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THE VASCULAR FLORA OF MEDITERRANEAN TEMPORARY WETLANDS IN WIKIPLANTBASE #SARDEGNA

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Mediterranean temporary wetlands are considered among the most biologically and biogeographically interesting ecosystems in the Mediterranean region (Médail, 2004) so much to be defined “a floristic jewel” (Braun-Blanquet 1936).

Although a check list of vascular flora associated to these habitats is available (Bagella & Caria, 2012) for Sardinia, the information on species distribution is fragmented. Moreover many species are under-recorded because they are inconspicuous, exhibit a very short life cycle and are absent during unfavorable years, giving the impression that they have disappeared, whereas in fact they are still present in the soil seed-bank.

Floristic records provide baseline data for ecological and biogeographical researches and are necessary for the assessment of conservation status of the species. Any attempt of data update must take into account the acquisition of a vast, heterogeneous, and “dormant” documentation, both published and unpublished, as well as any future exclusion / inclusion of taxa. To this end, floristic records on Mediterranean temporary wetlands have been inserted in the collaborative online database "[Wikiplantbase #Sardegna](#)". This tool presents the following characteristics, shared with the sister project [Wikiplantbase #Toscana](#): a basic floristic record is a combination of a plant name, a locality, a date, and a source. Data are entered on an online platform by registered collaborators, accessing the platform across the Internet; data homogeneity and integrity is enforced by the platform software rather than data entry operators; all data are validated by a project coordinator; all validated data are freely accessible across Internet and displayed on a map as georeferenced points with associated data, in a dedicated interface (no registration is required for querying and viewing the database). Taxonomic integrity was implemented by linking the database to a working copy of the Italian checklist of vascular plants; furthermore, the database was linked to a database comprising of toponyms along with administrative boundaries and geographic coordinates (Bedini et al., 2014).

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