

THE NEW "VEGETATION MAP OF SICILY (ITALY)": A SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF EUROPEAN HABITATS ON THE TERRITORY

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The new "*Vegetation map of Sicily (Italy)*", recently published (Gianguzzi, Papini & Cusimano, 2015), shows also a synthetic overview of the distribution of European habitats in the territory; the study area has been extended to small islands circum-Sicilian (archipelago of the Aeolian; Aegadian, Pelagie Ustica and Pantelleria islands), for a total area of 25,703 km².

Our work allowed to resume the knowledge status of the phytosociological studies on vegetation carried out and to identify the actual plant landscape of the region; the map was compiled in a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) environment, in order to produce a cartographic representation in 1:10,000 scale (reduced to a 1:250,000 scale).

At the reference scale 36 phytocoenotic types are represented, 16 of which related to European habitats of zonal vegetation (Mediterranean maquis, *Quercus ilex* woods, *Quercus suber* woods, *Castanea sativa* woods, *Quercus pubescens* deciduous woods, mesophilous deciduous woods, *Fagus sylvatica* woods, *Betula aetnensis* woods, woods dominated by woody gymnosperms, forest edge shrubs, orophilous pulvinate shrubs, shrublands and garrigues on substrates of carbonate nature and on substrates of siliceous nature, *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus* grasslands, mesophilous and sub-hygrophilous grasslands and pastures), 11 related to azonal vegetation (riparian vegetation, psammophilous herbaceous vegetation, chasmo-halophitic vegetation, etc.) and 9 related to anthropogenic vegetation (arable lands and extensive herbaceous crops, vineyards, olive groves and dry cultivation mosaics, hazelnut groves, irrigated citrus groves and orchards, greenhouses, built-up areas).

Gianguzzi L., Papini F., Cusimano D., 2015 – *Phytosociological survey vegetation map of Sicily (Mediterranean region)*. – Journal of Maps:1-7 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17445647.2015.1094969>).

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