

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

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## Island

CRETE

## Species name (Family)

*Bolanthus creutzburgii* Greuter subsp. *zaffranii* Phitos, Turland & Bergmeier (Caryophyllaceae)

## Common name

No common names

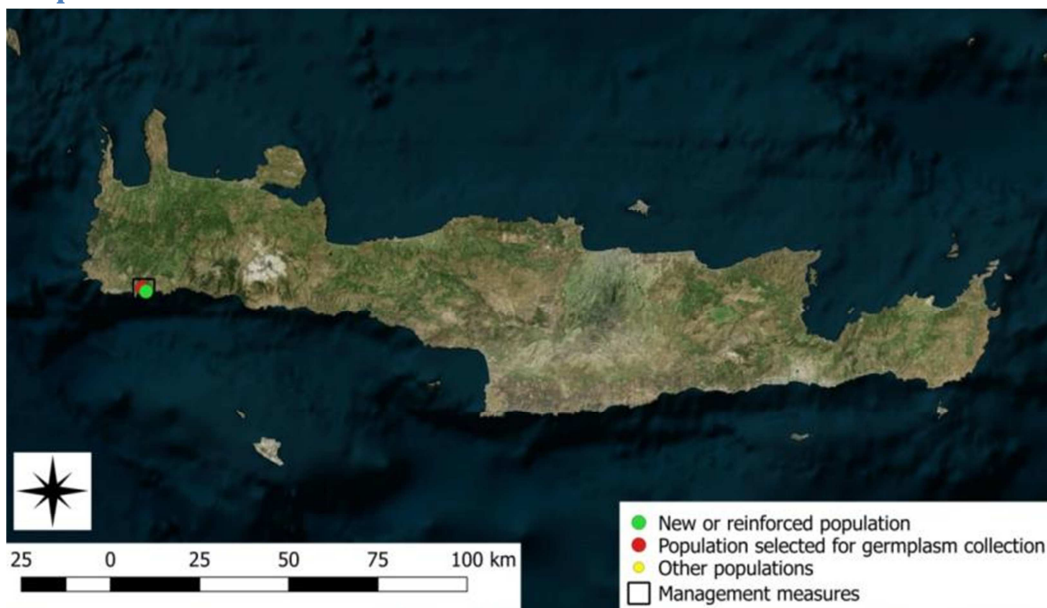
## Plant description

- ✓ Dwarf, laxly caespitose perennial, woody at base. Stems ascending to erect, 1.5 – 6 cm. Petals linear-spathulate, somewhat exceeding calyx, white with deep purple transverse stripe near middle of base.
- ✓ Life form: Chamaephyte; flowering: April; fruiting: April-May
- ✓ Sedimentary rock, screes and boulders, consisting of limestone and sandstone conglomerate with calcareous cementing material. The soil is sandy and skeletal. The vegetation is very open (15% or less) with scattered plants.

## Distribution

It is locally endemic to the coast of SW Kriti. The population of *Bolanthus creutzburgii* subsp. *zaffranii* is apparently restricted to a single locality.

## 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
- ✓ 2.3.1 Nomadic grazing
- ✓ 3.2 Mining & Quarrying
- ✓ 4.1 Roads & Railroads
- ✓ 6.1 Recreational Activities

According to Phitos et al. (2011): the population of *B. creutzburgii* subsp. *zaffranii* is apparently restricted to a single locality.

## 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 unique population in Gialiskari, Palaiochora.

Seeds stored in the Seed Bank of MAICh (collection 2014) were used for *in situ* conservation, namely the reinforcement of the natural population. Prior to the actions for the reinforcement, a detailed inventory of population boundaries and density was conducted in order to find the appropriate places for the implementation of plantings. Seeds were either used in order to produce seedlings to be planted at the selected sites, or were sown directly. Other management measures included placement of protective structures for the emergence of the new seedlings.

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

## Photos



*Bolanthus creutzburgii* subsp. *zaffranii* at flowering stage & The area of Gialiskari (next to Palaiochora at the Southwest of Crete), where reinforcement actions took place.



*B. creutzburgii* subsp. *zaffranii* seedlings at the greenhouse of MAICh & Seeds sown in paper pots and covered with protective structure