

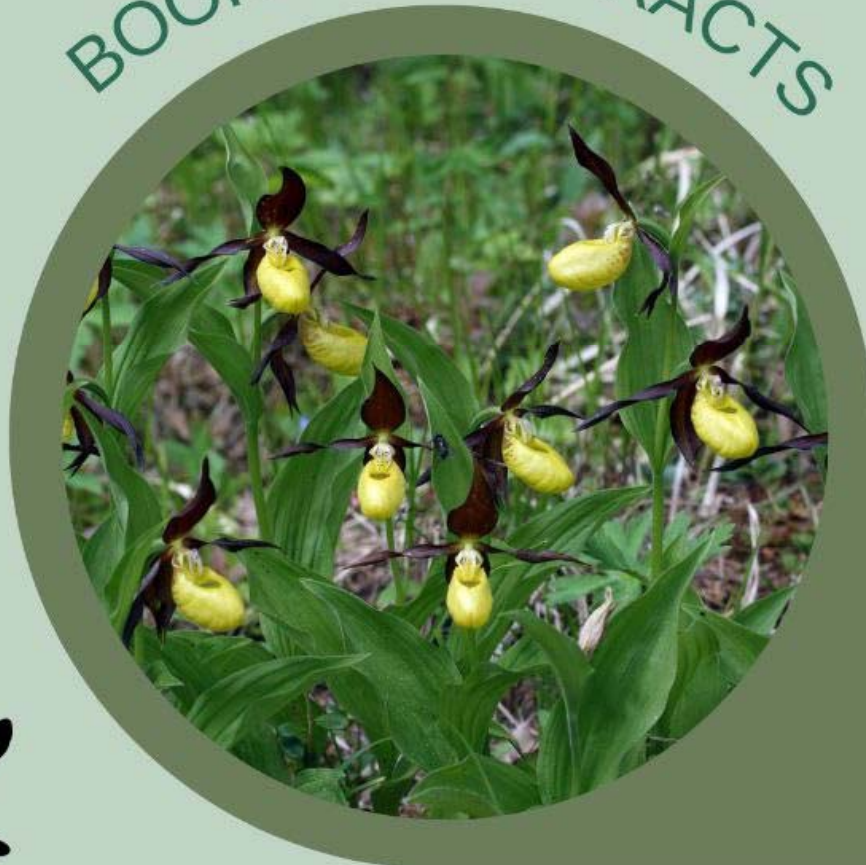


SCIENZE
Dipartimento di Eccellenza



1ST INTERNATIONAL PLANT TRANSLOCATION CONFERENCE IPTC2022

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



ROME – 20-24 JUNE
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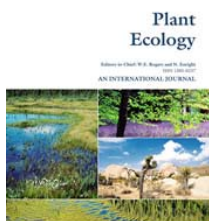


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Translocation of species for conservation: the case of *Abies nebrodensis* in Sicily

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Translocation of species for conservation has sharply increased in recent decades. In Italy, the reinforcement of *Pinus heldreichii* subsp. *leucodermis* (Antoine) E.Murray in the Pollino Mount (Calabria) is the first documented translocation, carried out in 1958. In Sicily, in the Madonie mountains, *Abies nebrodensis* (Lojac.) Mattei has been object of attention for conservation purposes since 1941 when prof. Domenico Lanza fenced off the few surviving individuals to protect them from animals and human activities, and preserved *ex situ* some individuals by reproducing them by seed and grafting. Its natural population consists of 30 individuals scattered across a small area in the Polizzi Generosa municipality in the Madonie Natural Park (Sicily). This is a priority species of Annex II and IV to the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The first reforestation interventions date back to 1975 when plots were established in the localities Marrabilice and Case Prato and Vallone Prato, not far from the surviving nucleus in nature. Conservation efforts have been combined between the Sicilian Region, the Madonie Regional Park and the University of Palermo. The species has been the subject of two Life projects: "Conservation *in situ* and *ex situ* of *Abies nebrodensis* (Lojac.) Mattei" (2000-2005) and NAT/IT/000164-LIFE4FIR (2019-2023), carrying out concrete conservation actions. A total of 5 population reinforcements and 21 reforestation plots were built between 1975

and 2004 in the Madonie area at altitudes between 800 and 1600 meters with very variable percentages of engraftment due to the characteristics of the different sites and their management. With the LIFE4FIR project interventions are planned in other ten areas of the Madonie with use of 4000 seedlings obtained by manual pollination. Today, thanks to the interventions carried out, the future of *A. nebrodensis* is brighter, but we must not forget to continue active research and vigilance on this species.