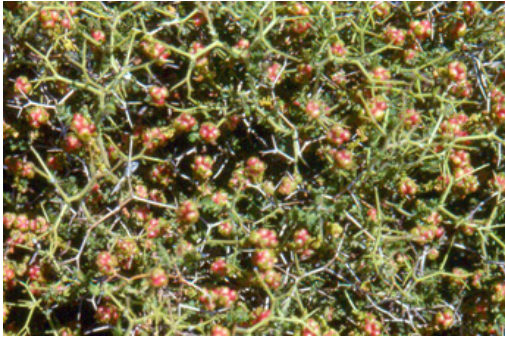




Mediterranean Temporary Ponds (MTP) and its surrounding area offers the ideal environment for many plants, birds and macroinvertebrate species. Some of this biota are rare, others are endemic, or in danger and all of them contribute in the significance of this habitat. After frequent observations and samplings, several species have been found in the particular MTPs and some indicative ones are presented in this leaflet.



**Thorny Burnet (*Sarcopoterium spinosum*)**

A bush of the Rosaceae family growing throughout the Mediterranean landscape on terra-rosa, gravel and red loam. The Thorny Burnet can also be found in the Negev Mt. area, and desert. The branches are wooden, ending in branched thorns. The leaves are compound and pinnate; winter leaves are relatively large compared to the smaller summer leaves. Flowering season is from March to April. The flowers are monosexual, the inflorescence are torrent like with the flowers arranged at the top. The fruit is round with a brown-red color.



***Crepis cretica***

Endemic to Crete. A hairy dwarf plant with many short, branched stems. Leaves pinnate, pinnately-lobed or deeply dentate, up to 7cm. long. Small yellow capitula. *Habitat*: middle and low altitudes. Flowers April-May.



**Hyssop lythrum, Grass poly (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*)**

Glabrous, annual, with spreading reddish stems. Leaves slightly smaller. Petals 2-3 mm., pink. *Habitat*: wet or seasonally flooded areas at a low altitude. Flowers May-June.



**Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)**

Is a bird of prey species belonging to the kestrel group of the falcon family Falconidae. Has a wingspan of 70-80 cm. The average adult male weighs around 155 g with the adult female weighing around 190 g. This is a diurnal animal and prefers an "open country" habitat such as fields, heaths, and marshland. When hunting, the Common Kestrel hovers about 10-20 m above the ground searching for prey. Once prey is sighted, the bird makes a short, steep dive toward the target. Kestrels prey upon small mammals, including voles, as well as small birds, large insects, earthworms, and frogs. Like most birds of prey, Kestrels have keen eyesight enabling them to spot small prey from a distance. Kestrels require the equivalent of 4-8 voles a day, depending on energy expenditure (time of the year, amount of hovering, etc). They have been known to catch several voles in succession and to store some for later consumption.



### Little Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius dubius*)

Little Ringed Plovers look superficially similar to Ringed Plovers but they are smaller and have a distinctively furtive jizz with crouching horizontal stance and longer rear-end. For confirmation, the adults have all-dark bills, duller, yellow legs and a diagnostic yellow eye ring. Juveniles also have a yellow eye ring but the lack of a pale eyebrow is a more obvious feature. In flight the Little Ringed Plover is the only small plover which doesn't have an obvious wing bar. Breeds on river, shingle areas in rivers, gravel pits, industrial sites and

reservoir margins. Most birds breed on gravel pits or other man-made sites. A widespread breeding bird found in small numbers at sites where lots of gravel or shingle is exposed, such as riversides and gravel pits



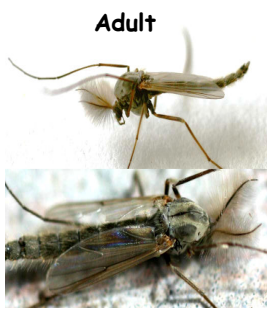
### European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

The European Bee-eater is a near passerine bird in the bee-eater family *Meropidae*. It breeds in southern Europe and in parts of north Africa and western Asia. This species, like other bee-eaters, is a richly-coloured, slender bird. It can reach a length of 27-29 cm, including the two elongated central tail feathers. Sexes are alike. This is a bird which breeds in open country in warmer climates. Just as the name suggests, bee-eaters predominantly eat insects, especially bees, wasps and hornets, which are caught in the air by

sorties from an open perch. Before eating its meal removes the sting by repeatedly hitting the insect on a hard surface. It eats some 250 bees daily. These bee-eaters are gregarious, nesting colonially in sandy banks, preferably near river shores, usually at the beginning of May. The call is a pleasant distinctive trill.



Larva



Adult

### Non-biting midges (*Chironomidae*)

Chironomidae, non-biting midges, belong to the order *Diptera* or two-winged flies and are frequently the most abundant insects found in freshwater ecosystems. The larval head capsules are well-preserved, abundant and diverse in lake sediments; they are readily identifiable, usually to genus- or species-group level Chironomids respond rapidly and characteristically to climate change; temperature influences the rate and success of egg hatching, larval development time, the time of adult emergence and swarming behaviour of adults. They like fresh water and are often found in or around it - lakes, ponds, rivers etc. Chironomidae larvae and pupae can account for up to 50% of the insect life at the bottom of some bodies of water. The larvae of some species are bright red in colour and known informally as "bloodworms". Chironomid larval imitations are popular lures with some anglers. Different species of Chironomidae vary tremendously in their tolerance of pollution. Some can't stand it, others barely notice it. For this reason the distribution of different species in a body of water can be used to give an estimate of how polluted or clean it is.

## <Contribute to the preservation of Mediterranean Temporary Ponds>

Institute of Inland Waters - Hellenic Center for Marine Research, [www.hcmr.gr](http://www.hcmr.gr)

