

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

Island

CRETE

Species name (Family)

Limonium creticum R. Artelari (Plumbaginaceae)

Common name

No common names exist for this species.

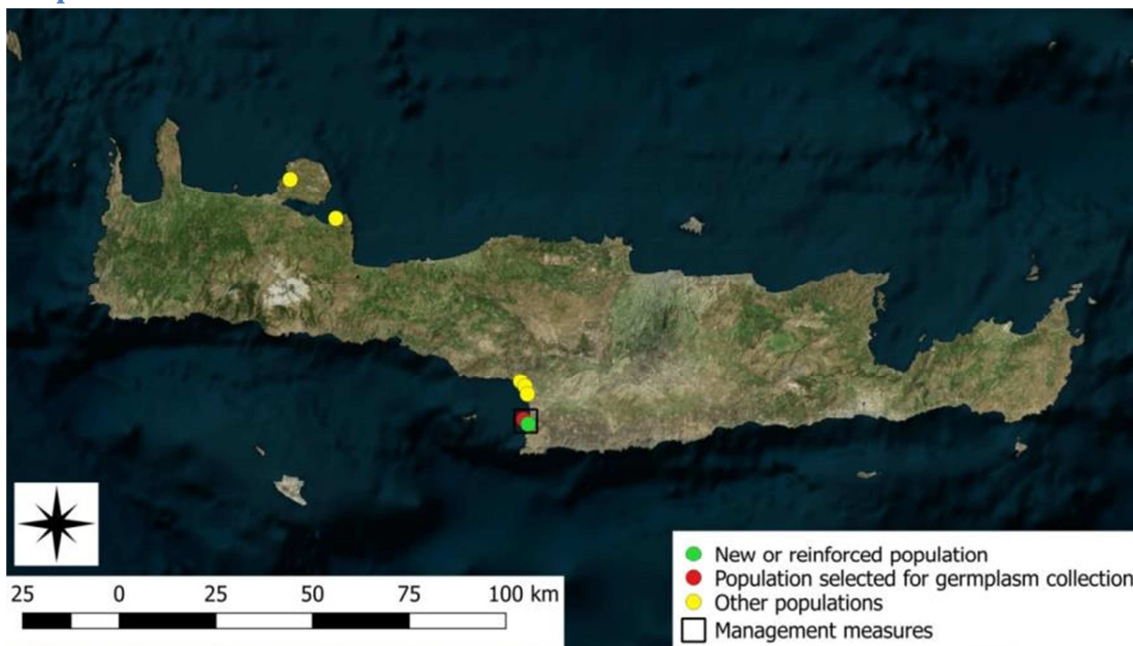
Plant description

- Plant perennial, glabrous, forming a sub-shrub 20–50 cm tall, with few erect stems and a robust taproot. Leaves coriaceous, flat, rigid, grey-olivaceous, scabrous, spatulate to oblanceolate. Calyx 5.1–6.4 mm long, exceeding the inner bract by 0.5–1.5 mm; calyx tube more or less sparsely long hairy. Corolla violet.
- Life form: Chamaephyte; flowering: June-September; fruiting: October-November; dispersal strategy: water and humidity possibly play a role in seed dispersal.
- The species grows in coastal phrygana on shallow sandy soil on calcareous substrate, but not on moving sands.

Distribution

Restricted to Crete, where it grows in the northwest coast between Chania and Cape Drapano and in the central-southern part between Timbaki and Kali Limenes .

Map



Legal status

The species can be characterized as potentially ornamental and is protected by the Greek Presidential Decree (80/90).

Main threats and conservation status

Threat categories according to IUCN classification scheme, version 3.2:

- 6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance - 6.1 Recreational Activities - 6.3 Work & Other Activities
- Residential & Commercial Development - 1.1 Housing & Urban Areas - 1.3 Tourism & Recreation Areas

Rare according to the Red Data Book of Threatened Plants of Greece (1995). A new assessment is needed.

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The selected actions include *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation for the population in Matala. The *in situ* conservation actions involve eradication of the invasive species *Carpobrotus edulis* from the area of occupancy of *L. creticum* within and around the archaeological site of Matala and prevention of its re-establishment as well as reinforcement of the population and light fencing to protect the newly planted individuals and the naturally growing young plants (result of natural regeneration of the population). All actions were implemented with the agreement of the Archaeological Service. Communication actions targeting the personnel responsible for the maintenance of the area and visitors were also implemented.

Photos



Limonium creticum plant, inflorescence & habitat



Invasive species, *Carpobrotus edulis* & its removal



Limonium creticum seedlings to be planted; *L. creticum* established new plant; Information sign and light fencing