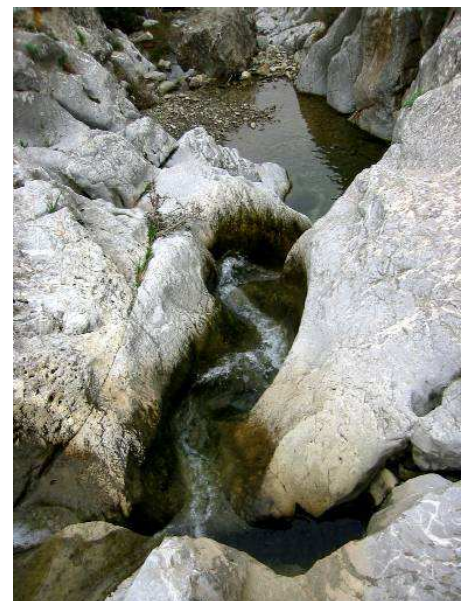
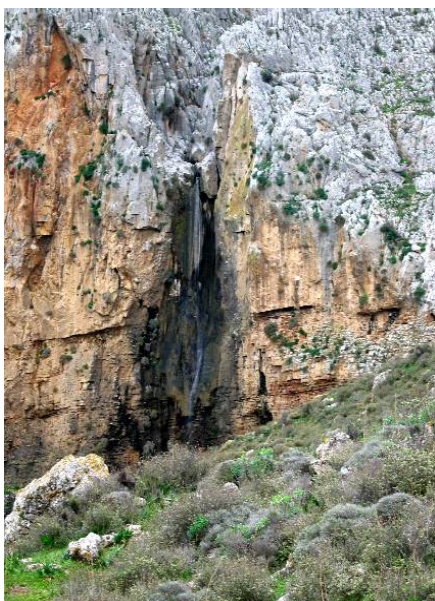
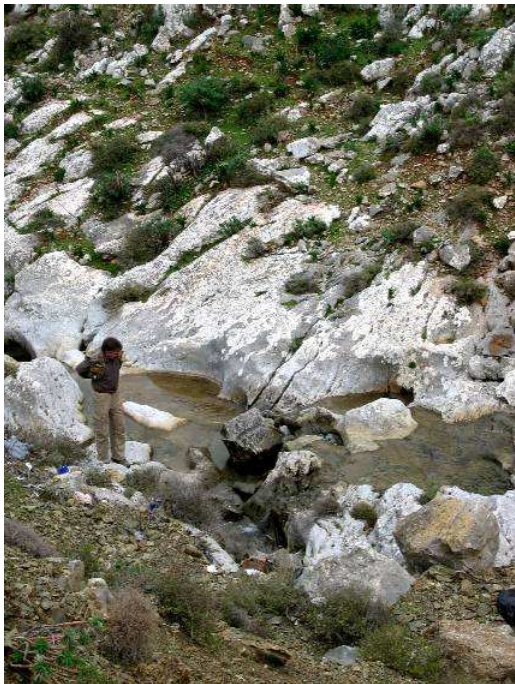


**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**“Waterfall-Canyon” at Plora within Asteroussia-Mountain**
Cicada (*Cicadidae*)

The nameless “Waterfall-Canyon” is reached over **Agii Deka**, traversing the Messara in southern direction toward **Lentas**, over **Plora**, on the spurs of the Asteroussia-Mountains / South Crete. From **Plora** we continue over **Apesokari** towards **Miamou** (to **Lentas**). The route leads from **Plora** uphill into the Asteroussia-Mountains, where the Canyon can be seen (left of the street) after 2.5 miles (after a sharp left turn) as a "cut" in the wall of the mountain range. From the Canyon falls a waterfall from over 30 m height into the depth to the bottom of the steep face where it seeps after just a few metres in the karst ground. The Canyon itself and its creek bed can be considered also "up close", by driving the road about 500 m further uphill (around the Hill). Here you have, in front of a bend to the right, on the left a good parking possibility in form of a branching path, which leads to a sheep shed. From here you have a good look in the Canyon and the mountain creek at its base. The trail leads along "the crest" of the Canyon and offers a small hike; a fence mounted on the left side limits the way towards the steep slope of the Canyon. there is no official "entry point" into the Canyon, but is possible with some skill in multiple places. You can walk on its ground through the brook bed with its by water polished stones and can follow the brook bed up to the “crash site” of the creek (waterfall). A safety distance of at least 5 m before the "crash site" should be observed particularly in the spring and winter, when the creek plenty and especially (due to the gap) leads "raging water". In summer the creek bed is probably dry (expect for a few deep points). The "waterfall" becomes a "trickle"; its "traces" at the rock of the wall are also then obvious.



The left figure shows the end of the Canyon in the wall (seen from the street); the water of the stream falls over 30 m into the depth and leaves significant marks on the rock. Fig. centre and right show the mechanical strength of the water in the Rock; deep, from the water "polished" cuts, some up to 2 m deep, lead the water (over stagnant water zones) to the "end of the Canyon". **Pictures:** H. Eikamp/U. Kluge (12/2004)



The fig. left shows the creek bed within the canyon where an entrance is possible. The fig. right shows the end of the canyon seen from the creek bed with a view to the about 3 miles distant Messara Plateau. After the bush (in the picture left) its about 10 metres to the "crash site" of the creek out of the canyon.

Pictures:

U. Kluge (12/2004)

Cicada (*Cicadidae*)

In summer the air of Crete is filled with the loud chirping of the cicada. It is almost unbelievable how much "noise" this just a few inches large insects can cause. Shortly after sunrise the cicadas begin their concert which they continuously continue without fatigue until the evening, then replaced by their nocturnal "peers", the crickets. The male of cicada create a widely audible, high-pitched sound. This is done with a "tymbal". Each one of these sonic membranes sits on the 1st abdominal segment.



In the Mediterranean live "only 10 of the 4500 world wide described types. The *Tettigia (Cicada) orni* and the *Lyristes (Tibicen) blebeja* (see picture) are very common on Crete. These insects can reach a length of 23-28 mm and are found mostly in pine and olive groves. The adult cicadas have transparent, usually bright wings. The females have a kind of a drill with which they lay eggs in bark. There the nymphs (larvae) slip, fall off and dig in the ground and live there, often several years. Their diet consists of root juice which they absorb. After the

"maturing" the larva reappears after several moults as nymphoide Larva in daylight; from which the young cicada slips after.



The fig. left shows the "nymph dress" of *Cicada blebeja*. This shot of a skinning dress of a young cicada succeeded U. KLUGE in 2004 in a pine forest at the entrance to the Skotino cave.



Fig. right shows a fossil cicada in Baltic amber (Incluse).

● "*CICADA, oh singer of the sun, daughter of the gods, APOLLON, associated the God of songs and wisdom*".
(Verse from: The song of sun – the Cigale)



Ancient Greek coin with cicada subject