



H.M. GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR  
Ministry of Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth  
The City Hall, John Mackintosh Square  
Gibraltar

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Gibraltar Endemic Flowers stamp set**

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar and the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau have issued a set of seven stamps depicting Endemic Flowers of Gibraltar.

Endemic species are those species of plants & animals which are found exclusively in a particular area. They are naturally not found anywhere else. The set of stamps feature the Gibraltar Candytuft a robust, woody-based, branched perennial, which forms a small shrub up to 40cm across. Gibraltar Champion, a woody-based perennial, branching from the base, with stems up to 70cm tall. Gibraltar Restharrow, a much branched, woody based, shrubby perennial which forms rounded clumps up to 80 cm across. Gibraltar Chickweed, a loosely tufted, woody-based perennial, with much branched stems up to 30cm long. Gibraltar Saxifrage, a herbaceous perennial which flowers between March and May. Gibraltar Thyme, a woody and much branched, strongly aromatic, perennial dwarf shrublet, up to 30 cm across, usually spreading and growing flat against rock surfaces. Gibraltar Sea lavender, a hairless perennial forming dense, dark green, rounded clumps from 10 to 30 cm across.

The flowers featured on the stamps have been photographed by local photographer Leslie Linares. Leslie's interest in photography dates back to his days in College, but it was not until 1974 that he joined the Gibraltar Photographic Society. In 1975 he was elected Secretary of this Society, a post to which he has been re-elected continuously since then. His interest in nature, and in particular in the local wild plants dates back to the mid-1960s, but the more serious work of identifying, recording, photographing and surveying the local flora, vegetation and habitats did not start till the mid-1970s. Since then Leslie has been acknowledged as the local expert on the local flora, and as a result of his research, has built up a large and important, up to date database of information and photographs on the local flora and their habitats. Achieving this has entailed the detailed surveying and recording of the plant life throughout Gibraltar: from North Front to Windmill Hill Flats and Europa Point; and from coastal cliffs and the East Side sand slopes to the Upper Rock.

The stamps and related philatelic items are now available for purchase from the Philatelic Shop outside the Main Post Office and online on [www.gibraltar-stamps.com](http://www.gibraltar-stamps.com)