Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive Period 2007-2012

European Environment Agency *European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity*



Spiranthes aestivalis

Annex IV Priority No

Species group Vascular plants

Regions Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean

Spiranthes aestivalis is a species of orchid with Mediterraneo-Atlantic distribution. Its natural range extends from Iberian Peninsula to Eastern Mediterranean basin and to UK and Netherlands in the north (nowadays the species is extinct in the UK, Belgium and Netherlands). It grows most often in peatlands, fens and humid grasslands but also in dune depression, or in wet heathlands, mostly on humid acidic to neutral soils. Within the European Union it occurs in Alpine, Atlantic, Continental and Mediterranean region. This rare species has undergone a decline across its natural range in past and in the most of the countries populations are still declining. It is listed as Data Deficient (DD) in the European Red List.

The conservation status is "Unfavourable Bad" in all regions except the Mediterranean regions, where the status is "Unknown". The status is still deteriorating in the Alpine and Continental region and the trend has been assessed as unknown in the Atlantic region.

Habitats of the species are under the pressure from divers human activities linked to cultivation of crops or breeding of cattle. Human induced changes of hydrological regime and natural succession represent also important threats to its populations.

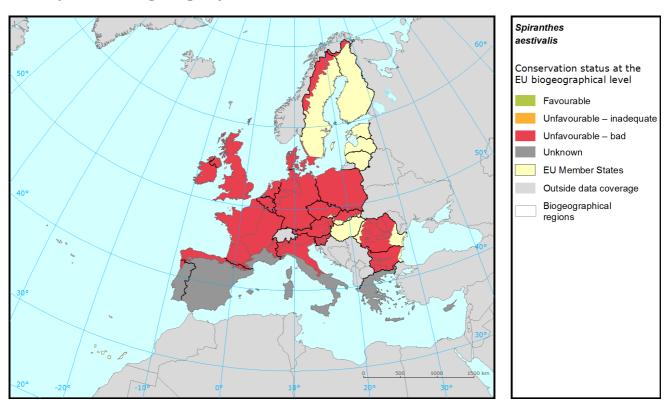
Changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 report are caused by real change in conservation status in the Alpine region.

No changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 reports in Atlantic, Contonental and Mediterranean regions.

There are still gaps in the knowledge of the status of this species and better data required from France, Portugal and Spain.

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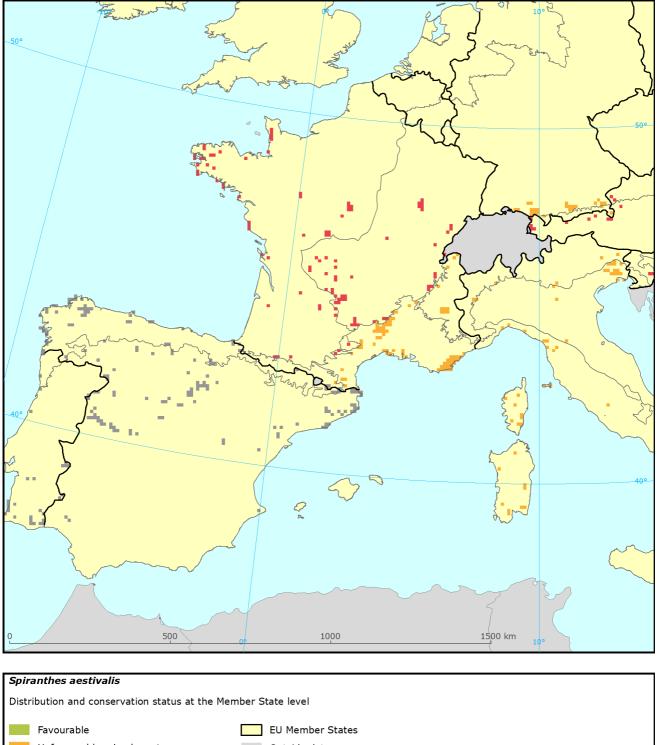
Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current	Trend in	% in	Previous	Reason for
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	CS	CS	region	CS	change
ALP	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	9	U1	Genuine
ATL	U1	XX	U2	U2	U2	x	23	U2	
CON	U2	XX	XX	XX	U2	-	20	U2	
MED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		48	XX	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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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Conservation status of parameters				Current	Trend in	% in	Previous	Reason for		
MS Region		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	CS	CS CS	region	CS	change
AT	ALP	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	25.0	U1	Genuine
DE	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	7.5	U1	Genuine
ES	ALP	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		17.5	XX	
FR	ALP	U1	XX	XX	XX	U1	x	30.0	U2	Changed method
IT	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	15.0	FV	Changed method
SI	ALP	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	5.0	U2	
ES	ATL	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		49.0	XX	
FR	ATL	U1	U1	U2	U2	U2	=	50.0	U2	
PT	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		1.0		
AT	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	2.2	U2	Better data
DE	CON	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	-	23.9	U1	Genuine
FR	CON	U2	XX	XX	XX	U2	-	54.3	U2	
IT	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	19.6	FV	Changed method
ES	MED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		45.4	XX	
FR	MED	FV	FV	XX	U1	U1	x	33.5	XX	Better data
IT	MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	9.2	FV	Changed method
PT	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		11.9	U1	Changed method

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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	21
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	21
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	9
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	9
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	9
A01	Agricultural cultivation	6
A04	Grazing by livestock	6
A05	Farming and breeding of livestock	3
80A	Fertilisation in agriculture	3
B01	Afforestation	3

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	21
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	21
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	14
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	10
A01	Agricultural cultivation	7
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	7
A04	Grazing by livestock	7
A05	Farming and breeding of livestock	3
B01	Afforestation	3
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	3

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=Spiranthes+aestivalis

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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.