



5MPCW CY-2025

5TH MEDITERRANEAN PLANT CONSERVATION WEEK

Building alliances for plant diversity conservation
in the Mediterranean

April 07-11, 2025 • Limassol, Cyprus

Editors

Marios Andreou, Frederick University (CYPRUS)

Costas A. Thanos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GREECE)

A photograph of a pine forest with tall, slender trees and a path leading through them. The trees are covered in green needles and some have small orange cones. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



5MPCW CY-2025

5TH MEDITERRANEAN PLANT CONSERVATION WEEK

Building alliances for plant diversity conservation in the Mediterranean

April 07-11, 2025 • Limassol, Cyprus

Editors

Marios Andreou, Frederick University (CYPRUS)

Costas A. Thanos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GREECE)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

The 5th Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week (5MPCW) will be held from April 7 to 11, 2025, at St. Raphael Resort & Marina in Limassol, Cyprus. This congress aims to bring together specialists and enthusiasts in the research and management of nature, focusing on the conservation of wild plants and their habitats around the Mediterranean.

The 5MPCW aims to build alliances for plant diversity conservation in the Mediterranean.

The 5MPCW follows a highly successful series of similar conferences organized successively in Montenegro (2016), Valletta (Malta, 2018), Chania (Crete, Greece 2021), and Valencia (Spain, 2023). The 5MPCW will be held in the beautiful city of Limassol, Cyprus, from April 7 to 11, 2025!

The 5MPCW will also serve as a forum for sharing experiences from different regions around the Mediterranean, fostering future cooperation projects among specialists from Southern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. It will showcase research and experiences through oral presentations and posters, covering topics such as plant and ecological sciences, citizen science, ethnobotany, local involvement, and sustainable management of plant resources.

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chair

Marios ANDREOU, Chair of the Local Organising Committee (CYPRUS)

Members

Bertrand DE MONTMOLLIN, Chair of the IUCN/SSC (Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group) (SWITZERLAND)

Costas A. THANOS, Chair of the Scientific Committee (GREECE)

Emilio LAGUNA LUMBRERAS, Chair of the previous MPCW (SPAIN)

Gianluigi BACCHETTA, Chair of GENMEDA Network (ITALY)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Costas A. THANOS, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GREECE) – Head

Mohamed ABDELAAL, Mansoura University (EGYPT)

Ahmet AKSOY, Akdeniz University, Antalya (TURKEY)

Banan AL SHEIKH, Bethlehem University (PALESTINE)

Marios ANDREOU, Frederick University (CYPRUS)

Fabio ATTORRE, Sapienza University of Rome (ITALY)

Gianluigi BACCHETTA, University of Cagliari (ITALY)

Imtinen BEN HAJ JILANI, National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia, Univ. Carthage, Tunis (TUNISIA)

Sandro BOGDANOVIĆ, University of Zagreb (CROATIA)

Magda BOU DAGHER KHARRAT, European Forest Institute / Saint Joseph University (SPAIN/LEBANON)

Joseph BUHAGIAR, University of Malta (MALTA)

Vito Emanuele CAMBRIA, Sapienza University of Rome (ITALY)

Pierre CARRET, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (FRANCE)

Juli CAUJAPÉ CASTELLS, Jardín Botánico Viera y Clavijo – UA CSIC, Gran Canaria (SPAIN)

Charalambos CHRISTODOULOU, Dept of Forests - Min. Agric. Rur, Devel, & Envir. (CYPRUS)

Jordi CORTINA-SEGARRA, University of Alicante (SPAIN)

Bertrand DE MONTMOLLIN, IUCN – Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group (SWITZERLAND)

Katia DIADEMA, Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen (FRANCE)

Panayotis DIMOPOULOS, University of Patras (GREECE)

Snežana DRAGIĆEVIĆ, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, Podgorica (MONTENEGRO)

Jalal EL OUALIDI, Université Mohammed V de Rabat (MOROCCO)

Hicham ELZEIN, University of Cagliari (ITALY/LEBANON)

Mauro FOIS, University of Cagliari (ITALY)

Christini FOURNARAKI, CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (GREECE)
Kyriacos GEORGHIU, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GREECE)
Salih GÜCEL, Biologists Association, Nicosia (CYPRUS)
Nassima GUENAFDI-YAHI, University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediene (ALGERIA)
Andreas Ch. HADJICHAMBIS, Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth / Cyprus Biological Society (CYPRUS)
Laetitia HUGOT, Conservatoire Botanique National de Corse (FRANCE)
José María IRIONDO ALEGRÍA, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Móstoles Madrid (SPAIN)
Constantinos KOUNNAMAS, Frederick University (CYPRUS)
Katerina KOUTSOVOULOU, Green Fund (GREECE)
Angelos KYRATZIS, Agricultural Research Institute Cyprus (CYPRUS)
Emilio LAGUNA LUMBRERAS, CIEF, Valencia (SPAIN)
Sandro LANFRANCO, University of Malta (MALTA)
Vanessa LOZANO, University of Sassari (ITALY)
Sara MAGRINI, University of Tuscia (ITALY)
Isabel MARQUES, University of Lisbon (PORTUGAL)
Olga MAYORAL GARCÍA-BERLANGA, Jardí Botànic de la Universitat de València (SPAIN)
Frédéric MEDAIL, IMBE, Aix Marseille Université (FRANCE)
Miguel Pinto da Silva MENEZES DE SEQUEIRA, University of Madeira (PORTUGAL)
Juan Carlos MORENO SAIZ, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (SPAIN)
Juan MOTA POVEDA, University of Almeria (SPAIN)
Catherine NUMA, IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga (SPAIN)
Maria PANITSA, University of Patras (GREECE)
Salvatore PASTA, Institute of Biosciences and BioResources (IBBR), CNR, Unit of Palermo (ITALY)
Carolina PENA MARTIN, University of Alicante (SPAIN)
Claudia PERINI, University of Siena (ITALY)
Lina PODDA, University of Cagliari (ITALY)
Marco PORCEDDU, University of Cagliari (ITALY)
Miguel PORTO, CIBIO/BIOPOLIS, Universities of Porto and Lisbon, SPBotânica (PORTUGAL)
Joëlle SALAMEH, International Association for Mediterranean Forests (FRANCE)
Lulëzim SHUKA, University of Tirana (ALBANIA)
Andrej SOVINC, NaravaNarave d.o.o., Ljubljana (SLOVENIA)
Jean STEPHAN, Lebanese University, Beirut (LEBANON)
Boštjan SURINA, Natural History Museum Rijeka (CROATIA)
Ioannis TSIRIPIDIS, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (GREECE)
Errol VELA, University of Montpellier (FRANCE)
Giuseppe VENTURELLA, University of Palermo (ITALY)
Carlos Martins VILA-VIÇOSA, BIOPOLIS-CIBIO, University of Porto (PORTUGAL)
Sergei VOLIS, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (ISRAEL)

Ethnobotanical Heritage and Flora Conservation in the Barroso Ecoregion: Sustaining Traditions in Transboundary areas

Andrade C.^{1,2,3,4}, Alves P.^{2,3,5}, Serrano M.^{2,3,6}, Pacheco G.^{2,3,7}, Aguiar C.^{2,3,8}, Vila-Viçosa C.^{2,3,9}

1 Centre for Research in Anthropology (CRIA) - Iscte-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Iscte Conhecimento e Inovação, Building 4, Room B1.130, Av. Forças Armadas, 40, 1649-026 Lisboa, Portugal

2 BIOPOLIS Program in Genomics, Biodiversity and Land Planning, CIBIO. Campus de Vairão, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal

3 CIBIO (Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources)—InBIO (Research Network in Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology), University of Porto. Campus Agrário de Vairão; Rua Padre Armando Quintas; 4485-661 Vairão; Portugal

4 BABA YAGA, Anthropology Projects R. dos Bombeiros, 31 3770-220 Oliveira do Bairro, Portugal

5 Floradata – Biodiversidade, Ambiente e Recursos Naturais, Lda. Campo 24 de Agosto, 129 – Escritório 704, 4300-504, Porto, Portugal.

6 Department of Botany, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain

7 Departamento de Geografia, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Via Panorâmica, s/n, 4150-564 Porto, Portugal

8 CIMO-Centro de Investigação de Montanha. Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Campus de Santa Apolónia, 5300-253 Bragança, Portugal

9 MHNC-UP — Museu de História Natural e da Ciência da Universidade do Porto – Herbário PO, Universidade do Porto. Praça Gomes Teixeira, 4099-002, Porto, Portugal

The Barroso region, located in northern Portugal near the Portugal-Spain border and adjacent to Galicia, is recognized for its rich ethnobotanical heritage, with around 100 plant species utilized for medicinal, culinary, and agricultural purposes. Part of the Eurosiberian Region, specifically the Cantabro-Atlantic Province, the region's flora is dominated by the families Asteraceae, Fabaceae, and Poaceae, which together account for a significant portion of the cataloged species—Asteraceae making up 25%, Fabaceae 18%, and Poaceae 15%. These families are integral to the region's traditional knowledge and practices, and are used for their medicinal properties, Fabaceae species like *Medicago* and *Trifolium* for agricultural practices, and *Poaceae* species like *Agrostis*, *Arrhenatherum*, *Poa* and *Festuca* contributing to pasture and meadow ecosystems. Despite this botanical richness, several species face significant conservation threats, including *Pinus sylvestris* (EN), *Valeriana officinalis* subsp. *officinalis* (EN), *Sorbus aria* (CR), *Polygonum bistorta* (CR), *Selinum broteri* (VU), *Arnica montana* subsp. *atlantica* (NT), and *Veronica micrantha* (NT). The border with Galicia hosts populations of some of the most endangered species of the Iberian northwest, such as *Klasea legionensis* (CR) or *Thymelaea broteriana* (EN), which have one of their main threats in the massive human depopulation and the loss of traditional management knowledge that affects this mountain border area. Additionally, the region harbors some of Portugal's best-preserved yew woodlands (habitat 9580), and large areas of mixed *Quercus pyrenaica* and *Q. orocantabrica* forests (habitat 9230), riparian *Betula celtiberica* woodlands (habitat 91E0) and hay-meadows (habitat 6510). Half of the territory's surface consists of communal property, covered by a diverse mosaic of mountain mesic heathland (habitat 4030), humid heathlands (habitat 4010 and 4020), perennial herbaceous grassland (including *Nardus stricta* grassland, habitat 6230) and minerotrophic mires (habitat 7140). This complex landscape is maintained through a traditional grazing system featuring the Barrosã cow, an indigenous bovine breed.

Empirical knowledge surrounding these species is deeply embedded in the cultural identity of local communities. However, habitat degradation and the decline of traditional agricultural and pastoral practices threaten both biodiversity and the preservation of ethnobotanical knowledge. Barroso is currently the Portuguese region with the highest number of fire ignitions and the highest ratio of annual wildfire area to total area. Conservation efforts are essential to sustain Barroso's distinctive landscapes and habitats, including oak forests, high-altitude meadows, heathlands and mires, which support a range of endemic and endangered species. Geobotanical studies highlight the importance of specific plant communities in maintaining ecological balance and cultural heritage. The traditional land-use practices of northern Portuguese mountains play a crucial role in conserving these habitats. Traditional (indigenous) fire practices or, its substitute, official prescribed fires, and the maintenance of hay meadows (Habitat 6510) are critical for the preservation of peripheral habitats, including oak and birch woodlands and peatlands. These culturally rooted systems integrate traditional knowledge with modern conservation approaches, enhancing biodiversity, reducing wildfire risks, and preserving the cultural landscapes that define Barroso.

The Barroso-Galicia transboundary region exemplifies a complex interplay between ethnobotanical richness and conservation challenges. A comprehensive understanding of the area's biogeographical and cultural characteristics, combined with sustainable management practices, is essential to address these issues effectively and secure the long-term preservation of biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

Keywords: Ethnobotanical heritage; Biodiversity Conservation; Traditional land-use practices; Mediterranean flora; Landscape management and conservation

Acknowledgments: With the financial support of the Fundação Belmiro de Azevedo (project SIPAM-Barroso).