



SIXTH EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONGRESS

EUROGARD VI

European Botanic Gardens in a Changing World



Book of Abstracts

www.eurogardvi.gr

May **28** - June **02**
Chios Island, Greece 2012

Keynote Addresses



Poster Presentations



P30 PLANT MICRO-RESERVES AND *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY SPECIES/HABITATS IN CYPRUS

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Plant Micro-Reserves (PMRs) are defined as small land plots (less than 20 ha) that are of peak value in terms of plant richness, endemism and/or rarity, where continuous monitoring and active conservation measures take place. This model is widely accepted as one of the most effective practices towards the conservation of plant diversity. The project entitled 'Establishment of a Plant Micro-Reserve Network in Cyprus for the Conservation of Priority Species and Habitats' (PLANT-NET CY), is currently implemented within the framework of the LIFE+ programme of the European Commission. Its main objective is to improve the conservation status of four plant species (*Arabis kennedyae*, *Astragalus macrocarpus* subsp. *lefkarensis*, *Centaurea akamantis* and *Ophrys kotschyi*) and two habitat types of Cyprus (*Cedrus brevifolia* forests – 9590, and Scrub and low forest vegetation of *Quercus alnifolia* – 9390), through the establishment, monitoring and management of a network of five PMRs. The targeted plant species and habitat types are priority ones, according to the Habitats Directive, and endemic to Cyprus. The project includes both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities. This presentation focuses on the *ex situ* conservation and management measures that are being implemented in order to safeguard the long-term survival of the targeted species/habitat types and to promote public awareness. These measures include seed collection and seed banking; seed sowing at favourable spots for the enhancement of natural populations; seed germination tests, production of new individuals and establishment of young plants at selected sites within PMRs; and the development of relevant, particular sections in three local Botanical Gardens.

P31 THE GENE BANK OF WILD MEDICINAL, EDIBLE AND AROMATIC PLANTS SPREAD AND WIDELY APPLICABLE IN ARMENIA

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The gene bank of medicinal, aromatic and wild edible plants is a national and world wealth. Every country has the responsibility for their protection and usage. They remain an important basis for the development of human society. Since the ancient times, Armenian people have collected and used edible, medicinal, and aromatic plants. Now the possibilities of using, and the plants' areas of growing, are multiplied.

In the recent decades, over 100 kinds of rare plants have been identified, most of them aromatic, edible or medicinal. Aromatic plants are used in Armenian cuisine, as well as, for canned goods and meat production. Currently, we have many kinds of rare and endangered plants (*Acorus calamus* L., *Rheum ribes* L., *Nuphar luteum* L., *Butomus umbellatus* L., etc). Many of them are listed in the "Red Book". To conserve them, efforts are being made to put them into cultivation.