CARE MEDIFLORA

FIELDTRIP 12-15 JULY 2016 - CORSICA

13 July 2016 – Monastery of Orezza (Castagniccia)

14 July 2016 - Palombaggia (community of Porto-Vecchio)

• **<u>12-13 July 2016</u>** :

Scientific days in tribute to Jacques Gamisans (see agenda in the Annex)

- 12 July 2016 : oral presentations at the University of Corsica
- 13 July 2016 : visit of the sites of Castagniccia

L'université rend un hommage appuyé au botaniste Jacques Gamisans

Les scientifiques réunis en mémoire de Jacques Gamisans. / PHOTO JOSE MARTINETTI

En début de semaine, dans les locaux de l'université, de nombreux scientifiques ont rendu hommage au botaniste Jacques Gamisans, décédé en septembre dernier.

"*C'était un homme d'un grand humanisme et sa pédagogie n'est pas égalée*" estime Laetitia Hugot, du conservatoire botanique de Corse, une proche collaboratrice de cet amoureux de la nature.

La journée d'hommage était basée sur les travaux de cette personnalité atypique, "*un militant important pour l'originalité de la flore et la végétation de la Corse*".

À la vue des nombreuses publications auxquelles il a participé, son travail était toute sa vie.

"*Il a toujours œuvré avec une grande humilité. Quand on devait prendre une photo de lui, jamais il ne regardait directement l'objectif.*

"*Je dirais même que c'était un passeur de science, de savoir. Il adorait transmettre ce qu'il savait. Et c'est ce que nous essayons de faire aujourd'hui.*"

Edmond Simeoni a déclaré que la mort de Jacques Gamisans "*était une grande perte pour la science, mais aussi pour la Corse, car il avait su mettre en avant et définir la végétation insulaire*".

Cet homme d'action a toujours eu une vie trépidante, et pour l'approcher, il ne fallait pas avoir peur d'aller dans la nature.

"*Un jour, une journaliste a voulu faire un article sur lui. Il l'a emmenée en montagne, pour faire l'interview autour d'un feu de camp, le plus naturellement possible,*" rajoute un ami, Paul Bioulez.

Cette journée a prouvé, s'il le fallait encore, que Jacques Gamisans est, et restera, un personnage incontournable dans le milieu de la botanique insulaire.

CAROLINE M. DERMY

• **<u>14 July 2016 (see details below)</u>** :

8h - 20h: visit of the sites, collection of seeds and exchange of experiences with regard to techniques of plant *in situ* conservation on various places, in the extreme South of the island and the region of Solenzara.

• **<u>15 July 2016</u> :**

9h-13h : Workshop CAREMEDIFLORA

• Field trip of <u>14 July 2016</u>

Departure: 8h from CORTE
Return: 20h at CORTE
Visited sites:

- 1- Coastline of Piantarella ; sand dunes of Petit Sperone ; sand dunes of Grand Sperone (community of Bonifacio) ;
- 2- Sand dunes of Palombaggia (community of Porto-Vecchio)
- 3- Bridge of Calzatoju (community de Sari-Solenzara).

The field trip had several objectives:

1/ to exchange experiences with regard to techniques already in practice aiming at the *in situ* conservation of (plant) species and to see examples of such experiments for a taxon

with a very narrow distribution in Corsica (see map below) and with a very intensive regression of its population in the 80s-90s: ***Armeria pungens***.

This taxon is present in Corsica, in Sardinia and in the SW of the Iberian Peninsula, at the Atlantic coast, from the mouth of the river Tagus in the North till the Strait of Gibraltar in the South. It is also present in the Cíes islands of Galicia (NW of Spain). It is protected in France at national level and included in the 'Red Book of the threatened flora of France', vol.1 (Olivier *et al.*, 1995). Thanks to the measures applied, the status of the taxon has 'moved' from 'Critically endangered' (EN) in the 90s to 'Vulnerable' (VU) in the actual regional red list of Corsica.

It is a perennial sun loving species living on the coastal sand dunes.
The 4 'natural' stands of the taxon are found in the southern side of the island, on sites with very high tourism.

Several threats have been identified on these stands: impact of goats (on Piana Island); trampling (in all sites); urbanization; eutrophication, induced by the proliferation of sea birds, rabbits and rats (Piana Island); fragmentation of the area of species' range.
In order to mitigate these threats, various management measures have been implemented:

- 1980: creation of the Natural Reserve of the Lavezzi Islands (including the islands Lavezzo, Piana, Ratino, Porraggia, Sperduto)
- Removal of livestock from the island Piana in the late 80s,
- In the 1990s: fences in the stands of Grand and Petit Sperone
- 1997: creation of 2 new populations at the sites of Palombaggia and Tamaricciu (community of Porto-Vecchio) belonging to the Coastal Conservancy (Conservatoire du littoral) by planting 6-month-old seedlings, originating from seeds from the 4 'natural' sites
- 2015: protection measures on the coastline of Piantarella.

Today, all the populations are actively managed. The combined effect of the various implemented measures has led to ensuring the conservation of the species on all sites and to

the establishment of new populations. The total population size has increased from a few hundred to more than 10,000 individuals since the 1980s.

Protection of the sand dunes of Petit Sperone (C. Piazza - CBNC)

Creation of the population of *Armeria pungens* in the site of Palombaggia in 2000. **Photo on the left** : January 2005. (S. Lorenzo) ; **photo of the right** : November 2014 (C. Piazza - CBNC)

2/ to make seed collections for two species included in the priority list of Corsica and proposed in the framework of the project CARE-MEDIFLORA :

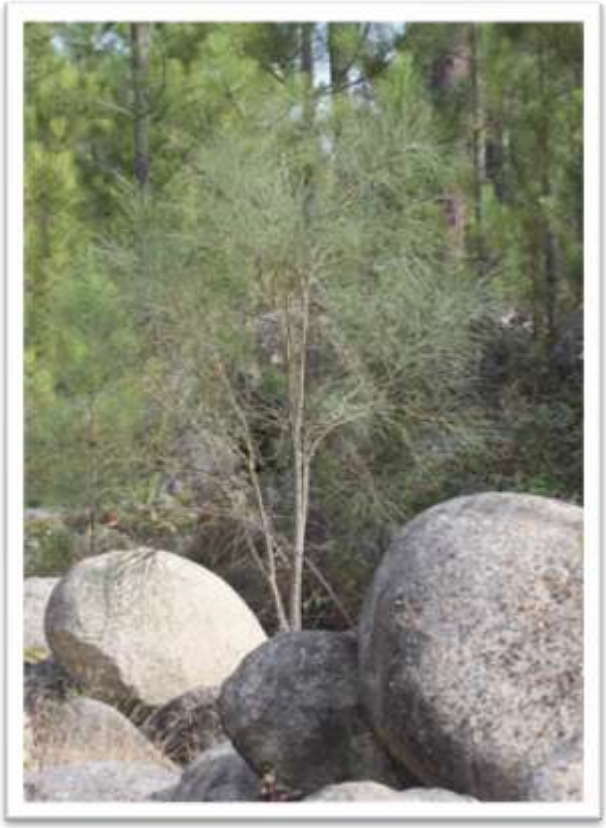
- from 3 of the 4 natural populations of ***Armeria pungens*** **(Link) Hoffmanns. & Link** on the island (Piantarella, Petit Sperone, Grand Sperone)
- and from 1 population of ***Anthyllis barba-jovis*** **L.** in the Petit Sperone.

Armeria pungens (photo C. PIAZZA- CBNC)

Anthyllis barba-jovis (photo C. PIAZZA- CBNC)

3/ to exchange experiences with regard to problems common in several islands; a visit was made to the population of *Genista aetnensis* (Biv.) DC., discovered in September 2014 by two botanists of CBNC (NERY L. and A. Delage) along the Solenzara river (see map below). This new population consists of young individuals, healthy, spread from the mouth of the Solenzara river up to over 350 meters altitude, in small groups or isolated on rocks, gravel and sands deposited by the river. These sites are constantly transformed by the floods, have very poor vegetation and the species behaves here as a pioneer species.

The same phenomenon is observed in Sardinia with a colonization of the river banks with new populations at higher altitudes.
The species of *Genista aetnensis* was discovered in Corsica by Vivant in 1961 (one unique adult individual observed in the south of the marsh of Peri, community of Solaro, on the coast). At that time, it was under discussion whether the species was native to the island. Vivant wrote in 1974 that "*its presence remains an enigma. It can hardly be considered a native species when it is only represented by a single individual whose lush flowering, followed by still abundant fruiting, cannot give a single seedling in the immediate vicinity*".



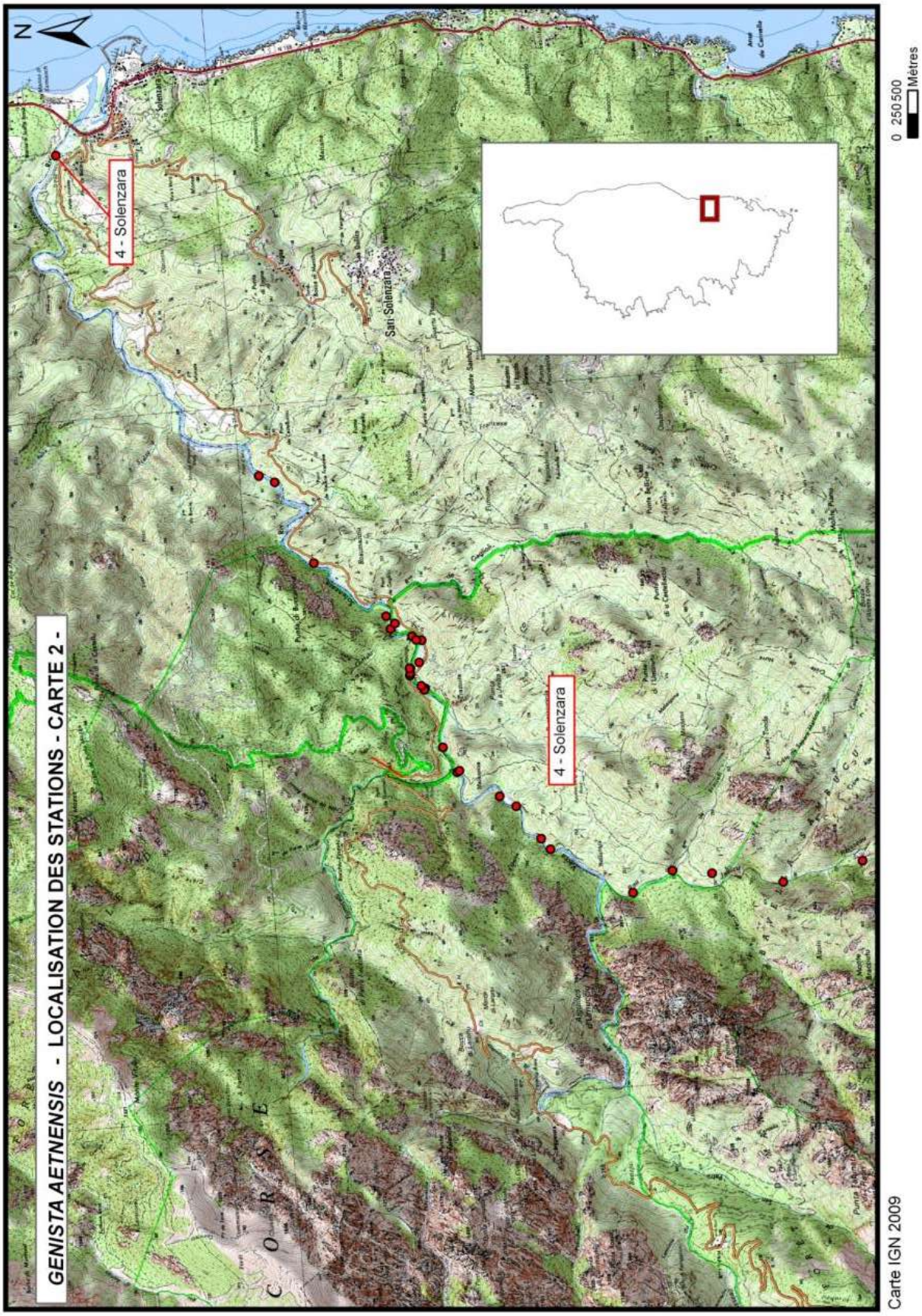
Young *Genista aetnensis* (Solenzara- A. Delage - CBNC)

Despite discovering 2 new stands in the Eastern coastline of Corsica:

- Solaro, stand discovered by ZEVACO and BAUDIERE in 1971,
- Palo, stand discovered by PARADIS in 1992,

the native status of the species was not concluded until recently, in 2013, when JEANMONOD & GAMISANS considered the species as 'naturalized? originating form Sicily-Sardinia' (Jeanmonod and Gamisans, 2013).

There are several reasons for this: the small number of populations, their bad health situation, their high mortality compared with a relatively low regeneration rate and especially their exclusive presence in coastal habitats and not in higher altitudes and/or along rivers as in Sicily and Sardinia. The last new discovery of 2014 has closed the debate. The native status of *Genista aetnensis* in Corsica seems now certain for this taxon and discussion on its conservation issues has thereby increased. Therefore, the species has been listed as a priority for Corsica in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project and is the subject of joint work with Sardinia and Sicily, particularly regarding genetics.



Genista aetnensis - Localization of its stands in Corsica

ANNEX

Journée scientifique
hommage à Jacques GAMISANS

Mardi 12 juillet 2016,
Corti,
Amphithéâtre Landry
Campus Mariani
Università di Corsica Pasquale Paoli

PROGRAMME

9h30 Accueil- Discours introductifs

- *Le mot de la famille GAMISANS*
- Frédéric MEDAIL
  Jacques Gamisans, un botaniste catalan en Corse
- Laetitia HUGOT
  Jacques Gamisans et le Conservatoire botanique national de Corse

10h30 Jacques Gamisans et les études sur la flore et la végétation de Corse

- Daniel JEANMONOD
  Jacques Gamisans et le projet Flore Corse
- Régine VERLAQUE & Annie ABOUCAYA
  Poursuite des recherches cytogénétiques sur la flore de Corse
- Michel MURACCIOLE
  La végétation de l'île de la Galite (Tunisie) et ses affinités avec la végétation corse
- Bertrand SCHATZ
  Les orchidées, une famille comme les autres pour Jacques Gamisans
- Gianluigi BACCHETTA & Carole PIAZZA
  Programme de conservation in situ des végétaux dans les grandes îles de Méditerranée
- Frédéric BIORET & Christophe PANAÏOTIS
  Les végétations de Corse

14h Jacques Gamisans, un passeur de science

- Muriel POLI
  Phytonymes et toponymes corses
- Isabelle GUYOT & Richard MOULENC
  Jacques Gamisans au service d'un site remarquable : les tourbières de Moltifao
- Bernard RECORBET
  Contribution de Jacques Gamisans à la stratégie nationale de création d'aires protégées (SCAP)
- Josep Lluis GRADAILLE
  Jacques Gamisans, un ami catalan en Corse
- Jacques DELEUZE
  Souvenirs de mes rencontres avec Jacques Gamisans, ce "catalan corse"
- Bernadette et Marie-Germaine CONRAD
  «Jacques Gamisans, Marcelle Conrad et sa famille : 50 ans de complicité botanique et d'amitié
- Jean ALESANDRI
  Jacques Gamisans, un homme et ami si utile aux mycologues de Corse
- Jacques POYELLE
  Hommage de la Société des sciences historiques et naturelles de la Corse

16H 30 Clôture