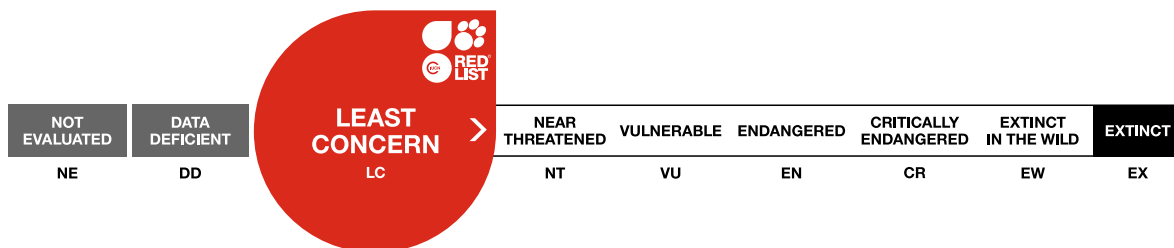


Cistus monspeliensis, Montpellier Cistus

Assessment by: Rankou, H., M'Sou, S., Ait Babahmad, R.A. & Diarra, A.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Violales	Cistaceae

Scientific Name: *Cistus monspeliensis* L.

Synonym(s):

- *Cistus feredjensis* Batt
- *Cistus monspeliensis* L. var. *feredjensis* Batt.
- *Stephanocarpus monspeliensis* (L.) Spach

Common Name(s):

- English: Montpellier Cistus, Narrow-leaved Cistus
- French: Ciste de Montpellier
- Spanish; Castilian: Estepa
- Arabic: Irguel

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: March 20, 2019

Justification:

Cistus monspeliensis is a common species across the Mediterranean region, Southern Europe, Cyprus, Macaronesia (Canary Islands, Madeira) and North Africa. The overall population trend of *Cistus monspeliensis* is considered to be stable and the population size varies from less frequent to abundant in most of its locations.

Cistus monspeliensis is under numerous low to medium impact threats; collection practices, overharvesting, overgrazing, human activities and droughts. The estimated extent of occurrence and the estimated area of occupancy of *Cistus monspeliensis* are greater than 20,000 km² and 2,000 km², respectively. In addition, the threats affecting the species globally and regionally are unlikely to cause the populations to decline quickly in the near future to a threatened category. Therefore, *Cistus monspeliensis* is assessed globally as Least Concern.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Cistus monspeliensis is a common species across the Mediterranean region, Southern Europe, Cyprus, Macaronesia (Canary Islands, Madeira) and North Africa up to 1,100 m of altitude (Jahandiez and Maire 1932, Quézel and Santa, 1962, Pottier-Alapetite 1979, Castroviejo *et al.* 1986, Valdés *et al.* 1987, Fennane and Ibn Tattou 1998, Fennane *et al.* 1999, Valdés *et al.* 2002, Fennane and Ibn Tattou 2005, Dobignard and Chatelain 2011, Tutin *et al.* 2010, Blanca *et al.* 2011, Euro+Med 2018, IPNI 2018, WCSP

2018).

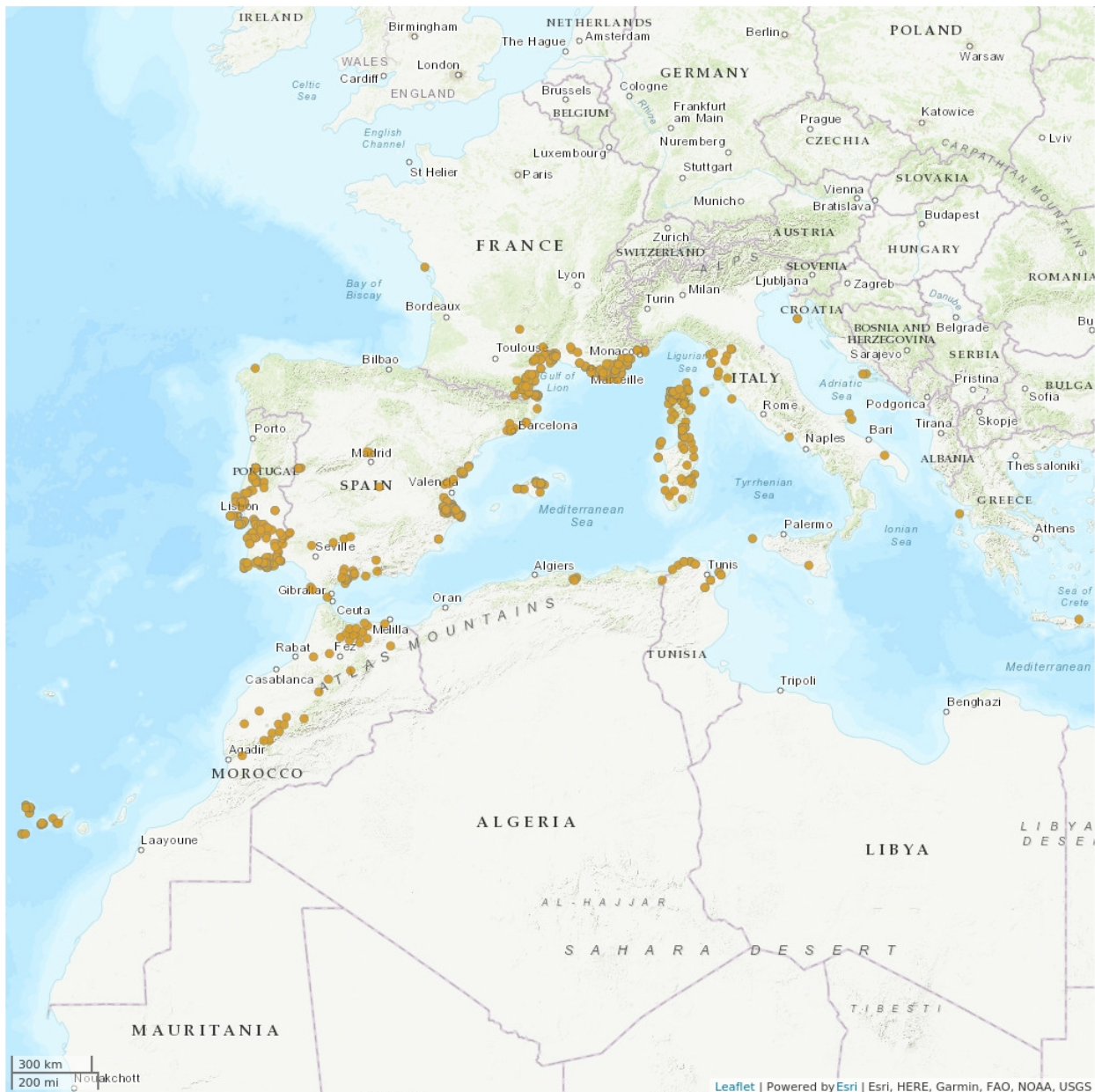
In Europe, *Cistus monspeliensis* is recorded in southwest Europe, mainly in; France (Region of Montpellier, Corsica), Spain (Andalucía, Baleares, Canary Islands), Italy (Sicily, Sardinia), Greece, Malta, Serbia, Albania, Portugal (including Madeira) and Cyprus (Castroviejo *et al.* 1986, Valdés *et al.* 1987, Tutin *et al.* 2010, Blanca *et al.* 2011, Euro+Med 2018, IPNI 2018, WCSP 2018).

In North Africa, *Cistus monspeliensis* occurs in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. In Morocco, *Cistus monspeliensis* is found in most of the major floristic divisions across the country within a range of altitude of up to 1,300 m (Jahandiez and Maire 1932, Fennane and Mathez 1992, Fennane and Ibn Tattou 1998, Fennane *et al.* 1999, Valdés *et al.* 2002, Fennane and Ibn Tattou 2005, Dobignard and Chatelain 2011). In Algeria, *Cistus monspeliensis* is widely distributed in the North Western of Algeria, it is found mainly in; Trara mounts, Oran coastal, Tell Atlas, Coastline, Kabylie, Numidia, Saharan Atlas (Quézel and Santa 1962, Medjahdi *et al.* 2009, Euro+Med 2018, IPNI 2018, WCSP 2018). In Tunisia, *Cistus monspeliensis* is widespread and occurs mainly in; La Galite, Beja, Bordj Toum, Bou Kornine, Dj. Zaghouan and Kroumirie (Pottier-Alapetite 1979, Le Floc'h and Boulos 2009, Le Floc'h *et al.* 2010).

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Albania; Algeria; Croatia; Cyprus; France (Corsica, France (mainland)); Greece (Greece (mainland), Kriti); Italy (Italy (mainland), Sardegna, Sicilia); Malta; Montenegro; Morocco; Portugal (Madeira, Portugal (mainland)); Serbia; Spain (Baleares, Canary Is., Spain (mainland)); Tunisia

Distribution Map

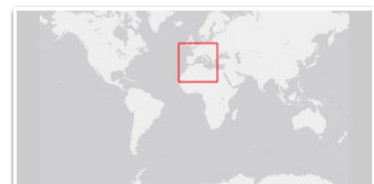


Legend

■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN 2019



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

Population

Cistus monspeliensis abundance varies from sparse to rather frequent occurrences in several areas. The overall trend of the population size is stable. The number of mature individuals and the population density of *Cistus monspeliensis* are relatively high, and more or less stable.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Cistus monspeliensis typical habitats include clear forests, plain scrub, low mountains and rocky soils (Jahandieze and Maire 1934, Pottier-Alapetite 1979, Castroviejo 1986, Fennane *et al.* 1999). *Cistus monspeliensis* is an evergreen woody shrub that flowers from March to June, prefers open and sunny habitats, and grows in semi-arid to sub-humid Mediterranean bioclimates.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

Cistus monspeliensis parts have been traditionally used for a wide range of purposes as food, medicine and forage (Boulos 1983, Bellakhdar 1997, Bellakhdar 2006, Sijelmassi 2011). *Cistus monspeliensis* seeds prepared with spices to be used as an aperitif food, an aphrodisiac and an appetiser. The fruits used to make the tattoos, infusion of leaves replaces tea and decoction of flowers used to treat asthma (Boulos 1983, Bellakhdar 1997, Bellakhdar 2006, Sijelmassi 2011).

Cistus monspeliensis has been reported to have antioxidant, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory effects (Bouamama *et al.* 2006, Shimoda *et al.* 2012). The chemical composition of the essential oil of *Cistus monspeliensis* contains mainly α -Bisabolol, α -Cadinol, Ethyl palmitate, Tricosane and Spathulenol (Robles and Garzino 2000).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Cistus monspeliensis is widespread and abundant in several locations but some occurrences are threatened by collection and overharvesting for domestic uses (medicinal and food) unsustainable harvesting (cutting begin before the flowering time), collection practices (successive cuts and cutting the entire plant including the roots), overgrazing and small holder agriculture intensification.

This species known to be currently affected by droughts. Although this a species is well-adapted arid climate, it has shown to be affected by early summer drought under experimental conditions (de Dato *et al.* 2013).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Although *Cistus monspeliensis* is not under high impact threats but some subpopulations require conservation actions to protect the species and its habitats;

- Protection of the species sites from habitat loss, random cutting and overgrazing.
- The creation of protected areas to ensure complete regeneration of the species, ecosystems and to restore the quality of wild environments.
- Rising of public awareness.

- *Ex situ* conservation: artificial propagation, re-introduction, seed collections.
- Monitoring and surveillance of the existing populations and sites.
- Estimation of population sizes and study of their dynamics, trends, biology and ecology.

Credits

Assessor(s): Rankou, H., M'Sou, S., Ait Babahmad, R.A. & Diarra, A.

Reviewer(s): Jury, S., Ouhammou, A., Perez Graber, A. & Véla, E.

Contributor(s): Martínez Richart, A.I.

Partner(s) and Institution(s): Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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External Resources

For [Supplementary Material](#), and 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	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Resident	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Plant Growth Forms

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

Plant Growth Form
SS. Shrub - small

Use and Trade

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

End Use	Local	National	International
Food - human	No	No	Yes
Food - animal	No	No	Yes
Medicine - human & veterinary	No	No	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.1. Small-holder plantations	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.1. Nomadic grazing	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.2. Gathering terrestrial plants -> 5.2.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6

	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
6. Human intrusions & disturbance -> 6.3. Work & other activities	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.2. Droughts	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Action Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection
3. Species management -> 3.4. Ex-situ conservation -> 3.4.1. Captive breeding/artificial propagation
3. Species management -> 3.4. Ex-situ conservation -> 3.4.2. Genome resource bank
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 50
Upper elevation limit (m): 1,100

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