

**IUCN RED LIST CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA OF THE LICHEN *SEIROPHORA VILLOSA* FOR SPAIN AND ITALY**

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*Seiophora villosa* (Ach.) Frödén is a fruticose lichen growing on twigs of shrubs and small trees on almost undisturbed maritime sand dunes. In Spain it grows mainly on the oldest twigs of *Juniperus phoenicea* L. subsp. *turbinata* (Guss.), in Italy also on *J. oxycedrus* L. subsp. *macrocarpa* (Sm.) Ball. Scarcely may it be epiphytic on *Pistacia lentiscus* L., *Phyllirea angustifolia* L., *Rosmarinus officinalis* L., *Pinus halepensis* Mill. and *P. pinaster* Aiton.

The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria were designed for global *taxon* assessments. However, many people are interested in applying them to subsets of global data, especially at regional, national or local levels (IUCN, 2001).

In Spain, this lichen is distributed in the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Ibiza and Formentera) and in Almería. In Italy, it occurs in a few places at Tuscany, Lazio, Sardinia and Pelagie Islands. Spanish populations ought to be included in the category of Endangered (EN). A *taxon* is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered and, thus it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. The area of occupancy in Spain is approximately 16 km<sup>2</sup>. Following the IUCN criteria it must be considered in the category EN (if less than 500 km<sup>2</sup>) but seems to be close to Critically Endangered (CR) (less than 10 km<sup>2</sup>). In Spain, populations of *S. villosa* are severely fragmented (criteria B2a) besides are "in continuous decline, observed or projected area, extent and quality of habitat" (criteria B2b-iii).

The area of occupancy in Sardinia is proxy 6 km<sup>2</sup> and the provisional category is EN.

In Italy, the populations of Tuscany and Lazio are under evaluation and several Thyrrenian coastal stands, being suitable habitats, are also under study.

We are working -CGL2009-13429-C02-01/02, Prometeo 174/2008- with the formal requirements to request a listing of this species in the European IUCN Red List.