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The flora and vegetation of Gyali island, SE Aegean, Greece

Abstract

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Gyali is a small volcanic island with a surface of 4.63 km² in the SE Aegean Sea. Flora and vegetation of its main natural ecosystems and their ecological conditions are examined. The main vegetation units on Gyali are: *Pinus brutia* forest, scrubs and phrygana, psammophilous and halophytic communities. A total of 241 native taxa (species and subspecies) are reported, including 149 new records for the island. Analysis of the flora based on ecological indicator values shows that 29 % of the taxa are indicators of extreme warmth and 72 % of very dry or dry habitats. 43 % are acidophilous or calcifuge taxa and 45.2 % halotolerant taxa, or facultative or obligatory halophytes.

Introduction

Gyali is a small volcanic island situated in the SE Aegean. The island is covered with forest, scrubs and phrygana, and lacks agricultural cultivation and permanent inhabitants, except workers of the pumice quarries. Traces of previous agriculture (old terraces) as well as few ancient ruins can be discerned in parts of the island and goats grazed on the island until the end of 1998. Presently, the only human activity affecting the environment is the open-pit exploitation of pumice stone on the SW hill.

Gyali belongs to the group of small SE Aegean islands whose flora is not well known and has, in many cases, floristic peculiarities. The knowledge of these peculiarities aids the comprehension of the distribution patterns of species in the Aegean area. The variety of vegetation types observed from one island to another could help comparative studies to estimate the influence of environmental and ecological factors on the present vegetation composition and physiognomy.

Papatsou (1975) has studied the flora of the island, mentioning all previously known floristic data including the references to Gyali in "Flora aegaea" (Rechinger 1943). All available references to the island were also incorporated in Davis (1965-88).

In this paper, the island's flora is listed and its vegetation briefly discussed. The *Pinus brutia* forest, which is continuously receding from the Mediterranean region in general, covers roughly half the island and is of particular interest. It represents a natural, isolated population and is the only known forest of this species to grow on perlite and pumice substrates and on such a small island.

Study area

Gyali is situated between the islands Nisyros and Kos in the SE Aegean Sea. The island is characterized by two hills of 180 m altitude in the NE and 175 m in the SW, which are connected by a low, narrow ridge (Fig. 1). The island is orientated SW-NE, approximately 5.4 km in length and has a surface of 4.63 km².

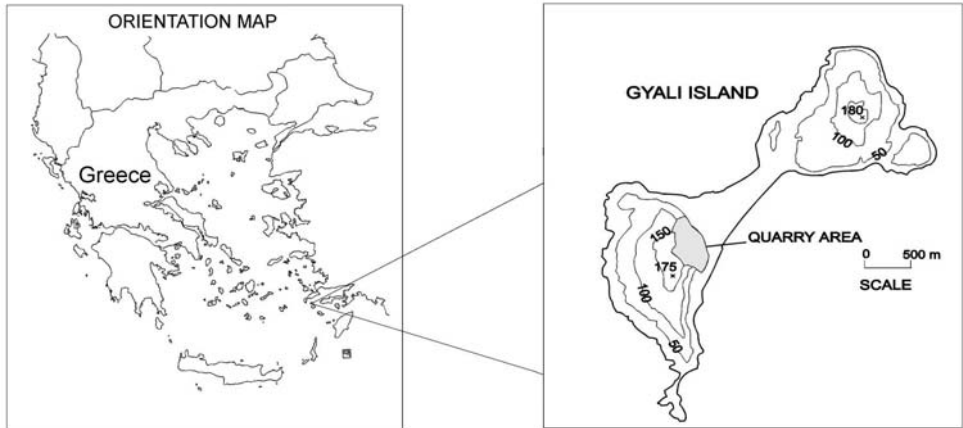


Fig. 1. Geographical position and detail map of Gyali island.

Gyali is located on the eastern edge of the Aegean volcanic arc and composed of volcanic rocks (Pentarakis & Markoulis 1974). The NE hill consists of volcanic rocks and rhyolites (perlite) with small, scattered concentrations of glass (obsidian); on its southern slope is a small patch of pumice. It is to the obsidian that the island owes its present name (in Greek, gyali means glass). The SW hill consists of aeolian, intermediate and basic pumice rocks, suggesting a sedimentary pyroclastic geological sequence. Under the pumice are clay, calcarenite and fragments of various volcanic rocks (mainly pumice) cohesed with calcium carbonate. The northern half of the east slope has a narrow coastal strip of loose sedimentary material (sand and pebbles), and the ridge connecting the two hills is of the same material.

Three soil groups are found on the island, according to the parent material:

1) Soil on perlite. These soils are generally shallow (less than 30 cm deep), but reach 30-60 cm on some gentle slopes or sites covered with vegetation. They have a sandy or sandy-loamy texture and the pH (1:1 soil-H₂O ratio, determined by glass electrode) ranges between 6.14 and 7.2.

2) Soils on pumice. These soils are usually medium deep (30-60 cm) or deep, except those on the steep hill slopes which are shallow. Their texture is sandy to sandy-loamy and the pH values range from 7.5 to 8.3, increasing with depth.

3) Soils on coastal deposits. These are not real soils but consist of medium to coarse-grained sand, with very little loam and clay, and small quantities of calcium carbonate. They are very poor in organic matter and have a slightly basic pH.

There is no meteorological station on Gyali. The meteorological data of Kos (National Meteorological Service) are presented in Table 1 and are considered representative of the climate on Gyali. The mean annual precipitation is about 754 mm, of which 463 mm are received in winter, while the summer is almost dry (5 mm). The drought period is rather extensive and lasts from mid-April to September (Fig. 2). The dominant winds in the area blow from the north and severely affect the whole island due to its small size.

Table 1. Meteorological data of Kos station (1948-75).

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mean temperature [°C]	12.0	12.2	13.3	16.5	20.3	24.0	25.6	25.9	23.7	20.1	16.7	13.6
Precipitation [mm]	183.3	161.9	67.9	31.9	18.1	3.7	0.9	0.2	12.1	67.0	89.0	178.3
Relative humidity [%]	71	68	66	66	67	64	64	64	66	69	72	71

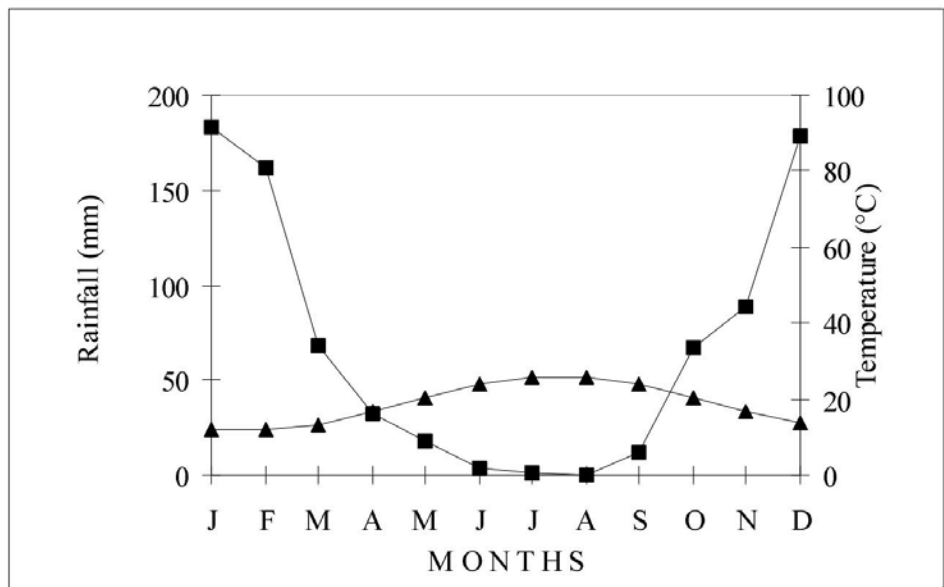


Fig. 2. Ombrothermic diagram of Kos meteorological station.

The bioclimate of Gyalı was determined using the xerothermic index (Mavrommatis 1980) and the Emberger coefficient (Emberger 1955, 1959). According to the xerothermic index (x), the island belongs to an intense thermo-mediterranean type ($125 < x < 150$ biologically dry days), whereas the Emberger-coefficient assigns it to the wet zone with warm winter.

Material and methods

This paper is based on fieldwork of the authors carried out in spring and autumn between 1994 and 1999. After surveying the island and studying aerial photographs, we distinguished the main vegetation formations and made several plant sampling collections. Vouchers of the authors' collection are deposited in the herbarium of the Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems and Forest Products Technology, in Athens.

Species were identified using "Flora europaea" (Tutin & al. 1968-93) and "Flora of Turkey" (Davis 1965-88). Nomenclature follows "Flora europaea" and "Med-Checklist" (Greuter & al. 1984, 1986, 1989). The definition of the chorological types follows Pignatti (1982), and Raunkiaer's system (Raunkiaer 1934) was used to produce life-form spectra and rank taxa into life form categories.

The ecological preferences of the taxa were taken from Böhling (1995), so far available, since 213 (88.8 %) of the taxa found on Gyalı occur also on Naxos.

Results

1. Plant list

Symbols and abbreviations used in the plant list

Life forms	=	see Table 4
Chorology	=	see Table 5
*	=	taxa already reported by Papatsou (1975)
!	=	taxa observed
W, F, R, S	=	indicator values for warmth (W), moisture (F), soil reaction (R) and salt stress tolerance (S), see Table 6
"Kar." + number	=	collection number of the plant samples gathered by the authors.

PTERIDOPHYTA

Polypodiaceae

Anogramma leptophylla (L.) Link – Tcaesp, Cosmop.-subtrop., W 2, F 4, R 1-, S 1; *Kar.* 6000

Asplenium ceterach L. – Hros, Euras.-temp., Wx, F 2w, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5950

* *Cheilanthes maderensis* Lowe – Hros, W-Medit.-Macarones., W 3, F 3w, R 1, S 1; *Kar.* 5853

* *Polypodium cambricum* L. – Grhiz, Eurymedit., W 3, F 4, Rx, S 1

GYMNOSPERMAE

Cupressaceae

* *Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp. *macrocarpa* (Sibth. & Sm.) Ball – Pcaesp, Eurymedit., W 4, F 3, R 5, S 2; !

Ephedraceae

Ephedra foeminea Forssk. – Pcaesp, E-Medit., W 3, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 6146

Pinaceae

* *Pinus brutia* Ten. – Pscap, E-Medit., W 3, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5482, 5493

ANGIOSPERMAE

DICOTYLEDONES

Anacardiaceae

* *Pistacia lentiscus* L. – Pcaesp, S-Stenomedit.-Makarones., Wx, Fx, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5450, 5468

Boraginaceae

Alkanna orientalis (L.) Boiss. – Hscap., E-Medit.-Turan., W 2, F 3, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 5686, 5856

* *Anchusa hybrida* Ten. – Hscap, Stenomedit., W 3, F 4, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 6084

* *Echium arenarium* Guss. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, Fx, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5685, 6163

* *Heliotropium dolosum* De Not. – Tscap, Centromedit.-Turan., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 6138

Myosotis ramosissima Rochels subsp. *ramosissima* – Tscap, Paleotemp., W 2-, F 3, R-, S 1, *Kar.* 5952, 6004

Campanulaceae

* *Campanula erinus* L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, R 5, S 1

Capparidaceae

* *Capparis orientalis* Veill. – NP, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 6139

Caryophyllaceae

* *Herniaria hirsuta* L. – Tscap, Paleotemp., Wx, F 2, R 5-, S 2

Polycarpon tetraphyllum (L.) L. subsp. *tetraphyllum* – Tscap, Subcosmop., W 4, F 3, R 3-, S 1; Kar. 5615

* *P. tetraphyllum* subsp. *diphyllum* (Cav.) O. Bolòs & Font Quer – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, Rx, S 1; Kar. 6126

* *Silene sedoides* Poir. subsp. *sedoides* – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, R 3-, S 3; Kar. 5583

Stellaria media (L.) Vill. subsp. *media* – Trept, Cosmop., Wx, F 5, R 3-, S 1; Kar. 5953

Chenopodiaceae

* *Atriplex halimus* L. – NP, Medit.-Atl., W 3, F 5, R 5, S 4; !

Chenopodium murale L. – Tscap, Subcosmop., W 4, F 4, R 3-, S 2; Kar. 6035

* *Salsola kali* L. subsp. *kali* – Tscap, Paleotemp., W 4, F 2, Rx, S 3; Kar. 5584

Cistaceae

Cistus creticus L. subsp. *creticus* – Cfrut, E-Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5451

* *C. parviflorus* Lam. – Cfrut, E-Medit., W 4, F 2-, R 5, S 2; Kar. 5452, 5470

* *C. salviifolius* L. – Cfrut, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 2, S 1; Kar. 5453

Fumana arabica (L.) Spach – Csuffr, S-Medit.-Turan., W 4, F 2, Rx, S 1; Kar. 5807

F. thymifolia (L.) Webb – Csuffr, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 5, S 2; Kar. 5530, 6165

Helianthemum salicifolium (L.) Mill. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 5, S 1; Kar. 5471

H. syriacum (Jacq.) Dum.-Cours. subsp. *syriacum* – Csuffr, Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, R 3, S 1; Kar. 6028

Tuberaria guttata (L.) Fourr. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 2, S 1; Kar. 5768, 5783

Compositae

Aetheorhiza bulbosa subsp. *microcephala* Rech. f. – Gbulb, E-Stenomedit., Wx, F 4, Rx, S 2, Kar. 5723

Andryala integrifolia L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 1; Kar. 5484

* *Anthemis pseudocotula* Boiss. – Tscap, E-Medit., W 3, F 3, R 3, S 1

A. tomentosa L. subsp. *tomentosa* – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx-, F 3-, R 4-, S 2-; Kar. 5620

* *Bellium minutum* L. – Tscap, E-Medit., W 4, F 2-, R 4-, S 2; !

Carlina graeca Heldr. & Sart. – Hscap, NE-Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, R 4, S 2; Kar. 6088

Chrysanthemum coronarium L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 3, S 2; Kar. 5690

* *Cichorium endivia* subsp. *divaricatum* (Schousb.) P. D. Sell – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 4w, Rx, S 2

* *C. pumilum* Jacq. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 4, Rx, S 2

* *C. spinosum* L. – Csuffr, Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, R 2, S 4

* *Conyza bonariensis* (L.) Cronquist – Tscap, Trop.-Americ., W 4, F 2, R 3, S 1

Crepis micrantha Czerep. – Tscap, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5508

* *C. multiflora* Sm. – Tscap, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5454

C. neglecta L. subsp. *neglecta* – Tscap, Eurymedit.-N-Orient., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5485, 5724

Dittrichia graveolens (L.) Greuter – Tscap, Medit.-Turan., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 1; Kar. 6142

* *D. viscosa* (L.) Greuter – Tscap, Medit.-Turan., W 3, F 4, R 4-, S 1; Kar. 5646

Echinops spinosissimus subsp. *bithynicus* (Boiss.) Kozuharov – Hscap, E-Medit., W 4-, F 3-, R 3, S 2, Kar. 6145

Filago cretensis subsp. *cycladum* Wagenitz – Tscap, Aegean, W 2, F 2, R 3-, S 1; Kar. 5917

F. eriocephala Guss. – Tscap, E-Stenomedit., W 3, F 2, R 2, S 1; Kar. 6089

Geropogon hybridus (L.) Sch. Bip. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 1; Kar. 6170

Hedynois cretica (L.) Dum.-Cours. – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5593

* *Helianthus annuus* L. – Tscap, Cosmop., W 3, F 4, R 3, S 2

Helichrysum conglobatum (Viv.) Steud. – Csuffr, E-Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, R 4, S 2; Kar. 5532

Hypochaeris achyrophorus L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5957

H. glabra L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 1, F 3, R 2-, S 1; Kar. 5507

Logfia gallica L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 2, S 2; Kar. 5771, 5786

- * *Otanthus maritimus* (L.) Hoffmanns. & Link – Csuffr, Medit.-Atl., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5642
Phagnalon graecum Boiss. – Csuffr, NE-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5552
P. rupestre (L.) DC. – Csuffr, SW-Medit., W 3, F 3, R 2-, S 1; *Kar.* 5531
Picnemon acarna (L.) Cass. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 6140
Scolymus hispanicus L. – Hscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 6143
Senecio bicolor (Willd.) Tod. subsp. *bicolor* – Csuffr, Stenomedit., Wx-, F 3-, R 5-, Sx-; *Kar.* 5689
* *S. vulgaris* L. – Tscap, Cosmop., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1
Sonchus asper subsp. *glaucescens* (Jordan) Ball – Hscap, Eurasiat., Wx, F 5, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 5688, 6167
Sonchus oleraceus L. – Tscap, Subcosmop., Wx, F 3, R 3, S 1-; *Kar.* 5486, 5509
* *S. tenerrimus* L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5597
Tyrinnus leucographus (L.) Cass. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 2, F 4, R 1, S 1; *Kar.* 5691
* *Urospermum picroides* (L.) Scop. ex F. W. Schmidt – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 3, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5510, 5553

Convolvulaceae

- * *Calystegia soldanella* (L.) R. Br. – Grhiz, Cosmop., W 3, F 2, R 5, S 3; !
* *Convolvulus altheoides* L. subsp. *altheoides* – Hscand, Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5694
Cuscuta palaestina Boiss. subsp. *palaestina* – Tpar, SE-Medit., Wx, F 2, R 4-, S 1; *Kar.* 5960

Crassulaceae

- Sedum pallidum* M. Bieb. – Tscap, SE-Europ., Wx, F 1, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5962
Umbilicus horizontalis (Guss.) DC. – Gbulb, Eurymedit., W 3-, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5961

Cruciferae

- Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Meynh. – Tscap, Cosmop., W 2, F 3, R 2, S 1; *Kar.* 5964
Biscutella didyma L. – Tscap, S-Medit.-Turan., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5555
Brassica tournefortii Gouan – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4, F 3, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 6171
* *Cakile maritima* Scop. subsp. *maritima* – Tscap, Medit.-Atl., W 3-, F 2, R 5, S 3; *Kar.* 5586
Cardamine hirsuta L. – Tscap, Cosmop., W 2-, F 3, R 3-, S 1; *Kar.* 5963
Diplotaxis muralis (L.) DC. – Tscap, N-Medit.-Atl., W 4, F 3, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5696
* *Matthiola tricuspidata* (L.) R. Br. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5587
* *Raphanus raphanistrum* L. subsp. *raphanistrum* – Tscap/Hscap, Paleotemp., W 4, F 3, R 2, S 1; !
Sinapis arvensis L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 4, R 4-, S 1; *Kar.* 6094
Sisymbrium orientale L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 3-, S 1; *Kar.* 6096

Cucurbitaceae

- * *Bryonia dioica* Jacq. – Grhiz/Hscand, Eurymedit., W 3-, F 4, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 5965

Ericaceae

- * *Arbutus unedo* L. – Pcaesp, Stenomedit., W 3, F 5, R 1, S 1; *Kar.* 5499
* *Erica manipuliflora* Salisb. – Cfrut, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5456

Euphorbiaceae

- * *Chrozophora obliqua* (Vahl) A. Juss. ex Spreng. – Tscap, S-Medit.-Turan., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 6147
Euphorbia dendroides L. – Crept, E-Stenomedit.-Makarones., W 3, F 3, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 6012
E. myrsinites L. – Crept, E-Stenomedit., W 3, F 3, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5674
* *E. paralias* L. – Cfrut, Eurymedit.-Atl., W 4, F 2, R 4, S 3; *Kar.* 5588
* *E. peplis* L. – Trept, Eurymedit., W 3, F 5, R 5, S 4; *Kar.* 6148

* *E. peplus* L. – Tscap, Cosmop., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5487

* *Mercurialis annua* L. – Tscap, Paleotemp., Wx, F 3, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5698

Fagaceae

* *Quercus coccifera* L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, F 4, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5967

Frankeniaceae

* *Frankenia hirsuta* L. – Csuffr, Medit.-Turan., W 4, F 2, Rx, S 4; *Kar.* 5580, 6172

Gentianaceae

Centaurium erythraea Rafn subsp. *erythraea* – Hbienn, Paleotemp., W 4-, Fx, R 4-, S 2; *Kar.* 6064

C. tenuiflorum subsp. *acutiflorum* (Schott) Zeltner – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4-, Fx, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5835

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Her. – Hros, Subcosmop., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 6098

Geranium robertianum subsp. *purpureum* (Vill.) Nyman – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5513

G. robertianum L. subsp. *robertianum* – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 1, F 3, Rx-, S 2; *Kar.* 5757, 5920

G. rotundifolium L. – Tscap, Paleotemp., W 4-, F 5w, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 6149

Guttiferae

Hypericum empetrifolium Willd. subsp. *empetrifolium* – Cfrut, E-Medit., Wx, F 2, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5462

Labiatae

* *Ajuca chamaepitys* subsp. *chia* (Schreb.) Arcang. – Hscap, Eurymedit., Wx-, F 3-, Rx-, S 1

A. iva (L.) Schreb. – Csuffr, Stenomedit., Wx, F 4, R 4-, S 1; *Kar.* 6153

Coridothymus capitatus (L.) Reichenb.f. – Cfrut, E-Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, R 5, S 2; !

Lavandula stoechas L. subsp. *stoechas* – Cfrut, Stenomedit., W 3, F 3, R 2, S 1; *Kar.* 5479

Satureja nervosa Desf. – Cfrut, Stenomedit., Wx, F 2, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5515

S. thymbra L. – Cfrut, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5464

* *Sideritis lanata* L. – Tscap, E-Medit. (Aegean region & S Balkan peninsula), W 4, F 1, R 5, S 1

* *Teucrium capitatum* L. – Csuffr, Stenomedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5463

Leguminosae

* *Anthyllis hermanniae* L. – Cfrut, NE-Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5466

Astragalus pelecinus (L.) Barneby – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4, F 2, R 2-, S 1; *Kar.* 5575

* *Calicotone villosa* (Poir.) Link – Pcaesp, Stenomedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5682

Ceratonia siliqua L. – Pcaesp, S-Medit., W 4, F 3, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5741

* *Genista acanthoclada* DC. – Cfrut, Stenomedit., Wx, F 4, Rx, S 2; !

Hippocrepis ciliata Willd. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 3, F 2, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5568

* *Hymenocarpus circinnatus* (L.) Savi – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5569

Lotus corniculatus L. – Hscap, Cosmop., W 4, F 2, R 2-, S 1; *Kar.* 5707

* *L. cytisoides* L. – Csuffr, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, R 4, S 2; !

L. edulis L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 6156

L. halophilus Boiss. & Spruner – Tscap, S-Medit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5606

L. peregrinus L. – Tscap, E-Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5576

Lupinus angustifolius L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, R 2, S 1; *Kar.* 6154

L. pilosus L. – Tscap, Paleotemp., W 3, F 4, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 6015

Medicago littoralis Rohde ex Lois. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5607

* *M. marina* L. – Crept, Eurymedit., W 4, F 2, R 5-, S 2; *Kar.* 5608, 5631

M. polymorpha L. – Tscap, Subcosmop., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5577

M. tuberculata (Retz.) Willd. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 3, F 3, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 6157

- Melilotus indicus* (L.) All. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4, F 3, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5574, 5660
Onobrychis caput-galli (L.) Lam. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5567, 6109
 * *Ononis diffusa* Ten. – Tscap, S-Medit., W 4, F 3, R 4-, S 2; *Kar.* 5545, 5571
Ornithopus pinnatus (Mill.) Druce – Tscap, Medit.-Atl., W 3-, F 5w, R 2-, S 1; *Kar.* 6132
Trifolium angustifolium L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5543, 5564
T. arvense L. – Tscap, Paleotemp., Wx, F 2, R 1-, S 1; *Kar.* 5543
T. campestre Schreb. – Tscap, Paleotemp., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5566
T. glomeratum L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 3, F 5w, R 1-, S 1; *Kar.* 5779
T. hirtum All. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4-, F 2, R 1-, S 1; *Kar.* 5573
T. lappaceum L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 6114
T. scabrum L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5578, 5632
T. tomentosum L. – Trept, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 2, S 1; *Kar.* 6118
Vicia cretica Boiss. & Heldr. – Tscap, NE-Medit., Wx, Fx, R 4, S 1-; *Kar.* 5492, 5516
V. lathyroides L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 2, F 3, R 3-, S 1; *Kar.* 5945
V. villosa subsp. *eriocarpa* (Hausskn.) P.W. Ball – Tscap, Stenomedit.-Orient., Wx, F 3, R 3, S 2; *Kar.* 6078

Malvaceae

- * *Malva nicaeensis* All. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 1
 * *M. parviflora* L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4-, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 6159

Moraceae

- Ficus carica* L. – Pcaesp, Medit.-Turan., W 3-, F 3, Rx, S 1; !

Myrtaceae

- * *Myrtus communis* L. subsp. *communis* – Pcaesp, Stenomedit., W 3, F 6w, R 2, S 1; *Kar.* 5519

Oleaceae

- * *Olea europaea* subsp. *oleaster* (Hoffmanns. & Link) Negodi – Pcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5743

Orobanchaceae

- Orobanche oxyloba* (Reut.) G. Beck – Tpar, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5764
O. ramosa L. subsp. *ramosa* – Tpar, Paleotemp., W 3, F 5, R 3-, S 1; *Kar.* 6161

Papaveraceae

- * *Fumaria officinalis* L. subsp. *officinalis* – Tscap, Subcosmop., Wx, F 3, R 3-, S 1; *Kar.* 5521
 * *Glaucium flavum* Crantz – Hscap, Eurymedit., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 2; *Kar.* 5710
Papaver dubium L. subsp. *dubium* – Tscap, Medit.-Turan., W 2, F 2, R 4-, S 1; *Kar.* 6119

Plantaginaceae

- Plantago afra* L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 6121
 * *P. albicans* L. – Csuffr, Stenomedit., Wx, F 1, Rx, S 2; !
P. coronopus L. subsp. *coronopus* – Tscap/Hros, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 6122, 6135

Plumbaginaceae

- Limonium echioides* (L.) Mill. – Tros, S-Medit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5844
L. graecum (Poir.) Rech. f. subsp. *graecum* – Csuffr, E-Medit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 4; *Kar.* 5610, 5634
L. graecum subsp. *ammophilon* Papatsou & Phitos – Csuffr, E-Aeg., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 4; *Kar.* 5611, 5635

Polygonaceae

- * *Polygonum maritimum* L. – Trept, Subcosmop., W 3, F 5, R 5, S 4; *Kar.* 5590
Rumex bucephalophorus subsp. *gallicus* (Steinh.) Rech. f. – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, F 2, R 2, S 2; *Kar.* 5664

Primulaceae

- * *Anagallis arvensis* (L.) L. – Trept, Subcosmop., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5823, 5845
Asterolinon linum-stellatum (L.) Duby – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5523
 * *Cyclamen hederifolium* Aiton – Gbulb, Eurymedit., Wx, Fx, R 5, S 1; !

Rafflesiaceae

- * *Cytinus hypocistis* (L.) L. subsp. *hypocistis* – Grad, Medit.-Macarones., W 3-, F 3-, Rx-, S 1; *Kar.* 5988

Ranunculaceae

- Anemone coronaria* L. – Gbulb, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5989
 * *Clematis cirrhosa* L. – Plian, Stenomedit.-Turan., Wx, F 4, R 4, S 1; !

Rosaceae

- Sarcopoterium spinosum* (L.) Spach – Cfrut, E-Medit., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5580

Rubiaceae

- Galium aparine* L. – Tscap, Paleotemp., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5714
G. murale (L.) All. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx-, S 1; *Kar.* 5992
G. recurvum Req. – Tscap, E-Medit., Wx, F 2, R 2, S 1; *Kar.* 6162
Rubia tenuifolia D'Urv. – Pcaesp, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5847
 * *Valantia hispida* L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5467
V. muralis L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, F 2, R 5-, S 1; *Kar.* 6021

Santalaceae

- Thesium bergeri* Zucc. – Csuffr, E-Medit., Wx-, F 3-, Rx-, S 1; *Kar.* 5876

Scrophulariaceae

- Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5794
 * *Scrophularia heterophylla* Willd. – Csuffr, S-Balkan-Aeg., W 4, F 2, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 6023
S. peregrina L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., W 4, F 4, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5994
 * *Veronica cymbalaria* Bodard – Trept, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5993

Solanaceae

- * *Solanum nigrum* L. – Tscap, Cosmop., Wx, F 3, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 5766

Theligonaceae

- Theligonum cynocrambe* L. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 2, F 3, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5525

Thymelaeaceae

- * *Daphne gnidioides* Jaub. & Spach – NP, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2-; *Kar.* 5878, 5995
 * *Thymelaea tartonraira* subsp. *argentea* (Sm.) Holmboe – Cfrut, E-Medit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5548

Umbelliferae

- * *Crithmum maritimum* L. – Csuffr, Medit.-Atl., W 4, F 2, Rx-, S 3; !
Daucus involucratus Sm. – Tscap, E-Stenomedit., W 4, F 1, R 4-, S 2; *Kar.* 5549, 5825
 * *Eryngium maritimum* L. – Grhiz, Medit.-Atl., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 3; *Kar.* 5591
Orlaya daucorlaya Murb. – Tscap, E-Medit., W 2, F 4, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 5883

Urticaceae

- * *Parietaria cretica* L. – Hscap, E-Stenomedit., W 3, F 3, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5636
P. lusitanica L. – Trept, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 4-, S 1; *Kar.* 5947
Urtica pilulifera L. – Tscap, Eurymedit., Wx, F 4, R 3, S 1; *Kar.* 5998

Valerianaceae

Centranthus calcitrapae (L.) Dufr. subsp. *calcitrapa* – Tscap, Stenomedit., Wx, F 2, R 4, S 1; Kar. 5936, 5999

MONOCOTYLEDONES**Amaryllidaceae**

**Pancratium maritimum* L. – Gbulb, Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; Kar. 5609

Araceae

Arisarum vulgare Targ.-Tozz. subsp. *vulgare* – Grhiz, Eurymedit., Wx, F 3, R 4, S 1; Kar. 5502

Cyperaceae

Carex distans L. – Hcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, F 6, R 3, S 1; Kar. 5534

Cyperus capitatus Vand. – Grhiz, Stenomedit., W 4, F 3, R 4, S 2; Kar. 5599

Gramineae

Aegilops neglecta Req. ex Bertol. – Tcaesp, Medit.-Turan., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; Kar. 6102

Aira caryophyllea L. – Tscap, Paleosubtrop., Wx, Fx, R 2, S 2; Kar. 5923

* *A. elegantissima* Schur subsp. *elegantissima* – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, Fx, R 2, S 2; Kar. 5775, 5789

Avellinia michelli (Savi) Parl. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 3-, F 2, R 2-, S 1; Kar. 5927

Avena barbata subsp. *atherantha* (C. Koch) Rocha Afonso – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5457, 5536

A. barbata Pott ex Link subsp. *barbata* – Tcaesp, Eurymedit.-Turan., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5969

Briza maxima L. – Tcaesp, Paleosubtrop., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; Kar. 5972

Bromus diandrus Roth – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., W 3, F 5, R 3, S 1; Kar. 5702, 5970

B. fasciculatus C. Presl – Tcaesp, S-Medit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5459, 5488

B. intermedius Guss. – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 1; Kar. 6151

B. rubens L. – Tcaesp. – S-Medit.-Turan., W 4, F 1, R 5, S 2; Kar. 5706

* *B. tectorum* L. – Tcaesp, Paleotemp., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5461

Catapodium rigidum (L.) C. A. Hubb. subsp. *rigidum* – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 6070, 6104

* *Corynephorus divaricatus* (Pourr.) Breistr. – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 3, F 2, R 4, S 2; Kar. 6129

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. – Grhiz, Cosmop., W 4, F 3, R 3, S 1; Kar. 6150

Dactylis glomerata subsp. *hispanica* (Roth.) Nyman – Hcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5559

Elymus farctus subsp. *rechingeri* – Grhiz, E-Medit., W 4, F 3, R 5, S 3; Kar. 5601, 5625

* *Gastridium ventricosum* (Gouan) Schinz & Thell. – Tcaesp, Medit.-Atl., W 3-, F 2-, R 5-, S 1; Kar. 5975, 6072

Hordeum murinum L. subsp. *murinum* – Tscap, Circumbor., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5604

* *Hordeum vulgare* L. – Tscap, Cosmop., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; !

Hyparrhenia hirta (L.) Stapf – Hcaesp, Paleotrop., W 4, F 3, R 3-, S 1; Kar. 5560, 5816

* *Lagurus ovatus* L. – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., W 3, F 2, Rx, S 2; Kar. 5476

Lolium perenne L. – Hcaesp, Circumbor., Wx, Fx, Rx, S 2; Kar. 6152

L. rigidum Gaudin subsp. *rigidum* – Tcaesp, Paleosubtrop., W 4, F 4, R 5, S 3; Kar. 5974, 6071

Parapholis marginata Runemark – Tscap, E-Medit., W 4, F 3, Rx, S 4; Kar. 5589

Phleum crypsoides (d'Urv.) Hackel – Tscap, E-Medit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; Kar. 5600

* *Piptatherum miliaceum* (L.) Cosson – Hcaesp, Eurymedit.-Turan., Wx, F 4, R 3-, S 2; Kar. 5561

Poa bulbosa L. – Hcaesp, Paleotemp., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; Kar. 5894

Psilurus incurvus (Gouan) Schinz & Thell. – Tcaesp, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 2, S 1; Kar. 5460, 5474

Rostaria cristata (L.) Tzvel. – Tcaesp, Subcosmop., Wx, F 2, Rx, S 2; *Kar.* 5537, 5556
Stipa capensis Thunb. – Tcaesp, Stenomedit., W 4, F 1, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5864, 6040
Trachynia distachya (L.) Link – Tcaesp, Stenomedit.-Turan., W 3, F 5, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5458, 5538
Triplachne nitens (Guss.) Link – Tscap, Stenomedit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5475, 5626
Vulpia fasciculata (Forssk.) Fritsch – Tcaesp, Medit.-Atl., W 4, F 1, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5602
V. myuros (L.) C. C. Gmel. – Tcaesp, Subcosmop., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5900

Liliaceae

Allium staticiforme Sm. – Gbulb, E-Medit., W 4, F 2, R 5, S 2; *Kar.* 5547, 5933
Gagea graeca (L.) Teracc. – Gbulb, Eurymedit., Wx, F 3, Rx, S 1; *Kar.* 5518
Muscari commutatum Guss. – Gbulb, Eurymedit., Wx, F 2, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5517
 * *M. comosum* (L.) Mill. – Gbulb, Eurymedit., Wx, F 4, R 5, S 1; !
M. neglectum Guss. – Gbulb, Eurymedit., W 2, F 4, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5803
Urginea maritima (L.) Baker – Gbulb, Eurymedit.-Makarones., Wx, F 1, R 4, S 2; *Kar.* 5905

Orchidaceae

* *Limodorum abortivum* (L.) Swartz – Grhiz, Eurymedit., W 2-, F 4-, R 4-, S 1; !
Neotinea maculata (Desf.) Stearn – Gbulb, Eurymedit., W 2, F 4, R 4, S 1; *Kar.* 5520
Orchis coriophora subsp. *fragrans* (Pollini) Surde – Gbulb, Eurymedit., W 3, F 3, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 6173
Orchis sancta L. – Gbulb, E-Medit., W 3, F 3, R 5, S 1; *Kar.* 5579, 5872

2. Flora

The vascular flora of the island Gyali comprises 241 native taxa of vascular plants belonging to 55 families, 178 genera, 196 species and 45 subspecies. Four of the taxa are pteridophytes and 237 are spermatophytes (Table 2). 149 taxa are new records for the island, compared to Papatsou (1975) and Davis (1965-88) who reported 92 taxa. Our floristic inventory does not include species introduced by the mining company for land reclamation and landscaping, such as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Cupressus sempervirens*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Acacia cyanophylla*, *Nerium oleander*, *Medicago arborea*, *Tamarix* sp. and *Spartium junceum*.

Of the 55 vascular plant families present on Gyali, seven dicotyledonous and two monocotyledonous families, thus 16.3 % of the families recorded, are represented by more than five species or subspecies. Together these nine families comprise 150 taxa (Table 3) or 62.2 % of the island's vascular plant flora. *Leguminosae*, *Compositae* and *Graminae* and the other families of Table 3 are among those best adapted to the ecological conditions of the Mediterranean region. Indeed, many other floristic studies of insular and continental Greece (Brofas & Karetzos 1992, Carlström 1987, Christodoulakis 1986, Georgiadis 1983, Georgiadis & al. 1986, Panitsa 1997, Panitsa & al. 1994, etc.) have confirmed that these families are the richest in taxa in the Greek flora.

The life-form spectrum of the island's flora is presented in Table 4. Therophytes predominate and make up 58.9 % of the flora; chamaephytes follow with 14.9 % and hemicryptophytes with 10.4 %.

For the chorological analysis, all taxa were classified into three chorological units. The widespread unit includes mainly cosmopolitan-subcosmopolitan, paleotemperate, paleotropical-paleosubtropical and Mediterranean-Turanian taxa. The Mediterranean unit consists mainly of eury-Mediterranean, steno-Mediterranean and E Mediterranean taxa, and the endemic unit consists of taxa endemic to the Aegean islands. The results of the floristic analysis are presented in Table 5 and show that the Mediterranean unit dominates with 70.1 %. Widespread taxa account for 29.1 % of the flora. The endemic unit has only 0.8 % and is represented by *Limonium graecum* subsp. *ammophilon* (E Aegean endemic) and *Filago cretensis* subsp. *cycladum* (Aegean endemic).

Table 2. Numbers of vascular plant taxa in the flora of Gyali.

Systematic unit	Families	Genera	Species	Subspecies	Total	%
<i>Pteridophyta</i>	3	4	4	–	4	1.7
<i>Gymnospermae</i>	3	3	1	2	3	1.2
<i>Dicotyledones</i>	43	144	147	38	185	76.8
<i>Monocotyledones</i>	6	37	44	5	49	20.3
Total	55	178	196	45	241	100

Table 3. The nine largest families in the flora of Gyali.

	Families	Number of taxa
1	<i>Compositae</i>	38
2	<i>Gramineae</i>	35
3	<i>Leguminosae</i>	32
4	<i>Cruciferae</i>	10
5	<i>Cistaceae</i>	8
6	<i>Labiatae</i>	8
7	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	7
8	<i>Rubiaceae</i>	6
9	<i>Liliaceae</i>	6

Table 4. Life form spectrum of the flora of Gyali.

Life forms	Species and subspecies	%
Therophytes (T)	110	
Tscap: scapose t.	21	
Tcaesp: caespitose t.	1	58.9
Tros: rosulate t.	7	
Trept: reptant t.	3	
Tpar: parasite t.		
Hemicryptophytes (H)	9	
Hscap: scapose h.	6	
Hcaesp: caespitose h.	4	10.4
Hros: rosulate h.	3	
Hrept: reptant h.	2	
Hscand: scandent h.	1	
Hbienn: biennial h.		
Chamaephytes (C)	14	
Cfrut: fruticose c.	19	14.9
Csuffr: suffruticose c.	3	
Chrept: reptant c.		
Geophytes (G)	13	
Gbulb: bulbose g.	9	9.6
Grhiz: rhizomatose g.	1	
Gpar: parasite g.		
Phanerophytes (P)	4	
NP: Nano-p.	1	6.2
Pscap: scapose p.	10	
Pcaesp: caespitose p.		
Total	241	100.0

An additional analysis was made with respect to the indicator values proposed by Böhling (1995) for Naxos. These values seem to be transferable to the Gyalí flora. The vascular flora of Gyalí was accordingly assigned to ecological groups on the basis of warmth (W), moisture (F), soil reaction (R) and salt stress tolerance (S), as presented in Table 6. Our results show that 29 % of the taxa are indicators of extreme warmth and 72 % indicators of very dry or dry habitats. Acidophilous or calcifuge taxa account for 43 % of the taxa, and 45.2 % are halotolerant, facultative or obligatory halophytes.

3. Vegetation

Four different vegetation formations, which are distinguished by vegetation structure and dominant species, characterize the island (Fig. 3): a) *Pinus brutia* forests, b) scrubs and phrygana, c) psammophilous, and d) halophytic formations covering very restricted areas.

Each formation and its main characteristics are briefly described below.

a. *Pinus brutia* forest

The *Pinus brutia* forest represents the only natural arboreal vegetation on Gyalí. It occurs in broken stands and scattered trees on the NE hill, mainly on the eastern and northeastern slopes, while it covers the entire SW hill except the pumice stone quarry and a narrow coastal strip where bushes prevail.

The forest is generally of uneven age with various degrees of canopy cover, although small, evenly aged stands may be found. Maximum measured tree age (by increment borer) is one hundred years. The forest grows from sea level to the hill tops and trees are (3-)6-7(-9) m tall with tabular crowns. In deep soils of ravines on the NE slope and the wind protected plateau of the SW hill, some trees reach 12 meters in height and have conical crowns. In contrast, on lower, northern slopes, which are exposed to strong winds, the trees have a bushy form and a height of less than three meters. Their canopies are flag-shaped and branches reach the ground. Based on the physiognomy of the understorey shrub layer and dominant species, the following vegetation types were distinguished:

a1. Type with *Pistacia lentiscus*: It is found in restricted, non-degraded areas on the north-western slope of the SW hill and is characterized by the dominance of *P. lentiscus*. Several other species participate in this formation, with lower frequency and coverage degree, such as *Olea europaea* subsp. *oleaster*, *Ceratonía siliqua*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Arbutus unedo*, *Myrtus communis* and *Erica manipuliflora*.

a2. Type with *Erica manipuliflora*: This type is found on the eastern slopes of the NE hill and the western slope of the SW hill, on shallow soils, and occupies roughly half the *Pinus brutia* forest. This understorey vegetation is thick and consists almost exclusively of *E. manipuliflora*. In some small openings, dispersed herbaceous species such as *Psilurus incurvus* and *Aíra elegantiísima* grow.

a3. Type with phrygantic species: It occurs on the eastern and northeastern slopes of the NE hill and constitutes the open *Pinus brutia* formations (broken stands, scattered trees). It is characterized by the dominant phrygantic species *Cistus salvifolius*, *C. parviflorus*, *C. incanus* subsp. *creticus*, *Hypericum empetrifolium* and *Lavandula stoechas*. *Erica manipuliflora* also grows in this type and is sometimes associated with species such as *Olea europaea* subsp. *oleaster*, *Ceratonía siliqua*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Satureja thymbra*, *Anthyllis hermanniae* and *Thymelaea tartonraira*.

According to their floristic composition, as referred above, the *Pinus brutia* forests belong to the association Ceratonio-Pistacietum lentisci Zohary & Orshan 1959 of the alliance Ceratonio-Rhamnion Barbero-Quézel 1979 and the order Pistacio-Rhamnetalia Rivas-Martínez 1974. Open *Pinus brutia* stands participating in a vegetation complex with phrygana communities could be assigned to the alliance Cistion orientale (Cisto-Micromerietea (-etalia) Oberdorfer 1954). *Pinus halepensis* forests with similar floristics have been reported from the island of Euboea (Krause & al. 1963).

Table 5. Chorological spectrum of the flora of the island Gyli.			
Chorological unit	Chorological group (abbreviation)	Number of taxa	%
1. Widespread	Cosmopolitan-Subcosmopolitan (Cosmop., Subcos-mop., Cosmop.-subtrop.	25	10.4
	Paleotropical-Paleosubtropical (Paleotrop., Paleosubtrop.)	4	1.7
	Paleotemperate (Paleotemp.)	15	6.2
	Eurasian, Eurasian-temperate (Eurasiat., Euras.-temp.)	2	0.8
	Circumboreal (Circumbor.)	1	0.4
	Southeast-European (SE-Europ.)	1	0.4
	Tropical-American (Trop.-Americ.)	1	0.4
	Mediterranean-Atlantic (Medit.-Atl.)	2	0.8
	Mediterranean-Turanian (Medit.-Turan.)	4	1.7
	Stenomediterranea-Turanian (Stenomedit.-Turan.)	2	0.8
	South Mediterranean-Turanian (S-Medit.-Turan.)	3	1.3
	Eurymedit.-Atlant., Centromedit.-Turan., E-Medit.-Turan., E-Stenomedit.-Makarones., Eurymedit.-Maka-rones., Eurymedit.-N-Orient., Medit.-Makarones., N-Medit.-Atl., S-Stenomedit.-Makarones., Stenomedit.-Orient., W-Medit.-Makarones.	10	4.2
2. Mediterranean	East Mediterranean (E-Medit.)	26	10.8
	Eurymediterranean (Eurymedit.)	57	23.6
	Stenomediterranean (Stenomedit.)	58	24.1
	East Stenomediterranean (E-Stenomedit.)	11	4.6
	South Mediterranean (S-Medit.)	9	3.7
	South Balkan-Aegean (S-Balkan-Aeg.)	2	0.8
	NE-Medit., NE-Stenomedit., SW-Medit., SE-Medit.	6	2.5
3. Endemic	Aegean (Aeg.)	1	0.4
	East Aegean (E-Aeg.)	1	0.4
Total		241	100

Table 6. Percentages of indicator values after Böhling (1995) for warmth (W), moisture (F), soil reaction (R) and salt stress (S) in the flora of Gyli.

The indicator value scales comprise eight units for moisture (F), five units for soil reaction (R) and four units for warmth (W) and salt tolerance (S). Value 1 reflects the lowest expression of a site factor, 4, 5 or 8 the highest. – Abbreviations: W 1: indicators of moderate cold, W 2: moderate warmth, W 3: warmth, W 4: extreme warmth; F 1: indicators of extremely dry habitats, F 2: very dry habitats, F 3: dry habitats, F 4: moderately dry habitats, F 5: medium moist (fresh) habitats; R 1: basiphilous species, R 2: calcicolous, R 3: slightly acid-slightly alkaline, R 4: acidophilous, R 5: calcifuge; S 1: halophobe species, S 2: halotolerant, S 3: facultative halophytes, S 4: obligatory halophytes; x = indifferent (no indicator properties).

	W (%)	F (%)	R (%)	S (%)
1	0.9	3.2	2.7	54.8
2	5.0	37.6	8.1	38.0
3	17.1	34.4	13.6	2.7
4	29.0	11.7	20.4	4.5
5	–	5.0	22.6	–
6	–	0.9	–	–
x	48.0	7.2	32.6	–



Fig. 4. *Pinus brutia* forest on Gyalí island, NE hill, SE aspect. – Photograph by G. Brofas, 1995.

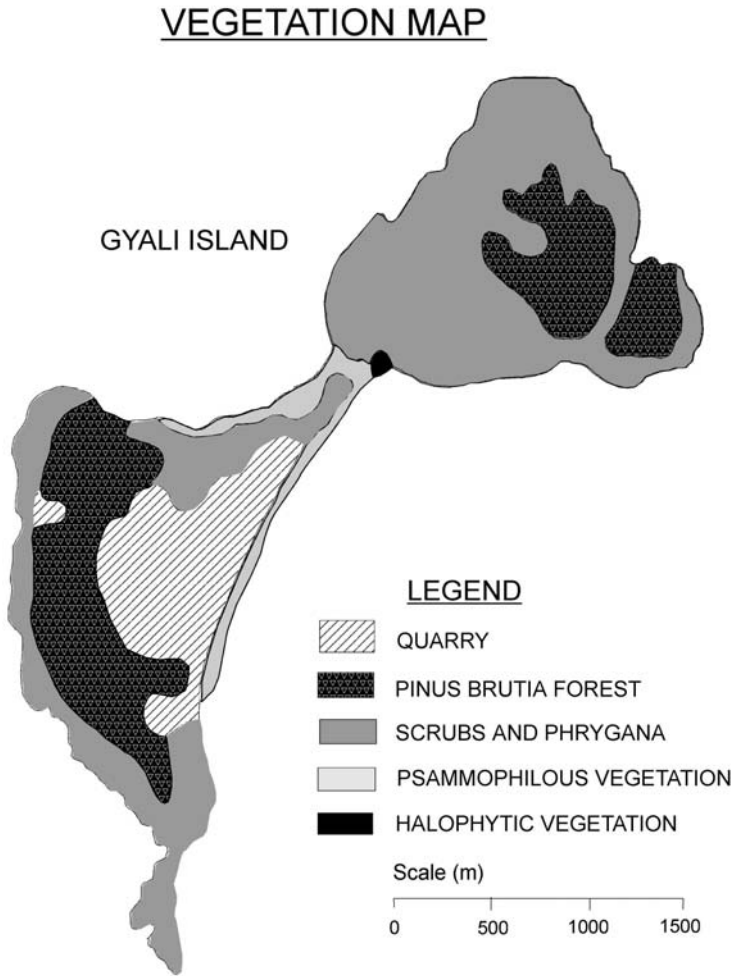


Fig. 3. Vegetation map of Gyali island.

b. Scrubs and phrygana

Scrub and phrygana vegetation is mostly mixed in varying degrees. Pure bush formations are restricted; they are dominated by *Pistacia lentiscus*, while *Erica manipuliflora*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Olea europaea* subsp. *oleaster*, *Myrtus communis*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Arbutus unedo*, etc. occur with lower frequencies. *Juniperus oxycedrus* subsp. *macrocarpa* grows near the coast and in some sites it is the dominant species. Small, relic stands of *Juniperus* are also found in the interior of the island. In some areas on the northwestern slope of the perlite hill, *Daphne gnidioides* and *Euphorbia dendroides* dominate the vegetation, and on the rocky outcrops of the northeastern hill scattered *Ephedra foeminea* and *Capparis orientalis* plants are found.

Degradation of scrub formations in large areas has led to the decline of shrubs and the dominance of phrygantic species such as *Erica manipuliflora*, *Cistus creticus* subsp. *creticus*, *C. parviflorus*, *Cistus salviifolius*, *Lavandula stoechas* subsp. *stoechas*, *Hypericum empetrifolium*, *Phagnalon graecum*, *Anthyllis hermanniae*, *Thymelaea tartaronraira* subsp. *argentea* and *Teucrium*

capitatum. The dominant species depends on the site; for example, *Anthyllis hermanniae* dominates the isthmus, *Cistus creticus* subsp. *creticus* and *C. parviflorus* dominate the northwestern slopes of the perlite hill, *Lavandula stoechas* subsp. *stoechas* prevails on the old terraces, and in some areas *Erica manipuliflora* grows in pure formations. *Coridothymus capitatus* is generally absent from the island except for the vegetation on the southeast coast.

c. Psammophilous formations

Psammophilous vegetation is found on the northern and southern coasts of the isthmus and the narrow coastal strip to the east of the SW hill. It is found on coastal sands between high tide drift line and the inland shrubs and composed of mainly psammophilous and nitrophilous species such as: *Otanthus maritimus*, *Elymus farctus* subsp. *rechingeri*, *Cyperus capitatus*, *Parapholis marginata*, *Pancratium maritimum*, *Medicago marina*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Euphorbia paralias*, *Limonium graecum* subsp. *ammophilum*, *Cakile maritima*, *Matthiola tricuspidata*, *Polygonum maritimum*, *Medicago littoralis*, *Lotus halophilus*, *Salsola kali* subsp. *kali*, *Silene sedoides*, *Lagurus ovatus*, *Anthemis tomentosa* subsp. *tomentosa*, *Urospermum picroides*, *Crepis micrantha*, *Hordeum murinum* subsp. *murinum*, *Phleum crypsoides*, *Hedypnois cretica* and *Vulpia fasciculata*.

The Ammophiletum arundinaceae (class Ammophiletea) seems to be absent on Gyali, while the Eryngio-Elymetum farcti Gehu 1986 (Agropyretum mediterraneum Br.-Bl. 1933) is well represented. Species of the Cakiletea are also present but do not form their typical plant communities.

d. Halophytic formations

Halophytic vegetation is found only in very restricted areas. The only saline soils on Gyali cover an area of about 0.1 ha on the eastern edge of the SW hill, near the isthmus. This area is flooded periodically and dry during the summer.

Halophytic vegetation does not cover all the saline soil but grows in scattered patches. The vegetation of the inner area consists only of *Limonium graecum* subsp. *graecum* and subsp. *ammophilum*, while around the edges and on steep slopes *Frankenia hirsuta* and *Parapholis marginata* occur. Halophytic vegetation is also present on some low coastal areas covered periodically by waves.

Discussion and conclusions

Compared to other islands of the same size, the vegetation of Gyali is considerably diverse and this is mainly due to the *Pinus brutia* forest, which is the only one known to grow on perlite and pumice substrates and on such a small island. Small islands are covered usually with degraded bushes and phrygana only. The preservation of this forest is probably associated to the lack of permanent human inhabitants and the easily weathering substrate, which aids the creation of topsoil and easy root penetration and regeneration.

The Gyali *Pinus brutia* forest represents an isolated natural population. It is among the lowest forests of the species and falls into the lowest site-quality class of *P. brutia* in Greece (Tziovaras & Apatsidis, unpublished data). The forest is dominated by trees with tabular crowns, while in few parts of the island with deep soils some trees reach 12 meters in height and have conical crowns. According to Nahal (1983), the tabular crown form appears in old age but it is also associated with site fertility. In sites with low fertility, height growth stops early (50-60 years) and tree crowns become tabular in shape. In fertile sites height growth continues further (80-90 years) and the crown remains conical.

The understorey vegetation differs from that of other *Pinus brutia* forests known presently in Greece. It shows some affinity with degraded *P. brutia* forests on Crete (Barbero & Quezel 1980) but is very similar to the understorey of Ceratonia-Pinetum brutiae on the Aegean coastal region of Anatolia (Zohary 1973).

Pure scrub formations have a very limited distribution on Gyli and consist of typical species of the Ceratonia-Pistaciaetum association. They are usually mixed, in various degrees, with phrygana communities that cover much larger areas. The restricted bush formations and significant presence of phrygana have resulted from the combination of harsh ecological conditions and human activities, lasting from the Neolithic period up to present (Samson 1988). This combination has greatly affected the physiognomy and composition of the vegetation. The island's phrygana is secondary and represents degraded stages of the *Pinus brutia* forest and scrub communities. Their presence in abandoned fields shows the progressive re-establishment of the natural vegetation. On Gyli, abandoned fields are dominated by *Lavandula stoechas* and other phrygana species, but not by *Sarcopoterium spinosum* (Rechinger 1951, Panitsa & al. 1994). It is possible that *L. stoechas* communities constitute a successive stage of a previous plant community, since the fields have been abandoned for many years. *L. stoechas* is a characteristic species of acidic soils but grows on Gyli on soils with a pH >7.

The absence of *Juniperus phoenicea* from Gyli is rather surprising, as this species is very common in the East Aegean islands. However, *J. phoenicea* is also absent from the neighbouring island of Nisyros, which has a similar geology (Papatsou 1975). Its absence is either due to the soil conditions or the destruction of a previous community and its subsequent inability to re-establish from elsewhere, due to its hardly dispersable diaspores. The absence of *Quercus macrolepis*, which grows on Nisyros and Kos, can be explained in the same way. Whereas the extinction of a species on the mainland may be temporary, on an island it may rather turn out to be permanent due to the lesser probability of its re-establishing.

On Gyli, vegetation of the sandy beaches is represented mainly by the Eryngio-Elymetum farcti association. The absence of the Ammophiletum arundinaceae association is due to the lack of well-developed dune formations. Halophytic formations are very restricted and with low species diversity. The dominant taxon is the local endemic *Limonium graecum* subsp. *ammophilum*, and low species diversity is probably due to the lack of more extended halophytic habitats.

The high proportions of the Mediterranean species and therophytes in the flora of Gyli indicate the Mediterranean character of the island. High numbers of therophytes are also attributed to human activities, especially grazing pressure (Barbero & al. 1990), which can cause important changes in floristic composition and vegetation structure (Pettit & al. 1995).

The very low percentage of endemic taxa and the absence of chorological elements with distributions restricted to the East Aegean and the neighbouring coasts of Asia minor was rather expected. This can be attributed to the recent geographical isolation of the area. The low altitude (180 m maximum) and rather uniform geomorphology and climate of the island minimize the role of isolation as a floral differentiation factor even further.

Classification of the flora of Gyli based on the ecological factors of warmth, moisture, soil reaction and salt stress shows that about one third of the taxa are indicators of extreme warmth and more than two thirds of the taxa are indicators of extremely, very dry or dry habitats. These results reinforce the argument of harsh ecological and climatic conditions of the island.

Future studies on Gyli should include vegetation monitoring to help comprehending the ecological succession process in the harsh conditions affecting, particularly, small islands. For this reason, inventories of the flora and of taxa with special demands for warmth, moisture, soil reaction and salt stress, should be extended. This would provide the necessary data for an ecological evaluation of the Aegean islands, which is indispensable for the future conservation and management of this very sensitive insular region.

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