



Geographical range

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Species of the Day: Bupleurum kakiskalae

Bupleurum kakiskalae is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™]. The only population, consisting of about 100 individuals, grows on a single limestone cliff in the mountain range of Levka Ori (White Mountains) of western Crete, Greece. This perennial plant grows up to 1 m tall and blossoms with numerous heads of yellow flowers in the late summer.

Given that it flowers only once in its lifetime after 10 to 15 years in a vegetative stage, the *Bupleurum kakiskalae* struggles to have genetic exchange with other flowering plants. Cliff instability is another threat, as the ground on which it grows periodically collapses. Goats also graze in the area where this plant occurs, feeding indiscriminately on any accessible plant.

As a means of combating *Bupleurum kakiskalae's* possible extinction, seeds are being collected to conserve the widest possible spectrum of genetic material. In addition, measures are underway to protect it from goats and the threat of collection by overzealous botanists.









