
***Anthemis glaberrima* (Rech. fil.) Greuter**

COMPOSITAE

Endangered

Status

Endangered. It is restricted to the small islet of Agria Gramvousa (NW corner of Kriti), where a small population exists, and to the neighbouring islet of Gramvousa, that hosts only a few individuals.

Description

Annual. Glabrous or sparsely hairy. Stems 2-30 cm, flexuous. Leaves pinnatisect to 3-fid or entire, more or less petiolate, fleshy. Capitula up to 10 mm in diameter. Involucre appressed hairy; bracts obtuse, the outer ovate to oblong, the inner broadly elliptical, with a wide hyaline margin. Ligules c. 2 mm, broadly elliptical, pink beneath. Receptacle shortly conical, acute; scales lanceolate-cuneate to narrowly linear, acute, hyaline. Achenes 1-1.25 mm (excluding corona), absolutely ribbed, cylindrical-turbinate; corona up to 0.5 mm. [Based on Fernandes 1976.]

Distribution

Endemic. It is known only from the islets of Agria Gramvousa and Gramvousa, which are located off the NW corner of Kriti.

Habitat and ecology

It grows on coastal rocks. A few characteristic species also occurring in the same habitat with *Anthemis glaberrima* are: *Arenaria aegaea*, *Silene sedoides*, *Sedum litoreum*, *Limonium frederici*, *L. pigadiense*, etc.

Conservation measures taken

None.

Conservation measures proposed

The islet of Agria Gramvousa, where *Anthe-*

mis glaberrima occurs, has special ecological significance. The occurrence on it of nine endemic species of the Greek flora, and further ecologically interesting points, which are extensively discussed in Christodoulakis et al. (1991) and Greuter (1979), necessitate the conservation of the islet as a whole. If herbivorous animals of any kind are introduced on the island, the populations of endemic plants would be strongly disturbed or even entirely disappear.

As far as *A. glaberrima* is concerned, its seeds should be deposited in a seed bank and its collection should be prevented.

Biology and potential value

Anthemis glaberrima belongs to sect. *Ammanthus* and is a most interesting, taxonomically isolated species.

References

- Christodoulakis, D., Economidou, E. & Georgiadis, Th. 1991: Geobotanische Studie der Grabusen-Inseln (Südägäis, Griechenland). – Bot. Helv. 101: 53-67.
- Fernandes, R.B. 1976: *Anthemis* L. In: Tutin, T.G. et al. (eds.): Flora Europaea 4: 145-159. Cambridge University Press.
- Greuter, W. 1979: The endemic flora of Crete and the significance of its protection. – Proceedings of the Conference on the Protection of the Flora, Fauna and Biotopes, Athens 11-13 Oct. 1979: 91-97. Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature.

D. PHITOS & Z. KYPRIOTAKIS

