



«Actions to protect, conserve and promote biodiversity. Field studies of endemic, endangered and nationally important species of Greece». Funded by the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA)

TITLE

On the brink of extinction: *Centaurea leonidia* and *Stachys virgata*, two endemic and endangered plants of South-East Peloponnese

(Project ID: 11584)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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ABSTRACT

CENTURY project aims to generate updated data on the conservation status of two rare endemic and threatened plants, namely *Centaurea leonidia* and *Stachys virgata*, through extensive fieldwork in the Peloponnese region. The general objectives of the project are: a. obtaining data on extent of occurrence, area of occupation, total population/subpopulations size, structure, pollination. b. Restore the occurrence of *S. virgata* to the IUCN Red List as Endangered, and include the newly described species *C. leonidia* as Endangered in the current edition. c. The evaluation of the known subpopulations of *C. leonidia* and *S. virgata*, especially in the climbing park in the Kokkinovrachos area of the Leonidio Ravine, and the search for possible new subpopulations. d. evaluation of the germination capacity of *C. leonidia* achenes and *S. virgata* nutlets in situ. e. Investigating the possible use of herbicides in the subpopulations of *S. virgata* growing on borders or within crops f. Investigating for the first time the phytochemical content of both species using NMR and LC-HRMS/MS. g. Determination with precision and perspective of the measures to be taken for the conservation and expansion of the two species. The results of CENTURY will be an important contribution to IUCN in order to reestablish the two species as EN in the world's most important network. The data that will be created by CENTURY will be of great interest not only for IUCN, but also for other important environmental actors and local authorities (NATURA 2000 Network, Management Agency of Paros, Moustos, Mainalon & Monemvasia, Hellenic Organization for Natural Environment & Climate Change). Especially at the local level, the information produced in the project will be of the utmost importance, as it will facilitate the decision-making of these bodies.
