

Contributions to the bulb flora of Ilias (NW Peloponnese, Greece): *Hyacinthaceae*

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Abstract. The bulb flora of prefecture (nomos) Ilias in NW Peloponnese, Greece is documented with an emphasis on its distribution within the administrative unit. Families, genera and species are presented in alphabetical order. Each taxon is accompanied by a photograph, description, habitat, ecology and distribution dot map. This is the fourth contribution of the series and deals with the family *Hyacinthaceae* comprising five genera — *Bellevalia*, *Drimia*, *Muscari*, *Ornithogalum* and *Scilla*.

Key words: *Hyacinthaceae*, *Bellevalia*, *Drimia*, *Muscari*, *Ornithogalum*, *Scilla*, distribution maps, Greece, NW Peloponnese

Introduction

Approximately a hundred species of bulb plants belonging to 14 families occur in nomos Ilias. This is the fourth contribution in the series (Giannopoulos & al. 2021a, b; Giannopoulos & Tan 2021) and deals with the family *Hyacinthaceae* which comprises five genera, viz., *Bellevalia*, *Drimia*, *Muscari*, *Ornithogalum* and *Scilla*. The presentation in alphabetical order follows that adopted in the first three publications of the series.

Material and methods

Field studies have been carried out in the prefecture (nomos) of Ilias. Keys to the species, photographs, short descriptions, habitat, ecology, and distribution maps are provided for the taxa which are listed in alphabetical order. The general range within and without the prefecture is also indicated. For external distribution, reference is made to Floras of the neighbouring countries and Plants of the World online (Kew Science). Descriptive terminology is as used in Eng-

lish language Floras, e.g., *Flora Europaea* (Tutin & al. 1980), *Mountain Flora of Greece* (Strid & Tan 1991). Unqualified measurements refer to length or height. One taxon, *Muscari pulchellum* is endemic to Greece.

Results and discussion

HYACINTHACEAE

Bulbous perennials. Leaves all basal. Perianth petaloid, free or connate at base. Stamens 6. Ovary 3-locular, superior. Fruit a loculicidal capsule.

1. Perianth segments connate at base 2
 - Perianth segments free 3
2. Perianth constricted at mouth of tube below the teeth *Muscari*
 - Perianth not constricted at mouth of tube ... *Bellevalia*
3. Seeds winged, flat; perianth segments with red or purplish mid-vein *Drimia*

– Seeds unwinged, globose, ellipsoid or prismatic but rarely flat; perianth segments without red or purplish mid-vein 4

4. Perianth segments milky white or greenish-white with green fascia beneath *Ornithogalum*

– Perianth segments bright blue, lilac-blue or pale pink *Scilla*

Bellevalia Lapeyr.

1. Perianth oblong-cylindrical, bright purplish-blue at anthesis; lobes less than half as long as tube *dubia*

– Perianth narrowly campanulate, pale blue, lilac or white at anthesis; lobes equalling or longer than tube *romana*

Bellevalia dubia subsp. *boissieri* (Freyn) Feinbrun (Figs. 1:1 & 2)

Bulb broadly ovoid. Leaves procumbent, 3–6, linear-oblongate, equalling or longer than scape, flat or slightly canaliculate. Scapes 1–4. Raceme 10–35-flowered. Pedicels 3–6 mm, patent or slightly deflexed. Perianth 5–7 mm, oblong-cylindrical, bright purplish-blue at anthesis, turning greyish-purple or brown, with short, white lobes less than half as long as tube. Anthers bluish-violet. – $2n = 8$ (Bareka & al. 2008).

Mainly in south and central parts of Ilias. Stony and grassy slopes, open fields, on limestone, 20–845 m. Flowering March to April. Mediterranean region (Italy to W Anatolia).

Bellevalia dubia subsp. *dubia* is endemic to Sicily.

Bellevalia romana (L.) Sweet (Figs. 1:2 & 2)

Resembling *B. dubia*. Leaves erect or recurved, linear, usually longer than scape. Scapes 1–2. Raceme rather lax. Pedicels 7–12 mm, erecto-patent. Perianth 7–10 mm, narrowly campanulate, pale blue, lilac or white, turning pale brown; lobes equalling or longer than tube. Anthers bluish-violet. – $2n = 8$ (Bareka & al. 2008).

Southeastern part of Ilias (Andritsaina area); only three plants noted, not found in later years. Grassy embankment, on limestone, c. 760 m. Flowering April. Mediterranean region (Italy to W Balkans).

Drimia Willd.

Drimia numidica (Jord. & Fourr.) J.C. Manning & Goldblatt [syn.: *Drimia maritima* auct. fl. graec. non (L.) Stearn, *Urginea maritima* auct. fl. graec. non (L.) Baker] (Figs. 1:3 & 2)

Bulb large, subglobose, 5–20 cm in diam., often half-exposed at ground level, composed of numerous free scales. Leaves large, appearing after flowering, up to 14 cm wide, dark shiny green, glabrous. Scape erect, 50–150 cm, with numerous flowers. Pedicels patent, becoming erect in fruit. Perianth segments free, spreading, white, sometimes with reddish-purple or green midvein. Anthers greenish; pollen yellow. Capsule triquetrous. Seeds flattened, winged, black. – $2n = 40$, tetraploid (Damboldt & Wulsche 1977).

Widespread throughout Ilias. Rocky and stony ground, *Phlomis fruticosa* phrygana, olive groves, abandoned fields and terraces, at roadsides, on limestone, sea level–700 m. Flowering from late August to November. Mediterranean area.

Drimia maritima (L.) Stearn is a west Mediterranean species absent from Greece. The autumn-flowering 'sea squill' is poisonous but has been used medicinally since classical times as an anti-coagulant. Greek plants are often tetraploid.

Muscari Miller

1. Mature fertile flowers blue, blackish-blue or violet-purple 2

– Mature fertile flowers yellowish, brownish or particoloured, never blue 4

2. Perianth tube and teeth blackish-blue or dark violet-purple *commutatum*

– Perianth tube blackish-blue or violet-purple, teeth white or whitish 3

3. Raceme ovoid, dense; perianth of fertile flowers dark to blackish-blue *neglectum*

– Raceme rather lax-cylindrical; perianth of fertile flowers dark violet-purple *pulchellum*

4. Bulb tunics pale grey. Fertile flowers with sharply angled shoulders and very narrow orifice; teeth blackish *tenuiflorum*

– Bulb tunics pinkish. Fertile flowers with rounded shoulders; teeth yellowish or cream 5

5 Sterile flowers long-pedicellate, forming a conspicuous violet-purple tassel *comosum*

– Sterile flowers few and shortly pedicellate, not forming conspicuous tassel; orifice more than 2 mm wide *weissii*

Muscari commutatum Guss. (Figs. 3:1 & 4)

Bulb ovoid, sometimes with offsets; tunics dark brown. Leaves 2–5, linear to linear-lanceolate, canaliculate, dark green. Scape 6–30 cm, c. equalling leaves. Raceme dense, ovoid. Fertile flowers pedicellate, pendent. Perianth obovoid-urceolate, 3.5–7 mm, with angular shoulders, blackish-blue or deep violet and blackish or greenish-white towards apex; teeth recurved, concolourous. Sterile flowers at raceme apex usually few, smaller and paler than the fertile ones. Capsule ellipsoid or oblong-ovoid, 7–12 mm. Seeds globose, c. 1.5 mm, black. – $2n = 18$ (based on *Runemark* 1352, LD).

Throughout Ilias, more rare in the northwest. Albino forms occur. Phrygana, cereal fields, olive groves, ruderal places, sea level–600 m. Flowering March to early June. Central and East Mediterranean, from Italy to Balkans.

Muscari comosum (L.) Mill. [syn.: *Leopoldia comosa* (L.) Parl., *Muscari graecum* (Heldr.) Boiss.] (Figs. 3:2 & 4)

Bulb deep-seated, usually without offsets; tunics pinkish. Leaves (2–)3–5, linear-lanceolate, slightly canaliculate, glabrous. Scape usually single, 20–50 cm, longer than or equalling leaves. Raceme rather lax, 8–20 cm at anthesis. Fertile flowers pedicellate, patent or slightly pendent. Perianth broadly cylindrical to urceolate, with rounded shoulders, dull tawny yellow or brownish-purple, violet in bud; teeth greenish-yellow or cream. Sterile flowers long-pedicellate, forming a conspicuous violet-purple tassel; tassel sometimes absent. Capsule broadly ovoid, 7–9 mm. Seeds subglobose, c. 2 mm. – $2n = 18$, diploid (Kapasa & al. 2001).

Widespread in Ilias. Open coastal *Pinus* woodland, *Quercus coccifera* macchie, phrygana, olive groves, grassy embankments, cultivated fields, terraces, meadows, archaeological sites, on limestone and loamy schist, sea level to 1340 m. Flowering March to May. Mediterranean area, S Europe, SW Asia (not native in northern part of its range).

Very polymorphic. The slightly bitter bulbs (in Greek *volvi*) are pickled and eaten as ‘wild onions’.

Muscari neglectum Guss. ex Ten. [syn.: *M. racemosum* (L.) Medik.] (Figs. 3:3 & 4)

Bulb ovoid, usually with offsets; tunics reddish-brown. Leaves 3–6, linear to linear-oblongate, canaliculate, dark green. Scape 10–20 cm. Raceme ovoid, 15–30 mm, rather dense. Fertile flowers shortly pedicellate, pendent. Perianth broadly ellipsoid, without shoulders, dark to blackish-blue; teeth short, recurved, white. Sterile flowers usually few, smaller and paler than the fertile ones. Capsule ovoid, c. 8×7 mm. Seeds globose, c. 1.5 mm, black – $2n = 18$, diploid and 54, hexaploid (Karlén 1985).

Mainly south and eastern part of Ilias. Mountain slopes, *Quercus coccifera* scrub, phrygana, field margins, sea level to 2100 m. Flowering late February to June depending on altitude. Widespread in Mediterranean area to SW and C Asia; very variable with an extensive synonymy.

Muscari pulchellum Heldr. & Sart. ex Boiss. subsp. *pulchellum* (Figs. 3:4 & 4)

Resembling *M. neglectum*, but smaller in all parts; bulb with few or no offsets; raceme cylindrical, rather lax; fertile flowers dark violet-purple or magenta, with whitish teeth. – $2n = 18$, diploid (Karlén 1984).

South and southeast Ilias. Stony slopes and fields, on limestone, 500–845 m. Flowering March to April.

Muscari pulchellum was described from limestone hills in Athens and subsp. *clepsydroides* Karlén from the island of Kithnos. Both taxa are endemic to Greece.

Muscari tenuiflorum Tausch [syn.: *Leopoldia tenuiflora* (Tausch) Heldr.]

Resembling *M. comosum*, but differing by the following characters: Bulb tunics pale grey; raceme long and slender, lax, many-flowered; fertile flowers cylindrical, truncate, with sharply angled shoulders and narrow orifice, greyish-brown; teeth blackish, recurved.

Rare, reported from west central Ilias by Garnweidner (obs.) but no specimens from Ilias have been seen and confirmation is needed. Probably an erroneous identification for the very polymorphic *M. comosum*. SE Europe to SW Asia.

Muscari weissii Freyn [syn.: *Leopoldia weissii* (Freyn) Freyn]

Resembling *M. comosum*, but differing by the following characters: Bulb usually more deep-seated; tunics brownish-pink; scape usually shorter; fertile flowers on

rather long, patent pedicels, becoming yellowish-brown in lower 2/3 and brownish above, with ± well-developed shoulders and yellow teeth; sterile flowers few, with pedicels 1–8 mm, forming an inconspicuous tuft.

Rare, reported from northwest Ilias (near Chavari) by Willing and Willing (2002: 50), not rediscovered in locality and specimen (*Willing* 88715, B) not seen. East Mediterranean. The species was described from the island of Siros, and is sometimes difficult to distinguish morphologically from some forms of *M. comosum*. Plants from southeast Iliia (Prasidaki) at first considered to represent *M. weissii* are a form of *M. comosum* in which the tassel is absent.

Ornithogalum L.

1. Inflorescence 30–50-flowered 2
 - Inflorescence less than 30-flowered 3
2. Anthers and pollen yellow. Ovary truncate at apex; style 3.5–5 mm *narbonense*
 - Anthers greenish; pollen yellow. Ovary conical-apiculate at apex; style 5–6 mm *prasinantherum*
3. Inner filaments 3-toothed at apex. Flowers broadly campanulate, nodding *nutans*
 - All filaments untoothed at apex. Flowers stellate-spreading, not nodding 4
4. Leaves with a white median stripe 5
 - Leaves without a white median stripe 6
- 5 Scape with an aerial part. Pedicels horizontal after anthesis. Capsule with low ridges *collinum*
 - Scape without aerial part (inflorescence almost sessile on ground). Pedicels deflexed after anthesis. Capsule with conspicuous ridges *exscapum*
6. Bracts *ca.* equalling or longer than pedicels *oligophyllum*
 - Bracts much shorter than pedicels 7
7. Leaves 4–20 mm wide, not withered at anthesis *montanum*
 - Leaves 1–1.5 mm wide, usually withered at anthesis. *gussonei*

Ornithogalum collinum Guss. [syn.: *O. tenuifolium* auct., non Guss.] (Figs. 5:1 & 7)

Resembling *O. gussonei*, but leaves bright green with a white median stripe and sometimes ciliate; scape short, with an epigeal part; pedicels horizontal after

anthesis; anthers without a dark spot at base. Capsule with low ridges. – $2n = 18$ (Landström 1989).

Mainly in south and central parts of Ilias. Open macchie, olive groves, on limestone and conglomerate, 50–785 m. Flowering late March to May. Mediterranean area from S Italy to Balkan Peninsula.

Ornithogalum exscapum Guss. (Figs. 5:2 & 7)

Similar to *O. collinum*, but differing by the following characters: Leaves glaucous-green, glabrous; scape short, almost completely hypogaeal; pedicels deflexed after anthesis; capsule with conspicuous ridges.

Mainly in southern part of Ilias, stony and rocky meadows, open macchie, olive groves, 50–1150 m. Flowering mid-February (at low altitude) to April. Mediterranean area from S Italy to Balkan Peninsula.

Ornithogalum gussonei Ten. [syn.: *O. collinum* W.D.J. Koch non Guss.; *O. tenuifolium* Guss., non Delaroché] (Figs. 5:3 & 7)

Bulb ovoid, usually without offsets. Leaves 3–6, usually withered at anthesis, narrowly linear (1–1.5 mm wide), without a white stripe but grooved on the upper surface, glabrous. Scape 3–10 cm, erect, slender. Flowers 4–8, on long pedicels diverging at an angle of c. 45°; bract shorter than pedicel. Perianth segments 12–16 mm, white with broad green stripe beneath c. 2/3 of width). Anthers with a reddish-brown spot at base. Capsule obovoid with rounded lobes. – $2n = 14, 28$ (Phitos 1988).

Central part of Ilias. Open macchie, olive groves, fields, 450 m. Flowering late March. Mediterranean area.

Named after the Sicilian botanist Giovanni Gussone (1787–1866).

Ornithogalum montanum Cirillo [syn: *O. atticum* sensu Rech. f., non Boiss. & Heldr.; *O. byzantinum* Ten.] (Figs. 6:1 & 7)

Bulb broadly ovoid, with or without offsets. Leaves 3–7, spreading, narrowly elliptical, 4–20 mm broad, green to greyish-green, without a white stripe, glabrous, usually persistent at anthesis. Aerial part of scape 2–5 (–10) cm. Inflorescence ± corymbose with 5–15 (–30) stellate-spreading flowers. Pedicels erecto-patent at anthesis, patent in fruit; lower pedicels longer than the upper. Bracts shorter than pedicels. Perianth segments 12–20 mm, white with green stripe beneath c. 2/3 of width of segment. Capsule obovoid, obtusely ribbed. – $2n = 18, 20, 22, 24$ (Phitos 1980).

Mainly in eastern part of Ilias. Rocky places, meadows, 900–1300 m. Flowering April to May. S Italy, Balkan Peninsula to SW Asia.

***Ornithogalum narbonense* L.** (Figs. 5:4 & 7)

Bulb large, broadly ovoid. Leaves several, suberect, usually present at anthesis, linear, 6–15 mm wide, shorter than scape. Scape erect, 40–100 cm tall. Raceme lax-cylindrical, 30–50-flowered. Pedicels patent to erecto-patent at anthesis; bract shorter than pedicel. Perianth segments 11–16 mm, oblong-lanceolate, white above, with green stripe beneath. Filaments flat, connivent. Anthers yellow. Capsule narrowly ovoid to ellipsoid, truncate at apex. – $2n = 54$ (Landström 1989).

Central and northwest Ilias. Cultivated and uncultivated fields, olive groves, roadsides, 130 m. Flowering May to June. Mediterranean area to SW Asia.

***Ornithogalum nutans* L.** (Figs. 6:2 & 7)

Bulb ovoid, with numerous offsets. Leaves 4–6, linear, equalling or exceeding scape, 10–15 mm wide, flat, glabrous. Scape 15–60 cm. Flowers 5–15 in a rather lax raceme, broadly campanulate, nodding. Bracts equalling or exceeding pedicel. Perianth segments 20–30 mm, white or greenish-white, with a broad greyish-green stripe on back. Filaments connivent, the inner 3-toothed at apex. Capsule broadly ovoid, obtuse-rounded.

North central and southern Ilias. Open rocky places, edge of cultivated and abandoned fields, montane meadows, c. 1000 m. Flowering April to May. Often a weed of traditional agriculture in Balkan Peninsula and W Anatolia; widely naturalized, also cultivated as ornamental.

***Ornithogalum oligophyllum* E. D. Clarke**
(Figs. 6:3 & 7.1)

Bulb 1–2.5 cm diam. Leaves 1–3, 2–20 mm wide, narrowly oblanceolate-linear or lorate, without a white stripe. Flowers 1–10 in a corymb. Bracts equalling or longer than pedicels. Pedicels ascending in flower, flaccid and deflexed in fruit. Perianth segments white above, green with narrow white margins beneath. Capsule 6-winged, depressed at apex.

Northeastern part of Ilias. Stony and rocky mountain slopes, meadows, 1950–2090 m. Flowering June to July. Balkan Peninsula, Anatolia to NW Iran.

***Ornithogalum prasinantherum* Zahar.** (Figs. 6:4 & 7.1) Resembling *O. narbonense* from which it can be distinguished by the ovary which is narrowly conical-apiculate at the apex and style 5–6 mm long. Green anthers as implied by the specific epithet occur in unrelated taxa; the pollen is yellow. – $2n = 28$ (Kamari & Georgiou 1981).

Scattered in Ilias. *Pinus halepensis* woodland, dry fallow fields, stony ground around archaeological sites and ruined castles, 20–900 m. Flowering April to June, fruiting July and August. W Balkan Peninsula.

***Scilla* L.**

1. Autumn flowering. Perianth segments pale pink to bluish-lilac. Seeds exarillate. *autumnalis*

– Spring flowering. Perianth segments bright blue to violet-blue. Seeds arillate. *bifolia*

***Scilla autumnalis* s. lat.** [incl. *Prospero autumnale* (L.) Speta] (Figs. 8:1 & 8)

Bulb broadly ovoid, with branched roots; outer tunics brown or pinkish. Leaves 4–10, appearing at or just after anthesis, shorter than scape, linear, suberect, glabrous. Raceme 15–30-flowered, elongating in fruit. Perianth segments 3–5 mm. Seeds ellipsoid, aril absent. – $2n = 12, 14, 26, 28$, etc. (Speta 2000).

Widespread in Ilias. Open *Quercus* forest, *Phlomis fruticosa* phrygana, coastal dunes, stony, rocky and grassy places, olive groves, abandoned fields and terraces, roadside ditches, on limestone, 10–1700 m. Flowering from late August to November. Mediterranean area to SW Asia.

***Scilla bifolia* s. lat.** [incl. *Scilla pneumonanthe* Speta] (Figs. 8:2 & 8)

Bulb ovoid, with unbranched roots; outer tunics brown, scales white to pinkish. Leaves 2(–3), sheathing lowest part of scape, linear to oblanceolate, often recurved, glabrous. Raceme subsecund, (2–) 4–12-flowered. Perianth segments 6–9 mm, concolourous. Anthers dark blue. Seeds subglobose, aril (elaiosome) present, white. – $2n = 18, 36$ and 54 (Speta 1981).

Mainly northeastern part of Ilias. Forming dense carpets on slopes at edge of melting snow together with *Crocus nivalis*, limestone, 80–1410 m. Flowering early March to April. C and S Europe to SW Asia.

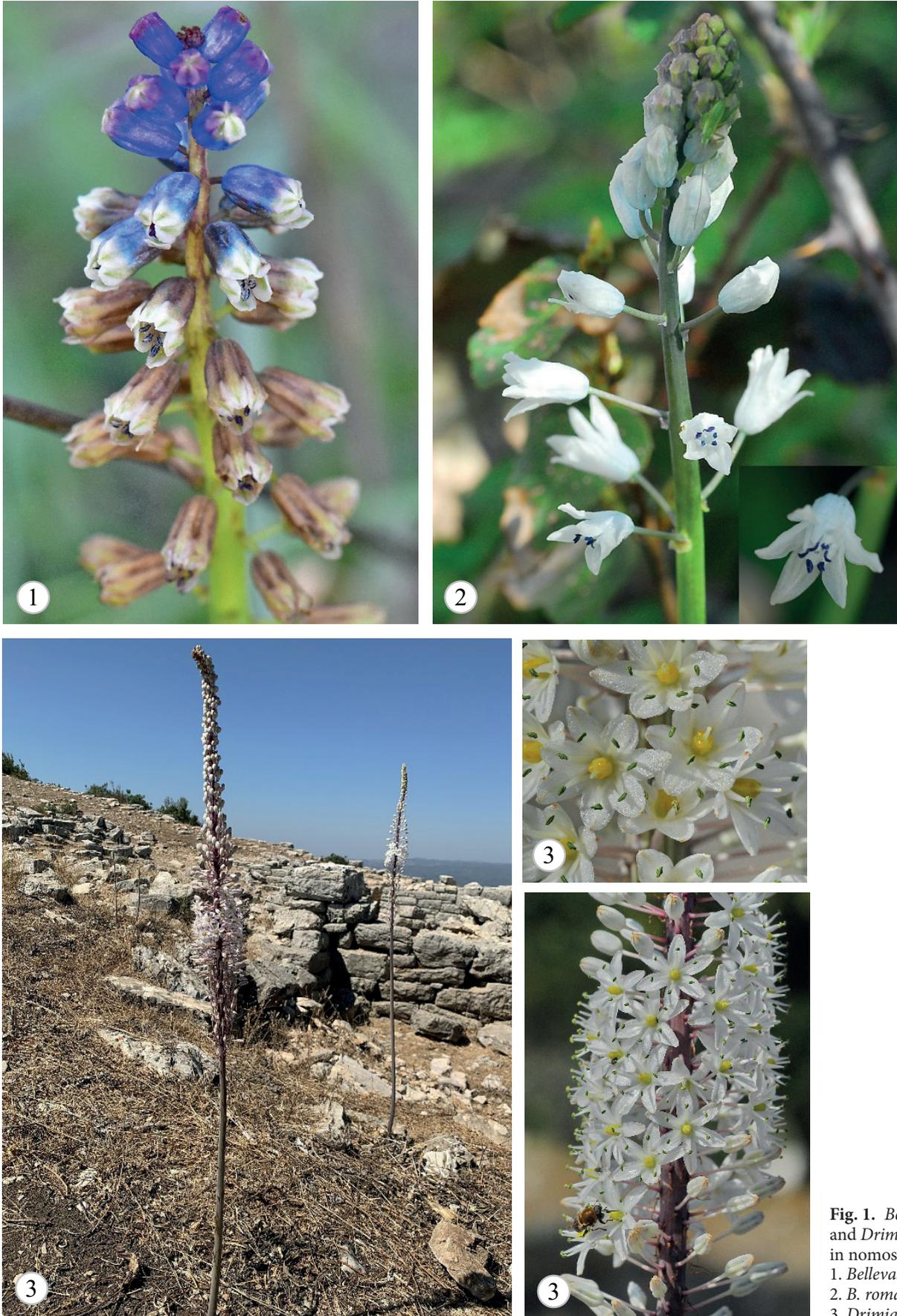


Fig. 1. *Bellevalia* and *Drimia* species in nomos Ilias:
 1. *Bellevalia dubia*;
 2. *B. romana*;
 3. *Drimia numidica*.

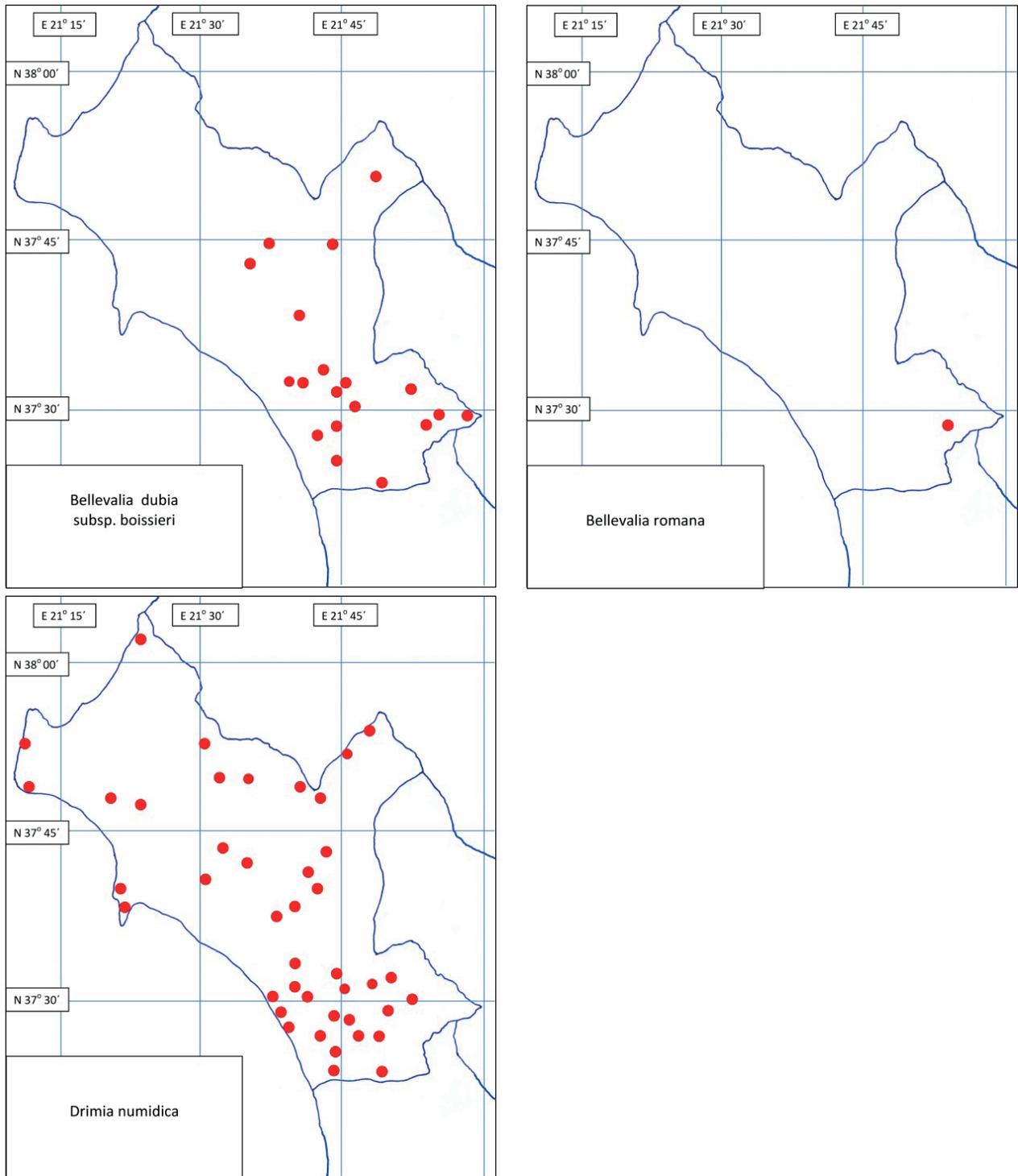


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Bellevalia* and *Drimia* in nomos Ilias.

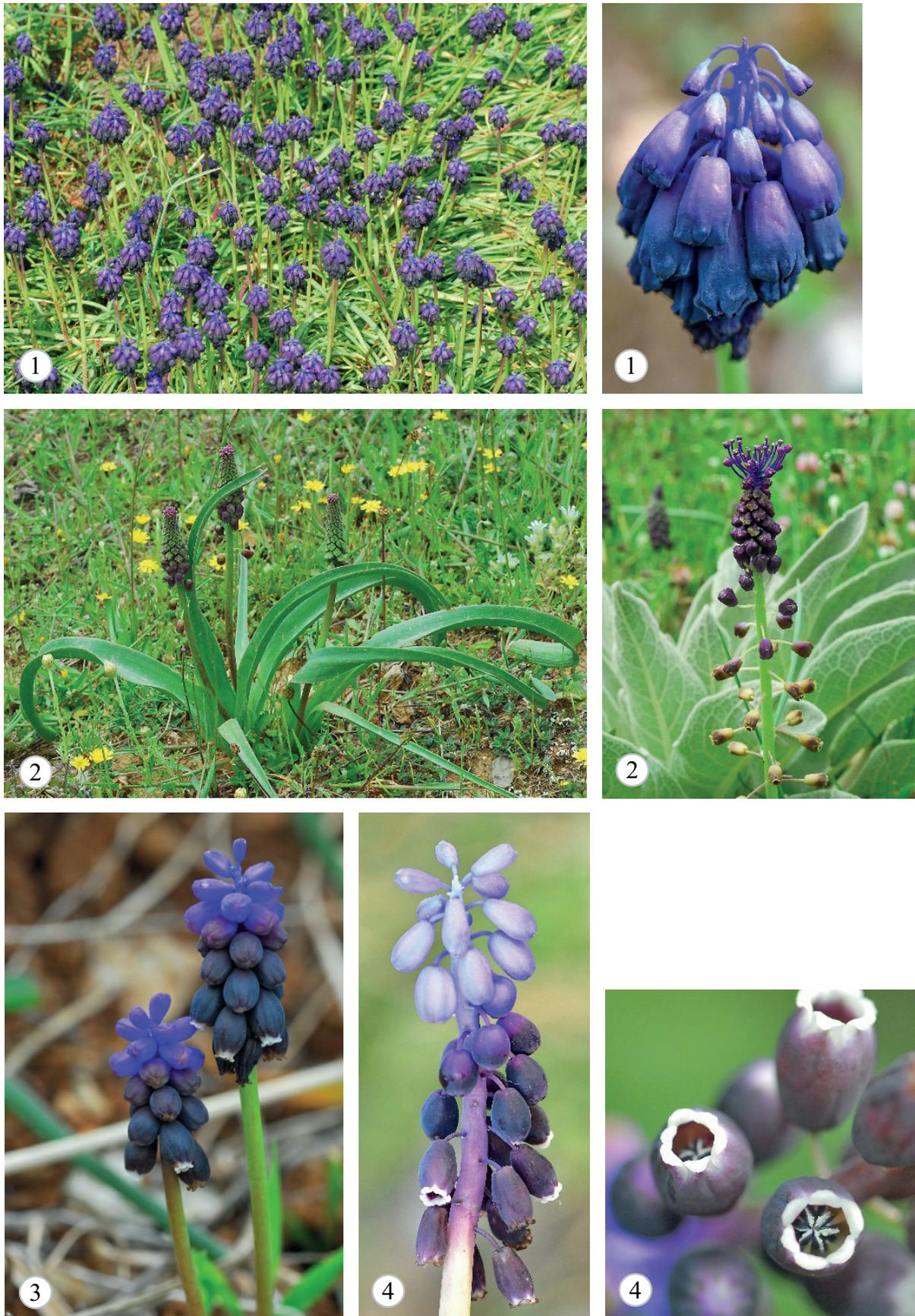


Fig. 3. *Muscari* species in nomos Ilias: 1. *M. commutatum*; 2. *M. comosum*; 3. *M. neglectum*; 4. *M. pulchellum*.

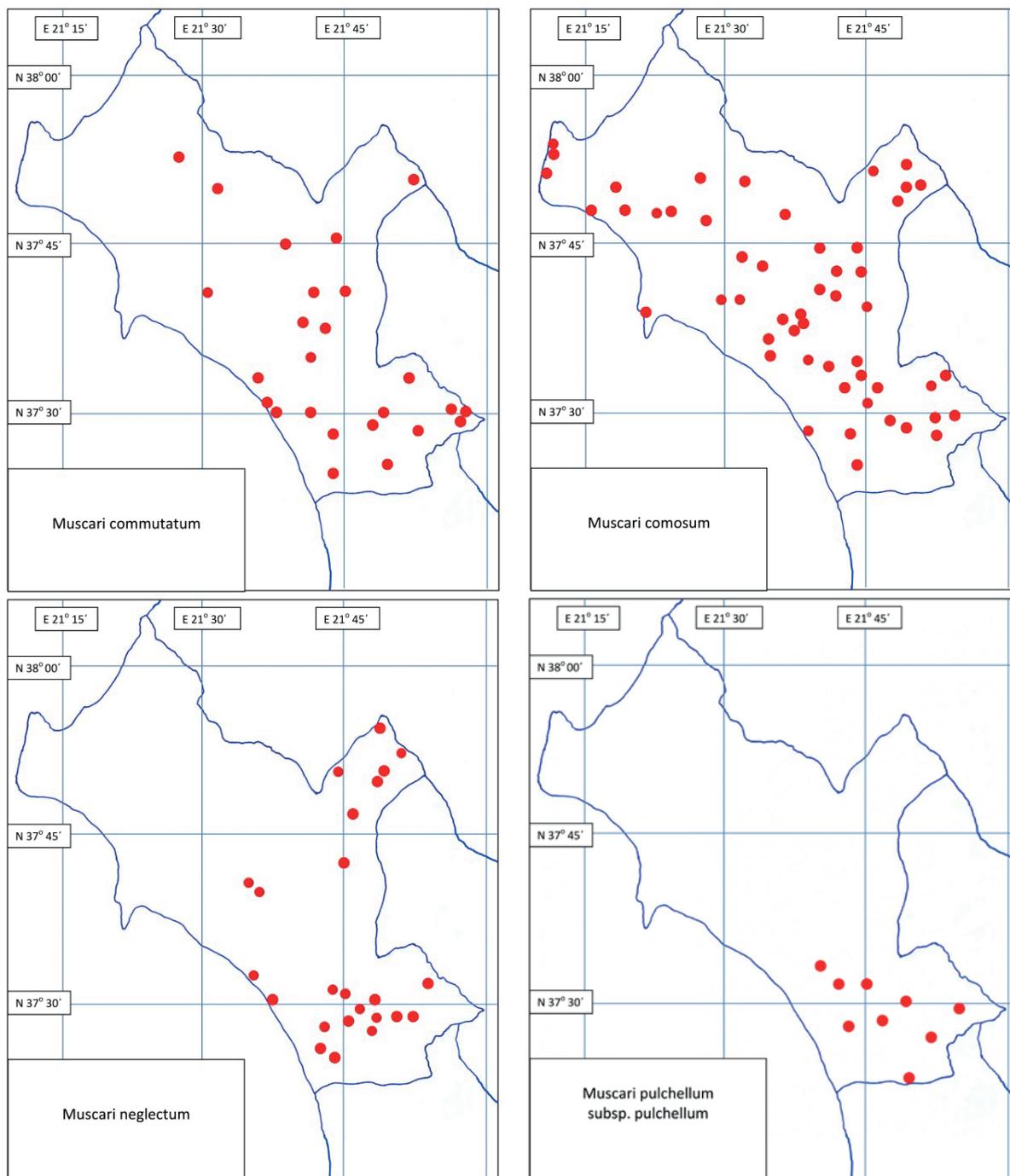


Fig. 4. Distribution of *Muscari* in nomos Ilias.



Fig. 5. *Ornithogalum* species in nomos Ilias: 1. *O. collinum*; 2. *O. exscapum*; 3. *O. gussonei*; 4. *O. narbonense*.



Fig. 6. *Ornithogalum* species in nomos Ilias: 1. *O. montanum*; 2. *O. nutans*; 3. *O. oligophyllum*; 4. *O. prasinantherum*.

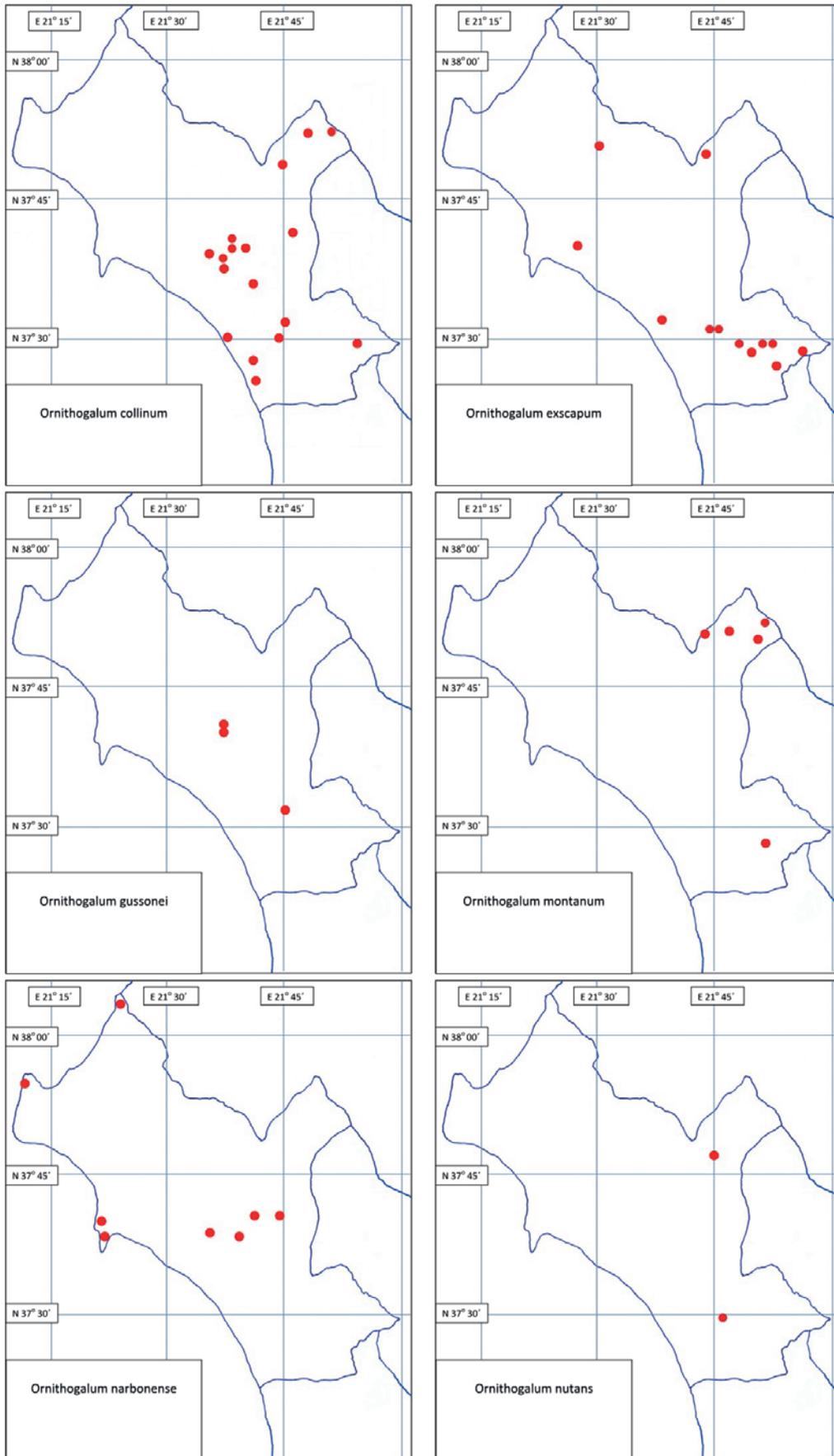


Fig. 7. Distribution of *Ornithogalum* in nomos Ilias.

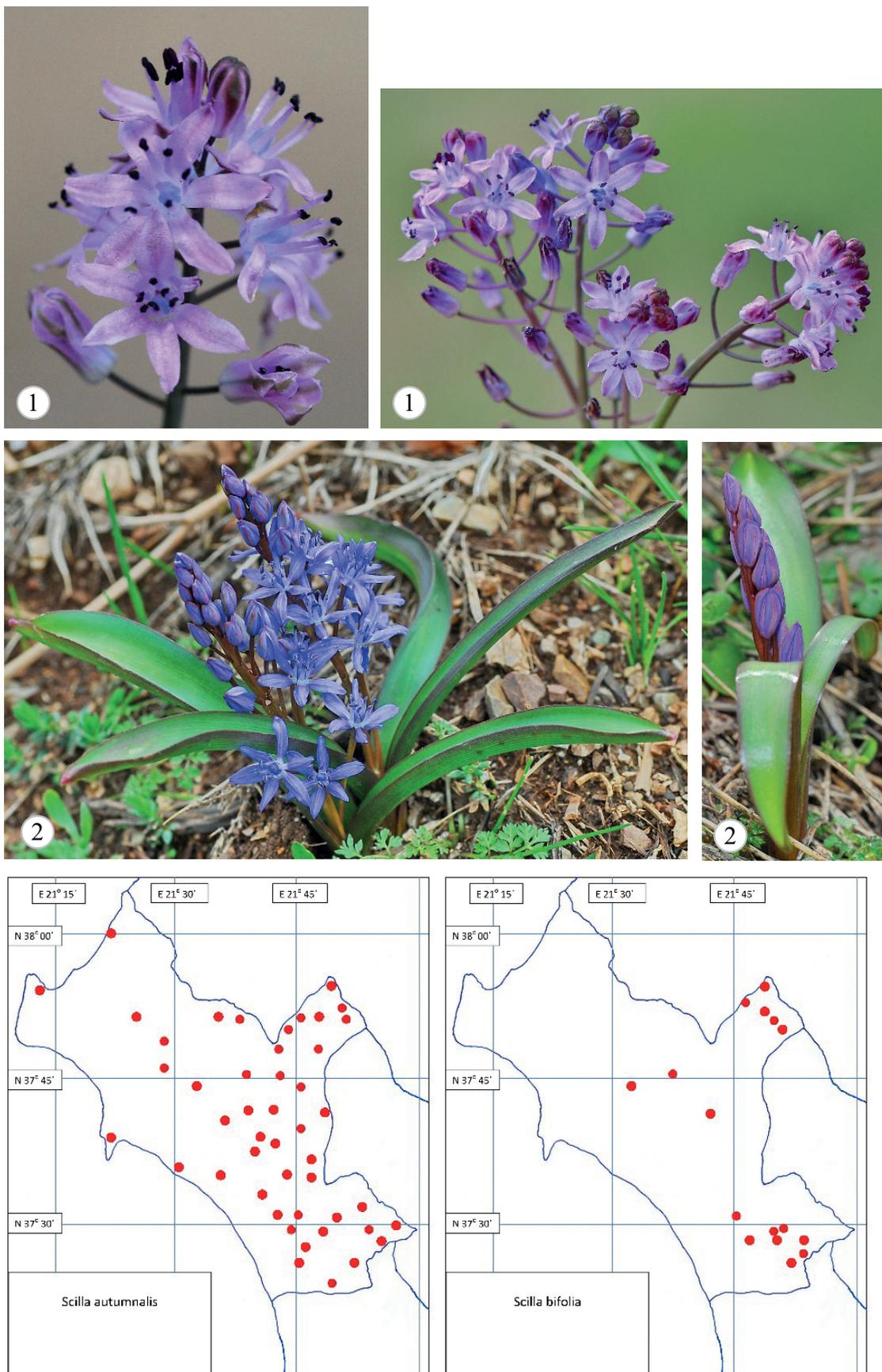


Fig. 8. *Scilla* species and distribution in nomos Ilias: 1. *S. autumnalis*; 2. *S. bifolia*.

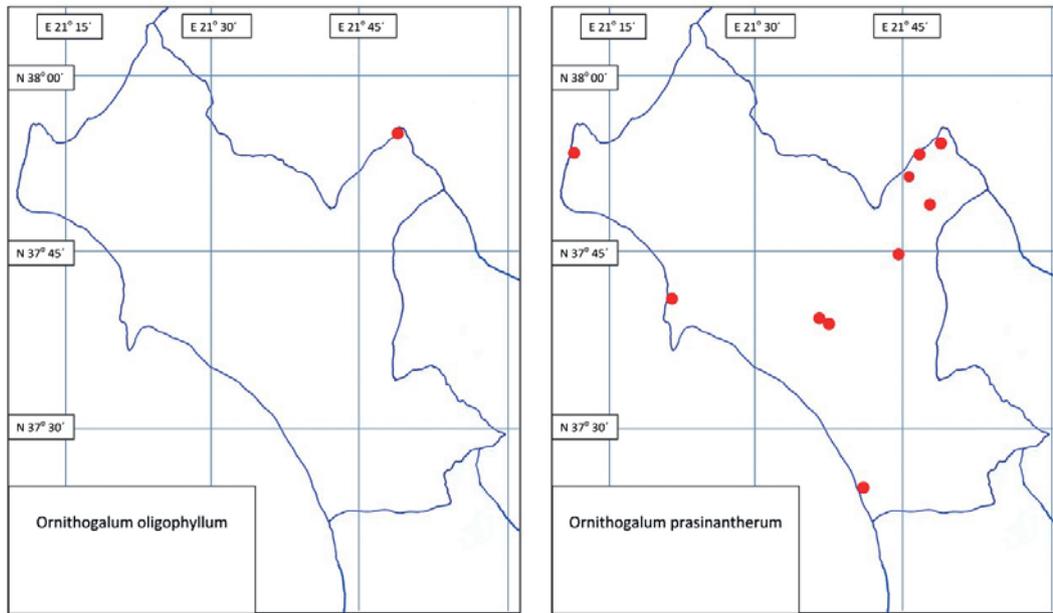


Fig. 7.1. Distribution of *Ornithogalum* in nomos Ilias.

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