doi:10.32020/ArtandDoc/26/2022/18

PLANTS DEPICTED IN THE FRESCOS OF VILLA OF LIVIA, PRIMA PORTA, ROME. LOCATED AT MUSEO NAZIONALE ROMANO, PALAZZO MASSIMO, ROME.

Reference: original article by Giulia Caneva and Lorenza Bohuny, "Botanic analysis of Livia's villa painted flora (Prima Porta, Roma)", published in *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 4 (April 2003): 149-155.

1.
Acanthus mollis L. Brankursine (Bear's breech). H scap. Spontaneous element in the Western Mediterranean basin, cultivated as ornamental since ancient times.

2.
Anthemis cfr. cotula L. Foul chamomile (dog-fennel). T scap. Euro-Mediterranean species found in ruins and uncultivated environments.

3.
Arbutus unedo L. Strawberry tree (Arbutus). P caesp. Typical Mediterranean element occurring in maquis and acidophilic ilex woods.

4.
Buxus sempervirens L. Ordinary box. P caesp. This sub-Mediterranean– Atlantic element is present in broad-leaved thermophile woods and is cultivated as an ornamental plant.

5.
Chrysanthemum cfr. coronarium L. Yellow chrysanthemum. T scap. It is a typical Mediterranean element, spontaneously growing in wastelands and cultivated fields.

6.
Cornus mas L. (Male) cornel. P caesp. A species of South-European-Pontine origin, it is a typical element of sub-Mediterranean broadleaved woods. Due to its very hard wood, it was used widely in ancient times e.g., to make tools and javelins.

7.
Cupressus sempervirens L. Common cypress. 3.1.3. Angiospermae–dicotyledons.

Sztuka i Dokumentacja nr 26 (2022) | *Art and Documentation* no. 26 (2022) • ISSN 2080-413X • e-ISSN 2545-0050 • doi:10.32020/ARTandDOC

8.
Cydonia oblonga Miller (= C. vulgaris Pers; Pyrus cydonia L.) Quince-tree. P scap. This plant originates from the Middle East and is largely cultivated for its edible fruit.

9.
Hedera helix L. Ivy. P lian. This sub-Mediterranean and sub-Atlantic element is found in thick woods and shady sites characterized by a certain degree of moisture. Since ancient times, it has been cultivated as a climber (creeper) to cover walls and as a decorative element.

10.
Iris cfr. (flower de luce). G rhiz.

11.
Laurus nobilis L. Bay laurel. P caesp. Typically Mediterranean element, it is found in sunny stations (sites), although preferably with edaphic moisture. It is largely cultivated as an ornamental element.

12.
Myrtus communis L. Myrtle. P caesp. This is a strictly Mediterranean element and an integral part of the species typical of the maquis.

13.
Nerium oleander L. Oleander. P caesp. It is a typical element of the Mediterranean area where it is found to grow spontaneously along the gravelly streambeds. Likely to have been cultivated since ancient times for the ornamental effect of its flowers.

14.
Papaver somniferum L. (incl. P. album Miller; P. hortense Husenot; P. officinale Gmelin). Opium poppy. T scap. Euro-Mediterranean element, [widely cultivated for official, aromatic, and decorative purposes.

15.
Phoenix dactylifera L. Date palm. P scap. This plant is typical of the sub-tropical regions of the Old World and has been cultivated since ancient times, mainly in the Southern Mediterranean areas, for ornamental and fruit-bearing purposes.

16.
Phyllitis scolopendrium (L.) Newman (= Scolopendrium officinale Swartz; Sc. vulgare Sm.). Common scolopendria.

17.
Picea excelsa (Lam.) Link (= Picea abies (L.) Karsten; P. vulgaris Link). Spruce. P scap. Northern Europe and Siberia. Alpine species that is found in cool stations.

18.
Pinus pinea L. Stone-pine, Pine-kernel pine, P scap. This species is spread from the Mediterranean Sea to Southern Europe.

19.
Punica granatum L. Pomegranate. P scap. It is an element of Middle East origin cultivated both as an ornament and for its fruits. Here, it is playing a highly relevant role among the elements of the garden, where it is displayed alternating with quinces.

20.
Quercus ilex L. Green oak. P scap. A typical plant of the Mediterranean area representing the dominant arboreal element.

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21.
Quercus robur (group) (among the species here included, the characteristics similar most are those of Q. robur and Q. petraea). Oak s.l., P scap. It is commonly found in Southern Europe, however, in different species.

22.
Rosa centifolia L. Cabbage rose. P caesp. It is a derivation of the Gallic Rose.

23.
Viburnum tinus L. Guelder rose. P caesp. Strictly Mediterranean element, it grows spontaneously in termophylous evergreen woods.

24.
Viola cfr. reichenbachiana Jordan ex Bureau (Viola sylvestris Lam.) Sylvan viola. H ros. This species is present from the Siberian regions to Europe, including the Mediterranean area.

25.
There is the last species, the identification of which is very uncertain.

Based on a series of morphological characters, mainly concerning the shape of petals, the identification of this species belonging to the family of Liliaceae would seem reasonable. However, the atypical and varying number of flowery pieces makes this proposal rather doubtful. The taxonomy of Liliaceae has had a complex history since the first description of this flowering plant family in the mid-eighteenth century. Originally, the Liliaceae or Lily family were defined as having a „calix" (perianth) of six equal-coloured parts, six stamens, a single style, and a superior, three-chambered (trilocular) ovary turning into a capsule fruit at maturity.