

Project partner: Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Catania

Island

SICILY

Species name (Family)

Tripolium pannonicum (Jacq.) Dobroc.

Common name

Astro marino (Italian name), Sea aster (English name).

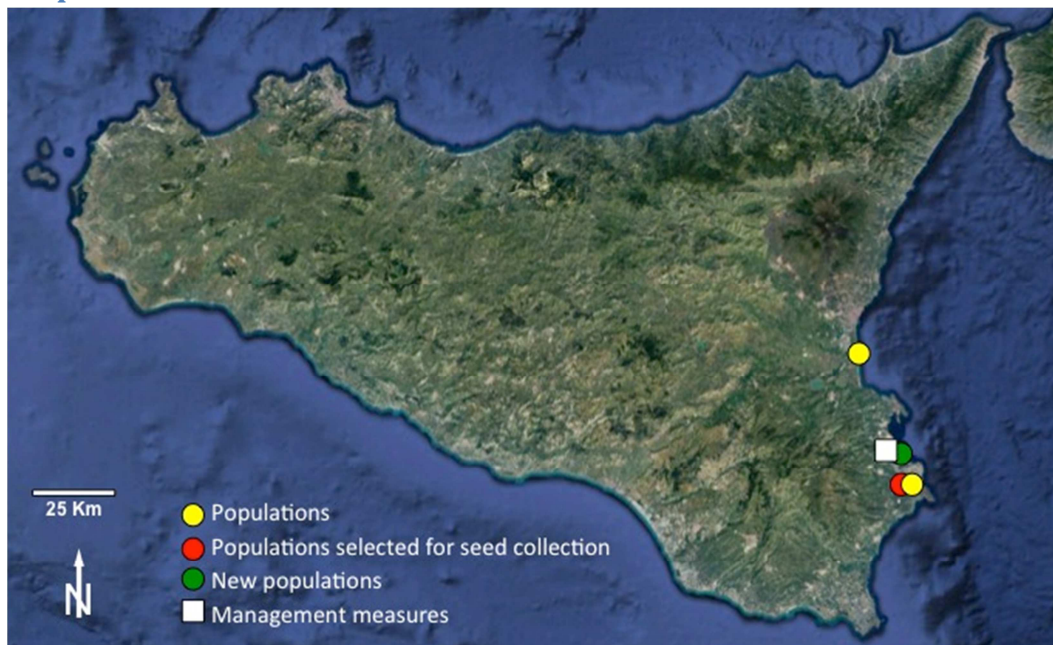
Plant description

- ✓ *Tripolium pannonicum* is an herbaceous plant, up to 120 cm tall, with short rhizome. Stems erect or ascending, glabrous, fleshy, enlarged at the base, striatum and branched at the top. Leaves alternate, scabrous or smooth, fleshy; the basal ones, gathered in rosette, have oblanceolate-spathulate blade and a petiole 12-25 cm long and 4-5 cm wide; the upper ones are narrower and sessile.
- ✓ Monoecious plant with hermaphrodite flowers, which blooms in late summer or autumn (August-November). Pollination is entomophilous, while fruits are achenes with a pappus allowing dispersion by wind.
- ✓ This species grows at the edges of salt marshes, often submerged for short time, close to the coast. It exclusively grows on salty substrates.

Distribution

T. pannonicum is a species with an Euro-Asiatic distribution. In Sicily, it is currently known for 2 localities of south-eastern Sicily, i.e. N.R. "Oasi del Simeto" (Catania) and N.R. "Fiume Ciane e Saline di Siracusa" (Siracuse).

Map



Legal status

none

Main threats and conservation status

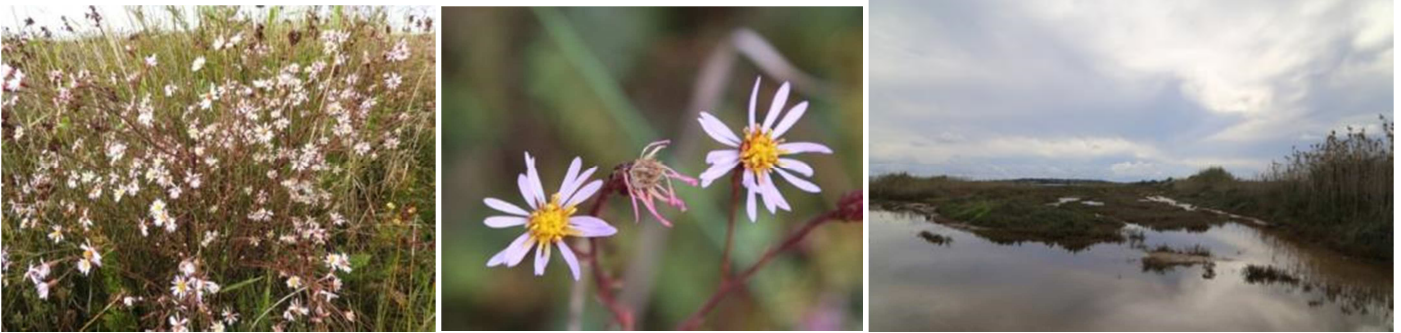
According to the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2) the main threats in Sicily are:

- ✓ Threat 1.1 (Housing & Urban Areas)
- ✓ Threat 1.3 (Tourism & Recreation Areas)
- ✓ Threat 6.1 (Recreational Activities)
- ✓ Threat 8.1 (Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species/Diseases)

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

- Seed collection
- A new population of *Tripolium pannonicum* was established within the Nature Reserve “Saline di Priolo” (SE Sicily)
- An area of ca. 1.300 sqm was manually eradicated. Actually, a huge part of the nature reserve is invaded by *Acacia saligna* L. (*Fabaceae*), which represents a severe threat for the natural vegetation of the Sicilian coasts.
- A restoration plan of the natural vegetation by using native species was implemented.

Photos



Left: *Tripolium pannonicum* from the N.R. “Fiume Ciane e Saline di Siracusa” (Syracuse). Middle: Inflorescences of *Tripolium pannonicum* from the N.R. “Oasi del Simeto” (Catania). Right: Salt marshes with *Tripolium pannonicum* (N.R. “Fiume Ciane e Saline di Siracusa”).



Left: Restoration of the natural vegetation in the N.R. “Saline di Priolo” (SE Sicily). Right: Translocated plant of *Tripolium pannonicum* within the N.R. “Saline di Priolo” (SE Sicily).



Left: Eradication of *Acacia saligna* in the N.R. Saline di Priolo (SE Sicily). Right: Localization of the new population of *Tripolium pannonicum* within the N.R. “Saline di Priolo” (SE Sicily)