

Project partner: National Botanical Conservatory of Corsica of the Office of the Environment of Corsica

Island CORSICA

Species name (Family) *Anchusa crispa* Viv. subsp. *crispa* (Boraginaceae)

Common name French: Buglosse crépue

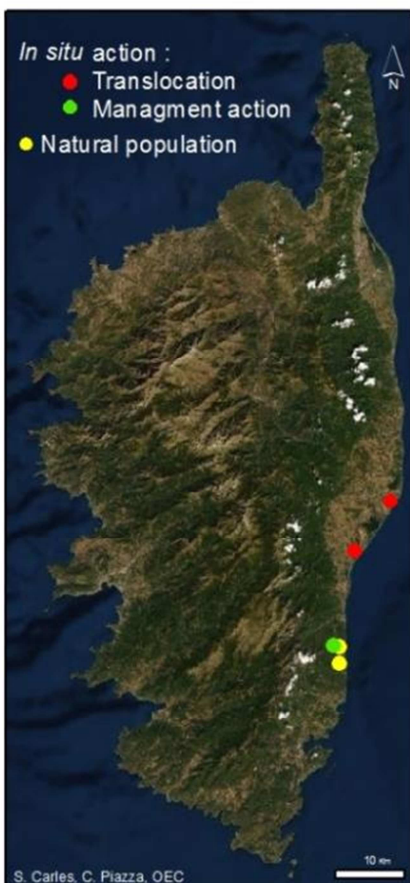
Plant description

- ✓ Herbaceous taxa, hispid, initially in a rosette of hard leaves, prostrate on the sand, then presenting with floriferous stems, leafy, littlely branched from the rosette. Leaved leaves, oblong, sinuated-crispy, from 4-10 mm broad to 3-20 cm long. Terminal inflorescences fomed uniparous scorpioid cymes, elongating during the flowering period, with bearing flowers onaxils of small hairy bracts. Small, actinomorphic, gamosepal calyx flowers and blue gamopetal corolla. Fruits: 4 achenes per flower, with a very small aril.
- ✓ Flowering occurs between April and May. Fruiting from late May to September. Pollination is done by insects and the seed spread is generally barochorial, even some cases of zoochory is signaled due to ants and caws.
- ✓ *A. crispa* is a sabulicolous, heliophilous, nitrophilous or subnitrophilic plant, xerophilic, well tolerant of sea salt, but very sensitive to sand cover during storms

Distribution

This species is endemic of Corsica and Sardinia. There are: 2 populations located in the east coast of Corsica and 8 populations located on the sand along the North West of Sardinia.

Map



Two subspecies of *A. crispa* exist in Corsica: *A. crispa valincoana* and *A. crispa crispa*. The *crispa* subspecies is only present on the east coast of the island. There are only two populations highly threatened by tourism activities.

Legal status

A. crispa is protected at national level and listed in the Appendix I of the Bern Convention and in the Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Main threats and conservation status

According to the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2) the main threats in Corsica are:

- 1.3 Tourism & recreation areas and 6.1 Recreational activities. Due to the habitat (sandy beach), the species is really affected by the tourism, and all beach activities during all the year.
- 11.4 Storms & flooding. Big storms are a part of the natural threate: Even if the storms are not really frequent it seems to be the main threat for this species.

A. crispa has been evaluated as in danger (EN) in Corsican red list (2015).

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

Due to the number of individuals decreasing and the progressive destruction of the habitat, two populations have been created on protected sites belonging to the “Conservatoire du Littoral” (Gradugine and Del Sale). Periodic monitoring of these new populations started since December 2017.

After having flowered and fructified these populations were decimed by a strong storm in October 2018. Currently about 500 seedlings from 2 to 15 cm in diameter are present on both sites.

In addition to these actions, one of the natural stations (Favona) was fenced.

After the end of the project, monitoring activities will be continued, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the *in situ* actions.

Photos



Anchusa crispa flowers (left) & General aspect of *A. crispa* (right)



Translocation action