

# Project partner: National Botanical Conservatory of Corsica of the Office of the Environment of Corsica

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## Island

CORSICA

## Species name (Family)

*Kosteletzkya pentacarpos* (L.) Ledeb. (Malvaceae)

## Common name

French: Hibiscus à cinq fruits

## Plant description

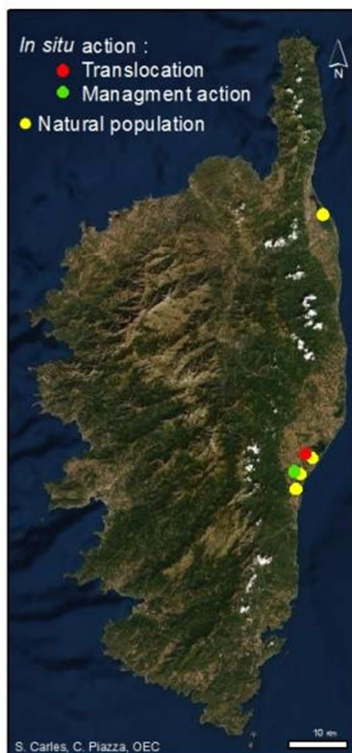
- ✓ Perennial from 1-2 meters high. Leaves with 3 lobes. Flowers solitary on axial line or in cyme. Black caps with five compartments with one seed in each.
- ✓ *K. pentacarpos* flowers from July to September, while fruiting occurs from August to October. Seeds are dispersed by barochory, and hydrochory.
- ✓ Species habitat is partly halophilous reed beds, fringes with helophytes bordering more or less brackish ponds, almost always in association with *Phragmites australis*, *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, *Aster tripolium*, *Juncus maritimus*.

## Distribution

This taxa is located in two main areas. The first one in West Mediterranean (Spain, Balearic islands, Corsica, Italy). The second one is more in east with Russia (Caspian sea). This taxa is absent of the French continent.

In Corsica, the species is located in four places all, on the East coast: 1) Biguglia (the most septentrionale and the most numerous) ; 2) Pinia, where this taxa is decreasing. Only one was found in september 2016 instead of four known before; 3) Calzarello, nice population; 4) Palo (only few plants). The location of Maora, near Bonifacio, disappeared.

## Map



4 populations of *Kosteletzkya pentacarpos* are present in Corsica. 2 are declining.

## Legal status

This species is protected at national level and listed in the Appendix I of the Bern Convention and in the Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

## Main threats and conservation status

According to the IUCN Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.2) the main threats in Corsica are:

- 1.1 Housing & urban areas. Due to urbanization, the location of Santa Manza disappears.
- 4.1 Roads & railroads. A part of the location of Biguglia was damaged by the road development.
- 8.2.1 Unspecified species. Little locations (Pinia, Palo) are concerned by vegetation's dynamic and environmental remanences associated with storms (large amounts of sand at river mouths). Sometimes they appear due to a fire or the action of stakeholders.

*K. pentacarpus* was assessed as Endangered (EN) according to IUCN Regional Red List of Corsica (Delage A., Hugot L., 2015).

## Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The purpose of the action was to maintain these little populations. So:

- 1/ a reinforcement was carried out on the site of Pinia (Ghisonaccia). 226 plants from seeds recollected from the site have been implanted in 4 experimental spots in from a November to December 2017. Periodic monitoring was started in July 2018. The preliminary results of the monitoring showed a survival rate of 28%.
- 2/ and a control of natural vegetation was carried out on the site of Palo (Serra-di-Fiumorbu) to maintain this little population.

After the end of the project, the monitoring activities will be continued, ensuring the long-term sustainability for the *in situ* actions.

## Photos



General aspects of *Kosteletzkyia pentacarpus*



Translocation action & Landscape opening