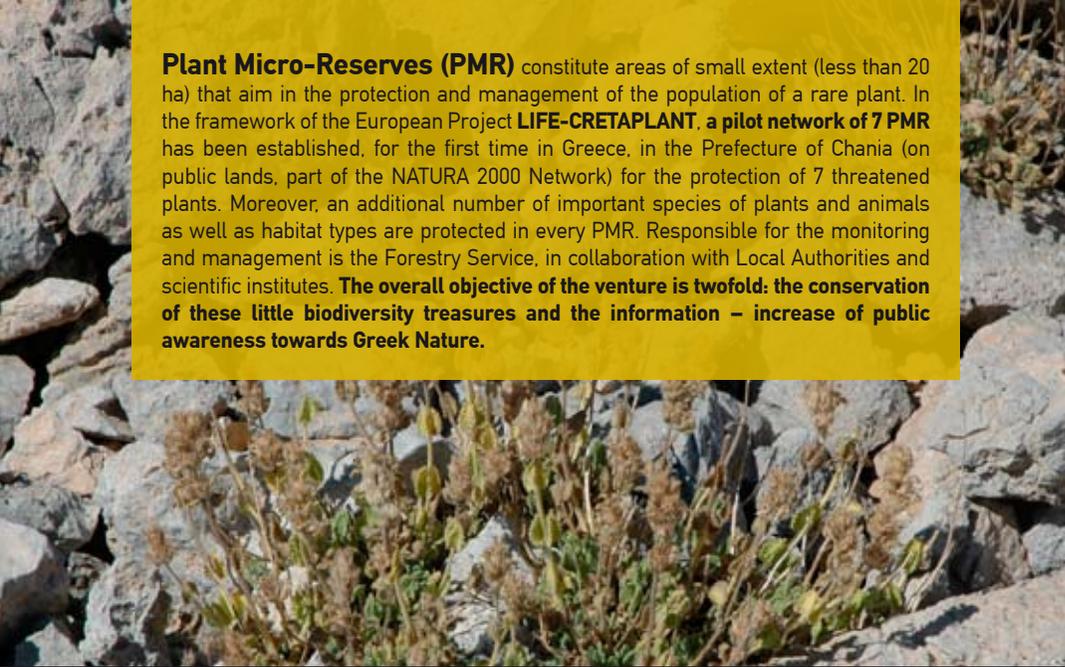


**Plant Micro-Reserves (PMR)** constitute areas of small extent (less than 20 ha) that aim in the protection and management of the population of a rare plant. In the framework of the European Project **LIFE-CRETAPLANT**, a **pilot network of 7 PMR** has been established, for the first time in Greece, 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

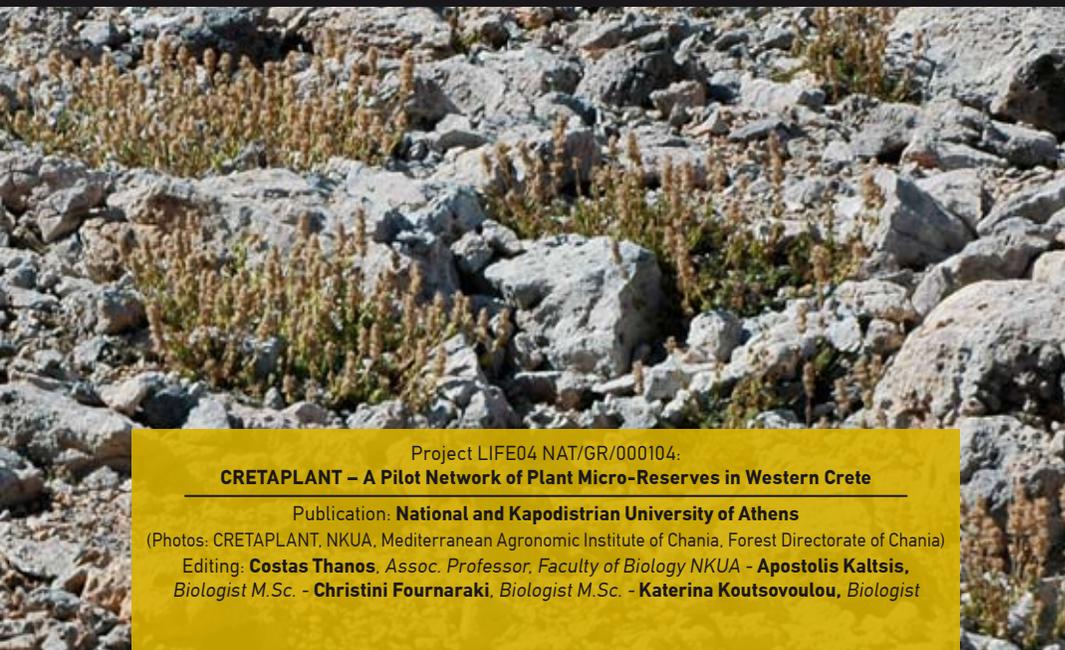
## *Nepeta sphaciotica* P.H.Davis



**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**

Publication: **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

(Photos: CRETAPLANT, NKUA, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Forest Directorate of Chania)

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## Distribution

*Nepeta sphaciotica* (Labiatae family) occurs only on a bare mountainous slope, at an altitude of 2300 m, on the northern site of summit Svoirichti of Lefka Ori and nowhere else in the world.

## Description

A perennial aromatic shrub, with numerous flowering stems up to 20 cm high. It blossoms in August and its flowers are white with purple spots. Seeds mature in September and plants remain covered with snow for about 6 months



Seeds of *Nepeta sphaciotica*  
(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)
- Proclaimed 'Endangered' by the Red Data Book of Rare and Threatened Flora of Greece (1995)

## The Plant Micro-Reserve (PMR) of *Nepeta sphaciotica*

**Locality:** summit Svoirichti, Lefka Ori

**Surface:** 4,8 ha **Altitude:** 2250-2300 m

**Landscape:** rocky slope with high inclination and semi-stabilized screes with sparse, low vegetation

**Other important plant species:** 32 endemic plants of Crete have been recorded around Svoirichti summit. Most important are: *Anchusa caespitosa*, *Alyssum fragillimum*, *Alyssum sphacioticum*, *Crepis sibthorpiana*, *Cynoglossum sphacioticum*, *Campanula aizoon* subsp. *aizoides*, *Ranunculus radinotrichus*

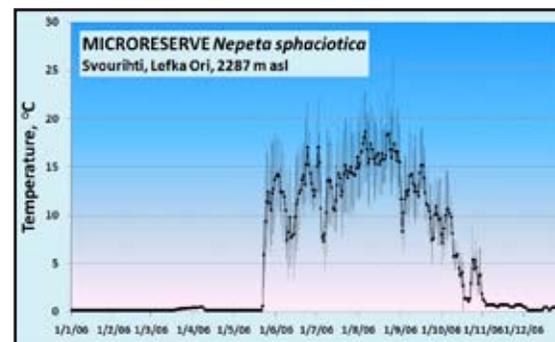


2350 m asl



## Conservation and monitoring actions

- Wardening
- Placement of information boards
- Recording of climatic parameters (meteorological microstation)
- Annual measurement of plant growth, counting of reproductive individuals and young plants (seedlings)
- Seed storage in the Seed Banks of MAICh and University of Athens
- Study of seed germination and the factors regulating regeneration of the species



Data downloading from the meteorological microstation located in the PMR.

