



TREASURES BLOOMING

IN JAJ CEDARS NATURE RESERVE



Jaj Cedars Nature Reserve is home to more than 466 plant species including 49 trees species.

A total number of 61 plant families are represented including 240 genera.

***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.

Among the 466 plant species present in the reserve:

- **12** species are strictly endemic to Lebanon
- **11** species are endemic to Lebanon, Syria and Palestine
- **26** species are endemic to Lebanon and Syria
- **5** species are endemic to Lebanon and Turkey
- **175** plant species are endemic to the eastern Mediterranean region.

In this booklet, 28 of the most common and endemic plant species are selected and classified by family, following an alphabetical order.

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● **ASPARAGACEAE** p.5

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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



Smyrniopsis syriaca

Syrian smyrniopsis

Smyrniopsis de Syrie

سمرنيوبسيس سوري



This species is present in woodlands on rocky soils, its native range is Syria to Lebanon, Jordan; endemic to Lebanon and Syria.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon
- Syria
- Jordan

FLOWERING PERIOD



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



Scilla cilicica

Cilician squill

Scille de cilice

اشقيل قيليقيا



The species of the genus *Scilla* are bulbous plant and the name comes from the Greek “skilla” which means sea onion. This ephemeral species emerges and flowers just after the thaw especially in woodlands and grasslands above 1500 meters.

DISTRIBUTION

- Turkey
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Cyprus

FLOWERING PERIOD



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



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*



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 orientalis

Short-toothed oriental pink

Oeillet d'orient à dents courtes

قرنفل شرقي قصير الاسنان



Species of the genus *Dianthus* are very popular as they are used as ornamental plants in gardens. The name *Dianthus* stands for God's flowers in Greek ("dios" "anthos").

DISTRIBUTION

- Caucasus
- Western and Central Asia

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*



Silene astartes

Astarte's catchfly

Silène d'Ishtar

سيلان عشتروت



This species lives on shady rocks. This plant is native to Syria and is endemic to Lebanon and Syria.

DISTRIBUTION

- Lebanon
- Syria

FLOWERING PERIOD



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 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



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



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



Hypericum nanum *var. prostratum*

Dwarf St John's-wort

Millepertruis nain

داذي قزم



DISTRIBUTION

-Lebanon
-Syria
-Palestine

This species is present on rocks and is endemic to the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

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



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



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



Paeonia mascula

Male peony

Pivoine mâle

ودج مرجاني



These species were named after Paeon, one of the Greek gods of medicine, as it was anciently used as a medicinal plant. This fragile species is becoming rare due to over-collection from the wild for ornamental purpose.

DISTRIBUTION

- Europe,
- Northern and Eastern Mediterranean
- Caucasus

FLOWERING PERIOD



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



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*



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

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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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