

PLANT SOCIOLOGY

formerly FITOSOCIOLOGIA

Volume 54 (1) - June 2017



RIVISTA SEMESTRALE - POSTE ITALIANE S.P.A. - SPED. ABB. POST. - D.L. 353/2003 - (CONV. INL. 27/02/2004 N. 46) ART. 1, COMMA 2, D.G.B. ANCONA TASSA RISCOSSA-TAXE PERCUE-OMPAN
EDITO DALLA SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI SCIENZA DELLA VEGETAZIONE ONLUS - PAVIA - DIRETTORE RESPONSABILE PROF. E. BONDI - VOLUME 1 - I° SEMESTRE 2017

Journal of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science

New contributions to the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi* Biondi 2016

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Abstract

This article deals with new contributions to the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi*, which was recently described in the classification of the edge vegetation of the Mediterranean area. The most important aspect is the description of the new order *Bellido sylvestris-Arisaretalia vulgaris*, which increases the importance of the class, as it includes sciaphilous and semi-sciaphilous edge communities. In terms of its ecology, this new order contrasts with the previously described order *Asphodeletalia ramosi*, which instead includes heliophilous edge communities. Four alliances belong to this new order: *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisarion vulgaris*, which is the typus of the order for the eastern Mediterranean and Illyrian area; *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculion bullati* all. nova, which also occurs in the eastern Mediterranean area; *Leontodontio tuberosi-Bellidion sylvestris*, which has already been described for Sardinia, and also occurs in all the Tyrrhenian area down to Sicily; and *Ranunculion bullati*, which was previously described for the Baetica Province of Spain, and probably occurs in other areas of the Iberian territory; in a biogeographical sense, this last thus replaces the eastern European alliance *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculion bullati*. Moreover, six associations belong to the new order: *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisaretum vulgaris* ass. nova; *Drymochlo exaltatae-Cyclaminetum hederifolii* ass. nova; *Allio chamaemoly-Ranunculetum bullati* ass. nova; *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculetum bullati* ass. nova; *Scillo obtusifoliae-Bellidetum sylvestris*; and *Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris*. For the last of these associations, the new subassociation *arisaretosum vulgaris* is here described. The association *Scillo autumnalis-Ranunculetum bullati* that occurs in the Baetica Province completes the present review. Finally, the new association *Euphorbio characiae-Thapsietum gaganicae* and the new subassociation *festucetosum circummediterraneae* are described, which are part of the order *Asphodeletalia ramosi*. The syntaxonomic scheme that includes all of the communities described within the class, and the synoptic table of all of the syntaxa that are part of the same class, complete the article.

Key words: *Asphodeletalia ramosi*, *Bellido sylvestris-Arisaretalia vulgaris*, bioclimate, biogeography, dynamic process, edge community, Mediterranean area.

Introduction

The aim of the present study is to add new contributions to the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi* that was recently described in the classification of the Mediterranean edge vegetation (Biondi *et al.*, 2016). The new order *Bellido sylvestris-Arisaretalia vulgaris* adds to the order *Asphodeletalia ramosi* that was described by Biondi *et al.* (2016), and includes heliophilous edge vegetation. The new order extends the importance of the class, as this adds sciaphilous and semi-sciaphilous edge communities. These communities were sampled in the area of the Gargano peninsula (south-east Italy), in addition to other surveys carried out in other Italian and European areas. Moreover, a new contribution to the vegetation of the order *Asphodeletalia ramosi* is described, which includes a new association.

Material and methods

Study area

The study area includes an area in southern Spain and three different areas within Italy: the Gargano peninsula; part of the central Apennines; and the northern end of Sardinia (Fig. 1).

Vegetation data

An edge community vegetation dataset collected together here (which is prevalently dominated by *Asphodelus ramosus* and *Arisarum vulgare*) includes 63 phytosociological relevés carried out according to the Braun-Blanquet method: 43 published, and 20 unpublished.

For each phytosociological relevé, the following bioclimatic indices were derived (except for the southern Spain area) from the bioclimate of Italy (Pesaresi *et al.*, 2014): Compensated Thermicity Index (Itc), Annual Ombothermic Index (Io), Continentality Index (Ic), and Bimonthly Summer Ombothermic Index (Ios₂) (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011). Furthermore, the Ellenberg indicator values (Ellenberg *et al.*, 1992; Pignatti *et al.*, 2005) and the Raunkiaer life-forms (Raunkiaer, 1934) were considered as the species functional traits.

The taxonomic nomenclature was standardised according to the 'anarchive' checklist (Lucarini *et al.*, 2015). The phytosociological nomenclature follows the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (Weber *et al.*, 2000). The syntaxonomic nomenclature at the level of alliance, order and class follows the 'Prodrome of the Italian Vegetation' (Biondi *et al.*, 2014b), and its subsequent integrations (Biondi

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Fig. 1 - The black-coloured points represent the studied areas.

et al., 2014a; 2014c; 2015a; 2015b), and the variations and integrations of syntaxa indicated on the specific interactive site of the Italian Botanical Society, as recently upgraded (<http://www.prodromo-vegetazioneitalia.org/>).

Vegetation analysis

Classification

To update and extend the syntaxonomic classification of the *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi* class, two-step cluster analysis was performed (De Cáceres *et al.*, 2015) for the vegetation dataset: (i) plot-based classification, as a semi-supervised fuzzy classification (De Cáceres *et al.*, 2010), to identify associations and subassociations; and (ii) type-based classification, as a hierarchical cluster analysis, to identify higher syntaxa.

To identify the diagnostic species for the associations and the higher syntaxa, indicator species analysis was performed using the phi coefficient (Chytrý *et al.*, 2002).

Indirect gradient analysis

Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed on the chord-transformed vegetation data, to identify

the main compositional gradients (PCA axes). The significant bioclimatic indices and the functional traits were fitted into the PCA space using generalised additive models.

Results

The numerical classification allowed the syntaxonomic scheme of the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi* to be updated and extended. The ‘plot-based classification’ identified 19 clusters, and the ‘type-based classification’ identified eight. The ordered and classified floristic composition of this class are reported in the synoptic table (Tab. 7), with the indicators detected by the indicator species analysis.

The alliances were superimposed on the PCA ordination plot (Fig. 2). The PCA ordered the phytosociological relevés according to the main compositional gradients of the vegetation. In the PCA sites plot (Fig. 2), the relevés were sorted according to the PC1 and PC2 axes (with 18% and 10% variation explained by PC1 and PC2, respectively). PC1 opposes the communities dominated by *Arisarum vulgare* for those dominated by *Asphodelus ramosum*, while PC2 separates the communities of *Cyclamen hederifolium* from those rich in *Ranunculus bullatus* and *Bellis sylvestris*.

In functional species traits terms, the PC1 and PC2 axes represent a light gradient (L). The PC2 axis opposes communities rich in rosulate hemicryptophytes (H ros) for those completely dominated by geophytes, which in bioclimatic terms represents a thermoxeric (Ios₂) and a continentality gradient (Ic) (Fig. 2).

All of the syntaxa are now described.

All.: *CYCLAMINO HEDERIFOLII-ARISARION VULGARIS* all. nova *hoc loco*

(Holotypus: *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisaretum vulgaris* ass. nova; present study)

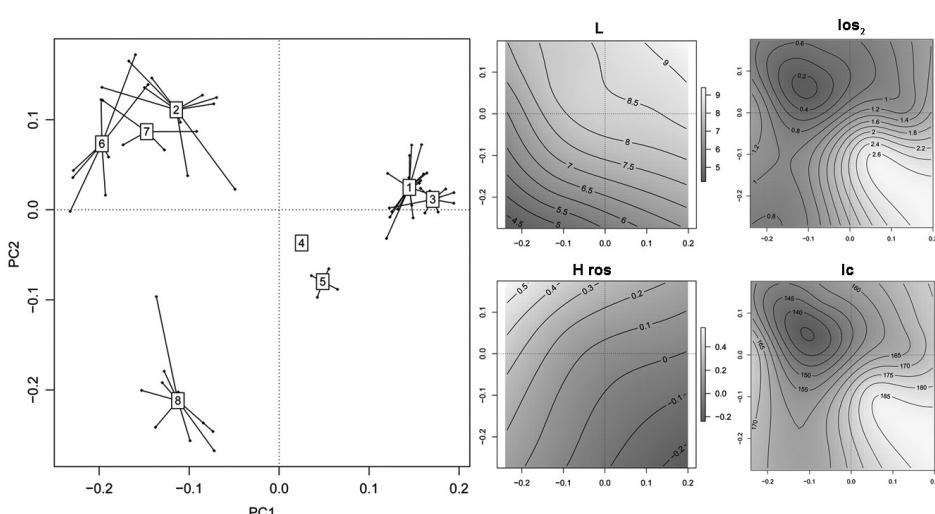


Fig. 2 - Indirect gradient analysis. Left: PCA ordination plot of the chord-transformed abundance for the *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi* vegetation data. Spiders are the alliance (derived from the cluster analysis step 2). Right: Smoothed surfaces of the significant species functional traits (L and H ros) and bioclimatic indices (Ios₂ and Ic) fitted on the PCA plot ordination. Spider labels: 1 - *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodelion ramosi*, 2 - *Leontodontio tuberosi-Bellidion sylvestris*, 3 - *Asphodelo ramosi-Ferulion communis*, 4 - *Asphodelion fistulosi*, 5 - *Asphodelo ramosi-Ferulion glaucae*, 6 - *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculion bullati*, 7 - *Ranunculion bullati*, 8 - *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisarion vulgaris*.

This alliance occurs in the northern coastal parts of the Gargano promontory, where there are post-fire maquis and Mediterranean mesophilous forests of the association *Cyclamino hederifolii-Quercetum ilicis* Biondi *et al.* ex Biondi, Casavecchia & Gigante in Biondi *et al.* 2013. The characteristic species of the alliance are: *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and *Arisarum vulgare*. This develops in areas with lower mesoMediterranean thermotype and dry ombrotype.

Ass.: CYCLAMINO HEDERIFOLII-ARISARETUM VULGARIS ass. nova *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: rel. 1 of Tab. 1; present study)

This association is the *typus* of the alliance *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisarion vulgaris*. This association has been reported for the northern areas of Gargano, along the coast close to post-fire maquis and mesophilous Mediterranean woods of the association *Cyclamino hederifolii-Quercetum ilicis*.

The characteristic species of the association are: *Arisarum vulgare*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and *Viola alba* subsp. *dehnhardtii*.

Ass.: DRYMOCHLOO EXALTATAE-CYCLAMINETUM HEDERIFOLII ass. nova *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: rel. 2 of Tab. 2; present study)

The characteristic species of the association are: *Drymochloa drymeja* subsp. *exaltata* and *Carex hallerana*. This association occurs close to the most mesophilous *Quercus ilex* woods in the same area of Gargano and in other territories of Apulia, and is defined as the association *Festuco exaltatae-Quercetum ilicis* Biondi *et al.* ex Biondi, Casavecchia & Gigante in Biondi *et al.* 2013.

All.: CYCLAMINO HEDERIFOLII-RANUNCULION BULLATI all. nova *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculetum bullati* ass. nova; present study)

This alliance includes the edge vegetation dominated by *Ranunculus bullatus* of the Gargano peninsula, which occurs along the edge strip between grassland and mesophilous maquis, and the south-eastern part of the Italian peninsula. It also probably includes the Illyrian communities of the east-Adriatic area. In addition to *Ranunculus bullatus*, the characteristic species of the alliance are *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Allium subhirsutum*, *Arum maculatum*, *Umbilicus rupestris*, *Allium chamaemoly* and *Plantago serraria*. This develops in areas with lower mesoMediterranean thermotype and dry ombrotype.

Ass.: CYCLAMINO HEDERIFOLII-RANUNCULETUM BULLATI ass. nova *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: rel. 2 of Tab. 3; present study)

This association occurs in the surroundings of Torre Mileto (Gargano), where its distribution range shows a

Tab. 1 - *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisaretum vulgaris* ass. nova.

	1*	2	3	4	5	Presences
Relevé (N.)						
Altitude (m a.s.l.)	731	745	701	731	742	
Aspect		NNW	NNW	ENE	-	NW
Slope (%)	25	15	35	-	15	
Area (m ²)	25	80	60	30	40	
Coverage (%)	90	90	85	98	90	

Char. species of the ass. *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisaretum vulgaris*

<i>Arisarum vulgare</i> O. Targ.-Tozz.	5.5	3.4	3.4	5.5	5.5	5
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> Aiton	2.2	2.3	4.4	2.3	2.2	5
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P. Beauv.	2.2	5.5	2.2	-	4.4	4
<i>Viola alba</i> Besser subsp. <i>dehnhardtii</i> (Ten.) W. Becker	2.3	1.2	-	-	1.2	3

Char. and diff. species of the all. *Cyclamino-Arisarion* and upper levels

<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> L.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	5
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i> L.	1.2	-	-	1.2	+	3
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i> Cirillo	-	1.2	-	1.2	+2	3
<i>Charybdis pancerata</i> (Steinh.) Speta	-	r	-	+	-	2
<i>Carex halleriana</i> Asso	-	-	1.1	-	-	1
<i>Drymochloa drymeja</i> subsp. <i>exaltata</i> (C. Presl) B.	-	-	+	-	-	1
<i>Foggi & Signorini</i>	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i> L.	-	-	-	1.2	-	1
<i>Anemone hortensis</i> L.	-	-	-	+	-	1
Other species						
<i>Arum italicum</i> Mill.	1.2	1.2	1.2	+	1.2	5
<i>Prasium majus</i> L.	2.2	+	-	-	+	3
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> L.	-	-	1.2	1.2	+2	3
<i>Smilax aspera</i> L.	-	-	1.2	+	+	3
<i>Reichardia picroides</i> (L.) Roth	+	-	-	1.2	-	2
<i>Ranunculus lanuginosus</i> L.	2.2	-	-	+	-	2
<i>Myrtus communis</i> L.	+.2	-	-	+	-	2
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i> L.	-	+	-	-	+	2
<i>Rubia peregrina</i> L.	-	+	-	-	1.1	2
Sporadic species	2	8	4	3	3	

Tab. 2 - *Drymochlo exaltatae-Cyclaminetum hederifolii* ass. nova.

	1	2*	3	4	5	Presences
Relevé (N.)						
Altitude (m a.s.l.)	345	787	736	785	787	
Aspect	N	-	NE	NNE	NNW	
Slope (%)	10	-	10	5	5	
Area (m ²)	100	150	80	15	60	
Coverage (%)	90	90	90	90	85	

Char. species of the ass. *Drymochlo exaltatae-Cyclaminetum hederifolii*

<i>Drymochloa drymeja</i> subsp. <i>exaltata</i> (C. Presl) B.	3.4	3.4	3.3	5.5	2.3	5
<i>Foggi & Signorini</i>	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Carex halleriana</i> Asso	1.2	1.2	-	1.2	-	3
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> L.	1.2	1.2	-	-	-	2
<i>Viola odorata</i> L.	1.2	-	3.3	-	-	2
<i>Vinca major</i> L.	-	1.2	-	-	-	1

Char. and diff. species of the all. *Cyclamino-Arisarion* and upper levels

<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> Aiton	4.4	4.5	1.2	3.3	2.2	5
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> L.	1.2	+	2.3	+	1.1	5
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Hudson) Beauv.	2.3	1.2	2.3	+	-	4
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i> L.	+	-	+	1.2	-	3
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i> Targ.-Tozz.	-	-	2.3	1.2	4.5	3
<i>Anemone hortensis</i> L.	-	+	-	-	-	1
Other species						
<i>Rubia peregrina</i> L.	2.2	1.2	2.3	1.2	1.2	5
<i>Smilax aspera</i> L.	+	+	1.1	+	1.1	5
<i>Arum italicum</i> Miller	+.2	2.2	+	1.2	-	4
<i>Quercus ilex</i> L.	1.2	1.2	1.1	-	+	4
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> Schott	+.2	-	+	+.2	+	4
<i>Tamus communis</i> L.	+	-	+	+	+	4
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i> L.	1.2	-	+	1.2	1.2	4
<i>Emerus major</i> Mill. subsp. <i>emeroides</i> (Boiss. et Spruner) Soldano et F. Conti	+	+	-	-	1.1	3
<i>Rosa sempervirens</i> L.	+	-	-	+	-	2
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i> L.	-	+	-	+	-	2
<i>Clematis flammula</i> L.	-	-	+	-	1.2	2
Sporadic species	0	2	0	1	2	

sinuous shape due to the shadows of the Mediterranean maquis that is dominated by *Pistacia lentiscus* and

Myrtus communis. This is indeed a sciophilous edge community that includes species resistant to trampling by animals. It mainly occurs on soils of Terra Rossa Mediterranea that are rich in organic matter. The characteristic species of the association are: *Allium subhirsutum*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Arum maculatum* and *Umbilicus rupestris*.

Ass.: *ALLIO CHAMAEMOLY-RANUNCULETUM BULLATI* ass. nova *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: rel. 2 of Tab. 4; present study)

This plant community occurs on Terra Rossa, in positions that are slightly more advanced with respect to the maquis edge. The characteristic species of this association are: *Allium chamaemoly*, *Plantago serraria* and *Ornithogalum etruscum* subsp. *umbratile*, which is the differential species of the association.

All.: *LEONTODONTO TUBEROSI-BELLIDION SYLVESTRIS* Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris 2001

This alliance occurs in the Mediterranean macrobioclimate (from thermo to upper-Mediterranean thermotype), and its distribution range is the western Mediterranean. The characteristic species are: *Bellis sylvestris*, *Leontodon tuberosus*, *Anemone hortensis*, *Ambrosina bassii*, *Prospero obtusifolium* (= *Scilla obtusifolia*), *P. autumnale* (= *Scilla autumnalis*), *Ornithogalum corsicum* and *Charybdis undulata* (= *Urginea undulata*). This develops in areas with lower mesoMediterranean-thermo-Mediterranean thermotypes and dry ombrotype.

Ass.: *SCILLO OBTUSIFOLIAE-BELLIDETUM SYLVESTRIS* Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris 2001

It is the association *typus* of the alliance (Tab. 48 of Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris, 2001: 55). The association was originally reported and described for the Nurra peninsula (north-western Sardinia).

Ass.: *SCILLO AUTUMNALIS-BELLIDETUM SYLVESTRIS* Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris 2001

TYPLICUM subass. nova *hoc loco* (*Holotypus*: rel. 2 of Tab. 5, corresponding to rel. 30 of Tab. 49 in Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris, 2001: 55).

This association was described in Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris (2001). It was originally reported for the inner hills next to Nurra, but was not included in the Nurra territories. The characteristic species are: *Prospero autumnale* and *Ranunculus paludosus* (= *R. flabellatus*) (Tab. 5, this paper, corresponding to Tab. 49 in Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris, 2001: 55, and Tab. 61 in Biondi & Bagella, 2005: 48)

ARISARETOSUM VULGARIS subass. nova *hoc loco* (*Holotypus*: rel. 5 of Tab. 5, corresponding to rel. 2 of Tab. 61 in Biondi & Bagella 2005: 48)

The same association (*Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris*) was also found in the La Maddalena Archi-

Tab. 3 - *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculetum bullati* ass. nova.

Relevé (N.)	1	2*	3	4	5	Presences
Altitude (m a.s.l.)	715	600	285	714	892	
Aspect	-	-	-	-	-	
Slope (%)	-	-	-	-	-	
Area (m ²)	20	20	30	20	20	
Coverage (%)	95	90	95	100	93	
Char. species of the ass. <i>Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculetum bullati</i>						
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i> Aiton	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.4	5
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i> L.	3.3	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.2	5
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i> L.	1.2	1.2	.	+	1.1	4
<i>Arum maculatum</i> L.	1.2	1.2	+2	.	.	3
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> (Salisb.) Dandy	.	+	2.3	.	.	2
Char. and diff. species of the all. <i>Cyclamino-Ranunculion</i> and upper levels						
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i> Cirillo	3.3	2.3	2.3	3.3	3.3	5
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i> O. Targ. Tozz.	1.2	4.5	3.3	3.4	4.4	5
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i> L.	.	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.2	4
<i>Ornithogalum etruscum</i> Parl. subsp. <i>umbratile</i> (Tornad. et Garbari) Peruzzi et Bartolucci	.	.	.	1.2	1.2	2
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i> L.	+	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Anemone hortensis</i> L.	1.1	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Sonchus bulbosus</i> (L.) N. Kilian et Greuter	+2	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i> L.	.	+	.	.	.	1
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i> (L.) Stapf	.	+	.	.	.	1
<i>Arum italicum</i> Mill.	.	.	.	+2	.	1
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P. Beauv.	.	.	.	.	+	1
<i>Allium chamaemoly</i> L.	.	.	.	.	1.2	1
Sporadic species	3	5	5	5	1	

Tab. 4 - *Allio chamaemoly-Ranunculetum bullati* ass. nova.

Relevé (N.)	1	2*	3	Presences
Altitude (m a.s.l.)	711	719	715	
Aspect	-	-	-	
Slope (%)	-	-	-	
Area (m ²)	6	35	30	
Coverage (%)	100	100	95	
Char. species of the ass. <i>Allio chamaemoly-Ranunculetum bullati</i>				
<i>Ranunculus bullatus</i> L.	4.5	4.5	4.5	3
<i>Plantago serraria</i> L.	3.4	2.2	2.3	3
<i>Allium chamaemoly</i> L.	.	1.2	1.2	2
<i>Ornithogalum etruscum</i> Parl. subsp. <i>umbratile</i> (Tornad. et Garbari) Peruzzi et Bartolucci	.	1.2	1.1	2
Char. and diff. species of the all. <i>Cyclamino-Ranunculion</i> and upper levels				
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i> L.	1.1	2.2	1.2	3
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i> Cirillo	+2	3.3	2.3	3
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i> L.	.	+	.	1
<i>Anemone hortensis</i> L.	.	+	.	1
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i> O. Targ. Tozz.	.	.	1.2	1
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i> L.	.	.	+	1
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P. Beauv.	.	.	+	1
Other species				
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i> L.	+2	1.2	.	2
Sporadic species	4	0	2	

pelago (Biondi & Bagella, 2005). The relevés in Tab. 61 of Biondi & Bagella (2005) did not actually completely match with the association. Therefore, with these relevés, the new subassociation *arisaretosum vulgaris* is here described. Its differential species are *Arisarum vulgare* and *Cistus monspeliensis*.

All.: *RANUNCULION BULLATI* Pérez La Torre & Carbezudo 2008

This alliance has been described to include ephemeral meadows characterised by thermo-Mediterranean winter blooming geophytes and hemicryptophytes, which have a distribution range that extends into the Baetic province (south-eastern Spain). This develops

in areas with thermoMediterranean thermotype and dry ombrotype.

Ass.: SCILLO AUTUMNALIS-RANUNCULETUM BULLATI Pérez La Torre & Cabezudo 2008

This is a plant community that is characterised by geophytes. Hemicryptophytes and nanophanerophytes also occur, which are winter blooming (October, November), similar to those of Nurra and La Maddalena Archipelago. According to the association authors, the characteristic species are: *Ranunculus bullatus*, *Prospero autumnale*, *Narcissus obsoletus* (= *N. serotinus*), *Acis autumnalis* (= *Leucojum autumnale*), *Arisarum vulgare* and *Lobularia maritima* (Pérez La Torre & Cabezudo, 2008: 240).

Ord.: BELLIDO SYLVESTRIS-ARISARETALIA VULGARIS Biondi ordo novo *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisarion vulgaris* all. nova *hoc loco*)

The alliances and associations here presented are classified within the new order *Bellido sylvestris-Arisaretalia vulgaris*. This new order includes the mesophilous, sciaphilous and semi-sciaphilous edge communities that occur in Mediterranean areas close to maquis and woods, with thermotypes from thermo-Mediterranean to supraMediterranean. They can also occur in the Temperate macrobioclimate in the sub-Mediterranean bioclimate variant. The characteristic species of the order are: *Arisarum vulgaris*, *Bellis sylvestris*, *Leontodon tuberosus*, *Anemone hortensis*, *Ambrosina bassii*, *Prospero obtusifolium*, *P. autumnale*, *Ornithogalum corsicum*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *C. repandum*, *Ranunculus bullatus*, *Vinca major*, *Viola alba* subsp. *dehnhardtii* and *V. odorata*.

Ass.: EUPHORBIO CHARACIAE-THAPSIETUM GARGANICAE ass. nova *hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: rel. 3 in Tab. 6; present study)

TYPLICUM subass. nova *hoc loco* (*Holotypus*: rel. 3 in Tab. 6; present study)

The diagnostic species of the association are: *Thapsia garganica*, *Euphorbia characias*, and *Ornithogalum etruscum* subsp. *umbratile*.

This is an edge community that occurs on abandoned grasslands with carbonate outcrops with aggregates and nodules of flint, for the north-eastern side of Gargano close to *Juniperus phoenicea* subsp. *turbinata* and *J. oxycedrus* subsp. *macrocarpa* microwoods and *Quercus ilex*, *Q. cerris*, *Q. dalechampii* and *Q. virginiana* woods. Occasionally, this coenosis occurs close to dry stone walls bordering private grasslands that are now abandoned.

This association belongs to the alliance *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodelion ramosi*, order *Asphodeletalia ramosi*, and class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi*.

Tab. 5 - *Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris* Biondi et al. 2001

Relevé (N.)	1	2*	3	4	5**	Presences
Altitude (m a.s.l.)						
Aspect	-	-	-	-	-	
Slope (%)	-	-	-	-	-	
Area (m ²)	20	20	30	2	4	
Coverage (%)	70	70	100	40	70	
Char. species of the ass. <i>Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris</i>						
Prospero autumnale (L.) Speta	2.2	2.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	5
Ranunculus paludosus Poir.	+	+ .	1.2	.	.	3
Diff. species of the subass. <i>arisaretosum vulgare</i>						
Cistus monspeliensis L.	+	+	.	+	1.1	4
Arisarum vulgare O. Targ.Tozz.	.	.	.	1.2	1.2	2
Char. and diff. species of the all. <i>Leontodonto-Bellidion</i> and upper levels						
Ambrosina bassii L.	3.2	2.2	3.3	2.3	3.3	5
Leontodon tuberosus L.	2.2	1.2	3.4	.	1.1	4
Asphodelus ramosus L.	+	+ .	+	+	.	4
Bellis sylvestris Cirillo	2.3	3.3	2.2	.	.	3
Anemone hortensis L.	1.2	+ .	+ .	.	.	3
Asparagus acutifolius L.	.	+	.	.	.	1
Charybdis undulata (Desf.) Speta	.	.	.	+	.	1
Other species						
Plantago lanceolata L.	+ .	1.2	1.2	.	.	3
Quercus ilex L.	+	+ .	1.2	.	.	3
Pulicaria odora (L.) Rchb.	2.3	2.3	1.2	.	.	3
Reichardia picroides (L.) Roth var. maritima (Boiss.) Fiori	1.2	1.2	+	.	.	3
Carex flacca Schreb. subsp. erythrostachys (Hoppe) Holub	2.2	+	.	.	.	2
Galactites tomentosus Moench	.	+ .	+	.	.	2
Plantago weldenii Rchb.	.	.	.	1.1	1.1	2
Tuberaria guttata (L.) Fourr.	.	.	.	2.2	1.1	2
Sporadic species	4	4	1	1	0	

Tab. 6 - *Euphorbio characiae-Thapsietum giganicae* ass. nova.

Relevé (N.)	1	2	3*	4	5**	Presences
Altitude (m a.s.l.)	444	645	594	603	604	
Aspect	-	N	-	SE	SE	
Slope (%)	-	5	-	10	5	
Area (m ²)	10	250	250	200	100	
Coverage (%)	100	90	100	100	100	
H veg. (m)	150	-	-	-	160	

Char. species of the ass. <i>Euphorbio characiae-Thapsietum giganicae</i>	3.3	4.5	4.5	5.5	3.3	5
Thapsia giganica L.	3.3	4.5	4.5	1.1	5.5	5
Euphorbia characias L.	3.3	2.2	4.5	.	.	3
Ornithogalum etruscum Parl. subsp. umbratile (Tornad. et Garbari) Peruzzi et Bartolucci	1.2	+	+	.	.	3

Diff. species of the subass. <i>festucetosum circummediterraneae</i>	Festuca circummediterranea Patzke	.	.	+	1.2	2
	Dasypyrum villosum (L.) P. Candargy	.	.	.	2.2	1.2

Char. and diff. species of the all. <i>Charybdido-Asphodelion</i> and upper levels	Carlina corymbosa L.	1.2	1.2	.	2.2	4
	Anemone hortensis L.	1.1	2.2	2.2	1.2	4
	Iris bicipitata Colas.	.	2.3	2.3	3.3	2.2
	Asphodelus ramosus L.	4.5	5.5	3.4	.	3
	Asparagus acutifolius L.	2.2	.	1.2	.	1.2
	Asphodeline lutea (L.) Rchb.	.	1.2	.	2.2	1.2
	Bellis sylvestris Cirillo	.	+ .	+ .	.	2
	Charybdis pancretia (Steinh.) Speta	1.2	.	.	.	1
	Ferula communis L.	.	r	.	.	1
Other species	Carduus nutans L.	+	+	+	.	4
	Eryngium campestre L.	+	+	.	+	3
	Anthoxanthum odoratum L.	.	1.2	.	1.2	+ .
	Anacamptis papilionacea (L.) R.M. Bateman, Pridgeon et M.W. Chase	1.1	+	.	.	2
	Reichardia picroides (L.) Roth	+	.	+	.	2
	Rhamnus saxatilis Jacq. subsp. <i>infectoria</i> (L.) P. Fourn.	3.3	.	.	.	2
	Galium aparine L.	.	1.2	1.2	.	2
	Geranium molle L.	.	+	1.2	.	2
	Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn	.	1.2	.	1.1	2
	Dactylis glomerata L.	.	1.2	.	+	2
	Geranium lucidum L.	.	+	.	.	1.2
	Rubus ulmifolius Schott	.	.	+	.	2
Sporadic species		11	12	6	5	5

Tab. 7 - Synoptic table (percentage) of the communities belonging to the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi*. In gray the diagnostic indicators of syntaxa ($\phi_i >= 0.5$; $p < 0.05$).

Associations and subassociations (*)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Alliances, suballiances number of figure 2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	5	4	2	2	2	6	6	8	8	7
Number of relevés	5	5	3	2	3	2	4	5	2	3	2	5	5	3	5	5	4
Ruta divaricata	20	80															
Satureja cuneifolia	20	100															
Hyparrhenia hirta		100															
Sideritis italica	40	33															
Euphorbia characias	60	100	100														
Festuca circummediterranea			100														
Dasyphyrum villosum			100	67													
Alkanna tinctoria			100	100													
Sonchus bulbosus			100	100													
Cynoglossum creticum			100														
Anacamptis papilionacea	40	67															
Cephalaria leucantha					75												
Muscari neglectum	20	33															
Artemisia alba						80											
Sedum rupestre						100											
Verbascum nivale subsp. garganicum						100											
Euphorbia terracina						100											
Lotus cytisoides						100											
Ranunculus paludosus							100										
Cistus monspeliensis								100									
Prospero obtusifolium								100									
Ornithogalum corsicum									100								
Salvia verbenaca									100								
Arum maculatum										100							
Allium chamaemoly											67						
Plantago serraria											100						
Viola alba subsp. dehnhardtii												20					
Drymochloa drymeja subsp. exaltata												60					
Carex halleriana												20					
Vinca major												20					
Viola odorata												40					
Narcissus obsoletus													50				
Acis autumnalis													50				
ASPHODELETALIA RAMOSI and Charybdido pancratii-Asphodelion ramosi																	
Thapsia garganica	100	100	100														
Charybdis pancratii	100	100	33														
Eryngium campestre	20			67	50												
Iris bipinnata				60	67	100											
Carduus nutans					100	50											
Asphodeline lutea					33	100											
Sixalix atropurpurea subsp. maritima					60		67										
Hypochaeris radicata					80		33										
ASPHODELETALIA RAMOSI and Asphodelo ramosi-Ferulion communis																	
Ferula communis						33											
Onopordum illyricum							100	100									
Iris pseudopumila							50	25									
ASPHODELETALIA RAMOSI and Asphodelo ramosi-Ferulion glaucae																	
Ferula glauca									100								
ASPHODELETALIA RAMOSI and Asphodelion fistulosi																	
Asphodelus fistulosus										100							
BELLIDO SYLVESTRIS-ARISARETALIA VULGARIS and Leontodontio tuberosi-Bellidion sylvestris and Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculion bullati																	
Charybdis undulata												50	80				
Ambrosina bassii												100	100	60			
Prospero autumnale												100	100				
Leontodon tuberosus												100	50	100	20		
Bellis sylvestris						20	20	67				100	100	100	60		
Arisarum vulgare						20	20					100	100	100	60	100	
BELLIDO SYLVESTRIS-ARISARETALIA VULGARIS and Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisarion vulgaris																	
Umbilicus rupestris												20	40				
Ranunculus bullatus												80	100	100			
Allium subhirsutum												80	33	60	60		
Cyclamen hederifolium												100		100	100		
Brachypodium sylvaticum												20	33	80	80		
BELLIDO SYLVESTRIS-ARISARETALIA VULGARIS and Ranunculion bullati																	
Thapsia villosa															25		
Narcissus papyraceus															25		
Charybdis maritima															25		
Lavandula multifida															25		

CHARYBDIDO PANCRATII-ASPHODELETEA RAMOSI	100	80	100	50	75				40	67				
Ornithogalum etruscum subsp. umbratile	20	80	67	100	100	25			20	33				
Carlina corymbosa	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	20	20	20	20	20	25
Asphodelus ramosus	60	60	100	50	50	50	40	100	33	33	20	20	100	
Anemone hortensis	100	100	67	50	100	100	40	100	20	100	100	100	100	
Asparagus acutifolius														
High frequence herbaceous perennial species	100	80		67				33	100					25
Dactylis glomerata subsp. hispanica	20	33		33				20						
Carex flacca	40							40						
Arum italicum								100	60					
Dactylis glomerata								75						
Hyoseris radiata	60	33		50				100	40					
Plantago lanceolata	40							33						
Reichardia picroides								100	40					
Stachys germanica	80	67												
Piptatherum miliaceum	20	60												
Ranunculus lanuginosus														
Galium corrufolium	60													
Hypericum perforatum	20													25

(*) Associations and subassociations: 1 - *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletum ramosi typicum*, 2 - *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletum ramosi hyparrhenietosum hirtae*, 3 - *Euphorbio characiae-Thapsietum gorganicae*, 4 - *Euphorbio characiae-Thapsietum gorganicae festucetosum circummediterraneae*, 5 - *Alkanno tinctoriae-Asphodeletum ramosi*, 6 - *Asphodelo ramosi-Feruletum communis*, 7 - *Asphodelino luteae-Feruletum communis*, 8 - *Asphodelino luteae-Feruletum glaucae*, 9 - *Verbasco gorganici-Asphodeletum fistulosi*, 10 - *Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris*, 11 - *Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris arisaretosum vulgaris*, 12 - *Scillo obtusifoliae-Bellidetum sylvestris*, 13 - *Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculetum bullati*, 14 - *Allio chamaemoly-Ranunculetum bullati*, 15 - *Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisaretum vulgaris*, 16 - *Drymochlo exaltatae-Cyclaminetum hederifolii*, 17 - *Scillo autumnalis-Ranunculetum bullati*.

mosi (Biondi *et al.*, 2016). This develops in areas with mesoMediterranean thermotype and dry-subhumid ombrotype.

FESTUCETOSUM CIRCUMMEDITERRANAE subass. *nova hoc loco*

(*Holotypus*: rel. 5 of Tab. 6; present study)

The differential species are *Festuca circummediterranea* and *Dasyptnum villosum*. The subass. is characterised by the presence of species linked to the secondary grasslands, where they represent the most common grasses.

Conclusions

To conclude, the complete syntaxonomic scheme of the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi* is presented here through the updating of the data in Biondi *et al.* (2016) with the new data published here. We also present the synoptic table of the communities (Tab. 7) of the same class that are known to date. All of the new Italian syntaxa will be included in the updated version of the vegetation Prodrome, which will replace the original version (Biondi *et al.*, 2014b). Most of the syntaxa that are to be included in the Prodrome mainly concern the Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean European vegetation, which represents the greatest part of European biodiversity (Biondi *et al.*, 2015b). Several of these syntaxa have been included in the European Vegetation Checklist (Mucina *et al.*, 2016), and hopefully many others will be included in the announced revision of the same, including among others the dynamic Mediterranean vegetation of the class *Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletea ramosi*.

There follows now the complete syntaxonomic scheme of the communities belonging to the class:

CHARYBDIDO PANCRATII-ASPHODELETEA RAMOSI Biondi in Biondi, Pesaresi, Galderzi, Gasparri, Biscotti, del Viscio & Casavecchia 2016

ASPHODELETALIA RAMOSI Biondi in Biondi, Pesaresi, Galderzi, Gasparri, Biscotti, del Viscio & Casavecchia 2016

Charybdido pancratii-Asphodelion ramosi Biondi *et al.* 2016

Charybdido pancratii-Asphodeletum ramosi Biondi *et al.* 2016

subass. *typicum* Biondi *et al.* 2016

hyparrhenietosum hirtae Biondi *et al.* 2016

Alkanno tinctoriae-Asphodeletum ramosi Biondi *et al.* 2016

Thapsio gorganicae-Asphodeletum ramosi Foggi *et al.* 2008

Euphorbio characiae-Thapsietum gorganicae ass. nova hoc loco

typicum subass. *nova hoc loco*

festucetosum circummediterraneae subass. *nova hoc loco*

Asphodelo ramosi-Feruletum communis Biondi *et al.* 2016

Asphodelino luteae-Feruletum communis Biondi *et al.* 2016

Carlino siculae-Feruletum communis Gianguzzi, Ilardi & Raimondo 1993

Thapsio gorganicae-Feruletum communis Brullo 1984

Asphodelion fistulosi Biondi *et al.* 2016

Verbasco gorganici-Asphodeletum fistulosi Biondi *et al.* 2016

Asphodelo ramosi-Ferulin glaucae Biondi *et al.* 2016

Asphodelino luteae-Feruletum glaucae Casavecchia &

Biondi in Biondi, Pesaresi, Galdenzi, Gasparri, Biscotti, del Viscio & Casavecchia 2016.
BELLIDO SYLVESTRIS-ARISARETALIA VULGARIS
 Biondi ordo novo *hoc loco*
Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisarion vulgaris all. nova *hoc loco*
Cyclamino hederifolii-Arisaretum vulgaris ass. nova *hoc loco*
Drymochlo exaltatae-Cyclaminetum hederifolii ass. nova *hoc loco*
Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculion bullati all. nova *hoc loco*
Allio chamaemoly-Ranunculetum bullati ass. nova *hoc loco*
Cyclamino hederifolii-Ranunculetum bullati ass. nova *hoc loco*
Leontodont tuberosi-Bellidion sylvestris Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris 2001
Scillo obtusifoliae-Bellidetum sylvestris Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris 2001
Scillo autumnalis-Bellidetum sylvestris Biondi, Filigheddu & Farris 2001
typicum subass. nova *hoc loco*
arisaretosum vulgaris subass. nova *hoc loco*
Ranunculion bullati Pérez Latorre & Cabezudo 2008
Scillo autumnalis-Ranunculetum bullati Pérez La Torre & Cabezudo 2008

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Appendix I: Sporadic species

Tab. 1 - Rel. 1: *Emerus major* Mill. subsp. *emeroides* (Boiss. et Spruner) Soldano et F. Conti +, *Rosa semperflorens* L. +.2. Rel. 2: *Hyoseris radiata* L. +, *Piptatherum miliaceum* (L.) Coss. +, *Rubus ulmifolius* Schott 1.2, *Lobularia maritima* (L.) Desv. R, *Galium aparine* L. +, *Parietaria judaica* L. 1.2, *Solanum linnaeanum* Hepper et P.-M.L. Jaeger +, *Setaria viridis* (L.) P. Beauv. +.2. Rel. 3: *Carex halleriana* Asso 1.1, *Ruscus aculeatus* L. +, *Asplenium onopteris* L. +, *Phillyrea latifolia* L. 1.1. Rel. 4: *Stachys germanica* L. 2.2, *Sonchus oleraceus* L. +, *Centaurium erythraea* Rafn. +. Rel. 5: *Briza maxima* L. r, *Geranium sanguineum* L. +, *Nigella damascena* L. +. Tab. 2 - Rel. 2: *Viola alba* Besser subsp. *dehnhardtii* (Ten.) W. Becker 1.2, *Ranunculus lanuginosus* L. var. *umbrosus* (Ten. & Guss.) P.Fourn. 1.2; Rel. 4: *Prasium majus* L. +; Rel. 5: *Pistacia lentiscus* L. +, *Hedera helix* L. 3.3.

Tab. 3 - Rel. 1: *Theligonum cynocrambe* L. 1.2, *Geranium molle* L. 1.2, *Plantago serraria* L. +.2; Rel. 2: *Theligonum cynocrambe* L. 1.1, *Geranium molle* L. 2.2, *Cynoglossum creticum* Mill. +, *Lobularia maritima* (L.) Desv. +, *Ranunculus lanuginosus* L. 1.2; Rel. 3: *Theligonum cynocrambe* L. 1.2, *Geranium molle* L. 1.2, *Plantago serraria* L. +, *Cynoglossum creticum* Mill. +, *Lobularia maritima* (L.) Desv. +; Rel. 4: *Theligonum cynocrambe* L. +.2, *Geranium molle* L. 1.2, *Plantago serraria* L. 1.2, *Ranunculus lanuginosus* L. +, *Selaginella denticulata* (L.) Spring. +.3; Rel. 5: *Theligonum cynocrambe* L. 1.2.

Tab. 4 - Rel. 1: *Cynoglossum creticum* Mill. +, *Beta vulgaris* L. subsp. *maritima* (L.) Arcang. +, *Geranium molle* L. +.2, *Ajuga chamaepitys* (L.) Schreb. r; Rel. 3: *Petrerhagia saxifraga* (L.) Link. +, *Salvia verbenaca* L. +. Tab. 5 - Rel. 1: *Dactylis glomerata* L. subsp. *hispanica* (Roth) Nyman +.2, *Hyoseris radiata* L. +, *Sanguisorba minor* Scop. +.2, *Neotinea lactea* (Poir.) R.M. Bateman, Pridgeon et M.W. Chase +.2; Rel. 2: *Petrerhagia saxifraga* (L.) Link +.2, *Lavandula stoechas* L. +, *Odontites luteus* (L.) Clairv. +, *Stachys glutinosa* L. +; Rel. 3: *Brychypodium retusum* (Pers.) P. Beauv. +.2; Rel. 4: *Dittrichia graveolens* (L.) Greuter +.

Tab. 6 - Rel. 1: *Alyssum simplex* Rudolphi 1.2, *Carex flacca* Schreb. +, *Euphorbia spinosa* L. 3.3, *Geranium rotundifolium* L. +, *Hypochaeris achyrophorus* L. +, *Juniperus phoenicea* L. subsp. *turbinata* (Guss.) Nyman +, *Micromeria graeca* (L.) Benth. ex Rchb. 1.2, *Pinus halepensis* Mill. +, *Scorzonera villosa* Scop. 1.2, *Sedum rupestre* L. +, *Sideritis italica* (Mill.) Greuter et Burdet 1.2; Rel. 2: *Arabis collina* Ten. subsp. *rosea* (DC.) Minuto r, *Aristolochia rotunda* L. 1.2, *Bellis perennis* L. +.2,

Clinopodium vulgare L. 1.2, *Cyclamen hederifolium* Aiton +, *Lathyrus cicera* L. +, *Muscaris neglectum* Guss. ex Ten. +, *Ranunculus millefoliatus* Vahl 1.1, *Rosa canina* L. +, *Sanguisorba minor* Scop. 1.2, *Silene latifolia* Poir. subsp. *alba* (Mill.) Greuter et Burdet +, *Tulipa sylvestris* L. r; Rel. 3: *Crepis leontodontoides* All. 1.2, *Hyoseris radiata* L. +, *Medicago arabica* (L.) Huds. +, *Prunus spinosa* L. 2.3, *Salvia clandestina* L. +, *Theligonum cynocrambe* L. +; Rel. 4: *Briza maxima* L. +.2, *Crepis vesicaria* L. +, *Linaria purpurea* (L.) Mill. +, *Ornithogalum umbellatum* L. 1.1, *Trifolium nigrescens* Viv. +; Rel. 5: *Clinopodium alpinum* (L.) Kuntze +.2, *Geranium sanguineum* L. +, *Pyrus spinosa* Forssk. +, *Rubus canescens* DC. +, *Teucrium chamaedrys* L. +.2.

Appendix II: Relevés dates and localities

Tab. 1 - Rel. 1, 4: Calenella Bay (FG), 10/12/2016 (rel. 1: 41.74475° N, 16.01145° E; rel. 4: 41.94228° N, 15.98709° E); Rel. 2, 5: Necropolis of Calanella (FG), 10/12/2016 (rel. 2: 41.93945° N, 15.98705° E; rel. 5: 41.93961° N, 15.98703° E); Rel. 3: Pineta Marzini (FG), 18/02/2017, 41.89043° N, 15.90588° E.

Tab. 2 - Rel. 1, 3, 5: Pineta Marzini (FG), 18/02/2017 (rel. 1: 41.89043° N, 15.90588° E; rel. 3: 41.89043° N, 15.90588° E; rel. 5: 41.89043° N, 15.90588° E); Rel. 2: Mannaccore (FG), 16/02/2017, 41.93166° N, 16.05185° E; Rel. 4: Sfinale (FG), 16/02/2017, 41.93166° N, 16.05185° E.

Tab. 3 - Rel. 1-5: Torre Mileto (FG), 09/12/2016 (rel. 1: 41.92524° N, 15.61485° E; rel. 2: 41.92478° N, 15.61438° E, rel. 3: 41.92591° N, 15.61643° E; rel. 4: 41.92260° N, 15.64877° E; rel. 5: 41.92197° N, 15.64966° E).

Tab. 4 - Rel. 1-3: Torre Mileto (FG), 09/12/2016 (rel. 1: 41.92621° N, 15.61617° E; rel. 2: 41.92188° N, 15.64955° E; rel. 3: 41.92254° N, 15.64860° E).

Tab. 5 - Rel. 1 corresponds to rel. 31 in Tab. 49 in Biondi et al., 2001; Rel. 2 corresponds to rel. 30 in Tab. 49 in Biondi et al., 2001; Rel. 3 corresponds to rel. 32 in Tab. 49 in Biondi et al., 2001; Rel. 4 corresponds to rel. 1 in Tab. 61 in Biondi & Bagella, 2005; Rel. 5 corresponds to rel. 2 in Tab. 61 in Biondi & Bagella, 2005.

Tab. 6 - Rel. 1-5: Along the road from Foresta Umbra to Mattinata (FG) (rel. 1: 41.02503° N, 16.72983° E, 06/04/2017; rel. 2: 41.74241° N, 16.00896° E, 06/04/2017; rel. 3: 41.72960° N, 16.01625° E, 12/05/2017; Rel. 4: 41.74428° N, 16.01340° E, 12/05/2017; rel. 5: 41.74475° N, 16.01145° E, 12/05/2017°).

Reference system: WGS84 (WGS84)