



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



Environmental- and Nature conservancy in Crete in need! **Rambling in the (Nature) preserve area *Analipsi***

The *Apossemelis* River estuary area between the towns *Kato Gouves* and *Analipsi* (on the North coast of Crete, 14 miles east of Heraklion) is set under preservation. Smaller dune areas create here stagnant water zones, where the water from the mountains is mixed with the sea water within the estuary mouth of the River, so brackish water zones emerge; a rare phenomenon at Crete. These narrow, damp areas are very important for flora and fauna of the island. In the 3 to 4 square kilometres large area three habitats can be roamed and many impressions of flora and fauna of individual habitats can be collected (coastal zone (up to 100 m from the sea), plains (up to 1,000 m from the sea) and from 1,000 metres from the Sea Middle mountain zone). Many examples of environmental damage (despite reserve) are here to see; unfortunately not unusual in Crete. Detailed information and feedback can be found on the website www.kreta-umweltforum.de, category "Umwelt- / Naturschutz" (currently in German only) and within the Forum (currently 160 topics with more than 400 posts).

The figures below with a brief description are snapshots from nature and environment (and their impact on human), how they can be found by the walker within this area!



Areas of brackish water within the coastal zone are irreplaceable habitats for animals and plants, like for example for the very elusive Caspian water turtle (*Mauremys caspica*) or the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). (For more information see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caspian_Turtle and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nycticorax_nycticorax) However, impact of their habitat is conspicuous: wild disposed plastic waste and other refuse take negative effect on the ecology of this area.



Transitioning from the lowlands to the central mountain zone many plant species of the family of Araceae, from both, the genus Arum as also Arisarum can be found.



Also the area of the central mountain zone, here a picture of the dry riverbed of *Apossemelis*, is not free of characters of environmental iniquity; unfortunately an already "typical" and "normal" image at hillsides, gorges, or river and stream bed shores. The terraced terrain of the Middle mountain zone is a preferred location of various orchid species: Picture left shows a *Serapias parviflora*; in Crete is probably a hybrid of *S. parviflora* and *S. bergonii*. Picture right is showing *Orchis fragrans*. Pictures: U. Kluge 2004



The scale insect *Coccoidea* was discovered and described first in 1993 in Crete. Introduced from Asia it is now spread throughout the Mediterranean. The up to 4 mm-sized lice subsist exclusively by the plant juice itself, which it absorbs with their small proboscis from the vessels of the plant. With its whitish (wax-like) plate it looks rather like a deformation on the leaf than an animal. Small, reddish-looking lice develop from the stored eggs below the shield which are moving elsewhere and form new shields. Several generations per year are possible. An increased occurrence of scale insects at Oleander bushes has been found in 2004 in Crete.