



«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

Morphological and genetic variation of the local endemic *Jancaea heldreichii*

(Project ID: 14715)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

ANDREAS DROUZAS

HOST INSTITUTION

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

ABSTRACT

Jancaea heldreichii (Boiss.) Boiss. (Gesneri-aceae) is a Greek local endemic found only on Olympus mountain and showing habitat specificity for relatively damp and shady crevices of limestone cliffs, which essentially limits its distribution. The conservation value of *J. heldreichii* is high, as a local endemic with specific habitat requirements and also having medicinal and other uses (which leads to uncontrolled collection of its specimens from the wild). This conservation value is reflected in its inclusion in the first edition of the Red Data Book of Rare and Threatened Plants of Greece, in the Annex IV of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC and in the Greek Presidential Decree 67/1981 for the protection of specific flora and fauna species. *J. heldreichii* shows variation in its morphological traits, notwithstanding its distribution is very limited. However, neither its morphological traits nor its genetic variation have been studied so far, even though they are essential elements for efficient management and conservation of plant species. The purpose of this project is to study the morphological and genetic variation of *Jancaea heldreichii*, as well as the structure and differentiation of its populations. The results will be a valuable contribution in the most accurate assessment of its conservation status, by providing the respective knowledge, while knowledge on the structure and differentiation will facilitate the identification of populations in priority for conservation.
