



H2330 - CORINEPHORION HABITAT

Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands

Distribution

It is found in the Continental Biogeographical Region with 494 sites across Europe. In Italy, it is located in the western Po Valley, in Piedmont and Lombardy, covering an area of about 3.5 km². In these regions, within the Natura 2000 areas, it covers a total area of approximately 8 hectares, as most of this habitat is found outside the Natura 2000 network, within private properties or military areas, particularly in Lomellina on the so-called "dossi" (mounds or ridges).

Description

In Italy, the habitat is characterized by acidophilic herbaceous vegetation rich in lichens on sandy mounds and/or fluvio-glacial sandy-gravel deposits. The species that dominate the habitat, on fluvio-glacial sandy-gravel deposits in the Ansa di Castelnovate and Valle del Ticino, are: *Corynephorus canescens*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, and *Filago minima*. This habitat is also characterized by the presence of typical biological soil crusts rich in terricolous lichens, mainly belonging to the genus *Cladonia*.

Protection

It is a habitat of conservation interest at the European level, according to the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC), for which protection areas have been established, such as SCIs (Sites of Community Importance) or SACs (Special Areas of Conservation), which, together with SPAs (Special Protection Areas, established under the Birds Directive), form the so-called Natura 2000 Network (the most important network of protected areas at the European level).

Conservation status

III Report ex-art. 17 (Direttiva 92/43/CEE): BAD.
 IV Report ex-art. 17 (Direttiva 92/43/CEE): BAD.
 Lista Rossa degli Habitat Europei: ENDANGERED.

Pressures and threats

Invasion of non-native woody species (*Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Ailanthus altissima*) and native species (*Crataegus monogyna*, *Rosa spp.*, *Prunus spinosa*), increase in soil nutrients, lack of management.

> **Intervention sites:** SAC IT1150001 Valle del Ticino, SAC IT2010013 Ansa di Castelnovate.

> **Planned interventions for this habitat:** Improvement of the structure (by mowing herbaceous plants, cutting/controlling native and non-native woody species); Floristic enrichment with species typical of the habitat; Sod-cutting (involving raking the top 5-10 cm of substrate to restore pioneering conditions and reduce potential nutrient accumulation).

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