Integrating mapping data for conservation strategies of plant diversity in traditional Mediterranean agro-ecosystems: the case of Greek

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‘Integrating wild plants information for Site management and conservation’
→ 1st agriculture in Europe (7,000 BC)
→ till 1970s/80s traditional agriculture
Unique Agrobiodiversity on an European level!
16% of Greece = arable land

Agrostemma githago
Geranium tuberosum
Two trends:
Intensive agriculture (Industrial farming)
(favourable soils e.g. plains)
Two trends:
Abandonment/Conversation of marginal land
(mainly in mountainous regions and Aegean Islands)

→ Loss of traditional arable farming knowledge and biodiversity
Arable plants \(\rightarrow\) 'stepchildren of nature conservation' (no conservation instruments)
Vegetation mapping in Greece (Mediterranean) agroecosystems strictly underepresented

Silene longipetala

Nigella orientalis

Bupleurum odontites
Mission: Approach to identify Important Arable Plant Areas (IAPA) in Greece for each of 13 floristic regions

Eastern Aegean Islands
Cyclades
Crete

1. Vegetation Mapping (relevés/field observations)
2. Scoring System
3. Hot Spot Analysis
4. Knowledge Transfer
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SCORING SYSTEM (PLANTLIFE Approach by Byefield & Wilson)

Criterion A
based on the presence (and frequency) of endangered species in a floristic region (1-9)

Leontice leontopetalum
Tulipa undulatifolia
Vaccaria pyramidata
SCORING SYSTEM (PLANTLIFE Approach by Byefield & Wilson)

**Criterion A**
based on the presence (and frequency) of endangered species in a floristic region (1-9)

**Criterion B**
outstanding composition of arable plant communities (regional, national, European)

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<tr>
<th>Table 4. Provisional threshold scores for assessing the conservation importance of arable plant sites.</th>
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<td><strong>Table 4. Provisional threshold scores for assessing the conservation importance of arable plant sites.</strong></td>
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<td>Chalk and limestone-derived soils (excluding clays)</td>
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<td>European importance</td>
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<td>National importance</td>
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<td>County importance</td>
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KEY LESSONS LEARNT

→ pay more attention for arable plants ´weeds´
→ get more relevant species information
→ establish a Greek AES for traditional arable farming
→ get better financial support for our work

Human-made habitats

To conserve traditional farming is even less expensive and more constructive than to restore!
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