

## You can also contribute to the conservation of *Androcymbium rechingeri* by respecting the environment and the law

- ▶ parking your vehicles outside the protected area
- ▶ keeping to the designated pathways
- ▶ not removing or cutting wild plants
- ▶ not destroying the sand dunes
- ▶ not leaving rubbish behind
- ▶ informing others about this rare plant and how they can contribute to its conservation

By protecting the habitat of *Androcymbium rechingeri* we also protect other rare and threatened species found in the same fragile ecosystem.



*Bellevalia brevipedicellata*



*Centaurea pumilio*

**Project title:** Management actions to achieve Favourable Conservation Status for the priority plant species of the Habitats Directive *Androcymbium rechingeri* Greuter (1842) in Greece

**Funding:** Green Fund

**National Funding Programme:** "NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & INNOVATIVE ACTIONS 2020", Priority Axis 1 «BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS»

**Budget:** € 80.000

**Project implementation / Beneficiary:** CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (CIHEAM-MAICH)

**Project duration:** April 2020 - May 2022

**Acknowledgements:** We thank the Municipalities of Kissamos and Kantanos – Selino for their cooperation. We also thank the business owners at Falasarna beach for their contribution to the conservation of the plant.



### Information

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The leaflet can be downloaded from the project page on the website of CIHEAM-MAICH [www.iamc.ciheam.org](http://www.iamc.ciheam.org)



## *Androcymbium rechingeri*

A rare plant  
in danger of extinction!



### Did you know?

In Greece it is found only on the west coast of Crete.



## Androcymbium rechingeri Greuter

A perennial bulbous plant of short size (up to 10 cm high) with leaves up to 15 cm long.

Each plant usually produces more than 4 impressive white flowers with thin purple stripes.

It flowers from December to February and the aboveground parts of the plant die off in summer.

### Conservation status

The plant has been characterised as **Endangered (EN)** according to the Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

### Threats

Tourism and agricultural activities.

In the areas of Elafonisi and Falasarna the plant is found on sandy and clay soils near the beach where thousands of visitors and vehicles come during the summer.



### Protection status

It is protected by the Presidential Decree 67/81 and the Bern Convention, and it is included in Annexes II\* and IV of the Habitats Directive.

### Conservation actions

Actions implemented to improve the conservation status of the plant include:

- ▶ fencing and designation of pathways
- ▶ plantings for reinforcement of the plant populations
- ▶ collection and storage of seeds
- ▶ raising awareness of the residents and visitors.

Seed storage in the Seed Bank of MAICH



Plantings



The fences of the project are temporary and will remain in place until the natural environment recovers.



The life cycle of the plant



1. It flowers from December to February.

2. From the end of May to the beginning of June the aboveground parts of the plant die off.

3. In summer only the bulb of the plant remains under the sand.

4. From November to December the seeds germinate and the bulbs grow back.

