

# PLANT TALK

THE BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

*News and Views on Plant Conservation Worldwide*

Letter in the latest issue of Plant Talk, October 2003

## **Progress on the European Red List of vascular plants**

Within the framework of the Euro+Med Plantbase project ([www.euromed.org.uk](http://www.euromed.org.uk)), funded by the European Union, V.I.M. (Verlag für interaktive Medien, Gaggenau, Germany) and the Institute of Plant Sciences and Botanical Garden of the University of Bern, Switzerland, are establishing a website of plant conservation data for Europe ([www.s2you.com/euromed/](http://www.s2you.com/euromed/)).

So far the following information has been loaded: 54 citations of national and regional Red Lists of vascular plants, more than 700 links to websites of protected areas from 40 countries and over 550 links to botanic garden websites of 32 countries in Europe and the Mediterranean region. A list of plant biodiversity and genetic information resources has also been compiled, leading to more than 100 websites and documents in this controversial debate. The emphasis is on information on gene flow from crops to their wild relatives. These link collections are updated weekly. In addition, detailed conservation datasets are being prepared on selected taxonomic groups such as *Galanthus* and *Brassica*. This part of the website is a work in progress, and currently only data on a few selected taxonomic groups are available to show how the data will be presented in future.

The next important step will be to add the synonyms of all names of vascular plant taxa in national Red Lists. The intention is to get feedback and thus to enhance the reliability of these data and to produce a new and authoritative European Red List.

This project depends heavily on the mobilization of up-to-date local, regional and national knowledge. It needs the collaboration of all specialists (both academic and amateur) working in the European and Mediterranean region. The Internet publication is the starting point of an interactive collaboration in Europe among experts, for instance the European Plant Specialist Group within the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Experts on vascular plant taxonomy and conservation are most welcome to contact the undersigned.

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