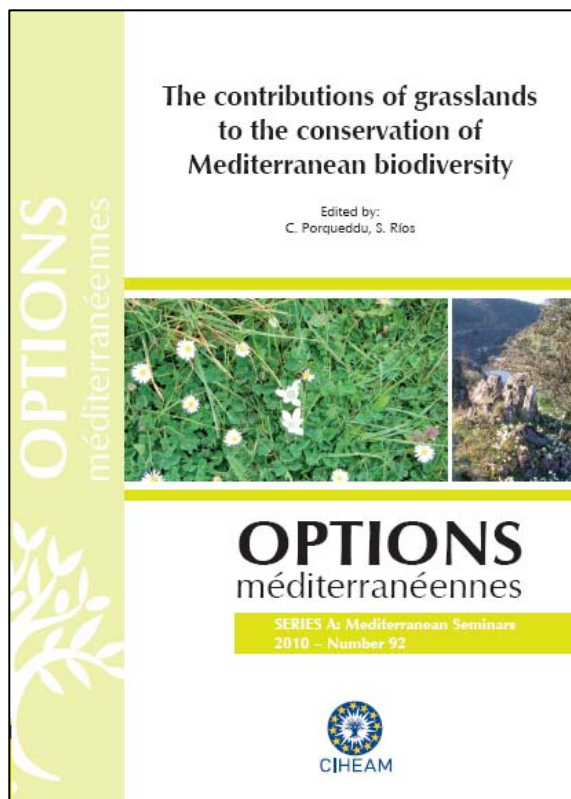


## The contributions of grasslands to the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity



Several elements often typical of the intensive farming management (e.g. limited genetic resources for plant varieties and livestock), as well as land abandonment, have resulted in a decrease of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. The grasslands representing around one-third of the total land area are a tremendous resource of biodiversity.

This publication presents the Proceedings of the 13th Seminar of the Subnetwork on Mediterranean Forage and Fodder Crops of the FAO/CIHEAM International Network for the Research and Development of Pasture and Forage Crops, held in Alicante (Spain) from 7 to 10 April 2010, with the title of: "The contributions of grasslands to the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity". The Seminar was organised by FAO, CIHEAM, CIBIO (Centro Iberoamericano de la Biodiversidad of the University of Alicante) and SEEP (Spanish Society for the Study of Pastures).

The seminar covered a wide range of topics that were allocated into four sessions: (i) Mediterranean farming systems and their impact on the conservation of biodiversity; (ii) Selecting forage species and crops for lower inputs; (iii) Influence of grassland management and climatic change on biodiversity; and (iv) Improvement of biodiversity and methods for its evaluation in Mediterranean grasslands. This volume collects the edited texts of 50 communications accepted for the Meeting.

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# Table of contents

Foreword .....	5
Introductory conference	
<b>Adaptations for the survival of perennial legumes in Western Mediterranean regions: Some promising native species of the Valencian Community (Spain) – Ríos S., Laguna E.</b> .....	9
Session 1	
Mediterranean farming systems and their impact on the conservation of biodiversity	
Main paper	
<b>Wild ungulates vs extensive livestock. Looking back to face the future – San Miguel-Ayanz A., Perea García-Calvo R., García-Olalla M.</b> .....	27
Oral presentations	
<b>Evaluation of animal production systems on species rich Mediterranean islands: A case study on the Island of Rhodes – Hadjigeorgiou I., Zervas G.</b> .....	35
<b>Constraints to improving forage feed resources and their impacts on the dynamics of the cattle breeding in Tunisia – Jaouad M.</b> .....	39
<b>Typologies of organic beef farms in Catalonia – López-i-Gelats F., Bartolomé J.</b> .....	45
Posters	
<b>Evaluation of a Southern Mediterranean forage farming system – Testa G., Cosentino A.D., Copani V., Tuttobene R.</b> .....	49
<b>Optimizing the location of water and feeding sites to decrease cattle contamination of natural streams – Dolev A., Carmel Y., Yehuda Y., Henkin Z.</b> .....	55
<b>Ecophysiological approach of two herbaceous species in a grazed <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L. silvopastoral system – Sklavou P.S., Karatassiou M., Tsiouvaras C.N., Noitsakis B.</b> .....	59
<b>Natural vetch economic alternative to soybean meal in Tunisia – Selmi H., Gasmi-Boubaker A., Mosquera Losada R., Abdouli H., Rekik B., Rouissi H., Hassen H., Rigueiro-Rodriguez A.</b> .....	63
<b>Furanocoumarin content in <i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> varieties and <i>Cullen</i> species – del Río J.A., Ortuño A., Pérez I., Bennett R.G., Real D., Correal E.</b> .....	67
<b>Nutritive value of green chopped alfalfa and sorghum in Tunisia – Znaïdi I.A., Alvir M.R., Aïssa A., Hadj Ayed M., Kraiem K.</b> ...	71
<b>Milk production of ewes rose in feed lot or on pasture of several forage species – Atti N., Maamouri O., Mahouachi M.</b> .....	75
<b>Endemic species of <i>Narcissus</i> in Central Spain: Biodiversity and conservation under grazing pressure by wild and domestic herbivorous – Ríos S., Juan J., Martínez-Francés V., Laguna E., Rivera D., Alcaraz F., Verde A., Fajardo J., Carreño E., Casas J.L., Ramírez J.E.</b> .....	79
Session 2	
Selecting forage species and crops for lower inputs	
Main paper	
<b>Maximizing genetic gains using a "plant" model in the Teder (<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> var. <i>albomarginata</i> and var. <i>crassiuscula</i>) breeding program in Australia – Real D., Verbyla A.</b> .....	87
Oral presentations	
<b>Twin sowing and summer sowing: Alternative techniques to introduce legumes into pastures – Loi A., Nutt. B.</b> .....	97
<b>Forage production of a collection of sainfoin over a three year period – Demdoun S., Muñoz F., Delgado I.</b> .....	101
<b>Determination of some agronomic traits of <i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> accessions collected from Middle Black Sea Region – Gulumser E., Basaran U., Acar Z., Ayan I., Mut H.</b> .....	105
<b>Morphological study within some Algerian populations of <i>Trifolium bocconeii</i> Savi – Issolah R., Abdelguerfi A.</b> .....	109

## Posters

<b>Differences in growth characteristics between ecotypes of <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L. under water-deficit conditions – Abraham E.M., Kyriazopoulos A.P., Parissi Z.M., Karatassiou M., Kostopoulou P., Anjalanidou K., Katsouta C. ....</b>	113
<b>Morphological traits of perennial ryegrass accessions in Black Sea Region of Turkey – Acar Z., Ayan I., Tongel O., Mut H., Basaran U. ....</b>	117
<b>Morphological traits of orchard grass accessions in Black Sea Region of Turkey – Ayan I., Mut H., Onal Ascı O., Basaran U., Tongel O. ....</b>	121
<b>Yield and nutritive value of cereal-legume forage mixtures as an alternative to Italian ryegrass used as a winter crop in Galicia (NW Spain) – Bande-Castro M.J., Díaz Díaz N., Fernández-Paz J., Piñeiro-Andión J. ....</b>	125
<b>Cultivated local <i>Lathyrus</i> varieties in Turkey and their some agronomical traits – Basaran U., Acar Z., Onal Ascı O., Mut H., Tongel O. ....</b>	129
<b>Variation of the bloom and fruiting within fourteen Algerian populations of <i>Sulla</i> – Issolah R., Khalfallah N. ....</b>	135
<b>Phenology, biomass partitioning and gas exchange in droughted and irrigated seedling of two pastoral species: <i>Artemisia herba alba</i> and <i>Lotus creticus</i> – Jaballah S., Gribaa A., Lechiheb B., Ferchichi A. ....</b>	139
<b>Problems and perspectives of seed production activity of forage ecotypes in Sardinia – Vargiu M. ....</b>	145
<b>Preliminary assessment reveals tolerance to salinity and waterlogging (and these stresses combined) in <i>Tedera</i> (<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> var. <i>albomarginata</i>) – Teakle N.L., Real D. ....</b>	151
<b>The physiology of drought tolerance in <i>Tedera</i> (<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>) – Martínez-Fernández D., Walker D.J., Romero P., Correal E. ....</b>	155
<b>Ecophysiological responses of two ecotypes of <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L. under water-deficit conditions – Kostopoulou P., Karatassiou M., Abraham E.M., Parissi Z.M., Kyriazopoulos A., Kapsali E. ....</b>	161
<b>Dry matter yield and quality evaluation at different growth stages of triticale forage in south-west of the Iberian Peninsula –Rodrigo S., Poblaciones M.J., Pinheiro N., Maças B., Olea L., Santamaría O., García-White T., Coutinho. ....</b>	i

## Session 3

### Influence of grassland management and climatic change on biodiversity

#### Main paper

<b>Vulnerability of Mediterranean grasslands to climate change: What can we learn from a long-term experiment? – Henkin Z., Perevolotsky A., Sternberg M. ....</b>	167
--	-----

#### Oral presentations

<b>Some expected climatic changes impacts on the pasture and forage species in Morocco – Al Faiz C., Thami Alami I., Moussadek R., El Oumri M. ....</b>	175
<b>Grassland management, forage production and plant biodiversity in a Mediterranean grazing system – Salis L., Marrosu M., Bagella S., Sitzia M., Roggero P.P. ....</b>	181
<b>Climate change at the temperate-Mediterranean interface in southern France and impacts on grasslands production – Lelièvre F., Sala S., Volaire F. ....</b>	187

#### Posters

<b>Evolution of the feeding value of sainfoin as affected by the phenological development – Delgado I., Muñoz F., Demdoum S. ....</b>	193
<b>Influence of maturity stage of forage grasses and leguminous on their chemical composition and <i>in vitro</i> dry matter digestibility – Ammar H., López S., Andrés S. ....</b>	199
<b>An assessment of short-term cattle grazing effects on honeybee forage potential in Mediterranean rangelands – Kaminer A., Kigel J., Dag A., Henkin Z. ....</b>	205
<b>Impact of PEG 6000 on <i>in vitro</i> gas production kinetics of some Mediterranean shrubs in sheep – Ammar H., Salem A.Z.M., López S. ....</b>	209
<b>Effects of seeding rates and harvest date on forage yield and nutritive value of pea-triticale intercropping – Pereira-Crespo S., Fernández-Lorenzo B., Valladares J., González-Arráez A., Flores G. ....</b>	215
<b>Impact of inter and intra-annual drought on chemical composition of some Mediterranean shrubs in natural rangelands – Ammar H., Salem A.Z.M., López S. ....</b>	219

## Session 4

### Improvement of biodiversity and methods for its evaluation in Mediterranean grasslands

#### Main paper

<b>Improvement of plant diversity and methods for its evaluation in Mediterranean basin grasslands</b> – Vrahnakis M.S., Fotiadis G., Merou Th., Kazoglou Y.E. ....	225
---	-----

#### Oral presentations

<b>Study of the evolution of the floristic diversity in areas of pasturage in Titaguas and Tuéjar (Valencia, Spain)</b> – Donat M.P., Dopazo C., Cabrelles V., Herreros M.J., Segura G. ....	237
<b>A second generation of pasture legumes: An opportunity for improving the biodiversity in farming systems of Mediterranean basin?</b> – Porqueddu C., Franca A., Sulas L. ....	241
<b>Floristic diversity of an open coppice oak forest as affected by grazing</b> – Kyriazopoulos A.P., Abraham E.M., Parissi Z.M., Korakis G., Abas Z. ....	247

#### Posters

<b>Characterization of Moroccan populations of <i>Trifolium</i> and <i>Lotus</i> species</b> – Bennani K., Al Faïz C., Thami Alami I., Bendaou N. ....	251
<b>Floristic diversity in semi-natural mountain grasslands included in the Natural Habitat Types of Community Interest</b> – Chocarro C., Juarez A., Barrantes O., Reiné R. ....	257
<b>Restoration of grasslands on cleared holm oak forest in the Montseny Biosphere Reserve (NE Spain)</b> – Madruga-Andreu C., Bartolomé J., Plaixats J. ....	261
<b>Variability in natural populations of <i>Sinorhizobium meliloti</i> in Morocco</b> – Thami-Alami I., Elboutahiri N., Udupa S.M. ....	265
<b>Assessment of plant covers with native legumes in Mediterranean semi-arid woody crops</b> – Hernández A.J., Ramos-Font M.E., Pastor J. ....	271
<b>Influence of grazing activities on species diversity of dung beetles in Mediterranean pastures</b> – Numa C., Rueda C., Verdú J.R., Galante E. ....	277
<b>List of participants</b> .....	283