



«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

Conservation and Genetic diversity of *Campanula papillosa*

(Project ID: 14887)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

ELENI LIVERI

HOST INSTITUTION

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

ABSTRACT

Campanula (Campanuloideae, Campanulaceae) is a one of the most speciose and variable genera including ca. 400 species characterized by a long and complex evolutionary history. Greece represents an intriguing part of the Eastern Mediterranean diversity hotspot for the genus including ca. 96 *Campanula* taxa of which ca. 60 are Greek endemics. *Campanula papillosa* is a little-known and rarely collected species of the genus *Campanula* with few references, rediscovered after 102 years from its first collection. It is considered a relict species, included in Presidential Decree 67/81 and also in “Red Data Book of Rare and Threatened Plants of Greece” as Critically Endangered (CR) based on IUCN criteria because of its limited distribution area and very small population size. Our main goals are to: (a) accurately define the geographical distribution of the species after exploring all potentially suitable habitats, (b) estimate the population size, (c) define the threats and propose strategies and conservation measures for its conservation, (d) estimate genetic diversity and potential gene flow within and among subpopulations, and, (e) inform the scientists and society for the importance of conservation and protection of *C. papillosa*. To achieve these, we plan extensive field work and employ different methods and evaluate various perspectives such as spatial distribution methods, population size estimates, threats recording, molecular techniques, genetic diversity analyses.
