

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

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## Island

CRETE

## Species name (Family)

*Viola scorpiuroides* Coss. (Violaceae)

## Common name

Martaki (in Greek)

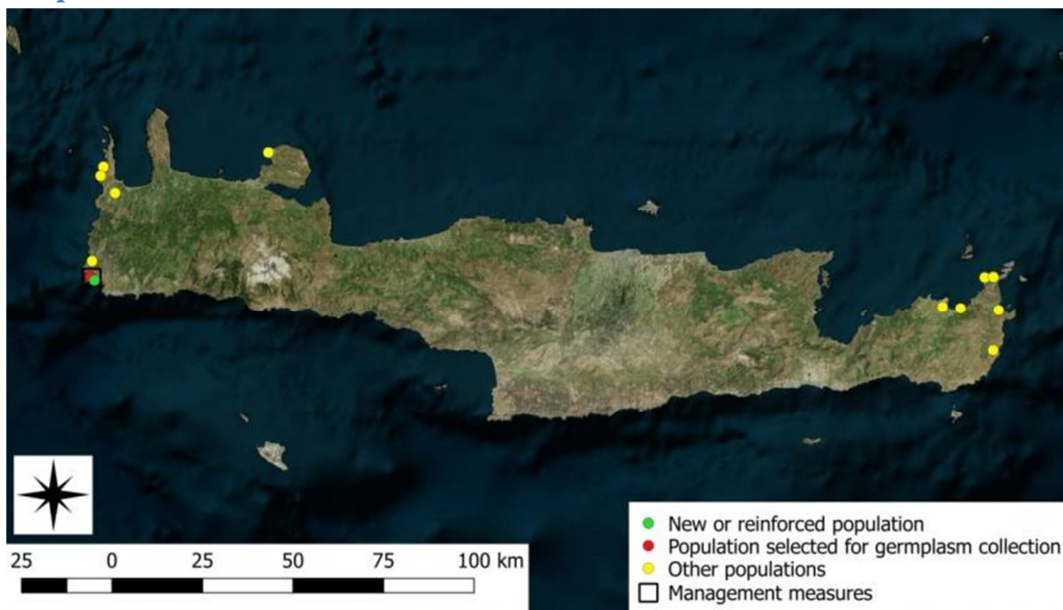
## Plant description

- ✓ Procumbent to ascending shrublet with herbaceous flowering shoots. Leaves glabrescent above, with short, deflexed hairs on petiole and underside of blade; leaf blade elliptic-oblongate, gradually narrowed to slender petiole. Corolla bright to deep yellow with 2 dark brownish-purple spots at base of lower petal; Capsule broadly obovoid to subglobose, glabrous (Strid 2016).
- ✓ Life form: Chamaephyte; flowering: January-May; fruiting: April-June; dispersal strategy: Diplochory, the species combines ballistic (explosive ejection of the seeds away from the parent plant) and myrmecochory (Beattie & Lyons, 1975).
- ✓ Dry rocky slopes with phrygana, generally on hard, rugged limestone altitude 0-600 m (Strid 2016).

## Distribution

S-Aegean Isl. (Kithira), Crete, Libya, Egypt (Great Southwestern Desert, NW-coastal Egypt).

## Map



## Legal status

The species is protected by the Greek Presidential Decree 67/1981.

## 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
- ✓ 3. Energy Production & Mining - 3.2 Mining & Quarrying
- ✓ 2.1 Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops - 2.1.3 Agro-industry Farming
- ✓ 2.3 Livestock Farming & Ranching - 2.3.1 Nomadic Grazing
- ✓ Residential & Commercial Development - 1.2 Commercial & Industrial Areas

- ✓ 6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance - 6.2 War, Civil Unrest & Military Exercises
- ✓ 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 as Endangered and characterized as Rare (R) (Phitos *et al.* 1995).

### Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

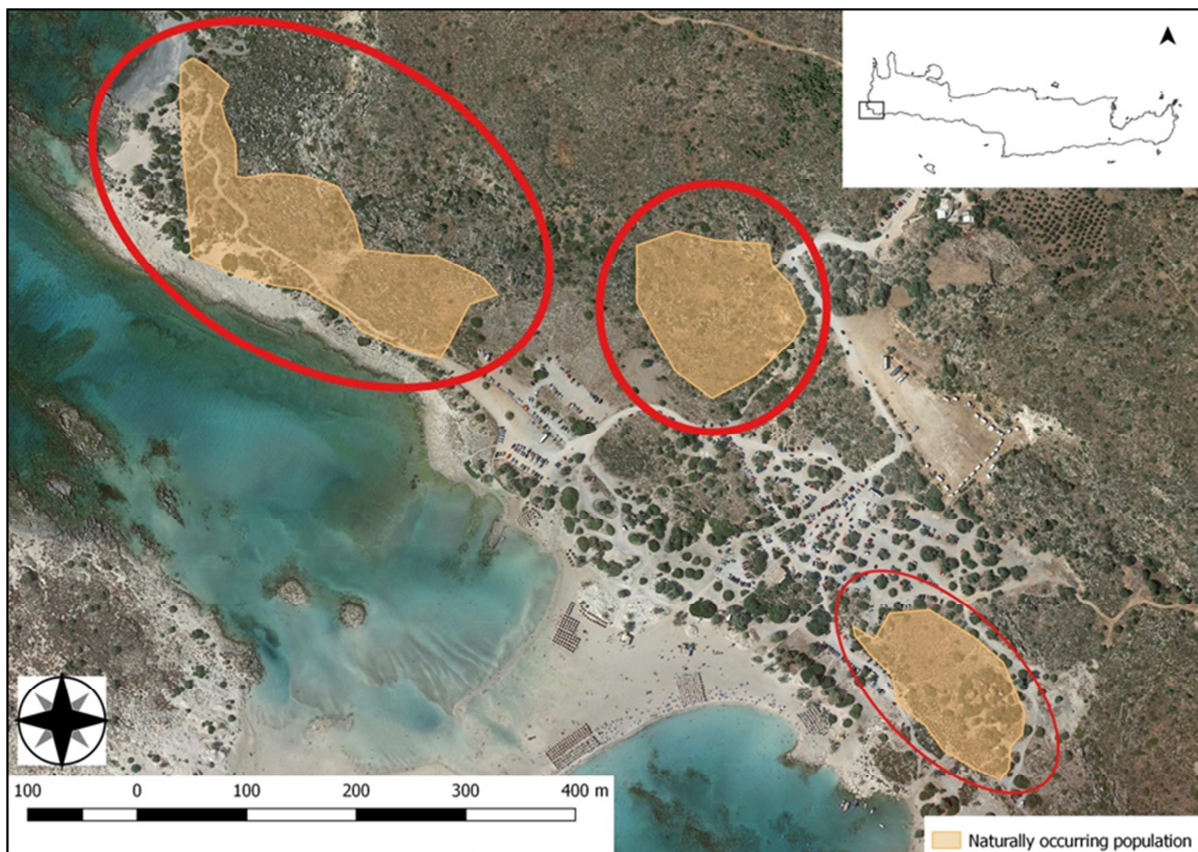
The selected actions for this target species include *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation for the population in Elafonisi. A seed collection was made in March 2017 from the wild population, part of which was stored in the Seed Bank of MAICH.

The remaining seedlot was used for *in situ* conservation, namely the reinforcement of the natural population. Seeds were either used to produce seedlings to be planted at the selected sites, or were sown directly in the soil. Other management measures included individual fencing with protective structures for plants planted in unfenced areas, fencing and placement of information signs.

### Photos



*Viola scorpiuroides* at flowering stage & Elafonisi area where *Viola scorpiuroides* population is found.



Detailed distribution map of *Viola scorpiuroides* in the Elafonisi area, where the conservation actions were implemented.