

FRIENDS OF THE GOULANDRIS MUSEUM

Many of the world's finest museums, particularly in the United States have the good fortune to be encouraged and helped in their endeavours by an outside association of public-spirited individuals supporting them with gifts of money, books, works of art, and services as guide lecturers and voluntary assistants and on occasion with well-informed advice and criticism. These associations are usually known as "Friends of the Museum". They bring together people who might otherwise be unaware of their common interests and they provide occasions for hearing lectures by experts. The Board of the Museum is accordingly grateful for the formation of the "Friends of the Goulandris Natural History Museum" in 1978 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Frosso Pilavaki. The "Friends" now number more than 1.000 members.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

On the occasion of the Museum's 25 years of existence, this Department had organized two exhibitions.

The first exhibition was made in the end of 1989 and concerned the Dinosaurs. The British Museum (Natural History) loaned an Iguanodon skeleton; the second exhibition lasted from the end of 1989 to June 1990 and concerned the presence of Elephants in Greece and in particular the Dwarf Elephants of Tilos Island. While the first exhibition was made with the cooperation of the British Museum, the second had been organized by our Museum in cooperation with the Paleontological Museum of Athens University and the Vienna Museum of Natural History. The exhibition aimed to promote concern and public awareness about the extinction risk modern Elephants are facing due to poaching.

The Geological Department has recently received the donation of two geological libraries, one belonging to the geologist Mr. M. Nicolaou and the other to the late Professor of the National Faculty of Polytechnics, S. Katrakis. It also participates to the projects of the Museum, like the Project for Management and Protection of the Pindos mountain complex and the STRIDE Multimedia Project.

The genus *Arum* (Araceae) in Greece and Cyprus

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Abstract

Boyce, P. 1994. The genus *Arum* (Araceae) in Greece and Cyprus. *Ann. Musei Goulandris* 9: 27-38.

A synopsis of the 14 species of *Arum* known from Greece and Cyprus, with keys to all relevant infrageneric taxa. *A. purpureospathum* and *A. idaeum* are endemic to Crete. *A. cyrenaicum*, formerly considered endemic to Libya, also occurs on Crete.

Περίληψη

Boyce, P. 1994. Το γένος *Arum* (Araceae) στην Ελλάδα και στην Κύπρο. *Ann. Musei Goulandris* 9: 27-38.

Παρουσιάζεται μια συνοπτική αναφορά των 14 ειδών του γένους *Arum*, τα οποία έχουν καταγραφεί από την Ελλάδα και την Κύπρο και δίδονται κλείδες για την αναγνώριση των σχετικών ταξα. Τα είδη *A. purpureospathum* και *A. idaeum* είναι ενδημικά της Κρήτης. Το είδος *A. cyrenaicum*, το οποίο μέχρι πρόσφατα είχε θεωρηθεί ενδημικό της Λιβύης, συναντάται επίσης και στην Κρήτη.

The generic name *Arum*, established in modern botany by Linnaeus in 1753 and 1754, with *A. maculatum* as lectotype, had its origin in Ancient Greece, the vernacular name Άρον (aron) being used both by Theophrastus (c. 370 - 288 B.C.) and Dioscorides (1st century A.D.) for a species of *Arum*. Theophrastus, who lived most of his life in Attica, must have been well acquainted with *A. italicum*. Dioscorides, born in Asia Minor but evidently much travelled as an army doctor, may have known other species; the name *A. dioscoridis* commemorates him. An illustration in the Dioscoridean *Codex Vindobonensis* 98 recto (512 A.D.) is the earliest recognizable one of an *Arum* species and portrays *A. dioscoridis* with a

purple spathe.

The genus *Arum* consists of 26 species of tuberous herbs occurring from the Azores to western China and from Sweden to Morocco (Boyce, 1989, 1993). Since the publication of a monograph of *Arum* (Boyce, 1993) a further two species, as yet undescribed, have been discovered in Turkey. The present publication raises *A. orientale* Bieb. subsp. *sintenisii* (Engler) P.C. Boyce to specific rank as *A. sintenisii*.

So far 14 species of *Arum* have been recorded from Greece and Cyprus, representing almost all of the infrageneric divisions proposed by Boyce (1989). Over half of the species are recorded from the Greek islands and Cyprus; six species are known to occur on the mainland.

All *Arum* species in Greece and Cyprus belong to subgen. *Arum* (see Boyce, 1989, 1993). The other subgenus, *Gymnomesium* (Schott) Engl. (Engler, 1879), is restricted to the Mediterranean west of Italy.

KEY TO THE SECTIONS AND SUBSECTIONS

1. Stem consisting of a horizontal rhizomatous tuber with lateral adventitious shoots forming offsets which later become independent; established plants forming extensive spreading colonies.....i. sect. **Arum**
- Stem consisting of a vertically or horizontally orientated discoid tuber with peripheral adventitious shoots which sometimes form independent plants; established plants forming congested, compact colonies
.....(ii. sect. **Dioscoridea**) **2**
2. Spadix-appendix long-stipitate.....**3**
- Spadix-appendix not so.....**4**
3. Peduncle longer than the petioles; inflorescence ± odourless; both staminodes and pistillodes with long, filiform, semirigid bristles
.....a. subsect. **Alpina**
- Peduncle shorter than the petioles; inflorescence with foetid odour; pistillodes and staminodes with subulate to long, slender-filiform, flexuous bristles.
.....b. subsect. **Dioschroochiton**
4. Staminodes and pistillodes well developed**5**
- Staminodes and pistillodes absent or poorly developed
.....f. subsect. **Cretica**
5. Spadix-appendix short-stipitate, more than 5 mm in diameter, spathe-tube interior white or stained purple in the upper portion, very rarely entirely purple.....**6**
- Spadix-appendix not stipitate, less than 4 mm in diameter,

spathe-tube interior wholly purple

d. subsect. **Hygrophila**

6. Peduncle ± equal to or exceeding the petioles; bristles of staminodes and pistillodes filiform, flexuous; inflorescence odourless.....c. subsect. **Tenuifila**
- Peduncle shorter than the petioles, occasionally ± absent; bristles of staminodes and pistillodes subulate, stiff; inflorescence with strong foetid odour.
.....e. subsect. **Poeciloporphyrochiton**

KEY TO SPECIES

1. Plants occurring as dense extensive colonies.....**2**
- Plants occurring as scattered individuals or small, discrete colonies**3**
2. Spadix-appendix ± slender-clavate, 1/4-1/2 as long as spathe-limb
.....**1. A. italicum**
- Spadix-appendix massively to stoutly clavate-cylindric, subequal to more than 1/2 as long as spathe-limb
.....**2. A. concinatum**
- 3.(1) Pistillodes and staminodes present**4**
- Pistillodes and staminodes usually absent.....**13**
4. Spathe-limb blotched and spotted with purple on inner surface; inflorescence strongly foetid.....**12. A. dioscoridis**
- Spathe-limb not marked on inner surface; inflorescence foetid or not
.....**5**
5. Staminodes and pistillodes filiform; spathe-limb interior deep purple**6. A. nigrum**
- Staminodes and pistillodes filiform; spathe-limb interior as above or differently coloured.....**6**
6. Spathe-tube distinctly bicoloured on inner surface, purple above, pale green to white below**7**
- Spathe-tube not so.....**9**
7. Spadix-appendix stout-cylindric, subequal to spathe-limb
.....**9. A. elongatum**
- Spadix-appendix slender-cylindric to cylindric-clavate, up to 3/4 as long as spathe-limb**8**
8. Spathe-limb dark purple on inner surface, often

- paler towards the middle7. **A. cyrenaicum**
 — Spathe-limb evenly suffused with pale purple on inner surface9
 9. (6) Inflorescence borne beneath leaves
 4. A. orientale subsp. **orientale**
 — Inflorescence borne at leaf level, sweet-smelling
 5. A. sintenisii
 10. Spathe-tube white or greenish white inside, sometimes flushed with pale purple above and along the margin11
 — Spathe-tube deep purple inside12
 11. Spadix-appendix generally slender long-stipitate; cylindric to clavate
 **3. A. alpinum**
 — Spadix-appendix massive conic-cylindric, short-stipitate or stalkless
 **10. A. rupicola**
 12. Spathe-limb deep purple inside
 **8. A. purpureospathum**
 — Spathe-limb pale green with a 1-1.5 mm wide purple border
 11. A. hygrophilum
 13. (1) Spathe white, limb erect and cucullate at maturity; spadix-appendix deep purple
 **13. A. idaeum**
 — Spathe cream to yellow, limb reflexing at maturity; spadix-appendix mid-yellow to dark yellow**14. A. creticum**

ENUMERATION OF SPECIES

i. Sect. **ARUM**. Stem a horizontal rhizomatous tuber with lateral adventitious shoots forming offsets which later become independent; established plants forming extensive spreading colonies.

1. **Arum italicum** Miller, Gard. Dict. 8th ed., art. Arum, no. 2 (1768); Schott, Syn. Aroid. 10 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid. 82 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC. Monog.

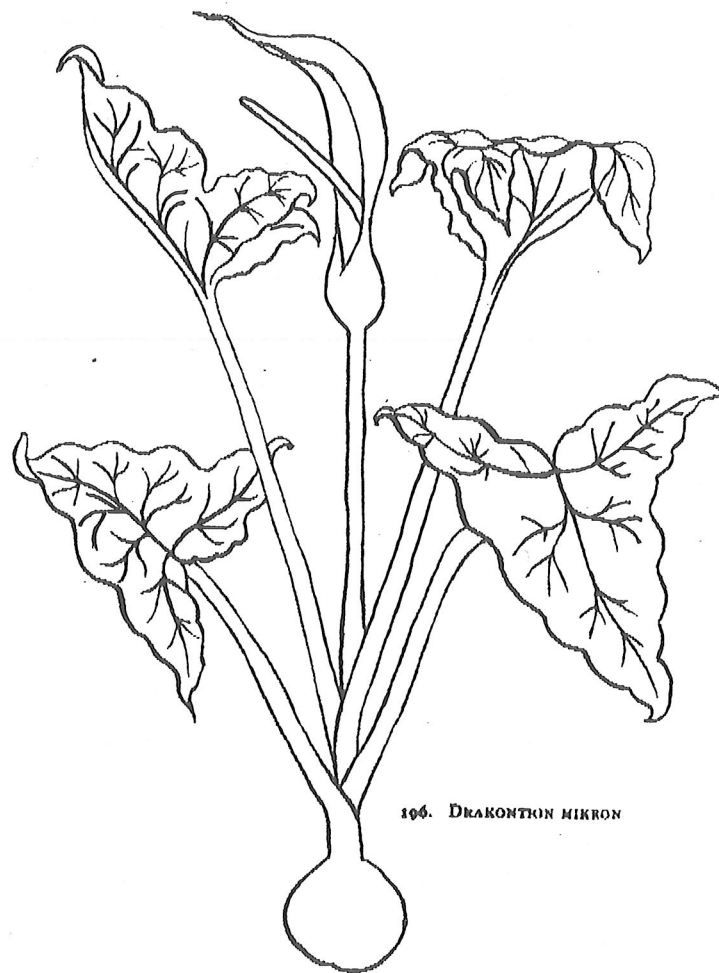


Fig. 1 *Arum dioscoridis* Fraas. Outline drawing based on *Codex Vindobonensis* (from R.T. Gunther, *The Greek Herbal of Dioscorides* 207; 1934). Original has dark purple spathe.

Phanerog. 2: 591 (1879); Hruby in Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève 4: 128 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr., 73 (IV. 23F): 82 (1920); Mayo & Meikle in Meikle, Fl. Cyprus. 2: 1667 (1985); P. C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 69 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Mainland: Macedonia (Makedhonia) Peloponnese (Peloponnisos), Thessaly (Thessalia), Thasos, Thrace (Thraki). Islands: Corfu (Kerkira), Cyprus (Kypros): Troodos.

Of the four subspecies recognized for *A. italicum* in the recent revision (Boyce, 1993), only the typical subspecies is represented in Greece and Cyprus. The striking silver-grey venation usually associated with *A. italicum* subsp. *italicum* is rarely encountered in eastern Mediterranean populations.

Confusion between *A. italicum* and *A. concinatum* Schott is possible, although the latter is readily distinguished by its more massive spadix-appendix.

2. ***Arum concinatum* Schott**, Icones Aroid., t. 39 & 40 (1859) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 84 (1860); Turland, Chilton & Press, Flora of the Cretan area, 158, map. 1366 (1993); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum* 79 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Mainland: southern Peloponnese (Peloponnisos). Islands: Chios (Khios), Crete (Kriti), Karpathos, Cos (Kos), Lesbos (Lesvos), Naxos, Rhodos (Rhodes), Samos, Simi, Cyprus (Kypros): Laphthos.

Note. Almost certainly on all of the eastern Aegean islands south of Lesbos.

Arum concinatum has been much confused with *A. byzantinum* Blume (Blume, 1836), a species restricted to northwestern Turkey. Recent guide books (e.g. Polunin, 1980) have misnamed *A. concinatum* as *A. byzantinum*. *Arum byzantinum* is a much smaller plant, with darker coloured spathes, a shorter, thinner spadix-appendix and narrower leaves lacking the cloudy, silver-grey markings typical of *A. concinatum*.

Arum concinatum is variable in spathe-limb coloration. On Crete forms ranging from very pale greenish white to plum-purple occur as mixed populations. Some of the forms have been recognized as distinct species (e.g. *A. wettsteinii* Hruby (1912)). In southwestern Crete *A. concinatum* hybridizes with *A. cyrenaicum* producing plants intermediate between the parents.

ii. Sect. **DIOSCORIDEA** (Engler) P.C. Boyce. Stem a vertically or horizontally orientated discoid tuber with peripheral adventitious shoots which sometimes form independent plants; established plants forming congested, compact colonies.

a. Subsect. **ALPINA** P.C. Boyce. Spadix-appendix clavate, long-stipitate. Peduncle longer than petiole. Bristles of staminodes long, filiform, semi-rigid. Inflorescence \pm odourless.

3. ***Arum alpinum* Schott & Kotschy** in Bot. Zeitung. 9: 285 (1851); Schott, Syn.

Aroid., 12 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 91 (1860); Turland, Chilton & Press, Flora of the Cretan area, 158, map 1365 (1993); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 85 (1993). Distribution: Greece: Mainland: Attica (Attiki), Ipiros, Macedonia (Makedhonia), Sterea Ellas. Islands: Crete (Kriti).

Long confused with *A. maculatum* L. (Linnaeus, 1753), *A. alpinum* is characterized by carrying its generally odourless inflorescence borne above the leaves. *Arum maculatum* has yet to be recorded from Greece or Cyprus; records from Crete are referable to *A. alpinum* or *A. idaeum* (see Greuter, 1984).

Arum alpinum is widespread, occurring from Portugal to southern Sweden and then east to northwestern Turkey. Given this extensive range the species is remarkably uniform in appearance. Isolated populations show some variation (e. g. spadix-appendix shape and inflorescence size) but the species is always easily recognizable.

b. Subsect. **DISCHROOCHITON** Schott. Spadix-appendix long-stipitate, usually stout. Peduncle shorter than the petiole. Pistillodes and staminodes very well developed, with long, filiform, flexuous bristles; Inflorescence smelling foetid.

4. ***Arum orientale* Bieb.**, Fl. Taur. - Cauc. 2: 407 (1808); Schott, Syn. Aroid., 15 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 88 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog., 2: 586 (1879); Hruby in Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève 4: 140 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr. 73 (IV. 23F): 78 (1920); Mayo & Meikle in Meikle, Fl. Cyprus 2: 1667 (1985); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 90 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Mainland: Macedonia (Makedhonia).

Boyce (1993) recognized three subspecies for *A. orientale*. In Greece it is represented by the typical subspecies, which is widespread in eastern central Europe and the Balkans, extending through northern Turkey into the Caucasus and Crimea. Subsp. *longispathum* (Reichb.) Engler (Engler, 1920) is restricted to Montenegro while subsp. *sintensisii*, endemic to Cyprus, is raised to specific rank level elsewhere in this paper.

There are few collections of *A. orientale* known from Greece, all collected from the northern mainland.

5. ***Arum sintensisii* (Engler) P.C. Boyce, stat. nov.** *A. orientale* Bieb. subsp. *elongatum* (Steven) Engler var. *sintensisii* Engler, Das Pflanzenr. 73 (IV. 23F): 80 (1920). Type: Cyprus (Kypros), auf Triften bei Kythraea (Kythrea), 6 May 1880, *Sintenis & Rigo* 130 (holotype K!). *A. orientale* Bieb. subsp. *sintensisii* (Engler) P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*: 96 (1993).

Distribution: Cyprus (Kypros): Kythrea.

Boyce (1993) regarded this taxon as a subspecies of *A. orientale*. Since then, study of further material and access to living plants have convinced me that it is a distinct

species. *Arum sintenisii* has a different mode of inflorescence presentation and a sweet, not foetid odour when in flower. *Arum sintenisii* is restricted to the vicinity of Kythrea in Cyprus where it occurs as extensive stands.

6. **Arum nigrum** Schott in Oesterr. Bot. Wochenbl. 27 (7): 213 (1857) & Icones Aroid., t. 37, 38 (1859). & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 81 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog., 2: 586-7 (1879); Hruby in Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève 4: 137 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr., 73 (IV. 23F): 74-5 (1920); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum* 106, (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Mainland: Attica (Attiki) (doubtful), Evvoia (doubtful), south Macedonia (Makedhonia). Islands: Jura, Skiros.

Long thought to be restricted to Montenegro, *A. nigrum* is now known to be present but rare in Greece. The deep purple spathe-limb and black-purple to pewter-coloured spadix-appendix, combined with an exceptionally strong dung-like odour, make it easily recognizable. Unlocalized records of *A. nigrum* from southern mainland Greece reported by Halácsy (1904) have yet to be confirmed. Reports of *A. nigrum* on Samothraki (Akeroyd & Preston, 1987) are referable to *A. elongatum* subsp. *elongatum*.

7. **Arum cyrenaicum** Hruby in Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève 4: 159 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr., 73 (IV. 23F): 81 (1920); El Gadi in Fl. Libya, 41: 236 (1977); Turland, Chilton & Press, Flora of the Cretan area, 159, map 1368 (1993); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 110 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Islands: southwestern Crete (Kriti).

One of the most recent additions to the Greek flora, *A. cyrenaicum* was long thought to be endemic to Libya, occurring between Tripoli and Benghazi. It has recently been discovered on Crete, but so far only three small populations have been found, each consisting of a few individuals. It is interesting to note that at one of the sites hybrids between *A. cyrenaicum* and *A. concinatum* have been found.

8. **Arum purpureospathum** P.C. Boyce in Aroideana 10: 8 (1987); Turland in Bull. Alpine Gärd. Soc. 57: 112-117 (1989); Turland, Chilton & Press, Flora of the Cretan area, 159, map 1370 (1993); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 113 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Islands: southwestern Crete (Kriti).

Arum purpureospathum is one of the two *Arum* species endemic to Crete. It is restricted to a few sites in southwest of the island. The large, glistening, deep purple spathes are distinctive. *Arum purpureospathum* is protected by law in Greece.

9. **Arum elongatum** Steven in Bull. Bot. Soc. Mosc. 32,2: 67 (1857); Schott, Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 100 (1860); Hruby in Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève 4: 140 (1912); P.C.

Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 123 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Mainland: Macedonia (Makedhonia). Islands: Samothraki.

Arum elongatum occurs as the typical subspecies in northern Greece. Boyce (1993) maintained a second subspecies, subsp. *alpinariae* Mill & Alpinar (Mill & Alpinar, 1988), from Turkey. *Arum elongatum* is rare in Greece, represented by only a few collections. It is a striking species with relatively large, deep purple spathes, a long, rather stout spadix-appendix producing a powerful odour of horse dung. Records of *A. nigrum* on Samothraki (Akeroyd & Preston, 1987) are referable to *A. elongatum* subsp. *elongatum*.

c. Subsection **TENUIFILA** (Engler) P.C. Boyce (1989). Peduncle longer than petiole. Spadix-appendix shortly stipitate or sessile, slender to stout, occasionally massive. Staminodes and pistillodes moderately well-developed, bristles filiform, rather short. Inflorescence odourless.

10. **Arum rupicola** Boiss., Diagn. 1,13: 7 (1853); Schott, Syn. Aroid. 14 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 96 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog., 2: 588 (1879); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 129 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Islands: Lesbos (Lesvos). Cyprus (Kypros): Troodos, Tripylos.

Arum rupicola is essentially an Asian species, occurring only on Cyprus and the island of Lesbos. Two varieties are recognized by Boyce (1993). The Greek and Cypriot plant, with a purple to dull brown spathe-limb and similarly coloured spadix-appendix, corresponds to the typical variety. Var. *virescens* (Stapf) P.C. Boyce (Boyce, 1993), has a greenish white spathe, pale lilac to grey spadix-appendix and is exclusively Asian.

d. Subsect. **HYGROPHILA** P.C. Boyce. Peduncle equal to or longer than the petiole. Spadix-appendix sessile, less than 4 mm diam. Staminodes and pistillodes with long, filiform, flexuous bristles. Spathe-tube interior wholly purple. Inflorescence odourless.

11. **Arum hygrophilum** Boiss., Diagn. 1,13: 8 (1853); Schott, Syn. Aroid., 13 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 98 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog., 2: 589 (1879); Hruby in Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève 4: 157 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr., 73 (IV. 23F): 77 (1920); Mayo & Meikle in Meikle, Fl. Cyprus, 2: 1665 (1985); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 147 (1993).

Distribution: Cyprus (Kypros): Kythrea, Kazaphani, Tala.

A distinctive plant with pale green spathes having a striking purple band along the margin of the spathe limb, *A. hygrophilum* has a disjunct distribution. First described from the Syrian - Lebanese border, the species also occurs on Cyprus and in northern

Morocco.

e. Subsect. **POECILOPORPHYROCHITON** Schott. Peduncle much shorter than the petiole, sometimes apparently absent. Spadix-appendix shortly stipitate, cylindrical to fusiform-cylindrical or rather slender-cylindrical, moderately stout. Stamines and pistillodes well developed, bristles subulate, stiff, short to long. Inflorescence with foetid odour.

12. **Arum dioscoridis** Smith in Sibthorp & Smith, Fl. Graec. Prodr. 2: 245 (1816); Schott, Syn. Aroid., 9 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 78 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog., 2: 583 (1879); Hruby in Bull. Bot. Soc. Genève 4: 153 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr., 73 (IV. 23F): 72 (1920), Mayo & Meikle in Meikle, Fl. Cyprus, 2: 1665 (1985); Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 151 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Islands: Chios (Khios), Rhodes (Rhodos). Cyprus (Kypros): Cap Greco, Kyrenia, Kythrea, Limassol, Nicosia, Sotia.

Four varieties of *A. dioscoridis* are recognized by Boyce (1993). Of these var. *dioscoridis* and var. *cyprium* (Schott) Engl. (Engler, 1920) are present on Rhodes, Chios and Cyprus. The varieties are distinguished by coloration of the interior of the spathe limb. Var. *dioscoridis* has spathes with large deep purple confluent blotches and spots overlaid with slightly paler purple staining to within a few centimetres of the spathe tip. Var. *cyprium* has pale green spathes with smaller, more-or-less discrete blotches and lacking any purple staining. When flowering both varieties usually produce a powerful smell of pig-dung.

f. Subsect. **CRETICA** (Engler) P.C. Boyce. Peduncle longer, or much shorter than petiole. Spadix-appendix sessile to obscurely stipitate, cylindrical, laterally compressed, moderately stout. Stamines and pistillodes absent, very rarely stamines and pistillodes present in *A. creticum*. Inflorescence sweetly scented, more rarely odourless.

13. **Arum idaeum** Coult. & Gandoger in Bull. Soc. Bot. France 63: 11 (1917); Turland, Chilton & Press, Flora of the Cretan area, 159, map 1369 (1993); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 162 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Islands: Crete (Kriti).

Restricted to mountainous regions of Crete, *A. idaeum* has long been confused with *A. creticum*, usually being referred to as the high altitude form of that species. *Arum idaeum* typically has white spathes and a deep purple spadix appendix. However, the spadix appendix can vary, with forms displaying various degrees of yellow, ranging from a few patches to almost entirely yellow. Other interesting variation is found in the smell of the inflorescence. Most plants in cultivation in

Europe have an odourless inflorescence but many plants investigated in the field produced a faint but readily discernible smell of violets and hyacinth.

14. **Arum creticum** Boiss. & Heldr. in Boiss., Diagn. 1, 13: 9 (1853); Schott, Syn. Aroid., 11 (1856) & Prodr. Syst. Aroid., 94 (1860); Engler in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog., 2: 590 (1879); Hruby in Bull. Bot. Soc. Genève 4: 151 (1912); Engler in Engler, Das Pflanzenr., 73 (IV. 23F): 69 (1920); Turland, Chilton & Press, Flora of the Cretan area, 159, map 1367 (1993); P.C. Boyce, The Genus *Arum*, 165 (1993).

Distribution: Greece: Islands: Karpathos, Kasos, Crete (Kriti).

A very striking species with large cream to lemon-yellow inflorescence borne well clear of the leaves. Widespread on Crete and occurring eastwards on Kasos, Karpathos and in southwestern Turkey, *A. creticum* is perhaps the most readily identifiable and certainly the best known of the Greek arums. The strong smell produced by the open inflorescence is usually described as sweet and freesia-like, but can vary from this to an highly unpleasant naphtha-like odour.

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