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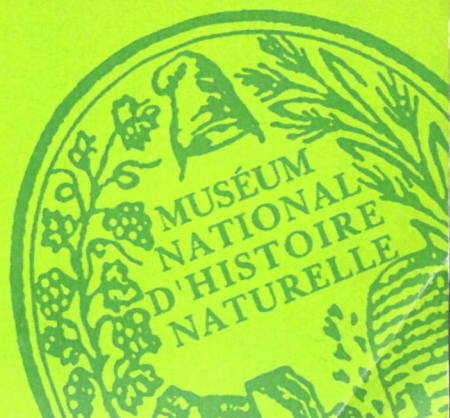
European Botanic Gardens in the Decade on Biodiversity
Challenges and responsibilities in the countdown towards 2020



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Seventh european botanic gardens congress

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NEW TOOLS AND COMMITMENTS IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN FLORA AND ANDALUSIAN AGRODIVERSITY (SPAIN): THE ANDALUSIAN GERMLASM BANK

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Genetic resources interesting for food and agriculture are the basis of food security and sustainable development. It is then essential to promote their conservation to avoid the loss of cultural wealth, genetic diversity of species, varieties and autochthonous ecotypes as a source of genes to create new varieties and regulate the access to these resources.

Although the main objective of the Andalusian Germplasm Bank (BGVA) is to conserve endemic and endangered wild species of Andalusian flora, during the last years we have initiated a new working line and commitment within the scope of economic species, including among our priorities those species of ethnobotanical interest which come from wild populations, aromatic, medicinal, fibre or other uses, wild close relatives to cultivated ones and neglected and underutilized species (NUS). This is the new framework where the BGVA has been working lately, with the characterization at molecular level of wild populations with ethnobotanical interest of taxa such as birch, rosemary, pomegranate, camomile and box.

BGVA techniques and functions have also been widened towards new dimensions: a) online documentation of germplasm collections conserved, by the scanning of specimens of the accessions; b) progressively including in the accessions documentation their intangible component related to traditional knowledge associated to the conserved taxa; c) relationships with seed exchange network-NGOs; d) elaboration of manuals and technical assistance to responsables of public administration regarding Access and Benefit sharing (ABS), according to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, already valid in the EU.

Finally, this paper analyses the conserved germplasm collections, highlighting the proportion corresponding to phylogenetic resources, interesting for food or agroforestry: 10.860 accessions of 3.341 different taxa. 2.579 accessions of these have ethnobotanical interest, 1.443 have forestry interest and 562 correspond to crops and species included in the FAO IT (International Treaty on Phylogenetic Resources).

Keywords: Andalusian flora, Andalusian seed bank, neglected and underutilized species, agrodiversity