



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.



**Chaste Tree, Chasteberry or Monk's Pepper (*Vitex agnus castus*)**

An aromatic plant, 1-6m. tall. Leaves with long stalks and 5-7 linear-lanceolate leaflets. Crowded inflorescences with flowers 8-10mm. long, blue, more seldom pink or white. Habitat: River-beds, shores and ditches in the lowest zone. Flowers May-July. Is a native of the Mediterranean region.



***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.



**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.



**Meadow Pipits (*Anthus pratensis*)**

In most parts of northern Europe this is the commonest pipit. Indeed, in many areas of open country it will be the most numerous bird of all. It can be distinguished from a Tree Pipit by its duller darker head in which there seems to be more of a pale ring around the eye rather than a stripe running through it. More convincingly though, notice how the thick black streaks continue all the way down to the flanks almost to the undertail. If in doubt, wait for its call. They feed typically on insects. Breeds on open moorland and rough grassland. Winters on marshes, in stubble fields and rough grassland. Also a common

passage migrant and winter visitor from northern Europe from August-May.



### White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Is a small passerine in the wagtail family Motacillidae, which also includes the pipits and longclaws. This species breeds in much of Europe and Asia and parts of north Africa. It is resident in the mildest parts of its range, but otherwise migrates to Africa. This is an insectivorous bird of open country, often near habitation and water. It prefers bare areas for feeding, where it can see and pursue its prey. In urban areas it has adapted to foraging on paved areas such as car parks. It nests in crevices in stone walls and similar natural and man-made

structures. This is a slender bird, 16.5-19 cm in length, with the characteristic long, constantly wagging tail of its genus.



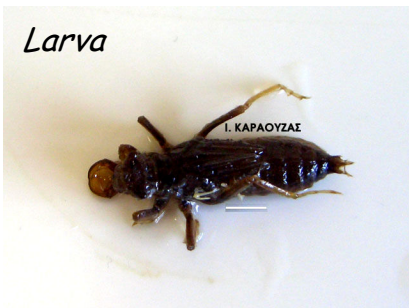
Larva



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.



Larva

I. KAPAOYZAI



Adult

### Clubtail Dragonflies (*Onychogomphus sp.*)

Found mostly in streams, lakes (shores) and pools. Larves usually "hide" in the bed and the adults on plants. The major characteristic of adult's morphology is the yellow stripes and dots along the black body. Feed with other invertebrates, even small fishes.

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

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

