

Project partner: Mediterranean Plant Conservation Unit, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania

Island

CRETE

Species name (Family)

Bellevalia brevipedicellata Turrill (Hyacinthaceae)

Common name

No common names exist for this species

Plant description

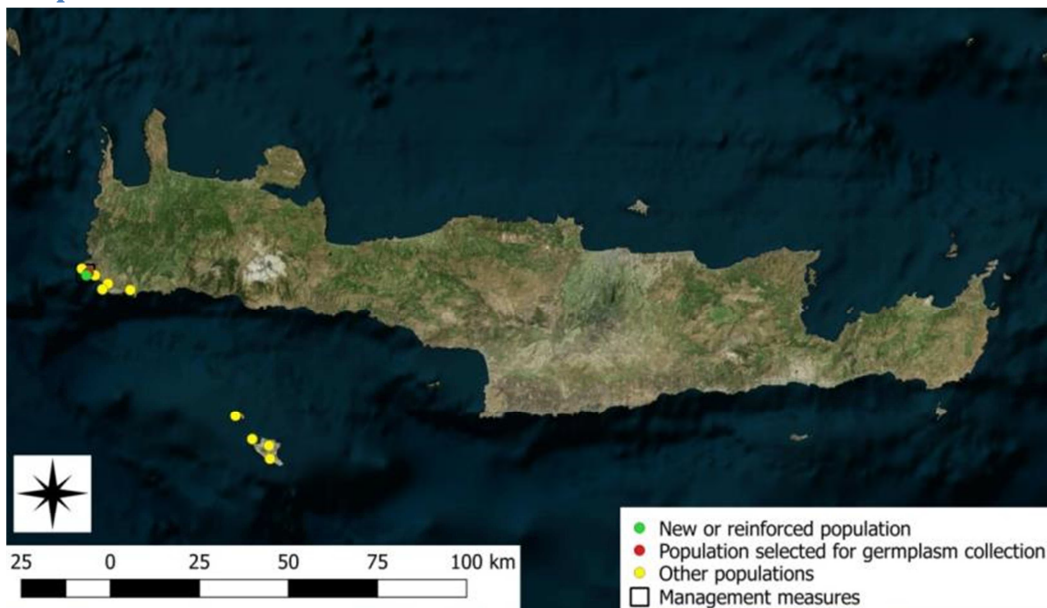
- ✓ Perennial bulbous plant. Leaves 2 or 3, linear-lanceolate, up to 20 × 3.5 cm, flat or slightly canaliculated with straight margins, somewhat fleshy, obscurely veined, glaucous-green, glabrous. Raceme 10–25-flowered. Perianth white, ±campanulate. Seeds spherical, black, approximately 2 mm in diam.
- ✓ Life form: Geophyte; flowering: January-March; fruiting: April; dispersal strategy: the dispersal units are the seeds or sometimes the entire capsule.
- ✓ In soil pockets with phrygana on rugged slopes and flats of hard limestone, 0-250 m.

Distribution

Endemic to the extreme south-western part of Crete.

An early – flowering bulbous species endemic to a limited area in the lowlands of south-western Crete, an area which is increasingly becoming affected by tourism.

Map



Legal status

The species is protected by the Presidential Decree 67/81.

Main threats and conservation status

Threat categories according to IUCN classification scheme, version 3.2:

- ✓ 1.3 Tourism and recreation areas
- ✓ 6.1 Recreational Activities
- ✓ 2.1 Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops - 2.1.3 Agro-industry Farming
- ✓ 2.3 Livestock Farming & Ranching - 2.3.1 Nomadic Grazing
- ✓ 5.2 Gathering Terrestrial Plants - 5.2.1 Intentional Use (species being assessed is the target)

It is included in the Red Data Book of Greece and it is characterized as Endangered (EN) following the D criterion of IUCN (2001).

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The actions for this target species included both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation for the Elafonisi population.

Seeds stored in the Seed Bank of MAICh (origin Elaphonisi, 2000) were used for *in situ* conservation, namely the reinforcement of the natural population. Seeds were either used in order to produce seedlings to be planted at the selected sites, or were sown directly. Prior to the selection of the planting sites a detailed inventory of the distribution of the individuals of *B. brevipedicellata* in the area was conducted. Three areas were chosen for the reinforcement, with respect to threats and negative impacts due to human activities (grazing, tourism, recreation, etc.); one where the impact was high (next to a parking area), one where it was medium (close to another parking area) and one where there was almost no disturbance at all (inside a fenced area). Other management measures included placement of information signs.

For the *ex situ* conservation of the species, seeds were collected from the population in Elaphonisi in April 2017.

Photos



Bellevalia brevipedicellata at full flowering



Elafonisi area with *Bellevalia brevipedicellata* population



Bellevalia brevipedicellata reinforcement map