



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.



Land Quillwort (*Isoetes histrix*)

Terrestrial perennial plants with a short stem forming a kind of underground bulb bearing roots, and many fronds ("leaves") arranged in rosettes at ground level. The fronds are narrow and tough, are dark green, 4 to 10 cm long, all fertile (sporophylls), hollowed out at the base on the inner (upper) side to form a pit containing a sporangium. The outer fronds carrying macrosporangia, covered in a partial veil. Macrosporangia containing macrospores (females) and microsporangia containing microspores (males). The most suitable habitats are Mediterranean swards, wet in winter and the beginning of spring and very dry in

summer. These kind of habitats are located on the edge of temporary pools and streams.



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.



Lythrum borysthenticum

Dwarf annual, with a single stem 3-10(-18) cm. flowers with very small purple petals, often absent. *Habitat*: in seasonally flooded areas at a low altitude. Flowers April-June.



Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

The adult Little Egret is 55-65 cm long with an 88-106 cm wingspan. Its plumage is all white. It has long black legs with yellow feet and a slim black bill. There is a bare patch of grey-green skin between the bill and eyes. The bare skin between the bill and eyes becomes red or blue. Little Egrets are mostly silent but make various croaking and bubbling calls at their breeding colonies and produce a harsh alarm call when disturbed.

This egret stalks its prey in shallow water, often running with raised wings or shuffling its feet. It may also stand still and wait to ambush prey. It eats a variety of small animals including fish, amphibians, crustaceans, and insects.



Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Is a bird of prey species belonging to the kestrel group of the falcon family Falconidae. Common Kestrels 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.



Caddis Flies (*Limnephilus sp.*)

The adults normally found near water. There is a complex metamorphosis, usually with five larval stages and a pupal stage. The young stages are nearly always aquatic, living in freshwater ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. Most larvae surround themselves with a protective case, made from various materials from their surroundings fastened together with a sticky silk-like secretion produced from a gland near the mouth. Each species uses its own particular materials - grains of sand, plant fragments and even empty snail shells - and builds its case to a specific design. It is often possible to identify a species simply from its case. The sand grains or other materials are frequently cemented together very neatly to form a mosaic. As the larva grows, it adds material to the front of the case. Larvae have strong biting mouthparts. Most of the case-bearing and net-living forms are omnivorous, feeding on any scraps of plant or animal matter they can find, but the free-living species are largely predatory.



Narrow-winged Damselfly (*Coenagrionidae*)

Damselflies are related to Dragonflies and have excellent vision aided by their large multifaceted compound eyes. Their eyesight allows them to capture their insect prey while flying. Their powerful flight muscles are held within the enlarged thoracic region. Looking a little like a helicopter, some tropical species with white tips to their otherwise transparent wings resembles spinning rotors. Male damselflies are often painted with vibrant iridescent colors.

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