

KEY TO PLANT GROUPS

IDENTIFYING PLANTS IN THE FIELD

For wild flower identification in general it is necessary to have a plant in good condition, complete with stem, leaves and flowers, and a hand lens to observe the tiny floral elements.

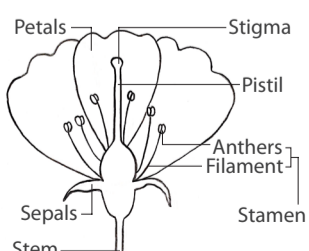
By analysing simple characters of flowers and leaves, and choosing the correct description in the illustrated key-diagram, you will be able to follow the right path leading to the morphological group to which the plant that you are observing belongs to. These "morpho-groups" are not generally correspondent to plant taxonomic categories, they instead may include plants that share similar traits. This key is aimed to help everyone to start an easy exploration of the great diversity of Mediterranean flowers!

Be careful not to touch thorns or plant latex, which may cause itchy skin!

FLOWER ANATOMY SIMPLIFIED

Image of a complete flower in which the 4 verticils are distinguished from the outside to the inside: sepals (calyx), petals (corolla), stamens (androecium, the male part) and pistil (gynoecium, the female part), inserted on the receptacle of the floral peduncle.

The drawing shows the stamens, each formed by filament and anther, and the pistil, which can be made up of one or more carpels, and is composed of ovary, stylus and stigma.



LIFE 4 POLLINATORS

The aim of the project is to improve pollinator conservation by creating a virtuous circle leading to a progressive change in practices across the Mediterranean region.



The project will contribute to a range of EU policy and legislation, including amongst others the biodiversity strategy, the pollinators initiative and biodiversity protection under the common agricultural policy.

MEDITERRANEAN ENTOMOPHILOUS PLANTS

Mediterranean flora comprises around 25000 species of plants, among which a great majority is pollinated by insects and about half are endemics (i.e. exclusively present in this area). Many species are rare and threatened by habitat transformation. Typically mediterranean are the evergreen shrubs and sclerophyllous trees such as Holm's oak, olive, laurel, mastic tree, carob, rock roses, myrtle, as well as the aromatic plants like rosemary, thyme, lavender, fennel and many others. But remember that Mediterranean does not only mean sea coasts! There are also mountains, hillsides, dry grasslands, wetlands... different habitats characterised by specific vegetation. This amazing plant variety is essential for- and at the same time is strictly dependent from- the diversity of pollinators!

