



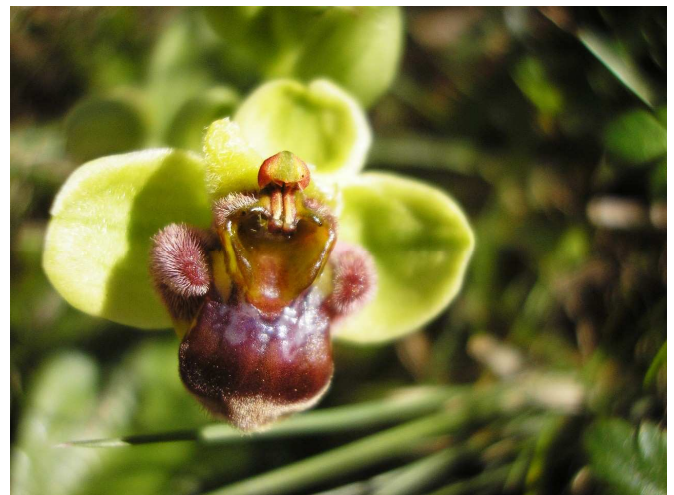
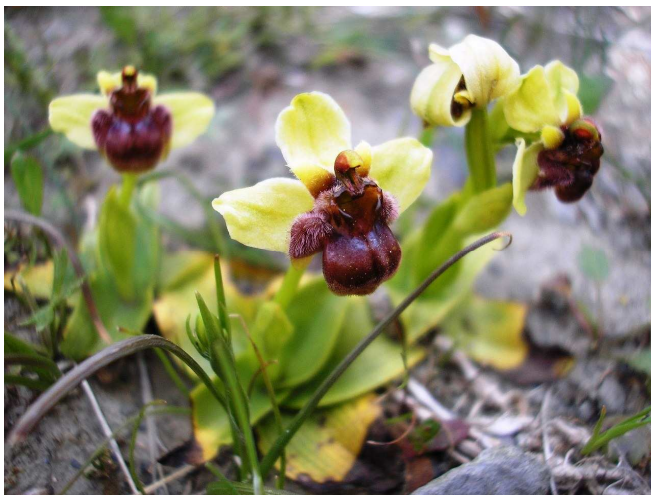
Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

The Orchids of Crete (Part 11): genus *Ophrys* (VI) (Drone -, Wasp -, Yellow - and Phrygana-Orchid)

(An article ^[1] from our forums member [Ralf Schwab](#), Obertshausen [Hessen]).

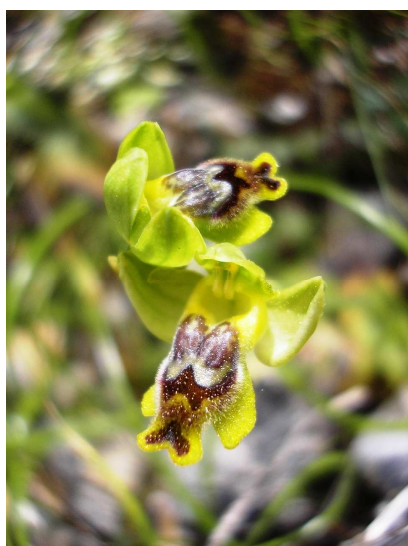
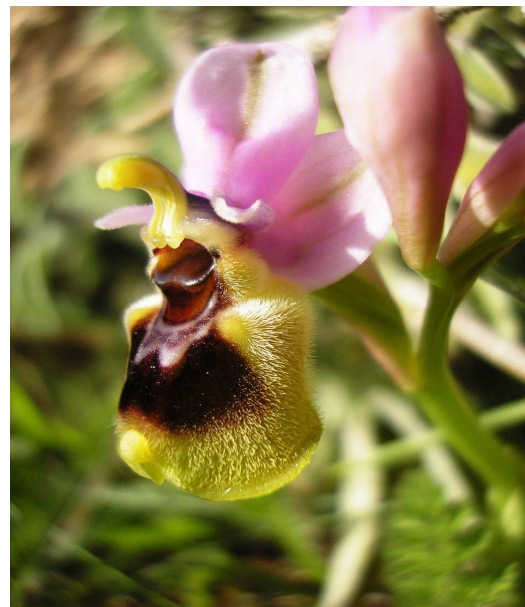
So far we introduced **46 Orchid types** of Crete with our leaflet series “**The Orchids of Crete**”. With info-leaflets No. 280-08/E to No. 284-08/E [Part 6-10, *Ophrys* (I-V)] we informed about the complex of *Ophrys*, which will be continued with the below description of additional 4 species.

In this leaflet we describe the Drone- and the Wasp-Orchid, and the sibling species Yellow- and Phrygana-Orchid. All four species are wide spread and common on Crete. While you can easily see the two first types you have to take a closer look at the "yellow" species. Important determination attributes, apart from the growth form and the heyday, are the bend of the basis of the labium and the width of the yellow labium border.

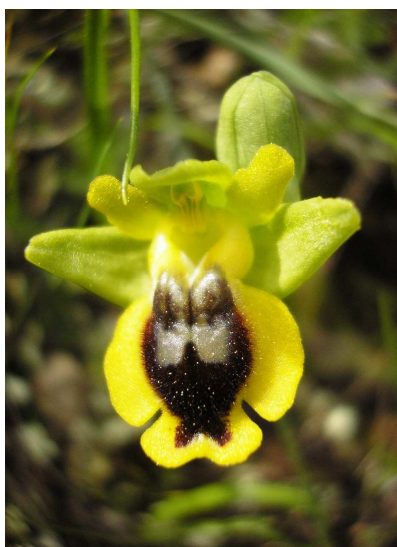
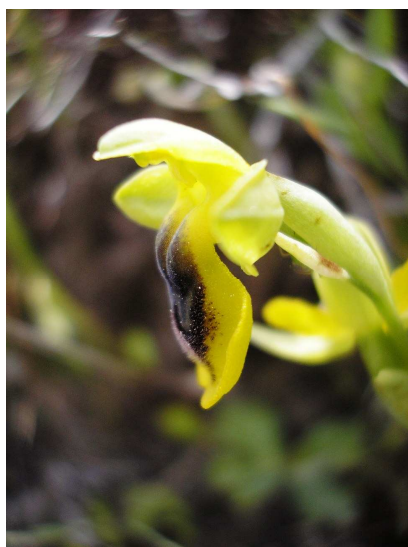


The “**Drone Orchid**” (*Ophrys bombyliflora*) is the plainest coloured Orchid. The few flowers are at right angles from the stem. The blackish, tripartite labium is missing usual in this genus contrasting colour, only the centre of the labium is light grey lightened. The 3 large and wide light green sepals are almost striking. The hairy petals are small and green or yellow. The plants are usually low stature and often occur in dense groups. **Flowering season:** end March to mid April. **Habitat:** wet-dry Garrigue, nearshore marsh, always in open country. **Plant find spot:** west of Gerakari (16th of April 2007) and region of Kanasos - Ini (18th of March 2008).

The “**Wasp-Orchid**” (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*) is an early blooming species of compact growth. The undivided, very hairy labium has lateral flat humps, is dark-brown with a very wide yellow border and has a blue field in the centre. The reminding petals are pink coloured. **Flowering season:** early March to late April. **Habitat:** grassy Garrigue, terraced meadows, pine forests. **Plant find spot:** region of Kalo Chorio - Prina (21st of March 2008) and north of Thriptis (19th of March 2008). **Images** for “Wasp-Orchid” see **Page 2**.



The “**Yellow-Orchid**” (*Ophrys sicula*) is a delicate plant, whose blooming starts early. The small labium has a bright yellow border and is rounded down. The bend on the basis is missing. The inflorescence is usually stretched and the greenish sepals and petals form a loose helmet over the labium. **Flowering season:** February to March in several waves. **Habitat:** Garrigue, open olive groves, disturbed areas, pine forests relict. **Plant find spot:** region of Kalo Chorio – Prina (21st of March 2008) and region of Kasanos – Ini (18th of March 2008).



The “**Phrygana-Orchid**” (*Ophrys phryganae*) blooms rather late and has larger flowers than the “Yellow Orchid”. The growth form is rather stout and the inflorescence crowded at the end. The yellow border of the labium is usually wider and is bent at the base to the bottom, the notch in this area is rounded-padded pouting. The labium edge bends first down and then back up. The remaining petals are more open than at the “Yellow Orchid” **Flowering season:** end March to end April. **Habitat:** meadows (often in small groups), in open country. **Plant find spot:** region of Kalo Chorio – Prina (21st of March 2008) and Xiron at Spili (25th of April 2007).

^[1]: with the co-operation of *Ute Kluge* and *Heinz Eikamp*
© all Pictures: *Ralf Schwab*

[to be continued with Part 12]