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Fauna

As we mentioned earlier, fauna is no less significant than flora: but a different approach to its study is required.

Key to identification of the trees and shrubs found along the Akamas Nature Trails

The present keys are intended for the non-specialist walker who wishes to observe, study and discover for himself the trees and shrubs that he is likely to encounter along his walk. Their purpose is to enhance your enjoyment and knowledge of those plants.

In deciding the scope of the keys it seemed practical to refer only to the woody plants of the area (44 species), firstly because they thrive all year round and secondly because inclusion of herbs would have made the keys bulky and difficult to use.

Identification is largely based on leaf, shoot and stem features and only where unavoidable on fruits and flowers. In this way, the keys are usable throughout all four seasons.

For any suggestions or queries you are welcome to contact: Forestry Department HQRS Nicosia, tel. no. 22-302528 or 22-450168.

How to use the keys

The keys are made up of 36 numbered sections each consisting of 2 or 3 paragraphs. Each paragraph comprises the main diagnostic features distinguishing a group of plants or a single plant from others.

Every time you attempt to identify a plant you should start from section 1. Check if the characteristics of the plant you are examining agree with those of the first paragraph (i.e. coniferous and resiniferous trees ... etc.) If so, move to the section whose number is given at the end of the paragraph – in this case section 2. If not, continue with the second paragraph of section 1. If the features mentioned there agree with your plant – and they should, as the first paragraph was rejected-proceed with the section indicated by this paragraph. In this case, it is section 4. Repeat the same procedure until you are no longer instructed to move to a new section and you reach the name of the plant you are examining.

Caution! All the features mentioned in the keys are important for the identification procedures, even if they are described in a single word.

Glossary

The use of botanical terms has been avoided and only the following may require some explanation:

- Opposite leaves: when leaves are borne in twos or in clusters at the same height of the shoot or branch on opposite sides.
- Alternate leaves: when leaves are borne at different heights of shoot or branch
- Calyx: the outer envelope of the flower, usually of several green segments, known as sepals.

Key

1. Coniferous and resiniferous trees or high shrubs with long needle-like or very short scale-like leaves (conifers) 2
Plants not as above4
2. Leaves needle-like, 7-15cm long, in pairs, cone 5-8cm long tapering from base to apex**Calabrian Pine** *Pinus Brutia*
Leaves scale-like, very short, cone 0.6-3.5cm, subglobose3
3. Tree with woody silvery cones, 1.5-3.5cm diam., opening when fully ripe**Cypress** *Cupressus sempervirens*
Shrub or small tree, cones fleshy, 0.6-1cm. Diam., brown when ripe not opening**Phoenician Juniper** *Juniperus phoenicea*

4. Leaves compound, consisting of 2 or more leaflets borne on a common central axis5
 Leaves simple, with or without petiole9
5. Spiny or prickly shrubs6
 Shrubs or trees without spines.....7
6. Spines terminal (tips of shoots) leaves foliate, fruit a pod
**Thorn Broom** *Calycotome villosa*
 Spines terminal, leaves with 3-8 pairs of leaflets, fruit small, globose 0.5 cm.....**Thorny Burnet** *Sarcopoterium spinosum*
 Spines along the shoots, leaflets 3-5, fruit a compound berry 0.5-2cm long**Bramble** *Rubus sanctus*
7. Trees, fruit a pod, leaflets leathery with a blunt or rounded apex
 **Carob Tree** *Ceratonia Siliqua*
 Shrubs or small trees with a small globose fruit, leaflets terminating to an acute apex..... 8
8. Evergreen shrub with leathery leaflets, infructescence compact 1-3cm long, ripe fruit black**Lentisk** *Pistacia lentiscus*
 Small, evergreen tree with leathery leaflets, infructescence 3-8cm long, ripe fruit black **Lentisk Hybrid** *Pistacia x saportae*
 Deciduous shrub with thin leaflets, infructescence spreading 6-15cm long, ripe fruit grey-green **Terebinth** *Pistacia terebinthus*
9. Climbing or very rarely creeping shrubs with stem more than 1m 10
 Trees or shrubs not as above11
10. Shoots usually prickly, leaves entire, cordate or sagittate.....
**Green Brier** *Smilax aspera*
 Shoots without prickles, leaves lobed or toothed**Virgin's Bower** *Clematis cirrhosa*
11. Shrubs with spiny leaves or shoots12
 Shrubs or trees without spines14
12. Shrubs with spines only along leaf margins**Kermes Oak** *Quercus coccifera* ssp. *calliprinos*
 Shrubs spiny only along shoots13
13. Spines at the tips of shoots, black pointed, fruit a pod**Thorny Gorse** *Genista sphacelata* var. *sphacelata*
 Spines only along shoots, in pairs at the base of leaves, with a broad triangular base, leaves alternate.....**Caper** *Capparis spinosa* var. *canescens*
 Spines only along the tetragonous shoots, with a narrow base, leaves opposite (in pairs)**Valloti** *Ballota integrifolia*

14. Low subshrubs with very small leaves, narrower than 2mm very dense, often overlapping and covering completely part of the twigs or shoots15
 Trees, shrubs or subshrubs with leaves not as above16
15. Dome-shaped subshrub with upright twigs, leaves grey-green strongly and characteristically aromatic, flat, corolla tube 6mm long**Headed Thyme** *Thymus capitatus*
 Subshrub with creeping branches, leaves green with revolute margins, not characteristically aromatic, corolla tube 1-1.5cm.....
- Cyprus Thyme** *Thymus integer*
16. Shrubs with the annual shoots conspicuously tetragonous and opposite leaves17
 Shrubs or trees with cylindrical or irregularly angular shoots, leaves opposite or alternate.....20
17. Leaves in whorls of 4-10, subshrubs lower than 40cm
**Cyprus woodruff** *Asperula cypria*
 Leaves in pairs, subshrubs or shrubs often higher than 50cm.....18
18. Leaves with margins slightly or conspicuously toothed or serrate, usually longer than 3cm.....19
 Leaves entire, shorter than 2.5cm.....
- Marjoran** *Origanum majorana var. tenuifolium*
19. Leaves slightly toothed, hairy, strong smelling when crushed, 1-4cm long, flowers violet-blue **Sage** *Salvia fruticosa*
 Leaves also hairy, slightly toothed, but without strong smell, 3.7cm long, flowers yellow
- Wick weed** *Phlomis cypria var. occidentalis*
 Leaves glabrous, not strong smelling, serrate, 1-4cm long
- Spanish Hedge-nettle** *Prasium majus*
20. Trees or shrubs, higher than 2m, stem thicker than 5cm in a length of more than 50cm.....21
 Shrubs or subshrubs, usually lower than 2m with a woody base but with the stem not as above.....25
21. All leaves or most of them with toothed, serrate or lobed margins.....22
 Leaves entire or rarely only the topmost slightly toothed.....23

22. Some of the leaves broader than 7cm, plants with latex, leaf-stalk 2-7cm
.....**Fig Tree** *Ficus carica*
Leaves 2-7cm wide without latex, leaf-stalk 1-2cm**Royal Oak** *Quercus infectoria*
ssp. *veneris*
Leaves 1-2.5cm broad, without latex, leaf stalk shorter than
0.5cm.....**Alaternus** *Rhamnus alaternus*
23. Leaves thin, almost circular, not longer than 1.5 times as wide.....
.....**Storax** *Styrax officinalis*
Leaves leathery, elliptic or narrowly lanceolate twice as long as
wide.....24
24. Leaves opposite in pairs, narrower than 1cm and shorter than 5cm, stalk 2-
5cm.....**Olive Tree** *Olea europaea*
Leaves of the annual shoots opposite, the older ones alternate, longer than 6cm stalk 1-
2.5cm..... **Eucalypt** *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
All leaves alternate most of them longer than 6cm and wider than
4cm.....**Strawberry Tree** *Arbutus andrachne*
1. Shrub, always growing in stream beds, with leathery leaves often longer than
10cm.....**Oleander** *Nerium oleander*
Shrubs or subshrubs not as above.....26
2. Shrubs or subshrubs, young shoots and lower surface of the leaves densely covered with
white-grey hairs, leaves narrower than 0.5 cm
..... 27
Plants with not all the above characteristics28
3. Most of the leaves longer than 5cm with entire margins
.....**Chamaepeuce** *Ptilostemon chamaepeuce var. cyprius*
All leaves shorter than 3cm with wavy margins, sparsely toothed
.....**Phagnalon** *Phagnalon rupestre*
4. Shrub usually on stream or road banks, leaves thin, 3-6cm long, twigs and leaves glabrous
.....**Zoulatsia** *Bosea cypria*
Plants with thick and hairy leaves at least on the one surface, twigs also hairy
.....29
5. Corolla with a tube at the base, calyx with 5 lobes in one series around corolla, leaves
always alternate30
Corolla actinomorphic without a tube, calyx lobes in two series, 2 outer and 3 inner, leaves
opposite or rarely alternate31

30. Shrub to 1m high, corolla mauve or white, upright or inclined, leaf margins with characteristic stiff projecting hairs **Gromwell** *Lithodora hispidula ssp. versicolor*
 Shrub usually up to 0.5 high, corolla yellow, hanging, leaves without conspicuously projecting hairs.....**Golden Drop** *Onosma fruticosum*
31. Flowers white or reddish-mauve, never yellow, at least some leaves wider than 1cm, or if narrower then longer than 3cm, erect shrubs32
 Flowers always yellow, leaves narrower than 8mm and shorter than 3cm, suberect or rarely erect subshrubs34
32. Leaves always narrower than 1cm, most of them longer than 4cm with recurved margins, flowers white**Rock Rose** *Cistus monspeliensis*
 Plants with not all the above characteristics33
33. Flowers white, leaves often wavy, bark grey, smooth, without furrows or fissures..... **Rock Rose** *Cistus salviifolius*
 Flowers pink, leaves flat greyish, with three prominent main veins on the under surface, bark not fissured **Rock Rose** *Cistus parviflorus*
 Flowers mauve, leaves strongly wavy, sticky, bark with fissures on the lower part..... **Rock Rose** *Cistus creticus* var. *creticus*
34. Outermost stamens sterile (without anthers) all leaves narrower than 3mm and shorter than 1.5cm35
 All stamens with anthers, most of the leaves wider than 3mm and longer than 1.5cm.....36
35. All leaves alternate, 1-3mm wide, flowers solitary 1.5-3cm in diameter..... **Fumana** *Fumana arabica*
 At least the leaves on the lower part of the shoots opposite, 1-2mm wide, flowers 1-1.5cm in diameter **Fumana** *Fumana thymifolia*
36. Leaves 3-8mm wide and up to 3.5 cm long, flowers 1.5cm in diameter.....**Sunrose** *Helianthemum syriacum*
 Leaves 3-4mm wide and shorter than 2.5cm, flowers up to 3cm in diameter.....**Cyprus Sunrose** *Helianthemum obtusifolium*

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