

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

Island

CRETE

Species name (Family)

Reseda minoica Martín-Bravo & Jiménez-Mejías (Resedaceae).

Common name

No common names exist for this species.

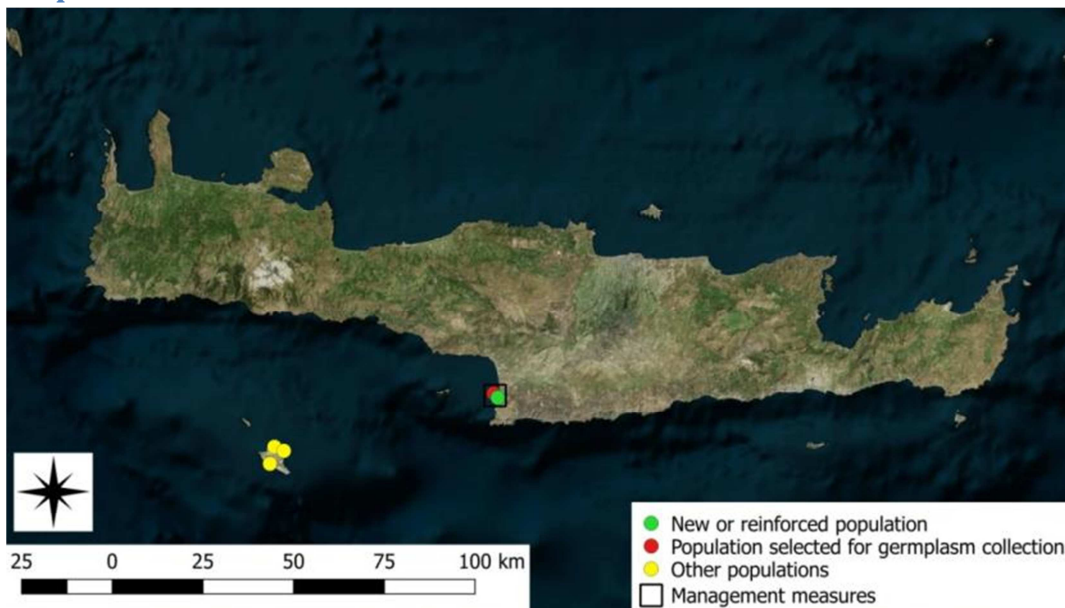
Plant description

- Annual to short-lived perennial. Stems 10–70 cm, decumbent to suberect, usually branched from the base. Leaves entire or 3(–5)-lobbed, ± papillose-hispidulous on veins and margin.
- Flowers in a lax raceme; pedicels erecto-patent, 3–7 mm at anthesis, to 12 mm in fruit. Sepals and petals 5 or 6. Upper petals trisect with lateral lobes further divided into linear-spathulate segments. Carpels 3. Capsule 7–12 mm, obovoid to ellipsoid, with short teeth. Seeds 1.6–1.8 mm, rugulose.
- Life form: Therophyte, Hemicryptophyte; flowering: March-May; fruiting: May-June; dispersal strategy: the seeds of *Reseda* are myrmecochorous.

Distribution

Turkey (Anatolia), Cyprus and Greece (Strid 2016): Crete (Matala and Gavdos), Anafi, Salamis, Attica.

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

The species is characterized as Vulnerable (VU) according to the RDB of Threatened plants of Greece (2009); criteria B1a,b(iii)+2a,b(iii) and D2 of IUCN (2001). The subpopulation in Crete is included in NATURA 2000 site (GR4310004).

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 *R. minoica* within and around the archaeological site of Matala and prevention of its re-establishment as well as light fencing to protect the naturally growing young plants (result of natural regeneration of the population). The population was reinforced and the newly planted individuals were covered with protective structures. 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



Reseda minoica plant & habitat



Invasive species, *Carpobrotus edulis* & its removal



Information sign and light fencing; Pots with seeds covered with a protective structure