

Plant Micro-Reserves (PMR) constitute areas of small extent (less than 20 ha) that aim in the protection and management of the population of a rare plant. In the framework of the European Project **LIFE-CRETAPLANT**, a **pilot network of 7 PMR** has been established, for the first time in Greece, in the Prefecture of Chania (on public lands, part of the NATURA 2000 Network) for the protection of 7 threatened plants. Moreover, an additional number of important species of plants and animals as well as habitat types are protected in every PMR. Responsible for the monitoring and management is the Forestry Service, in collaboration with Local Authorities and scientific institutes. **The overall objective of the venture is twofold: the conservation of these little biodiversity treasures and the information – increase of public awareness towards Greek Nature.**



CRETAPLANT

MICRO - RESERVE

Cephalanthera cucullata Boiss. & Heldr.



Knowledge - Protection - Conservation



A Pilot Network of Plant Micro-Reserves in Western Crete
Πιλοτικό Δίκτυο Μικρο-Αποθεμάτων Φυτών στη Δυτική Κρήτη



Project LIFE04 NAT/GR/000104:

CRETAPLANT – A Pilot Network of Plant Micro-Reserves in Western Crete

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Cephalanthera cucullata Boiss. & Heldr.

ΚΟΥΣΤΟΓΕΡΑΚΟ
NATURA 2000 GR4340008



Distribution

The orchid *Cephalanthera cucullata* (Orchidaceae family) occurs in forest areas on the 3 large mountain massifs of Crete, at altitudes 700-1500 m (and nowhere else in the world).

Description

A perennial herbaceous plant, with entangled rhizomes. Aboveground emergence and growth take place erratically, in spring (not all plants flower every year). It can reach 20 cm in height and produces up to 24 white-purple flowers, from May to June. The fruits mature by the end of June and the aboveground parts dry.

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Seeds of *Cephalanthera cucullata* (in magnification)

Threats

- ▶ Grazing
- ▶ Climatic change

Conservation status

- Included in Annexes II* and IV of 92/43 EU Directive
- Protected by the Presidential Decree 67/81
- Protected by the Bern Convention (1979)
- Protected by the CITES Convention (1975)
- Proclaimed 'Endangered' by the Red Data Book of Rare and Threatened Flora of Greece (1995)

The Plant Micro-Reserve (PMR) of *Cephalanthera cucullata*

Locality: Koukouli, Koustogerako, An. Selino

Surface: 12 ha

Altitude: 1280-1350 m

Landscape: Mixed oak-cypress-maple forest, on rocky terrain

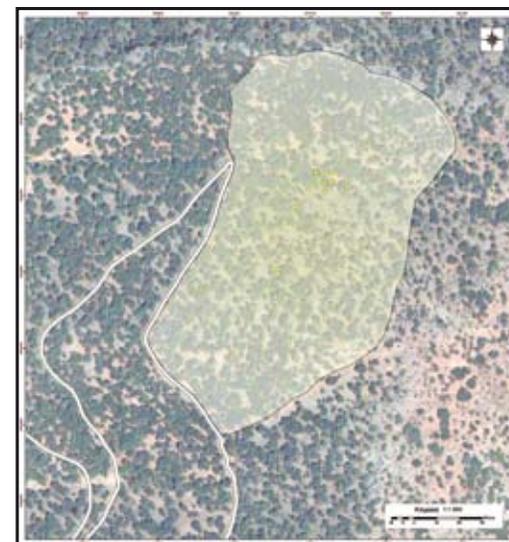
Other important plant species: *Cerastium scaposum*, *Centaurea idaea*, *Origanum microphyllum*, *Scutellaria hirta*, *Verbascum spinosum*, *Arum idaeum*, *Tulipa cretica*



- Wardening
- Placement of information boards
- Fencing of a large area and 15 additional, small cages for protection from grazing and safeguarding (and enhancement) of the population, currently comprised by less than 200 individuals
- Recording of climatic parameters (meteorological microstation)
- Annual counting of individual plants for monitoring the reproductive population fluctuation
- Measurement of aboveground plant growth and counting flowering stems per plant
- Seed storage in the Seed Banks of MAICh and University of Athens
- Study of seed germination and the factors regulating annual regeneration of the species



Setting a small cage secures the plants from grazing.



ΥΠΟΜΝΗΜΑ

Θέσεις καταγραφής του φυτού *Cephalanthera cucullata* (Πηγή: Herbarium MAICh)

- Χωροσταθμικός (ισοδιάσταση 20 m)
- Ρέμα
- Ορια Μικρο-Αποθέματος
Περίμετρος = 1424 μ
Εκταση = 12.11 ha
- Αγροτικός δρόμος

Υπόβαθρο: Πολυφασματική δορυφορική εικόνα Quickbird χωρικής ανάλυσης 60 cm. Ημερομηνία λήψης 23-8-2004

Σημείωση: Ο οικόστος έχει χαρακτηριστεί στην περιοχή NATURA 2000 των Λευκών Ορέων GR4340008 στον κωδικό 9290 δάση με *Cupressus* (*Acer-Cupression*). Στην πραγματικότητα είναι υψηλό δάσος με *Quercus coccifera* και *Acer sempervirens*. (Νέος κωδικός NATURA 934A Ελληνικά δάση Πρίνου)

