

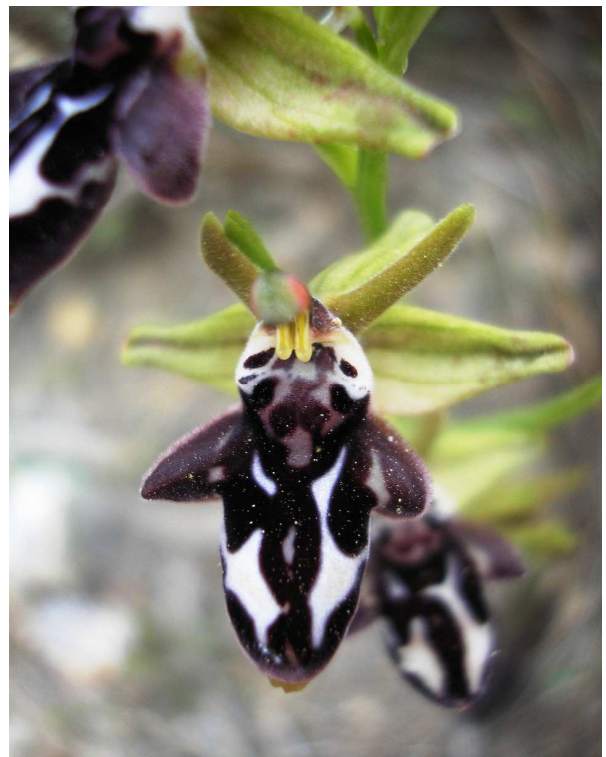
Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

The Orchids of Crete (Part 10): genus *Ophrys* (V) **(Common Cretan -, Horned Cretan - and Ariadne's Orchid)**

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

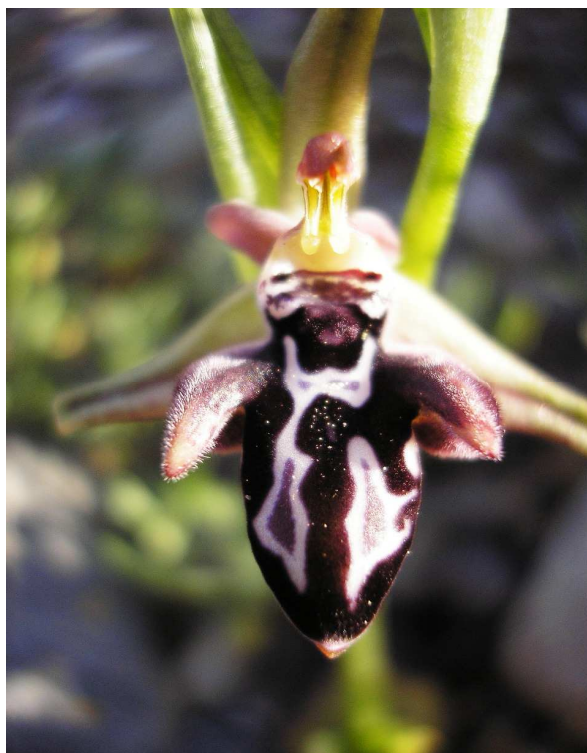
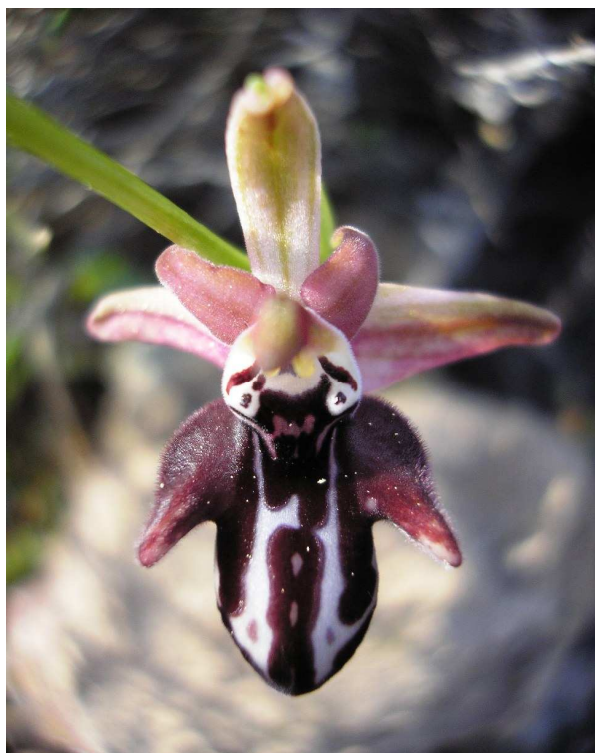
So far we introduced **43 Orchid types** of Crete with our leaflet series “**The Orchids of Crete**”. With info-leaflets No. 280-08/E to No. 283-08/E [Part 6-9, *Ophrys* (I-IV)] we informed about the complex of *Ophrys*, which will be continued with the below description of additional 3 subspecies.

The Cretan Orchid occurs on Crete in three subspecies, which differ in the flower shape and heyday. Together they have the black, tripartite labium featuring mostly a white bordered blue “H” as marking. The sepals are usually greenish, may be in reddish, the petals are usually darker and often have a brownish or reddish colour.

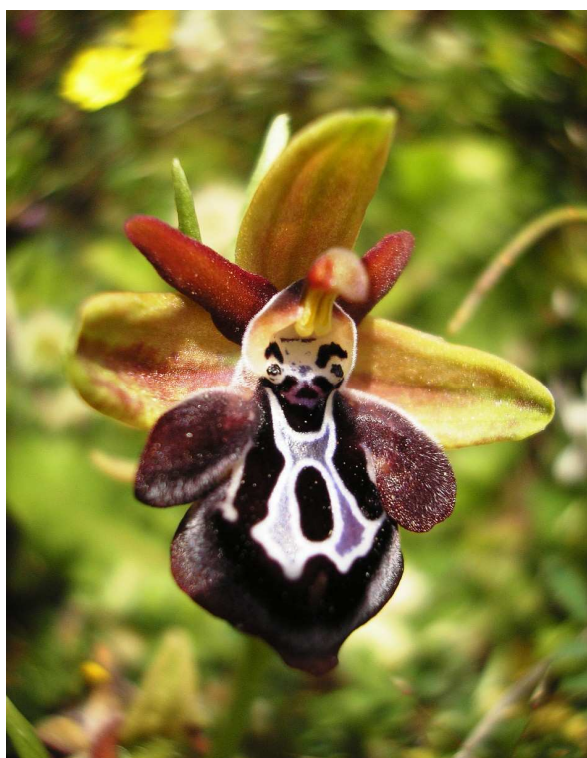


The **Common Cretan Orchid (*Ophrys cretica*)** is to find only locally and in lower elevations. It blooms clearly later as for example the “Ariadne's Orchid” and its cicatrices hollow is clearly wider than high.

Flowering season: early to late April. **Habitat:** Garrigue, meadows, open olive groves. **Plant find spot:** South of Rethymno (19th of April 2007) and region of Kalo Chorio - Prina (21st of April 2007).



The “**Horned Cretan Orchid**” (*Ophrys cretica ssp. bicornuta*) is to find only in the East of the island. Characteristic are the lateral humps of the labium which show forward like two acuminate horns. **Flowering season:** early March to early April. **Habitat:** Garrigue, open country below 500m. **Plant find spot:** Koutsouras (27th of March 2008).



Most widely spread on Crete is “**Ariadne’s Orchid**“ (*Ophrys cretica ssp. ariadnae*). It blooms early than the two other subspecies and has narrower cicatrices hollow. **Flowering season:** mid February to early April. **Habitat:** Garrigue, meadows, open olive groves. **Plant find spot:** Profitis-Ilias (22nd of March 2008) and Xiron / Spili (22nd of March 2007).

^[1]: with the co-operation of [Ute Kluge](#) and [Heinz Eikamp](#)

© all Pictures: [Ralf Schwab](#)

Translated by [Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling](#)

[to be continued with Part 11]

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