

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

Island

Cyprus

Species name (Family)

Limonium mucronulatum (H. Lindb.) Greuter & Burdet (Plumbaginaceae)

Common name

None

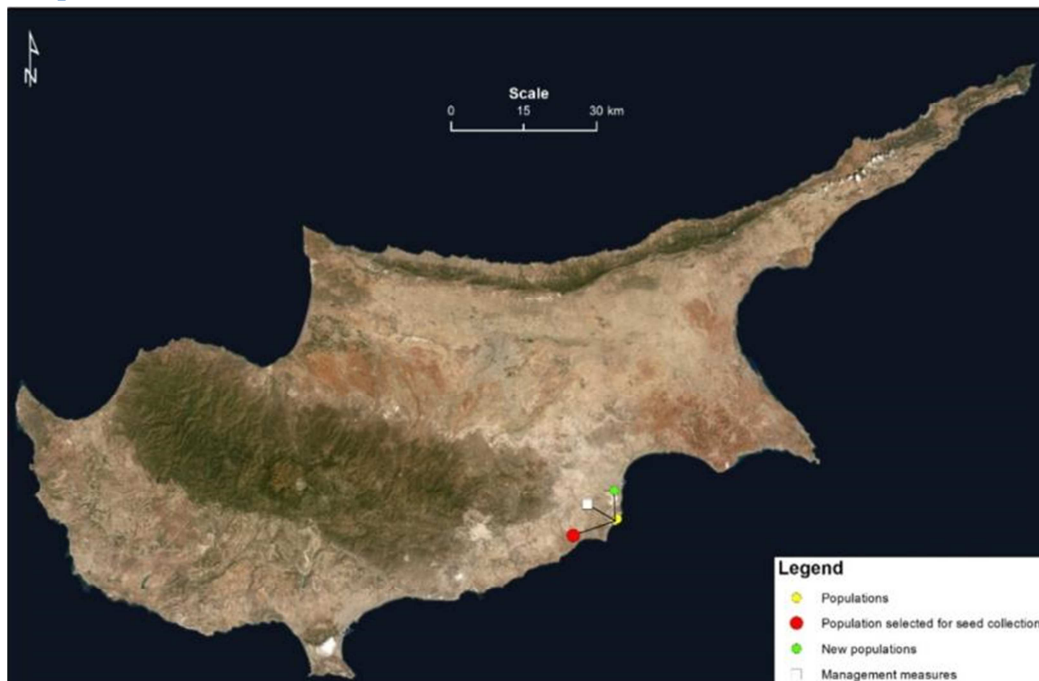
Plant description

- ✓ Erect, glaucous perennial herb, up to 10 cm high, with a woody rootstock. Leaves in a dense basal rosette, rhomboid, spatulate, or broadly elliptic, 3-5 x 1.2-2 cm, narrowed to a petiole 2-6 cm long. Apex with a filiform mucro 2-3 mm long. Corolla lavender blue.
- ✓ Flowering from June to August (September) and fruiting from July to September.
- ✓ Occurs on the margins of the salt lake, in openings of halophytic scrub, at sea level.

Distribution

Limonium mucronulatum is endemic to Cyprus. It is found only to one location, at Larnaka salt lake. Total population size is approximately 700 individuals.

Map



Legal status

It is not listed in international, national or local regulations. However, the species occurs within a NATURA 2000 site.

Main threats and conservation status

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

- ✓ 6.1 Recreational Activities (uncontrolled vehicle traffic through its habitat),
- ✓ 8.1 Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species/Diseases (*Acacia saligna*)
- ✓ 8.2 Problematic Native Species/Diseases (*Phragmites australis*)
- ✓ 9.4 Garbage & Solid Waste

It is included in the Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus as CR: B1ab(iii,v)+2ab(iii+v); C2a(ii). 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:

- Reinforcement of the population at Aliko Larnakas.
- Soft fencing in order to prevent uncontrolled vehicle driving through the habitat of the plant.
- Eradication of invasive species (*Acacia saligna*) and control of the competing vegetation (*Phragmites australis*).

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 *Limonium mucronulatum* & Plant established as part of the reinforcement actions just before flowering



Soft fencing in order to prevent uncontrolled vehicle driving through the habitat of the plant & Control of the competing vegetation (*Phragmites australis*)