

# Stone-walled terraces restoration: conserving biodiversity and promoting economic functions of farmlands in Lebanon

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**Abstract:** Dry stone-walled terraces are peculiar features of Mediterranean farmland, representing typical examples of social-ecological systems combining ecological functionality and ecosystem services provision. In the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (Lebanon) a program of restoration of abandoned terraces applying Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) principles is ongoing from 2016, combined with biodiversity monitoring activities. This study illustrates preliminary results of the plant monitoring, with the aim to (1) draft a checklist of the plants found in the terraces, (2) compare plant diversity and evaluate consistency of species assemblages observed among 3 different terrace managements (abandoned, restored and intensively-cultivated) and (3) compare ecological and ecosystem service value of the plant communities in the 3 types of terraces. Overall, 332 species were observed, with significantly higher diversity found in abandoned and restored terraces compared to intensively farmed terraces. Similarly, species assemblages of restored terraces were closely related to abandoned and distantly related to intensively-managed terraces. According to the study, restored terraces provide the same ecological value and ecosystem services functions as abandoned terraces, significantly higher than intensively-managed terraces. This study showcases the effectiveness of FLR programmes in restoring economic and social functions of terraced Mediterranean farmland while maintaining ecological functionality.

*Keywords: agricultural terraces, land abandonment, restoration, FLR, biodiversity, ecosystems services*

## Introduction

Agricultural smallholder terraces are peculiar features of Mediterranean cultural landscapes, enabling crop production in dry environments and steep slopes (García-Ruiz et al., 2020; Tarolli et al., 2014). Terraced croplands have thousands-year old tradition in the Mediterranean basin and are widespread across all Mediterranean cultures (Blondel, 2006;

Kladnik et al., 2017). Twelve UNESCO World Heritage Sites and two FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) which feature terraced landscapes are found in the region. Terraced landscapes are typical examples of social-ecological systems which retain ecological functionality while providing several ecosystem services (ES) (Nieto-Romero et al., 2014). Beside food provisioning, ES provided by terraced landscapes include the reduction of soil loss, the increase of rainfall retention, the increase of plant biomass, the enrichment of the soil, the mitigation of fire, floods and desertification risks. Most notably, terraced landscapes ultimately represent a valuable adaptation strategy in face of the climate warming.

Two main types of terraces are used in the Mediterranean region, namely earth embankments and dry stone terraces, with possible use of mixed types (Cicinelli et al., 2021). Lebanon features dry stone walls as vertical elements to create horizontal strips of land cultivated with tree crops, such as mulberry (historically used for silk production), vines, olives, figs, walnut and, most recently, apple and cherries (Zurayk, 1994). In the last decades, agricultural transformations in the Mediterranean are led by two opposite drivers, i.e. the intensification of farming practices and the abandonment of economically marginal croplands (Debolini et al., 2018; Lomba et al., 2020; Otero et al., 2015; Plieninger et al., 2016; Reynolds et al., 2014). Lebanese terraced farmland has been affected by both drivers. In fact, after the WWII considerable migration of the population from the countryside to the coastal cities caused the abandonment of less accessible terraces. The abandoned terraces have suffered two different types of processes: (i) soil erosion due to the lack of maintenance of the stone walls and steep slopes, and (ii) fast secondary forest colonization on more stable terraces where the soil has been maintained, although the accumulation of dry biomass increases the risk of fires (Abdallah, 2012). Similar patterns are found across Mediterranean countries (Brunori et al., 2018; Heider et al., 2021; Modica et al., 2017; Rühl et al., 2006). According to the time of abandonment and the stability of the slopes, different deterioration stages are seen in the terraces. In some cases, stone walls have completely collapsed causing erosion and hindering colonization by serial shrubby vegetation. In other cases, with more stable slopes, the terraces remain invisible as they have been colonized by very dense secondary pine forests (*Pinus brutia*) and mixed communities of oaks (mainly *Quercus infectoria*, and to a lesser extent *Q. coccifera*) and pines. This phenomenon has relevant consequences on biodiversity and environmental risks. On one hand, dry stone-walls, together with other farmland microhabitats linked to sustainable farming practices (e.g. scattered trees in farmland plots, synanthropic vegetation such as the segetal plant communities of cultivated habitats, ruderal vegetation dominated by thistle-type species along cropping borders, roadsides, and disturbed lands, the vegetation of water ponds or water lines crossing terraced crops, and patches of woody vegetation surrounding terraced crops), represent themselves an important microhabitat which enhance farmland biodiversity (Solomou et al., 2020). On the other hand, farming practices have been usually intensified with the use of pesticides, fertilizers, irrigation, ploughing, the use of herbicides for the suppression of synanthropic vegetation, and the cementation of the stones of the walls destroying the habitats of their interstices. Farming intensification is universally acknowledged as one of the main threats to farmland biodiversity (IPBES, 2019), including in the Mediterranean basin (Henle et al., 2008; José-María et al., 2010). The transition from low-input to intensive practices in Lebanese terraced croplands started in the 1970s, after a grape phylloxera infestation affected vineyards, forcing landowners to shift to apple and cherry production, which require more intensive farming practices (Corrieri et al., 2021).

Stone-walled terraces are featured prominently in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR), the largest protected area of Lebanon, which corresponds to the 5% of the country area. In the western slope of the Shouf range (included in the Shouf District) terraces are present over the 10% of the land (Corrieri et al., 2021). In the early 1990s, almost 66% of terraces

in the area were already abandoned (Zurayk et al., 2001). The restoration of abandoned terraces plays a critical role in terms of enhancing ecosystem services to sustain both biodiversity and human livelihoods. In 2016 the SBR started a restoration program of abandoned terraces within the framework of a large-scale Forest and Landscape Restoration initiative, covering the 50,000 ha of the SBR (Hani et al., 2017, 2019, 2021). Overall, more than 150 ha of degraded dry-stone walls terraced were successfully restored. The restoration of dry stone-wall terraces in the SBR also included interventions for the maintenance and recovery of marginal habitats linked to the agriculture terraces, such as hedges, tree and shrub shelters, isolated trees, ruderal vegetation along roads, consistently with the FLR principles. Restored terraces have been being farmed sustainably, with low-input agricultural practices and high diversity of crops (fruit trees, olives, aromatic plants, vegetables).

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration activities to promote biodiversity and ecosystem services the SBR has launched a biodiversity monitoring program. This study illustrates preliminary outcomes of plant monitoring activities.

More specifically, the study aims at

- i. drafting a checklist of the plants found in the terraces of the western foothills of the SBR;
- ii. comparing plant diversity of restored terraces with abandoned and intensively-managed terraces;
- iii. test the similarity of plant communities among restored, abandoned and intensively-managed terraces and
- iv. evaluating the ecological and the ecosystem service value of the plant communities of restored terraces with respect to abandoned and intensively-managed terraces.

## Material and Methods

### *Study area*

The study area is located in the foothills of the western slope of the Shouf mountains, within the Development zone of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (Mount Lebanon governorate, Shouf district). More in detail, study plots were located in the municipalities of Ain Zhalta, Barouk, Maasser al-Shouf, Baadarane, Mristi and Jbaa al-Shouf (**Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.**). From the ecological point of view, the area extends in the supra-Mediterranean bioclimatic zone, at an elevation between 1000 and 1200 m asl. The landscape is characterized by evergreen and deciduous oak forests (*Q. calliprinos* and *Q. infectoria*), pine forests (*P. pinea* and *P. brutia*) and mixed forests, replaced on vast areas by agricultural and pastoral land, which partially has undergone secondary vegetation succession. Agricultural terraces are cultivated with olives, fruit trees, vines and aromatic plants (lavender, rosemary, oregano). Species-rich communities of herbaceous plants are featured in recently abandoned agriculture terraces (chiefly in limestone substrates), while mid- and long-term abandoned agriculture/pasture lands are colonized by different types of woody vegetation depending on the period of abandonment (e.g. small thorny shrubs, high shrubs, with scattered trees, and forest stands).

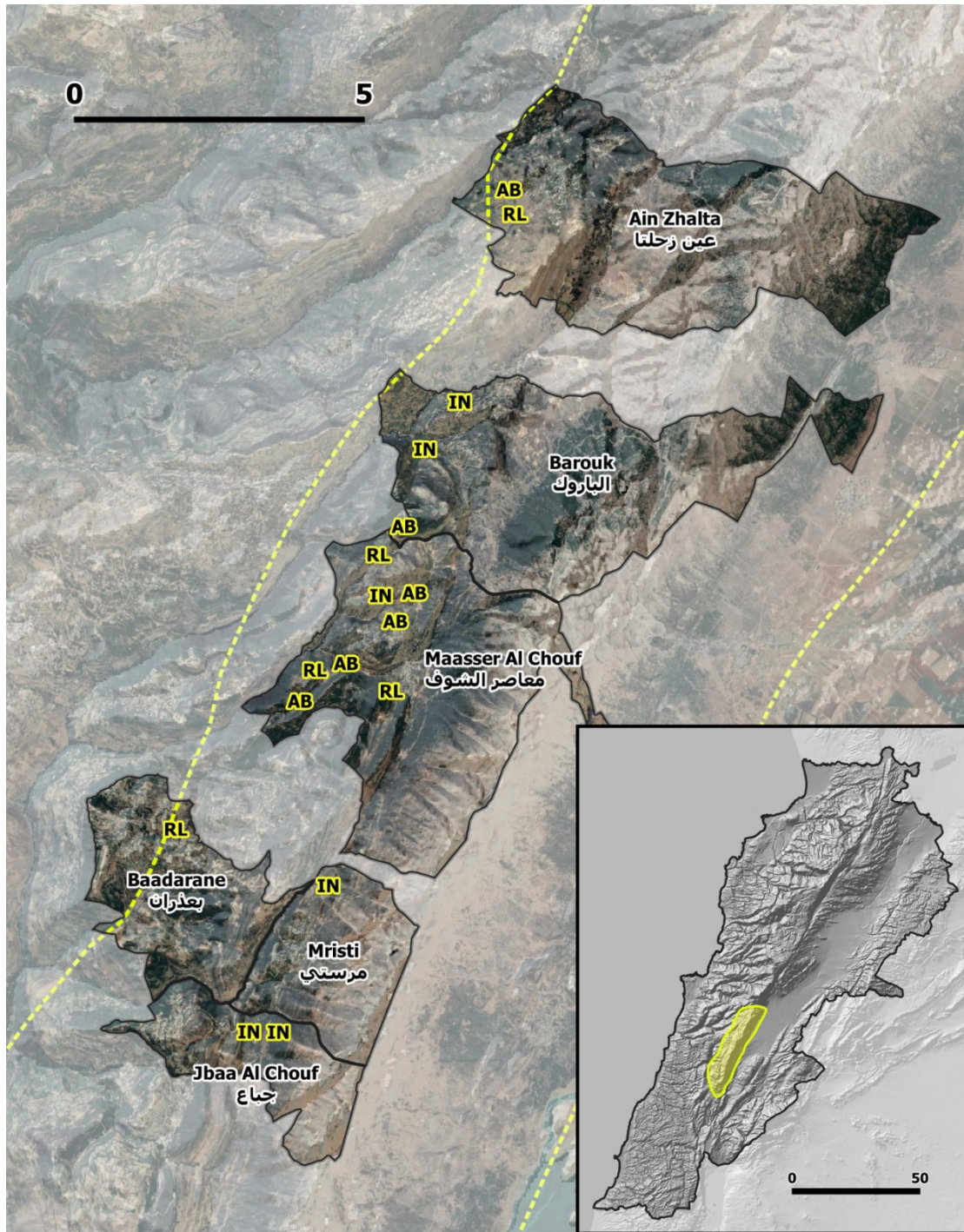


Figure 1 - Map of the study area, with municipalities highlighted. Monitoring sites are shown in yellow. AB=abandoned terraces; RL=restored terraces; IN=intensively-managed terraces. Yellow dotted line represent the border of the SBR development zone. Inset: location of the SBR (in yellow) within the Lebanese territory.

### Sampling methods

The plant communities of 18 dry stone-walled terraced fields (6 terraces of each of 3 management types) were monitored in 2020 and 2021. Terraces were classified as intensively managed (hereafter IN), abandoned (AB) or restored (RL). Intensively-managed terraces were cultivated with fruit trees (mainly apple, cherry, pear, plum), and, less frequently, with walnut, almond, olives or vines, applying intensive practices such as

deep ploughing, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, irrigation and weed control. Abandoned terraces included diverse stages of abandonment (~10 years to ~40 years). Restored terraces underwent restoration (stone wall restoration, organic soil replenishment, composting), reduced soil mobilization, soil mulching, limited or no use of agrochemicals, and diversified planting, combining aromatic and culinary shrubs such as lavender, oregano, sumac and rosemary, and fruit trees such as olives, almonds, figs, and vines in 2017 or 2018. One terrace only was restored in 2020. However, data collected in this terrace was subsequently discarded from the analysis, since the timing of the restoration did not allow for a complete regeneration of the herbaceous vegetation. The average terraced field size was 2500 m<sup>2</sup> (min 500, max 5000). Each terrace was visited 4 times each year (March to September). During each field visit (hereafter ‘inventory’), a representative sample of the terraces (several hundreds of square metres) was surveyed, and a checklist of plant species observed was compiled. The monitoring led to the compilation of a complete checklist of species present in each monitored terrace (hereafter ‘site’).

### *Data analysis*

***Species diversity.*** In order to compare species’ diversity across managements, we fitted a linear mixed model to predict the number of species observed in each inventory with the management type (AB, RL or IN). The model included the site as random effect. Data normality assumption check was performed by a Shapiro-Wilk test of normality. In addition, post-hoc multiple comparisons Tukey test with Bonferroni-Holm correction was eventually performed.

***Similarities of plant communities.*** To evaluate the consistency and the similarities of the plant communities found in the three terrace managements we performed a hierarchical cluster analysis (‘complete linkage’ method) on a dissimilarity matrix computed on a species-site presence/absence matrix with the Bray-Curtis distance (Bray and Curtis, 1957; Faith et al., 1987), widely used in ecology and already applied in studies of plant communities’ composition (Cleland et al. 2013). In addition, an analysis of similarities (ANOSIM) was performed on the same dissimilarity matrix of species assemblage data (999 permutations). Decomposition of the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity was used to evaluate within-site similarity and between-site dissimilarity (Moser et al., 2007).

***Ecological and ecosystem services value.*** To compare the ecological and the ecosystem service value of the plant communities across different managements we calculated an ecological (ECOL) and an ecosystem service (ES) value index for each plant species observed in the monitoring. Each index summarises several variables. **Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.** gives an overview of the variables included in the calculation of the indices. The ES value was evaluated by considering the 3 categories of ES, as defined by the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) (Haines-Young and Potschin, 2018), namely, the provisioning services, the regulation and maintenance services and the cultural services. For each ES typology we identified 2 to 5 indicators. Dichotomous indicators (yes/no) were coded with a binary value (yes=3, no=0). Indicators referred to continuous were ranked to ordinal variables. Values for “Pollination” were calculated as the nearest integer of the ln of the frequency of pollinating wildbee species known to feed on the plant species, according to Grace (2010). Similarly, values for “Melliferous” were computed by 1) calculating the frequency and the overall sum of the proportion of pollens found in 25 honey samples, as reported by Silici & Gökçeoglu (2007); 2) calculating the ln of the values of each of the two variables (frequency and overall proportion); 3) summing the two values and rounded it to the nearest integer. ECOL and ES indices were calculated by normalizing (0-1) the sum of the respective indicators. A “total” (TOT) index, which sums ECOL and ES indices, was eventually computed. For each inventory we calculated the median ECOL, ES and TOT values of the species

checklist and the overall ECOL, ES and TOT values (by summing). Finally, we fitted a linear mixed model to predict each of the inventory values of ECOL, ES and TOT (median and overall) with the management type (AB, RL or IN). The model included SITE as random effect. Post-hoc multiple comparisons Tukey tests with Bonferroni-Holm correction for each model were eventually performed. All analysis were run in R (version 4.0.2) with the ‘vegan’ (Bray-Curtis dissimilarity and ANOSIM), ‘stats’ (hierarchical clustering), ‘lme4’ (linear mixed models) and ‘multcomp’ (post-hoc Tukey tests) packages.

*Table 1 – Description of the ecosystem services indicators (ecological and ecosystem service value) considered for each of the plant species observed. For each indicator the proxy, the range or the values assigned to the different levels of the indicators and the source is provided. Only for ES indicators, the CICES code (Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services code, V5.1) is provided (Haines-Young and Potschin, 2018).*

INDEX	INDICATOR	CICES CODE	PROXY	RANGE/VALUES	SOURCE
ECOLOGICAL VALUE	Conservation		National conservation threat category	0 (LC) - 8 (CR)	Lebanese Red List of Plants
	Biogeographical		Chorology	1 (alien species) - 8 (Lebanese or Levant endemic)	<i>expert based</i>
	Ecological amplitude		N habitat of presence	1 - 8	<i>expert based</i>
	Ecological specificity		N habitat of presence (if N = 1)	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Pollination		N wild Apoideae species known to pollinate the plant (ranked)	0 (unknown or no pollinating value) - 4 (highly pollinated)	Grace (2010)
ECOSYSTEM SERVICE VALUE	Medicinal	1.1.5.2	Known medicinal properties	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Ornamental	1.1.5.2	Known use as ornamental in gardening	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Dying	1.1.5.2	Known use as natural dye	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Cosmetic and aromatic	1.1.5.2	Known use in the manufacturing of soaps, perfumes, oils, incenses etc.	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Genetic	1.2.1.1 / 1.2.1.2	Species used in molecular biology to increase quality of phenotypic traits, wild relatives of domestic species etc.	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Food	1.1.5.1	Edible and known use in the Mediterranean cuisine	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
	Pasture enrichment	2.1.1.1	Improvement of the forage quality	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>
Melliferous	2.2.2.1	Proportion and frequency of pollen in honey samples (ranked)	0 (not used by domestic bees) - 5 (highly used by domestic bees)	Silici e Gökceoglu (2007), <i>expert based</i>	
CULTURAL	Aesthetic	3.1.2.4	Aesthetical appreciation among the population	1 - 3 (rounded mean)	questionnaire (n=10)
	Cultural heritage	3.1.2.3 / 3.2.1.1 / 3.2.1.2	Known references in the literature, in the iconography, in religion etc.	0 (no) or 3 (yes)	<i>expert based</i>

## Results

A total of 332 plant species belonging to 54 families were identified through the field monitoring. The full checklist is shown in SM1. The list includes one species classified as EN by the Lebanese Red List of Plants, namely *Orchis anatolica*, and 3 classified as NT (*Papaver rhoeas*, *Orchis italica* and *Scorzonera mollis*). 54 species are Lebanese or Levantine endemisms, including *Salvia judaica*, *S. hierosolymitana*, *Centaurea cheirolopha*, *Geranium libanoticum*, *Orchis galilaea*, *O. anatolica*. Almost half of the species were specific to single management types (54 species specific to AB sites, 53 to RL sites and 53 to IN sites). 161 species were not found in IN sites. Overall, 212 species were observed in RL sites, 188 in AB sites and 177 in IN sites.

Inventories' species richness was highest in the AB, followed by RL and IN (**Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.**). The model's total explanatory power is substantial (conditional  $R^2 = 0.35$ ). IN sites diversity was significantly lower than AB sites (beta = -11.11, 95% CI [-18.60, -3.61],  $t(107) = -2.94$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ). Conversely, RL site diversity is comparable to AB sites (beta = -0.39, 95% CI [-8.23, 7.45],  $t(107) = -0.10$ ,  $p = 0.922$ ). In addition, post-hoc Tukey test show significant lower diversity of IN sites with respect to RL sites (RL – IN, estimate=10.71,  $z=2.725$ ,  $p=0.018$ ).

The results of the hierarchical clustering are shown in **Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.** The Bray-Curtis dissimilarity among managements show a continuum of the differences of species assemblage among sites. However, 4 main clusters can be outlined. A first cluster (blue) is represented by an only AB site, which stands out as a possible outlier. Two other clusters (green and red) include IN sites only, but one RL site, which is the most distantly related within the cluster. The fourth cluster (gold) includes all the remaining AB and RL sites. In this large cluster, 3 sub-clusters are seen, 2 including AB sites only and 1 including RL and one AB sites. The results of the analysis of similarity are consistent with the cluster analysis. ANOSIM statistic R was 0.283 ( $p=0.001$ ), which indicates a moderate dissimilarity of plant communities between managements. Dissimilarities ranks within-classes show that dissimilarity is highest among RL sites (50% percentile=84.7) and lowest in IN sites (50%=36.0). In addition, within-class RL dissimilarity rank is higher than the between-classes dissimilarity rank (**Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.**).

ECOL, ES and TOT indices values were on average highest in the inventories performed in the AB sites, followed by RL sites and IN sites (**Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.**). Mixed-models results are shown in **Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.** ECOL, ES and TOT inventory overall values were significantly higher in AB sites compared to IN sites (respectively, ECOL: estimate +7.28,  $p=0.001$ ; ES: estimate +2.98,  $p=0.037$ ; TOT: estimate +10.26,  $p=0.003$ ), while differences between AB and RL were marginal and never significant. Post-hoc tests show that values of ECOL and TOT indices are also significantly higher in RL sites compared to IN sites (ECOL: estimate +6.35,  $p=0.008$ ; TOT: estimate +9.54,  $p=0.017$ ), while ES value approached statistical significance (estimate +3.17,  $p=0.078$ ). As for median inventory values, no significant differences emerge, with the exception of ECOL values between AB and IN sites (estimate +0.08,  $p=0.002$ ). ECOL values differences approached statistical significance also in the RL-IN comparison (estimate +0.05,  $p=0.076$ ).

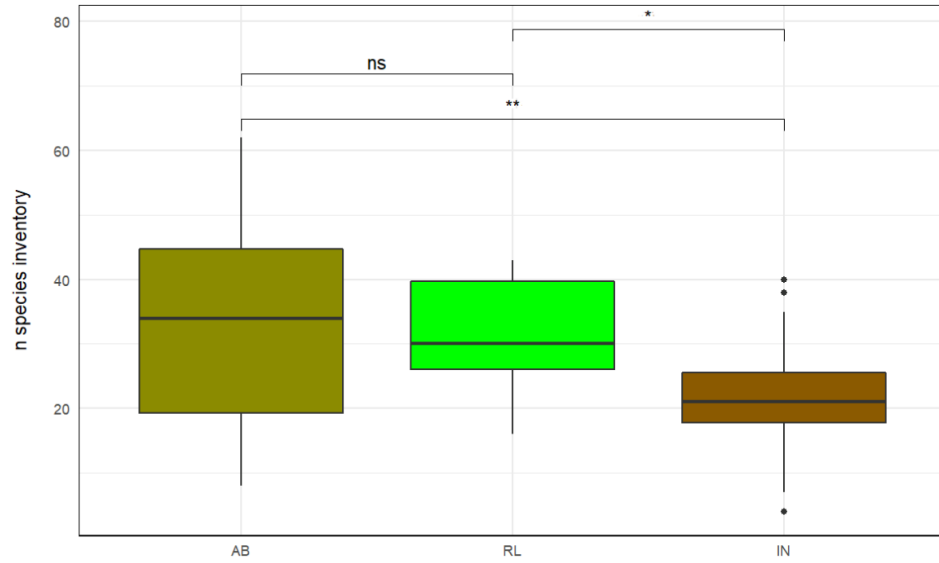
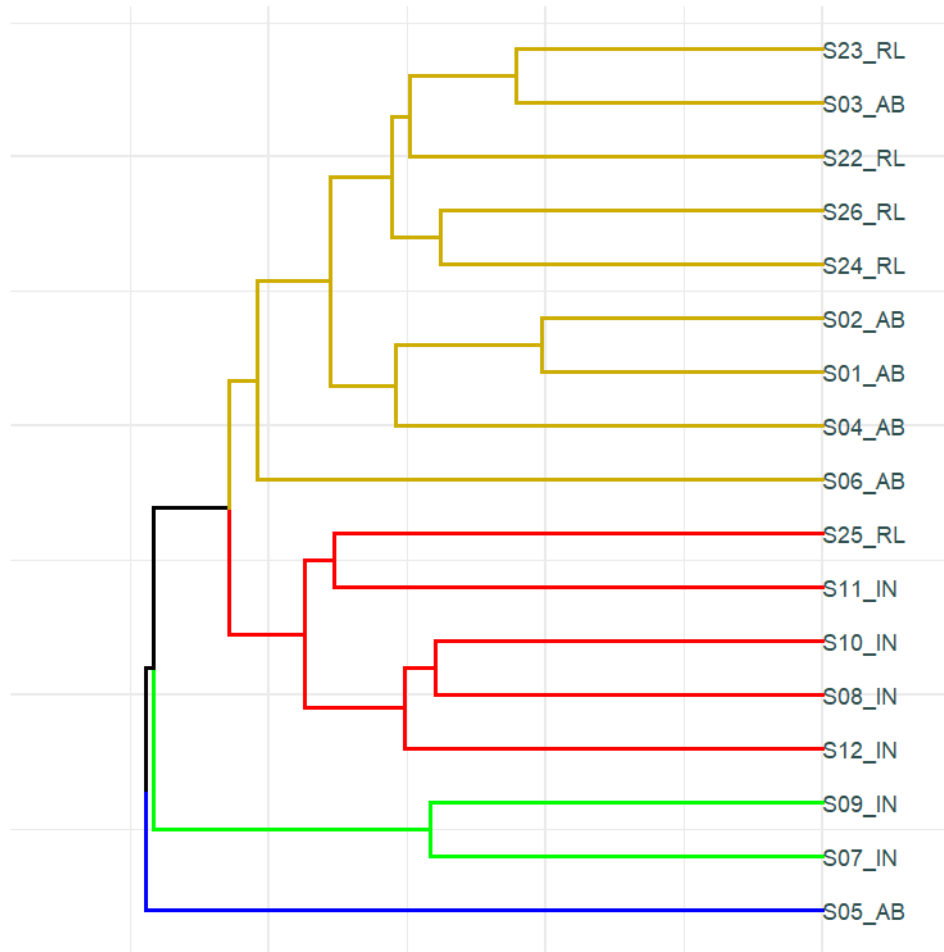
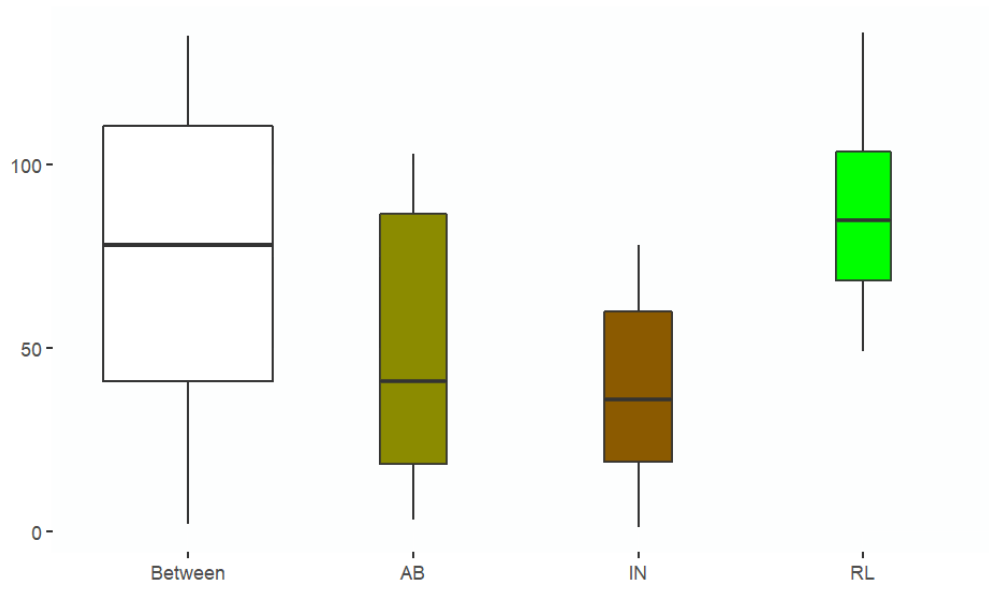


Figure 2 – Distribution of species richness values in inventories across terraces management types. Brackets indicate statistical significance as derived from post-hoc Tukey test of linear mixed model (\* < 0.05; \*\* < 0.01; ns, not significant). RL=restored terraces; AB=abandoned terraces; IN=intensively-managed terraces





*Figure 3 – Hierarchical clustering (complete linkage) of the dissimilarity matrix (Bray-Curtis distance) of the monitoring sites' species assemblages. Colours highlight the 4 main clusters (RL=restored terraces; AB=abandoned terraces; IN=intensively-managed terraces)*



*Figure 4 – Distribution of the dissimilarity ranks within- and between terraces management classes, as calculated by the ANOSIM (RL=restored terraces; AB=abandoned terraces; IN=intensively-managed terraces).*

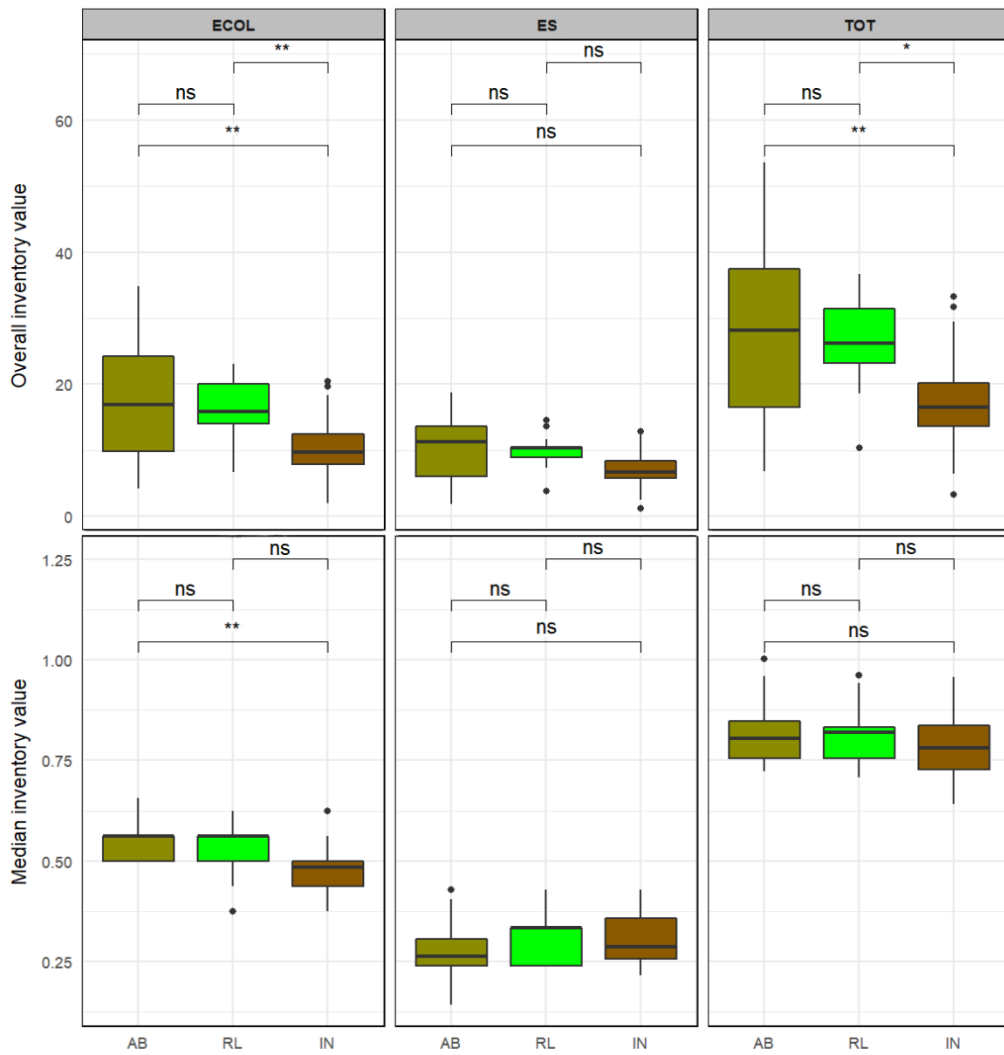


Figure 5 – Distribution of ECOL, ES and TOT values across terraces managements. Top: overall inventory values (sum of plants' values); bottom, plants' median inventory values (RL=restored terraces; AB=abandoned terraces; IN=intensively-managed terraces)

Table 2a and 2b – Summary of the results of the linear mixed models

PREDICTORS	INVENTORY OVERALL								
	ECOL			ES			TOT		
	ESTIMATES	CI	P	ESTIMATES	CI	P	ESTIMATES	CI	P
(Intercept)	17.5	14.62 / 20.38	<0.001	10	8.02 / 11.98	<0.001	27.49	22.76 / 32.22	<0.001
MANAG [IN]	-7.28	-11.33 / -3.24	0.001 ***	-2.98	-5.78 / -0.19	0.037 ***	-10.26	-16.92 / -3.60	0.003 ***
MANAG [RL]	-0.92	-5.15 / 3.31	0.666	0.2	-2.73 / 3.12	0.894	-0.72	-7.68 / 6.25	0.839
<b>Random Effects</b>									
$\sigma^2$	30.44			6.94			64.57		
$\tau_{00}$ SITE	7.74			4.87			23.73		
ICC	0.20			0.41			0.27		
N SITE	17			17			17		
Observations	112			112			112		
Marginal R <sup>2</sup>	0.22			0.16			0.21		
Conditional R <sup>2</sup>	0.38			0.51			0.42		

PREDICTORS	INVENTORY MEDIAN								
	ECOL			ES			TOT		
	ESTIMATES	CI	P	ESTIMATES	CI	P	ESTIMATES	CI	P
(Intercept)	0.56	0.52 / 0.59	<0.001	0.27	0.24 / 0.31	<0.001	0.82	0.78 / 0.85	<0.001
MANAG [IN]	-0.08	-0.13 / -0.03	0.002 ***	0.03	-0.02 / 0.09	0.198	-0.03	-0.08 / 0.02	0.300
MANAG [RL]	-0.02	-0.07 / 0.03	0.400	0.04	-0.02 / 0.09	0.185	-0.01	-0.06 / 0.04	0.719
<b>Random Effects</b>									
$\sigma^2$	0			0			0		
$\tau_{00}$ SITE	0			0			0		
ICC	0.48			0.39			0.25		
N SITE	17			17			17		
Observations	112			112			112		
Marginal R <sup>2</sup>	0.26			0.06			0.02		
Conditional R <sup>2</sup>	0.61			0.43			0.27		

## Discussion

The restoration of abandoned terraces plays a critical role in terms of maintaining biodiversity and increasing human well-being. Our study shows that restoration of terraces in the SBR is associated to diversity values, ecological function and ecosystem service values within the same range as the naturally-rewilded abandoned terraces. All the results show that species assemblage of RL sites appears more closely related to AB sites than to IN sites, despite the agricultural land use. IN sites display low levels of diversity and ecological functions, confirming the lower suitability of intensive farming in achieving biodiversity conservation goals and in providing adequate levels of ecosystem services.

Plant diversity was significantly highest in the inventories performed in AB sites and lowest in IN sites. In fact, land abandonment in Mediterranean ecosystems is usually

associated with secondary ecological succession towards semi-natural grassland with an increase of species abundance, even if responses may differ in effect size according to climate, spatial-temporal scales, land uses and landforms (Plieninger et al., 2014). Bonet (2004) showed that quick turnover of functional groups (annual/biennial plants, perennial forbs, perennial grasses etc.) occurs after few years of abandonment, which causes the presence of species rich communities resulting from niche overlap (Cody, 1991) or different disturbance regimes (Lavorel et al., 1999). However, diversity usually reaches a peak in 10-20 years before declining (Bonet, 2004; Debussche et al., 1996). It must be noted that species diversity in RL sites was not statistically different from AB sites at inventory level and that the overall checklist of RL sites included even 24 more species than AB sites. Conversely, intensive agricultural practices such as ploughing, fertilization, weed control and watering represent disturbances that may reduce significantly plant diversity in IN sites, favouring few, stress-resistant, generalist plant species. Low-input agriculture applied to restored terraces in accordance with the FLR principles allows the development of plant-rich communities closely related to naturally-rewilded abandoned terraces in terms of both species diversity and species assemblages. Hierarchical clustering reveals in fact that RL sites communities are hardly distinguishable from AB sites, while IN sites display communities easily identified and classified within parent clusters. Taxonomic similarity of AB and RL sites can also be explained by the presence of rare species, which are known to drive species assemblage differences in Mediterranean agricultural (Tarifa et al., 2021). Among the 11 species of orchids observed, 10 were found in AB sites, 3 in RL and none in IN sites. Lebanese, Levantine or Eastern Mediterranean endemism were more abundant in AB sites (66 species) compared to RL (54) and IN sites (38). Agricultural intensification erodes rare species, either as direct consequence of management practices (e.g. ploughing, use of herbicides) or indirectly (e.g. by reducing pollinators with pesticides and, hence, insect-pollinated plants) (Pinke and Gunton, 2014). Consistently with the cluster analysis, the ANOSIM shows that within-site similarity of IN sites is highest and way higher than between-site similarity. AB terraces display a similar pattern, while, conversely, RL sites plant communities are possibly more diverse. This result may suggest that species assemblages in IN sites are mostly driven by fewer, typical species adapted to high disturbance regimes, while AB sites consistently feature semi-natural grassland species. Low similarity across RL terraces hints at species assemblages influenced by spillovers from the remainder communities.

As expected, our study shows that AB and RL sites provide high-value ecological and ES plant communities compared to IN sites. The difference resides chiefly in species' ecological value, which in AB sites is significantly higher on a species' average basis compared to IN sites (and approaching significance between RL and IN). Thus, semi-natural abandoned terraces and low-input farming terrace systems positively contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, by hosting plant species of intrinsically higher value, such as endemic, endangered, habitat-specific or insect-pollinating species. The effect is boosted by the higher diversity of species found with respect to intensively-managed terraces. All things considered, restoring terraces has no negative effects on biodiversity conservation in SBR. Conservation goals, sustainable production and food security can be achieved by applying FLR principles, restoring economic and social functions of the landscape while maintaining ecological functionality (Beatty et al., 2018; Hani et al., 2019). In Mediterranean landscapes, agroforestry was already shown to enhance biodiversity and ES relative to conventional agriculture, including the practice of integrating cover crops in olive orchards to increase nutrient retention and to prevent soil erosion (Durán Zuazo & Rodríguez Pleguezuelo, 2008; Gómez et al., 2009; Torralba et al., 2016). Conversely, no differences were seen from a plants' qualitative point of view (plants' median ES value in inventories), but rather differences stood out quantitatively at terrace level. In fact, as far

as plants' overall ES value in inventories are considered, the effect of the larger species' abundance in AB and RL sites determined significant higher ES values in AB and RL sites. Non-linear relationship between qualitative and quantitative aspects of ES have already been demonstrated in farmlands (Tzilivakis et al., 2019); however, ecosystem services are provided by ecosystems quantitatively (Lee and Lautenbach, 2016; Logsdon and Chaubey, 2013; Rositano and Ferraro, 2014). It was shown that the relationship between land use and ecosystem services is not linear for each of the 3 categories (provisioning, regulating, cultural). On a gradient between fully natural and fully urban environments, only regulating services reach their maximum values when naturalness is maximized; conversely, cultural (including tourism and recreation) and provisioning services values are maximised at light or extensive land uses (Braat and ten Brink, 2008). In our study, we found mixed results in this sense. IN sites provided higher values in provisioning and regulating services such as pasture enrichment and food, while cultural values (chiefly, aesthetic values) were mostly present in AB and RL sites. Possibly, the selection of the ES indicators may not have included all the wide range of ES provided by ecosystems in the different categories. In addition, smallholder farmland system, such as the one featured in the SBR, may also contribute to plant species' spillovers from semi-natural and low-input patches to more intensively-managed terraces, partially buffering negative effects of invasive farming practices (Concepción et al., 2012).

## Conclusions

The restoration of abandoned terraces in the SBR, which applies FLR restoration principles such as agroforestry and low-input agriculture, is effective in maintaining same biodiversity levels of naturally-rewilded abandoned terraces whilst producing agricultural products, income for the local communities and well-being. The study gives evidence that restoring abandoned terraces is a win-win nature-based solution (NbS) which is able to combine the same ecological functionality of semi-natural environments with the provision of primary food production and well-being.

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## Supplementary material 1

Checklist of the plant species identified in the SBR terraces with their respective ECOL and ES values. Numbers refer to the species' frequency (n max=6) in the different terrace typologies (RL=restored terraces; AB=abandoned terraces; IN=intensively-managed terraces)

SPECIES	RL	AB	IN	ECOL	ES
<i>Adonis annua</i> L.	1			0.563	0.667
<i>Aegilops neglecta</i> Req. Ex Bertol.	3	4	2	0.188	0.524
<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i> L.	2	2		0.188	0.381
<i>Aegilotriticum loretti</i> (K.Richt.)P.Fourn.			1	0.125	0.238
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys chia</i> (Schreb.) Arcang.	4	1		0.375	0.238
<i>Alcea kurdica coelesyriaca</i> (Mouterde) Mouterde		1		0.563	0.095
<i>Alcea setosa</i> (Boiss.) Alef.	1	1	1	0.625	0.667
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i> Cirillo	2			0.563	0.714
<i>Allium rotundum</i> L.	1			0.500	0.429
<i>Allium trifoliatum</i> Cirillo	3		1	0.625	0.571
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i> Huds.	3		2	0.188	0.238
<i>Alopecurus rendlei</i> Eig.	2			0.188	0.238
<i>Alopecurus utriculatus</i> Sol.	2		4	0.375	0.238
<i>Alyssum repens</i> Baumg.		1		0.625	0.143
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> L.	1		2	0.000	0.143
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> (L.) R.M. Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W. Chase		4		0.500	0.143
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> (L.) Rich		1		0.375	0.429
<i>Anacamptis morio syriaca</i> (E.G.Camus) H.Kretschmar, Eccarius & H.Dietr.		1		0.688	0.143
<i>Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea</i> (L.) Gouan	4	3	3	0.500	0.286
<i>Anarrhinum orientale</i> Benth.	1	2		0.563	0.000
<i>Anchusa azurea</i> Mill.	1			0.563	0.333
<i>Anchusa hybrida</i> Ten.	1	2	1	0.750	0.190
<i>Anemone coronaria</i> L.	1	6		0.438	0.524
<i>Anisantha rigida</i> (Roth) Hyl.		1	2	0.250	0.238
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i> (L.) Nevski	3	3		0.125	0.238
<i>Anisantha tectorum</i> (L.) Nevski	1	1	1	0.125	0.381
<i>Anthemis chia</i> L.	1	1		0.625	0.381
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria maura</i> (Beck) Maire	2	2		0.625	0.619
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> (L.) Heynh.		1		0.250	0.524
<i>Arum palaestinum</i> Boiss.	3	3	3	0.375	0.571
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> L.	2	4	2	0.438	0.429
<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i> L.		1		0.438	0.143
<i>Asperula libanotica</i> Boiss.	1			0.625	0.048
<i>Asphodelus ramosus ramosus</i> L.		1		0.625	0.952
<i>Asplenium adianthum-nigrum</i> L.		1		0.000	0.000
<i>Astragalus hamosus</i> L.			1	0.625	0.571
<i>Astragalus oleifolius</i> DC.	1			0.625	0.429
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> (L.) Roth		1		0.000	0.143

<i>Avena barbata</i> Link	4	1	1	0.188	0.667
<i>Avena clauda</i> Durieu	4	3	1	0.188	0.238
<i>Avena sterilis</i> L.	5	4	4	0.188	0.524
<i>Bellevalia flexuosa</i> Boiss.			1	0.750	0.095
<i>Bellis perennis</i> L.	1			0.563	0.333
<i>Biscutella didyma</i> L.			1	0.500	0.381
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> (L.) C.H. Stirt.	2	3		0.500	0.286
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P.Beauv.	1	1		0.188	0.238
<i>Brassica rapa</i> (L.) L.	2			0.313	0.476
<i>Bromus brachystachys</i> Hornung	1	1		0.250	0.238
<i>Bromus intermedius</i> Guss.	1	1	3	0.250	0.238
<i>Bromus lanceolatus</i> Roth			1	0.000	0.238
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> L.	2	2	4	0.188	0.238
<i>Bromus scoparius</i> L.		1		0.188	0.238
<i>Bryonia cretica</i> L.			2	0.375	0.286
<i>Buglossoides tenuiflora</i> (L. F.) I.M. Johnst.		1		0.563	0.143
<i>Bunium pestolazae</i> Boiss.		1		0.563	0.190
<i>Bupleurum lancifolium</i> Hornem.	1			0.563	0.333
<i>Calendula arvensis</i> (Vaill.) L.			1	0.500	0.476
<i>Calepina irregularis</i> (Asso) Thell.	1			0.375	0.095
<i>Calicotome villosa</i> (Poir.) Link	3	2		0.688	0.429
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i> L.		2	1	0.625	0.476
<i>Capparis spinosa</i> L.	1			0.313	1.000
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik.	1		3	0.375	0.524
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> L.	1		2	0.313	0.238
<i>Carduus argentatus</i> L.	3	4	4	0.750	0.333
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> L.	2	1	4	0.563	0.190
<i>Carex distans</i> L.	1	1		0.375	0.048
<i>Carlina curetum orientalis</i> Meusel & Kästner	2	6	1	0.750	0.095
<i>Carthamus tenuis</i> (Boiss. & I. Blanche) Bornm.	2	3	3	0.688	0.476
<i>Catananche lutea</i> L.		2		0.500	0.048
<i>Catapodium rigidum</i> (L.) C.E.Hubb.	1			0.188	0.238
<i>Centaurea cheirolopha</i> (Fenzl) Wagenitz	1	2		0.875	0.333
<i>Centaurea iberica</i> Spreng.	3	5	2	0.625	0.619
<i>Centaurea solstitialis solstitialis</i> L.	1	1		0.688	0.619
<i>Centaurea verutum</i> L.	1			0.875	0.190
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i> (Sw.) Druce		1		0.438	0.429
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> (L.) R.M. Fritsch	1			0.375	0.143
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i> Willd.		1		0.125	0.286
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	1		2	0.188	0.429
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i> L.			1	0.313	0.333
<i>Chrozophora tinctoria</i> (L.) A. Juss.	2		1	0.375	0.143
<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	4	2	1	0.375	0.381
<i>Cirsium phyllocephalum</i> Boiss. & C.I. Blanche	1	3		0.813	0.190
<i>Cistus creticus</i> L.	2	2	1	0.688	0.476
<i>Clematis flammula</i> L.	3		1	0.500	0.333

<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> L.		1		0.313	0.524
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.	4	1	3	0.375	0.667
<i>Cota altissima</i> (L.) J. Gay	2			0.625	0.095
<i>Cota tinctoria</i> (L.) J. Gay	2	4		0.500	0.238
<i>Crepis aspera</i> L.	1	2	1	0.563	0.048
<i>Crepis foetida</i> L.		1	1	0.438	0.048
<i>Crepis hierosolymitana</i> Boiss.		1	1	0.750	0.048
<i>Crepis palaestina</i> (Boiss.) Bornm.	1	1	2	0.688	0.048
<i>Crepis pterothecoides</i> Boiss.	2	1		0.688	0.048
<i>Crepis reuteriana reuteriana</i> Boiss.	1	3		0.688	0.048
<i>Crepis sancta</i> (L.) Bornm.	2	1		0.500	0.048
<i>Crepis syriaca</i> (Bornm.) Bab. & Navashin			1	0.688	0.048
<i>Crucianella latifolia</i> L.	3	2	1	0.500	0.000
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i> (Moris) Vis.	1	2		0.563	0.190
<i>Cyclamen persicum</i> Mill.	2	3		0.625	0.381
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.			1	0.063	0.810
<i>Cytisopsis dorycnifolia</i> Jaub. & Spach		1		0.625	0.143
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L.	5	6	3	0.063	0.381
<i>Dactylorhiza urvilleana</i> (Steud.) H.Baumann & Künkele		1		0.625	0.143
<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.			1	0.125	0.333
<i>Daucus carota</i> L.	3	4	4	0.500	0.381
<i>Dianthus strictus multipunctatus</i> (Ser.) Greuter & Burdet		1		0.625	0.190
<i>Dioscorea communis</i> (L.) Caddick & Wilkin		2	1	0.500	0.286
<i>Diplotaxis eruroides</i> (L.) DC.			1	0.438	0.238
<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i> (L.) DC.	3		1	0.438	0.238
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i> (L.) Greuter	3	2	2	0.563	0.190
<i>Draba praecox</i> Steven			1	0.375	0.095
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i> (L.) A. Rich.	1		1	0.375	0.333
<i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link			1	0.063	0.381
<i>Echinops adenocaulos</i> Boiss.	4	5	3	0.813	0.190
<i>Echinops spinosissimus</i> Turra	1			0.688	0.476
<i>Echium glomeratum</i> Poir.	1		1	0.875	0.190
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> L.	1		2	0.438	0.286
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i> Schreb.	1			0.250	0.286
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i> L.			1	0.563	0.143
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i> Desf.			1	0.063	0.143
<i>Eremopoa persica</i> (Trin.) Roshev.			1	0.250	0.238
<i>Eremostachys laciniata</i> (L.) Bunge		1	1	0.500	0.238
<i>Erodium acaule</i> (L.) Bech. & Thell.	2		2	0.625	0.000
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> (L.) L'Hér.	1		2	0.500	0.286
<i>Erodium malacoides</i> (L.) L'Hér.	2	2	5	0.563	0.143
<i>Erophila verna praecox</i> (Steven) Walters			1	0.250	0.143
<i>Eryngium creticum</i> Lam.	2	1		0.813	0.714
<i>Eryngium glomeratum</i> Lam.	4	5	1	0.688	0.857
<i>Erysimum scabrum</i> DC.	2	2		0.563	0.095

<i>Euphorbia gaillardotii</i> Boiss. & C.I. Blanche	1			0.625	0.190
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> L.	2		3	0.313	0.476
<i>Fibigia clypeata eriocarpa</i> (DC.) Greuter		2		0.500	0.238
<i>Ficaria ficarioides</i> (Bory & Chaub.) Halácsy		1	1	0.563	0.048
<i>Ficus carica</i> L.		1		0.500	0.810
<i>Fritillaria persica</i> L.		1		0.688	0.143
<i>Fumana arabica</i> (L.) Spach		1		0.375	0.048
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i> (L.) Webb	1	1		0.438	0.048
<i>Gagea liotardii</i> (Sternb.) Schult. & Schult. F.	1	1		0.563	0.000
<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i> Ruiz & Pav.			1	0.250	0.048
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.			2	0.250	0.667
<i>Galium hierosolymitanum</i> L.	3	2		0.563	0.095
<i>Galium samuelssonii</i> Ehrend.			1	0.563	0.095
<i>Geranium dissectum</i> L.	1		1	0.500	0.286
<i>Geranium libanoticum</i> Schenk		2		0.750	0.000
<i>Geranium molle</i> L.	1	2	4	0.375	0.143
<i>Geranium purpureum</i> Vill.	2		1	0.500	0.000
<i>Geranium robertianum</i> L.	1		1	0.250	0.429
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i> L.	1		3	0.375	0.143
<i>Geropogon hybridus</i> (L.) Sch.Bip.	4	2	2	0.375	0.095
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i> Mill.		2		0.375	0.143
<i>Gundelia tournefortii</i> L.	1			0.625	0.429
<i>Helianthemum lavandulifolium</i> Mill.		1		0.563	0.048
<i>Helianthemum syriacum</i> (Jacq.) Dum. Cours.		1		0.563	0.048
<i>Helichrysum stoechas barrelieri</i> (Ten.) Nyman		1		0.625	0.381
<i>Heliotropium rotundifolium</i> Lehm.	1			0.750	0.143
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> (L.) Holub	1		2	0.375	0.190
<i>Heptaptera anisoptera</i> (DC.) Tutin		1	1	0.625	0.190
<i>Heptaptera microcarpa</i> (Boiss.) Tutin		2		0.563	0.190
<i>Hibiscus trionum</i> L.			1	0.438	0.333
<i>Himantoglossum caprinum</i> (M. Bieb.) Spreng.	1	1		0.563	0.143
<i>Hippocrepis unisiliquosa</i> L.	2			0.500	0.143
<i>Holosteum umbellatum</i> L.		1		0.438	0.000
<i>Hordeum bulbosum</i> L.	3	5	4	0.250	0.667
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.			1	0.438	0.952
<i>Hymenocarpos circinnatus</i> (L.) Savi	2	1		0.563	0.143
<i>Hypocoum imberbe</i> Sm.	1		1	0.375	0.048
<i>Hypericum lanuginosum</i> Lam.	2	2		0.750	0.000
<i>Hypericum thymifolium</i> Banks & Sol.		1		0.750	0.000
<i>Hypericum triquetrifolium</i> Turra	2	2	1	0.625	0.000
<i>Hypochaeris achrophorus</i> L.	2	3		0.438	0.048
<i>Ipomea purpurea</i> (L.) Roth			1	0.188	0.095
<i>Isatis lusitanica</i> L.	3	2	3	0.438	0.238
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> L.	1			0.375	0.381
<i>Kickxia spuria</i> (L.) Dumort.	1			0.438	0.143
<i>Klasea cerinthifolia</i> (Sm.) Greuter & Wagenitz	1	1		0.688	0.048

<i>Lactuca saligna</i> L.	1		2	0.375	0.143
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> L.	2		4	0.375	0.429
<i>Lagoecia cuminoides</i> L.	1	2		0.563	0.238
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> L.	1		3	0.438	0.429
<i>Lamium purpureum</i> L.			2	0.438	0.429
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> L.	3		3	0.438	0.714
<i>Lathyrus blepharicarpos</i> Boiss.	2	4	2	0.688	0.286
<i>Lathyrus hierosolymitanus</i> Boiss.		1		0.625	0.286
<i>Legousia falcata</i> (Ten.) Janch.			1	0.438	0.048
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i> (L.) Durande ex Vill.	1			0.500	0.048
<i>Leopoldia comosa</i> (L.) Parl.	1	2	3	0.563	0.238
<i>Lepidium draba</i> L.			1	0.438	0.381
<i>Linum pubescens</i> Banks & Sol.	5	5	2	0.563	0.000
<i>Linum strictum spicatum</i> (Pers.) Nyman	1	2		0.438	0.143
<i>Lolium perenne</i> L.	3	2	3	0.188	0.667
<i>Lolium rigidum</i> Gaudin	1		1	0.125	0.381
<i>Lomelosia palaestina</i> (L.) Raf.	2	3		0.563	0.048
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i> Santi	1	1		0.563	0.381
<i>Lotus judaicus</i> Boiss.	4	1	1	0.625	0.333
<i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr.			4	0.500	0.333
<i>Marrubium cuneatum</i> Banks & Sol.		1		0.750	0.238
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> L.	3		1	0.438	0.429
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i> (L.) Bartal.	1			0.688	0.143
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> L.			3	0.625	0.429
<i>Medicago radiata</i> L.	1			0.688	0.143
<i>Medicago rugosa</i> Desr.	1			0.688	0.143
<i>Medicago sativa</i> L.	3		2	0.688	0.857
<i>Medicago sativa varia</i> (Martyn) Arcang.	5	3	2	0.750	0.857
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> L.			2	0.625	0.429
<i>Melica minuta</i> L.	1	1		0.313	0.238
<i>Micromeria graeca</i> (L.) Benth. ex Rchb.		1		0.563	0.381
<i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i> (L.) Ker Gawl.	1			0.500	0.190
<i>Muscari neglectum</i> Guss. Ex Ten.		1	1	0.438	0.238
<i>Neotinea tridentata</i> (Scop.) R.M. Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W. Chase		5		0.500	0.143
<i>Nigella ciliaris</i> DC.	1	1		0.688	0.048
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i> (L.) Cass.	2	3	1	0.500	0.190
<i>Ochrodium aegyptiacum</i> (L.) DC.			1	0.563	0.095
<i>Ononis natrix</i> L.	2	2		0.813	0.286
<i>Ononis spinosa</i> L.	3	3	2	0.625	0.429
<i>Ononis viscosa brevisflora</i> (DC.) Nyman	1	1		0.688	0.143
<i>Ophrys omegaifera israelitica</i> (H.Baumann & Künkele) G.Morschek & K.Morschek		2		0.625	0.143
<i>Orchis anatolica</i> Boiss.	2	4		1.000	0.143
<i>Orchis galilaea</i> (Bornm. & M. Schulze) Schltr.		1		0.688	0.143
<i>Orchis italica</i> Poir.		1		0.688	0.429
<i>Origanum syriacum</i> L.	1	1	1	0.625	0.381

<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i> (L.) Hoffm.	1			0.563	0.429
<i>Ornithogalum divergens</i> Boreau		1	2	0.438	0.238
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i> L.			1	0.438	0.238
<i>Osyris alba</i> L.	2	1		0.438	0.143
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i> (L.) Cass.	2	4		0.500	0.238
<i>Papaver dubium</i> L.			1	0.438	0.381
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> L.	1			0.563	0.667
<i>Papaver umbonatum</i> Boiss.	3	2	3	0.688	0.381
<i>Parietaria judaica</i> L.			2	0.125	0.143
<i>Peltaria angustifolia</i> DC.	1	1		0.563	0.095
<i>Phalaris brachystachys</i> Link	1			0.313	0.238
<i>Phalaris minor</i> Retz.			1	0.188	0.381
<i>Physalis peruviana</i> L.	1			0.188	0.333
<i>Picnomon acarna</i> (L.) Cass.	3	3	3	0.438	0.095
<i>Pimpinella peregrina</i> L.	2	4	3	0.438	0.286
<i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i> (L.) Coss.			1	0.250	0.238
<i>Pistacia terebinthus palaestina</i> (Boiss.) Engl.		1		0.500	0.810
<i>Pisum fulvum</i> Sm.			1	0.625	0.286
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	1	1	3	0.250	0.476
<i>Poa bulbosa</i> L.	1		1	0.188	0.238
<i>Polygala monspeliaca</i> L.		2	1	0.500	0.000
<i>Polygala supina</i> Schreb.	1	1		0.438	0.000
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.			1	0.438	0.381
<i>Polypogon viridis</i> (Gouan) Breistr.			1	0.125	0.238
<i>Prunus ursina</i> Kotschy	1			0.938	0.333
<i>Pterocephalus plumosus</i> (L.) DC.	3	2	2	0.500	0.000
<i>Ptilostemon diacantha diacantha</i> (Labill.) Greuter		1		0.688	0.048
<i>Putoria calabrica</i> (L. F.) DC.	1	1		0.500	0.333
<i>Pyrus syriaca</i> Boiss.		1		0.750	0.667
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> L.	4	3		0.625	0.714
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i> L.		1		0.688	0.429
<i>Ranunculus marginatus</i> d'Urv.		1	1	0.625	0.190
<i>Ranunculus millefolius hierosolymitanus</i> (Boiss.) P.H.Davis	1	1		0.688	0.190
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.			1	0.250	0.333
<i>Rosa canina</i> L.		1		0.438	0.952
<i>Rubia tenuifolia</i> D'Urv.	5	4	1	0.563	0.381
<i>Rubus collinus</i> DC.	5	1	3	0.750	0.476
<i>Salvia hierosolymitana</i> Boiss.	1			0.875	0.190
<i>Salvia judaica</i> Boiss.	1			0.938	0.190
<i>Salvia viscosa</i> Jacq.		2		0.813	0.333
<i>Sanguisorba minor balearica</i> (Nyman) Muñoz Garm. & C. Navarro	3	3	1	0.375	0.381
<i>Sanguisorba verrucosa</i> (G. Don) Ces.		3	1	0.563	0.095
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i> (L.) Spach	2	4	3	0.688	0.667
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i> L.	2		2	0.375	0.238
<i>Scorzonera mollis</i> M. Bieb.	1	2		0.625	0.190
<i>Scorzonera phaeopappa</i> (Boiss.) Boiss.	1			0.375	0.048



<i>Scrophularia rubricaulis</i> Boiss.	1			0.625	0.048
<i>Scutellaria brevibracteata</i> Stapf		1		0.688	0.238
<i>Securigera securidaca</i> (L.) Degen & Dörf.	4	3	2	0.625	0.143
<i>Senecio leucanthemifolius vernalis</i> (Waldst. & Kit.) Greuter	3	1	4	0.500	0.095
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> L.			2	0.500	0.190
<i>Setaria viridis</i> (L.) P. Beauv.			2	0.000	0.524
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L.	2			0.375	0.143
<i>Sideritis perfoliata</i> L.		1		0.563	0.381
<i>Silene aegyptiaca</i> (L.) L.	1		3	0.625	0.095
<i>Silene damascena</i> Boiss. & Gaill.	3	2	2	0.688	0.095
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> (Moench) Garke		1	2	0.375	0.524
<i>Sinapis alba</i> L.	1			0.438	0.524
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i> L.		1	2	0.438	0.667
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> (L.) Scop.	3		3	0.375	0.381
<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i> L.		1		0.375	0.095
<i>Smilax aspera</i> L.	1			0.063	0.429
<i>Solanum luteum</i> Mill.	2			0.313	0.333
<i>Solanum villosum</i> Mill.	1		1	0.313	0.333
<i>Sonchus asper subsp. glaucescens</i> (L.) Hill	1			0.375	0.333
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (L.) L.	2		2	0.313	0.476
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i> L.			1	0.500	0.190
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.) Pers.			1	0.125	0.667
<i>Spartium junceum</i> L.	2	3		0.563	0.429
<i>Stachys cretica</i> L.		2		0.625	0.238
<i>Teucrium divaricatum</i> Sieber ex Heldr.	1	2		0.688	0.190
<i>Teucrium polium</i> L.		1		0.688	0.476
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i> L.	2		1	0.500	0.286
<i>Thlaspi perfoliatum</i> L.	3	1	1	0.438	0.381
<i>Thymbra spicata</i> L.		2		0.625	0.238
<i>Torilis arvensis neglecta</i> (Spreng.) Thell.	1	2	3	0.375	0.238
<i>Torilis nodosa</i> (L.) Gaertn.		1		0.313	0.238
<i>Torilis tenella</i> (Delile) Rechb. F.	2	2	1	0.438	0.238
<i>Torilis arvensis heterophylla</i> (Guss.) Hayek	2	1	2	0.438	0.238
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius longirostris</i> (Sch. Bip.) Greuter	3	2		0.563	0.095
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> L.	4	3	3	0.750	0.333
<i>Trifolium argutum</i> Banks & Sol.			1	0.750	0.333
<i>Trifolium campestre</i> Schreb.	3	2	3	0.500	0.476
<i>Trifolium clusii</i> Godr. & Gren.	5	2	5	0.625	0.333
<i>Trifolium clypeatum</i> L.			1	0.813	0.476
<i>Trifolium eriosphaerum</i> Boiss.			1	0.750	0.476
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i> L.	1			0.500	0.333
<i>Trifolium grandiflorum</i> Schreb.	1			0.563	0.333
<i>Trifolium lappaceum</i> L.	1			0.563	0.333
<i>Trifolium plebeium</i> Boiss.	2		1	0.750	0.333
<i>Trifolium repens</i> L.			2	0.500	0.905

<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i> L.			1	0.563	0.619
<i>Trifolium scabrum</i> L.	2	1		0.500	0.333
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i> L.	4	4	3	0.625	0.476
<i>Trigonella berythea</i> Boiss. & Blanche			1	0.625	0.286
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	1			0.313	0.810
<i>Umbilicus intermedius</i> Boiss.	1		1	0.563	0.048
<i>Urospermum picroides</i> (L.) Scop. ex F.W.Schmidt	3			0.375	0.048
<i>Valeriana dioscoridis</i> Sm.		1		0.500	0.000
<i>Valerianella discoidea</i> (L.) Loisel.	1			0.375	0.000
<i>Valerianella vesicaria</i> (L.) Moench	1			0.500	0.000
<i>Verbascum gaillardotii</i> Boiss.	1		1	0.625	0.143
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> L.			1	0.438	0.000
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i> Bodard	1	1	1	0.500	0.000
<i>Veronica persica</i> Poir.			2	0.188	0.000
<i>Veronica syriaca</i> Roem. & Schult.	2		2	0.625	0.000
<i>Vicia palaestina</i> Boiss.		1	1	0.813	0.286
<i>Vicia peregrina</i> L.	3		2	0.688	0.429
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.	2	3	3	0.563	0.286
<i>Vicia sericocarpa microphylla</i> (Boiss.) Ponert		1	1	0.875	0.286
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i> L.	1			0.250	0.333
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L.			1	0.250	0.333

## Supplementary material 2

Here below the checklist of species found in each sampling site is reported

### Site S01\_AB

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Ajuga chamaepitys*  
*Anacamptis papilionacea*  
*Anacamptis pyramidalis*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anchusa hybrida*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Anisantha sterilis*  
*Anthemis chia*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Asphodelus ramosus*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bituminaria bituminosa*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Carlina curretum*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Catananche lutea*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Cirsium phyllocephalum*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Cota tinctoria*  
*Crepis aspera*  
*Crepis foetida*  
*Crepis hierosolymitana*  
*Cyclamen persicum*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Dactylorhiza urvilleana*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Eryngium creticum*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Erysimum scabrum*  
*Fibigia clypeata*  
*Geranium libanoticum*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Gladiolus italicus*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hymenocarpus circinnatus*  
*Hypericum triquetrifolium*  
*Hypochaeris achyrophorus*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*

*Leopoldia comosa*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Linum strictum*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Neotinea tridentata*  
*Notobasis syriaca*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Orchis anatolica*  
*Pallenis spinosa*  
*Peltaria angustifolia*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Polygala monspeliaca*  
*Pyrus syriaca*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Salvia viscosa*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Sanguisorba verrucosa*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Silene vulgaris*  
*Spartium junceum*  
*Stachys cretica*  
*Torilis tenella*  
*Tragopogon porrifolius*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium scabrum*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Vicia sativa*

### Site S02\_AB

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Alyssum repens*  
*Anacamptis papilionacea*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anchusa hybrida*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Anisantha sterilis*  
*Anthyllis vulneraria*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bituminaria bituminosa*  
*Bromus brachystachys*

*Bunium pestolazzae*  
*Calicotome villosa*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carlina curetum*  
*Catananche lutea*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Cirsium phyllocephalum*  
*Cota tinctoria*  
*Crepis reuteriana reuteriana*  
*Crupina crupinastrum*  
*Cyclamen persicum*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Eremostachys laciniata*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Ficus carica*  
*Galium hierosolymitanum*  
*Geranium libanoticum*  
*Gladiolus italicus*  
*Heptaptera anisoptera*  
*Heptaptera microcarpa*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hypericum triquetrifolium*  
*Hypochaeris achyrophorus*  
*Klasea cerinthifolia*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Leopoldia comosa*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Linum strictum*  
*Lomelosia palaestina*  
*Lotus judaicus*  
*Marrubium cuneatum*  
*Muscari neglectum*  
*Neotinea tridentata*  
*Ononis viscosa*  
*Orchis anatolica*  
*Pallenis spinosa*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Polygala monspeliaca*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Rosa canina*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Sanguisorba verrucosa*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Spartium junceum*  
*Stachys cretica*  
*Torilis tenella*  
*Trifolium campestre*

*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S03\_AB**

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Aegilops triuncialis*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Anisantha sterilis*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bituminaria bituminosa*  
*Brachypodium sylvaticum*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Campanula rapunculus*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carlina curetum*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Cirsium phyllocephalum*  
*Cota tinctoria*  
*Crepis palaestina*  
*Crepis pterothecoides*  
*Crepis reuteriana reuteriana*  
*Crucianella latifolia*  
*Crupina crupinastrum*  
*Cyclamen persicum*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Dioscorea communis*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Galium hierosolymitanum*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Holosteum umbellatum*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lathyrus hierosolymitanus*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Lomelosia palaestina*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Neotinea tridentata*  
*Nigella ciliaris*  
*Notobasis syriaca*  
*Ononis natrrix*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Ornithogalum divergens*  
*Pallenis spinosa*  
*Papaver umbonatum*

*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Scorzonera mollis*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Sinapis arvensis*  
*Sisymbrium orientale*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Torilis nodosa*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Tragopogon porrifolius*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Valeriana dioscoridis*  
*Vicia sericocarpa*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S04\_AB**

*Aegilops triuncialis*  
*Alcea kurdica*  
*Alcea setosa*  
*Anacamptis papilionacea*  
*Anarrhinum orientale*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Anisantha rigida*  
*Arabidopsis thaliana*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Asparagus aphyllus*  
*Avena barbata*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Buglossoides tenuiflora*  
*Calicotome villosa*  
*Campanula rapunculus*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carlina curretum*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Ceterach officinarum*  
*Cistus creticus*  
*Clinopodium vulgare*  
*Cota tinctoria*  
*Crepis sancta*  
*Crucianella latifolia*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Dianthus strictus*

*Dioscorea communis*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Fibigia clypeata*  
*Ficaria ficarioides*  
*Fritillaria persica*  
*Fumana arabica*  
*Gagea liotardii*  
*Himantoglossum caprinum*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hypericum lanuginosum*  
*Hypochaeris achyrophorus*  
*Lagoecia cuminoides*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Lonicera etrusca*  
*Micromeria graeca*  
*Neotinea tridentata*  
*Ononis natrix*  
*Ophrys omegaiifera*  
*Orchis anatolica*  
*Origanum syriacum*  
*Osyris alba*  
*Pallenis spinosa*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Pistacia terebinthus*  
*Polygala supina*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Ranunculus asiaticus*  
*Ranunculus marginatus*  
*Ranunculus millefolius*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Sanguisorba verrucosa*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Scutellaria brevibracteata*  
*Sideritis perfoliata*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Spartium junceum*  
*Teucrium divaricatum*  
*Teucrium polium*  
*Thlaspi perfoliatum*  
*Thymbra spicata*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Veronica cymbalaria*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S05\_AB**

*Anacamptis papilionacea*  
*Anacamptis morio*  
*Anarrhinum orientale*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Anthyllis vulneraria*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Asplenium adianthum-nigrum*  
*Athyrium filix-femina*  
*Carex distans*  
*Carlina curetum*  
*Centaurea cheirolopha*  
*Centaureum pulchellum*  
*Cistus creticus*  
*Cytisopsis dorycniifolia*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Fumana thymifolia*  
*Helianthemum lavandulifolium*  
*Helianthemum syriacum*  
*Helichrysum stoechas*  
*Heptaptera microcarpa*  
*Hypericum lanuginosum*  
*Hypericum thymifolium*  
*Lomelosia palaestina*  
*Melica minuta*  
*Neotinea tridentata*  
*Ophrys omegaifera*  
*Orchis anatolica*  
*Orchis galilaea*  
*Orchis italica*  
*Ptilostemon diacantha*  
*Putoria calabrica*  
*Teucrium divaricatum*  
*Thymbra spicata*

**Site S06\_AB**

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Anisantha tectorum*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Bromus intermedius*  
*Bromus scoparius*  
*Carlina curetum*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Centaurea cheirolopha*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Centaurea solstitialis*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Crepis aspera*  
*Crepis reuteriana reuteriana*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*

*Erodium malacoides*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Erysimum scabrum*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Lagoecia cuminoides*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Notobasis syriaca*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Salvia viscosa*  
*Scorzonera mollis*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Trifolium chusii*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Vicia palaestina*

**Site S07\_IN**

*Alopecurus myosuroides*  
*Amaranthus retroflexus*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Bromus intermedius*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*  
*Cardamine hirsuta*  
*Clematis flammula*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Crepis syriaca*  
*Echinochloa colona*  
*Epilobium hirsutum*  
*Erodium acaule*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Euphorbia helioscopia*  
*Galinsoga quadriradiata*  
*Galium aparine*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Helminthotheca echioides*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Ipomea purpurea*  
*Lamium amplexicaule*  
*Malva neglecta*  
*Medicago lupulina*  
*Medicago polymorpha*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Medicago polymorpha*  
*Muscari neglectum*  
*Occhodium aegyptiacum*  
*Ornithogalum divergens*

*Parietaria judaica*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Senecio vulgaris*  
*Setaria viridis*  
*Sinapis arvensis*  
*Sisymbrium officinale*  
*Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Sorghum halepense*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Trifolium repens*  
*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*  
*Veronica persica*  
*Xanthium strumarium*

**Site S08\_IN**

*Allium trifoliatum*  
*Alopecurus utriculatus*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anchusa hybrida*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Biscutella didyma*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Chenopodium album*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Cistus creticus*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Ecballium elaterium*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Erodium acaule*  
*Erodium cicutarium*  
*Euphorbia helioscopia*  
*Geranium rotundifolium*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hypochaeris glabra*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lactuca serriola*  
*Lamium purpureum*  
*Lathyrus aphaca*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Legousia falcata*  
*Leopoldia comosa*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Origanum syriacum*

*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Picnemon acarna*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Polygala monspeliaca*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Scandix pecten-veneris*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Silene aegyptiaca*  
*Silene vulgaris*  
*Thlaspi perfoliatum*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium chusii*  
*Trigonella berythea*  
*Veronica syriaca*  
*Vicia sativa*  
*Vicia sericocarpa*

**Site S09\_IN**

*Alopecurus myosuroides*  
*Alopecurus utriculatus*  
*Amaranthus retroflexus*  
*Anisantha rigida*  
*Avena barbata*  
*Bromus intermedius*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Chrozophora tinctoria*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Crepis hierosolymitana*  
*Crepis palaestina*  
*Datura stramonium*  
*Diploaxis erucoides*  
*Diploaxis tenuifolia*  
*Epilobium hirsutum*  
*Equisetum ramosissimum*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Ficaria viciaeoides*  
*Galium aparine*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Helminthotheca echioides*  
*Hibiscus trionum*  
*Lamium amplexicaule*  
*Lamium purpureum*  
*Lepidium draba*

*Lolium perenne*  
*Malva neglecta*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Ornithogalum divergens*  
*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Parietaria judaica*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Ranunculus marginatus*  
*Raphanus raphanistrum*  
*Senecio vulgaris*  
*Sinapis arvensis*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Veronica persica*  
*Veronica syriaca*

**Site S10\_IN**

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Alopecurus utriculatus*  
*Anisantha rigida*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bellevalia flexuosa*  
*Bromus intermedius*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Carlina curetum*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Crepis foetida*  
*Crepis palaestina*  
*Crucianella latifolia*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Echium glomeratum*  
*Eremostachys laciniata*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Geranium dissectum*  
*Geranium rotundifolium*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Heptaptera anisoptera*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lactuca serriola*  
*Lathyrus aphaca*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Leopoldia comosa*

*Linum pubescens*  
*Medicago polymorpha*  
*Notobasis syriaca*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Ornithogalum narbonense*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Sanguisorba verrucosa*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Silene aegyptiaca*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Sisymbrium officinale*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Verbascum gaillardotii*  
*Vicia palaestina*  
*Vicia peregrine*

**Site S11\_IN**

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Alcea setosa*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Astragalus hamosus*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bromus lanceolatus*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Bryonia cretica*  
*Campanula rapunculus*  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*  
*Cardamine hirsuta*  
*Chenopodium album*  
*Chondrilla juncea*  
*Crepis aspera*  
*Cynodon dactylon*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
*Draba praecox*  
*Epilobium tetragonum*  
*Eremopoa persica*  
*Erodium cicutarium*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Erophila verna*  
*Euphorbia helioscopia*  
*Geranium molle*



*Geranium purpureum*  
*Geranium robertianum*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Lactuca saligna*  
*Lactuca serriola*  
*Lamium amplexicaule*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Malva neglecta*  
*Medicago polymorpha*  
*Medicago sativa*  
*Medicago polymorpha*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Piptatherum miliaceum*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Poa bulbosa*  
*Polygonum aviculare*  
*Polypogon viridis*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Setaria viridis*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Sisymbrium officinale*  
*Solanum villosum*  
*Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Sonchus tenerrimus*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium argutum*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium eriosphaerum*  
*Trifolium repens*  
*Trifolium resupinatum*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Umbilicus intermedius*  
*Veronica cymbalaria*  
*Vicia peregrina*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S12\_IN**

*Aegilotriticum loretii*  
*Alopecurus utriculatus*  
*Anisantha tectorum*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bryonia cretica*  
*Calendula arvensis*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Carthamus tenuis*

*Daucus carota*  
*Dioscorea communis*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Galium samuelssonii*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Geranium rotundifolium*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hordeum vulgare*  
*Hypericum triquetrifolium*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lactuca saligna*  
*Lactuca serriola*  
*Lathyrus aphaca*  
*Leopoldia comosa*  
*Lolium rigidum*  
*Lotus judaicus*  
*Malva neglecta*  
*Medicago sativa*  
*Papaver dubium*  
*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Phalaris minor*  
*Pisum fulvum*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Scandix pecten-veneris*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Silene aegyptiaca*  
*Silene vulgaris*  
*Theligonum cynocrambe*  
*Torilis tenella*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium clypeatum*  
*Trifolium plebeium*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S22\_RL**

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Allium rotundum*  
*Alopecurus myosuroides*  
*Alopecurus utriculatus*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anchusa hybrida*  
*Anisantha sterilis*  
*Anisantha tectorum*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Astragalus oleifolius*  
*Avena barbata*

*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Bromus brachystachys*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Centaurea solstitialis*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Cirsium phyllocephalum*  
*Cota altissima*  
*Crucianella latifolia*  
*Crupina crupinastrum*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Echinops spinosissimus*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Galium hierosolymitanum*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Gundelia tournefortii*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hymenocarpus circinnatus*  
*Hypericum triquetrifolium*  
*Hypochaeris achyrophorus*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lactuca serriola*  
*Lagoecia cuminoides*  
*Lathyrus aphaca*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Lolium rigidum*  
*Lotus judaicus*  
*Medicago orbicularis*  
*Medicago sativa*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Moraea sisyrrinchium*  
*Notobasis syriaca*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Ononis viscosa*  
*Orchis anatolica*  
*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Poa bulbosa*  
*Prunus prostata*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Ranunculus millefolius*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Salvia hierosolymitana*  
*Scandix pecten-veneris*  
*Scorzonera mollis*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Sisymbrium officinale*

*Thlaspi perfoliatum*  
*Torilis tenella*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Tragopogon porrifolius*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Umbilicus intermedius*  
*Verbascum gaillardotii*  
*Veronica cymbalaria*  
*Vicia sativa*

#### Site S23\_RL

*Aegilops triuncialis*  
*Ajuga chamaepitys*  
*Allium trifoliatum*  
*Alopecurus myosuroides*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anthemis chia*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Asparagus acutifolius*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Brachypodium sylvaticum*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Calicotome villosa*  
*Capparis spinosa*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Chrozophora tinctoria*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Crepis aspera*  
*Crepis palaestina*  
*Crucianella latifolia*  
*Cyclamen persicum*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
*Ecballium elaterium*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Echium glomeratum*  
*Epilobium hirsutum*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Eryngium creticum*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Erysimum scabrum*  
*Galium hierosolymitanum*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Geranium purpureum*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Hymenocarpus circinnatus*  
*Hypericum triquetrifolium*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Kickxia spuria*

*Lactuca saligna*  
*Lathyrus blepharicarpos*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Lomelosia palaestina*  
*Medicago sativa*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Nigella ciliaris*  
*Notobasis syriaca*  
*Ononis natrix*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Pallenis spinosa*  
*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Sisymbrium officinale*  
*Solanum luteum*  
*Sonchus asper*  
*Theligonum cynocrambe*  
*Thlaspi perfoliatum*  
*Tragopogon porrifolius*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Triticum aestivum*  
*Urospermum picroides*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S24\_RL**

*Adonis annua*  
*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Ajuga chamaepitys*  
*Alcea setosa*  
*Allium trifoliatum*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anchusa azurea*  
*Anisantha sterilis*  
*Anthyllis vulneraria*  
*Arum palaestinum*  
*Asperula libanotica*  
*Avena barbata*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*

*Bellis perennis*  
*Bituminaria bituminosa*  
*Brassica rapa*  
*Bupleurum lancifolium*  
*Calicotome villosa*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Cota altissima*  
*Crepis pterothecoides*  
*Crepis reuteriana reuteriana*  
*Cyclamen persicum*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Erodium acaule*  
*Eryngium creticum*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Fumana thymifolia*  
*Gagea liotardii*  
*Galium hierosolymitanum*  
*Geranium purpureum*  
*Geranium robertianum*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Lathyrus aphaca*  
*Legousia speculum-veneris*  
*Leopoldia comosa*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Linum strictum*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Lotus judaicus*  
*Medicago lupulina*  
*Medicago radiata*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Orchis anatolica*  
*Origanum syriacum*  
*Orlaya grandiflora*  
*Pallenis spinosa*  
*Papaver rhoeas*  
*Papaver umbonatum*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Scorzonera phaeopappa*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Senecio leucanthemifolius*  
*Sherardia arvensis*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Sinapis alba*  
*Sisymbrium officinale*

*Smilax aspera*  
*Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Spartium junceum*  
*Tragopogon porrifolius*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium lappaceum*  
*Trifolium plebeium*  
*Trifolium scabrum*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Urospermum picroides*  
*Valerianella discoidea*  
*Valerianella vesicaria*  
*Veronica syriaca*  
*Vicia peregrina*  
*Vicia sativa*

**Site S25\_RL**

*Aegilops triuncialis*  
*Allium trifoliatum*  
*Alopecurus rendlei*  
*Alopecurus utriculatus*  
*Amaranthus retroflexus*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Anarrhinum orientale*  
*Anisantha sterilis*  
*Avena barbata*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Brassica rapa*  
*Bromus intermedius*  
*Bromus madritensis*  
*Calepina irregularis*  
*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carlina curetum*  
*Centaurea verutum*  
*Chenopodium album*  
*Chrozophora tinctoria*  
*Clematis flammula*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Cota tinctoria*  
*Crepis sancta*  
*Crucianella latifolia*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*  
*Dittrichia viscosa*  
*Erodium acaule*  
*Erodium cicutarium*  
*Erodium malacoides*  
*Erysimum scabrum*  
*Euphorbia gaillardotii*

*Euphorbia helioscopia*  
*Geranium rotundifolium*  
*Heliotropium rotundifolium*  
*Helminthotheca echioides*  
*Hippocrepis unisiliquosa*  
*Hypocoum imberbe*  
*Hypericum lanuginosum*  
*Isatis tinctoria*  
*Lactuca serriola*  
*Lamium amplexicaule*  
*Lomelosia palaestina*  
*Medicago lupulina*  
*Medicago sativa*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Ononis natrix*  
*Osyris alba*  
*Phalaris brachystachys*  
*Physalis peruviana*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Putoria calabrica*  
*Rubus collinus*  
*Sanguisorba minor*  
*Sarcopoterium spinosum*  
*Scandix pecten-veneris*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Silene aegyptiaca*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Solanum luteum*  
*Solanum villosum*  
*Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Teucrium divaricatum*  
*Thlaspi perfoliatum*  
*Torilis tenella*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium grandiflorum*  
*Xanthium spinosum*

**Site S26\_RL**

*Aegilops neglecta*  
*Ajuga chamaepitys*  
*Allium neapolitanum*  
*Alopecurus myosuroides*  
*Alopecurus rendlei*  
*Anemone coronaria*  
*Avena barbata*  
*Avena clauda*  
*Avena sterilis*  
*Calicotome villosa*  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*  
*Cardamine hirsuta*

*Carduus argentatus*  
*Carduus pycnocephalus*  
*Carex distans*  
*Carthamus tenuis*  
*Centaurea iberica*  
*Cichorium intybus*  
*Cistus creticus*  
*Clematis flammula*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Cota tinctoria*  
*Crepis pterothecoides*  
*Crepis sancta*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*  
*Echinops adenocaulos*  
*Epilobium parviflorum*  
*Eryngium glomeratum*  
*Geranium dissectum*  
*Geropogon hybridus*  
*Hippocrepis unisiliquosa*  
*Hordeum bulbosum*  
*Hypochaeris achyrophorus*  
*Isatis lusitanica*  
*Lathyrus aphaca*  
*Linum pubescens*  
*Lolium perenne*  
*Lotus judaicus*  
*Medicago lupulina*  
*Medicago rugosa*  
*Medicago sativa varia*  
*Ononis spinosa*  
*Peltaria angustifolia*  
*Picnomon acarna*  
*Pimpinella peregrina*  
*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Pterocephalus plumosus*  
*Quercus coccifera*  
*Rubia tenuifolia*  
*Scrophularia rubricaulis*  
*Securigera securidaca*  
*Sherardia arvensis*  
*Silene damascena*  
*Theligonum cynocrambe*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Torilis arvensis*  
*Trifolium angustifolium*  
*Trifolium clusii*  
*Trifolium fragiferum*  
*Trifolium plebeium*



*Trifolium scabrum*  
*Trifolium stellatum*  
*Urospermum picroides*  
*Veronica syriaca*  
*Vicia peregrina*