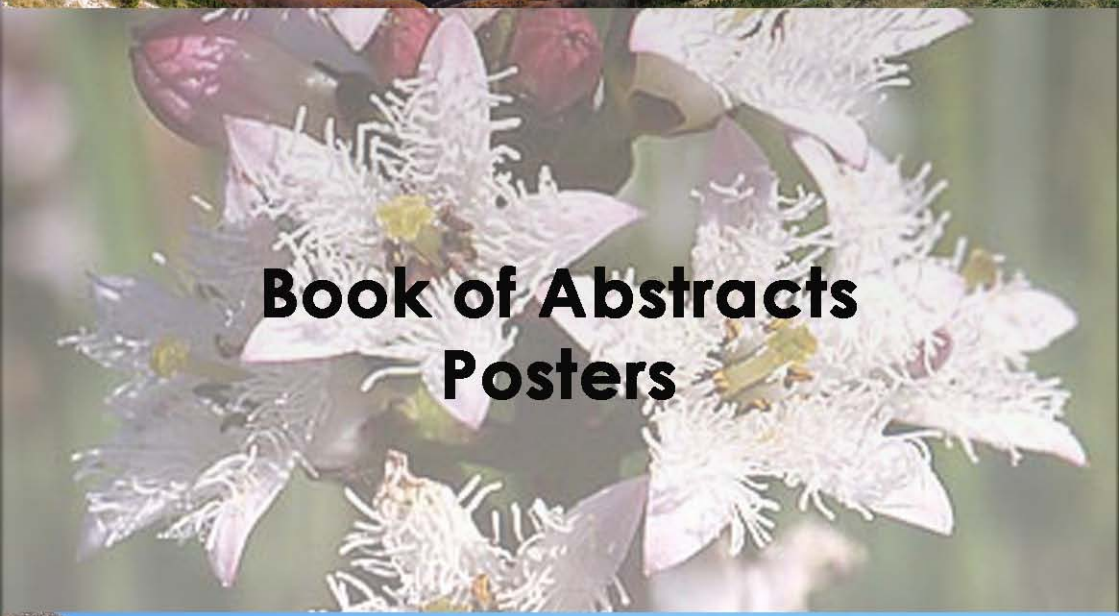
25th Meeting of European Vegetation Survey

Roma (Italy), April 6-9 2016



Book of Abstracts
Posters

European Vegetation Survey

Dipartimento di Biologia Ambientale

Sapienza Università di Roma

Società Botanica Italiana

A SNAPSHOT OF ITALY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN RED LIST OF HABITATS

DANIELA GIGANTE[1], ALICIA T.R. ACOSTA[2], EMILIANO AGRILLO[3], STEFANO ARMIRAGLIO[4], SILVIA P. ASSINI[5], FABIO ATTORRE[3], SIMONETTA BAGELLA[6], GABRIELLA BUFFA[7], LAURA CASELLA[8], CARMEN GIANCOLA[9], GIANPIETRO GIUSSO DEL GALDO[10], CORRADO MARCENÒ[10], GIOVANNA PEZZI[11], ROBERTO VENANZONI[1], DANIELE VICIANI[12]

[1] UNIV. PERUGIA; [2] UNIV. ROMA TRE ROMA; [3] UNIV. LA SAPIENZA ROMA; [4] MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE BRESCIA; [5] UNIV. PAVIA; [6] UNIV. SASSARI; [7] UNIV. CA' FOSCARI VENEZIA; [8] ISPRA ROMA; [9] UNIV. MOLISE PESCHE (IS); [10] UNIV. CATANIA [11] UNIV. BOLOGNA; [12] UNIV. FIRENZE

Along with several other European countries, Italy is contributing to the development of a European Red List of Habitats, on behalf of the EC - DG Environment (Rodwell et al., 2013, Contract N. 070307/2012/624047/SER/B3). The habitat types taken into account are resulting from a critical review of the types listed in the EUNIS classification, largely based on plant communities, revisited in the light of the most recent acquisitions in vegetation science.

Starting from a huge amount of data, mostly heterogeneous and partial, available for the Italian territory, the work done to date allowed to identify the actual occurrence in Italy of the considered habitats. At present, 157 types have been identified, representing more than 66% of the recognized European diversity. Some of them are narrowly distributed, while others are widely spread, although sometimes showing local peculiarities deserving of special attention.

On this ground, the protocol for the habitat assessment based on criteria and thresholds proposed by Keith et al. (2013, PLoS ONE 8(5): e62111) and derived from the IUCN parameters in use for the red-listing of the species (IUCN 2012, v.3.1, 2nd ed.), was experimentally tested on the Italian data. Some results and critical issues are here discussed. Among the main critical points: poor quantitative data availability, none or very few data on quantitative and qualitative trends, ambiguity in habitat interpretation at national level, large use of the "expert's opinion".

Among the main results: a relevant step towards the harmonization of continental knowledge on vegetation science. Among the main challenging issues: focusing on the weak aspects of the assessment methodology, pointing out that criteria and thresholds should be calibrated on the macrotype of habitat and, not less important, should carefully consider the irreversibility of some ecological processes, particularly for those habitats featured by strong geographical and/or ecological barriers.

KEYWORDS: ASSESSMENT, CONSERVATION, REDLISTING, THRESHOLDS, THREATENED VEGETATION TYPES

Organised by:
Dept. Environmental Biology - Sapienza University of Roma

Supported by:
Società Botanica Italiana - Italian Botanical Society
ISPRA - Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
SISV - Italian Society for Vegetation Science
Accademia dei Lincei

Organising Committee:
- Fabio Attorre - Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- Emiliano Agrillo - Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- Francesco Spada - Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- Sandro Pignatti - Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- Consolata Siniscalco - Italian Botanical Society, Firenze (IT)
- Laura Casella - ISPRA, Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Roma (IT)

Scientific Committee:
- Fabio Attorre - Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- Erwin Bergmeier - Dept. Vegetation & Phytodiversity Analysis, University of Göttingen (DE)
- Francesco Spada - Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- John Rodwell - Ecological Consultant, Lancaster (UK)
- Joop Schaminée - Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Gr., Wageningen Univ.(NL)
- Milan Chytrý (EVS secretary) - Dept. of Botany and Zoology, Masaryk University, Brno (CZ)
- Rosario Gavilán - Dept. of Vegetation Biology II, University of Madrid (ES)
- Wolfgang Willner - Vienna Institute for Nature Conservation and Analyses, Vienna (AT)

ISBN 978-88-904091-5-8