



TREASURES BLOOMING

IN HORSH EHDEN NATURE RESERVE



Noting that the reserve represents less than 0.1% of the total area of Lebanon, Horsh Ehden Nature Reserve (HENR) is a refuge of 1058 plant species counting for 40% of Lebanon's flora.

***Endemism** is related to geographical distribution. Some of these plants are confined to the Eastern Mediterranean countries e.g. Endemic to Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Palestine, etc. while others are strict endemic to Lebanon.

HENR is a habitat to:

- **21** globally and nationally threatened species,
- **47** medicinal species,
- **100** biological indicators,
- **5** species with commercial value,
- **113** highland species,
- **37** abundant species,
- **13** rare species,
- **62** endemic species to Lebanon or Lebanon and Syria or Lebanon and Turkey,
- **229** species restricted to Eastern Mediterranean or Middle East area.

In this booklet, 34 of the most common and endemic plant species are selected and classified by family, following an alphabetical order.

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● APOCYNACEAE p.4	● FABACEAE p.20
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Prangos asperula

Rough prangos

Prangos rude

فرش الضبع



With its very impressive yellow flowering, this species enlightens the mountainous slopes of Mount Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon during the month of June.

DISTRIBUTION

- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD



Vinca libanotica

Lebanon periwinkle

Pervenche du liban

ونكة لبنان



This perennial species can be found in the mountains. It is endemic to the Eastern Mediterranean region.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon
- Syria
- Iran
- Iraq
- Turkey

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Vinca herbacea* subsp. *libanotica* is a synonym of *Vinca libanotica*



Hyacinthus orientalis

Oriental hyacinth

Jacinthe d'orient

خزام شرقى



This species is the ancestor of all the ornamental hyacinths found all around the world. In the Greek mythology, Hya-kinthos was a young man loved by two gods, Apollo and Zephyr. Due to jealousy, he was killed by Zephyr but Apollo turned him into a flower to make him eternal.

DISTRIBUTION

- Greece
- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Irak

FLOWERING PERIOD



Ornithogalum libanoticum

Lebanon star-of-Bethlehem

Ornithogale du Liban

صاصل لبنان



Ornithogalum libanoticum is a geophyte. It is endemic to Lebanon and can be found on rocky grounds.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Achillea falcata

Falcate milfoil

Achillée falciforme

قيسون



The name refers to Achilles, hero of the Troy war. According to the mythology, he used this plant to heal his wounds.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Jordan

FLOWERING PERIOD



Ptilostemon diacantha

Two-spines ptilostemon

Ptilostémone à deux épines

بتيلستمون ذو شوكتين



Very similar to the thistles, this thorny species of the Asteraceae family is quite common in Mount Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon. However it is an endemic of the mountains of the Northeastern Mediterranean.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine

FLOWERING PERIOD



Berberis libanotica

Lebanon barberry

Berberis du Liban

بربريس لبناني



A promising candidate for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. This mountainous shrub is found between 1400 and 2000 meters. The flowers of *Berberis* have a mechanical movement that is stimulated by the visit of insects. When an insect touches the base of a stamen, the latter moves inward and projects its pollen on the insect. This allows cross pollination.

DISTRIBUTION

- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Brunnera orientalis

Oriental brunnera

Brunnéra d'orient

برنيرة شرقية



This mountainous species is found in fresh and shady places between 1500 and 2500 m.

DISTRIBUTION

- North-East Mediterranean
- Western Asia

FLOWERING PERIOD



Aethionema coridifolium

Lebanon candy-tuft

Aethionème du Liban

قرصية الورق



This genus is characterized by strange stamens. From Greek *aêthês* = unusual, and *nêma* = filament. The filaments of the stamens are toothed or winged. This species is only found between 1500 and 2000 meters on rocky or sandy soil.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD



Arabis caucasica

Caucasian rock cress

Arabette du Caucase

اربيس قفقاسي



Carl Von Linne named the genus *Arabis* from the Greek “arabis” which refers to the Arab Peninsula. Indeed many species of this genus have the ability to grow in rocky or sandy soil. This mountainous species can be found only between 1500 and 2500 meters, in fresh and shady places and is one on the first species to flower after the thaw.

DISTRIBUTION

- North-East Mediterranean
- Caucasus

FLOWERING PERIOD



Aubrieta libanotica

Lebanon aubrieta

Aubriète du Liban

اوبريتية لبنان



The genus is named after Claude Aubriet (1665–1742), a French flower-painter, friend of the botanist Tournefort, *Aubrieta* grows in crevices on rocky cliffs. It is mostly found on fresh North oriented cliffs in the mountainous regions between 500 and 2500 meters.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD



Hesperis kotschyana

Kotschy's dame's violet

Julienne de Kotschy

منثورية كتشي



This species is not very common and it is limited to rocky shrublands and woodlands. The name *Hesperis* means evening in Greek and refers to the fact that this genus is characterized by flowers that produce a nocturnal scent to attract night moths.

DISTRIBUTION

- Northeastern Mediterranean
- Western Asia

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Hesperis bicuspidata* is a synonym of *Hesperis kotschyana*



Campanula trichopoda

Capillary-stemmed bellflower

Campanule à tige fine

جريس رفيع الساق



This species is perennial and lives at high elevations on rocky grounds. It is native and endemic to Lebanon and Syria.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon
- Syria

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Arenaria deflexa

Deflexed sandwort

Sabline recourbée

زهرة رمال الصخور



Plants of this genus are sand dwellers. However, this species is found in crevices on rocky cliffs. It is mostly found on fresh North oriented cliffs in the mountainous regions between 500 and 2500 meters.

DISTRIBUTION

- Greece
- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine

FLOWERING PERIOD



Dianthus karami

Deflexed sandwort

Oeillet de Karam

قرنفل كرم



This species is perennial plant living on rocks and sinkholes. Blanche named this plant after his friend Youssef Bey Karam of Ehden, well known by his glorious role in Lebanon during the events of 1860.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Gypsophila mollis

Soft gypsophila

Gypsophile molle

رُقَيْقَة لَيِّنَة



The plants of this genus were named after their ecology: they mostly develop on chalky soils. “Gypso” means chalk and “philos” means to love in Greek.

DISTRIBUTION

- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Bolanthus hirsutus* is a synonym of *Gypsophila mollis*



Rosularia libanotica

Lebanon rosularia

Rosulaire du Liban

وردية لبنان



The species of the genus *Rosularia* grow on almost bare rocks and can resist very harsh environmental conditions like drought. The leaves are fleshy to stock water and are said to be succulent.

DISTRIBUTION

- Northeastern Mediterranean
- Western Asia

FLOWERING PERIOD



Astragalus cedretii

Cedar milk-vetch

Astragale des cèdres

كثيراء الأرز



This species is perennial living on rocky grasslands and shrublands, at elevated regions of northern Lebanon. It's native to Syria and Lebanon.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Astragalus ehdenensis

Ehden milk-vetch

Astragale de Ehden

قتاد اهدن



This species lives on rocky soils in woodlands and shrublands.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Astragalus gummifer

Gum dragon

Gomme adragante

كثيراء كبيج



Astragalus gummifer is supposed to produce a gum used in toothpastes and hair products. In reality this species doesn't produce any gum! This is a characteristic of other species belonging *Astragalus* genus with its 3000 species. The species misidentification is very common in this genus. *Astragalus gummifer* is a thorny shrub that dominates in over grazed mountains.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Armenia

FLOWERING PERIOD



Astragalus sofarensis

Sawfar milk-vetch

Astragale de Sofar

قنّاد صوفّر



This species lives in woodlands at high altitude. It is distinguished by its Mediterranean habitat, on the western slopes of Lebanon.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Colutea cilicica

Cilician bladder-senna

Baguenaudier de Cilicie

سنا قيليقيّة



The fruiting branches of *Colutea cilicica*, along with leaves and fruits, have been used to heal inflammatory wounds at traditional medicine in various parts of Turkey. The species of the genus *Colutea* are characterized by very inflated and membranous pods. Very localized in Lebanon, it exists only between 1500 and 2000 m.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine

FLOWERING PERIOD



Lathyrus libani

Lebanon vetchling

Gesse du Liban

جلبان لبنان



This plant species is perennial and is present in woodlands.

DISTRIBUTION

- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD



Geranium libani

Lebanon geranium

Géranium du Liban

غرناقى لبنان



Elegant shiny fingered marbled leaves with blue flowers in April and May. Summer dormant, then fresh leaves from autumn. Likes a sunny well-drained or dry site. Not to be confused with *Geranium libanoticum* which is another species endemic only to Mount Lebanon. The name *Geranium* comes from the Greek “geranos”, which means crane and refers to the resemblance between the bird’s beak and the fruits of these plants.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine

FLOWERING PERIOD



Marrubium radiatum

Rayed white-horehound

Marrube rayonnant

فراسيون مشع



The species of the *Marrubium* genus are medicinal plants widely used since antiquity as an expectorant.

DISTRIBUTION

- Northeastern Mediterranean
- Western Asia

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Marrubium cuneatum* is a synonym of *Marrubium radiatum*



Origanum libanoticum

Lebanon marjoram

Origan du Liban

زعتر لبنان



Origanum libanoticum is planted as an ornamental herb for its attractive flowers and foliage and not for culinary purposes. The bracts are valued for their use in dried floral arrangements.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Scutellaria brevibracteata

Short bracteate skullcap

Scutellaire à bractées courtes

هريون بنفسجي



The name of the *Scutellaria* genus comes from the Latin word "scutella" meaning a dish. It refers to the dish-like calyx of the flowers.

This species is polymorphic, which means that individuals have different shapes, making believe that many different species exist.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Jordan

FLOWERING PERIOD



Acantholimon libanoticum

Lebanon prickly-thrift

Acantholimon du Liban

غملول لبناني



This species is native to Turkey and Lebanon. It lives on high altitude of Anti-Lebanon and Lebanon Mountains.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon
- Syria
- Turkey
- Palestine

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Potentilla libanotica

Lebanon cinquefoil

Potentille du Liban

مقوية لبنان



This species is endemic to Mount Lebanon and has a very limited distribution. It grows in crevices on rocky slopes between 1500 and 2000 meters.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Prunus ursina

Bear Plum

Prunier des ours

خوخ الدب



The elders tell that the plums produced by this tree were one of the favourite foods of bears. This species is among the ancestors of the domesticated plums.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD



Asperula libanotica

Lebanon woodruff

Aspérule du Liban

أسبرولة لبنان



This rare endemic species of Mount Lebanon grows on shady rocks especially in woodlands. However it was recently discovered in Galilee.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon
- Palestine

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Rubia aucheri

Aucher's madder

Garance d'Aucher

فوة اوشيه



This species was named in the memory of the French botanist Pierre Martin Remi Aucher-Eloy (1838-1792).

The roots of this species were anciently used as dyestuff as it contains a red pigment, the alizarin. The name of the genus *Rubia* comes for the Latin "ruber" which means red.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Rubia rotundifolia* is a synonym of *Rubia aucheri*



Verbascum cedreti

Cedar mullein

Molène des Cèdres

بوصير الأرز



Since the antiquity throughout Europe and Asia, fishermen used mullein to poison fishes. The compounds of the plants are toxic for cold-blooded animals but not for humans. Species of the *Verbascum* genus were always thought to have magical power and to protect from evil forces.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon

FLOWERING PERIOD



Eremurus spectabilis

Foxtail lily

Erémure remarquable

ذنب ثعلب رائع



The species of the *Eremurus* genus grow on rocky and dry slopes. The name stands for solitary ("eremos") tail ("oura") in Greek. *Eremurus spectabilis* is used as a wild edible vegetable in Anatolia, in Turkey.

DISTRIBUTION

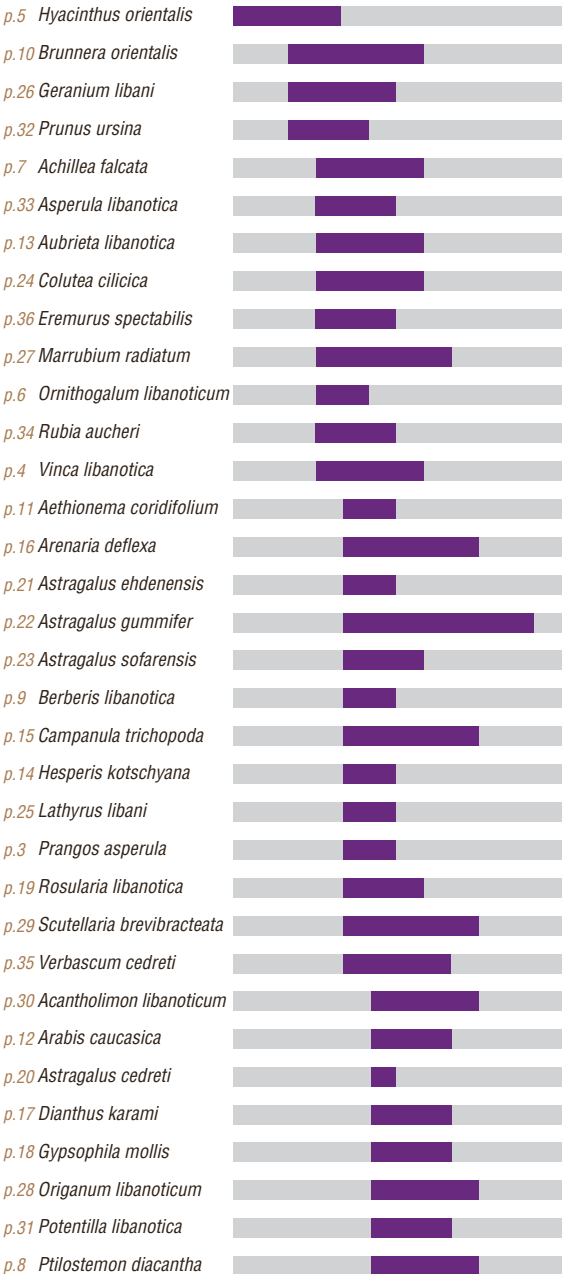
- Northeastern Mediterranean
- Caucasus

FLOWERING PERIOD



FLOWERING PERIOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



This booklet was prepared in the framework of the project “Conserving and Valorizing the Unique Botanical Heritage of Lebanon” funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-CEPF. The project aims at improving the knowledge and skills to develop plant conservation strategies as well as promoting the emergence of a new generation of young professionals specializing in plant conservation.

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PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT ©

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