

Project partner: Hortus Botanicus Karalitanus of the University of Cagliari

Island

SARDINIA

Species name (Family)

Ophioglossum vulgatum L. (Ophioglossaceae)

Common name

Ofioglossu comune, lingua di serpente (Italian names), adder's-tongue (English name).

Plant description

- ✓ *Ophioglossum vulgatum* is a terrestrial, homosporous, perennial fern, 5-30 cm tall, with a single sterile leaf. The spike consists of a variable number, between 10 and 40, of segments on each side. The rhizome is usually short, erect, bearing one, rarely two, fronds. The frond is simple, entire and ovate, 2-5 × 3-12 cm, with an adaxially placed, fertile spike, showing 15-50 sporangia on each side.
- ✓ *O. vulgatum* is a geophyte, the sporophyll sprouts out in April-June and wind is its main spores dispersal agent.
- ✓ This *taxon* grows in several sites such as bogs, damp sands, wet meadows, moist woods, sandy beaches or hillsides, in Sardinia occurs at 600-900 m a.s.l.. From a bioclimatic point of view, the species can be referred to the Lower Mesomediterranean, Lower Subhumid, Euoceanic Weak.

Distribution

O. vulgatum is grassland species distributed in the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere Particularly, in the Mediterranean islands it is present in Corsica, Crete, Malta, Sardinia and Sicily. In Sardinia, this *taxon* grows in two small populations (less than 50 reproductive plants per population) located in “Funtamela” (Laconi, OR) and “Gedili” (Jerzu, NU) localities.

Map



Legal status

O. vulgatum is not listed in any international, national or local regulations.

Main threats and conservation status

According to the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2) the main threats for *O. vulgatum* in Sardinia are:

- ✓ 2.3.1: Nomadic grazing. This is the main threat affecting the Sardinian populations, mainly due to wild boars.
- ✓ 2.3.2: Small-holder Grazing, Ranching or Farming. This threat could affect the conservation status of the species in Sardinia.

This *taxon* has not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List at Global level. At regional level, Conti et al. (1997) catalogued this species as Critically Endangered (CR) in Sardinia.

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

Fence protection was built in order to protect the only small population at Funtanamela locality in the Sarcidano region. Fence protection was also realized in the new site near the old historical population, found in 2018, to prevent the grazing of wild animals within an area managed by the Fo.Re.S.T.A.S. Agency. Each plant of the historical population has been labelled for future monitoring activities. A monitoring plan of the fence protection and the population site was elaborated and started in spring 2017. Monitoring activities in the “Funtanamela” population measured the number of reproductive and juvenile individuals and evaluated the effectiveness of the fence protection. First monitoring year survival was high inside the fenced area. After the end of the project, the monitoring activities will be continued, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the in situ actions.

Photos



Left: *Ophioglossum vulgatum* details (photo by Carlo Dessì). Right: Individual of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (photo by Giuseppe Fenu).



Protective fence for *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (photo by Carlo Dessì)..