

## Terrestrial flora

Like the fauna of Ras Chekaa, the flora is poorly studied. A brief survey on 15 November 1996 of the cliff below and to the east of the convent. revealed the presence of 24 species, though the true diversity will be considerably more. The plants are listed below:

### Trees and shrubs:

*Quercus calliprinos*

*Pistacia lentiscus*

*Ceratonia siliqua*

*Spartium Junceum*

*Calycotome villosa*

*Asparagus acutifolius*

*Phillyrea media*

*Poterium spinosum*

*Hypericum thymifolium* *Laurus*

*nobilis*

*Myrtus communis*

*Dittichia viscosa* *Ruta*

(graveolens)

### Climbers:

*Smilax aspera* *Clematis*

*cirrhusa* *Rubia*

*peregrina*

### Herbs:

*Cyclamen* sp

*Urginea*. *maritima*

*Ranunculus* sp

*Hyparrhenia hirta*

*Bellis perennis*

*Crithmum maritimum*

*Narcissus* sp

*Taraxacum* sp

Two quadrats of *Quercus calliprinos* woodland were studied at nearby Selaat and Hama by Chouchiani *et al* (1974). Shrubs present were *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Caecotome villosa*, *Poterium spinosum*, *Hypericum thymifolium*, *Cistus crelicus* and *Stachys distans*, with *Hyparrhenia hirta* and *Andropogon distachyas* in the herb layer. Other species recorded in the quadrats were: *Pistacia palaestina*, *Rhamnus punctata*, *Bratomus syriacus*, *Styrax officinalis*, *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Dryopteris libanotica*, *Phillyria media*, *Smilax aspera*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Asplenium adiantum*, *Asparagus acutifolius*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Hypericum serpyllifolium*, *Helichrysum sanguineum*, *Fumana thymifolia*, *Deelyis gomerata*, and *Lotus comiculatus*.