



Ophrys melitensis

Annex	II, IV
Priority	No
Species group	Vascular plants
Regions	Mediterranean

Ophrys melitensis is endemic to Malta. It is a protected species (schedule VI of legal notice LN311/2600) in Malta. The plant forms a basal rosette of few leaves. In late winter (beginning of March) the flowers open up. It reaches a height of 15 to 25 cm. the inflorescence consist of 3 to 12 flowers. As typical for the genera, it reproduces through pseudo-copulation; their flowers mimic female insects and fool amorous males into mating with the flowers, thereby pollinating them. Each flower has a long, leaf-like, hood-shaped bract and a dark brown labellum with pale blue to violet, metallic markings. This species is mostly known from grassy and karstic habitats, in garigue, phrygana, pre-desert scrub and steppic communities on coralline limestone, with calcareous soils, usually accompanied by other Orchidaceae; and is also known amongst pine woodland undergrowth. Such habitats are still relatively widespread, but may be subject to considerable human influence. *Ophrys melitensis* has not been assessed for the IUCN Red List.

The habitat quality has been assessed as "Favourable" in view of its widespread distribution and the generalist nature of the species. No population counts are available, but assess as "Favorable". Due to "Unfavorable" future prospects, the overall conservation status is "Unfavorable Inadequate", as it was assessed in the last report.

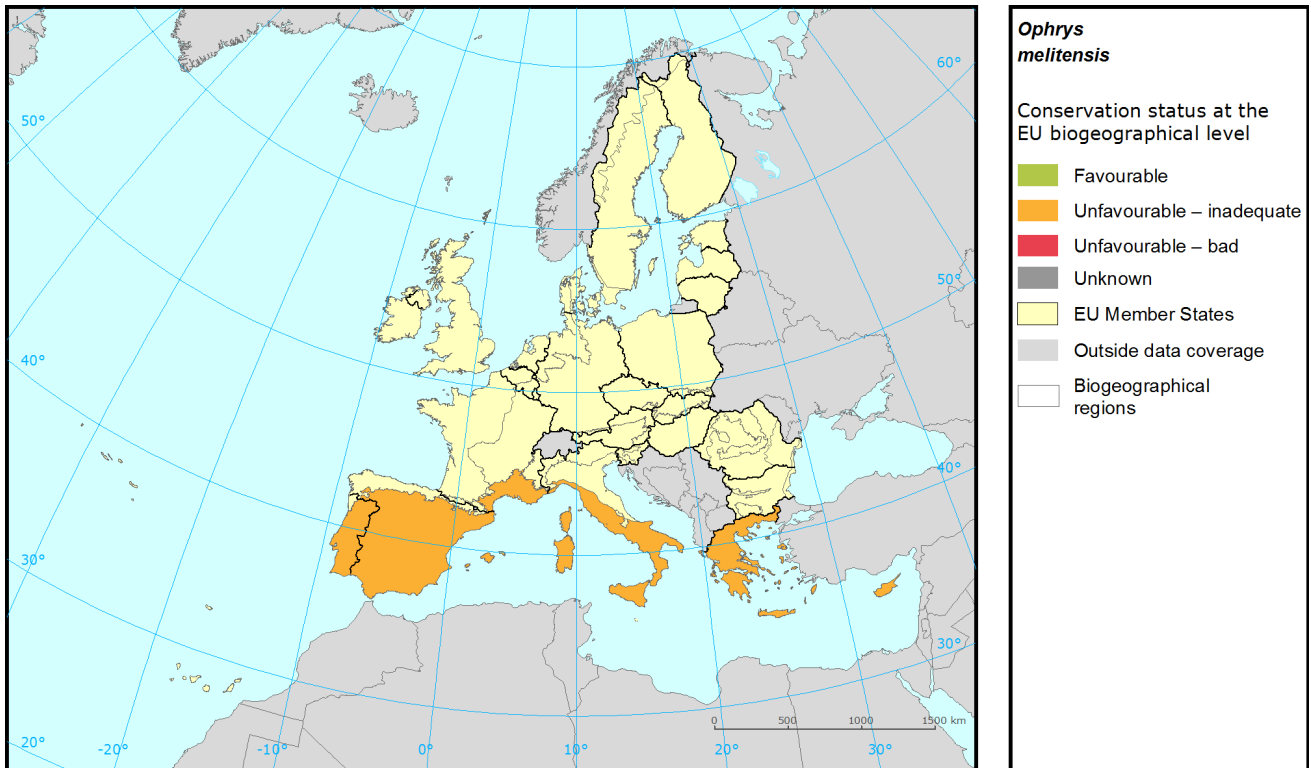
Trampling, dumping and invasive alien species have been listed as the main threats for the species.

No changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 reports.

Species: *Ophrys melitensis*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



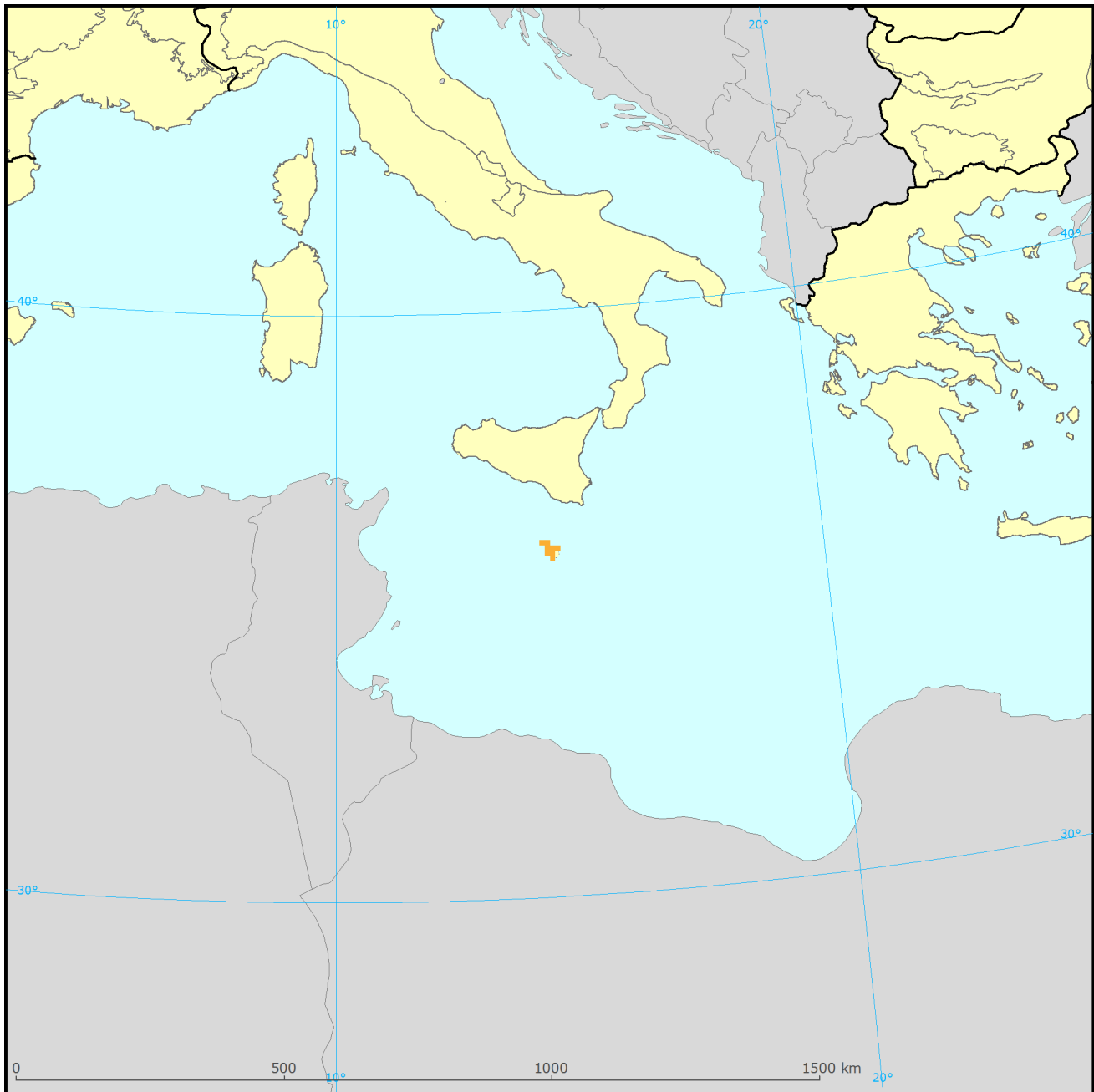
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
MED	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	100	U1	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

Species: *Ophrys melitensis*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Ophrys melitensis

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					
MT	MED	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	100.0	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
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	33
I01	Invasive alien species	33
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	33

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	50
I01	Invasive alien species	50

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

MED	
MT	70

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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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
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	25
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	25
6.4	Manage landscape features	25
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	25

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=Ophrys+melitensis>

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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.