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UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome



European
Vegetation
Survey

31st CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY

May 21 – 25, 2023, Rome (Italy)



EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY: METHODS AND APPROACHES IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Book of abstracts

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New data on vegetation of “Padule di Fucecchio” area, one of the largest inland marsh in Italy

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The “Padule di Fucecchio” area is one of the largest inland marsh in Italy. About 2,000 hectares wide, it spreads in central Tuscany between the provinces of Florence and Pistoia. It is one of the wetlands of international importance listed in the Ramsar Convention and hosts several protected natural areas of European and local interest, due to the naturalistic richness and the peculiarities of its hydrogeology and landscape. The studies on its flora, even if rather dated, are numerous and several specimens are deposited in the Tuscan herbariums (Garbari 1980; Tomei et al. 2001). On the contrary, surprisingly, studies on plant communities are very scarce and out of date. For these reasons, a vegetation survey concerning aquatic and marshy vegetation has been carried out in the last two years. As it could be predicted, the preliminary data analysis show that a large part of the aquatic and marsh plants of relevant conservation value have disappeared or have greatly reduced their diffusion, in favor of alien species, which have also become an important or predominant part in plant communities. Nevertheless, several vegetation types with high naturalness have been detected and reported in the area for the first time, such as for example *Schoenoplectetum lacustris*, *Caricetum ripariae*, *Phalaridetum arundinaceae*. In addition, several communities dominated by species of the genus *Bolboschoenus* have been detected and are being defined through comparison with international data (Hroudová et al. 2009). Particular communities of ephemeral environments dominated by native and alien species (e.g., *Cyperus* sp.pl., *Amaranthus blitum*, *Lindernia dubia*) have been widely detected in the study area and their syntaxonomic definition is underway.

References

Garbari, F. (1980) Indagine floristica e vegetazionale sul padule di Fucecchio. In: AA.VV., Progetto pilota per la salvaguardia e la valorizzazione del padule di Fucecchio. Pp. 217–263. Min. Agr. For., Dir. Gen. Econ. Mont. For. - Cons. Bon. Pad. Fucecchio.