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Floristic and phytosociological investigation of the island Antikythera and nearby islets (SW Aegean, Greece)

Abstract

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Resulting from field work in all seasons 120 taxa are newly recorded for the island of Antikythera, among them 13 local or Aegean endemics. The total number of native plant taxa on the island is raised to 336. From the nearby islets Thimonies and Prassou, thus far unexplored botanically, 8 and 98 taxa, respectively, are recorded. Chorological and biological spectra of the total flora of the islands are given and discussed. A description of the vegetation of the area is added, including a vegetation map. The need for intensive exploration of the Greek island flora during all seasons is emphasized.

Key words: flora, endemics, vegetation, Thimonies, Prassou, chorology, life forms.

Introduction

The island of Antikythera is very interesting floristically and biogeographically, due to its special geographic position and geohistory. The island is a remnant of a former land bridge connecting Crete with Peloponnisos (Dermitzakis & Papanicolaou 1981). According to paleogeographical data, it became isolated from Crete and Kythera-Peloponnisos in the Pliocene, i.e. 4.5-2.5 million years ago. The remnants of the above-mentioned land bridge consist of three inhabited (Elafonisos, Kythera and Antikythera) and a number of smaller and uninhabited islands (Fig. 1).

Kythera, including its offshore islets, and Elafonisos are floristically well known (Greuter & Rechinger 1967, Yannitsaros 1969, 1971, 1998, 2004, Jagel 1992, Iatrou 1994, Tzanoudakis & al. 1998, Panitsa & al. 2004). The third island, Antikythera, with its adjacent islets Prassou and Thimonies, is scarcely explored and only a single floristic catalogue exists, prepared almost 40 years ago (Greuter & Rechinger 1967). It is a nice coincidence that the results of our explorations can be published in a Festschrift in honour of one of the authors of that contribution. It was based

on collections made by these authors, Dimitrios Phitos (Patras, Greece) and Sven Snogerup (Lund, Sweden), all, although independently, during the first half of May 1964. For this reason our collecting visits were organized in different seasons (early spring, autumn and early summer). Some results have already been published (Tzanoudakis & al. 1998, Tzanoudakis 2000, Artelari & Georgiou 2002). The present paper provides a contribution to the vascular flora, a description of the main vegetation units, and phytogeographical comments.

Geographical background

The island of Antikythera is situated 38 km SSE of the island of Kythera and almost at an equal distance WNW of Crete. It has a surface of 20.04 km² and at present less than 50 permanent inhabitants. The islet of Prassou has a surface of c. 0.5 km² and is situated c. 8 km north of Antikythera. The two islets called Thimonies are situated close to the NNW end of the island (Fig. 1).

The main island has a very rugged topography with a maximum altitude of 378 m and a coastline of 24 km. The crest of the main mountain range runs NNW to SSE. The northwestern and western slopes are very steep, whereas on the opposite side the inclination is more moderate and some small valleys with temporary streams exist. Small plains and hills, which usually lead up to vertical limestone cliffs, characterize the interior of the island. There is only one small sandy beach, on the NNE end of the island.

Geologically, the area is composed of limestone (mainly biomicrites) of Paleocene-Lower Eocene age in the north and east, and of Upper Cretaceous limestones (mainly micrudites) in the centre, south and east, and on Prassou. There are also lacustrine and marine deposits such as conglomerates, sandstones, marls and clays, sometimes with lignite beds (Bornovas & Rontogianni-Tsiampaou 1983).

As there is no meteorological station on Antikythera, the climate has to be inferred from data from the nearest meteorological stations of Souda (Chania, Crete) and on the island of Kythera. According to these data and Emberger's coefficient (Emberger 1955, Mavrommatis 1980), the area belongs to the subhumid bioclimatic zone with warm winters, almost free of frost and snow, and a dry period of 5.5 months, from early April to mid September.

Material and methods

The plant list given below is based mainly on collections and observations made by the authors during mid November 1996, early April and mid June 1997 and mid April 2000. Vouchers are deposited in Patras (UPA). The floristic information given by Greuter & Rechinger (1967), 226 taxa for Antikythera, has also been considered for the analysis of the flora, but is not listed here. Included are 17 records sent to the authors by Dr Ralf Jahn, who visited the main island on 17-18 May 1995, and not found by us. The identifications and the nomenclature are mainly based on Flora Europaea (Tutin & al. 1968-80, 1993). In a few cases more recent publications have been taken into consideration (Greuter & al. 1984-89, Turland 2004, Turland & al. 1993, Chilton & Turland 1997, Biel 2004, Strid & Tan 1997, 2002).

The chorological categories and analysis follow Pignatti (1982) except for the E Mediterranean element, which follows Davis (1965-85). Adventive and cultivated taxa are included in the list but have not been considered in the floristic analysis. Life-form categories and the corresponding life-form spectrum are according to Raunkiaer (1934). Chorological and life form spectra comprise the total native flora of the area studied and not only the new records presented in the plant list.

The description of the vegetation is based on field work and observations by the authors, including 36 relevés with 179 taxa taken from all different habitats (Panitsa & al. unpubl.). The vegetation map in Figure 1C is based on aerial photographs, supported by field verification.

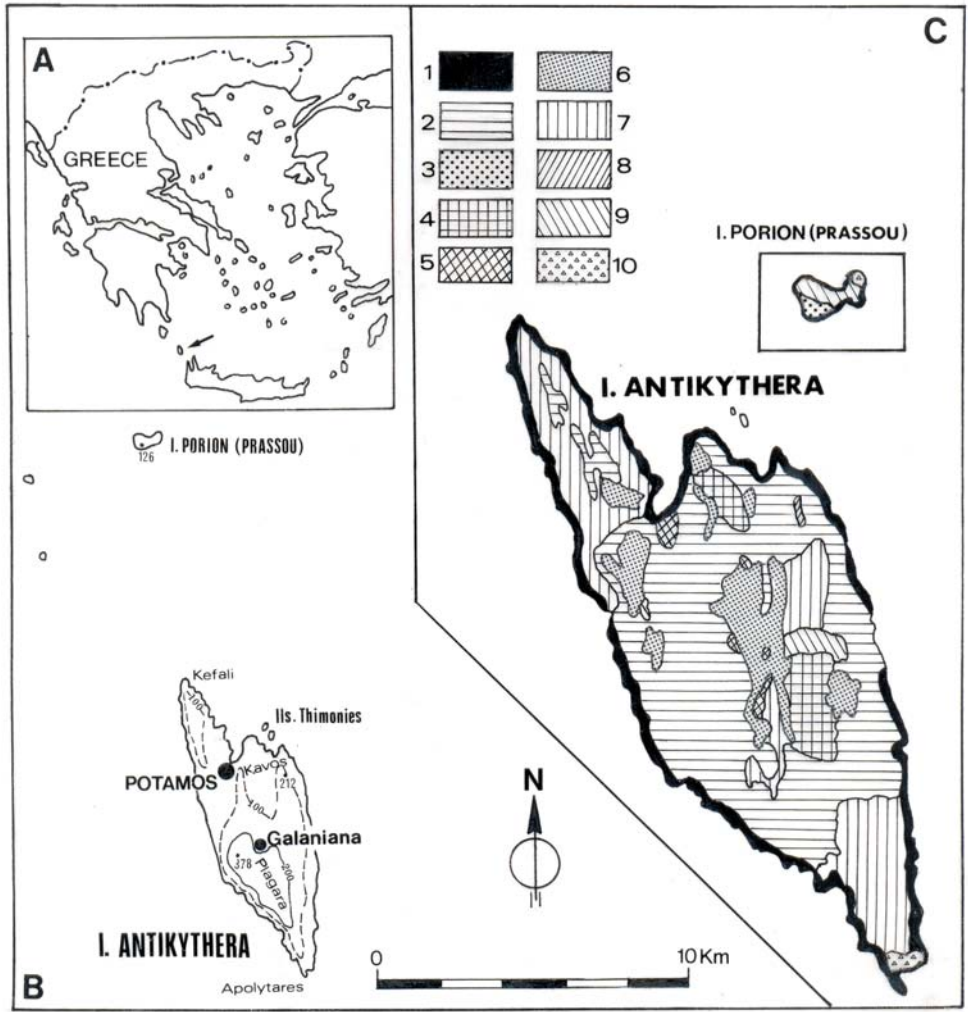


Fig. 1. Geographical position (A), topographical map (B) and vegetation map (C) of the area studied – 1: rocky coastal cliffs; 2: *Genista acanthoclada*-*Sarcopoterium spinosum* communities; 3: *Euphorbia dendroides* community; 4: *Quercus coccifera* community; 5: Settlement; 6: Arable / abandoned arable land; 7: *Juniperus phoenicea*-*Pistacia lentiscus* community; 8: interior chasmophytic communities; 9: *Sarcopoterium spinosum*-*Coridothymus capitatus* community; 10: halophytic communities.

Results

1. Flora

The combination of our results with the report by Greuter & Rechinger (1967; 226 taxa from the island of Antikythera) and a species list sent to us by Ralf Jahn (Regensburg, Germany) gives a total of 346 native and 11 adventive/cultivated plant taxa. This includes 336 native taxa from Antikythera, 98 from Prassou and 8 from the Thimonies. Nine of the taxa from Prassou were not found on Antikythera and two of them are Aegean endemics viz. *Salsola aegaea* and *Filago cretensis* subsp. *cretensis*. One “islet specialist”, *Lavatera arborea*, was found only on the Thimonies islets. Since Prassou and the Thimonies were investigated for the first time, all taxa

are new records. The same is the case with 120 native taxa from Antikythera, which were not mentioned by Greuter & Rechinger (1967).

All new records are listed below. Added are six taxa recorded by dot maps in Flora Hellenica (Strid & Tan 2002): *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*, *Sedum rubens*, *Umbilicus horizontalis*, *Biscutella didyma*, *Clypeola jonthlaspi* and *Matthiola sinuata*. The list includes 39 families and 102 genera. Five of them are *Pteridophytes*, 84 are *Dicotyledones* and 31 are *Monocotyledones*. The best represented families among the new records are: *Compositae* (13.2 % of the new records), *Leguminosae* (13.2 %), *Liliaceae* s.l. (10.7 %), *Gramineae* (9.1 %), *Caryophyllaceae* (5.8 %). The new records are not evenly distributed among the 39 different families. Some plant families are almost totally represented by new records (e.g. *Valerianaceae*, *Crassulaceae*, *Caryophyllaceae*, *Ranunculaceae* and *Amarylidaceae*), others by c. 50 % (e.g., *Liliaceae* s.l., *Iridaceae*).

An analysis of life forms and chorology of the total flora of the islands, including the earlier reported species, is presented in Tables 1-2. In the life-form (biological) spectrum, therophytes predominate with 53.3 % and 59.2 %, for the flora of Antikythera and Prassou, respectively, followed by the hemicryptophytes (16.7 %) in Antikythera and chamaephytes (15.3 %), in Prassou (Table 1). The chorological spectrum of the islands is characterized by high percentages of Mediterranean elements (72.1 % for Antikythera, 68.4 % for Prassou) and by a significant representation of endemic element reaching 7.4 % for Antikythera and 8.1 % for Prassou (Table 2).

A comparison of the biological and chorological spectra of the newly reported taxa with those of the taxa already mentioned by Greuter & Rechinger (1967) gave some interesting re-

Table 1. Life form spectrum of the total flora of the islands Antikythera and Prassou.

Life forms		Number of taxa		%	
		Antikythera	Prassou	Antikythera	Prassou
Chamaephytes	(C)	42	15	12.5	15.3
Ch. fruticose	[Cfrut]	16	9		
Ch. suffruticose	[Csuffr]	25	6		
Ch. reptant	[Crept]	1			
Geophytes	(G)	38	9	11.3	9.2
G. bulbose	[Gbulb]	31	8		
G. rhizomatose	[Grhiz]	7	1		
Hemicryptophytes	(H)	56	12	16.7	12.2
H. biennial	[Hbienn]	7	5		
H. caespitose	[Hcaesp]	10			
H. rosulate	[Hros]	8	1		
H. scandent	[Hscand]	2			
H. scapose	[Hscap]	29	6		
Phanerophytes	(P)	21	4	6.2	4.1
Nano-ph.	[NPh]	21	1		
Nanop-ph. caespitose	[Npcaesp]	–	1		
Nano-ph.scapose	[Npscsp]	–	2		
Therophytes	(T)	179	58	53.2	59.2
Th. parasite	[Tpar]	5	3		
Th. reptant	[Trept]	5	3		
Th. rosulate	[Tros]	3	1		
Th. scapose	[Tscap]	167	52		
Total		336	98	100	100

Table 2. Chorological spectrum of the total flora of the islands Antikythera (Ant.) and Prassou (Pr).

Chorological unit	Chorological group	Number of taxa		Percentage %	
		Antikythera	Prassou	Antikythera	Prassou
Widespread	Mediterranean-Atlantic (Med.-Atl.)	10	4	3.0	4.1
	Mediterranean-Turanian (Med.-Turan.)	20	7	6.0	7.2
	Paleotemperate (Paleotemp.)	13	5	3.9	5.1
	Paleotropical (Paleotrop.)	1		0.3	
	Paleosubtropical (Paleosubtrop.)	4		1.2	
	Pantropical (Pantrop.)	1		0.3	
	Neotropical (Neotrop.)	1		0.3	
	Eurasian-temperate (Eurasiat.-temp.)	1		0.3	
	European-Caucasian (Europ.-Caucas.)	1		0.3	
	SE-European (SE Europ.)	1		0.3	
	Subcosmopolitan (Subcos)	12	5	3.6	5.1
	Cosmopolitan (Cos)	4	2	1.2	2.0
	Total			20.5	23.5
Mediterranean	E-Mediterranean (EMed)	64	15	19.1	15.3
	Steno-Mediterranean (StMed)	98	30	29.2	30.6
	Euri-Mediterranean (EuMed)	80	22	23.8	22.5
	Total			72.1	68.4
Endemic	Endemic	25	8	7.4	8.1
Total		336	98	100	100

sults. The hemicryptophytes form 20 % of the new reports but only 6 % of those already known. For chamaephytes, on the contrary, the new reports have a lower percentage (5 %) instead of 16.7 % of the already known. 13 endemic taxa (10.8 % of the new records) are added to the 12 endemic taxa already known for Antikythera. Table 3 presents the distribution of 28 endemic taxa: 25 of the total flora of the island of Antikythera (5 of which were also found on the island of Prassou) and 3 found only on Prassou and not on Antikythera. Of the 13 newly recorded endemics for Antikythera, 5 are geophytes, 4 are therophytes, 3 are hemicryptophytes and 1 is chamaephyte. It should be mentioned that 6 of these 13 (46.1 %) are early spring flowering taxa (3 geophytes, 2 therophytes, 1 hemicryptophyte) and 2 (15.4 %) are autumn flowering geophytes.

The new records include also members of the phrygana and chasmophytic communities which, as has been noted by Runemark (1969), show an uneven distribution in the Aegean area. (e.g. *Phlomis fruticosa*).

2. Plant list

Abbreviations used:

- (i) Localities: WP = the village of Potamos and the NW part of the island, EP = the area E-SE of Potamos, G = the village of Galaniana and the SE part of the island, P = the mountainous area from Plagara to the Cape Apolytares, T = islets Thymonies, Pr = islet Prassou.
- (ii) Authors/collectors: Tz = D. Tzanoudakis, G. Iatrou, M. Panitsa, P. Trigas, F. Strataki, RJ = R. Jahn
- (iii) Life forms: See Table 1.
- (iv) Chorology: See Table 2.
- (v) Adv.: adventive, Cultiv.: cultivated.
- (vi) * = found on Prassou islet and not on Antikythera.

Table 3. Greek endemic taxa in the total flora of the islands of Antikythera and Prassou and their geographical distribution. (Ion: Ionian Islands, StE: Sterea Hellas, Pe: Peloponnisos, Kik: Kiklades, AKT: Antikythera and Prassou (Pr), Kr: Crete, Kp: Karpathos island group, KT: Kythera, Rh: Rodhos and adjacent islands and islets, EAe: East Aegean area except Rh, Sp: Sporades island group, NPi: North Pindos).

	Taxon	Ion	StE	Pe	KT	Cardaegean								
						AKT	Kr	Kp	Rh	Kik	EAc	Sp	NPi	
1	<i>Aegilops biuncialis</i> subsp. <i>archipelagica</i>				*	*		*						
2	<i>Allium aegilicum</i>					*								
3	<i>A. circinnatum</i> subsp. <i>peloponnesiacum</i>			*		*								
4	<i>A. gomphrenoides</i>			*	*	*								
5	<i>A. rubrovittatum</i>					*	*	*						
6	<i>Anchusella variegata</i>	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*		
7	<i>Anthemis scopulorum</i>				*	*	*	*	*	*				
8	<i>Arenaria aegaea</i>					*	*	*	*	*				
9	<i>Asperula taygetea</i>			*	*	*	*							
10	<i>Biarum tenuifolium</i> subsp. <i>abbreviatum</i>	*	*	*	*	*(Pr)								
11	<i>Campanula saxatilis</i> subsp. <i>cytherea</i>				*	*								
12	<i>Crepis cytherea</i>				*	*								
13	<i>Crocus boryi</i> subsp. <i>tournefortii</i>		*			*	*	*	*	*	*			
14	<i>C. laevigatus</i>			*	*	*	*			*				
15	<i>Dianthus fruticosus</i> subsp. <i>occidentalis</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*							
16	<i>Filago cretensis</i> subsp. <i>cretensis</i>					*(Pr)	*	*			*			
17	<i>Imula candida</i> subsp. <i>candida</i>				*	*	*							
18	<i>Melilotus graecus</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*						*	
19	<i>Nigella doerfleri</i>					*	*			*	*			
20	<i>Ophrys heldreichii</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
21	<i>Ruta chalepensis</i> subsp. <i>fumariifolia</i>				*	*	*	*						
22	<i>Salsola aegaea</i>					*(Pr)	*		*	*				
23	<i>Scorzonera cretica</i>					*	*	*	*	*				
24	<i>Sedum creticum</i>					*	*	*						
25	<i>Silene integripetala</i> subsp. <i>lidenii</i>					*	*							
26	<i>Symphytum creticum</i>	*		*	*	*	*							
27	<i>Tulipa goulimy</i>			*	*	*	*							
28	<i>Valeriana asarifolia</i>					*	*	*						

Pteridophyta

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium ceterach L. – Hros, Eurasiat.-temp.; G: *Tz 11362*

Polypodiaceae

Polypodium cambricum L. – Hros, EuMed; P: *Tz 4204*

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata (L.) Spring – Crept, StMed; EP RJ, P RJ

Sinopteridaceae

Cheilanthes acrostica (Balbis) Tod. – Hros, Med.-Turan.; G: *Tz 11368*, P: *Tz 11527*

Cosentinia vellea (Aiton) Tod. – Hros, Med.-Turan.; G: *Tz 11295*

Angiospermae - Dicotyledoneae**Aizoaceae**

Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum L. – Tscap, StMed; WP: Tz 4215, Pr: Tz 11550; Strid & Tan (2002)

Boraginaceae

Anchusella variegata (L.) Bigazzi & al. – Tscap, Endem.; G: Tz 11345

Echium arenarium Guss. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11245

**Heliotropium dolosum* De Not. – Tscap, Med-Turan.; Pr: Tz 11549

Symphytum creticum C. Presl – Hscap, Endem.; P: Tz 11484

Campanulaceae

Campanula erinus L. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11597

Capparaceae

Capparis spinosa subsp. *rupestris* (Sm.) Nyman – NP, StMed; T: Tz 11818, Pr: Tz 11563

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera implexa Aiton – NP, StMed; G: Tz 11614

Caryophyllaceae

Arenaria aegaea Rech. f. – Tscap, Endem.; P, Pr: Tz 11594

Dianthus fruticosus subsp. *occidentalis* Runemark – Csuffr, Endem.; WP: obs.

**Polycarpon tetraphyllum* (L.) L. – Tscap, Med-Turan.; Pr: Tz 11589

Sagina maritima Don – Tscap, Med-Atl.; EP, RJ

Silene colorata Poir. – Tscap, StMed; P, RJ

S. gallica L. – Tscap, SubCos; P: Tz 13486

S. integripetala subsp. *lidenii* Oxelman – Tscap, Endem.; WP, EP, P: Tz 11515

S. sedoides Poir. subsp. *sedoides* – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11603

Spergularia bocconeii (Scheele) Graebn. – Tscap, SubCos; WP: Tz 11738

Stellaria pallida (Dumort.) Piré – Trept, Paleotemp.; Pr: Tz 11215

Chenopodiaceae

Beta vulgaris subsp. *maritima* (L.) Arcang. – Hscap, EuMed; WP: Tz 11733

**Salsola aegaea* Rech. f. – Cfrut, Endemic; Pr: Tz 11563

Suaeda vera J. F. Gmel. – Cfrut, Med-Atl.; T: Tz 11820, Pr: Tz 11567

Cistaceae

Helianthemum salicifolium (L.) Mill. – Tscap, EuMed; G: Tz 11280

Compositae

Aetheorhiza bulbosa subsp. *microcephala* Rech. f. – Gbulb, EMed; Pr: Tz 11250

**Asteriscus aquaticus* (L.) Less. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11572

Anthemis scopulorum Rech. f. – Tscap, Endem.; Pr: Tz 11214

Atractylis cancellata L. – Tscap, StMed; EP: obs.

Bellis sylvestris Cirillo – Hscap, StMed; G: Tz 4202

Bellium minutum (L.) L. – Tscap, EMed; Pr: Tz 11224

Carduus pycnocephalus subsp. *albidus* (M. Bieb.) Kazmi – Tscap, Med-Turan.; Pr: Tz 11562

Carlina graeca Heldr. & Sart. – Hscap, EMed; Pr: Tz 11272

C. lanata L. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11554

Carthamus lanatus subsp. *baeticus* (Boiss. & Reuter) Nyman – Tscap, EuMed; P RJ

Crepis commutata (Spreng.) Greuter – Tscap, Med-Turan.; EP: obs.

C. zacintha (L.) Bab. – Tscap, StMed; EP: Tz 11674

Dittrichia graveolens (L.) Greuter – Tscap, Med-Turan.; WP: Tz 4220, Pr: Tz 4229

Filago aegaea subsp. *aristata* Wagenitz – Tscap, EMed; EP: Tz 11686

**F. cretensis* Gand. subsp. *cretensis* – Tscap, Endemic; Pr: Tz 11559

F. pygmaea L. – Trept, StMed; P: Tz 11490

F. pyramidata L. – Tscap, EuMed; P RJ

Hedynois rhagadioloides subsp. *tubaeformis* (Ten.) Hayek – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11592

Hypochaeris achyrophorus L. – Tscap, StMed; EP RJ, P RJ, Pr: Tz 11213

Inula candida (L.) Cass. subsp. *candida* – Csuffr, Endem.; Pr: Tz 4234

Limbarda crithmoides (L.) Dumort. – Csuffr, Med-Atl.; Pr: Tz 4232

Notobasis syriaca (L.) Cass. – Tscap, EuMed; P: RJ

Pallenis spinosa (L.) Cass. subsp. *spinosa* – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11572

Picris rhagadioloides (L.) Desf. – Tscap, StMed; G: Tz 11804

Ptilostemon chamaepeuce (L.) Less. – Cfrut, EMed; P: Tz 4208

Reichardia picroides (L.) Roth – Hscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11577

Scolymus hispanicus L. – Hbienn, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11571

Scorzonera cretica Willd. – Hscap, Endem.; Pr: Tz 11590

Senecio vulgaris L. – Tscap, Cos; P: RJ, Pr: Tz 11249

Sonchus asper subsp. *glaucescens* (Jordan) Ball – Hbienn, Paleotemp.; Pr: Tz 11568

S. oleraceus L. – Tscap, SubCos; Pr: Tz 11240

Taraxacum aleppicum Dahlst. – Hros, EMed; G: Tz 4201

Urospermum picroides (L.) F. W. Schmidt – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11210

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus elegantissimus Mill. – Hscand, EMed; EP: obs., P: RJ

C. oleifolius Desr. – Cfrut, EMed; Pr: Tz 11570

Crassulaceae

Rosularia serrata (L.) A. Berger – Hscap, EMed; P, EP: Tz 11713

Sedum creticum C. Presl – Hscap, Endem.; P, EP: Tz 11714

S. litoreum Guss. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11258

S. rubens L. – Tscap, EuMed; EP: RJ, P: RJ; Strid & Tan (2002).

Umbilicus horizontalis (Guss.) DC. – Gbulb, StMed; G: Tz 11332, Pr: Tz 11594; Strid & Tan (2002).

Cruciferae

Aurinia saxatilis subsp. *megalocarpa* (Hausskn.) T. R. Dudley – Csuffr, EMed; EP: Tz 11641, G: Tz 11702, P: Tz 11627

Biscutella didyma L. – Tscap, Med-Turan.; WP: Tz 11386, EP: Tz 11444; Strid & Tan (2002).

Brassica cretica subsp. *aegaea* (Heldr. & Halácsy) Snogerup & al. – Csuffr, EMed; EP: obs.

B. nigra (L.) W. D. J. Koch – Tscap, EuMed; WP: Tz 11747

Clypeola jonthlaspi L. – Tscap, StMed; P RJ; Strid & Tan (2002).

Malcolmia flexuosa subsp. *naxensis* (Rech. f.) A. L. Stork – Tscap, EMed; Pr: Tz 11573

Matthiola sinuata (L.) R. Br. – Hscap, StMed; WP: Tz 11739, T: Tz 11816, Pr: Tz 11225; Strid & Tan (2002).

Cuscutaceae

Cuscuta palaestina Boiss. subsp. *palaestina* – Tpar, EMed; Pr: Tz 11555

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia dendroides L. – NP, StMed; Pr: Tz 4226

E. peplus L. – Tscap, Cos; Pr: Tz 11266

Mercurialis annua L. – Tscap, Paleotemp.; Pr: Tz 11228

Frankeniaceae

Frankenia hirsuta L. – Csuffr, Med-Turan.; T: Tz 11821, Pr: Tz 11564

Gentianaceae

Centaureum tenuiflorum (Hoffmanns. & Link) Fritsch subsp. *tenuiflorum* – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11587

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Hér. – Tscap., SubCos; Pr: Tz 11601

E. gruinum (L.) L'Hér. – Tscap, Med-Turan.; WP: Tz 11455, EP: Tz 11392

Geranium columbinum L. – Tscap, Paleotemp.; WP: Tz 11457

G. molle L. – Hbienn/Hscap, SubCos; EP: obs., Pr: Tz 11247

Guttiferae

Hypericum empetrifolium Willd. – Csuffr, EMed; WP: Tz 11806

Labiatae

Ballota pseudodictamnus (L.) Benth. subsp. *pseudodictamnus* – Cfrut, EMed; Pr: Tz 11547

Phlomis fruticosa L. – NP, StMed; P: RJ

Salvia viridis L. – Tscap, StMed; EP: Tz 11799

Teucrium capitatum L. – Cfrut, StMed; Pr: Tz 11582

T. divaricatum Heldr. subsp. *divaricatum* – Cfrut, EMed; Pr: Tz 11546

Leguminosae

**Anagyris foetida* L. – Npcaesp, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11581

Anthyllis hermanniae L. – Cfrut, StMed; Pr: Tz 11607

Astragalus pelecinus (L.) Barneby – Tscap, EuMed; P: RJ

Ceratonia siliqua L. – NP/MPh, StMed; EP: obs., G: Tz 11329

Hippocrepis ciliata Willd. – Tscap, StMed; P, G: Tz 11321

Lathyrus setifolius L. – Tscap, EuMed; G: Tz 11323

Lotus cytisoides L. – Csuffr, StMed; Pr: Tz 11596

L. edulis L. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11340

L. ornithopodioides L. – Tscap, StMed; EP: Tz 11432, G: Tz 11322

L. tetragonolobus L. – Tscap, StMed; EP: Tz 11371

Medicago arborea L. – NP, EMed; EP: obs.

M. litoralis Loisel. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11273

M. orbicularis (L.) Bartal. – Tscap, EuMed; EP: obs., G: Tz 11314

M. rugosa Desr. – Tscap, StMed; G: Tz 11294

M. truncatula Gaertn. – Tscap, StMed; WP: Tz 11778, G: Tz 11325

Melilotus graecus (Boiss. & Spruner) Lassen – Tscap, Endem.; P, EP, G: Tz 11687, WP: Tz 11766

Ononis mitissima L. – Tscap, StMed; EP: Tz 11671

Scorpiurus muricatus L. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11544

Spartium juncum L. – NP, EuMed; G: obs.

Trifolium campestre Schreb. – Tscap, Paleotemp.; Pr: Tz 11585

T. scabrum L. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11566

T. stellatum L. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11542

T. tomentosum L. – Trept, Paleotemp.; G: Tz 11634, Pr: Tz 11602

Vicia cretica Boiss. & Heldr. subsp. *cretica* – Tscap, EMed; EP: Tz 11372, G: Tz 11369, P: Tz 11488, Pr: Tz 11257

V. hybrida L. – Tscap, EuMed; G: Tz 11367

Linaceae

Linum bienne Mill. – Hbienn, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11230

L. corymbulosum Rchb. – Tscap, StMed; P: RJ

L. strictum subsp. *spicatum* (Pers.) Nyman – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11588

Malvaceae

Althaea hirsuta L. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11593

Lavatera arborea L. – Hscap, StMed; T: Tz 11817

L. cretica L. – Tscap, StMed; G: Tz 11288

Malva aegyptica L. – Tscap, StMed; EP: obs., G: Tz 11354

Oleaceae

Olea europaea subsp. *oleaster* (Hoffmanns. & Link) Negodi – NP, StMed; Pr: Tz 11253

Orobanchaceae

Orobanche pubescens d'Urv. – Tpar, EuMed; EP: RJ, Pr: Tz 11237

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis pes-caprae L. – Gbulb, Adv.; G: Tz 11284

Papaveraceae

Papaver purpureomarginatum Kadereit – Tscap, EMed; EP: RJ, Pr: Tz 11237

Plantaginaceae

Plantago weldenii Rchb. subsp. *weldenii* – Tros, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11574

Plumbaginaceae

Limonium sieberi (Boiss.) Kuntze – Csuffr, EMed; T: Tz 11501, Pr: Tz 4237

Polygonaceae

Rumex pulcher subsp. *raulinii* (Boiss.) Rech. f. – Hscap, EMed; P, G: Tz 11341

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis L. – Trept, SubCos; WP, EP, G, P: *obs.*, Pr: Tz 11248

Asterolinon linum-stellatum (L.) Duby – Tscap, StMed; WP, EP, Pr: Tz 11255

Cyclamen hederifolium Aiton – Gbulb, EuMed; G, WP: Tz 13485, Pr

Ranunculaceae

Anemone coronaria L. – Gbulb, StMed; WP: Tz 11449, EP: Tz 11410, G: Tz 4180

Clematis cirrhosa L. – NP, StMed; G: Tz 11289

Nigella damascena L. – Tscap, EuMed; EP, G: Tz 11286

Ranunculus cytheraeus (Halácsy) Baldini – Hros, EMed; G: Tz 4179

R. cf. chius DC. – Tscap, EMed; G: Tz 11350

Rosaceae

Pyrus spinosa Forssk. – NP, StMed; EP: *obs.*

Sarcopoterium spinosum (L.) Spach – Cfrut, EMed; Pr: Tz 11600

Rubiaceae

Galium murale (L.) All. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11262

Rubia tenuifolia d'Urv. – NP, EMed; EP: Tz 11684, G: Tz 11330

Valantia hispida L. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11238

V. muralis L. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11575

Rutaceae

Ruta chalepensis subsp. *fumariifolia* (Boiss. & Heldr.) Nyman – Csuffr, Endem.; Pr: Tz 11586

Scrophulariaceae

Kickxia elatine subsp. *crinita* (Mabille) Greuter – Tscap, Med-Turan.; WP: Tz 11786

Scrophularia peregrina L. – Tscap, StMed; G: Tz 11346

Solanaceae

Hyoscyamus albus L. – Hscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11236

Mandragora autumnalis Bertol. – Hros, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11244

Umbelliferae

Daucus carota subsp. *maritimus* (Lam.) Batt. – Hbienn, StMed; Pr: Tz 11598

Kundmannia sicula (L.) DC. – Tscap, StMed; WP: Tz 11805

Tordylium apulum L. – Tscap, StMed; Pr: Tz 11252

Torilis nodosa (L.) Gaertn. – Tscap, Med-Turan.; Pr: Tz 11606

Urticaceae

Parietaria cretica L. – Trept, EMed; Pr: Tz 11269

Valerianaceae

Centranthus calcitrapae (L.) Dufr. subsp. *calcitrapae* – Tscap, StMed; EP: obs., P: Tz 11516

Valeriana asarifolia Dufr. – Hscap, Endem.; G, EP: Tz 11824

Valerianella coronata (L.) DC. – Tscap, Paleotemp.; WP, G: Tz 11302

V. discoidea (L.) Loisel. – Tscap, StMed; P: RJ

Monocotyledones**Alliaceae**

Allium aegilicum Tzanoud. – Gbulb, Endem.; WP: Tz 11767, G: Tz 9722

A. ampeloprasum L. – Gbulb, EuMed; WP, EP, G: Tz 11808

A. circinnatum subsp. *peloponnesiacum* Tzanoud. – Gbulb, Endem.; WP: Tz 11453

A. commutatum Guss. – Gbulb, StMed; EP: Tz 11736, T: obs.

A. longanum Pamp. – Gbulb, EMed; WP: Tz 11439, G: Tz 11277, P: Tz 11503

A. rubrovittatum Boiss. & Heldr. – Gbulb, Endem.; G, EP: Tz 11730, P: Tz 11636

Amaryllidaceae

Narcissus serotinus L. – Gbulb, StMed; G: Tz 4196

N. tazetta L. – Gbulb, StMed; G: Tz 13484

**Sternbergia lutea* (L.) Spreng. – Gbulb, EuMed; Pr: Tz 4223

Asparagaceae

Asparagus aphyllus subsp. *orientalis* (Baker) P. H. Davis – Cfrut, StMed; Pr: Tz 4240

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare O. Targ.-Tozz. subsp. *vulgare* – Grhiz, StMed; EP: RJ, G: RJ, P: RJ, Pr: Tz 4227

**Biarum tenuifolium* subsp. *abbreviatum* (Schott) Richt. – Gbulb, Endem.; Pr: Tz 11551

Cyperaceae

Carex halleriana Asso – Hcaesp, EuMed; EP: RJ

Gramineae

Aira elegantissima Schur – Tscap, EuMed; EP: obs.

Arundo donax L. – Grhiz, Adv.; EP: RJ

Avellinia michelii (Savi) Parl. – Tscap, StMed; EP: RJ, P: RJ

Avena barbata Link – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11239

A. sterilis subsp. *ludoviciana* (Durieu) Gillet & Magne – Tscap, Med-Turan.; EP: RJ

Brachypodium pinnatum (L.) P. Beauv. – Hcaesp, Paleotemp.; EP: Tz 11698, G: Tz 11629

Bromus fasciculatus C. Presl – Tscap, EMed; Pr: Tz 11560

B. madritensis L. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11559

Catapodium marinum (L.) C. E. Hubb. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11578

Cynosurus echinatus L. – Tscap, EuMed; G: Tz 11339, P: Tz 11660

Digitaria sanguinalis (L.) Scop. – Tscap, Adv.; WP: Tz 11741

Elymus farctus subsp. *rechingeri* (Runemark) Melderis – Grhiz, EMed; T: Tz 11819

Gastridium phleoides (Nees & Meyen) C. E. Hubb. – Tscap, EuMed; P: RJ

Hordeum leporinum Link – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11221

Hyparrhenia hirta (L.) Stapf – Hcaesp, Paleotrop.; G: Tz 11664

Lagurus ovatus L. – Tscap, EuMed; Pr: Tz 11270

Parapholis incurva (L.) C. E. Hubb. – Tscap, Med-Atl.; Pr: Tz 11268

Phleum exaratum subsp. *aegaeum* (Vierh.) Doğan – Tscap, EMed; Pr: Tz 11561

Polypogon monspeliensis (L.) Desf. – Tscap, Paleosubtrop.; EP: RJ

Rostraria cristata (L.) Tzvelev – Tscap, SubCos; Pr: Tz 11595

Stipa capensis Thunb. – Tscap, StMed; G: Tz 11320

Trachynia distachya (L.) Link – Tscap, Med-Turan.; Pr: Tz 11579

Hyacinthaceae

Bellevalia dubia (Guss.) Rchb. – Gbulb, StMed; G: Tz 11301, P: Tz 11498

Charybdis maritima (L.) Speta – Gbulb, StMed; Pr: Tz 11275

Muscari commutatum Guss. – Gbulb, EMed; WP: Tz 11454, EP: Tz 11418, P: Tz 11524

Ornithogalum collinum Guss. – Gbulb, EuMed; G: Tz 11298

Scilla autumnalis L. – Gbulb, EuMed; G: Tz 4187, P: obs.

Iridaceae

Crocus laevigatus Bory & Chaub. – Gbulb, Endem.; G: Tz 11499

Hermodactylus tuberosus (L.) Mill. – Gbulb, EMed; G: Tz 11281

Moraea sisyrinchium (L.) Ker.-Gawl. – Gbulb, EuMed; EP: Tz 11690

Liliaceae

Gagea graeca (L.) A. Terracc. – Gbulb, EMed; WP: Tz 11462, EP: Tz 11387

Tulipa goulimyi Sealy & Turrill – Gbulb, Endem.; G: Tz 11282

Colchicum cupanii Guss. – Gbulb, StMed; G: Tz 11352

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis pyramidalis (L.) Rich. – Gbulb, Med-Atl.; Pr: Tz 11591

Ophrys sicula Tineo – Gbulb, StMed; WP: Tz 11438, EP: Tz 11391, Pr: Tz 11229

Spiranthes spiralis (L.) Chevall. – Grhiz, Europe-Caucas.; G: Tz 4190

3. Vegetation

Four main vegetation types can be distinguished on Antikythera and Prassou: (1) halophytic communities, (2) chasmophytic communities, (3) dwarf shrub communities (phrygana) and (4) scrub communities with *Juniperus phoenicea*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Quercus coccifera* and *Euphorbia dendroides*. Figure 1C shows the main distribution of these vegetation types. Small areas with these types or their characteristic species exist outside the mapped areas. Chasmophytic and halophytic communities are assigned a higher value for naturalness since they prefer places not suitable to human activities. Scrub with *Quercus coccifera* and phrygana are considered as secondary communities due to human interference (agriculture, land-clearance, grazing and fires), see, e.g., Bohn & al. (2000-03).

The best developed halophytic communities have been observed on the SSW end of both Antikythera and Prassou (Fig. 1C-10), where the inclination of the coast is more moderate (less than 30 %). They belong to the class and order Crithmo-Staticetea Br.-Bl. 1947 (-etalia Mol. 1934) and the alliance Crithmo-Frankenion Mayer 1995. Characteristic species of the order and class are: *Crithmum maritimum*, *Limonium* spp., *Silene sedoides*, *Lotus cytisoides*, *Reichardia picroides* and *Parapholis incurva*, while *Frankenia hirsuta* is the characteristic species of the alliance. *Limonium virgatum* and *L. sieberi* are the characteristic species of the associations Crithmo-Limonietum virgati Mayer 1995 and Crithmo-Limonietum sieberi Gehu & al. 1987, respectively.

The Thimonies islets are almost in total exposed to sea waves and wind and for this reason only one of them, the one protected by the other, is inhabited by halophytic species, which can resist these extreme conditions. It has a flora dominated by islet specialists such as *Allium commutatum*, *Lavatera arborea*, *Matthiola sinuata* subsp. *glandulosa*, *Elymus farctus* subsp. *rechingeri*, accompanied by *Frankenia hirsuta*, *Suaeda vera*, *Limonium sieberi* and *Capparis spinosa* subsp. *rupestris*. The inclination is about 70 % and the vegetation cover at the upper part of the islet is about 80 %.

The halophytic zone is followed by the epilitoral zone, which is dominated by *Cichorium spinosum* in combination with, e.g., *Limonium sieberi*, *Trigonella monspeliaca*, *Anthemis sco-*

pulorum, *Silene sedoides*, *Rostraria cristata*, *Dactylis glomerata* subsp. *hispanica*, *Malcolmia flexuosa* subsp. *naxensis* and *Allium gomphrenoides*. The vegetation cover in this zone is about 60 %.

Although most of the coastline consists of limestone cliffs (Fig. 1C-1), the strong waves do not permit the establishment of a chasmophytic flora on most of their surface. This is restricted to the upper part and consequently the species are not easily reached. The best-developed interior cliff system exists on the NNW part of Antikythera (Fig. 1C-8). The communities here consist of, e.g., *Aurinia saxatilis* subsp. *megalocarpa*, *Asperula taygetea*, *Campanula saxatilis* subsp. *cytheraea*, *Scrophularia heterophylla* subsp. *heterophylla*, *Inula candida* subsp. *candida*, *Scorzonera cretica*, *Allium gomphrenoides*, *Brassica cretica* subsp. *aegaea*, *Valeriana asarifolia*, *Rosularia serrata* and *Sedum creticum*. The plant coverage is not more than 50 % and the vegetation height about 25 cm. The species *Inula candida* subsp. *candida* and *Asperula taygetea* are characteristic for the association *Inulo candidae-Asperuletum taygeteae* Zaffran 1982 described from Crete. This association belongs, according to Zaffran (1990), to the class *Asplenietea trichomanis* (Br.-Bl. 1934) corr. Oberdorfer 1977, order *Petromaruletalia pinnatae* Zaffran 1990 and the alliance *Scutellarion sieberi* Zaffran 1990. According to Dimopoulos & al. (1997), “the low altitude order *Petromaruletalia pinnatae* with a high number of diagnostic taxa is a Cretan endemic syntaxon. The alliance *Scutellarion sieberi* is prevailing by Cretan, Aegean and East Mediterranean elements and the geographical range of its diagnostic species coincides with the range of the alliance, which at present seems to be restricted to calcareous cliffs at low altitude in Crete”.

Where phrygana formations of the class and order *Cisto-Micromerietea* (-etalia) are well developed (Fig. 1C-9), xerophilous dwarf shrubs such as *Sarcopoterium spinosum* and *Coridothymus capitatus* dominate. These species are accompanied by *Helichrysum congestatum*, *Erica manipuliflora*, *Phlomis cretica*, *Dorycnium hirsutum* and *Cistus* spp., as well as many annuals. Intense grazing and fires or land-clearance lead to the dominance of spiny shrubs, mostly *Genista acanthoclada* (Fig. 1C-2).

In the interior of Antikythera on non-cultivated hillsides formations of evergreen, sclerophyllous shrubs appear, characterized by the dominance of *Juniperus phoenicea* and *Pistacia lentiscus* (Fig. 1C-4). They belong to the class *Quercetea ilicis* Br.-Bl., the order *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia* Rivas-Martinez 1974 and the alliance *Ceratonio-Rhamnion* Barbero & Quezel 1980. In the east and southeast of Antikythera dense, well-developed communities with *Juniperus phoenicea* (plant coverage 100 %, main vegetation height c. 1.8 m) have been observed on hills with an inclination of about 60-70 % (Fig. 1C-7).

Well-developed *Quercus coccifera* communities are also present on Antikythera, where *Quercus coccifera* is dominating in combination with *Calicotome villosa*, *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Coridothymus capitatus*.

The SSE part of Prassou is characterized by a vegetation type dominated by *Euphorbia dendroides* with plant coverage of 80-100 % and a main vegetation height exceeding 1 m (Fig. 1C-3). Combinations of species such as *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Olea europaea* subsp. *oleaster* or *Juniperus phoenicea* with, e.g., *Erica manipuliflora*, *Calicotome villosa* and *Phlomis cretica* are widespread. A few spots of vegetation of a similar composition with *Euphorbia dendroides* have been observed on the WSW part of the main island.

Discussion

The results of the present study confirm the floristic and biogeographical importance of Antikythera. To the 226 taxa given by Greuter & Rechinger (1967) for the island of Antikythera, 120 new records have been added, including 13 Greek endemic taxa. Many of the new records are autumn or early spring flowering taxa and this observation confirms the importance of “all seasons” floristic investigation.

The result of the floristic analysis (biological and chorological spectra) reflects the geographic position and the climate of the area studied as well as the human impact. The latter is suggested by the high percentage of therophytes (53.3 %) and of leguminous taxa (14.1 %). These indicate disturbance in Mediterranean ecosystems (Naveh 1974, Arianoutsou & Margaritis 1981, Barbero & al. 1990, Panitsa & al. 1994, 2003, Panitsa & Tzanoudakis 1998). Even now intense stock farming takes place in Antikythera. The isolation of the island from the mainland, in combination with the fact that the number of permanent inhabitants of the island in the past was much higher, leaves no doubt that the situation was similar for other agricultural activities until a few years ago.

The high percentage of chamaephytes and hemicryptophytes depends on the frequency of limestone cliffs, which very often harbour endemic taxa (Kypriotakis 1998, Kypriotakis & Tzanoudakis 2001).

The percentage of Greek endemics has increased, compared to that given by Greuter & Rechinger (1967), since among the 120 new records 13 are endemics. One of them, *Allium aegilicum* is a recently described local endemic (Tzanoudakis 2000). Others provide useful information regarding the biogeographical position of the area studied and the biogeographical boundary lines in the Aegean. For some species, Antikythera seems to be the northwesternmost limit of their distribution range, suggesting a close phytogeographical relationship between this island and Crete (Iatrou 1994, Tzanoudakis & al. 1998). This concerns *Allium rubrovittatum*, *Silene integripetala* subsp. *lidenii* and *Valeriana asarifolia*, which were considered Southern Aegean (Crete, Karpathos) endemics and now their range is shown to include Antikythera. Similar seems to be the situation for *Nigella doerfleri*, *Sedum creticum* and *Filago cretensis* subsp. *cretensis*, known previously only from the Cardaean region. *Allium longanum* is also a southern element, but has its main distribution in Africa (Cyrenaica). In Greece it was previously known only from a few remote and isolated stations in the Aegean, viz. islets south of Astipalea, the easternmost end of Crete and the island of Gavdos (Stearn 1977, Tzanoudakis 1986, Bergmeier & al. 1997). Now Antikythera appears to be the northwestern limit of its distribution range. *Ranunculus cytheraeus* shows a similar distribution pattern.

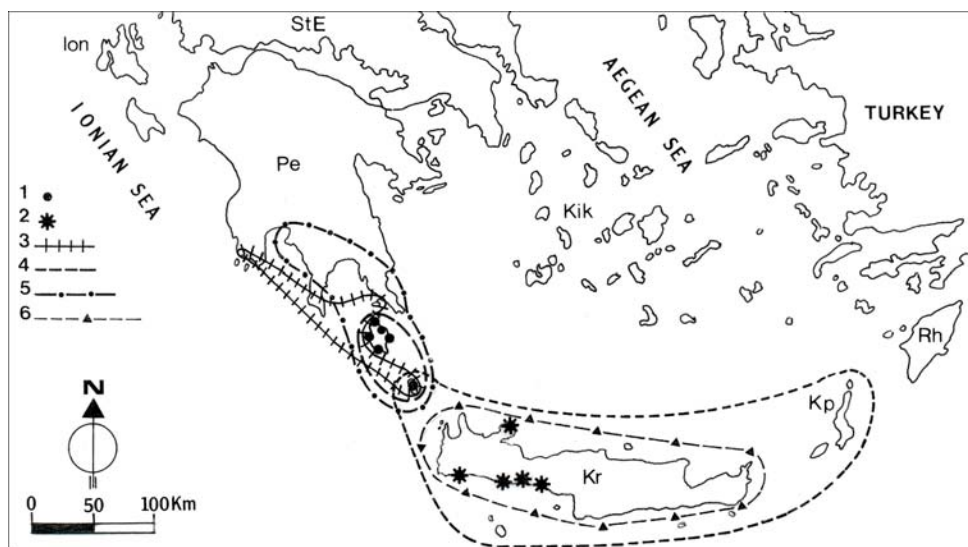


Fig. 2. Distribution of SW Aegean endemic taxa – 1: *Campanula saxatilis* subsp. *cytherea*; 2: *C. saxatilis* subsp. *saxatilis*; 3: *Allium circinnatum* subsp. *peloponnesiacum*; 4: *A. rubrovittatum*; 5: *A. gomphrenoides*; 6: *A. circinnatum* subsp. *circinnatum*. – For abbreviations see Table 3.

Other taxa support phytogeographical relationships to both the southern Aegean and Kythera-Peloponnisos regions, or to only the later one. *Tulipa goulimy* and *Allium circinnatum* are species extending from Crete to the southern Peloponnisos. A similar distribution range is shown by the species *Campanula saxatilis* and *Allium gomphrenoides*, the first of which, however, is absent from Peloponnisos and the second from Crete (Fig. 2).

In species or species complexes, which are represented by different morphological entities in both areas, the relation of Antikythera to the Peloponnisos prevails. So *Allium circinnatum*, *Campanula saxatilis* and the *Crepis neglecta* complex are represented in Antikythera not by the Cretan taxon (species or subspecies) but by the Kytherian or the Peloponnesian one.

The presence of *Inula candida* subsp. *candida* and *Asperula taygetea*, characteristics of the association Inulo candidae-Asperuletum taygeteae Zaffran 1982, described from Crete, points to a phytosociological affinity of Antikythera with Crete. This association belongs to the class Asplenietea trichomanis, order Petromaruletalia pinnati, alliance Scutellarion sieberi (Zaffran 1990) and also some characteristic taxa of the order and the alliance occur on the island, *Scorzonera cretica* and *Valeriana asarifolia* (for the order) and *Allium rubrovittatum* (for the alliance). Also present are the low altitude order Petromaruletalia pinnatae, considered a Cretan endemic syntaxon, and the alliance Scutellarion sieberi so far known only from calcareous cliffs at low altitude in Crete. These data show that the phytogeographical affinity of Antikythera with Crete is also reflected in phytosociological units.

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