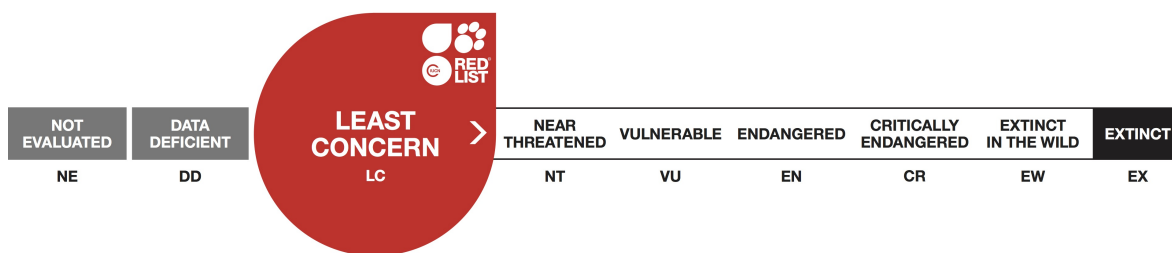


Anacamptis pyramidalis var. *urvilleana*, Maltese Pyramidal Orchid

Assessment by: Mifsud, S.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Liliopsida	Orchidales	Orchidaceae

Taxon Name: *Anacamptis pyramidalis* var. *urvilleana* (Sommier & Caruana) Kreutz

Synonym(s):

- *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (L.) Rich. subsp. *urvilleana* (Sommier & Caruana) Landwehr
- *Anacamptis urvilleana* Sommier & Caruana Gatto

Common Name(s):

- English: Maltese Pyramidal Orchid

Taxonomic Source(s):

Mifsud, S. 2016. Taxonomic notes on *Anacamptis pyramidalis* var. *urvilleana* (Orchidaceae), a good endemic orchid from Malta. *Journal Europäischer Orchideen* 48(1): 19-28.

Taxonomic Notes:

This variety is distinguished from *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (which it is sometimes synonymised with) by morphological and phenological characters. It is found in the same habitat as *A. pyramidalis* s. str. but flowers about six to eight weeks earlier, very rarely with a marginal overlap at the end of April. *A. var. urvilleana* is a distinctly a smaller plant with paler pinkish flowers, and smaller tepals apart other minor differences in their shape (Sommier and Caruana-Gatto 1915, Pignatti 1982, Delforge 2005, Mifsud 2016).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2017

Date Assessed: December 18, 2015

Justification:

This orchid is endemic to the Maltese Archipelago. Although the taxon has a small distribution, it is represented by many subpopulations, some of which are composed of numerous individuals. Since there are no major threats to the entire population at present, its assessment is classified as Least Concern.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This variety is endemic to the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino (Sommier and Caruana Gatto 1915, Borg 1927, Pignatti 1982, Delforge 2005, Mifsud 2015, 2016).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Malta

Population

The population is represented by some 50 localities distributed mostly on mainland Malta but also on the islands of Gozo and Comino. There is no indication that the general population is in a major decline, but ongoing land changes, urban development or/and uncontrolled localised reclamation of land within the restricted distribution makes the plant vulnerable to some extent.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The taxon prefers open limestone garigue with xeric grasses or low labiate shrubs. It can tolerate partial shade and is found in open woodland at one location.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

There are no trade activities known for this protected plant.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

A few threats, namely land reclamation, localised construction works, or perhaps fires, can impact or perhaps cause the loss of some sub-populations where the specimens are restricted in a small area. However, there is no major threat to the entire population.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The taxon is one of the many orchids that are legally protected in Malta by Legal Notice 311 of 2006. The natural range of the taxon lies within several Natura 2000 protected areas, and almost all are within 'Out of Development Zones'.

Credits

Assessor(s): Mifsud, S.

Reviewer(s): Allen, D.J.

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the [Red List website](#).

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Marginal	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.1. Shifting agriculture	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.2. Unintentional effects (species is not the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over part of range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Percentage of population protected by PAs (0-100): 51-60
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: Unknown

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 124
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 272
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Number of Locations: 15
Continuing decline in number of locations: No
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
Lower elevation limit (m): 20
Upper elevation limit (m): 250
Population
Number of mature individuals: 5000-10000
Extreme fluctuations: No
Population severely fragmented: No

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