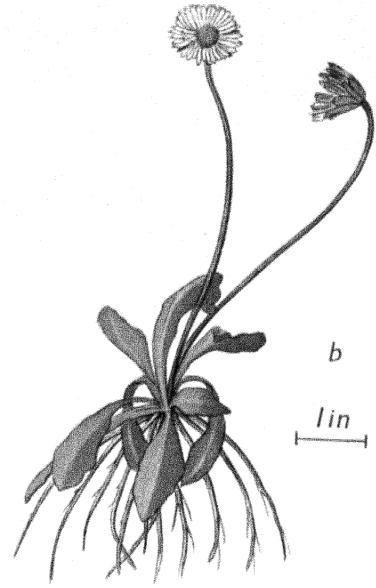
(b) *Tetragonolobus purpureus* Moench
(d) *Poterium spinosum* L.



(b) *Amygdalus communis* L.



(a) *Colutea arborescens* L.



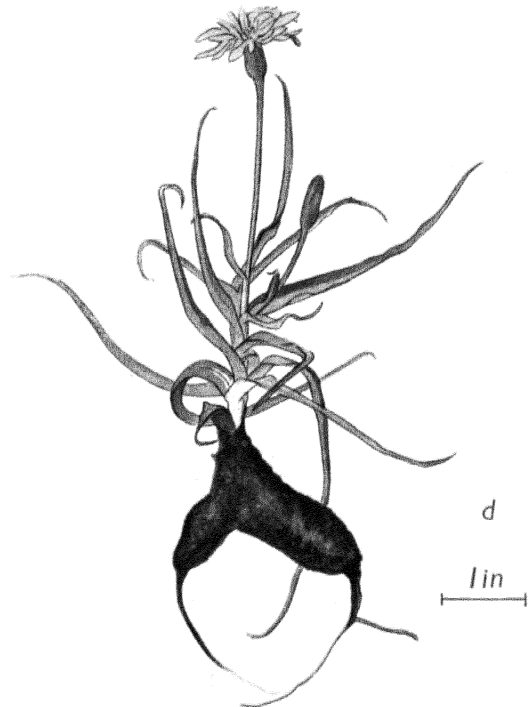
(a) *Ecballium Elaterum* (L.) Rich
 (c) *Pallenus spinosa* (L.) Cass.

(b) *Bellis silvestris* Cyr
 (d) *Chrysanthemum coronarium* L.



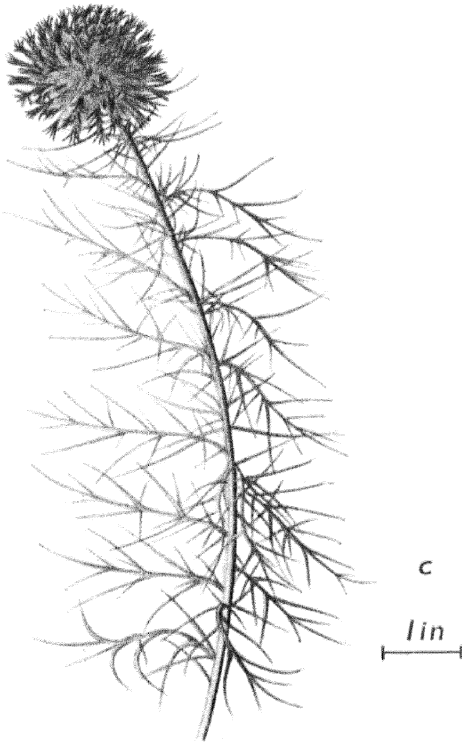
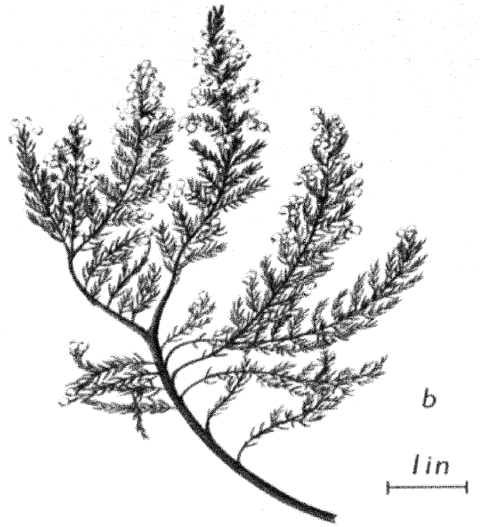
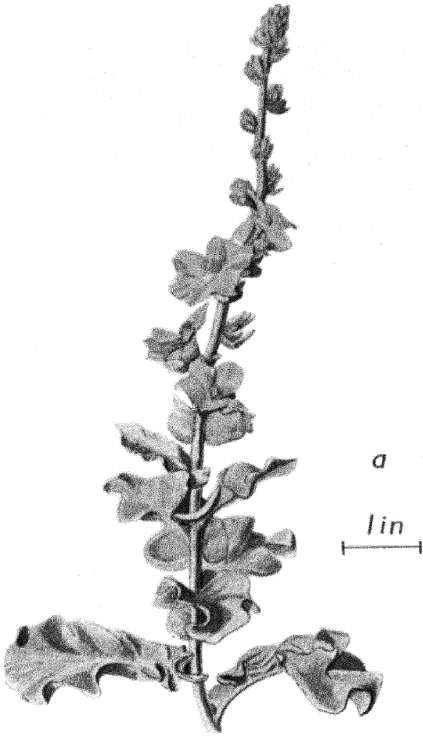
(a) *Campanula Gelsu* DC
 (c) *Tragopogon porrifolius* L

(b) *Crupina Crupinastrum* (Mor.) Vis
 (d) *Centaurea Pinardi* Boiss



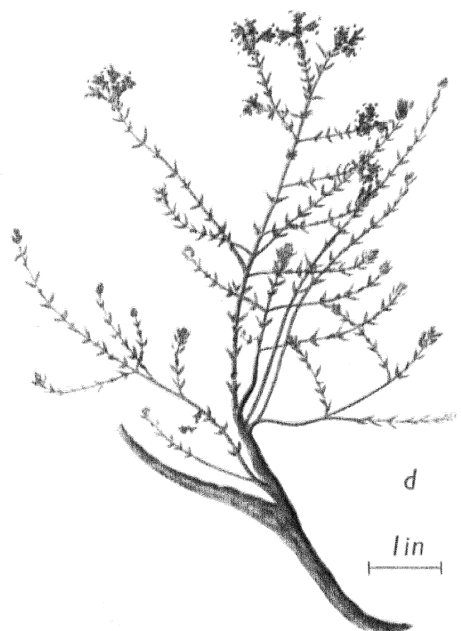
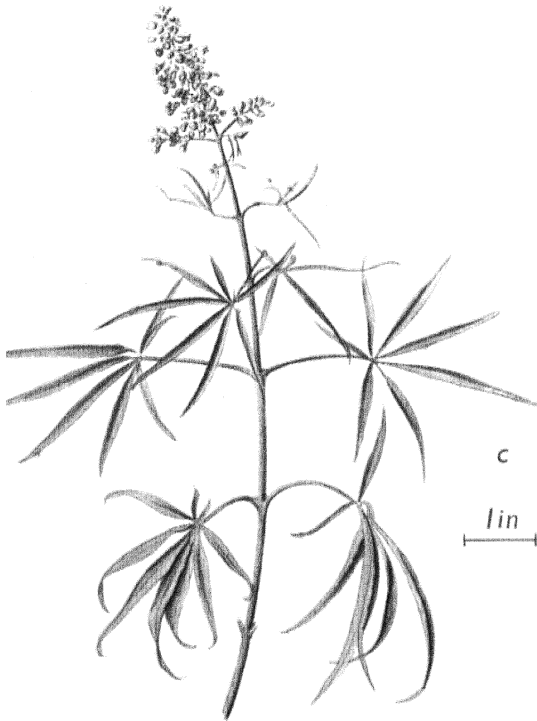
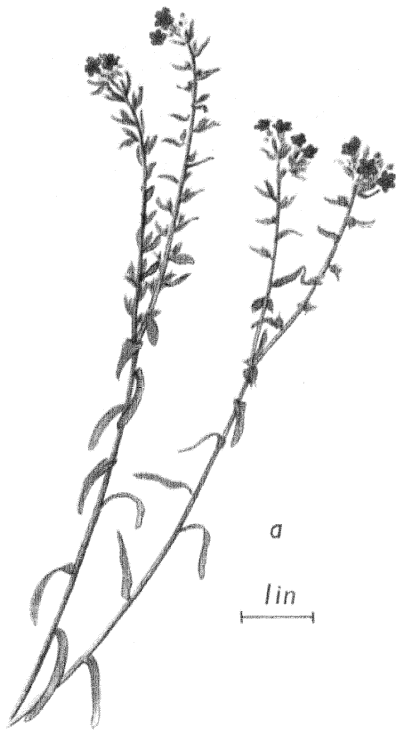
(a) *Campanula Gelsu* DC
 (c) *Tragopogon porrifolius* L

(b) *Crupina Crupinastrum* (Mor) Vis
 (d) *Centaurea Pinardi* Boiss



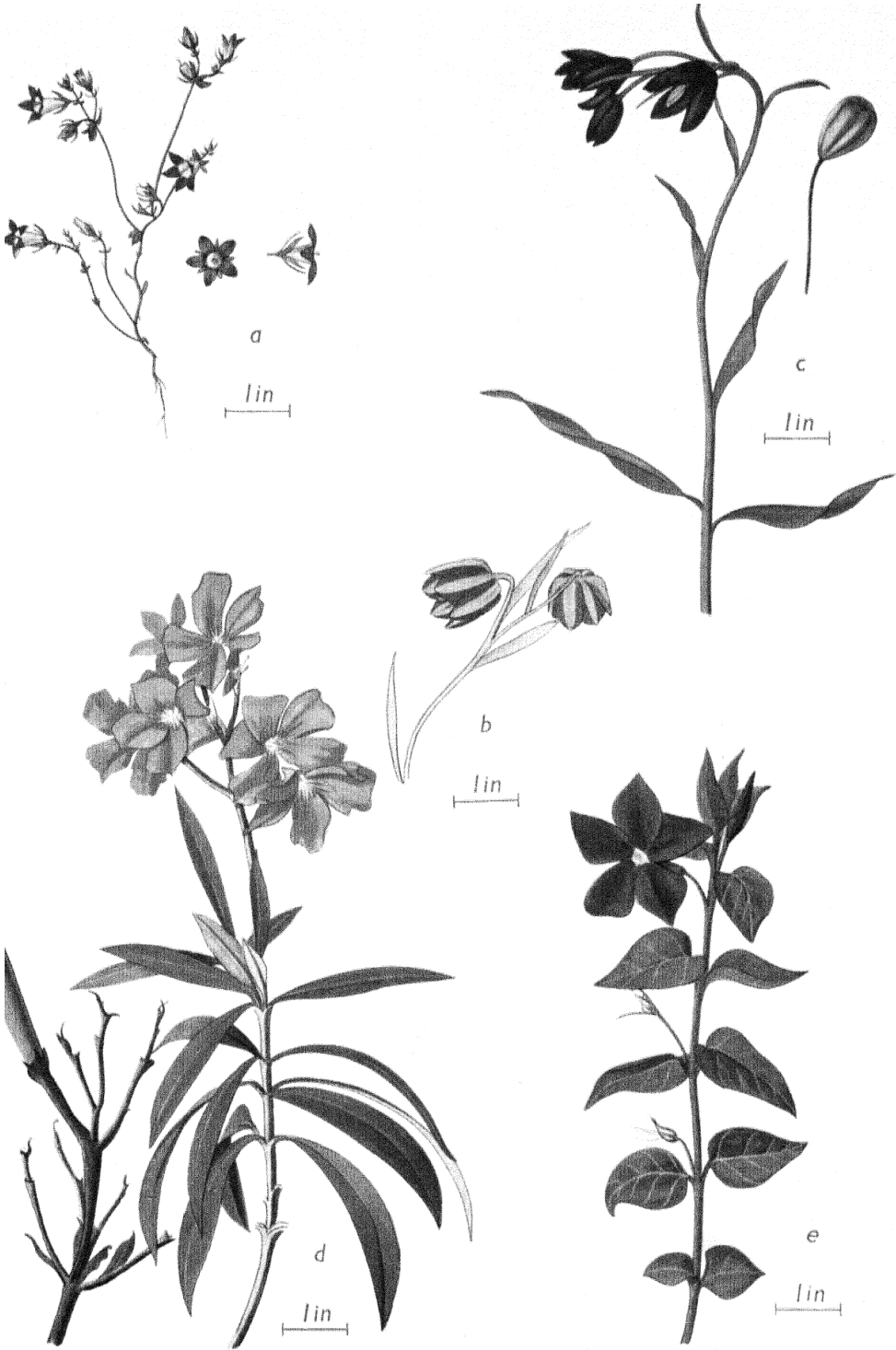
(a) *Verbascum undulatum* Lam
 (c) *Echinops graecus* Mill

(b) *Erica arborescens* L
 (d) *Cerinthe major* L.



(a) *Alkanna tinctoria* (L.) Tausch
 (c) *Vitex Agnus-castus* L.

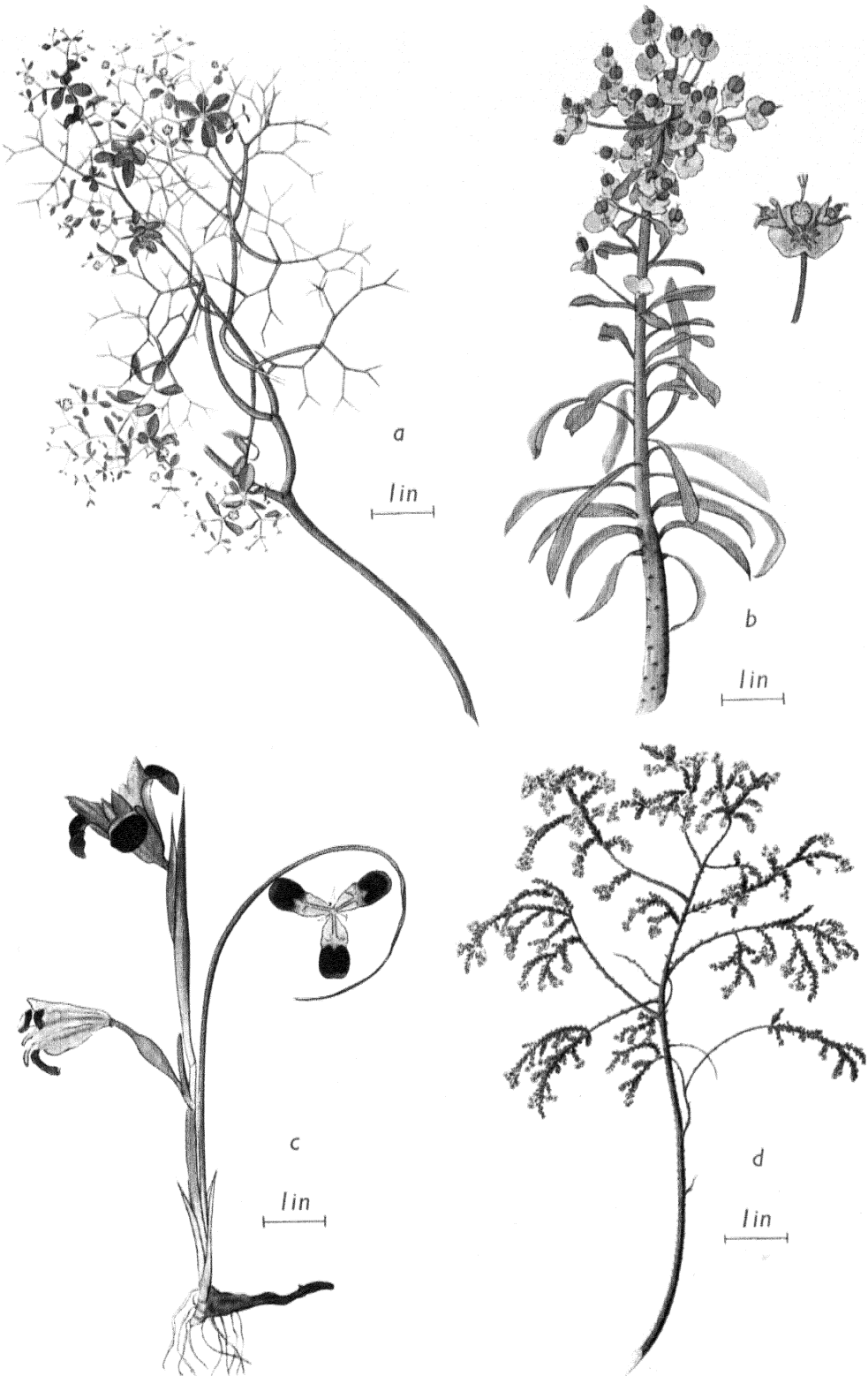
(b) *Echium plantagineum* L.
 (d) *Thymbra capitata* (L.) Gussob



(a) *Campanula drabifolia* S et S
(c) *Fritillaria obliqua* Ker-Gawl

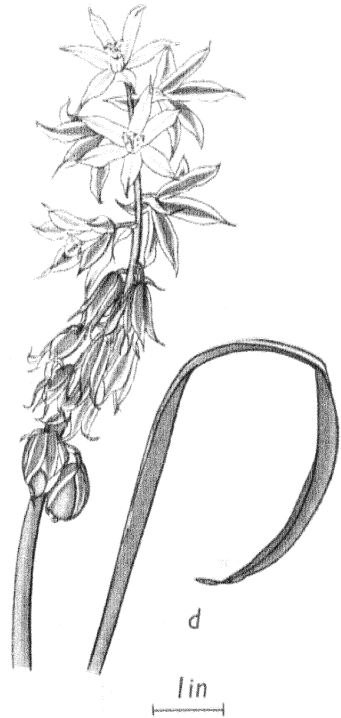
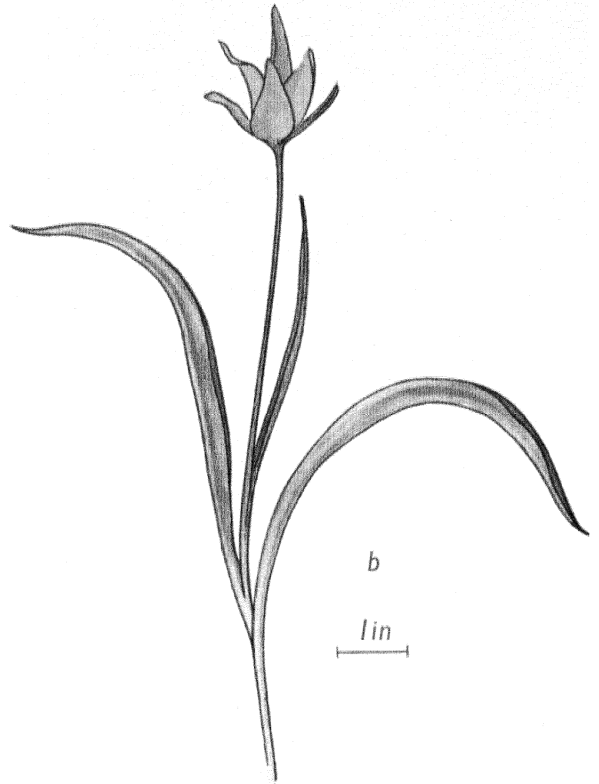
(b) *Fritillaria graeca* Boiss. et Spr
(d) *Nerium Oleander* L.

(e) *Vinca major* L.



(a) *Euphorbia acanthothamnus* Helder et Sart
(c) *Hermodactylus tuberosus* (L.) Salisb.

(b) *Euphorbia sibthorpii* Boiss
(d) *Thymelaea hirsuta* L

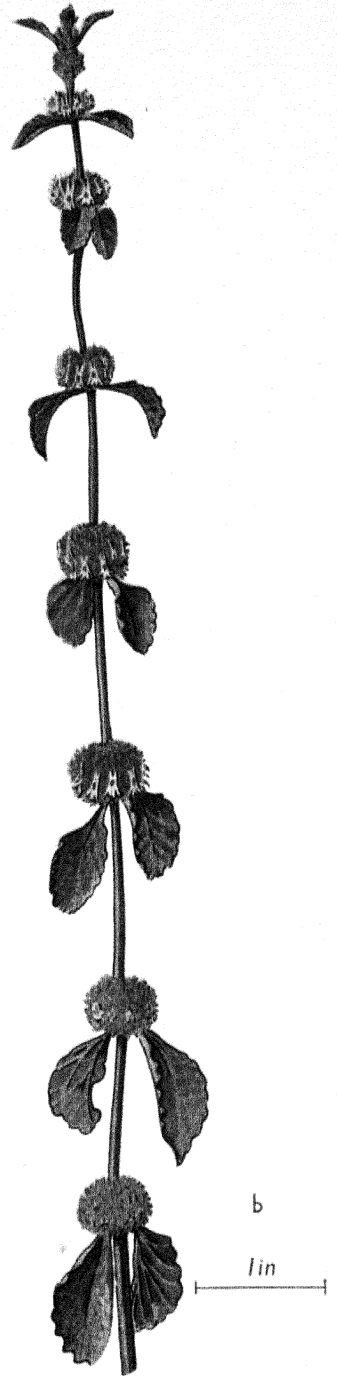


(a) *Convolvulus elegantissimus* L.
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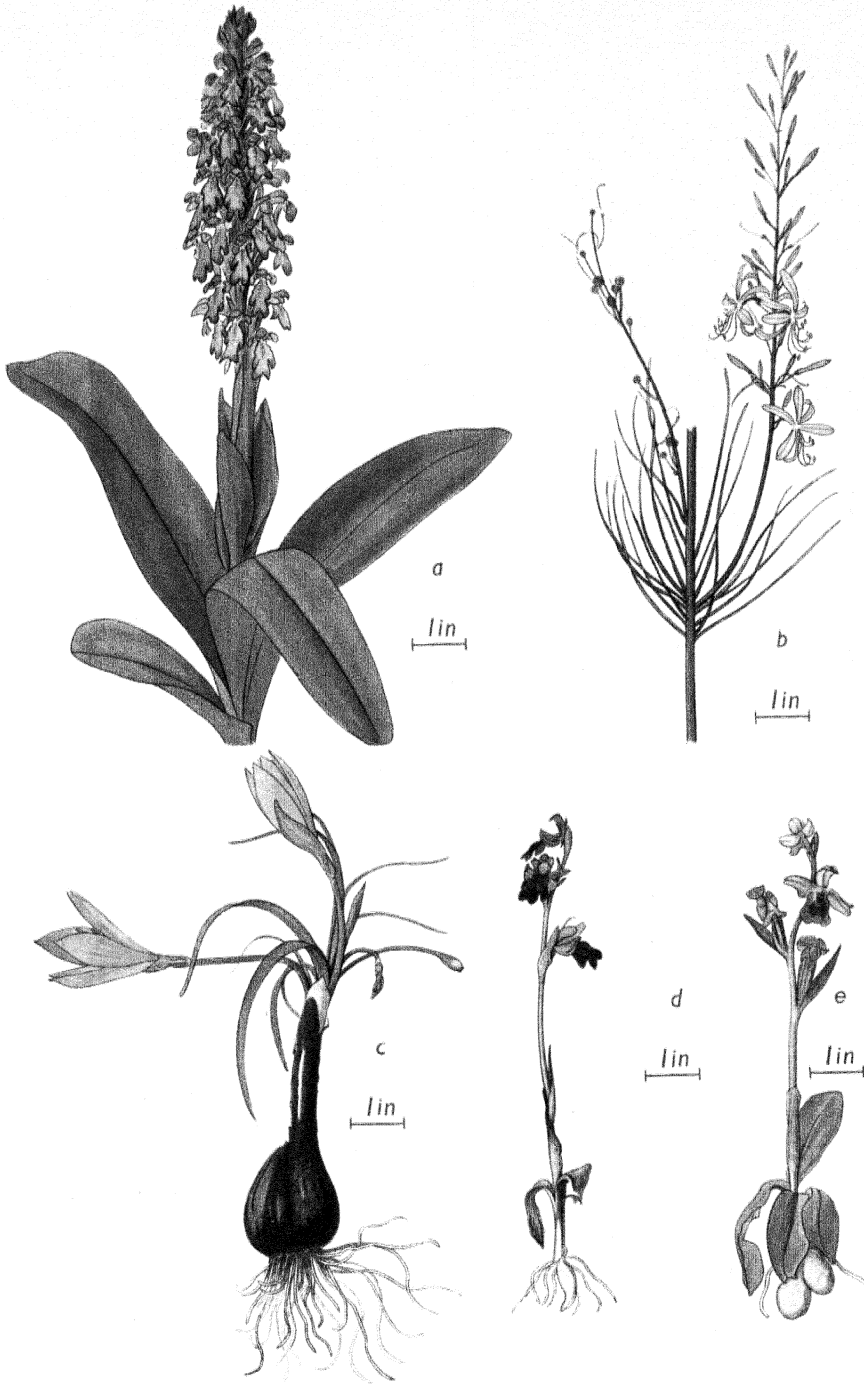
(b) *Tulipa australis* Link
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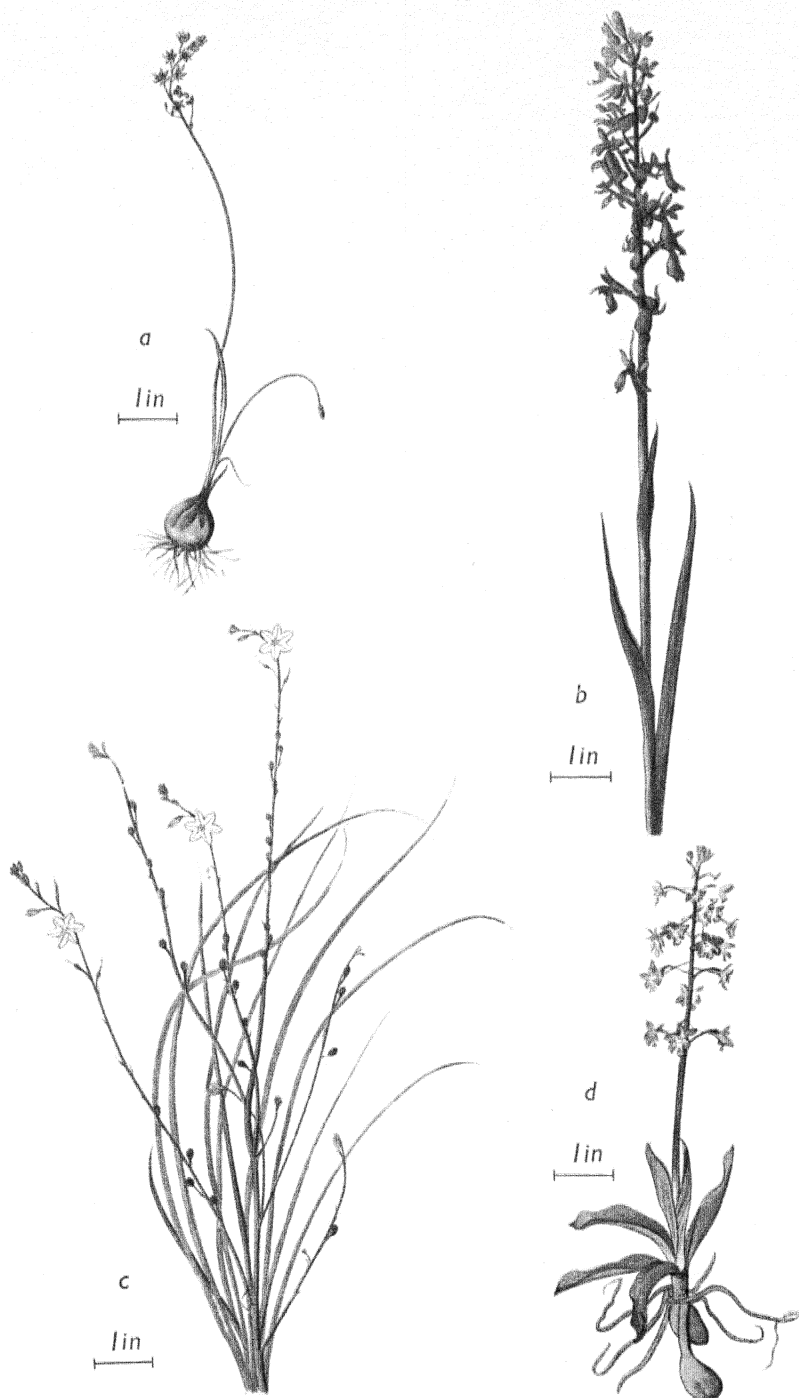


(b) *Marrubium vulgare* L.



(a) *Barlia longibracteata* (Biv.) Parl.
 (c) *Sternbergia sicula* Tin.

(b) *Asphodeline liburnica* (Scop.) Reichb.
 (d) *Ophrys fusca* Link (e) *Ophrys tenthredinifera* Willd.



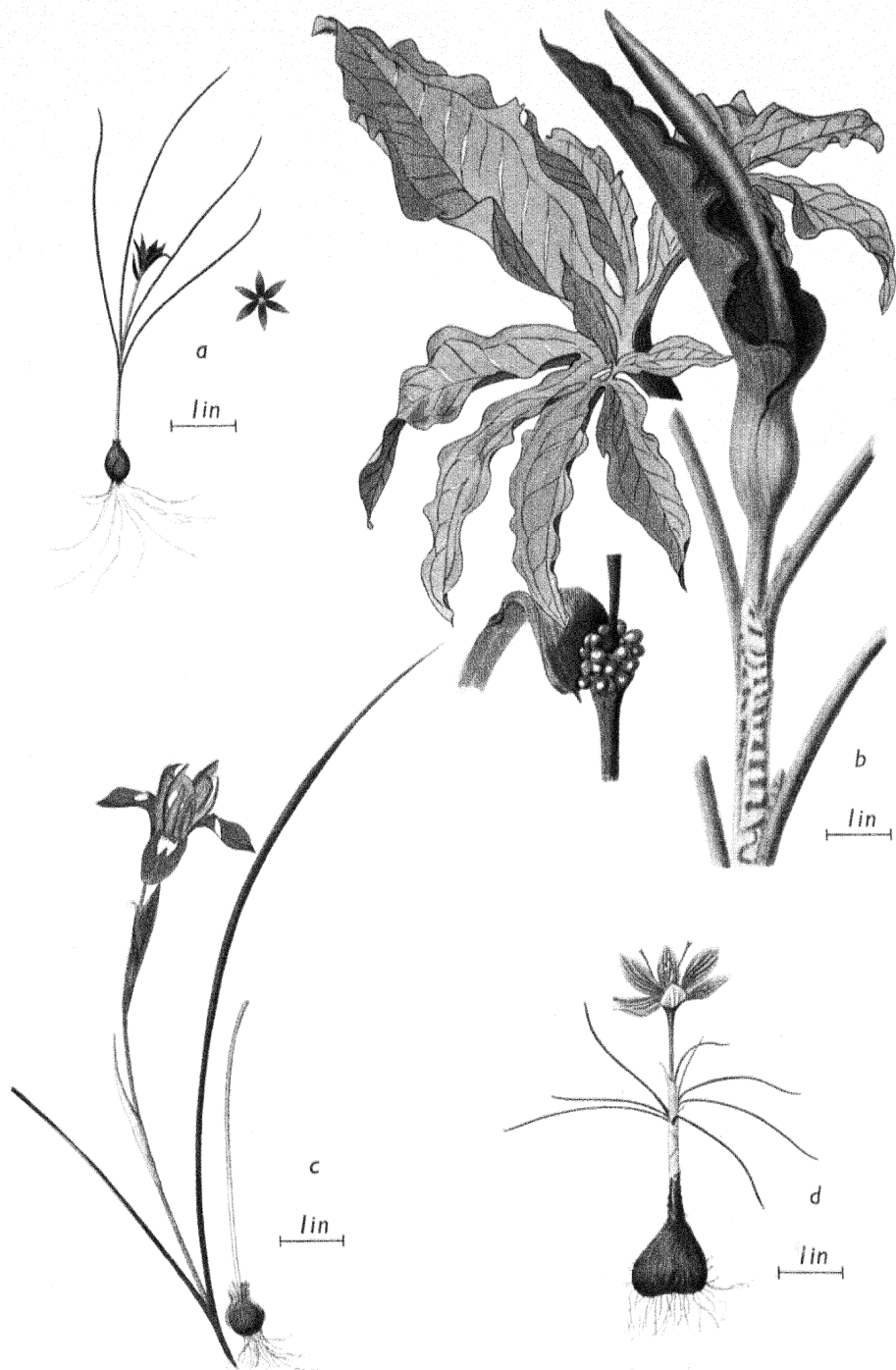
(a) *Scilla autumnalis* L.
 (c) *Asphodelus fistulosus* L.

(b) *Orchis laxiflora* Lam.
 var. *palustris* (Jacq.) Koch
 (d) *Orchis quadripunctata* Cyr.



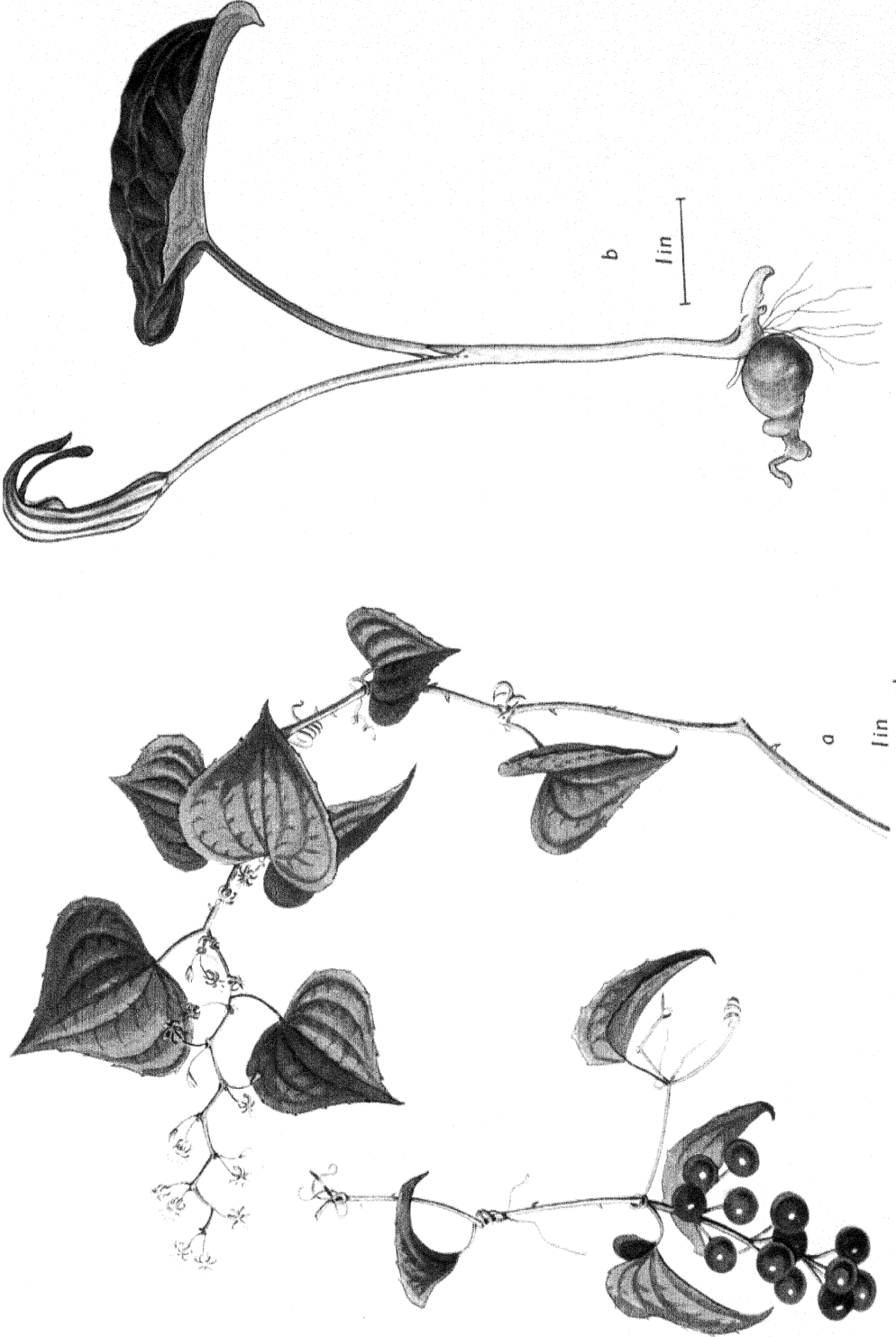
(a) *Iris attica* Boiss. et Heldr.

(b) *Iris cretensis* Janka



(a) *Romulea Linaresii* Parl.
 (c) *Gynandriris Sisyrinchium* (L.) Parl.

(b) *Dracunculus vulgaris* Schott
 (d) *Crocus Cartwrightianus* Herb.



(a) *Smilax aspera* L.

(b) *Arisarum vulgare* Targ. Toz.

