2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

"Conservation of Mediterranean Plant Diversity: Complementary Approaches and New Perspectives" 12-16 November 2018, La Valetta, MALTA



Recent advances in seed germination research of Mediterranean plants

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- ² Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, Hellenic Agricultural Organization "DEMETER", Athens, GR
- ³ Mediterranean Plant Conservation Unit, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Chania, GR
- ⁴ Green Fund, Ministry of Environment & Energy, Athens, GR















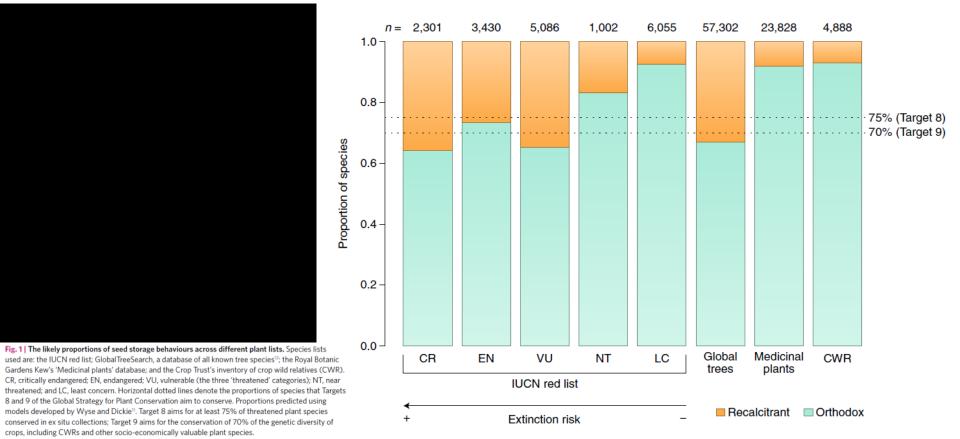


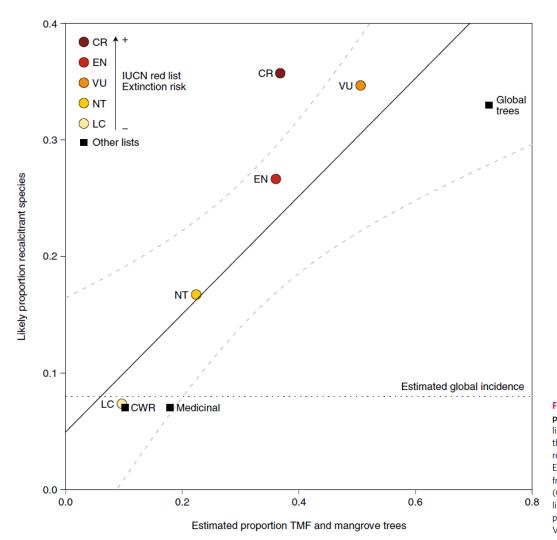
Seed banking not an option for many threatened plants The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation requires 75% of threatened plant species conserved ex situ by 2020.

The Global Strategy for Frant Conservation requires 7.5% of threatened plant species conserved as situ by 2022. Currently, ex situ conservation focuses on conventional seed banking, yet this method is unsuitable for many threatened species. The 75% target is unattainable without urgent investment into alternative techniques. Sarah V. Wyse, John B. Dickie and Katherine J. Willis

Saran V. VVyse, John B. Dickle and Ratherine J. VVII

NATURE PLANTS | VOL 4 | NOVEMBER 2018 | 848-850 |

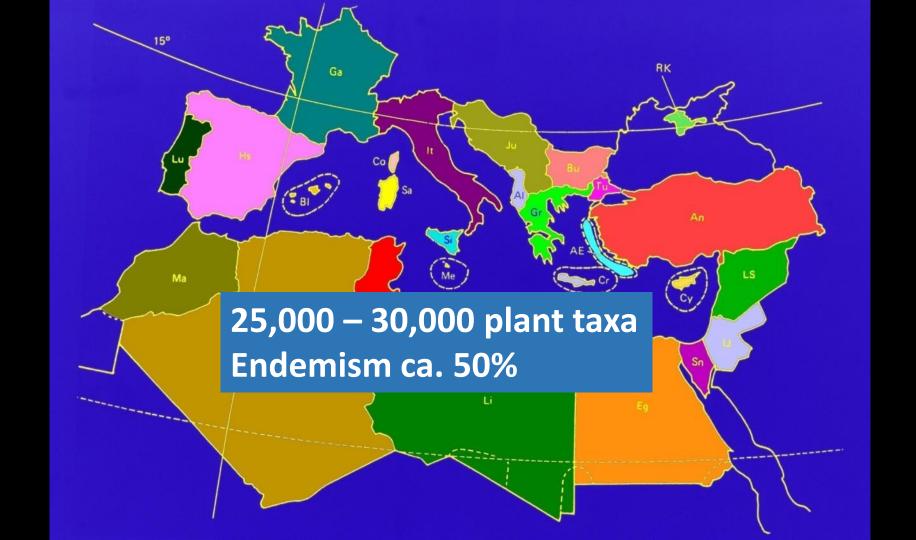




Taxa with recalcitrant seeds constitute between 0.5-1.0% of the Greek Flora.

Projected value of seed recalcitrance occurrence in the flora of the Mediterranean Rim: 1-2%

Fig. 2 | The likely proportions of recalcitrant species on different plant lists in relation to the estimated proportion of the list made up of trees from tropical moist forest and mangrove habitats. Solid black line is a linear model fitted for these two variables ($r^2 = 0.73$, P = 0.007); dashed grey lines represent the upper and lower 95% confidence bounds. Horizontal dotted line is the estimated global incidence of recalcitrant seed plants⁹, storage behaviour was predicted using models developed by Wyse and Dickie¹¹. Estimated proportion of tropical moist forest (TMF) and mangrove tree species calculated using data from GlobalTreeSearch, a database of all known tree species¹², the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF; www.gbif.org) and the Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World¹⁷. Species lists used are: the IUCN red list; GlobalTreeSearch, a database of all known tree species¹²; the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's 'Medicinal plants' database; and the Crop Trust's inventory of CWRs. CR, critically endangered; EN, endangered; VU, vulnerable (the three 'threatened' categories); NT, near threatened; and LC, least concern.



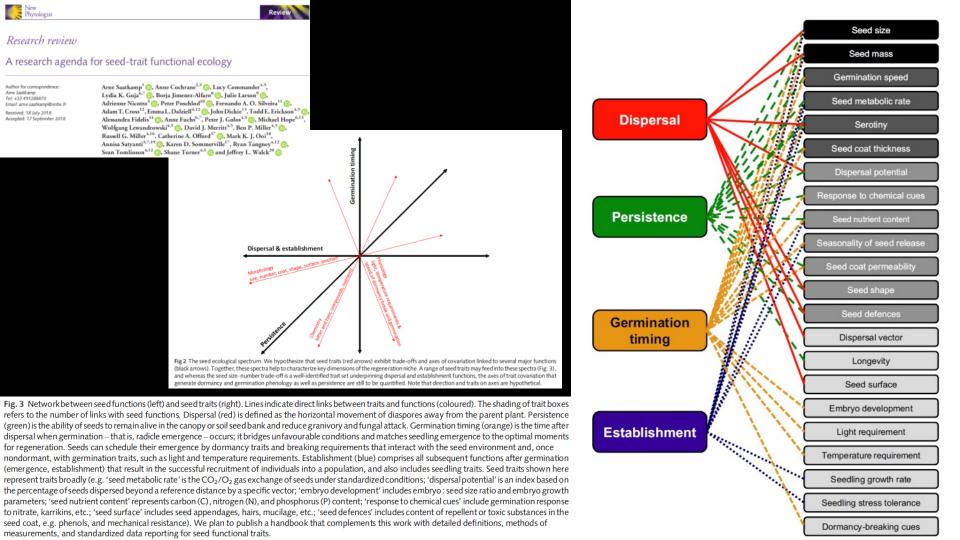


DURING THE LAST 3 DECADES:

AN IMPRESSIVE INCREASE OF RESEARCH GROUPS WORKING ON SEED GERMINATION (AND SEED BIOLOGY IN GENERAL) AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

ACCOMPANIED BY AN
EXPLOSIVE SURGE OF
PUBLICATIONS (RESEARCH
PAPERS, REVIEWS, MSc & PhD
THESES, PAMPHLETS, MANUALS,
TECHNICAL REPORTS, BOOKS
etc)





Dormancy types

Dormancy classification is an endless source of confusion and misunderstandings

Endogenous ysiological coat imposed

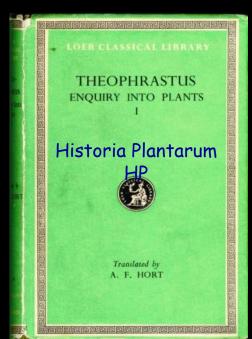
Germination Characters

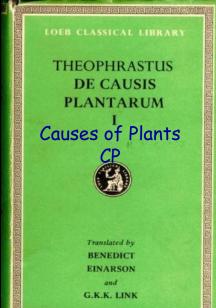
The distinctive types of germination behaviour

Germination Functional Types

Carl von Linnaeus (1707-1778)

"Theophrastus is the father of Botany"







Θεόφραστος ο Ερέσιος (371-286 πX)

ΘΕΟΦΡΑΣΤΟΥ **ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΕΣ ΗΘΙΚΟΙ**

THEOPHRASTI
CHARACTERES
ETHICL

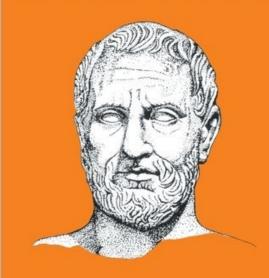
PETRI NEEDHAM,

ET VERSIONE LATINA
ISAAGI GASAUBONI.

G L A S G U A E:
IN AEDIBUS ACADEMICIS
EXCUDEBANT ROBERTUS ET ANDREAS FOULIS
ACADEMIAE TYPOGRAPHI
MDCCLVIII.



THE CHARACTERS OF THEOPHRASTUS



EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION COMMENTARY AND INDEX BY R.G. USSHER

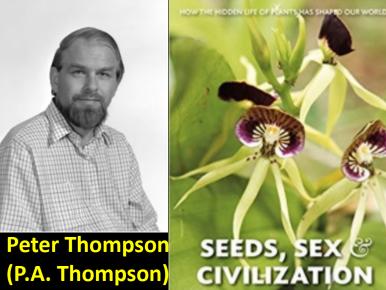
ΘΕΟΦΡΑCΤΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΕΟ ΗΘΙΚΟΙ

ΘΕΟΦΡΑCΤΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΕС ΗΘΙΚΟΙ

	εἰρωνείας α΄	δειαιδαιμονίαα ις'
	κολακείας β΄	μεμψιμοιρίας ιζ΄
	άδολεςχίας γ΄	ἀπιςτίας ιη΄
	άγροικίας δ΄	δυεχερείαε ιθ΄
5	άρεςκείας ε΄	ἀηδίας κ΄
_	άπονοίας ς'	μικροφιλοτιμίας κα
	λαλιᾶς ζ΄	ἀνελευθερίας κβ΄
	λογοποιίας η΄	άλαζονείας κγ΄
	ἀναιςχυντίας θ΄	ύπερηφανίας κδ΄
IO	μικρολογίας ι΄	δειλίας κε΄
	βδελυρίας ια΄	όλιγαρχίας κς'
	ἀκαιρίας ιβ΄	όψιμα θ ίας κζ΄
	περιεργίας ιγ΄	κακολογίας κη΄
	ἀναισθησίας ιδ΄	φιλοπονηρίας κθ΄
15	αὐθαδείας ιε΄	αἰσχροκερδείας λ'
-		

CHARACTERS OF THEOPHRASTUS

1. Ironical	16. Grumbler
2. Flatterer	17. Distrustful
3. Garrulous	18. Offensive
4. Boor	19. Unpleasant
5. Reckless	20. Of Petty Ambition
6. Chatty	21. Mean
7. Gossip	22. Boastful
8. Shameless	23. Arrogant
9. Penurious	24. Coward
10. Gross	25. Oligarch
11. Unreasonable	26. Late Learner
12. Officious	27. Slanderer
13. Stupid	28. Patron of Rascals
14. Surly	29. Avaricious
15. Superstitious	30. Shabby Profiteer



Characterization of the Germination Responses of Silene dioica (L.) Clairv., Populations from Europe

QUALITY CONTROL MARK

P. A. THOMPSON

Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Sussex

Received: 11 March 1974

Pioneer of germination ecophysiology

died Dec. 2008

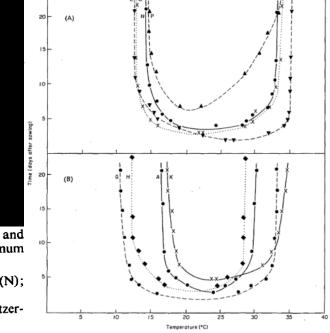
(& seed banking)

Fig. 3. Germination character curves of populations of *Silene dioica* plotted as maximum and minimum temperatures on successive days which resulted in 50 per cent of final maximum germination rates.

PETER THOMPSON

2010

- (A) Seed collected from populations growing in Germany (L); Finland (B); Czechoslovakia (N); and Poland (P).
- (B) Seed collected from populations growing in England (G and H); Norway (A) and Switzerland (K).



Journal of Ecology, Vol. 58, No. 3 (Nov., 1970), pp. 699-711

A COMPARISON OF THE GERMINATION CHARACTER OF SPECIES OF CARYOPHYLLACEAE COLLECTED IN of the other species, and minima lower than any apart from Agrostemma githago. It CENTRAL GERMANY

BY P. A. THOMPSON

Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey

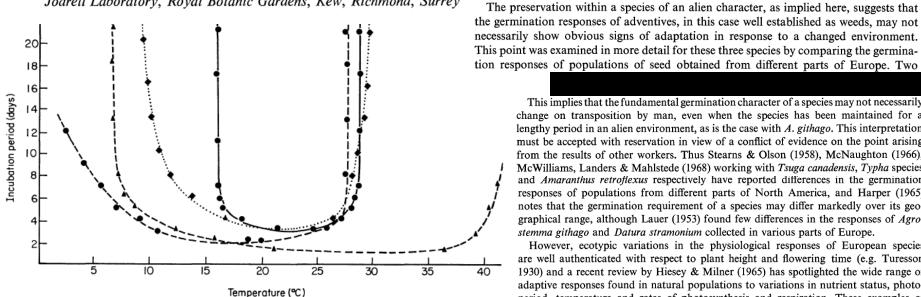


Fig. 5. Germination response curves for maximum and minimum temperatures providing a 50% germination rate on successive days. Tests were made, for four species, on thermogradient bars set to cover the range 2-42°C. Agrostemma githago (-- ● --); Silene dichotoma(A); Lychnis viscaria (Φ); Silene noctiflora ($-\Phi$).

could be argued that these three species, which have already been identified as possible adventives within the region, each possessed germination characters which were outside the normal range found for those species considered to be typical of deciduous woodland zones of Europe. More information on the correlations existing between geographical distribution and germination character is presented elsewhere (Thompson 1970a, b).

necessarily show obvious signs of adaptation in response to a changed environment. This point was examined in more detail for these three species by comparing the germination responses of populations of seed obtained from different parts of Europe. Two This implies that the fundamental germination character of a species may not necessarily

change on transposition by man, even when the species has been maintained for a lengthy period in an alien environment, as is the case with A. githago. This interpretation must be accepted with reservation in view of a conflict of evidence on the point arising from the results of other workers. Thus Stearns & Olson (1958), McNaughton (1966), McWilliams, Landers & Mahlstede (1968) working with Tsuga canadensis, Typha species and Amaranthus retroflexus respectively have reported differences in the germination responses of populations from different parts of North America, and Harper (1965) notes that the germination requirement of a species may differ markedly over its geographical range, although Lauer (1953) found few differences in the responses of Agro-

are well authenticated with respect to plant height and flowering time (e.g. Turesson 1930) and a recent review by Hiesey & Milner (1965) has spotlighted the wide range of

stemma githago and Datura stramonium collected in various parts of Europe.

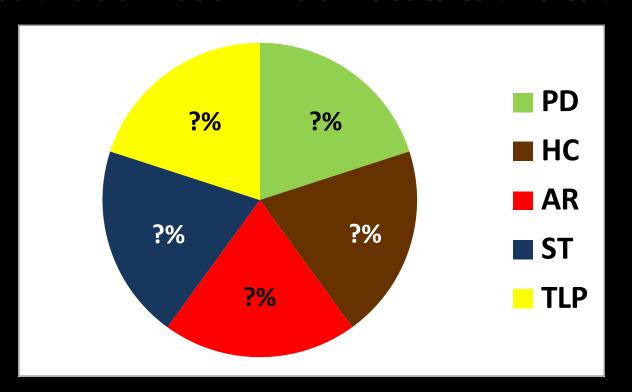
adaptive responses found in natural populations to variations in nutrient status, photoperiod, temperature and rates of photosynthesis and respiration. These examples of physiological adaptations to environment prevent an easy acceptance of the suggestion that the physiological responses involved in germination may be relatively non-plastic. But it is suggested that the examination of this problem depends largely on a concise, simple method of making comparisons of germination responses to different conditions such as the one described in this paper.

However, ecotypic variations in the physiological responses of European species

5 Germination Characters

Postdevelopers Hardcoaters Afterripeners Stratificationers Temperature(and light)-probers

5 Germination Characters IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

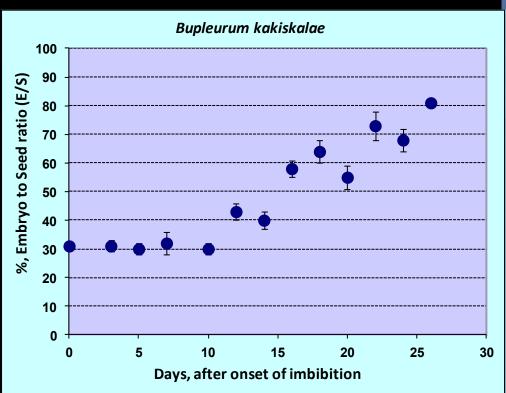


Postdevelopers

Seeds with underdeveloped or undifferentiated embryos



Bupleurum kakiskalae (Apiaceae)





Postdevelopers 37 Families / 200

Considerably determined by phylogeny

Plus the undifferentiated embryos:

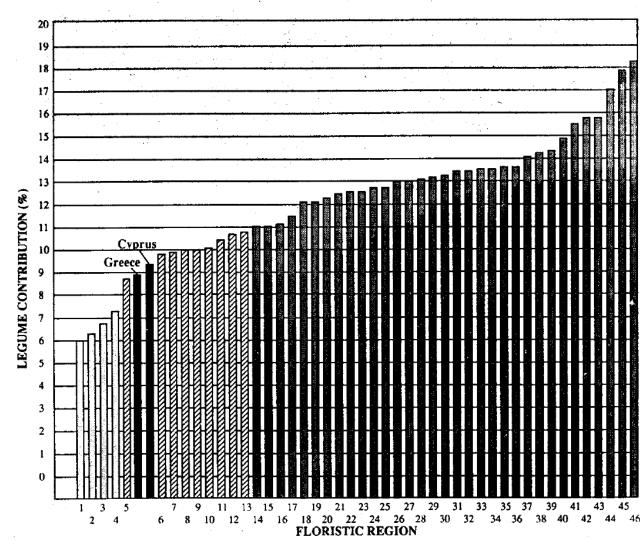
Orchidaceae c. 500 spp. Orobanchaceae c. 150 spp.		
c. 5-10% of the Mediterranean Flora		
Seeds with underdeveloped or undifferentiated		
embryos are associated with delayed,		
WINTER or SPRING germination		

Apiaceae	52
Asparagaceae	10
Campanulaceae	13
Gentianaceae	15
Liliaceae	11
Papaveraceae	12
Ranunculaceae	45
	158
total number	209

Hardcoaters

Seeds with water impermeable seed coats



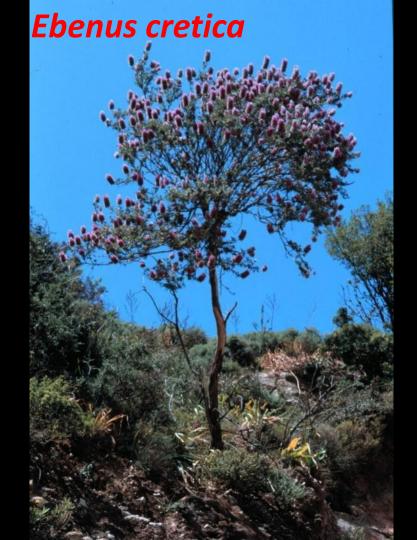


Legumes in the Fire-Prone Mediterranean Regions: an Example From Greece*

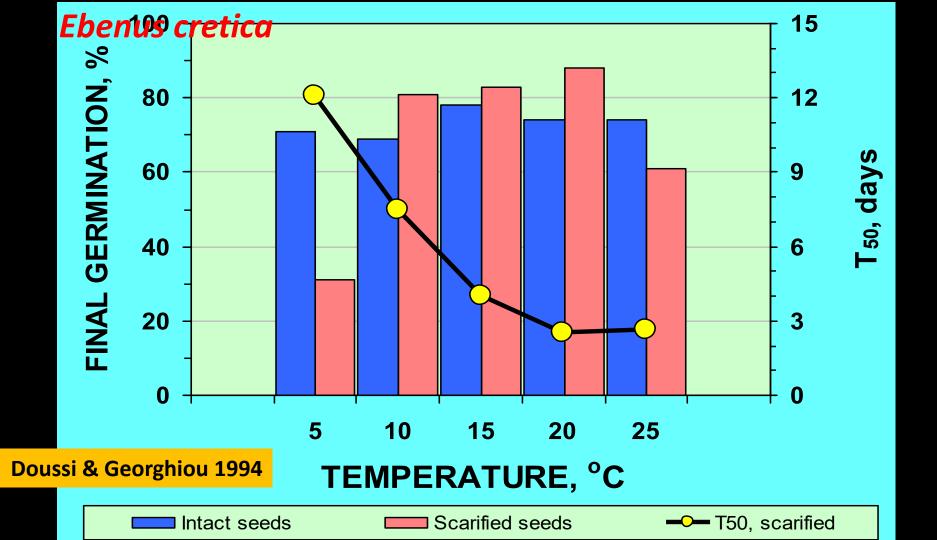
Margarita Arianoutsou¹ and Costas A. Thanos²

The frequency of **LEGUMES** tends to increase along decreasing altitudinal and latitudinal gradients. In drier Mediterranean environments, therophytes (and among them annual papilionoid legumes) dominate the local floras

Figure 1. Contribution of legumes to the total flora of various geographic regions of Greece (in the cases marked with * the contribuhas been estimated on a species plus subspecies basis). 1 Mountains of Greece * (Strid 1991) 2 Lailias Mt. (Voliotis 1977) 3 Macodonian Mts (Quezel and Contandriopoulos 1968) 4 Prespas Lakes Nat. Park (Pavlidis 1985) 5 Psathura Isl. (Snogerup et al. 1980) 6 Cholomon Mt. (Voliotis 1967) 7 Crete Isl. (Barclay 1986) 8 Lesbos Isl. (Cantargy 1889) 9 Euboea Isl. (Rechinger 1961) 10 Vertiscos Mt. range (Pavlidis 1982) 11 Strofilia hydrobiotope (Georgiadis et al. 1990) 12 Cephallonia Isl. (Phitos and Damboldt 1985) 13 Central Euboea Isl. (Phitos 1960) 14 Yioura Isl. (Kamari et al. 1988) 15 Armathia Isl. and 15 islets (Raus 1989) 16 Corfu Isl. (Georgiou 1988) 17 Syro Isl. (Sarlis 1994) 18 Skopelos Isl. (Economidou 1973) 19 Hymettus Mt. (Zerlendis 1973) 20 Ag. Evstratios Isl. (Snogerup 1991) 21 Schinias pine forest (Brofas and Karetsos 1991) 22 Yiaros Isl. (Tzanoudakis 1981) 23 Skiathos Isl. (Economidou 1969) 24 Cythera Isl (Yannitsaros 1969) 25 Mt. Paikon grazelands (Drossos and Athanassiadis 1989) 26 Kira Panagia Isl. (Snogerup et al. 1991) 27 Aetoloacarrumian lakes (Koumpli-Sovantzi 1983) 28 Cassandra Peninsula (Lavrentiadis 1961) 29 Dionysades Isls (Christodoulakis e al. 1990) 30 Chios Isl. * (Meikle 1954) 31 Santorini Isls (Hansen 1971) 32 Sithonia Peninsula (Pavlidis 1976) 33 Samos Isl (Christodoulakis 1986) 34 Kos-Kalymnos-Pserimos-Telendos Isls (Hansen 1980) 35 Spetses Isl. (Nikolaidou and Yannitsaros 1992) 36 S. Fuboric Gulf islands (Sartis 1981) 37 Elaphonesos Isl. (Yannitsaros 1971) 38 Piperi Isl. (Tsimburla and Yannitsaros 1992) 39 Skantzoura Isl. (Gustaffson and Snogerup 1974) 40 Nisyros Isl. (Papatsou 1975) 41 Paxi Isl. (Georgiadis et al. 1986) 42 Kassandra pins forests* (Tsitsoni and Karagiannakidou 1987) 43 Seven islets of N. Dodecanesus (Panitsa and Tzanoudakis 1991) 44 Kastellorizo Isl (Greuter 1979) 45 Psara Isl. (Greuter 1976) 46 Oinousses Isls (Panitsa et al. 1994).

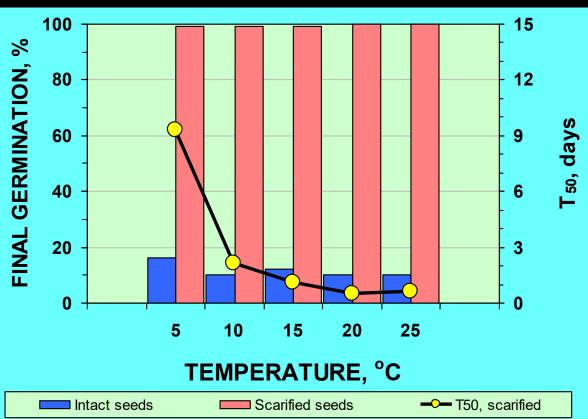


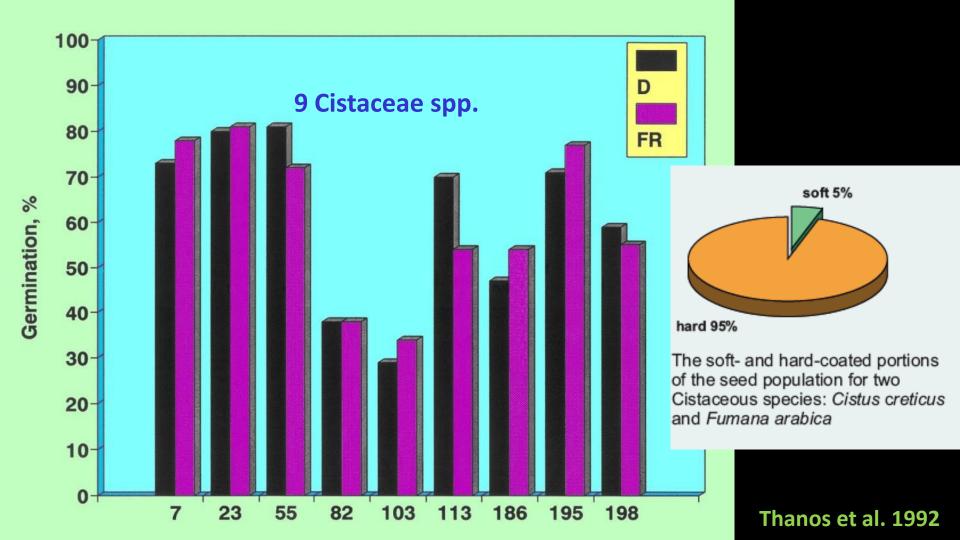




Ebenus sibthorpii



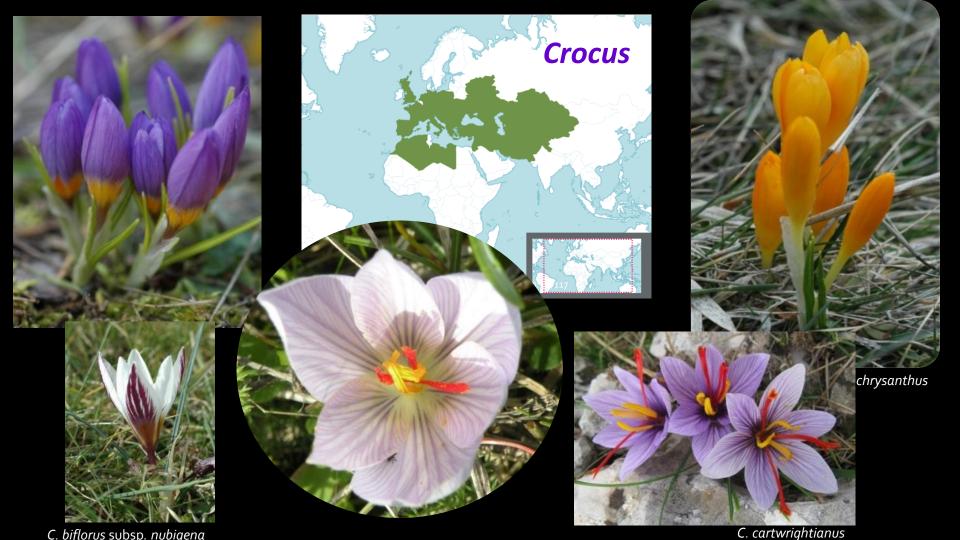


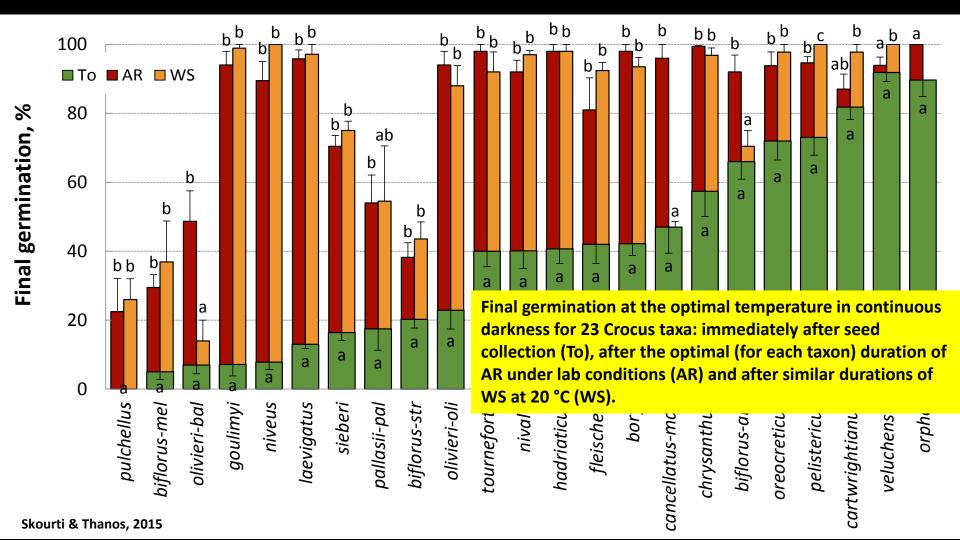


			GREECE
Hardcoaters	0.5 11: / 000	Anacardiaceae	5
панистант	9 Families / 200	Biebersteiniaceae	1
		Bixaceae	
Strongly determined by phylogeny		Cannaceae	
		Cistaceae	28
10.4% of the Greek Flora		Convolvulaceae	41
		Cucurbitaceae	
c. 11% of the Mediterranean F		Dipterocarpaceae	
		Fabaceae	441
	\	Geraniaceae	43
Hard (water-impermeable) coats are affiliated to: EPISODIC (postfire) or		Malvaceae	28
		Nelumbonaceae	
ERRATIC germination (after an	imal consumption	Rhamnaceae	1
· ·	•	Sapindaceae	
drought, freezing/thawing, we	eathering)	Sarcolaenaceae	
		Sphaerosepalaceae	
USUALLY indifferent to tempe	rature and light	Surianaceae	
OSOALLI IIIdillelelli to tellipe	iature and light		588

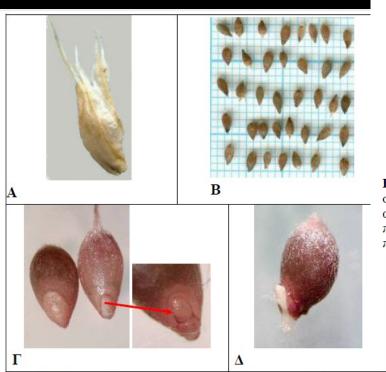
Afterripeners

Seeds require a few months at dry, warm conditions

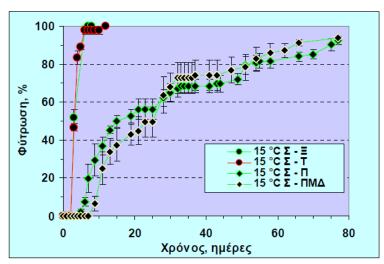




Sesleria doerfleri (Poaceae)



Φωτογραφία 71. Μονάδα διασποράς και καρποί Sesleria doerfleri: μονάδα διασποράς (καρύοψη που περιβάλλεται από τις λεπίδες) (A), καρποί (B), καρποί στη βάση των οποίων διακρίνεται το έμβρυο (Γ), φυτρωμένος καρπός (Δ).



Εικόνα 138. Χρονική πορεία της φύτρωσης σπερμάτων Sesleria doerfleri στους 15 °C, σε συνεχές σκοτάδι (Σ). Ξ: Σπέρματα που παρέμειναν στο ξηραντήριο 22 μήνες, Τ: σπέρματα που αποθηκεύτηκαν στην Τράπεζα Σπερμάτων για περίπου 4 μήνες, Π: σπέρματα που συλλέχθηκαν πρόσφατα (πραγματοποίηση πειράματος την επομένη της συλλογής), ΓΙΜΔ: μονάδες διασποράς που συλλέχθηκαν πρόσφατα. Οι κατακόρυφες γραμμές αντιστοιχούν στο ± τυπικό σφάλμα.

Threatened plants of Crete 100%-2 number) 80%-□ HC 60%-9 PS1 Taxa (% PS2 40%-PS3 8 AR? 13 20%-AR TLP? 2 TLP 0%-Fall **Spring Summer Maturation Season** Fournaraki 2010

Afterripeners

27 Families / 200

Considerably determined by phylogeny (very INCOMPLETE data)
c. ??% of the Mediterranean Flora

Asteraceae	TT
Brassicaceae	32
Caryophyllaceae	20
ridaceae	37
20000	40

Usually manifested by plants with 'early seed maturation'. AR is believed to safeguard seeds from untimely summer/early autumn germination.

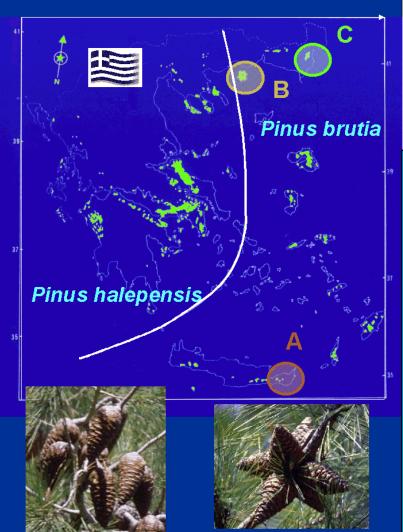
total number 194

148

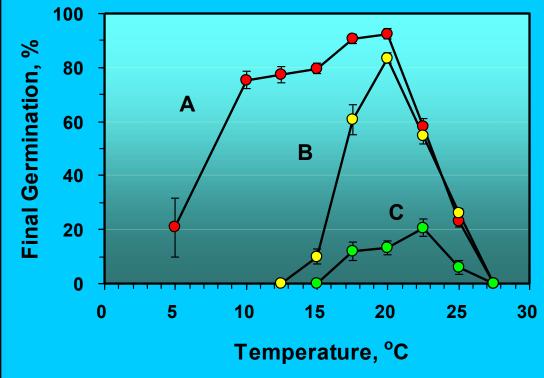
Quite common in the south of Europe.

Stratificationers

Seeds require a period of weeks or months at wet, cold conditions



Germinability (in the Dark) of seeds from 3 Greek *Pinus brutia* provenances







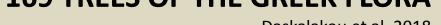
Aesculus hippocastanum

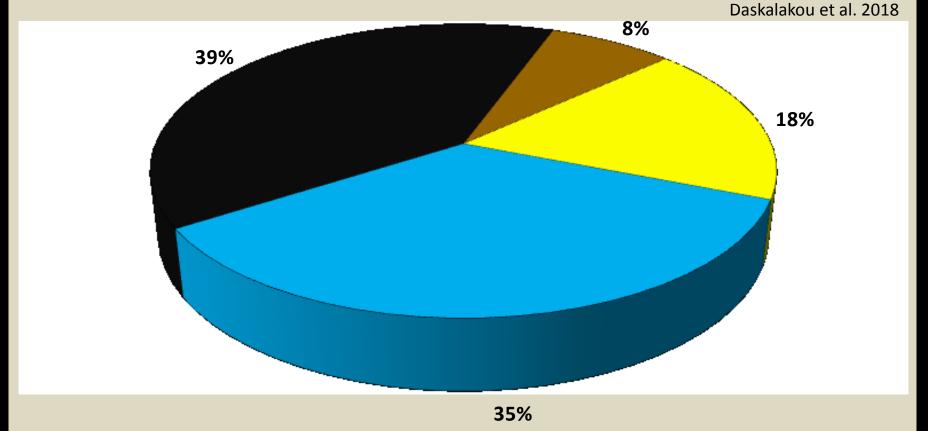
Germination in the Lab Dormancy is fully released after a period of 4-5 months of stratification at 5 °C



Germination characters

169 TREES OF THE GREEK FLORA





■ Hardcoaters □ Temperature (and light)-probers □ Stratificationers ■ ? unavailable information

Stratificationers 65 Families / 200

Asteraceae Betulaceae

Amaranthaceae

Weakly determined by phylogeny

with:

LATE WINTER or

SPRING germination

c. ??% of the Mediterranean Flora

Increasingly more common with

increasing altitude and latitude

A requirement of cold stratification is associated

Boraginaceae Brassicaceae

Caryophyllaceae Cyperaceae **Erica**

laceae	
iceae	
aceae	
oanchaceae	

	28
	42
ae	10
ie	14
	39
	1.4

10
14
39
14
69
445
605

19

76

10

12

39

27

46

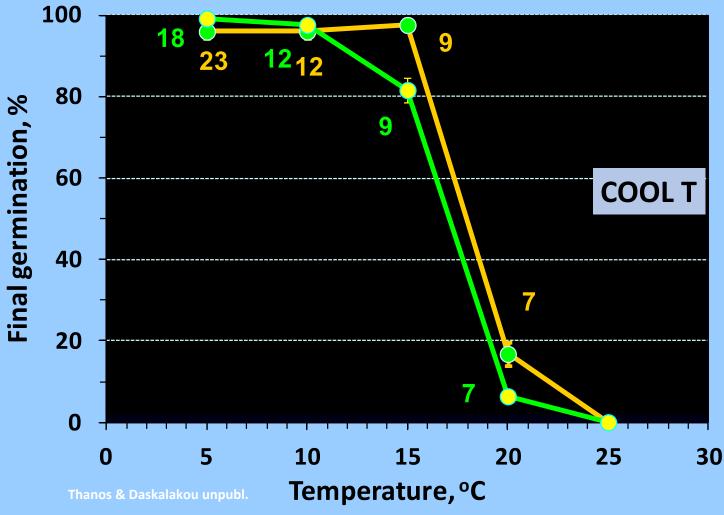
42 Lami Orob **Plantaginacea** Poaceae Polygonaceae Rosaceae total number

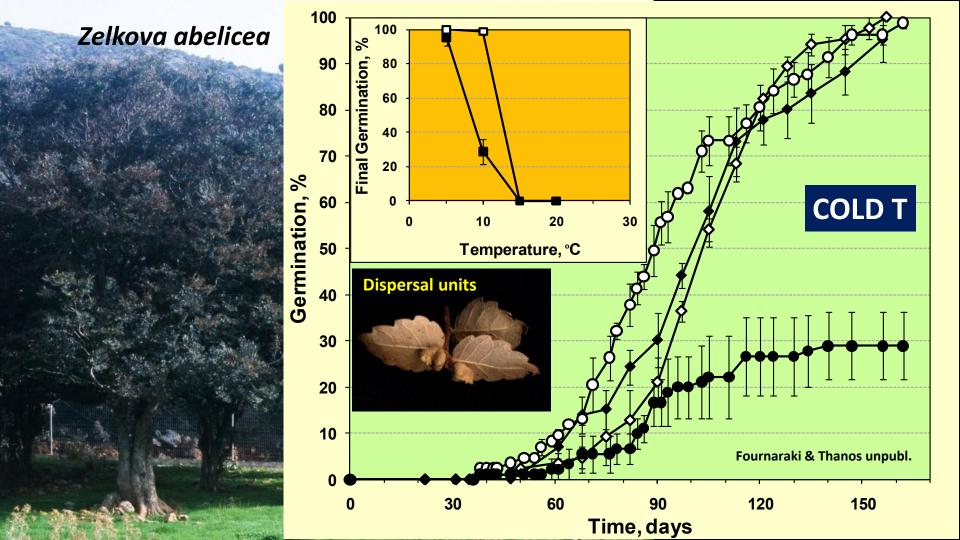
Temperature/light-probers

Seeds germinate under specific, optimal conditions of temperature and/or light

Consolida ajacis

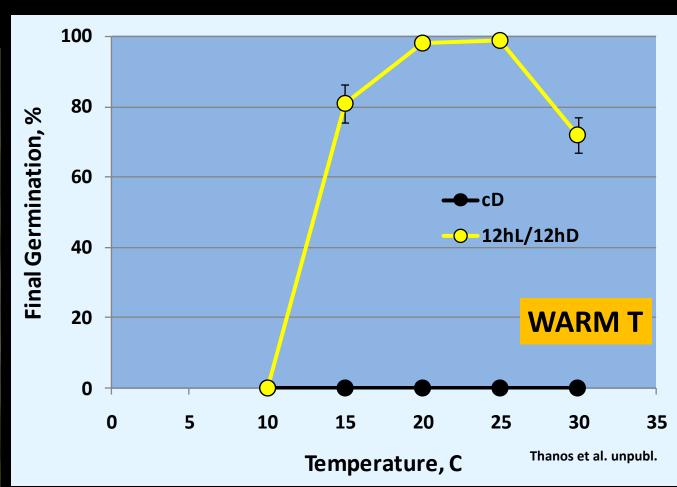


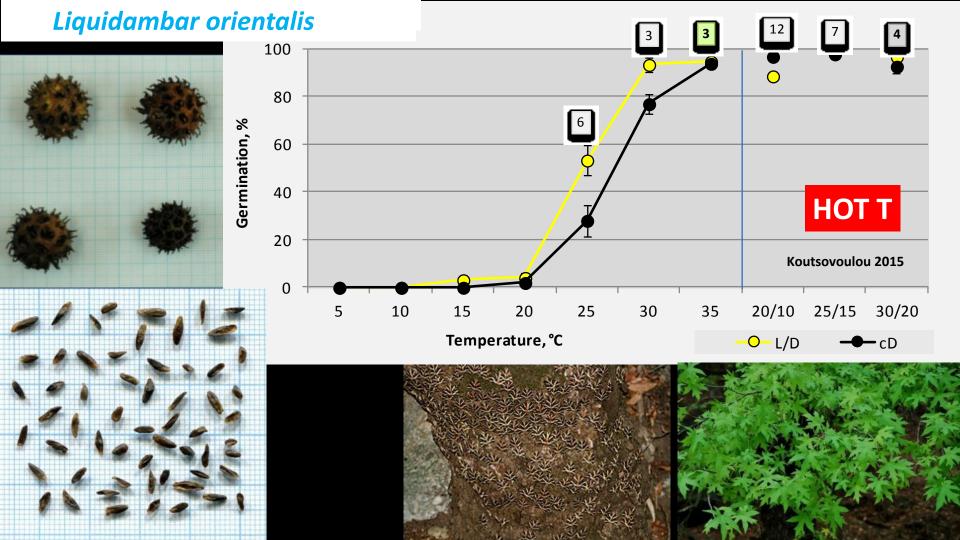




Nepeta sphaciotica 2300 m a.s.l.

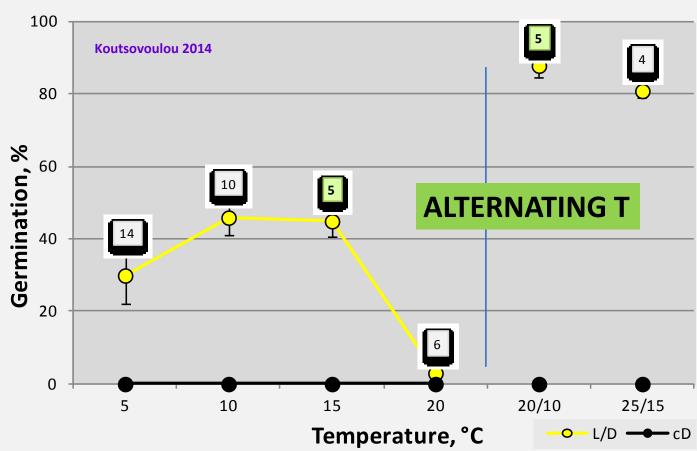






Campanula creutzburgii



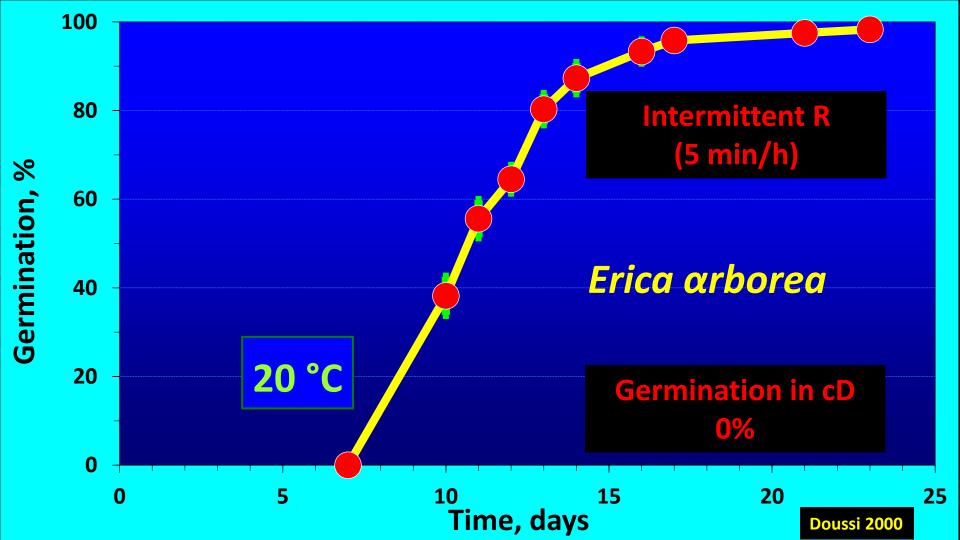


1. Absolute Light Requirement

Erica arborea

Dark
Germination
(5-25 C)
is nil



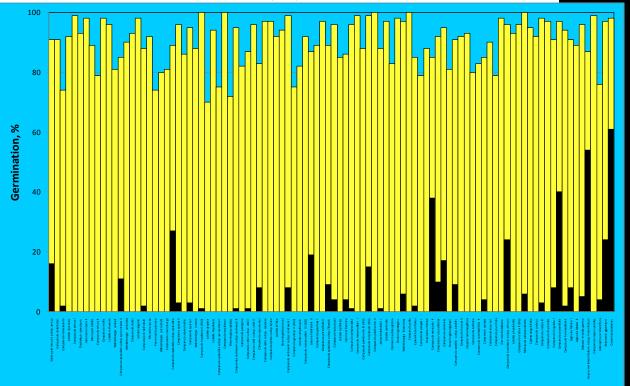




Campanulaceae: a family with small seeds that require light for germination

Katerina Koutsovoulou¹, Matthew I. Daws^{2,3} and Costas A. Thanos^{1,*}

¹Department of Botany, Faculty of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Panepistimiopolis, Athens 15784, Greece, ²Alcoa of Australia Ltd, Pinjarra, Western Australia, Australia and ³Seed Conservation Department, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK



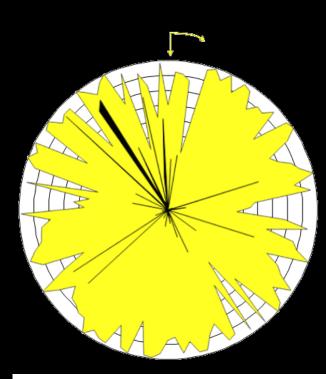


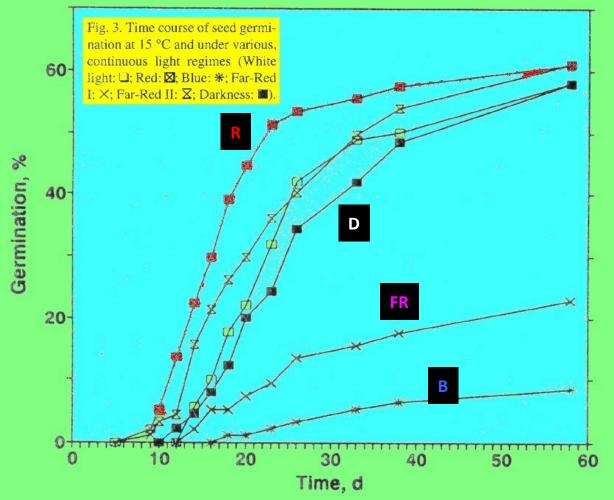
FIG. 1. Final germination percentage in the light (white) and dark (black) in the temperature regime with the highest germination for 114 taxa ($F_G \ge 30$ %). The outer circle corresponds to 100% and the circle interval is set at 10%. Taxa are arranged in order of increasing seed mass (clockwise from the starting point, vertical arrow).

2. Partial Light Moderation promotion by R, inhibition by FR



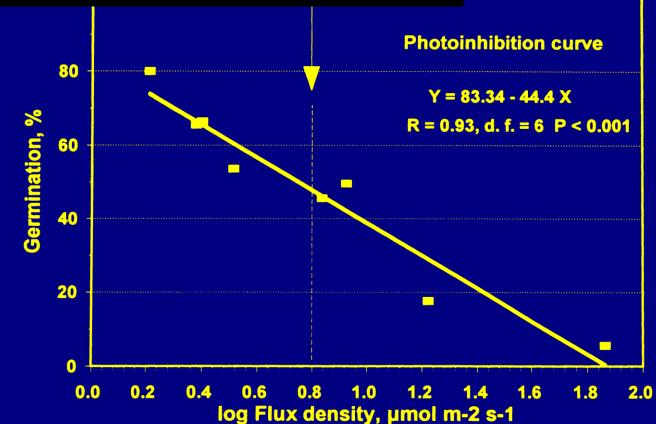
Origanum dictamnus

Origanum dictamnus

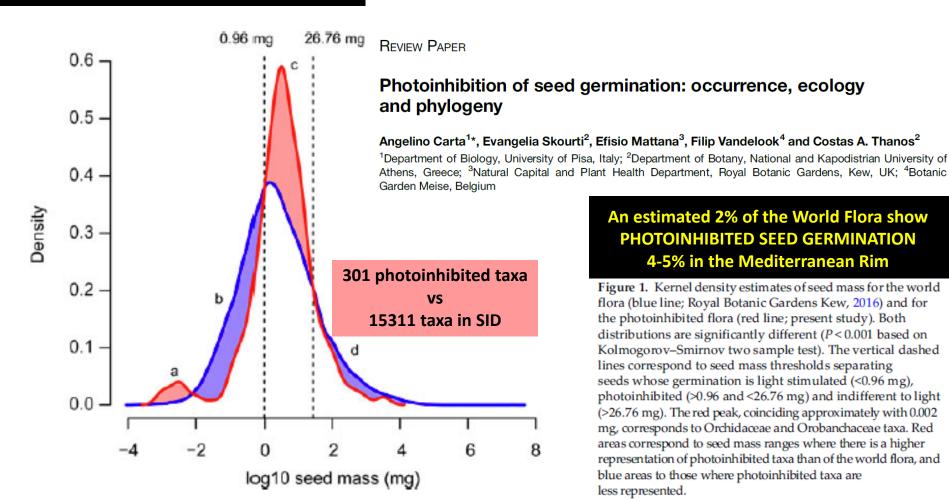


Thanos & Doussi 1995

3. Photoinhibition germination in D, inhibition by White Light



Thanos & Daskalakou unpub.



An estimated 2% of the World Flora show PHOTOINHIBITED SEED GERMINATION 4-5% in the Mediterranean Rim

Figure 1. Kernel density estimates of seed mass for the world flora (blue line; Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, 2016) and for the photoinhibited flora (red line; present study). Both distributions are significantly different (P < 0.001 based on Kolmogorov-Smirnov two sample test). The vertical dashed lines correspond to seed mass thresholds separating seeds whose germination is light stimulated (<0.96 mg), photoinhibited (>0.96 and <26.76 mg) and indifferent to light (>26.76 mg). The red peak, coinciding approximately with 0.002 mg, corresponds to Orchidaceae and Orobanchaceae taxa. Red areas correspond to seed mass ranges where there is a higher representation of photoinhibited taxa than of the world flora, and blue areas to those where photoinhibited taxa are less represented.

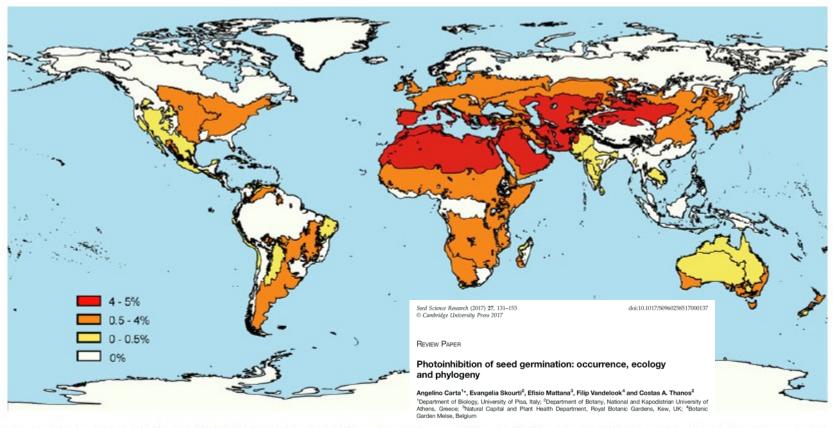


Figure 4. Percentage of photoinhibited taxa in each climatic region within each biogeographical realm (terrestrial ecoregions of the world; see Olson et al., 2001) calculated based on plant richness estimates from Kier et al. (2005). Realms: Australasia, Antarctic, Afrotropics, IndoMalay, Nearctic, Neotropics, Oceania, Palearctic. Climatic regions: tropical humid, tropical dry, temperate humid, temperate montane, cold, tropical semi-arid, temperate semi-arid, montane, polar, mediterranean, arid.

Temperature/light-probers

31 Families / 200

37

15

16

99

155

Weakly determined by phylogeny (INCOMPLETE data)

Amaranthaceae Asteraceae Fagaceae Pinaceae

c. ??% of the Mediterranean Flora

Poaceae Polygonaceae

Temperature (and light) detecting mechanisms are associated with TIMING OF GERMINATION in: **Autumn (cool T, mediterranean)** Winter (cold T, temperate and mountainous) **Spring (warm T, alpine and arctic)**

Summer (hot T, mostly immigrants)

Salicaceae total number

5 Germination Characters Estimate for the MEDITERRANEAN

