

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

Island

CORSICA

Species name (Family)

Elatine brochonii Clavaud. (Elatinaceae)

Synonym: *E. hexandra* (Lapierre) DC. subsp. *brochonii* (Clavaud) P. Fourn.

Common name

French: Elatine de Brochon

Plant description

- ✓ Very small annual plant, amphibious, (from 1 to 5 cm). Lying stem, often ramified, rooting at the nodes. Leaves are opposite, stalked more or less.
- ✓ Sessile flowers, tiny, 3 to 5 flowers in cyme. 3 sepals persistants during fruiting season. 3 white petals with pink veins, smaller than the sepals. 6 stamens.
- ✓ Discoid capsule ovetopped by the sepals, opening in three valves. many small, reticulated seeds, straight or barely arched.

E. brochonii is a species of temporary Mediterranean pools, characterized by the succession of a flooded automn-spring phase and a dry summer phase. Germination requires bare, congested or flooded soil and severe sunstroke. Flowering and especially fruiting requires a dry substrate.

This hygrophilic and heliophilic plant requires a mesotrophic or oligotrophic acid substrate and seems to be disseminated by ornitochory.

Distribution

This species is distributed sporadically from North Africa (Algeria, Morocco) and the Iberian Peninsula to the southwest of France (Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Landes, Gironde). Of recent discovery in Corsica, *E. brochonii* is present in some temporary pools: Chiuvinia in Agriate, Paduleddu near Portivechju Portivechju and cups on the right bank of Cavu, downstream from Purcileda Bridge, near Santa Lucia di Portivechju.

Map



There are only 3 populations of *Elatine brochonii* in Corsica. An invasive species control action was carried out on one of them (Chiuvinia) in summer 2018.

Legal status

E. brochonii is protected at national level.

Main threat and conservation status

According to the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2) the main threat in Corsica is:

- 8.2.1 Unspecified species (vegetation dynamics)

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The actions focus on one of the three populations of *Elatine brochonii* of Corsica: Chiuvinina (municipality of Santo Pietru di Tenda). Two invasive species *Dittrichia viscosa* and *Paspalum distichum* are growing in this temporary pond of about 1285 m² and compete with *E. brochonii*. The project provides eradication of the 2 invasive species on all the Chiuvinina temporary pond: *Dittrichia viscosa*: 230 m², *Paspalum distichum*: 130 m², to allow *Elatine*'s development of and other rare or protected species present on the Chiuvinina pond: *Isoetes velata*, *Isoetes histrix*, *Pilularia minuta*, *Littorella uniflora*, *Pulicaria vulgaris*, *Ranunculus ophioglossifolius*, *R. revelierei*.

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

Photos



General aspect of *E. brochonii* (left) & *Dittrichia viscosa* (invasive species) in the temporary pond of Chiuvinina (right)



Control of *Dittrichia viscosa* in the temporary pond of Chiuvinina