

Project partners: Department of Forests & Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus

Island

Cyprus

Species name (Family)

Astragalus suberosus Banks & Sol. (Fabaceae)

Common name

None

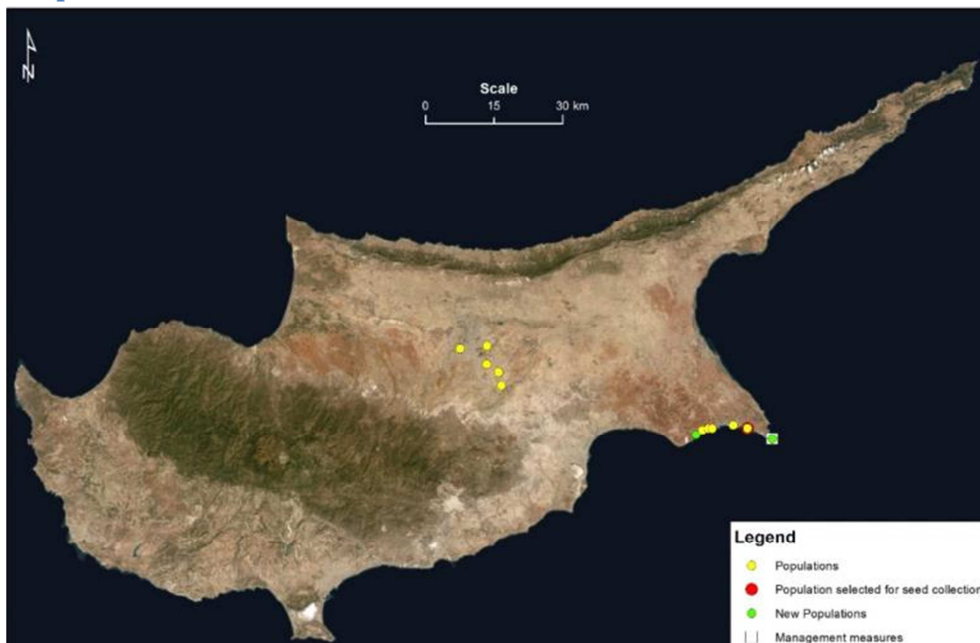
Plant description

- ✓ Biennial or perennial, prostrate or decumbent herb. Stems 15-30 cm long, clothed with white or black hairs. Petals creamy-white or purplish. Pod with recurved beak.
- ✓ The Cyprian plants have been assigned to 2 varieties, the typical with pubescent pods and the var. *hartmannii* (possibly endemic) with glabrous, less rugose pods.
- ✓ Flowering from March to April and fruiting at May.
- ✓ Occurs in cultivated fields and fallow land, sandy coasts and sparse phrygana, at altitude 0-200m.

Distribution

Astragalus suberosus occurs in Balkans, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iran and Iraq. In Cyprus, there are five known subpopulations; at Potamos tou Liopetriou-Agia Thekla (the largest subpopulation with about 1000 individuals), at Agia Napa (200 plants), at Geri-Latsia (30 plants), at Strovolos (10 plants) and at south of Geri (5 plants). Total population size is approximately 1300 individuals.

Map



Legal status

It is not listed in international, national or local regulations.

Main threats and conservation status

According to the IUCN Treats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2) the main threats are:

Housing & Urban Areas (Expansion of built-up areas)

- ✓ 1.3 Tourism & Recreation Areas (Tourism development)

✓ 6.1 Recreational Activities (Extensive use of the coast)

It is included in the Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus as EN: B1ab(iii,v)+2ab(iii,v). The species has not been assessed for the IUCN Red List at Global level.

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The largest subpopulation at Potamos tou Liopetriou – Agia Thekla was recently destroyed due to tourism development. Seeds were collected from this subpopulation before the initiation of the works and used for the conservations actions. The *in situ* activities included:

- Translocation of the species to Potamos Liopetriou and Cavo Greko-Somera.
- Control of the invasive species (*Acacia saligna*) at the translocation site Cavo Greko-Somera.

A periodic monitoring of the *in situ* actions was started. Seeds were collected and *ex situ* conserved at the Agricultural Research Institute genebank and at Amiantos Botanical Garden.

Photos



An overview of *Astragalus suberosus*



Plant at fruiting at the Cavo Greko-Somera translocation site & A close look of the control of the invasive species (*Acacia saligna*) at the Cavo Greko-Somera translocation site