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NOTES ON THE FLORA OF MALTA: JUNCUS SUBULATUS FORSKAL

BRULLO, S. Istituto Botanico, Via Antonino Longo, 95125, Catania, ITALIA. LANFRANCO, E. 3, New Street, Sliema, MALTA.

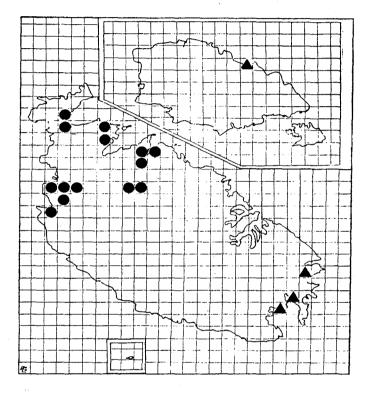


Fig. 1. Distribution of Juncus subulatus ( lacktriangle ) and Juncus maritimus ( lacktriangle )

Large populations of Juncus subulatus Forskål have been observed in several localities in Malta, notably at Għadira, Salini, Ghajn Rihana, Gnejna, Wied il-Hmar, Għajn Ħadid, Mistra and Wied Gerzuma (fig.1). The first two stations are salt-marshes while in the other stations this species grows along freshwater courses. In spite of the considerable extent of the populations, this species has never been recorded. Recent finds have been misreported as Juncus maritimus (EXCURSIONIST 1971, 1972; HASLAM et al. 1977) while the only specimen which we could locate at the herbarium of the Argotti Botanic Gardens (ARG), collected by John Borg (no date,

no locality, but flourished between 1910 and 1935) was labelled "Juncus articulatus var. lamprocarpus". Both Juncus maritimus Lam. and Juncus articulatus L. occur in the Maltese Islands. The former is confined to a few salt-marshes in eastern Malta and northern Gozo while the latter species is often found together with Juncus subulatus along water courses.

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