

Project partner: Hortus Botanicus Karalitanus of the University of Cagliari

Island

SARDINIA

Species name (Family)

Ribes multiflorum Kit. ex Roem. et Schult. subsp. *sandalioticum* Arrigoni (Grossulariaceae)

Common name

Ribes multifloro di Sardegna (Italian name), manyflower currant (English name)

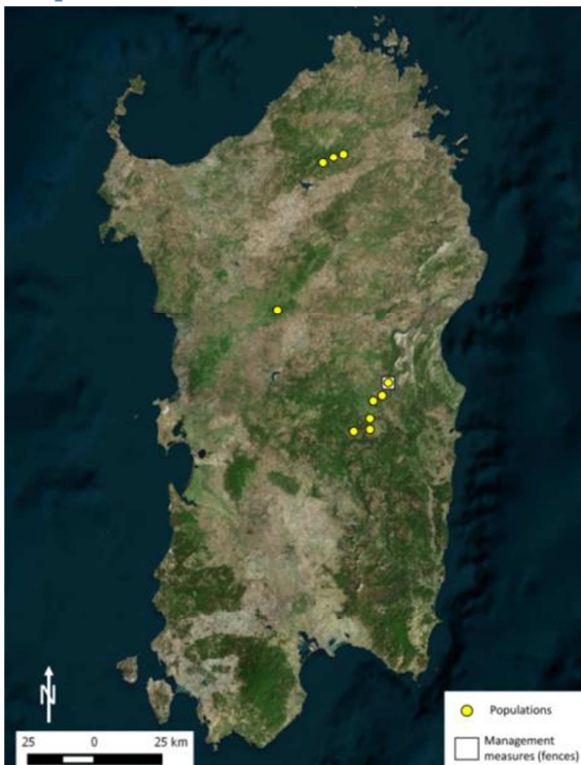
Plant description

- ✓ *Ribes multiflorum* subsp. *sandalioticum* is a woody shrub (1.0–3.5-m high), with adult smooth branches, and juvenile grey pubescent branches. The plant is characterised by sub rounded leaves 6-7 cm wide, with 3-5 small lobes, denticulated, glabrous in the upper part, hairy and glandular above, in particular along the leaf ribs. Inflorescences raceme, bent, 7-8 cm long. Yellow-green small bisexual flowers. The mature fruits are dark red - black berries, containing 3-5 seeds with linear underdeveloped embryo.
- ✓ *R. multiflorum* subsp. *sandalioticum* is a dioecious plant. The flowering period occurs from April to May, while fruits develop from June to September. Pollinators are insects and birds and mammals are probably the main seed dispersal agents.
- ✓ *R. multiflorum* subsp. *sandalioticum* grows in fresh and shady valleys and on different substrata in the mountain environment from 1000 to 1600 m a.s.l.. From a bioclimatic point of view, the species can be referred to the range of Upper Mesomediterranean, Lower Subhumid and Euoceanic Weak to Lower Supramediterranean, Lower Humid, Semicontinental Weak, but frequently to the Temperate Oceanic (Submediterranean variant), Lower Humid.

Distribution

Ribes multiflorum subsp. *sandalioticum* is an endemic species of Central-North Sardinia (Italy). The *taxon* consists of 13 small populations distributed in the Gennargentu-Supramontes regions and in the Limbara and Marghine mountains.

Map



Legal status

Currently, the species is not listed in any international, national or local regulations.

Main threats and conservation status

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

- ✓ 2.3.1: Nomadic Grazing and 6.1: Recreational Activities. The main threats were represented by the overgrazing and the activities of tourists.
- ✓ 11.1 Habitat Shifting & Alteration. In the near future, other two threats for the species could be the climate change and severe weather and mountain tourism development. In addition, the small population size of this plant could raise the risk of extinction, representing a serious threat to the species.

Ribes multiflorum subsp. *sandalioticum* was assessed as Endangered (EN)) on the IUCN Global Red List and Italian Red List.

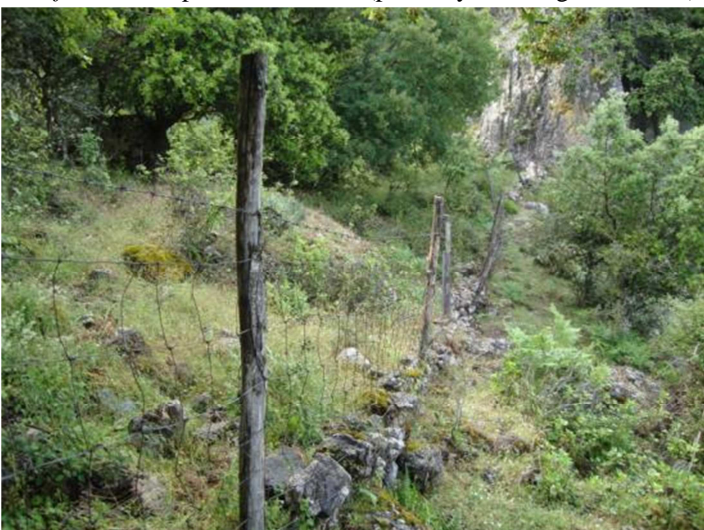
Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The conservation action for this species was the restoration and maintenance of the fence protection, by now ineffective and abandoned, in the biggest population of Monte Novo San Giovanni (Orgosolo, NU). This action was carried out in spring 2018 in order to prevent damages related to the grazing and trampling of wild ungulates. Ten plants selected randomly within the population were labelled for future monitoring activities. A monitoring plan of the new fence protection was elaborated and started in March 2018. Monitoring activities measured the effectiveness of the management action. The preliminary results of the monitoring showed the integrity of the protective fence. After the end of the project, the monitoring activities will be continued, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the *in situ* actions.

Photos



Left: Inflorescence of *Ribes multiflorum* subsp. *sandalioticum* (photo by Gianluigi Bacchetta). Right: Individual of *Ribes multiflorum* subsp. *sandalioticum* (photo by Gianluigi Bacchetta).



Protective fence for *Ribes multiflorum* subsp. *sandalioticum* (photo by Giuseppe Fenu).