



## Cirsium brachycephalum

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<b>Annex</b>	II, IV
<b>Priority</b>	No
<b>Species group</b>	Vascular plants
<b>Regions</b>	Continental, Pannonian

*Cirsium brachycephalum* is a biennial tall thistle with many spiny teeth on its leaves and winged stems. The species grows in lowland salt marshes and salt meadows which are regularly flooded or considerably wet. It is often found in wet arable fields as a weed. The species is a Pannonian endemic. The center of its distribution is the salt steppes in Hungary and from here it spreads north-west towards Slovakia, south Moravia and Austria. It grows also in Vojvodina and northern parts of Romania. This species is classified as Least Concern (LC) in the EU 27 Red List due to its widespread and common distribution in Hungary, stable populations and no major threats. Nevertheless it is classed as threatened in national Red Lists due to habitat loss caused by cultivation, drainage and urbanisation.

The species status in the Austrian marginal occurrence within the Continental biogeographical region is "Unfavourable Bad" in all parameters. The species main distribution in the Pannonian region is in an "Unfavourable Inadequate" status due to insufficient range and population at the marginal occurrences in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Romania reported all parameters and overall conclusion as "Favourable". Trend unknown in Continental region and stable in Pannonian.

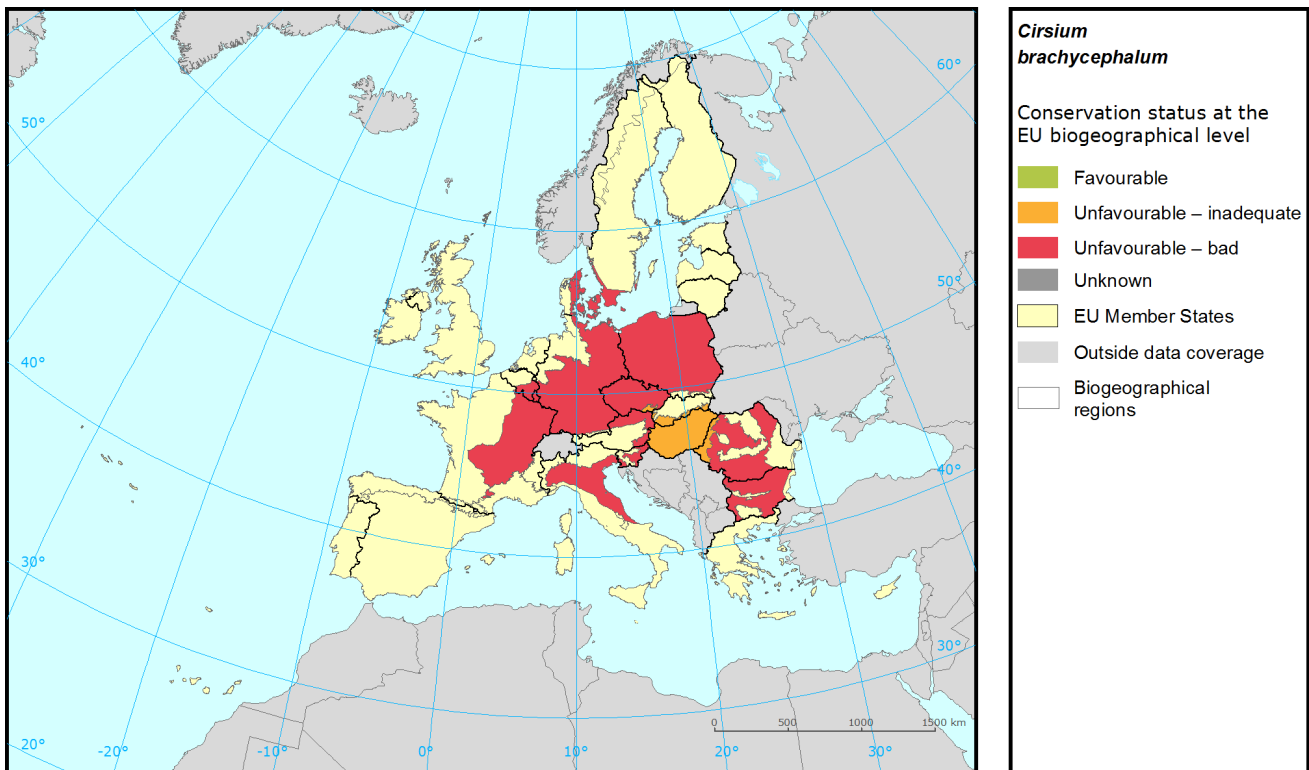
Main threats are Water abstractions from groundwater, canalisation and water deviation, agricultural intensification, overgrazing, landfill and land reclamation.

Changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 report are mostly caused by different methodical approach and better data rather than real change in conservation status in Continental and Pannonian region.

# Species: *Cirsium brachycephalum*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	3	XX	Not genuine
PAN	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	97	FV	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information<sup>i</sup>

# Species: *Cirsium brachycephalum*

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## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### *Cirsium brachycephalum*

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Favourable                |  EU Member States       |
|  Unfavourable – inadequate |  Outside data coverage  |
|  Unfavourable – bad        |  Biogeographical region |
|  Unknown                   |  |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

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MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
AT	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	100.0			
CZ	PAN	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	0.3	U2		
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV		90.0	FV		
RO	PAN	FV	U1	FV	U1		2.7			
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	7.0	U1		

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

## Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	40
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	20
A04	Grazing by livestock	20
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	20

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	67
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	33

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## Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report the population size within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size in the biogeographical/marine region.

### Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	CON	PAN
AT	69	
CZ		80
HU		85
RO		32
SK		92

See the endnotes for more information<sup>ii</sup>

## Most frequently reported conservation measures

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	27
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	18
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	18
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	9
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	9
6.0	Other spatial measures	9
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	9

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Vascular+plants&period=3&subject=Cirsium+brachycephalum>

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**i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level:** Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the species population occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

**ii Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (\*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the species has been reported by the Member States.