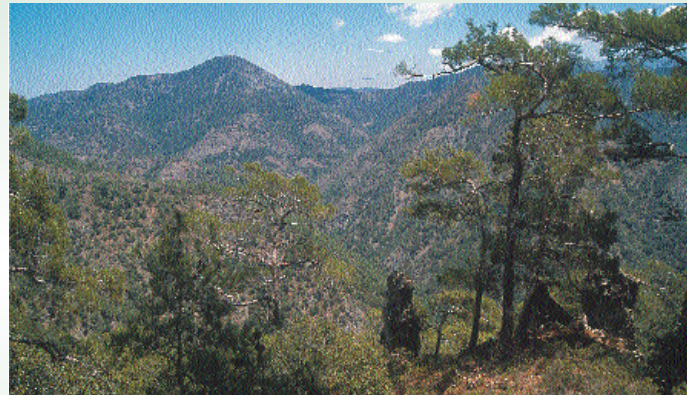


The first evidences about the forests of Cyprus are found in cone and wood fossils, almost 5 million years old. The fossils show that Troodos Range was once covered with pine forests. Later evidence is derived from the Greek Geographer Strabo (64 B.C. - 25 A.D.). Strabo, repeating Eratosthenes writes:

‘Eratosthenes says that in ancient times the plains were thickly overgrown with forests and therefore were covered with woods and not cultivated ...’

(*The Geography of Strabo, 14.684.6.5*).

Nowadays, the forests and forest land are restricted mainly to Troodos and Pentadactylos mountain ranges. Smaller plots occur, either at the foot of the two mountain ranges or in the plains and in the hilly regions. Their total area is 2.293,711 km² (the area of Cyprus is 9.254,480 km²). Generally, the forests of Cyprus are distinguished into four categories: a) natural pine forests, b) reforestations / afforestations - mainly with *Pinus brutia*, c) maquis, garigues, phrygana and grasslands, d) bare land - dams, mines etc.. For management purposes they are classified into: Main State Forests and Minor State Forests.



Pinus brutia forest, Calabrian pine

FLORISTIC COMPOSITION

The flora of Cyprus is composed of 1.950 indigenous and adventive species, subspecies, varieties, forms and hybrids. From these, 140 are regarded as endemics (they are restricted only to Cyprus). The greatest part of our flora dwells in the forests and the forest land. The floristic composition varies from one forest to another, owing to the prevailing ecological conditions in each region, and also to anthropogenic factors. Plants vary also, in their growth form. Generally, vegetation is distinguished into trees, shrubs (tall and low shrubs), subshrubs and herbs (annuals, biennials and perennials). The following pages contain a small part of the flora of our forests.

A. TREES

Trees comprise the dominant storey of the forests. The main species - conifers and broadleaves - are the following:

A1. Conifers

- (N) *Pinus brutia*, Calabrian Pine

It thrives up to 1.200 m alt.. It is the dominant species and it forms extensive forests on Troodos and Pentadactylos mountain ranges and in other regions.



Cupressus sempervirens, Cypress tree



Platanus orientalis, plane tree

- (N) *Pinus nigra* ssp. *pallasiana*, Troodos Pine

It forms thick forests around the central Troodos area from 1.200 up to 1.950 m alt..

- (E) *Cedrus brevifolia*, Cyprus Cedar

It is restricted around Tripylos peak (Paphos Forest) from 800 up to 1.400 m alt.. It is the only endemic tree of Cyprus and it is included in two international lists of rare and threatened plants: the List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN 1996) in which it is regarded as *Vulnerable* and in the European Red List of the Threatened Plants and Animals which was prepared by the Economic Committee for Europe (ECE 1991) of the UN, in which it is regarded as *Rare*.



Cedrus brevifolia, Cyprus cedar

- (N) *Cupressus sempervirens*, Cypress Tree

It thrives up to 1.200 m alt.. It is found in abundance at Pentadactylos mountain range and it forms mixed stands with *Pinus brutia*.

- (N) *Juniperus foetidissima*, Troodos Juniper

It forms mixed stands, in places, with *Pinus nigra* ssp. *pallasiana*, from 1.500 up to 1.950 m alt..

A2. Broadleaves

- (N) *Platanus orientalis*, Plane Tree

It thrives along the banks of rivers and streams, often in mixed stands with *Alnus orientalis*, up to 1.500 m alt..

- (N) *Alnus orientalis*, Alder

It thrives along the banks of rivers and streams, often in mixed stands with *Platanus orientalis*, up to 1.500 m alt..

- (N) *Quercus infectoria* ssp. *veneris*, Oak

It thrives up to 1.300 m alt.. It is not a dominant forest tree, but it forms small scattered groups. Also, giant trees are found in some places. A remarkable tree, may

be the biggest in Cyprus, is found at Lania village, and it is under the protection of the Department of Forests.

Other remarkable trees:

- (N) *Salix alba*, Willow
- (N) *Pinus halepensis*, Alepo Pine
- (N) *Pinus pinea*, Stone Pine, Umbrella Pine
- (N) *Ceratonia siliqua*, Carob Tree
- (N) *Pistacia atlantica*, Pistachia
- (N) *Populus nigra*, Lombardy Poplar

B. SHRUBS

Shrubs comprise an important part of our flora. They are either part of the understorey of the forests or they form extensive maquis and garigues. Under favorable conditions some shrubs attain dimensions of small trees. They are distinguished into tall shrubs (2-6 m) and low shrubs (up to 2 m). The main species are:

B.1. Tall Shrubs

- (N) *Juniperus phoenicea*, Phoenician Juniper

It thrives up to 400 m alt.. It is one of the dominant species of maquis vegetation of Cyprus and it occurs on Pentadactylos mountain range, in Karpasia peninsula, Cape Greko, and Akamas peninsula.

- (E) *Quercus alnifolia*, Golden Oak

It thrives from 500 up to 1.800 m alt.. It is restricted on Troodos mountain range.

- (N) *Acer obtusifolium*, Maple

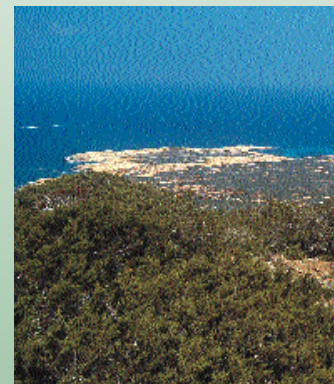
It thrives up to 1.500 m alt., on Troodos and Pentadactylos mountain ranges.

- (N) *Arbutus andrachne*, Strawberry Tree

It thrives up to 1.500 m alt..

- (N) *Pistacia lentiscus*, Lentisk

It thrives up to 750 m alt..



Juniperus phoenicea, Phoenician juniper



Quercus alnifolia, golden oak



Bosea cypria, Cyprus bosea



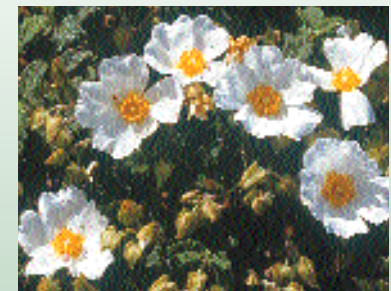
Olea europaea, Wild Olive

Other remarkable tall shrubs:

- (N) *Crataegus azarolus*, Hawthorn
- (N) *Quercus coccifera* ssp. *calliprinos*, Kermes Oak
- (N) *Juniperus oxycedrus*, Prickly Juniper
- (N) *Pistacia terebinthus*, Terebinth
- (N) *Styrax officinalis*, Official Storax
- (N) *Laurus nobilis*, Bay-laurel
- (N) *Olea europaea*, Wild Olive
- (N) *Tamarix tetragyna*, Tamarisk
- (N) *Myrtus communis*, Myrtle
- (N) *Rhamnus alaternus*, Alaternous

B.2. Low Shrubs

- (N) *Cistus creticus* ssp. *creticus*, Rock-rose
- (N) *Cistus salviifolius*, Rock-rose
- (N) *Cistus monspeliensis*, Rock-rose
- (N) *Cistus parviflorus*, Rock-rose



Cistus salviifolius, rock-rose

The above four *Cistus* species are of high ecological value, especially as fire followers.

- (N) *Calycotome villosa*, Thorny-broom

A common species. It thrives up to 1.100 m alt..

- (N) *Genista sphasselata*, Thorny Gorse

It is a common species, distinguished into the ssp. *sphasselata* (up to 1.000 m alt.) and the ssp. *crudelis* (1.100 up to 1.950 m alt.).



Capparis spinosa, caper

- (N) *Lithodora hispidula* ssp. *versicolor*, Gromwell

It thrives up to 1.000 m alt.

- (N) *Nerium oleander*, Oleander

It thrives along the banks of rivers, streams and in wet places up to 1.000 m alt..

- (E) *Pterocephalus multiflorus*

It is an endemic species, distinguished into the ssp. *multiflorus* (restricted on Troodos mountain range) and the ssp. *obtusifolius* (restricted on Pentadactylos mountain range).

- (N) *Thymus capitatus*, Thyme

It is a common species which thrives up to 900 m alt.. It is of high ecological value, because it colonizes steep slopes and barren and stony land, preventing, in this way, soil erosion.

Other remarkable low shrubs:

- (N) *Berberis cretica*, Barberry
- (E) *Bosea cypria*, Bosea
- (N) *Capparis spinosa*, Caper
- (N) *Lavandula stoechas*, Lavender
- (N) *Salvia fruticosa*, Sage
- (N) *Origanum dubium*, Origanum
- (N) *Sarcopoterium spinosum*, Prickly Burnet, Spiny Burnet
- (N) *Rhus coriaria*, Sumach

C. SUBSHRUBS

They are of intermediate characters and rarely exceed 50 cm in height.

- (E) *Teucrium micropodioides*, Germander

A common species which thrives up to 900 m alt..

- (E) *Helianthemum obtusifolium*

A common species which thrives up to 900 m alt..

- (E) *Dianthus cyprius*, Wild Cyprus Pink

It is confined to Pentadactylos mountain range from 300 up to 800 m alt..



Helichrysum conglobatum, sun-gold, everlasting



Helianthemum obtusifolium

- (N) *Helichrysum conglobatum*, Sun-gold, Everlasting

A common species which thrives up to 700 m alt..

- (E) *Arabis purpurea*, Troodos Rock-cress

It thrives in rock crevices and it is confined to Troodos mountain range from 500 up to 1.800 m alt..

Other remarkable subshrubs:

(E) *Alyssum troodi*, Troodos Alison

(E) *Arabis cypria*, Cyprian Rock-cress

(E) *Teucrium cyprium* ssp. *cyprium*, Germander

(N) *Rubia tenuifolia*

(N) *Micromeria myrtifolia*

D. HERBS

(Annuals, biennials and perennials)

The main species are:

- (N) *Colchicum troodi*, Autumn Crocus

A perennial with white flowers. It is a common species and it thrives up to 1.950 m alt..



Cyclamen cyprium, cyclamen



Pinguicula crystallina

- (E) *Mentha longifolia* ssp. *cyprica*, Mint

A perennial which occurs in wet places up to 1.600 m alt..

- (E) *Cyclamen cyprium*, Cyclamen

A perennial with white, sometimes pink flowers. It thrives up to 1.000 m alt..

- (N) *Pteridium aquilinum*, Bracken, Eagle Fern

A common perennial which occurs on Troodos mountain Range from 600 up to 1.800 m alt..

- (N) *Urginea maritima*, Squill, Sea Onion

A common perennial which thrives up to 1.500 m alt..

- (N) *Asphodelus aestivus*, Asphodel

A common perennial which thrives up to 1.900 m alt.

Other remarkable herbs:

- (E) *Orchis anatolica* ssp. *troodi*, Troodos Anatolian Orchid

- (N) *Orchis italica*, Naked Man Orchid, Wavy-Leaved Monkey Orchid

- (N) *Centaurea aegialophila*

- (N) *Silene vulgaris*, Bladder Campion

- (E) *Silene laevigata*

- (E) *Onopordum cyprium*

- (E) *Allium willeaenum*

- (E) *Anthemis tricolor*

- (N) *Ranunculus asiaticus*, Asiatic Crowfoot

- (N) *Romulea tempskyana*

- (N) *Foeniculum vulgare* ssp. *pipéritum*, Fennel

- (N) *Ophrys fusca* ssp. *fusca*, Sombre Bee Orchid

- (N) *Arisarum vulgare*, Friar's Cow1

- (E) *Scutellaria cypria*

- (E) *Rubia lauræ*

The above species comprise a very small part of the flora of the forests of Cyprus. It is certain that the forests, as habitats with rich biological diversity, offer protection to very many endemic, rare and endangered species of the flora of Cyprus, as for example to *Pinguicula crystallina*, *Brassica hilarionis*, *Delphinium caseyi*, *Alyssum akamasicum*, *Origanum cordifolium* and *Ranunculus kykkoensis*. These species and 13 others are included in APPENDIX I of the Convention for the Conservation of the European Wild Life and Natural Habitats. The destruction as well as the protection of our flora and especially the flora of the forests, depend on man himself.

Abbreviations

E *Endemic*

N *Native*

ssp. *subspecies*

alt. *altitude*

cm *centimetre*

m *metre*

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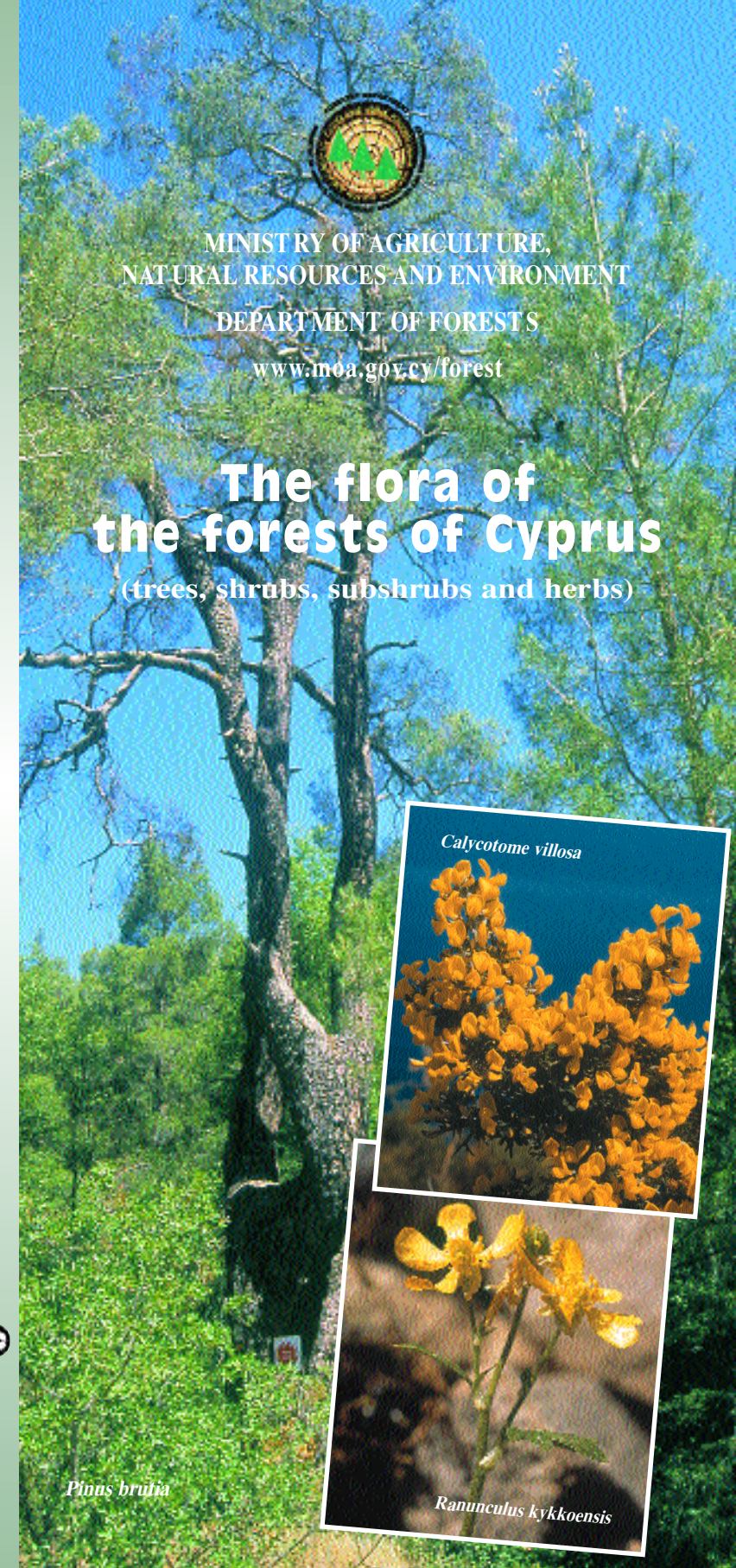


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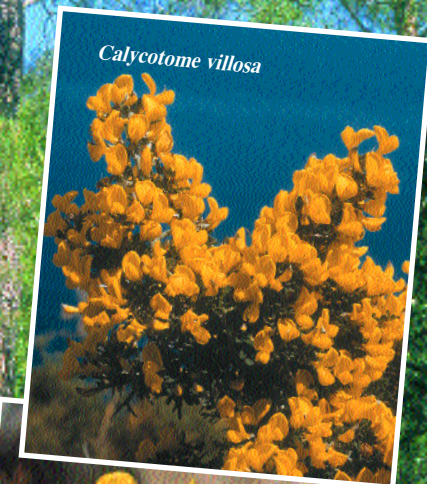
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The flora of the forests of Cyprus

(trees, shrubs, subshrubs and herbs)



Calycotome villosa



Ranunculus kykkoensis

Pinus brutia