



Ruscus aculeatus

Annex	V
Priority	No
Species group	Vascular plants
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

The butcher's broom *Ruscus aculeatus* is a low evergreen shrub which occurs on woodlands, hedgerows and coastal cliffs across Europe and Asia. It occurs in all biogeographical regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean and Pannonian), except for the Steppic region. The IUCN Red List classifies the species as Least Concern (LC). It is protected in several countries including Switzerland, Hungary, and France. This plant is classed as Least Concern on several national Red lists (Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland).

The overall conservation status of this species is "Favourable" in all regions except the Steppic region where the status is "Unfavourable Inadequate" as all parameters are "Unfavourable Inadequate".

The main pressures and threats for the species are: collecting for decorative and medicinal purposes, improper management of the forests and forest cultures (e.g. destruction of *Ruscus* plants in felling, afforestation, forest clearing, construction of forest roads, etc.), forest fires, poor regenerating abilities (most of the individuals in the sub-populations do not flower at all or produce a small amount of fruits and flowers) of flora.

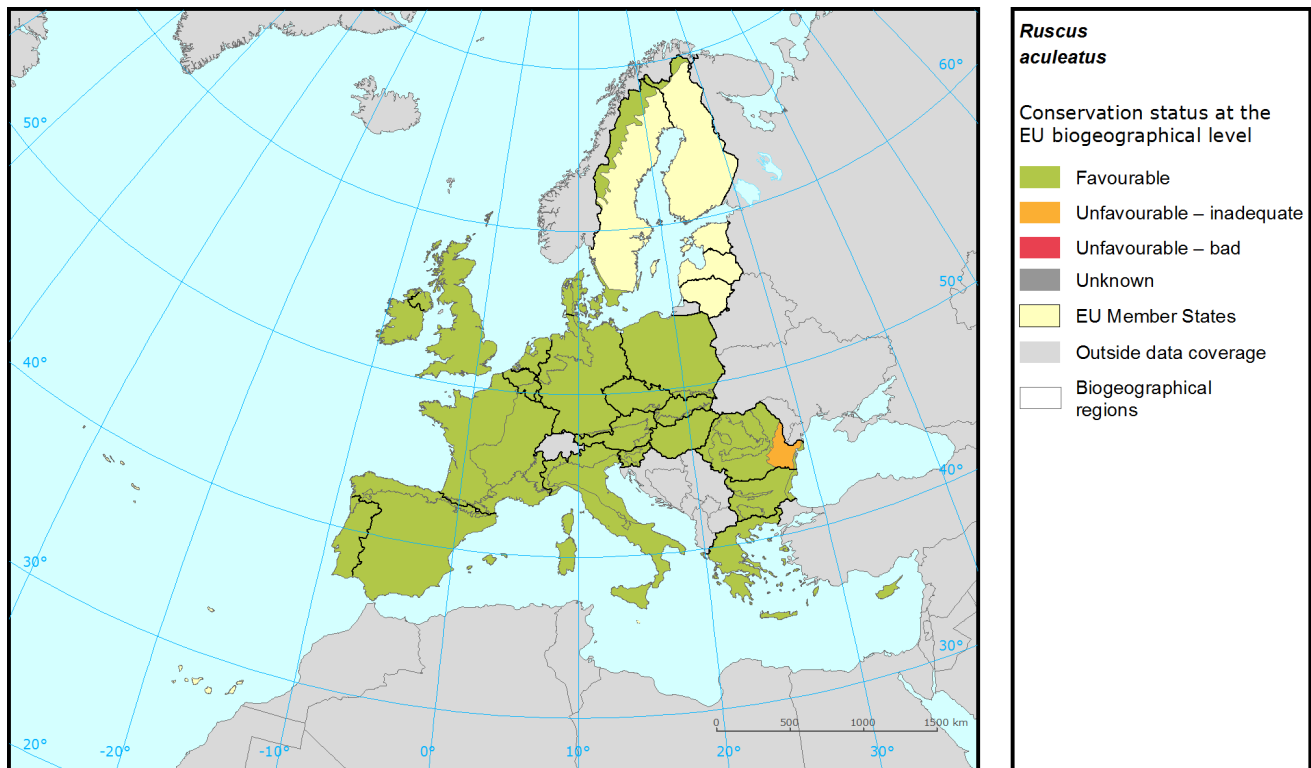
Changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 reports are mostly caused by different methodical approach and better data rather than real change in conservation status in Mediterranean region. No changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 reports in Alpine, Atlantic, Continental and Pannonian region. The species was not reported from Black Sea and Steppic region 2001-06.

Better data required from France and Greece.

Species: *Ruscus aculeatus*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



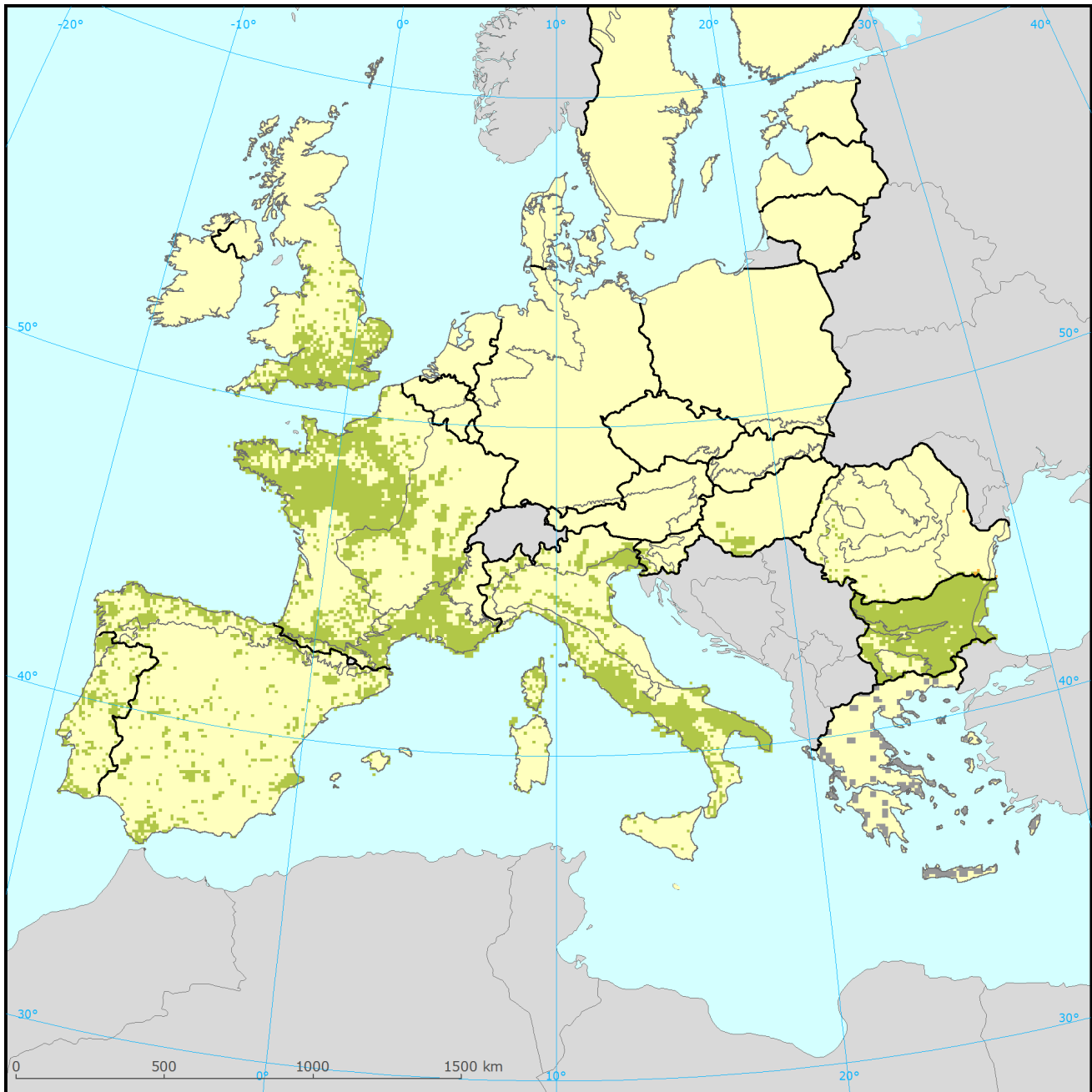
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		5	FV	
ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		36	FV	
BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		23	FV	
MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		33	XX	Not genuine
PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.9	FV	
STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	0.05	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Ruscus aculeatus

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					
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		32.9			
ES	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.7	XX	Changed method	
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		26.2	FV		
IT	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		30.2	FV		
SI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.0	FV		
ES	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		10.1	XX	Changed method	
FR	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		62.0	FV		
PT	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.2	U1	Changed method	
UK	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV		26.8	FV		
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV		98.8			
RO	BLS	U1	U1	U1	U1		1.2			
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		56.4			
FR	CON	FV	FV	XX	FV		26.9	FV		
IT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		13.5	FV		
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.2			
SI	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.0	FV		
ES	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		23.0	XX	Changed method	
FR	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		23.8	FV		
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	FV	XX	8.0	XX		
IT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		36.0	FV		
PT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		9.2	U1	Changed method	
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV		89.8	FV		
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV		10.2			
RO	STE	U1	U1	U1	U1		100.0			

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.

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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
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	43
F04	Taking and collection of terrestrial plants	19
B04	Use of 'pesticides' (forestry)	10
J01	Fire and fire suppression	10
A11	Other agriculture activities	5
B03	Forest exploitation	5
B05	Use of fertilizers (forestry)	5
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	26
F04	Taking and collection of terrestrial plants	17
J01	Fire and fire suppression	17
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	13
B03	Forest exploitation	4
B04	Use of 'pesticides' (forestry)	4
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	4
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excl. discharges)	4
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	4
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	4

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=Ruscus+aculeatus>

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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.