

ANCIENT ROSES IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBACETE (SPAIN): A BIOCULTURAL HERITAGE TO BE GATHERED THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE

Authors: José Luis Escobar*, Rodrigo Roldán*, Arturo Valdés*, Alonso Verde*, José Fajardo*, Diego Rivera**, Pedro Sánchez**, Domingo Blanco*, Concepción Obón**, Emilio Laguna***, José Gómez*, Venancia López*, Manuel Buendía*, José García*, and more than a hundred volunteers*

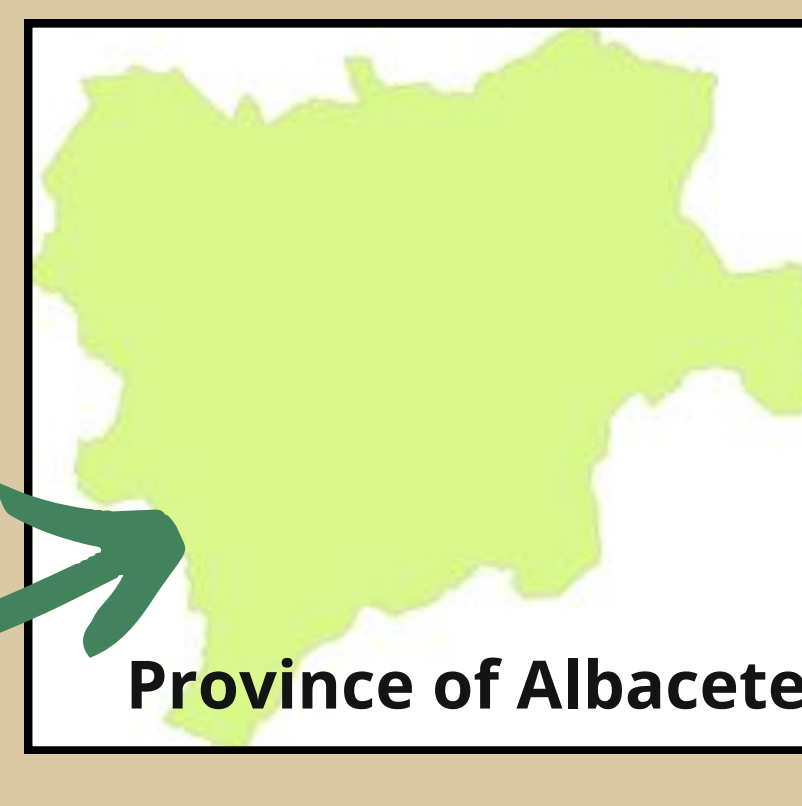
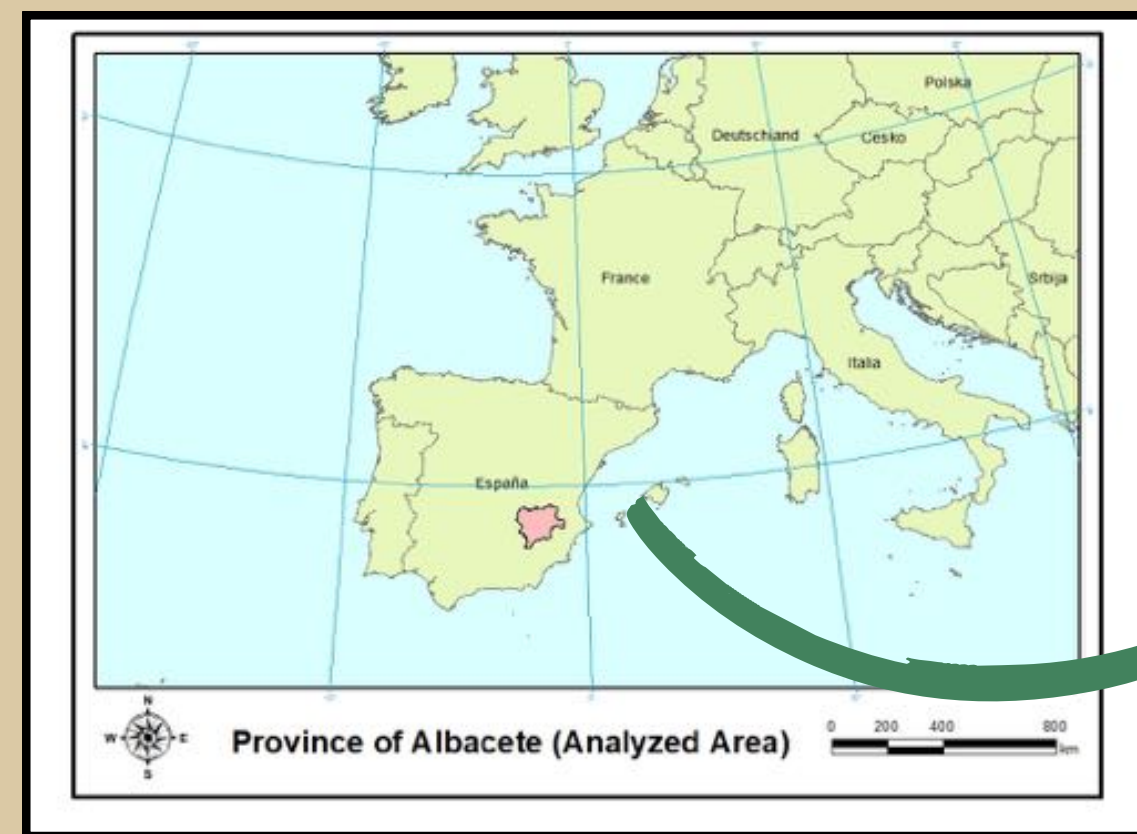
* Asociación de Amigos del Jardín Botánico de Castilla-La Mancha (Albacete, Spain), **Universidad de Murcia, ***GVA

INTRODUCTION

In many localities of the province of Albacete (Spain), we can still find people who develop a way of life that has made them bearers of valuable information about the traditional uses of natural resources. Their way of life is a guarantee of sustainability and the Traditional Knowledge they have acquired about the natural environment is an important part of our Natural and Cultural Heritage. An important aspect of this way of life is the vegetal elements with an ornamental function and, especially the so-called "old roses"; very aromatic roses that, in good part, arrived on the Iberian Peninsula in past times. Today, these roses are located in small towns and villages and, especially in country houses like *cortijos* or *quinterías*.

RESULTS

- Localities visited: More than 80. In 67 of them, we found ancient roses.
- Interviews made: 20, from 40 informers.
- Taxa found: 13 (including species, varieties and hybrids)
- Living material: more than 800 cuttings.
- Herbarium sheets: 100.



OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

Among the objectives of this work are: to elaborate an inventory of the species and varieties of "old roses" cultivated in the province of Albacete, to document the traditional management model of the cultivated rose species, to register the different populations of cultivated rose species as well as to collect scions in order to reproduce it. The work methodology is based on: field work with prospecting of abandoned gardens and country houses. Review of bibliographic and oral sources from published works on ethnography or ethnobiology and interviews.



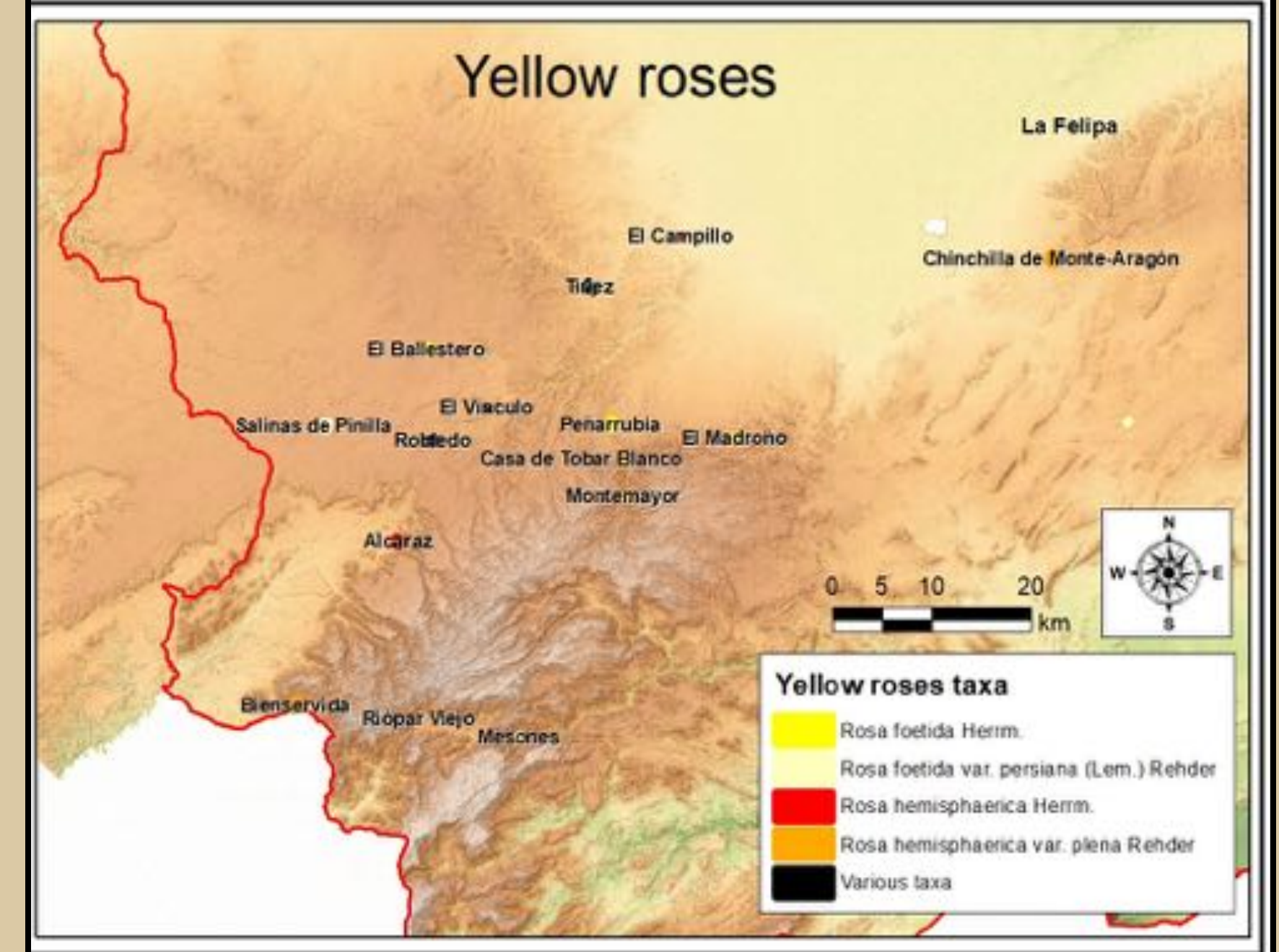
Field work: interview to informers and preparation of herbarium sheets



Some localities shelter many different taxa



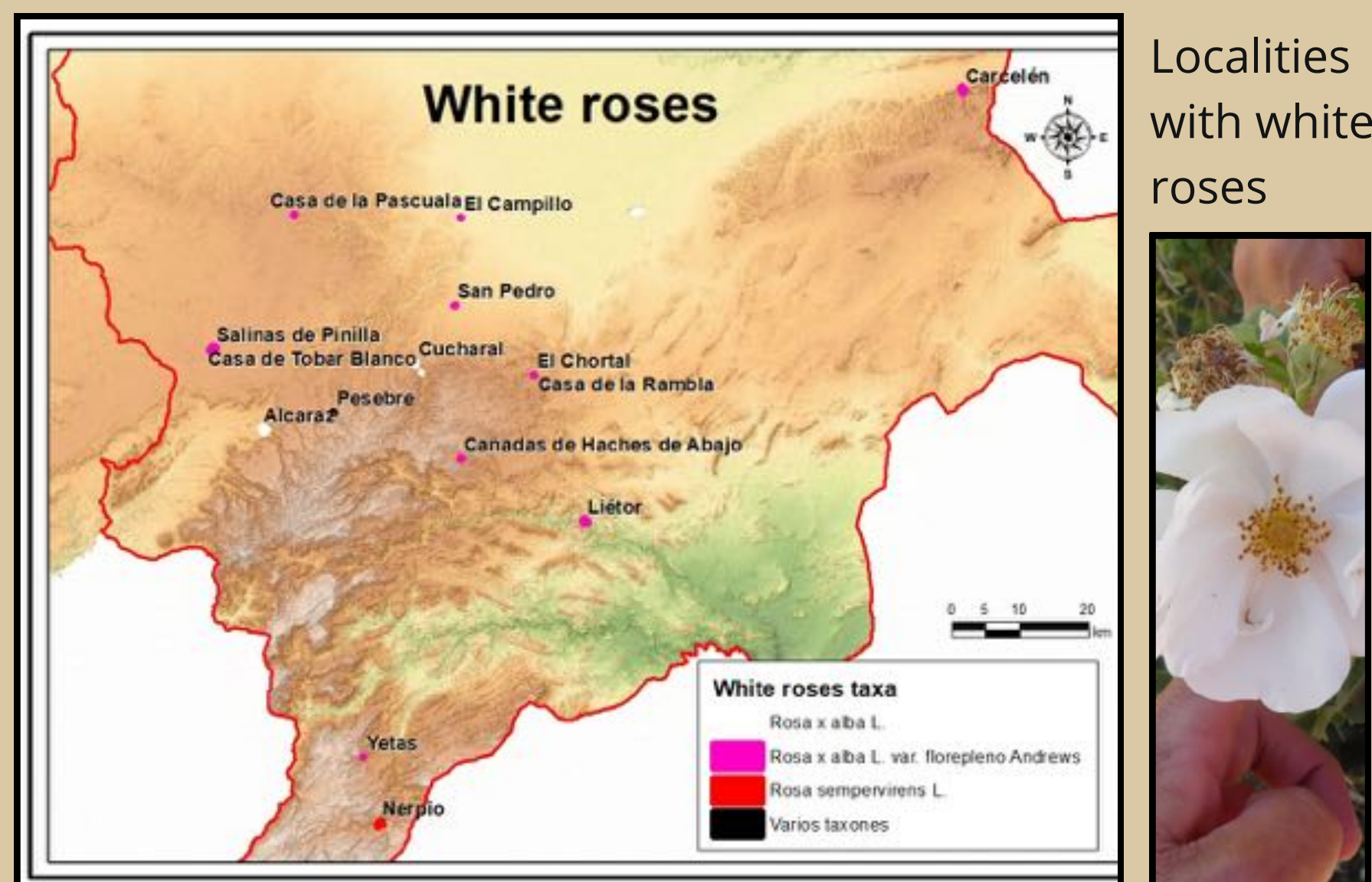
Abandoned towns such as El Vinculo (El Robledo) were the home of these ancient roses



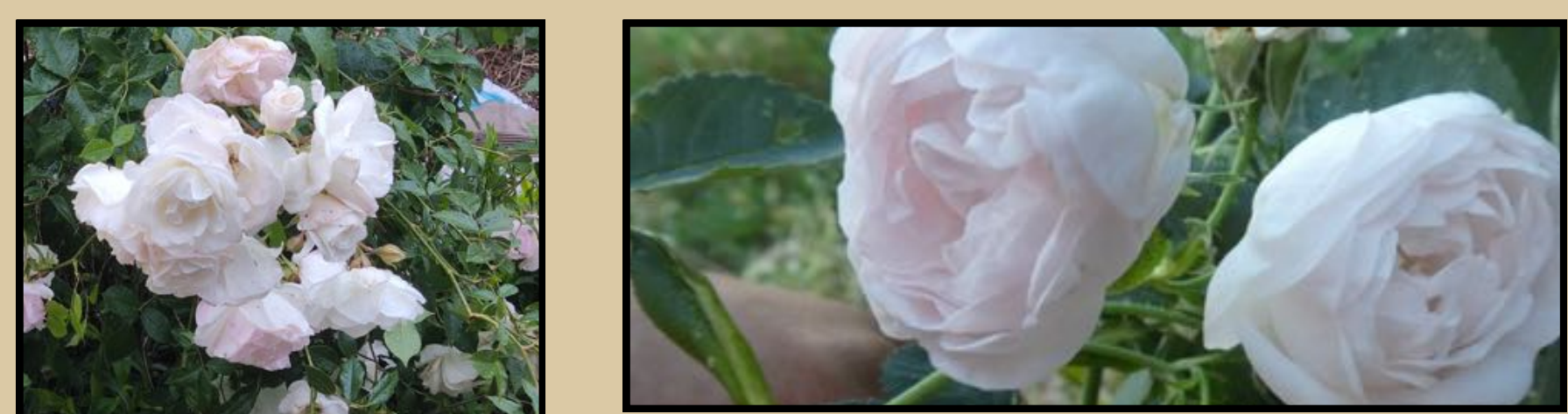
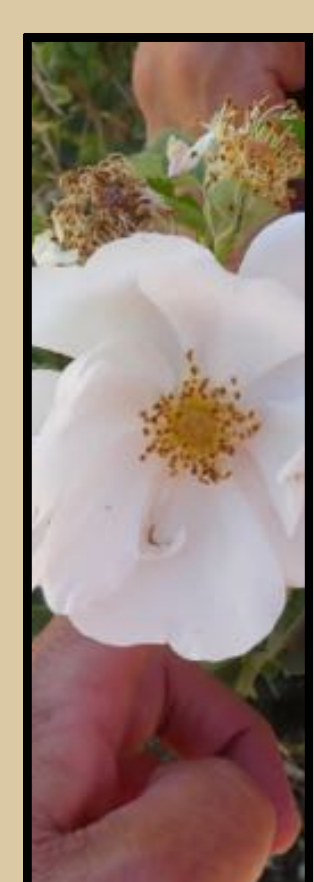
Localities with yellow roses



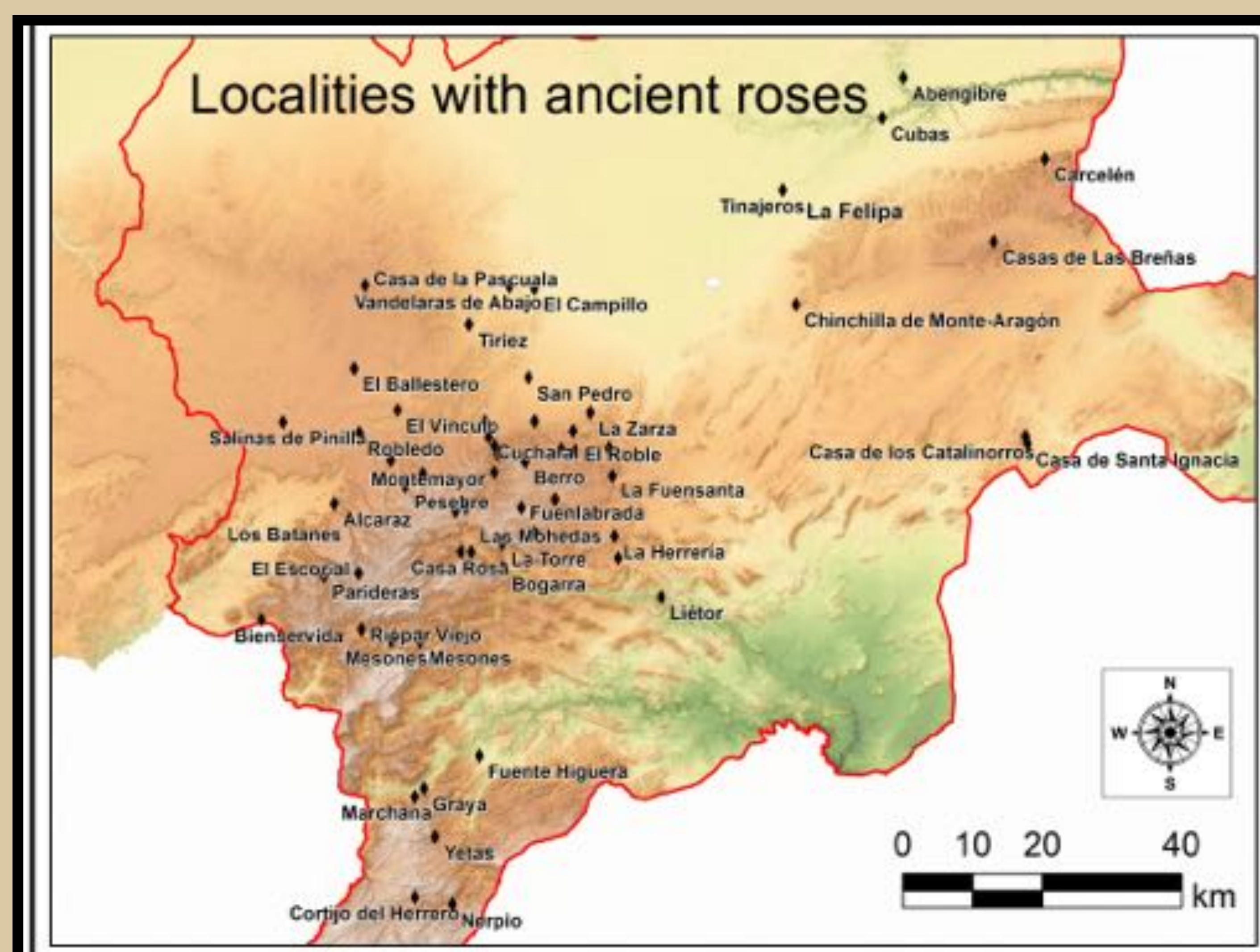
Yellow roses: *Rosa foetida* var. *persiana* (Lam.) Rehder, *Rosa foetida* Herm., *Rosa hemisphaerica* Herm.



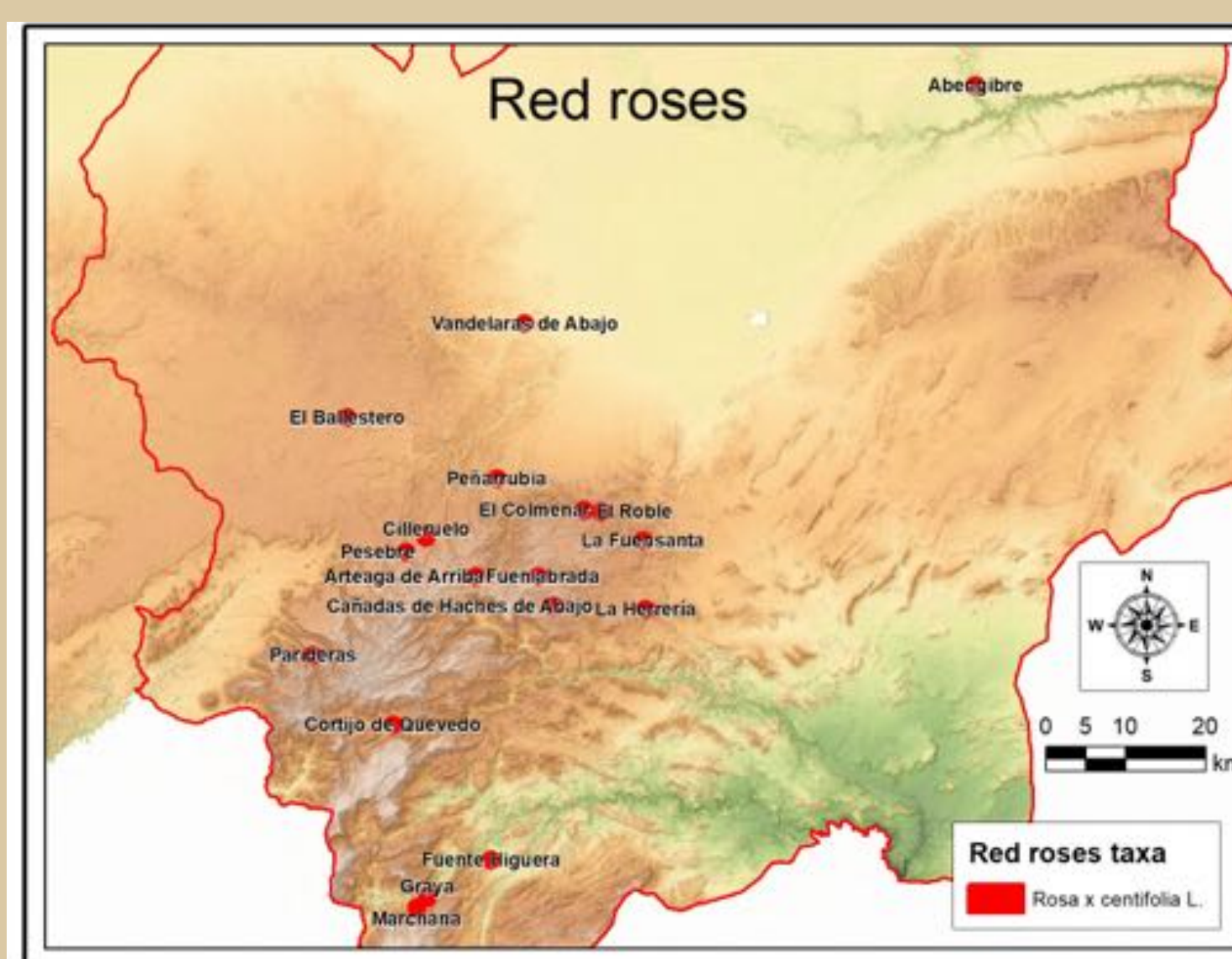
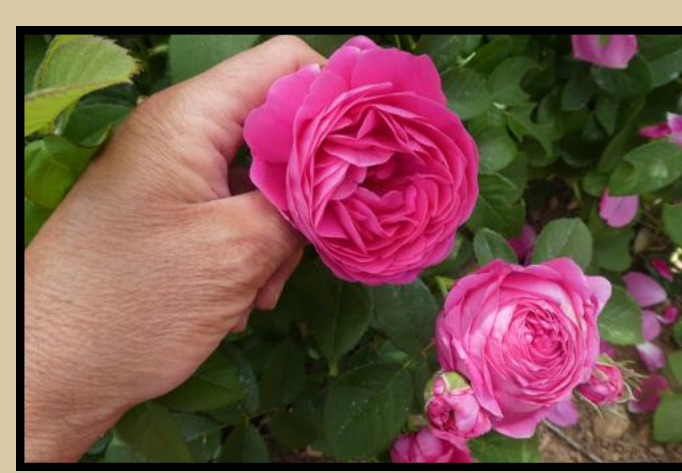
Localities with white roses



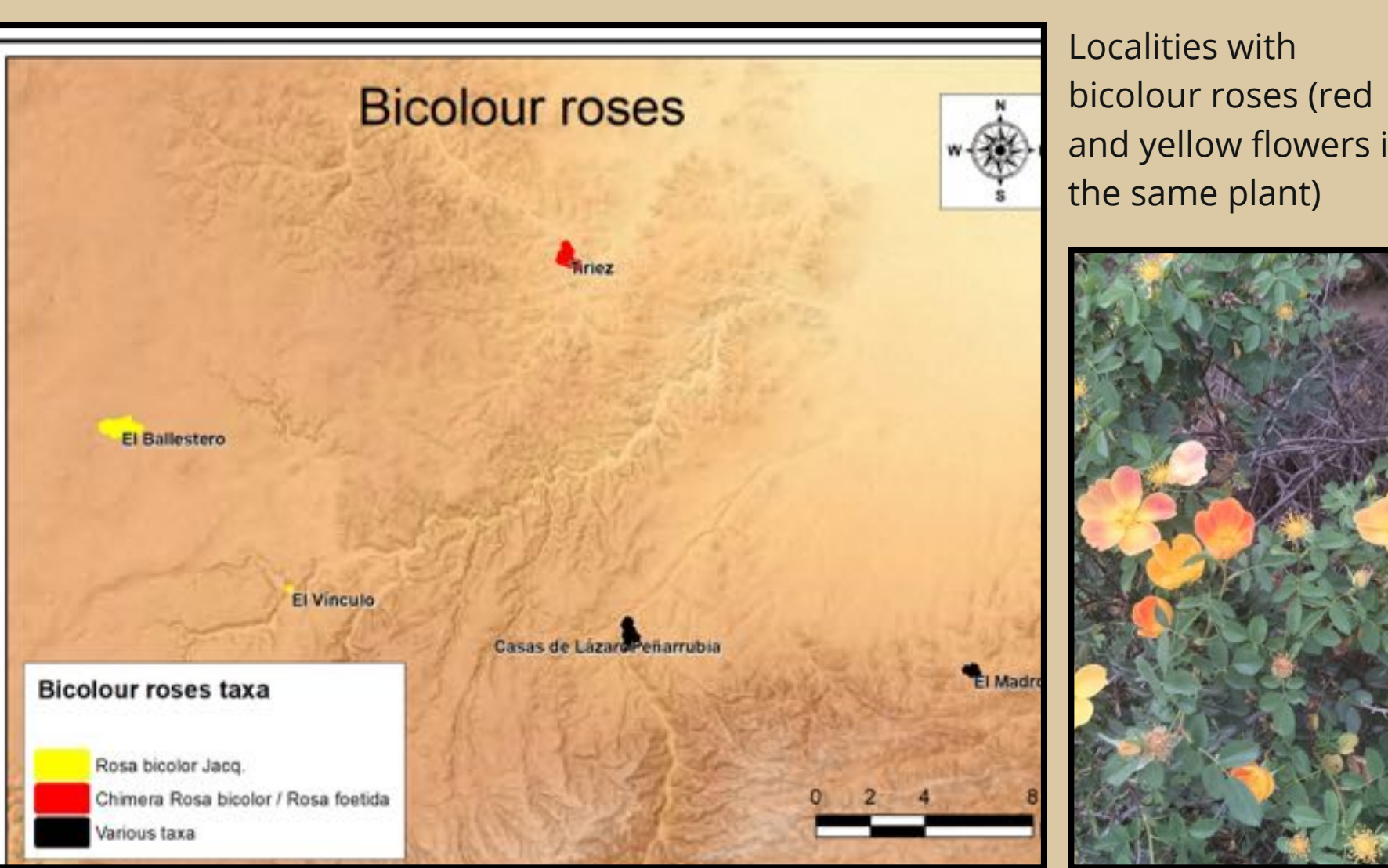
White roses: *Rosa x alba* L. var. *forepleno* Andrews, *Rosa x alba* L.



Localities where we found ancient roses



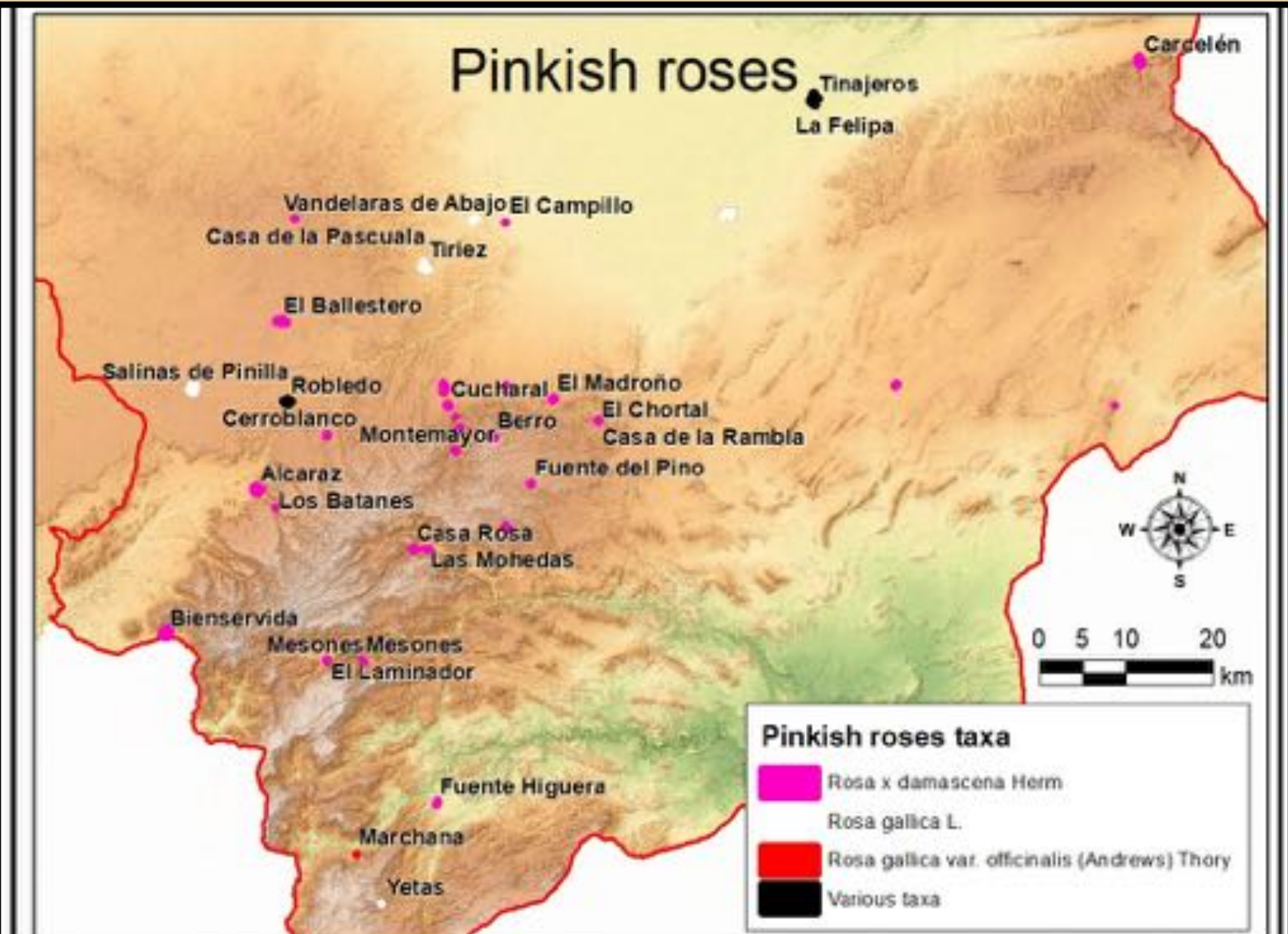
Localities with pink roses tending to reddish colour: *Rosa x centifolia* L.



Localities with bicolor roses (red and yellow flowers in the same plant)



Bicolour roses: *Rosa bicolor* Jacq.



Localities with pinkish roses



Pinkish roses: *Rosa x damascena* Herm., *Rosa gallica* L.

MANY THANKS TO...

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CONCLUSION

- It has been possible to geolocate and spread the biocultural heritage represented by these ancient rose species.
- Much of this material has been distributed to members of our association and interested persons, as well as to scientific institutions such as botanical gardens in order to promote these roses both in the field of popular and urban gardening.
- The fieldwork of search and location of populations of these roses has been done collaboratively by our members by the method of Citizen Science.
- Also, by sharing our news on Social Media arise synergies with other associations and people interested in the cultivation of these ancient roses (such as "Pasión por las Rosas", Carlos Rivero, from Barcelona)
- It has been found that, as expected, it is in these villages, quinterías, farmhouses, and farmhouses, where we find most of the old rose species.



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