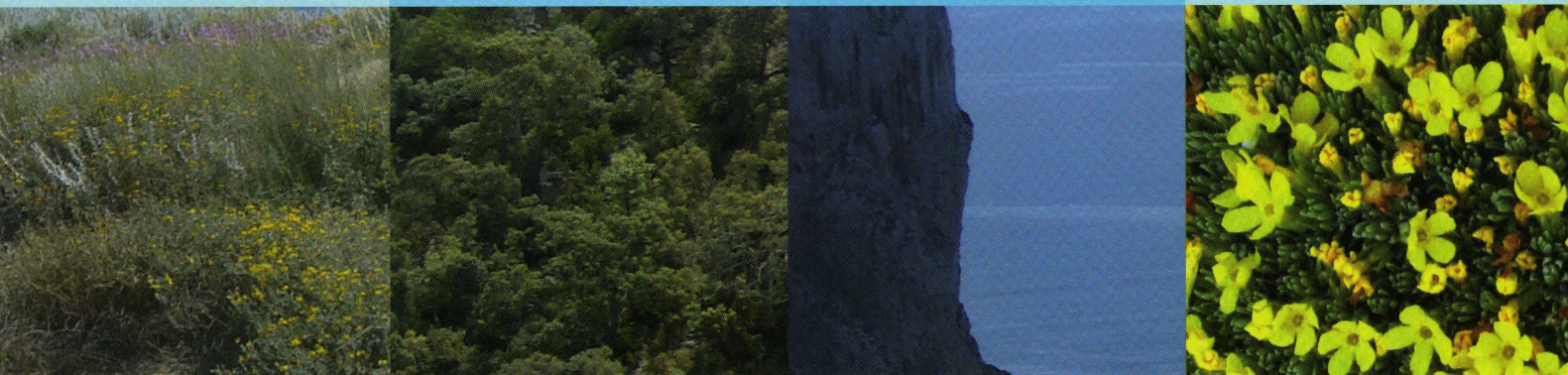


ABSTRACTS' BOOK

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

First International Symposium of the FIP



Valencia 13th-17th September 2011 | Botanical Garden University of Valencia



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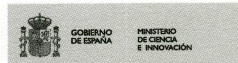
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PHYTOSOCIOLOGICAL AND PHYTOGEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS
ON THE OROPHILOUS ALLIANCE BERBERIDO
AETNENSIS-CRATAEGION LACINIATAE (RHAMNO-PRUNETEA)

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Abstract:

The new alliance *Berberido aetnensis-Crataegion laciniatae* (Gianguzzi et al., 2011, in press) was recently described for the South-Thyrrhenian area, on the basis of two associations located in Central-Northern Sicily: 1) *Lonicero xylostei-Prunetum cupaniani* Gianguzzi et al. 2011; 2) *Crataegetum laciniatae* Brullo & Marcenò in Brullo, 1984. The coenological and phytogeographical autonomy of the syntaxon can be highlighted through the synoptic comparison of floristic-phytosociological data collected in the territory, with those of other coenoses already described for the central-southern part of the Italian Peninsula and for Sicily; in particular the associations of *Berberidion vulgaris*, as well as those of *Pruno-Rubion ulmifolii*.

The coenoses of *Berberido aetnensis-Crataegion laciniatae* are both characterized by the presence of endemic entities (*Berberis aetnensis*, *Prunus mahaleb* subsp. *cupaniana*, *Amelanchier ovalis* subsp. *cretica*, *Sorbus aria* subsp. *cretica*) or of particular phytogeographic relevance (*Rhamnus saxatilis* subsp. *infectorius*, *Rosa heckeliana*); to these other elements quite rare and exclusive are associated, indicated as "geographic differentials" species (*Cotoneaster nebrodensis*, *Ribes uva-crispa* subsp. *austro-europaeum*, *Crataegus laciniata*, *Rhamnus catharticus*, *Lonicera xylosteum*, *Rubus canescens*, *Rosa sicula*, *R. montana*, *R. micrantha*, *R. rubiginosa*), in addition to some peculiar "transgressive" species of the class *Quercio-Fagetea* (*Daphne laureola*, *Lamium flexuosum* and *Ilex aquifolium*).

The alliance *Berberido aetnensis-Crataegion laciniatae* denotes a relict significance, as vicariant syntaxon of *Berberidion vulgaris* (with European gravitation) and of *Lonicero arboreae-Berberidion hispanicae* (Iberian Peninsula, in the Betican Province). Its phytogeographical location is tied to that of several other syntaxa already described for the Italo-Thyrrhenian area, related to various other aspects of vegetation: a) forest (*Geranio striati-Fagion* Gentile 1974; *Pino-Quercion congestae* Brullo et al. 1999); b) *herbaceous-chamaephytic* (*Rumici-Astragaletales sicali* Pignatti & Nimis 1980; *Erysimo-Jurinetalia bocconeii* Brullo 1984); c) cliff (*Dianthion rupicolae* Brullo & Marcenò 1979); d) steppic (*Avenulo-Ampelodesmion mauritanici* Minissale 1994); etc.