

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

Island

Cyprus

Species name (Family)

Euphorbia paralias L. (Euphorbiaceae)

Common name

None

Plant description

- ✓ Glabrous, glaucous, caespitose perennial with numerous leafy shoots arising from a woody stock. Inflorescences a cyathium with 2 horned-glands. Fruit a trilobate regma.
- ✓ Flowering from February to December. The fruiting starts early, but ripening and dissemination of seeds starts at October and last for several months.
- ✓ Occurs on sandy coasts, near sea level.

Distribution

Euphorbia paralias occurs in West Europe and Mediterranean towards Black sea. In Cyprus, it has been recorded at 11 locations, from Apostolos Andreas to Salamina and Agia Eirini, Protaras and Agia Napa. The largest subpopulations are found between Agia Eirini and Kormakitis (1920 plants) but in most cases they number only 3-20 plants each. Total population size is approximately 3100 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:

- ✓ 1.3 Tourism & Recreation Areas (Tourism development and use, Clearance of sandy beaches).
- ✓ 6.1 Recreational Activities (Trampling).

It is included in the Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus as EN: A4ac. The species has not been assessed for the IUCN Red List at Global level.

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

In situ conservation actions included the reintroduction of the species to Yialia, a protected area with small pressure from tourism activities. 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 *Euphorbia paralias*



Young seedlings from the reintroduction of the species at Yialia area