

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

Island

CORSICA

Species name (Family)

***Astragalus alopecurus* Pall. (Fabaceae)**

Synonyms: *Astragalus centralpinus* Braun-Blanq.

Common name

French: Astragale centralpin, English: Centralpine Milk-vetch

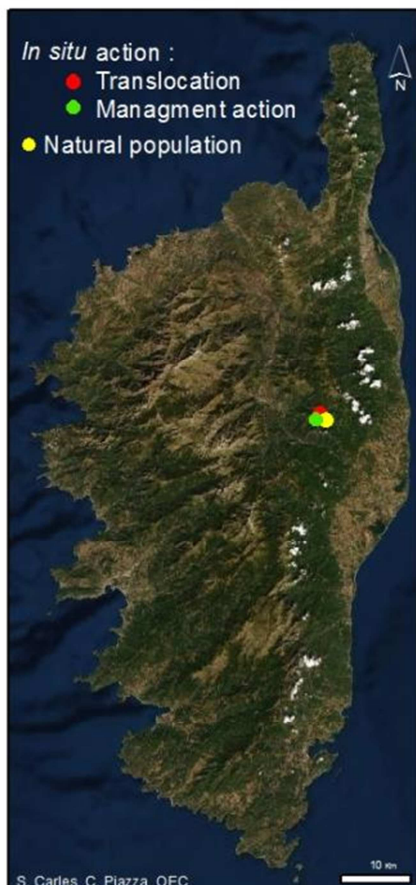
Plant description

- ✓ *A. alopecurus* is a perennial, robust, hairy-whitish plant, from 50 cm to 1 meter high. The large leaves are imparipinnates with 20-40 lanceolated leaflets. The flowers from 13 to 18 mm are pale yellow, very numerous and grouped in large dense clusters, ovoid and sessile. The 2-4-seeded pod is included in the calyx.
- ✓ *A. alopecurus* flowers from April to the beginning of June, while fruits develop from late June to September. Due to the barochoria dispersion of seeds, spread is done on small distance. This, minimize the spreading of the species on the site.
- ✓ This species is growing in open shrubs, from 1040 to 1055 m of altitude on schisto-calcareous rocks.

Distribution

A. alopecurus has a large distribution's area From Italy, Bulgary, Turquy, Russia, and Central Asia (Altaï, Kazakhstan). In France, if there are numerous populations in Alpes (Hautes-Alpes, Alpes de Haute-Provence), in Corsica there is only one spot discovered in 1988. On this location of Punta Alta (Focicchia), only few plants (less than 10 nowadays instead of 60 in 1996) are still growing.

Map



Only one *A. alopecurus* population is known in Corsica. It counts only a few individuals. Conservation action has been taken for this population: cage installation and direct sowing of scarified and non-scarified seeds. This protocol will identify the most effective conservation methods for this species.

Legal status

A. alopecurus 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. The population is included in the SCI (Sites of Community Importance) “Massif du San Pedrone” FR9400573.

Main threats and conservation status

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

- 2.3.1 Nomadic grazing
- 7.1 Fire
- 8.2.1 Unspecified species (vegetation dynamics)
- 12.1 Other threat: small population made up of old individuals, no recruitment.

A. alopecurus was assessed as critical in danger (CR) in Corsican red list (2015).

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

Due to the unicity of the population in Corsica and the small number of individuals, several goals are defined: 1) increase the population; 2) verify that conditions *in situ* of germination and growing; 3) increase knowledge.

200 seeds stored in the seed bank of CBNC, were sown in November 2016 and more 100 in March 2018 on the site of Focicchia, in 3 cages (protecting plantlet from fauna).

The preliminary results of the monitoring show a survival rate of 2.5%. But the number of reinforcement individuals is greater than the number of individuals in the natural population

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

Photos



General appearance of *A. alopecurus*



In situ action : protection and direct sowing (13/12/2016); Appearance of plants after 1 year