

# PLANT SOCIOLOGY

formerly **FITOSOCIOLOGIA**

Volume 56 (2) - December 2019

RIVISTA SEMESTRALE - POSTE ITALIANE S.P.A. - SPED. ABB. POST. - D.L. 353/2003 - (CONV. IN L. 27/02/2004 N. 46) ART. 1, COMMA 2, DCB ANCONA - TASSA RISCOSSA-TAXE PERÇUE-CMPPAN  
EDITO DALLA SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI SCIENZA DELLA VEGETAZIONE ONLUS - PAVIA - DIRETTORE RESPONSABILE: D. GIGANTE - VOLUME 2 - II° SEMESTRE 2019



Journal of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science

## The *Olea europaea* L. var. *sylvestris* (Mill.) Lehr. forests in the Mediterranean area

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### Abstract

This paper examines the forest communities dominated by *Olea europaea* L. var. *sylvestris* (Mill.) Lehr. that have been described up until now in the Mediterranean Region (including other isolated extrazonal areas in the northwestern Iberian Peninsula and in Northern Turkey) as more or less evolved aspects of woods, microwoods and high maquis that principally tend to make up climatic and edapho-climatic “series heads”. These formations maintain a significant large-scale distributive potential within the infra- and thermomediterranean bioclimate belts (with a few penetrations into the mesomediterranean) with a dry-subhumid (and sometimes humid) ombrotype; however, they are currently quite rare and fragmented in the wake of large-scale deforestation and the impoverishment of old-growth communities dominated by a species known to live for millennia. The study was conducted through the analysis of phytosociological data taken from the scientific literature and other unpublished data regarding North-Africa (Morocco, Algeria), the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands as well as other islands from the Tyrrhenian area (Sardinia, Corsica, Sicily and its minor islands), the Italian Peninsula, the Balkan Peninsula, the Aegean region, Turkey and the southern Anatolian coast. A comparison between the different communities has shown a high floristic and physiognomic-structural homogeneity that justifies their categorization in the *Quercetalia ilicis* class. The biogeographic and ecologic vicariance shown by the same formations within the large Mediterranean distribution range makes it possible to subdivide them into the following orders and alliances: 1) *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni* [A] all. *Tetraclini articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae* (suball. *Pistacion atlanticae*); B) all. *Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis*; C) all. *Oleo sylvestris-Ceratonion siliquae*; 2) *Quercetalia calliprini* [D] all. *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci*; 3) *Quercetalia ilicis* [E] all. *Quercu rotundifoliae-Oleion sylvestris*; F) all. *Fraxino orni-Quercion ilicis*; G) all. *Erico arborea-Quercion ilicis*; H) all. *Arbutu unedonis-Laurion nobilis* (suball. *Arbutu-Laurenion nobilis*). Regarding the syntaxonomical aspect: (i) two new associations are described [*Hippocrepido emeroidis-Oleetum sylvestris* and *Junipero foetidissimae-Oleetum sylvestris*]; (ii) two new associations [*Phillyreo latifoliae-Oleetum sylvestris* Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova and *Calicotomo intermediae-Oleetum sylvestris* Quézel, Barbero, Benabid, Loisel & Rivas-Martínez 1988 ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova] and a new subassociation [*Aro neglecti-Oleetum sylvestris* Rivas-Martínez & Cantò 2002 corr. Rivas-Martínez & Cantò *fraxinetosum angustifoliae* Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo ex Gianguzzi & Bazan subass. nova] are leptotyped; (iii) a *nomen novum* of the association is redefined [*Rhamno laderoi-Oleastretum sylvestris* (Cantò, Ladero, Perez-Chiscano & Rivas-Martínez 2011) Gianguzzi & Bazan nom. nov.].

Key words: biogeography, Mediterranean vegetation, phytosociology, synchronology, syntaxonomy.

### Introduction

The Oleaster (wild olive tree) [*Olea europaea* L. var. *sylvestris* (Mill.) Lehr.] is a woody plant species that characterizes the Mediterranean landscape, where it is an emblematic component of natural forest and maquis vegetation. It is a slow-growing tree that can become up to 15-20 meters tall. It adapts well to many varied geopedological substrates (limestone, dolomite, marl, gypsum, calcarenite, vulcanite, vertisols, etc.), showing significant climatic potentiality in the most xeric areas of the entire biogeographic region. Here, it colonizes coastal and even hill stations, where it prefers sites with a southern exposure, including those that are dry and xeric; it is also lithophilic, because it is equipped with a robust root structure that penetrates the soil quite deeply, pushing between the cracks in the rocks (Arrigoni, 1968; Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2001, 2002).

Although this tree is well known for living for thousands of years, it rarely forms old-growth forests; in fact, natural Oleaster communities have been subjected to extensive deforestation, causing clear losses both in terms of area and quantitative biomass measurements. This deforestation began as early as the post-Neolithic colonizations (Liphshitz *et al.*, 1991), when man freed up large tracts of land in order to adapt them to agriculture or animal husbandry, thus changing the landscape's features; furthermore, due to the high heat-producing capacity of Oleaster wood, it has always been heavily used for heating as well as for the most ancient archaeometallurgical activities connected to the various phases of metalworking (Primavera & Colaianni, 2011; Panno *et al.*, 2008). Consequentially, only sporadic testimonials of the oldest-growth primary communities can be found today. The monumental oleasters of Luras in Sardinia (Olbia Tempio province) are one example; one specimen – estimated to be about

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4,000 years old and with a trunk circumference of over 11 meters – is in fact considered to be the oldest tree in Italy (Lisai & Maccioni, 2017). Another example is the “Inveges’ Oleaster”, a large wild olive plant, which has a height of 13 meter with a vigorous trunk of 4.60 m in circumference at breast height, located in the countryside of Sciacca (Sicily) (Bazan & Marino, 2016).

In agricultural areas, the climatic potentiality of Oleaster communities has long been exploited by the most ancient indigenous civilizations to renew trees and convert them into productive olive trees (*Olea europaea* var. *europaea*) to produce both olives and olive oil for both religious and food uses (Bartolini *et al.*, 2002; Pignatti, 2018). Furthermore, *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* was the rootstock on which the various selected cultivars were propagated – well over 300 are listed just in Sicily (Caruso *et al.*, 2014) –, thus making it possible to expand its cultivation areas and diversify production in the various areas of the Mediterranean basin. In the century-old olive trees present in the oldest orchards, – whose trunk is Oleaster – the typical hyperplasia of the stem at the historic grafting point is emblematic in this respect; it is a significant testimony of the ancient interconnection at the foundation of this ancient Mediterranean crop (Zohary & Spiegel-Roy, 1975; Pignatti, 1983; Marcuzzi, 1996), which is a living symbol of the same millennial civilization. In the Mediterranean landscape, groups of shrub *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* are frequent in abandoned farmland. They evolve from historic plantings that were abandoned or burned, thus allowing suckers to grow from the old rootstock.

Thus, the current distribution range of *Olea europaea* s.l. tends to make up the distribution range of the aforementioned varieties (Fig. 1), with a greater concentration in the Central-Western part of the Mediterranean basin. The same distribution range includes North-Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, with an island in the Benghazi area), the Central-southern part of the Iberian Peninsula (up to the French coast), the various central Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian islands (the Balearic Islands, Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica) and the southern part of the Italian Peninsula. It continues to be frequent along the coasts of the Balkan Peninsula, the Aegean area – including the islands of Crete and Cyprus (Brullo *et al.*, 2004) – up to the shores of the Black Sea to the east, then heading southwards towards southern Anatolia, reaching Lebanon, Jordan and Israel [Meusel & Jager, 1998; Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a].

In addition to the forest formations in which *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* physiognomically dominates – the entity in discussion also takes part in other woodland communities, as well as in secondary scrub and garrigue coenoses, as a gregarious entity. This tends to enhance its climatic potentiality throughout the Mediterranean, favored by seed dispersal via ornithochory or other forms of zoochory by the various organisms that eat the seeds, including man. Given this widespread frequency in secondary aspects as well, *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* is often been used by phytosociologists as first epithet in the names of several associations. For example, this is the case for the *Pistacia lentiscus* scrub ascribed to *Oleo-Lentiscetum* s.l. (Braun-Blanquet & Maire, 1924; Molinier 1954;

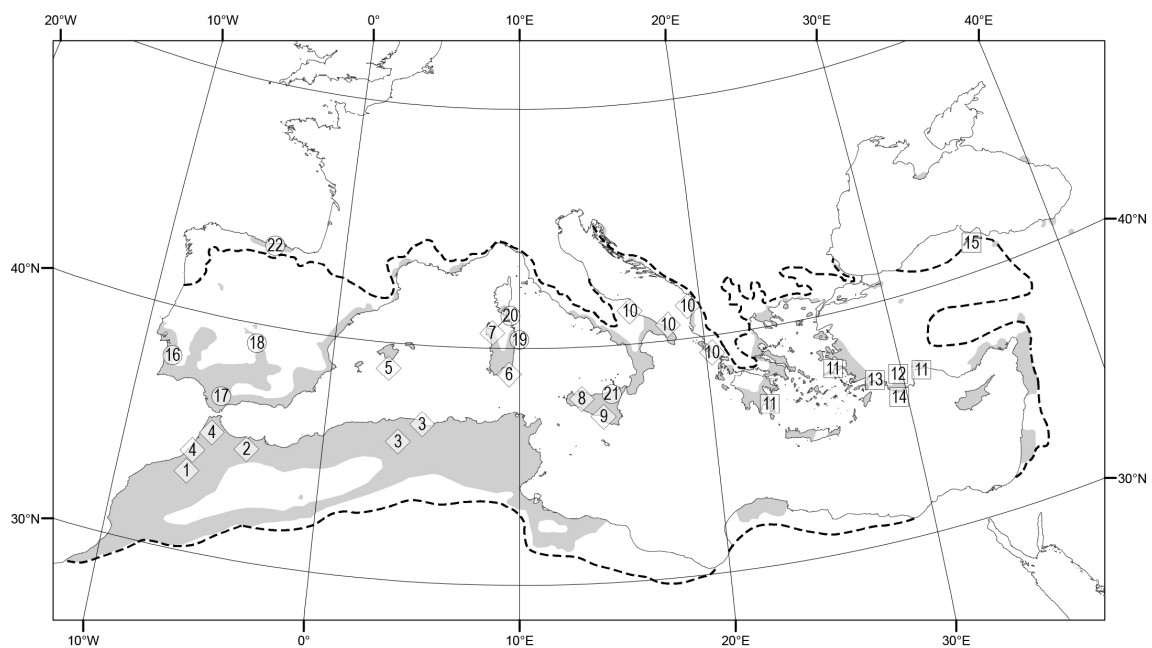


Fig. 1 - Distribution range of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (grey area) and boundaries of Mediterranean Region (dotted line) from Vargasi and Kadereit (2001, redrawn); numbers refer to the associations that have been described in the Mediterranean area up to now marked now and correspond to numbers reported in online Appendix I and Tab. 1.

Trinajstić, 1973, 1984a, etc.)] and for *Euphorbia dendroides* scrub belonging to *Oleo (oleastri)-Euphorbietum dendroidis* (Trinajstić, 1973, 1984a)]. These plant communities are widely distributed along the coasts of the Mediterranean area, as secondary or recovery aspects that occur throughout the entire basin, prompting some authors to propose their subdivision into multiple geographic synvariants (“races géographiques”), described for various regional areas (e.g., Gehù & Biondi, 1997). In any case, the constant, widespread presence of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* in the Mediterranean area shows its important syndynamic role towards Oleaster forest communities. These communities might also be expressions of series’ heads, however, due to the structural degradation caused by human activity, they have not always been recognized and described as forest formation (woods or microwoods).

Regarding the phytosociological interpretation of mature forest expressions of Oleaster distributed throughout the Mediterranean basin, many associations have already been described; in particular, they regard North-Africa (Barbero *et al.*, 1981; Quézel *et al.*, 1988; Amara, 2014), the Iberian Peninsula – in Spain (Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto 1991, Galan de la Mera, 2000, Rivas-Martínez 2002, Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002, Cantò *et al.*, in Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011) and Portugal (Costa *et al.*, 1994) –, the Balearic islands (Bolòs & Molinier, 1969; Bolòs, 1996), Sardinia (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003), Corsica (Paradis *et al.*, 2014), Turkey (Vural *et al.*, 1995, Karaer *et al.*, 2010, Korkmaz, 2011, Kurt *et al.*, 2015) and most recently, Sicily (Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2019).

Following the same approach, and partially based on the same field data from Gianguzzi *et al.*, (2019), this study aims to define a syntaxonomical panorama of the coenoses identified throughout the whole Mediterranean area, through a synoptic comparison of the various associations and subassociations described so far, aiming to characterize the main biogeographical and ecological aspects that determine the floristic-phytosociological variations in the different regional areas.

## Materials and methods

### Study area and vegetation data

In order to reconstruct an updated synoptic framework for the Oleaster forest formations of the Mediterranean area, representative phytosociological surveys from the literature were selected and analyzed together with other data collected by this research team, partly recently published by Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a, 2019b) and partly unpublished (i.e. Tab 2, rels. 1-2). These surveys were spread out over the entire area that potentially regards the Oleaster forest formations, ranging from 41°12’N to 33°22’N latitude and from 6°33’W to 35°27’E longitude. In order to be included

in the aforementioned survey set, stands were required to be high scrub, forests or micro-forests clearly dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* with coverage values  $\geq 4$  (using the Braun-Blanquet scale), with an average vegetation height of  $\geq 3$ -3.5 m, representing the most dynamically evolved aspects of the vegetation, i.e. as close as possible to the series head.

The considered formations regard North-Africa [Morocco (Barbero *et al.*, 1981, Quézel *et al.*, 1988, Benabid (1984), Amara 2014) and Algeria (Géhu *et al.*, 1992, 1994; Quézel & Santa, 1962-63)], Spain (Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto, 1991; Galan de Mera *et al.*, 2000; Rivas-Martínez, 2002, Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002; Cantò *et al.*, in Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011), Portugal (Costa *et al.*, 1994; Neto *et al.*, 2009), the Balearic Islands (Bolòs & Molinier, 1969; Bolòs *et al.*, 1970), Sardinia (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003), Corsica (Paradis *et al.*, 2014), Sicily (Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2019), The Balkan Peninsula (Trinajstić, 1984), Albania (unpublished data), Greece (Biondi & Gehu, 1987), Mediterranean Turkey (Quézel *et al.*, 1978; Géhu *et al.*, 1988; Arkman *et al.*, 1978; Vural *et al.*, 1995, Kurt *et al.*, 2015; Karaer *et al.*, 2010) and the Black Sea Region (Korkmaz, 2011). The complete data set consists of 330 relevés and the complete list of syntaxonomical references, locations and bibliographic sources are shown in the Appendix I available in the online Supplementary material.

The online database “The Plant List” (2013) and, in some cases, the Euro+Med Plantbase (Euro+Med, 2006-2019) were used for taxa nomenclature.

The “Biogeographic Map of Europe” (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2004) was used as a guide for biogeographic regionalization. The phytosociological nomenclature follows the “International Code of Phytosociological nomenclature” (Weber *et al.*, 2000); the nomenclature of sigmataxa refers to Rivas-Martínez (2005).

For each *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* coenoses analyzed, a schematic description of the structural, floristic, ecological and syntaxonomical characters is given. The “Short description” of orders and alliances is focused only on Oleaster formations.

Some pictures of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* coenoses and their typical species are available in Figs. 3 and 4 in the online Supplementary material.

### Data analysis

Based on the total set of phytosociological data, a synoptic matrix of 40 tables  $\times$  340 species was obtained. The matrix was analyzed statistically through the Principal component analysis (PCA), on pre-transformed species composition data using the Hellinger transformation, implemented in the RStudio (Version 1.1.463) free software with the Vegan package (Oksanen *et al.*, 2013). The statistical analysis matrix has been defined considering only “presence/absence of species”, in or-

der to highlight the diversity and floristic arrangement of the phytocoenoses.

To describe the correlation among environmental factors and communities, bioclimatic variables were projected into the space of ordination diagram by performing a multiple regression with the Vegan R package's "envfit" function (Oksanen, 2015). The bioclimatic indices [*T* - Mean annual temperature (°C); *Pp* - Annual positive precipitation (mm); *I<sub>tc</sub>* - Compensated thermicity index; *I<sub>o</sub>* - Annual ombrothermic index; *I<sub>c</sub>* - Simple continentality index] were calculated following Rivas-Martínez *et al.* (2011) using the "Climatologies at high resolution for the Earth's land surface (CHELSA)" dataset as source data (Karger *et al.*, 2017).

To evaluate the correspondence between the distribution of the Oleaster formations and bioclimatic types, we have performed a GIS analysis to build a new "Bioclimatic map of Mediterranean area" using GRASS GIS 7.6. Analytical and dichotomous keys for the definition of bioclimatic classes performed by the "Worldwide bioclimatic classification system" (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011) were translated into GRASS GIS scripts to compute the bioclimatic parameters and indices.

## Results

The comparison among the analyzed communities dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* throughout the entire Mediterranean area has shown that their remarkable floristic and physiognomic-structural homogeneity justifies their collocation in the class *Quercetea ilicis* (Barbero *et al.*, 1981; Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2001; Brullo *et al.*, 2008; Biondi *et al.*, 2014, etc.). In this frame, bio-geographic and ecological vicariance gives rise to subdivisions into different orders (*Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni*, *Quercetalia calliprini* and *Quercetalia ilicis*) and alliances, as shown in the following syntaxonomical outline.

A prospectus of the analyzed communities is reported in the online Appendix I, while published and unpublished phytosociological data are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Some pictures and maps illustrating the described vegetation types are reported in the Appendix II (available in the online Supplementary material) and in Figs. 1 and 2, while the results of the PCA are shown in Tab. 3 and Fig. 3. A brief description of the detected syntaxa is given after the syntaxonomical scheme.

Some syntaxa reported here have been described in a paper currently in press (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a). The identifier represented by the DOI identification code will allow a univoque connection with the mentioned paper. They are indicated here with the reference "Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019".

Regarding the syntaxonomical framework of the

analyzed Oleaster communities, the adopted scheme refers mainly to Mucina *et al.* (2016), with the only exception of the syntaxa ascribed to *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci*, here referred to the *Quercetalia calliprini* instead of *Pistacio lentisci-Rhamnetalia alaterni* Rivas-Martínez 1975 (according to Zohary & Orshan, 1959).

Cl. – *QUERCETEA ILICIS* Br.-Bl. in Br.-Bl., Roussine & Nègre 1952

1. Ord. *PISTACIO LENTISCI-RHAMNETALIA ALATERNI* Rivas-Martínez 1975

*Short description of the aspects here considered* – Woods, micro-woods and high scrub dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* linked to the infra- and thermomediterranean bioclimatic belts with ombrotype between lower sub-humid – semiarid and lower subhumid, with penetrations into the meso-Mediterranean. They are part of the following alliances – *Tetraclini articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae* (arid and semi-arid continental regions of the Maghreb), *Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis* (Iberian-Maghreb regions from semi-arid to sub-humid) and *Oleo sylvestris-Ceratonion siliquae* (carbonate substrates of the central Mediterranean area) (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2001, 2002; Bacchetta *et al.* 2004; Mucina *et al.*, 2016).

*Diagnostic species* – *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus*, *Anagyris foetida*, *Arbutus unedo*, *Asparagus albus*, *Aristolochia navicularis*, *Asparagus aphyllus*, *Bupleurum fruticosum*, *Calicotome villosa*, *Celtis australis*, *Ceratonion siliqua*, *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Ephedra foeminea* (= *E. campylopoda*), *Ephedra fragilis*, *Euphorbia characias*, *Euphorbia bivonae*, *Genista linifolia*, *Jasminum fruticans*, *Juniperus phoenicea* var. *turbinata*, *Lycium intricatum*, *Myrtus communis*, *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, *Osyris alba*, *Phagnalon saxatile* var. *viride*, *Periploca laevigata* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Phlomis fruticosa*, *Pinus halepensis*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Prasium majus*, *Punica granatum*, *Quercus coccifera* (= *Q. calliprinos*), *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *oleoides*, *Teucrium fruticans*, *Ziziphus lotus*, *Rhamnus alaternus*.

A) *TETRACLINI ARTICULATAE-PISTACION ATLANTICAE* Rivas-Martínez, Costa & Izco 1986

*Short description* – Pre-forest aspects, scrub and thermophilous to evergreen sclerophyllous woods of the arid and semiarid continental regions of the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), in the lower thermo- and mesomediterranean bioclimate belts, with an arid, semi-arid or dry ombrotype and continental character (Quézel & Barbero, 1986; Meddour, 2010).

*Diagnostic species* – *Asparagus altissimus*, *Asragalus chlorostachis*, *Pistacia atlantica*, *Searsia penthaphylla*, *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Teucrium atra-*

tum, *Withania frutescens* (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 1986; Hadjadj-Aoul & Loisel, 1999; Meddour, 2010).

*Syntaxonomic notes* – Fennane (1988) suggests that the syntaxon is of dubious value, since it had been originally created to accommodate mainly *Tetraclinis* dominated associations. Hadjadj-Aoul & Loisel (1999) as well as Meddour (2010) have cited it for Algeria.

Suball. *PISTACIENION ATLANTICAE* Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez 1981

*Short description* – Scrub from semi-arid and continental areas of central Morocco (Barbero *et al.*, 1981; Quézel & Barbero, 1986; Meddour, 2010). According to Meddour (2010) the sub-alliance should also be indicated for Algeria where *Pistacia atlantica* is absent, but *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *atlantica* is present, which is sub-endemic to the regions of Morocco and Algeria. The latter – not reported in Algeria by Quézel & Santa (1962-63) – is nonetheless indicated on limestone rocks by Jebel Ghoufi at Aurès (Maire, 1937).

*Diagnostic species* – *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Pistacia atlantica*, *Rhus pentaphylla*, *Asparagus altissimus*, *Rhamnus oleoides* subsp. *atlantica* (Barbero *et al.*, 1981; Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 1986; Fennane 1988).

1) *PHILLYREO LATIFOLIAE-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova *hoc loco*

*Synonyms* – *Phillyrea latifoliae-Oleetum sylvestris* Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez 1981 *nom. inval.* (Art. 5, ICPN - Weber *et al.*, 2000).

*Lectotypus* (designated here) – Rel. 3, Tab. 18, in Barbero *et al.* 1981 (Phytocoenol. 9(3), p. 358).

*Syntaxonomic note* – The association is lectotypified here, because it is described without indicating a *typus* (Barbero *et al.*, 1981). Regarding syntaxonomy, the same authors initially placed it in the suballiance *Pistacienion atlanticae* – which in turn referred to the alliance *Asparago albidi-Rhamnion oleoidis* (*Pistacio lentisci-Rhamnetalia alaterni*, *Quercetea ilicis*) –, which was then transferred to the alliance *Tetraclinis articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae* (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 1986).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 1 (from Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez 1981: Tab. 18).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Pistacia atlantica*, *Searsia pentaphylla*, *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Astragalus chlorostachys*.

*Short description* – Microwoods and maquis dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 4-5 m high, typical of steep slopes, on colluvial soils, at altitudes between 300 and 700 m a.s.l. It is associated with various thermophilous elements (*Pistacia lentiscus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Prasium maius*, *Asparagus albus*, *Clematis*

*cirrhusa*, *Osyris quadripartita*, *Jasminum fruticosus*, *Lonicera implexa*, *Pulicaria odora*, etc.) and species from the suballiance *Pistacienion atlanticae* (*Pistacia atlantica*, *Searsia pentaphylla*, *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Astragalus chlorostachys*). The herbaceous layer is sparse and rich in epiphytic lichens.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean semi-arid).

*Substrates* – Schist, sandstone, quartzite, flysch, etc.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, North-African (Moroccan-Atlantic), thermomediterranean semi-arid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Calicotomo intermediae-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Synchorology* – North-Africa, in Morocco: Western slopes of impluvia that affect the Central Plateau, regions of Sidi Bettache (Kouriflat gorge, hinterland of the region of Khatouat; Barbero *et al.*, 1981).

2) *CALICOTOMO INTERMEDIÆ-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Quézel, Barbero, Benabid, Loisel & Rivas-Martínez ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova *hoc loco*

*Lectotypus* (designated here) – Rel. 3, Tab. 8, in Quézel *et al.*, 1988 (Ecol. Medit. 14, p. 106).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 2 (from Quézel *et al.*, 1988: Tab. 8).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Searsia pentaphylla*, *Asparagus altissimus*, *Withania frutescens*, *Calicotome infesta* subsp. *intermedia*, *Arisarum simorrhinum*, *Lycium intricatum*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *oleoides*.

*Short description* – Residual forest formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, which is associated with *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Ephedra fragilis*, *Calicotome infesta* subsp. *intermedia*, as well as particular thermophilous elements, including *Withania frutescens*, *Lycium intricatum* and *Arisarum simorrhinum* (Quézel *et al.*, 1988). In the coastal regions of eastern Morocco *Ballota nigra*, *Chamaerops humilis* and *Ziziphus lotus* are also present (Aimè, 1991; Amara, 2014).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean semiarid-dry).

*Substrates* – Marls, clays, shales, etc..

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, North-African (Moroccan-Algerian), thermo- and mesomediterranean semiarid-dry, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Calicotomo intermediae-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Synchorology* – Morocco (Eastern coastal zone, in the province of Al-Hoseyma; Amara, 2014) and Algeria (Tell Oranais; Aimè, 1991).

*Syntaxonomic note* – The association is lectotypified here, since it is described by Quézel *et al.* (1988) without indicating the *typus*; it is indicated for the coastal regions of eastern Morocco and included in the alliance *Tetraclinis articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae*.

3) *BUPLEURO FRUTICOSI-EUPHORBBIETUM DENDROIDIS* Géhu, Kaabeche & Gharzouli 1992

*Holotypus* – Rel. 2, Tab. 1 in Géhu *et al.* (1992, p. 317).

*Syntaxonomic note* – The association has been described by Géhu *et al.* (1992) as *Bupleuro (fruticosae)-Euphorbietum dendroidis*, based on a table with only three relevés. It should be noted that in two of them – including the holotypus indicated by the authors – the dominant entity is *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (a woody layer species) and not *Euphorbia dendroides*. Although the described vegetation shows a partial degradation – depicted as “... parfois incendiées ...” –, the formations are probably two different syndynamic aspects that tend towards an *Oleastretum s.l.* The physiognomic heterogeneity of the relevés in the table and the choice of the holotypus have led to a misinterpretation of the described vegetation and consequently the name *Bupleuro (fruticosae)-Euphorbietum* should be considered *nomen ambiguum* (ICPN, Art. 36 - Weber *et al.*, 2000). Indeed, the table should be divided into 2 syntaxa of the same rank: one an *Oleetum*, as a forest vegetation series head; and the other, an *Euphorbietum*, as a secondary maquis aspect (ICPN, Art. 24 - Weber *et al.*, 2000). However, given the lack of data, we prefer to not discuss the current nomenclature, which should be reconsidered after further phytosociological investigations in the same territory.

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 3a (from Géhu, Kaabeche & Gharzouli 1992: Tab. 1, rels. 2-3) and 3b (from Guinochet 1980: rel. 8 in Tab. 6, sub *Prasio-Oleetum tetraclinetosum*).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Bupleurum fruticosum*, *Teucrium atratum*, *Asparagus altissimus*, *Ruscus hypophyllum*, *Rhamnus myrtifolia*, *Jasminum fruticans*.

*Short description* – Wood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, linked to coastal cliffs and carbonate outcrops, up to around 600-650 m a.s.l.. Various other species of the order *Pistacio-Rhamneta lia alaterni* are associated, as well as endemic elements (*Teucrium atratum* and *Asparagus altissimus*) and taxa that are rare in similar formations, such as *Bupleurum fruticosum*, *Ruscus hypophyllum*, *Rhamnus myrtifolia*, *Jasminum fruticans* (Géhu *et al.*, 1992).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry-subhumid).

*Substrates* – Carbonate.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, North-African (Algerian), thermomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of *Euphorbia dendroides* and *Oleaster (Bupleuro fruticosi-Euphorbio dendroidis sigmetum)*.

*Synchorology* – Algeria: Capo Carbon near Béjaïa (Géhu *et al.*, 1992); northern slope of Djebel Haïrech (Guinochet, 1980).

B) *ASPARAGO ALBI-RHAMNION OLEOIDIS* Rivas Goday ex Rivas-Martínez 1975

*Short description* – Preforest aspects, shrubland and thermophilous sclerophyllous evergreen woods of the southern regions of the Iberian Peninsula and of the Maghreb-Tangerian section of North-Africa, connected to the thermomediterranean belt with an ombrotype from upper semiarid to oceanic subhumid (Meddour *et al.*, 2017).

*Synonym* – *Oleo-Ceratonion siliquae* (*sensu auct. maghrebianum*, not *Oleo-Ceratonion siliquae* Braun-Blanquet ex Guinochet & Drouineau 1944).

*Diagnostic species* – *Aristolochia baetica*, *Asparagus aphyllus*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *oleoides*, *Calicotome infesta* subsp. *intermedia* (diff. reg.).

*Syntaxonomic note* – As shown by Meddour *et al.* (2017), the name *Oleo-Ceratonion siliquae* Braun-Blanquet ex Guinochet & Drouineau 1944 has often been used by phytosociology authors from the Maghreb region to identify the sclerophyllous scrub of the semiarid to subhumid thermomediterranean belt. However, according to other authors (e.g. Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011; Biondi *et al.*, 2014) this alliance should be limited to the central Mediterranean (Spanish-Catalan coasts, northwestern part of Spain including the Balearic Islands, the coasts of the Italian Peninsula to the amphiadriatic coasts, including Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily and several other small ones of the Sicilian Channel); in southern Spain and North-Africa, *Oleo-Ceratonion* is thus replaced by *Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis* (Meddour *et al.*, 2017).

4) *TAMO COMMUNIS-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galàn de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996

*OLEETOSUM SYLVESTRIS* Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galàn de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996

*Lectotypus* (ass. and subass.) – Rel. 3, Tab. 2 in Benadid, 1984 (Trav. Inst. Sci. Sér. Bot. 34, p. 8), designated in Pérez Latorre *et al.* (1996, p. 225).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 4.1 (from Benadid 1984: Tab. 2, rels. 12-30).

*Diagnostic species* – Ass. and subass. *typicum*: *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Rosa sempervirens*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Arum italicum*, *Vinca difformis*, *Allium triquetrum*, *Acanthus mollis*.

*Short description* – Climacic forest formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, as tall as 12-15 m; *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Quercus coccifera* and *Phillyrea latifolia* are associated in the woody layer, with a rich presence of climbers such as *Smilax aspera*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Aristolochia baetica* and *Rosa sempervirens*.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid-humid).

*Substrate* – Clay marls, on colluvial soils.

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, North-African (Moroccan), thermo- and mesomediterranean subhumid-humid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Tamo communis-Olea sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Synchorology* – Morocco, Western Rif, from the Mediterranean coast to the Tangerian Peninsula (Rharb, Trifa, Sais, Doukkala, Tadla etc.) (Benabid, 1984; Pérez Latorre *et al.*, 1996).

**FRAXINETOSUM ANGUSTIFOLIAE** Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galàn de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996

*Lectotypus* – Rel. 3, Tab. 2 in Benabid, 1984 (Trav. Inst. Sci. Sér. Bot. 34, p. 8), designated in Pérez Latorre *et al.* (1996, p. 260).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 4.2 (from Benabid 1984: Tab. 2, rels. 1-4).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Hedera canariensis*.

*Short description* – Wood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* tied to rich and humid soils, more than 10 m tall, differentiated by the presence of *Fraxinus angustifolia* and *Hedera canariensis* in the woody layer.

*Substrate* – Shales and marls.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermo- and mesomediterranean dry-subhumid).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, North-African (Moroccan), thermo- and mesomediterranean subhumid dry-subhumid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Tamo communis-Oleeto sylvestris fraxino angustifoliae* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Morocco, Western Rif, from the Mediterranean coast to the Tangerian peninsula (Rharb, Trifa, Sais, Doukkala, Tadla etc.) (Benabid, 1984; Pérez Latorre *et al.*, 1996).

**C) OLEO SYLVESTRIS-CERATONION SILIQUAE** Br.-Bl. 1936 ex Guinochet & Drouineau em. Rivas-Martínez 1975

*Short description* – Preforest aspects, scrub and thermophilous to sclerophyllous woods from the northwestern part of Spain (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011), to the coastal shores of the Italian peninsula and the amphiadriatic coasts, including the Balearic Islands, Corsica, Sardinia and the Islands of the Sicilian channel (Biondi *et al.*, 2014). These formations are tied to the infra-, thermo- and mesomediterranean bioclimatic belts with a semiarid to subhumid ombrotype.

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Chamaerops humilis*, *Ruta chalepensis*, *Teucrium flavum*, *Artemisia arborescens*, *Asparagus horridus*, *Arum pictum*, *Calicotome villosa*, *Pinus halepensis*.

5) **PRASIO MAJORIS-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS** O. Bolòs de & Molinier 1969.

*Lectotypus* – In Bolòs & Molinier, 1969 (Vegetatio 17(1), p. 257-258).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 5a (from Bolòs & Molinier 1969: rel. 1, p. 257) and 5b (from Bolòs *et al.*, 1970: Tab. 2).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Arisarum vulgare*, *Prasium majus*, *Clematis cirrhosa* var. *balearica*, *Rubia peregrina* var. *longifolia*, *Asparagus horridus*, *Cyclamen balearicum*, *Smilax aspera* var. *balearica*.

*Short description* – Wood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 5-6 (10) m tall, typical of more or less xeric rocky coasts (online Appendix II, Fig. 1a). It is often associated with scrub and climber elements (*Pistacia lentiscus*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Lonicera implexa*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Rubia peregrina* var. *longifolia*, *Prasium majus*, *Arisarum vulgare*, etc.) as well as some particular entities, including *Cyclamen balearicum*, *Clematis cirrhosa* var. *balearica*, *Asparagus stipularis* (online Appendix II, Fig. 1b) and *Smilax aspera* var. *balearica* (Bolòs & Molinier 1969; Bolòs *et al.*, 1970; Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 1992; Bolòs, 1996).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry-subhumid).

*Substrate* – Mesozoic limestone and dolomite, calcarenite and Miocene calcilutite (Fornós & Gelabert, 2011).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Minorcan (Balearic Islands), thermomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Prasio majoris-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Synchorology* – Spain, in the Balearic Islands: Islands of Menorca and, more rarely, Mallorca (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 1992).

6) **ASPARAGO ALBI-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS** Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Holotypus* – Rel. 29, Tab. 4, in Bacchetta *et al.* (2003, p. 52).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 6 (from Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003, Tab. 4).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Asparagus albus*, *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Chamaerops humilis*.

*Short description* – Microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 5-6 (8) m tall, tied to coastal slopes up to about 300 m a.s.l. (online Appendix II, Fig. 1d). It is often associated with elements of the Mediterranean maquis, including *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Asparagus albus* (online Appendix II, Fig. 1c), *Chamaerops humilis* – indicated as components of the characteristic composition –, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Myr-*



*tus communis*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Arisarum vulgare*, etc. (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry-subhumid).

*Substrate* – Oligo-Miocene trachytes and andesites, basalts, Mesozoic and Miocene limestones, marls, sandstones, etc. (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2009).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sardinian), mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, indifferent edaphic series of Oleaster (*Asparago albi-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum; Bacchetta *et al.*, 2009, 2010).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in Sardinia, coastal belt of the whole island area (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2009).

7) *ASPARAGO ACUTIFOLII-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Loniceretosum implexae* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Holotypus* (ass. and subass.) – Rel. 31, Tab. 3, in Bacchetta *et al.* (2003, p. 52).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 7.1 (from Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003: Tab. 3, rels. 31-32).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Asparagus acutifolius*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Lonicera implexa*, *Prasium majus*.

*Short description* – Microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 5-6 (8) m tall, tied to sunny slopes, with decapitated or eroded soils that have been intensively grazed, up to about 200 m a.s.l. Associated elements from the maquis include *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Asparagus acutifolius*, *Prasium majus* and *Lonicera implexa* – indicated components of the characteristic combination – as well as *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Osyris alba*, *Smilax aspera*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Rosa sempervirens*, etc.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (mesomediterranean dry-subhumid).

*Substrate* – Oligo-Miocene limestones.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sardinian), mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Asparago acutifolii-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum; Bacchetta *et al.*, 2009).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in Sardinia: coastal belt of the central-northern part of the Island (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003, 2009, 2010).

*ANAGYRIETOSUM PHOETIDAE* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Holotypus* – Rel. 24, Tab. 3, in Bacchetta *et al.* (2003, p. 52).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 7.2 (from Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003: Tab. 3, rels. 21, 24 and 32)

*Short description* – Microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* tied to sunny slopes, preferring stations richer in organic matter

(Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003). Differential species are *Anagyris phoetida*, generally present with high coverage and sociability values, as well as *Ruscus aculeatus* and *Arum pictum*.

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Asparagus acutifolius*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Prasium majus*, in addition to *Anagyris foetida*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Arum pictum*.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (lower mesomediterranean with an ombrotype between upper dry and lower sub-humid).

*Substrates* – Oligo-Miocene limestones, with soils rich in organic substance.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sardinian), mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Asparago acutifolii-Oleo sylvestris anagyrio phoetidae* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in Sardinia: coastal belt of the central-northern part (Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003, 2009, 2010).

8) *RUTO CHALEPENSIS-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 3, Tab. S1, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Ruta chalepensis* and *Pistacia terebintus*.

*Short description* – High scrub formation, microwood or wood dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, from 3-4 to 7-8 (10) m tall, typical of quite xeric, rupestral and semirupestral stations, from (15) 50-60 m and 400 (720) m a.s.l. (online Appendix II, Fig. 2a). It is frequently associated with *Euphorbia dendroides*, sclerophyllous shrubs (*Pistacia lentiscus*, *Pistacia terebintus*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, etc.), climbers (*Asparagus acutifolius*, *Smilax aspera*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, etc.) and understory species (*Ruta chalepensis*, *Prasium majus*, *Asparagus albus*, *Teucrium fruticans*, *T. flavum*, *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus*).

*Synchorology* – Italy, coastal belt of Sicily and its minor islands (Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019a).

*OLEETOSUM SYLVESTRIS* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 3, Tab. S1, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Diagnostic species* – See ass.

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 8.1 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a: Tab. S1, rels. 1-12).

*Substrate* – Limestones, dolomites, marls, etc. (Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2015a, 2015b).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry-subhumid, with penetrations into the infra-mesomediterranean).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous and edapho-

xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian), infra-, thermo- and mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleo sylvestris oleo sylvestris* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in Sicily: Hyblaean Mountains, Peloritan Mountains, Nebrodi Mountains, Madonie Mountains and Sicani Mountains (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

#### CERCIDETOSUM SILIQUASTRI Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 15, Tab. S1, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 8.2 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a: Tab. S1, rels. 14-16).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Ruta chalepensis* and *Pistacia terebinthus* subsp. *terebinthus*, as well as *Cercis siliquastrum* and *Pennisetum setaceum*.

*Substrate* – Consolidated breccias or xeric river pebbly riverbeds on limestone or calcareous-dolomite reliefs.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 1996, 2006, 2015a, 2015b; Gianguzzi & La Mantia, 2000).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian), thermomediterranean dry, calcicolous-detritic series of Oleaster (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleo sylvestris cercido siliquastrum* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in northwestern Sicily: Mount Pellegrino (Palermo) and Mount Sparacio (Trapani) (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

#### CELTIDETOSUM AUSTRALIS Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 3, Tab. S1, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 8.3 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a: Tab. S1, rels. 17-20).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Ruta chalepensis* and *Pistacia terebinthus* subsp. *terebinthus*, as well as *Celtis australis*.

*Substrate* – Basaltic vulcanite (Gianguzzi *et al.*, 1996, 2015a, 2015b).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian), thermomediterranean dry, volcanic basalt series of Oleaster (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleo sylvestris celtido* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in eastern Sicily (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a): coastal area between Fontanarossa and Giarre (Catania).

#### EUPHORBIAETOSUM BIVONAE Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 21, Tab. S2, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 8.4 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019a: Tab. S2, rels. 21-43).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Ruta chalepensis* and *Pistacia terebinthus* subsp. *terebinthus*, as well as *Euphorbia bivonae* and *Artemisia arborescens*.

*Substrate* – Limestone-dolomite lithosols.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry-subhumid; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2010, 2014, 2016; Raimondo *et al.*, 2000).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian), infra-, thermos and mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleo sylvestris euphorbio bivonae* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in northwestern Sicily (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a): between Palermo and Trapani's coasts (between Mount S. Calogero in Termini Imerese and M. Erice, near Trapani), Sciacca and the southern part of the Sicani Mountains (Pizzo Telegrafo and the southern slope of M. Genuardo; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2010).

#### RHAMNETOSUM OLEOIDIS Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 46, Tab. S3, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1 col. 8.5 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019a, Tab. S3, rels. 44-54).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Ruta chalepensis* and *Pistacia terebinthus* subsp. *terebinthus*, as well as *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *oleoides* (online Appendix II, Fig. 2b), *Lonicera implexa*, *Aristolochia navicularis* and *Phagnalon saxatile* var. *viride*.

*Substrate* – Limestone-calcarenite lithosols.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (infra- and thermomediterranean with an ombrotype that ranges from semiarid to dry).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous and edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Aegadian Islands), inframediterranean dry, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleo sylvestris rhamno oleoidis* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in Sicily: Aegadian Islands: Levanzo (Capo Grosso), Favignana (Mount Santa Caterina) and Marettimo (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

#### PERIPLOCETOSUM ANGUSTIFOLIAE Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 57, Tab. S3, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Ruta chalepensis* and *Pistacia terebinthus* subsp. *terebinthus*, as well as *Periploca angustifolia* (online Appendix II, Fig. 2c), *Lycium intricatum*, *Juniperus turbinata*.

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 8.6 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019a: Tab. S3, rels. 55-59).

*Substrate* – Volcanic lithosols (Gianguzzi, 1999, 2017).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (infra-thermomediterranean, with a semi-arid to dry ombrotype; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2015a, 2015b).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (islands of the Sicily Channel), infra- and thermomediterranean semiarid-dry, indifferent edaphic series of Oleaster (*Ruta chalepensis*-*Oleo sylvestris* *periploca angustifoliae* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, on the islands of the Sicily Channel: Linosa and Pantelleria Inlands (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

#### 9) CHAMAEROPO HUMILIS-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 83, Tab. S4, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Chamaerops humilis*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Acanthus mollis*.

*Short description* – High scrub formation or xerothermophile woods of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 3-4 to 7-8 (10) m tall, typical of sandy-calcarenite and fossil dune environments, up to 150-200 m a.s.l.. It is associated with woody sclerophyllous elements (*Chamaerops humilis*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Teucrium fruticans*, etc.), climbers (*Smilax aspera*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Asparagus acutifolius*) and understory species (*Asparagus albus*, *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus*, *Osyris alba*, *Arisarum vulgare*, *Allium subhirsutum*, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, etc.).

#### ACANTHETOSUM MOLLIDIS Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – The same of the association.

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 9.1 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a: Tab. S4, rels. 60-87).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Chamaerops humilis*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, in addition to *Acanthus mollis*, which is generally frequent in the understory.

*Substrate* – Coastal calcarenite.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (infra-thermomediterranean, with an ombrotype that varies between semiarid and subhumid; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2012a).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous and edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian), infra- and

thermomediterranean semiarid- subhumid, calcarenitic series of Oleaster (*Chamaerops humilis*-*Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, Sicily: coastal belt of the southern and northwestern part (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

#### EPHEDRETOSUM FRAGILIS Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 95, Tab. S5, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 9.2 (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a: Tab. S5, rels. 88-103).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Chamaerops humilis*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, in addition to *Ephedra fragilis*, in general present with elevated coverage values, making the formation even more dense and impenetrable.

*Substrate* – Sand, fossil dunes and calcarenite outcrops.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (infra-thermomediterranean, with an ombrotype between semiarid and subhumid).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous (subhalophilous), Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian), infra- and thermomediterranean semiarid-subhumid, sandy-calcarenitic series of Oleaster (*Chamaerops humilis*-*Oleo sylvestris* *ephedro fragilis* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Italy, in Sicily: coastal belt between the Jato Valley and Castellammare del Golfo, and near Acate (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

#### 10) HIPPOCREPIDO EMEROIDIS-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS ass. nova

*Holotypus* – Rel. 2, Tab. 2.

*Syntaxonomic note* – Gehù & Biondi (1997) emphasize that the classical association *Oleo-Euphorbieum dendroidis*, as described by Trinajstić (1973, 1984a), should be interpreted as a macrophytocoenosis of “*Euphorbia dendroides* scrubs”, widely distributed along the coasts of the Mediterranean. The same authors later proposed its subdivision into geosynvicariants (“races géographiques”) and described the *Coronillo emeroidis-Euphorbietum dendroidis* [= *Oleo-Euphorbietum dendroidis* subass. *coronilletosum emeroidis* Trinajstić (1973) 1984] for the Balkan area, which was later also recognized also for the Apennine slope (Biondi *et al.*, 2002; Bianco *et al.*, 1984). Within the range of the latter association, the formations dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* – representing climacic and edaphic-climacic aspects as woods, microwoods and high maquis – should be referred to the new phytocoenosis here described.

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col.10 [Tab. 2: rels. 1-2 (rels. ined.); 3-8, from Trinajstić 1984a (Tab. 2, rels. 1-3 and 6-7)].

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Hippocrepis emerus* subsp. *emeroides* (= *Coronilla emerus* subsp. *emeroides*, *Emerus major* subsp. *emeroides*), *Ephedra foeminea* (= *E. campilopoda*), *Punica granatum*.

*Short description* – Wood or xerophile scrub formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (online Appendix II, Fig. 1e). It is tall 5-6 (8) m, and connected to coastal and subcoastal carbonate lithophile slopes. The coenosis is differentiated by the presence of *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Hippocrepis emerus* subsp. *emeroides* and eastern Mediterranean gravitating elements, such as *Ephedra foeminea* (online Appendix II, Fig. 1f), *Colutea arborescens*, *Punica granatum* and *Paliurus spina-christi* (Trinajstić, 1973, 1984a, 1984b).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluvisesonal-oceanic (mesomediterranean subhumid-humid).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, amphiadriatic (Italo-Balkan), mesomediterranean subhumid-humid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Hippocrepido emeroidis*-*Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Synchorology* – Some phytosociological relevés dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* published by Trinajstić sub *Oleo-Euphorbietum* subass. *coronilletosum emeroidis* (1975: Tab. 1, rels. 1 and 3; 1984a: Tab. 2, rels. 1-3 and 6-7) have been ascribed to this coenosis. On the basis of phytosociological literature, this syntaxon denotes a wide distributive potential in different areas of the Balkan peninsula, e.g. the Dubrovnik region (Fascetti & Veri, 1984), Pelješac peninsula, minor islands near Korčula, Jabuka Island (Trinajstić 1984b), Velika Palagruža, Mala Palagruža (Pavletić, 1984), Mana, Kornati Archipelago (Gažibaskova, and Bedalov, 1983), Ciovo Island, coast from Montenegrino to Budva (Pulević 1970; Trinajstić 1975), and in Italian peninsula, at Conero (Biondi *et al.*, 2002) and Puglia (Bianco *et al.*, 1984). Aspects of the association have also been detected by us in Albania, near Porto Palermo (rels. 1-2 in Tab. 2).

## 2. Ord. QUERCETALIA CALLIPRINI Zohary 1955

*Short description of the aspects here considered* – Microwood, wood or scrub formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* of the infra-thermomediterranean bioclimate belt with an ombrotype between lower subhumid to semi-arid and subhumid-humid. On the syntaxonomic aspect, these formations are here considered only with reference to the *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci* alliance.

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Prasium majus*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *oleoides*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *graecus*, *Myrtus communis*, *Jasminum fruticans*, *Calicotome villosa*, *Arbutus unedo*, *Phlomis fruticosa*,

*Arisarum simorrhinum*, *Pistacia palaestina*, *Rubia tenuifolia*, *Punica granatum*, *Genista acanthoclada*, *Arbutus andrachne*, *Daphne gnidioides*, *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*, *Quercus aucheri*, *Dorystachys hastata*, *Micromeria nervosa*, *Rhamnus palaestina*, *Daphne sericea*, *Juniperus foetidissima*, *Phlomis bourgaei*, *Cyclamen persicum*, *Paliurus spina-christi*, *Ephedra major*, *Pinus brutia*.

## D) CERATONIO SILIQUAE-PISTACION LENTISCI Zohary et Orshan 1959

*Synonyms* – *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci* Zohary 1955; *Ceratonio-Pistacion creticum* Zohary & Orshan 1966; *Ceratonio-Rhamnion oleoidis* Barbero & Quézel 1979; *Ceratonio siliquae-Rhamnion oleoidis* Barbero & Quézel ex Quézel *et al.* 1993.

*Syntaxonomic note* – Unlike Mucina *et al.* (2016) who put this alliance within the order *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni*, we consider to classify the *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci* within the order *Quercetalia calliprini* (according to Zohary & Orshan, 1959); in fact, as shown in the synoptic table (Tab. 1, col. 11a-15b), the coenosis includes a prominent group of East-Mediterranean species belonging to the order *Quercetalia calliprini*.

*Short description* – Termomediterranean sclerophyllous xerophilous evergreen woods and maquis dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* of the eastern Mediterranean.

*Diagnostic species* – See order.

## 11) RUBIO TENUIFOLIAE-EUPHORBIETUM DENDROIDIS Géhu, Costa & Uslu 1988

*Holotypus* – Rel. 4, Tab. 1, in Géhu *et al.* (1988, p. 609).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 11a (from Géhu *et al.*, 1988: Tab. 1, rel. 4) and col. 11b (from Biondi & Géhu, 1987: Tab. 1, rels. 1-3).

*Syntaxonomic note* – The association was described by Géhu *et al.* (1988) for the southern shores of Turkey; however, in the holotype indicated by the authors, the physiognomically dominant species is *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (component of the tree layer) and not *Euphorbia dendroides* (a low open maquis species). Therefore, it would be a nomen ambiguum (ICPN, Art. 36 - Weber *et al.*, 2000). The relevés of the original table might be divided into 2 syntaxa of the same rank: an *Oleetum*, as a forest vegetation series head; and an *Euphorbietum*, as a maquis secondary aspect (ICPN, art. 24 - Weber *et al.*, 2000). However also, in this case, given the lack of data at a broader scale, in this case we prefer to maintain the name coined by Géhu *et al.* (1988) at the moment.

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Rubia tenuifolia* subsp. *tenuifolia*, *Genista acanthoclada*, *Daphne gnidioides*,

*Rhamnus oleoides*.

*Short description* – Scrub, wood or microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, up to 6-7 m high, associated with rocky carbonatic substrates, widespread from maritime areas to inland hills, up to 400-600 m a.s.l., with a predominantly southern exposure. *Euphorbia dendroides* and various other species from *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni* are associated with it, together with Aegean elements or those tending towards the eastern Mediterranean, such as *Rubia tenuifolia* subsp. *tenuifolia*, *Genista acanthoclada*, *Pistacia palaestina*, *Daphne gnidioides*, *Rhamnus oleoides* subsp. *graecus* (Gehu *et al.*, 1988).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry-subhumid).

*Substrate* – Limestone.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Aegean-Turkish, thermomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of *Euphorbia dendroides* and Oleaster (*Rubio tenuifolii-Euphorbio dendroidis* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – The association has been described by Géhu *et al.* (1988) for the southwestern coasts of Turkey (Kas region), extending to the Aegean region and even further east to Antalya. In the Aegean area, the same authors – in reference to the studies of Davis (1965-88) and Carlstrom (1987) – identified another potential distribution area also in the eastern Sporades of the Dodecanese and the nearby islands southwestern of Turkey. Akman *et al.* (1978, 1979) identified similar aspects for various points of Taurus, in Anatolia.

12) *JUNIPERO FOETIDISSIMAE-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* ass. nova

*Holotypus* – In Arkman *et al.*, 1978 (rel. 2, in Tab. p. 24).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 12 (from Arkman *et al.*, 1978: Tab. p. 24).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* subsp. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Juniperus foetidissima*, *Arbutus andrachne*, *Cupressus sempervirens*.

*Short description* – Xerophilous microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 6-7 m high, tied to compact rocky carbonatic substrates with poor topsoil. Frequent species in the tree layer are *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Phillyrea media*, *Pistacia palestina*, as well as *Juniperus foetidissima*, a species whose distribution extends from southeastern Europe to Western Asia, and whose presence around the Köprülü Canyon is remarkable because it is located in the thermomediterranean (Akman *et al.*, 1978).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid-humid).

*Substrate* – Compact limestone.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Turkish (North-Anatolian), thermomediterranean subhumid-humid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Ceratonio*

*siculae-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Mediterranean Turkey, in the Köprülü Canyon region (North of Antalya; Akman *et al.*, 1978).

13) *QUERCO AUCHERI-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Vural, Duman, Güner, Dönmez & Şağban 1995

*Holotypus* – Rel. 570, Tab. 5, in Vural *et al.* (1995, p. 451).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 13 (from Vural *et al.*, 1995: Tab. 5, rels. 555-573).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* subsp. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Quercus aucheri*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Daphne gnidioides*, *Crepis zacintha*, *Picris altissima*, *Sedum rubens*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Phlomis lycia*, *Onosma frutescens*.

*Short description* – Microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 4-5 (6) m high, typical of rocky outcrops and detritic slopes. In the tree layer are often associated *Quercus aucheri* – a species that is spread throughout the Aegean islands of Greece and parts of Anatolian Turkey (Quézel *et al.*, 1978, 1980; Aykut *et al.*, 2017) – and *Phillyrea latifolia*. Other characteristic and differential species include *Daphne gnidioides*, *Picris altissima*, *Crepis zacintha*, *Sedum rubens*, *Quercus coccifera*, *Phlomis lycia*, *Onosma frutescens* and *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (infra- and thermomediterranean with subhumid-humid ombrotype).

*Substrate* – Limestones and alluvial deposits.

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous and edapho-xerophilous, Aegean-Turkish, infra- and thermomediterranean subhumid-humid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Quercus aucheri-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Mediterranean Turkey, in the province of Muğla (Köyceğiz-Dalyan Nature Reserve; Vural *et al.*, 1995).

*Syntaxonomic note* – In the table of associations published by the authors (Tab. 5 in Vural *et al.*, 1995), two distinct relevés blocks stand out. The typical aspect of the association – called subass. *daphnetosum gnidioides* – regards the relevés distinguished by a certain dominance of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (rels. 555-573); the relevés referring to subass. *pinetosum brutiae* (rels. 823-826) show a distinct dominance of *Quercus aucheri* – with coverage values equal to 4 or 5 –, with low values of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, in addition to differences in the floristic community. Given the objectives of this present study, here we only considered the relevés with a clear dominance of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*.

14) *DORYSTAECHO HASTATAE-OLEETUM OLEASTRI* Kurt, Ketenoğlu, Akman, Özdeniz, Şekerciler, Bölükbaşı & Özbey 2015

*Holotypus* – Rel. 5, Tab. 1, in Kurt *et al.* (2015, p. 490).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 14 (from Kurt *et al.*, 2015: Tab. 1).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* subsp. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Dorystachys hastata*, *Quercus aucheri*, *Phagnalon rupestre* subsp. *graecum*, *Phlomis bourgaei*, *Rubia tenuifolia*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *graeca*.

*Short description* – Secondary maquis formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 2-3 m tall, established after the destruction of *Pinus brutia* pine groves (Barbero *et al.*, 1980). It is typical of steep rocky slopes with little organic matter, between 100 and 700 m a.s.l., exposed to the south and southwest. Various species from *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia* and *Quercetea ilicis* are associated, as well as various eastern elements indicated among the characteristics of the alliance *Ceratonio-Rhamnion*, reported here as a diagnostic species.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry).

*Substrate* – Limestone.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Turkish (Antalya Subregion), infra- and thermomediterranean subhumid, calcicolous series of Turkish pine (*Phlomidio bourgaei-Pineto brutia* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Mediterranean Turkey, in the coastal zone of the Antalya Gulf, between Antalya and Finike (Kurt *et al.*, 2015).

15) *SPIRAEO CRENATAE-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Karaer, Kilinc, Korkmaz, Guray Kutbay, Yalcin & Bilgin, 2010

*Holotypus* – Rel. 39, Tab. 4, in Karaer *et al.* (2010, p. 42).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 15a (from Karaer *et al.*, 2010: Tab. 4) and 15b (from Korkmaz *et al.*, 2011: Tab. 3).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Spiraea crenata*, *Juniperus excelsa*, *Sedum pallidum*, *Linum corymbulosum*, *Micromeria nervosa*.

*Short description* – Maquis or scrub formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 3-4 m tall, typical of carbonatic rocky outcrops, on southern-exposed slopes, at 400-450 m a.s.l. In the woody layer, the following taxa are associated: *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Pistacia palaestina* (= *P. terebinthus* subsp. *palaestina*), *Juniperus excelsa*, *Buxus sempervirens*, *Jasminum fruticans*, *Ephedra major*, etc.. The herbaceous layer is sparse, and more frequently defined by the presence of *Chrysopogon gryllus*, *Iberis simplex* (= *I. taurica*) and *Sedum pallidum*.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean dry).

*Substrate* – Limestone.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, northern Turkish, thermomediterranean dry, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Quercus aucheri-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Turkey, in the central region of the Black Sea: Valle Kizilirmak around Kepez Gorge, Zeytintürbe, and Ardiçtepe districts (Karaer *et al.*, 2010; Korkmaz, 2011).

3. Ord. *QUERCETALIA ILICIS* Br.-Bl. ex Molinier 1934, Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat. Marseille 27 – 189, em. Rivas-Martínez 1975.

*Short description of the aspects here considered* – Woods and microwoods dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* of the thermo- and mesomediterranean belt with a dry and subhumid ombrotype. They are part of the following alliances: 1) *Quercus rotundifoliae-Oleion sylvestris* (calcicolous substrates of the Western Mediterranean Subregion); 2) *Fraxino-Quercion ilicis* (calcicolous substrates of the central Mediterranean Subregion); 3) *Erico-Quercion ilicis* (silicicolous substrates of the central Mediterranean area) (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2001, 2002; Bacchetta *et al.* 2004; Mucina *et al.*, 2016).

*Diagnostic species* – *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Rosa sempervirens*, *Bryonia cretica* subsp. *dioica*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Hippocrepis emerus* subsp. *emeroides* (= *Emerus major* subsp. *emeroides*), *Quercus rotundifolia*, *Ruscus hypophyllum*, *Quercus ilex*, *Cyclamen hederifolium* subsp. *hederifolium*, *Anemone palmata*, *Hedera iberica*, *Retama sphaerocarpa*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Viscum album*, *Viola alba* subsp. *dehnhardtii*, *Quercus virgiliana*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Asplenium onopteris*, *Carex distachya*, *Cyclamen repandum* subsp. *repandum*, *Phillyrea angustifolia*, *Quercus suber*, *Erica arborea*, *Pulicaria odora*, *Pyrus spinosa*, *Asplenium obovatum* subsp. *obovatum*, *Selaginella denticulata*.

E) *QUERCO ROTUNDIFOLIAE-OLEION SYLVESTRIS* Barbéro, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez in Rivas-Martínez, Costa & Izco 1986

*Short description* – Thermomediterranean woods from the eastern Mediterranean region with *Quercus rotundifolia*, *Quercus suber*, *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* and *Ceratonia siliqua*.

*Diagnostic species* – *Arum italicum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Arisarum vulgare* subsp. *clusii*, *Arisarum simorrhinum*, *Osyris lanceolata*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Phlomis purpurea*, *Arum italicum* subsp. *neglectum*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *laderoii*, *Pyrus bourgaeana*.

16) *VIBURNO TINI-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS* Costa, Capelo & Lousa 1994

*TYPICUM*

*Holotypus* – Rel. 10, Tab. 1, in Costa *et al.* (1994, p. 500).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 16a (from Costa *et al.*, 1994: Tab.1, rels. 1-14).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Arum italicum*, *Vinca difformis*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Bryonia cretica* subsp. *dioica*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Acanthus mollis*, *Rosa sempervirens*.

*Short description* – Meso-microforests in which the wild olive (*Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*) is the dominant tree species, 5-15 m tall, associated with vertisols and with a well-developed organic layer, at an elevation around 150 m a.s.l. Various other species are associated in the tree layer (*Ceratonia siliqua*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Myrtus communis*, *Rhamnus oleoides* subsp. *oleoides*, *R. alaternus* and *Phlomis purpurea*), as well as climbers (*Smilax aspera*, *Rubia peregrina* subsp. *longifolia*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Bryonia cretica* subsp. *dioica*, *Clematis flammula*, *Lonicera peryclimenum* subsp. *hispanica*, *Lonicera etrusca*, *Vinca difformis* and *Rosa sempervirens*).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid).

*Substrate* – Vertisols derived from limestone, basalt, and sandstone.

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, Portuguese (“Olissiponense, Sadense and Arribadense”), thermomediterranean subhumid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Viburno tini-Olea sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Portugal in the districts of Olissiponense, Sadense and Arribadense (Costa *et al.*, 1994; Neto *et al.*, 2009).

**FRAXINETOSUM ANGUSTIFOLIAE** Costa, Capelo & Lousa 1994

*Holotypus* – Rel. 19, Tab. 1, in Costa *et al.* (1994, p. 500).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 16b (from Costa *et al.*, 1994: Tab.1, rels. 15-24).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Hedera helix* subsp. *carnariensis*, *Iris foetidissima*.

*Substrate* – Clays (deep, rich and fresh vertisols).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-mesophilous, Portuguese, thermomediterranean subhumid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Viburno tini-Olea sylvestris fraxino angustifoliae* sigmetosum).

*Distribution* – Portugal, in the districts of Olissiponense, Sadense and Arribadense (Costa *et al.*, 1994).

**EPHEDRETOSUM FRAGILIS** Neto, Arsenio & Costa 2009

*Holotypus* – Rel. in Neto *et al.* (2009, p. 46).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 16c (from Neto *et al.*, 2010: rel. p. 46).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Ephedra fragilis*, *Osyris lanceolata*.

*Substrate* – Clays (vertisols).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, Portuguese (Vicentine coast), thermomediterranean subhumid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Viburno tini-Olea sylvestris ephedro fragilis* sigmetosum).

*Synchorology* – Portugal, in the district of the Vicentine Coast.

17) **ARO NEGLECTI-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS** Rivas-Martínez & Cantò in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* 2002 corr. Rivas-Martínez & Cantò in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* 2011.

*Synonyms* – *Tamo communis-Oleetum sylvestris sensu* Rivas-Martínez (1987) not *Tamo communis-Oleetum sylvestris* Benadid 1985 [in Travaux Inst. Scientifique (Rabat), ser. Bot. 34 – 7, Tab. 2] and *Tamo communis-Oleetum sylvestris* Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996 (art. 5); *Aro italici-Oleetum sylvestris* Rivas-Martínez & Cantò in Rivas. *et al.*, Itinera Geobot. 15 (1): 39, 2002 (art. 43).

*Syntaxonomic note* – The floristic separation of the association in question from *Tamo-Oleetum sylvestris* Benadid 1985 – a coenosis described for the Rif-Tangerian area, of which it is considered a geovariant – was established by Rivas-Martínez & Cantò 2002 in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* (2002), based on a floristic diversification; it is determined by the presence in *Aro-Oleetum sylvestris* of various species (*Crataegus brevispina*, *Phlomis purpurea* subsp. *purpurea* and *Rhamnus oleoides* subsp. *oleoides*) and on the other hand, the absence of other elements (*Ampelodesmos mauritanica*, *Buxus balearica*, *Calicotome intermedia*, *Crataegus maura*, *Tetraclinis articulata*, etc.) that distinguishes it from the North-African association (Rivas-Martínez & Cantò, in Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002). Based on the correct identification of *Arum neglectum* (Townsend) Ridley – instead of *Arum italicum* Mill. – the name *Aro italici-Oleetum* was successively corrected in *Aro neglecti-Oleetum sylvestris* (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011).

#### TYPICUM

*Holotypus* – Rel. in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* (2002, p. 39).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 17.1a (from Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002: rel. p. 39) and 18.1b (from Galán De Mera 2000: Tab. 1, rel. n. 17 and 69).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Arisarum simorrhinum* var. *subexertum*, *Aristolochia baetica*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Vinca difformis*.

*Short description* – According to Rivas-Martínez & Cantò (in Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002), the coenosis

makes up “meso-microforests in which the wild olive (*Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*) is the dominant tree, with an undergrowth rich in evergreen (*Phillyrea latifolia*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Rhamnus oleoides*, *Phlomis purpurea*), or deciduous shrubs (*Crataegus brevispina*), as well as an important number of vines (*Aristolochia baetica*, *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Smilax aspera*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Vinca difformis*) and geophytes (*Arisarum vulgare* var. *subexertum*, *Arum italicum*)”.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermo- and mesomediterranean dry-humid).

*Substrate* – Clays (various kinds of vertisols).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, Iberian (Betic and Gaditan-Algarvian), thermo-mesomediterranean dry to humid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Aro neglecti-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum; Quinto-Canas *et al.*, 2012).

*Distribution* – Iberian Peninsula, between the strait of Gibraltar and Algarve.

**FRAXINETOSUM ANGUSTIFOLIAE** Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo ex Gianguzzi & Bazan subass. nova *hoc loco*

*Lectotypus* (designated here) – Inv. n. 22, Tab. 1 in Galán De Mera *et al.* 2000 (Acta Bot. Malacitana 25, p. 120).

*Syntaxonomical note* – This syntaxon was proposed by Pérez Latorre *et al.* (1996) based on a lectotypification relative to North-Africa (Benadid 1984, sub *Tamo-Oleetum sylvestris*), but initially also indicated for Spain together with the same subassociation *fraxinetosum angustifoliae*. After the separation of *Aro-Oleetum sylvestris* (Rivas-Martínez & Cantò 2002 in Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002) – described for the Iberian Peninsula as a geovicariant coenosis of the former – its subassociation *fraxinetosum angustifoliae* is leptotypified here. It is recognized for the Aljibico sector (Pérez Latorre *et al.*, 1996).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 17.2 (from Galan De Mera *et al.*, 2000: Tab. 1, rels. 18, 22, 23, 6, 64, 70, 74).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Ruscus hypophyllum*, *Crataegus brevispina*, *Rhamnus oleoides* subsp. *oleoides*.

*Substrate* – Clays (humid vertisols).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermo- and mesomediterranean dry-humid).

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-mesophilous, southern Iberian, thermo-mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, verticicolous series of Oleaster (*Aro neglecti-Oleo sylvestris fraxino angustifoliae* sigmetosum).

*Distribution* – Spain: Aljibico sector (Pérez Latorre *et al.*, 1996).

18) **RHAMNO LADEROI-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS** (Cantò, Ladero, Perez-Chiscano and Rivas-Martínez

2011) nom. nov. prop.

*Synonyms* – *Asparago albi-Oleetum sylvestris* Cantò, Ladero, Perez-Chiscano and Rivas-Martínez in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* 2011 [Itinera Geobotanica 18(2), p. 428, 2011, Tab. 75.3.15, rel. 1, not *Asparago albi-Oleetum sylvestris* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003.

*Syntaxonomic note* – The name *Asparago albi-Oleetum sylvestris* defined by Cantò *et al.*, in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* (2011) constitutes a later homonym of the association already described by Bacchetta *et al.* (2003) for Sardinia, and therefore is not compliant with article 31 of the ICPN (Weber *et al.*, 2000). For the association in question, which is endemic to the central Iberian area, it is therefore here repropounded the new name *Rhamno laderoi-Oleostretum sylvestris* (Cantò, Ladero, Perez-Chiscano and Rivas-Martínez 2011) nom. nov.

*Holotypus* – Rel. 1, Tab. 75.3.15, in Rivas-Martínez *et al.* (2011, p. 428).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 18 (from Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011: Tab. 75.3.15.).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Asparagus albus*, *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *laderoi* (=R. *laderoi*), *Arisarum simorrhinum*, *Pyrus bourgaeana*, *Daphne gnidium*, *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Asparagus acutifolius*.

*Short description* – Microwood or scrub formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, which is associated with *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *laderoi* (Iberian endemic), *Pyrus bourgaeana* (distributed in the southern Iberian Peninsula and northern Morocco), *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Daphne gnidium*, *Asparagus albus*, *Asparagus acutifolius* and *Arisarum simorrhinum* are among the most frequent herbaceous elements. The coenosis carries out a primary role on the more or less rocky, steep and xeric slopes, primarily exposed to the south, up to about 700 m a.s.l.. It can also carry out a secondary role, as a substituting stage in the *Quercus rotundifolia* woodland series (*Pyro bourgaeanae-Querceto rotundifoliae* sigmetum; Cantò 2004).

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (Mesomediterranean, Dry-subhumid).

*Substrate* – Metamorphites, granites, etc.

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous, central Iberian (Luso-Extremaduran), mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, silicicolous series of Ballota (*Pyro bourgaeanae-Querceto rotundifoliae* sigmetum). Edapho-xerophilous, central Iberian (Luso-Extremaduran) mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, silicicolous series of Oleaster (*Rhamno laderoi-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Spain, in the Toledo and Madrid provinces (Cantò *et al.*, 2011).















Tab. 2 - *Hippocrepido emeroidis-Oleetum sylvestris* ass. nova [rels. 1-2 (unpublished): Albania, near Porto Palermo (8-7-2010); rels. 3-7 (from Trinajstić 1984a, Tab. 2 pro parte): Croatia at Jabuka and Obljak (rels. 1-3 of Tab. 2) and at Pelješac (rels. 6-7 of Tab. 2)].

Relevé (n°)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Altitude (m)	40	60	-	-	-	-	-	
Slope (°)	30	20	-	-	-	-	-	
Aspect	SW	S	-	-	-	-	-	
Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	
Total cover (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	Presences
Average height of the dominant layer (m)	4	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	
Species per relevé	19	22	5	11	12	7	7	7
Char. and diff. of association								
<i>Olea europaea</i> L. var. <i>sylvestris</i> (Mill.) Lehr	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	7
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i> L.	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	7
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i> (L.) Lassen subsp. <i>emeroides</i> (Boiss. & Spruner) Lassen, Soldano & F.Conti	.	+	.	+	1	+	2	5
<i>Ephedra foeminea</i> Forssk.	2	1	.	2	+	2	.	5
<i>Punica granatum</i> L.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Char. of the upper units								
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i> L.	2	1	.	+	1	+	+	6
<i>Smilax aspera</i> L.	.	1	.	2	1	.	3	4
<i>Dioscorea communis</i> (L.) Caddick & Wilkin	1	2	.	2	2	.	.	4
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> L.	1	1	+	.	1	.	.	4
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i> O.Targ.Tozz.	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	4
<i>Rubia peregrina</i> L.	.	+	.	1	2	.	+	4
<i>Prasium majus</i> L.	.	.	+	2	+	.	.	3
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> L.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Prunus webbii</i> (Spach) Vierh.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Clematis flammula</i> L.	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Anagyris foetida</i> L.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i> L.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Rosa sempervirens</i> L.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> L.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1
Other species								
<i>Brachypodium retusum</i> (Pers.) P.Beauv.	2	1	.	2	+	.	2	5
<i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i> (L.) Coss.	1	.	.	.	+	+	.	3
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i> (L.) Cass.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Drimia maritima</i> (L.) Stearn	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Clinopodium nepeta</i> (L.) Kuntze	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Plumbago europaea</i> L.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Capparis spinosa</i> L.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Spartium junceum</i> L.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i> L.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Hypparrhenia hirta</i> (L.) Stapf	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i> L.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Ruta graveolens</i> L.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	1

*Diagnostic species* – *Erica arborea*, *Teline monspessulana*, *Pulicaria odora*, *Cytisus villosus*, *Melica arrecta*, *Teucrium siculum*, *Poa sylvicola*, *Clinopodium vulgare* subsp. *arundanum*.

20) MYRTO COMMUNIS-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS  
Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Synonym* – *Pistacio lentisci-Oleetum sylvestris*  
Paradis, Feral, Passigny-Hernandez, Nicolau & Carles 2014 (Tab. 12).

*Holotypus* – Rel. 19, Tab. 2, in Bacchetta *et al.* (2003, p. 51)

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 20a (from Bacchetta *et al.* 2003, Tab. 2) and 20b (from Paradis *et al.*, 2014, Tab. 12).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Myrtus communis* and *Phillyrea angustifolia*.

*Short description* – Woodland formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, 5-6 (8) m tall, spread along the coastal belt on granite slopes, as well as along gullies and xeric ditches. *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* can also be a recovered element from former olive groves where it was the rootstock; when these orchards have been abandoned for a long time and burned, vigorous suckers of the Oleaster re-emerged. In the woody

layer, characteristic elements include *Myrtus communis*, *Phillyrea angustifolia* and other acidophilous species from the *Erico arboreae-Quercion ilicis* alliance.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermo-mesomediterranean with a dry-subhumid ombrotype).

*Substrate* – Granite.

*Vegetation series* – Edaphic-mesophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sardinian-Corsican), thermo-mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, silicicolous series of Oleaster (*Myrto communis-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Italy, in northern Sardinia (Caprera and La Maddalena Island; Bacchetta *et al.*, 2003) and Corsica (Gulf of Valinco, Olmeto, Baracci and Santa Maria; Paradis *et al.*, 2014).

## 21) CALICOTOMO INFESTAE-OLEETUM SYLVESTRIS Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*TYPICUM* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 112, Tab. S6, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 21a (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a: Tab. S6, rels. 104-115).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Calicotome infesta*, *Rubus ulmifolius*, *Rosa sempervirens*, *Pyrus spinosa*, *Erica arborea*, *Cistus salvifolius*, *C. monspeliensis*, *Pulicaria odora*.

*Short description* – Wood or microwood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, spread throughout the coastal belt up to about 500 m a.s.l. (online Appendix II, Fig. 2d); in the coenosis floristic community, the presence of acidophilous elements stands out (*Erica arborea*, *Cistus salvifolius*, *C. monspeliensis*, *Pulicaria odora*, etc.). In the woody layer, other sclerophylls are also present (*Pistacia lentiscus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, etc.) as well as climbers (*Asparagus acutifolius*, *Smilax aspera*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Rubus ulmifolius*, etc.) with a sparse herbaceous layer.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermo- and mesomediterranean with a subhumid ombrotype; Gianguzzi 1999a; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2012).

*Substrate* – Sandstones, Terravecchia Formation, etc.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Sicilian) thermo-mesomediterranean subhumid, silicicolous series of Oleaster (*Calicotome infestae-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Italy, in Sicily: Nebrodi Mountains (Mistretta, Caronia), Madonie Mountains (Munciarati woods, Cefaludese, etc.), Trabia Mountains, Palermo Mountains (Mirto Mountains, near Partinico), Trapani (Scorace woods and Calatafimi woods).

## ASPENIETOSUM OBOVATAE Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Holotypus* – Rel. 117, Tab. S1, in Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019a).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 21b (from Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a – Tab. S1, rels. 116-120).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Calicotome infesta*, *Rubus ulmifolius*, *Rosa sempervirens*, *Pyrus spinosa*, *Erica arborea*, *Cistus salvifolius*, and *Rhamnus alaternus* in addition – in general with high coverage values – *Asplenium obovatum* (online Appendix II, Fig. 2f) and *Carlina hispanica* subsp. *globosa* (Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a).

*Substrate* – Metamorphites, schists, gneisses.

*Bioclimate* – Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic (thermomediterranean subhumid, with a few penetrations into the neighboring belts; Gianguzzi 1999a; Gianguzzi *et al.*, 2012).

*Vegetation series* – Climatophilous and edapho-mesophilous, Italo-Tyrrhenian (Eastern-Sicilian), thermo-mesomediterranean dry-subhumid, silicicolous series of Oleaster (*Calicotome infestae-Oleo sylvestris asplenio obovatae* sigmetosum).

*Distribution* – Italy, in Sicily: Peloritan Mountains (online Appendix II, Fig. 2e) (Pace del Mela, Santa Lucia del Mela, Torrente Mela, Fiumara Mazzarrà, etc.).

## H) ARBUTO UNEDONIS-LAURION NOBILIS Rivas-Martínez, Fernández-González & Loidi 1999

*Short description* – Scrub, permanent shrubland and forest mantles rich in laurel species, distributed in the Iberian-Atlantic sector, linked to the humid thermo-mesomediterranean and mesotemperate submediterranean zones.

*Diagnostic species* – *Laurus nobilis*, *Genista hispanica* subsp. *occidentalis*.

## Suball. ARBUTO UNEDONIS-LAURENION NOBILIS Rivas-Martínez & Sánchez-Mata 2001

*Short description* – Laurel and strawberry tree communities in the Cantabrian-Atlantic and Portuguese regions (Rivas-Martínez & Sánchez-Mata, 2001; Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002).

*Diagnostic species* – See alliance.

## 22) LITHODORO DIFFUSAE-OLEETUM EUROPAEAE Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto 1991

*Holotypus* – Rel. 17, Tab. 2 (pp. 290-291), in Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto (1991).

*Phytosociological data* – Tab. 1, col. 22 (from Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto, 1991: Tab. 2).

*Diagnostic species* – *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* (dom.), *Lithodora diffusa*, *Brachypodium rupestre*, *Genista occidentalis*.

*Short description* – Low scrub formation (1.5-2 m tall) dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, typical of the coastal limestone cliffs where it is shaped by the wind; it occupies small areas, rich in coarse skeleton, and preferably exposed to the south. Evergreen phanerophytes (*Laurus nobilis*, *Rhamnus alaternus*



and *Quercus ilex*) and associated climbing species (*Smilax aspera*, *Rubia peregrina* subsp. *longifolia*, *Hedera helix*, *Dioscorea communis*, *Rubus ulmifolius* and *Rosa sempervirens*) associate with it; the herbaceous layer is not very dense. In stations sheltered by wind and with deeper soil, it can also develop more, tending towards expressions of *Quercus ilex* (Díaz González & Prieto, 1994).

*Bioclimate* – Temperate hyperoceanic bioclimate (extrazonal).

*Substrate* – Limestone.

*Vegetation series* – Edapho-xerophilous, North-Iberian (Cantabric-Atlantic), thermomediterranean dry-subhumid, calcicolous series of Oleaster (*Lithodoro diffusae-Oleo sylvestris* sigmetum).

*Distribution* – Spain, in Asturias (Villaviciosa and Cantabria at Comillas; González & Prieto, 1994).

## Discussion and conclusions

The Oleaster communities considered in this study consist of 22 associations and 16 subassociations. They make up thermophilous forest formations – high maquis, woods and micro-woods – distributed along the Mediterranean coasts, where they denote a climatic and edapho-climatic character. They are often distributed in a sparse and fragmentary manner due to the significant deforestation and the anthropogenic transformations of the region. They consist primarily of wood and microwood forest formations that are about (4) 6-7 (10) m tall, and prevalently tend to represent “series heads” – aside from *Dorystaecho hastatae-Oleetum oleastri* Kurt *et al.*, 2015, as a secondary stage of the *Pinus brutia* pine grove – in the infra- and thermomediterranean belt (with a few penetrations into the mesomediterranean) with a dry-subhumid (and sometimes even humid) ombrotype.

These Oleaster-dominated phytocoenoses show a notable physiognomical and structural homogeneity. However, as shown in Table 1, the Mediterranean associations show a clear floristic differentiation, related to the area’s distinct biogeographic sectors and ecological zones. It is therefore possible to subdivide them into three different orders (*Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni*, *Quercetalia calliprini* and *Quercetalia ilicis*) and into various alliances.

The coastal associations that tend towards the Central-Western area of the Mediterranean basin are part of the *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni* order, which is subdivided into four alliances with different biogeographic and bioclimatic characteristics:

- a) *Tetraclini articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae*, with the suballiance *Pistacion atlanticae* is distributed in the continental arid and semi-arid region of the Maghreb;
- b) *Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis* is distributed in

the semi-arid to subhumid Iberian-Maghreb regions;

- c) *Arbuto unedonis-Laurion nobilis*, with the suball. *Arbuto-Laurenion nobilis*, is spread along the Atlantic coasts of the Iberian Peninsula and southern Spain, near Gibraltar;

- d) *Oleo sylvestris-Ceratonion siliquae* is present in the central Mediterranean region, on carbonate-based substrate.

The coastal associations of the eastern part of the Mediterranean basin are part of the *Quercetalia calliprini* order, including the single alliance *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci*. These coenoses, as can be observed in the synoptic table (Tab. 1, cols. 11a-15b), show an evident group of East-Mediterranean taxa. For this reason, unlike Mucina *et al.* (2016), we propose to classify the *Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci* within the order *Quercetalia calliprini* and not in the order *Pistacio-Rhamnetalia alaterni*.

The most mesophilous associations of the central-western part of the Mediterranean basin, that are linked to the sub-humid thermomediterranean and mesomediterranean belt, are also part of the *Quercetalia ilicis* order. They are ascribed to the following alliances:

- a) *Quercu rotundifoliae-Oleion sylvestris*, of the calcicolous substrates of the western Mediterranean subregion;
- b) *Fraxino orni-Quercion ilicis*, of the calcicolous substrates of the central Mediterranean subregion;
- c) *Erico-Quercion ilicis*, of the siliceous substrates of the central Mediterranean region).

Associations located in marginal conditions in the area include *Lithodoro diffusae-Oleetum europaeae* Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto 1991 (an edapho-climatic and relictual coenosis found on the Atlantic coastal limestone cliffs of the Asturias), *Spiraeo crenatae-Oleetum sylvestris* Karaer *et al.* 2010 (described for the central region of the Black Sea, at the north-western extremes of the species range), as well as the North-African associations located at the southernmost point of the distribution range.

The “Bioclimatic map of the Mediterranean area” produced (Fig. 2) shows new original data created using different datasets. Indeed, the CHELSA dataset, used in this study, shows a more consistent relationship between the terrain features and the resulting precipitation distribution patterns (Karger *et al.* 2017) than the WorldClim bioclimatic dataset (Hijmans *et al.*, 2005) used in previous bioclimatic maps.

When we combine the distribution of *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* coenoses with a bioclimatic map (Fig. 2) it is possible to show that almost all Oleaster communities (21 out of 22) occur in the Mediterranean pluviseasonal-oceanic bioclimate type. In fact, only one association (*Lithodoro diffusae-Oleetum europaeae* Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto 1991) has an extrazonal distribution in the sub-coastal areas of the north-

ern Iberian Peninsula occurring within the temperate hyperoceanic bioclimate.

The principal component analysis reflects the biogeographic and bioclimatic differentiation of the eight alliances (Fig. 3). The first axis (PC1) is positively correlated with the thermicity (Tab. 3) The cluster of *Olea sylvestris-Ceratonion siliquae*, from the central Mediterranean Region, shows a significant gradient in the direction of the Mean annual temperature (T) and Compensated thermicity index (Itc) vectors.

A strong geographical east-west gradient ( $r^2=0.61$ ) is indicated by the second axis (PC2) that is negatively correlated with the simple continentality (Ic) (the range or amplitude between the average temperatures of the most extreme months of the year), thus showing therefore higher oceanicity for the western alliances (*Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis*, *Quercu rotundifoliae-Oleion sylvestris*, *Arbuto unedonis-Laurion nobilis*) with respect to the eastern one (*Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci*).

Despite the relationship between the Annual ombrothermic index (Io) and the first PCA axis (PC1), the length of the vector in the ordination diagrams indicates a low correlation between Io and the Oleaster communities.

Tab. 3 - Correlation of the axes of PCA with Environmental parameters and indices: T= Mean annual temperature (°C); Pp Annual positive precipitation (mm); Itc= Compensated thermicity index; Io = Annual ombrothermic index; Ic = Simple continentality index. Signif. Codes: ‘\*\*\*’ 0.01. Permutation: free. Number of permutations: 999.

Bioclimatic variables	PC1	PC2	r2	Pr(>r)	Signif.
T	0.91637	-0.40032	0.1405	0.240	
P	-0.59185	-0.80605	0.0154	1.000	
Io	-0.95670	-0.29109	0.0231	1.000	
Itc	0.91668	0.39963	0.3022	0.005	**
Ic	-0.45329	-0.89136	0.6116	0.005	**

The list of the species found in the surveyed Oleaster communities reported in Tab. 1 shows a floristic set made up of 340 infrageneric entities, 148 of which are typical of the aforementioned vegetation classes. These coenoses tend to make up “series head” formations, which are generally edaphophilous and climatophilous; for this reason, elements from other vegetation classes tend to be among the “companion” species. This is particularly true for species of the

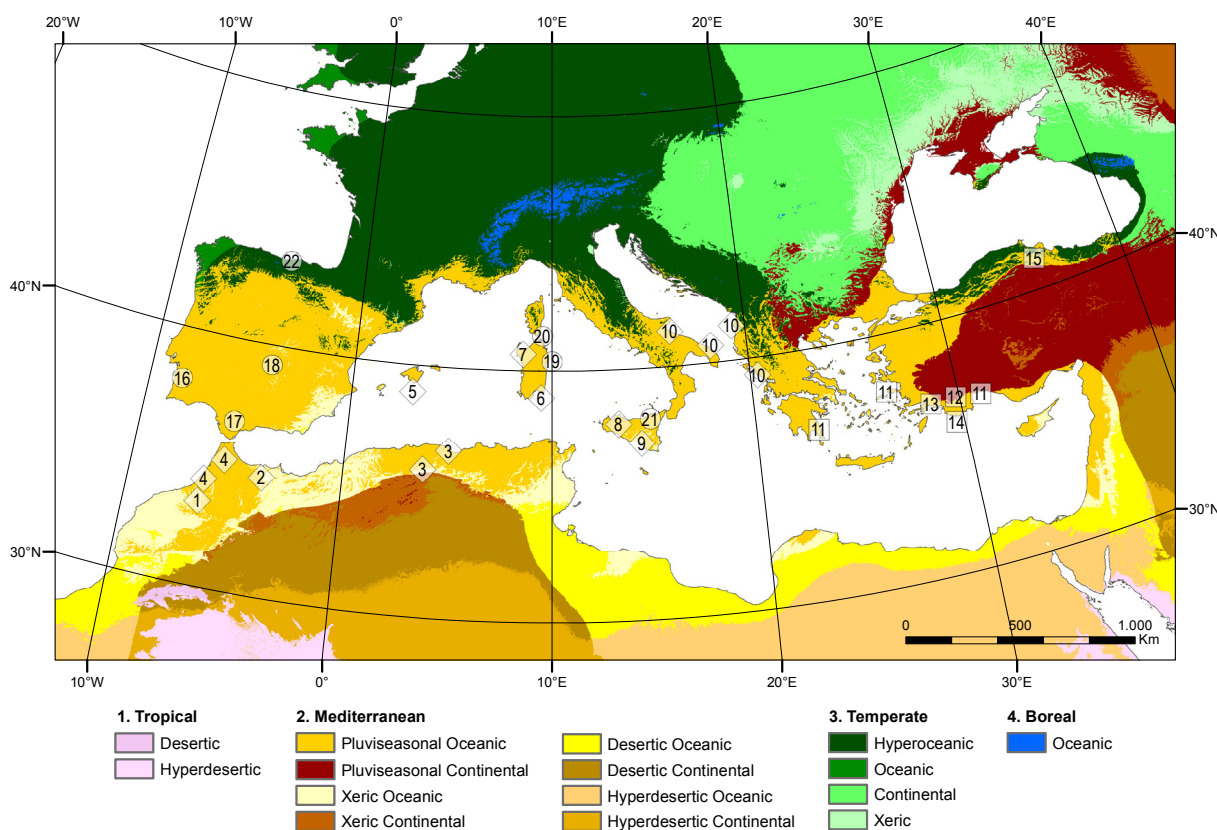


Fig. 2 - Bioclimatic Maps of the Mediterranean area produced following the Worldwide Bioclimatic Classification System (Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2011), using precipitation and temperature data from ‘CHELSA’ (Karger *et al.*, 2017) precipitation and temperature data. Numbers indicate the syntaxa reported in the online Appendix I.

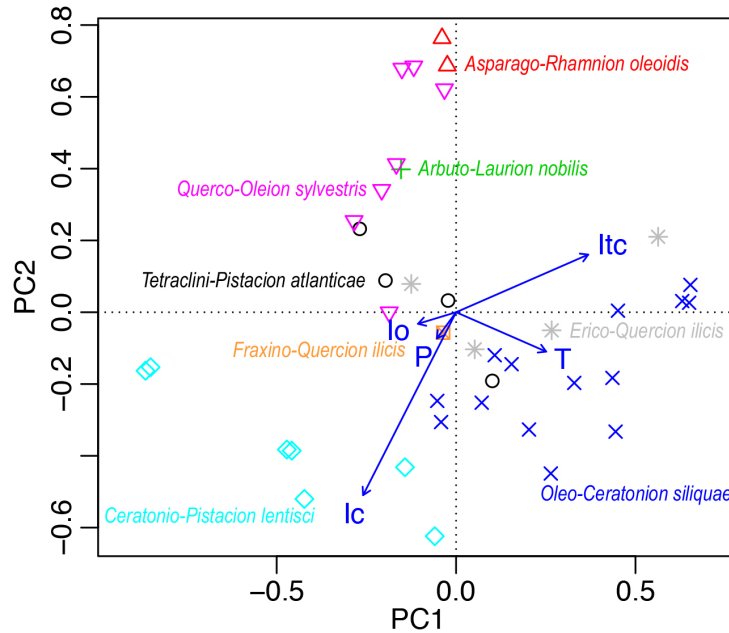


Fig. 3 - Principal component analysis (PCA) diagrams of the *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* communities investigated in Mediterranean Region (Tab. 1) with bioclimatic variables [T= Mean annual temperature (°C); P Annual positive precipitation (mm); ITC= Compensated thermicity index; IO = Annual ombrothermic index; IC = Simple continentality index]. The symbols refer to the different alliances in which Oleaster formations are divided: ( $\Delta$ ) *Asparago-Rhamnion oleoidis*; (+) *Arbuto-Laurion nobilis*; ( $\nabla$ ) *Quercus-Oleion sylvestris*; ( $\circ$ ) *Tetraclin-Pistacia atlanticae*; (\*) *Erico-Quercion ilicis*; ( $\square$ ) *Fraxino-Quercion ilicis*; ( $\times$ ) *Oleo-Ceratonion siliquae*; ( $\diamond$ ) *Ceratonio-Pistacia lentiscii*.

classes *Rhamnio-Prunetea* and *Lygeo-Stipetea* which are, in fact, transgressive from the surrounding communities in catenal or dynamic contact, and thus develop a vegetational mosaic.

Regarding syndynamics, the Oleaster-dominated communities take part in various vegetation series that are both climatophilous and edaphic, which make contact with the alo-subalophilous coastal aspects near the sea, prevalently ascribed to the *Crithmo-Limonietea* and *Pegano-Salsoletea* classes. Inland, they develop up to 600-700 m a.s.l., forming relationships with various other vegetation series, sometimes belonging to scrub coenoses, sometimes belonging to both evergreen and deciduous forest formations. These catenal contacts may change according to the different geographic zones, as well as to the different types of soil and bioclimatic conditions.

Given their importance, fragmentation and relative relictual nature, the Oleaster-dominated communities are catalogued among the “habitats of community interest” listed in Annex I of the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC, issued by the European Union (code 9320 *Olea* and *Ceratonia* forests). In accordance with the IUCN-CMP Unified Classification of Direct Threats (IUCN-CMP, 2012), the main threats (Gianguzzi & Perrino, 2016; Gigante *et al.*, 2016) are attributable to the following categories – 1.1 - Habitat loss/degradation, agriculture (habitat destruction, using areas for agriculture); 1.4. Infrastructure development (stations in the coastal belt often suffer from the effects of con-

struction and urban development); 2.1. Competitors (a sporadic naturalization of alien species sometimes occurs in the species’ habitat, such as *Opuntia ficus-indica*, *Pennisetum setaceum*; see Gianguzzi *et al.*, 1996, 2015; Gianguzzi & Bazan, 2019a), etc.); 10.5 – Human disturbance, fire; 12.1 Other threats (risk factors connected to the relictual nature of the stations, to the extreme fragmentation of the habitat and to the small number of populations).

Considering the threatened status and the particularity of these formations, immediate actions to conserve the most representative sites and most mature communities are recommended in the hopes of limiting further erosion of the floristic-phytocoenotic biodiversity and its structural degradation.

#### Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for the helpful reading and the suggestions that improved the overall quality of the text.

The bioclimatic analyses and mapping done in this work have been performed under the Project HPC-EUROPA3 (INFRAIA-2016-1-730897), with the support of the EC Research Innovation Action under the H2020 Programme; in particular, we gratefully acknowledge the support of Dr. Rowan Fealy of Maynooth University (Ireland) and the computer resources and technical support provided by Irish Centre for High-End Computing – ICHEC (Beneficiary: Prof. G. Bazan).

## Syntaxonomic scheme

QUERCETEA ILICIS Br.-Bl. in Br.-Bl., Roussine & Nègre 1952

PISTACIO LENTISCI-RHAMNETALIA ALATERNI Rivas-Martínez 1975

**Tetraclini articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae** Rivas-Martínez, Costa & Izco 1986

**Pistacionion atlanticae** Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez 1981

*Phillyreo latifoliae-Oleetum* Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez 1981 ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova *hoc loco*

*Calicotomo intermediae-Oleetum sylvestris* Quézel, Barbero, Benabid, Loisel & Rivas-Martínez ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova *hoc loco*

*Bupleuro fruticosi-Euphorbietum dendroidis* Géhu, Kaabeche & Gharzouli 1992

**Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis** Rivas Goday ex Rivas-Martínez 1975

*Tamo communis-Oleetum sylvestris* Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996

*oleetosum sylvestris* Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996

*fraxinetosum angustifoliae* Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996

**Oleo sylvestris-Ceratonion siliquae** Br.-Bl. ex Guinochet & Drouineau 1944

*Prasio majoris-Oleetum sylvestris* Bolòs & Molinier 1969

*Asparago albi-Oleetum sylvestris* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Asparago acutifolii-Oleetum sylvestris* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*loniceretosum implexae* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*anagyrietosum foetidae* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Ruto chalepensis-Oleetum sylvestris* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*oleetosum sylvestris* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*cercidetosum siliquastri* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*celtidetosum australis* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*euphorbietosum bivonae* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*rhamnietosum oleoidis* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*periplocetosum angustifoliae* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Chamaeropo humilis-Oleetum sylvestris* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*acanthetosum mollis* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*ephedretosum fragilis* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*Hippocrepido emeroidis-Oleetum sylvestris* ass. nova

QUERCETALIA CALLIPRINI Zohary 1955

**Ceratonio-Pistacion lentisci** Zohary & Orshan 1959

*Rubio tenuifoliae-Euphorbietum dendroidis* Géhu, Costa & Uslu 1988

*Junipero foetidissimae-Oleetum sylvestris* ass. nova

*Quercu aucheri-Oleetum* Vural, Duman, Güner, Dönmez & Şağban 1995

*Dorystaecho hastatae-Oleetum oleastri* Kurt, Ketenoğlu, Akman, Özdeniz, Şekerciler, Bölükbaşı & Özbey 2015

*Spiraeo crenatae-Oleetum sylvestris* Karaer, Kilinc, Korkmaz, Guray Kutbay, Yalcin & Bilgin, 2010

QUERCETALIA ILICIS Br.-Bl. ex Molinier 1934

**Quercu rotundifoliae-Oleion sylvestris** Barbéro, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez in Rivas-Martínez, Costa & Izco 1986

*Viburno tini-Oleetum sylvestris* J.C. Costa, Capelo & Lousa 1994

*typicum*

*ephedretosum fragilis* Neto, Arsénio, & Costa 2009

*fraxinetosum angustifoliae* Costa, Capelo & Lousa 1994

*Aro neglecti-Oleetum sylvestris* Rivas-Martínez & Cantò 2002 corr. Rivas-Martínez & Cantò

*typicum*

*fraxinetosum angustifoliae* Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo ex Gianguzzi & Bazan subass. nova *hoc loco*

*Rhamno laderoi-Oleetum sylvestris* (Cantò, Ladero, Perez-Chiscano & Rivas-Martínez 2011) nom. nov. prop.

**Fraxino orni-Quercion ilicis** Biondi, Casavecchia & Gigante ex Biondi, Casavecchia & Gigante in Biondi, Allegrezza, Casavecchia, Galdenzi, Gigante & Pesaresi 2013

*Cyclamino repandi-Oleetum sylvestris* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

**Erico arboreae-Quercion ilicis** Brullo, Di Martino & Marcenò 1977

*Myrto communis-Oleetum sylvestris* Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003

*Calicotomo infestae-Oleetum sylvestris* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

*typicum*

*asplenietosum obovatae* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019

**Arbuto unedonis-Laurion nobilis** Rivas-Martínez, Fernández-González & Loidi 1999

**Arbuto unedonis-Laurenion nobilis** Rivas-Martínez & Sanchez-Mata 2001

*Lithodoro diffusae-Oleetum europaeae* Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto 1991

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**Appendix I - Phytosociological relevé sources already published in this study (numbering of the *syntaxa* corresponds to that reported in the text)**

Syntaxa	Bibliographic reference and location of relevés
QUERCETEA ILICIS Br.-Bl. in Br.-Bl., Roussine & Nègre 1952	
PISTACIO LENTISCI-RHAMNETALIA ALATERNI Rivas-Martínez 1975	
Tetraclini articulatae-Pistacion atlanticae Rivas-Martínez, Costa & Izco 1986	
Suball. Pistacion atlanticae Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez 1981	
1) <i>Phillyreo latifoliae-Oleetum</i> Barbero, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova <i>hoc loco</i>	Barbero <i>et al.</i> (1981, Tab. 18) – Morocco (Sidi-Bettache region).
2) <i>Calicotomo intermediae-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Quézel, Barbero, Benabid, Loisel & Rivas-Martínez ex Gianguzzi & Bazan ass. nova <i>hoc loco</i>	Quézel <i>et al.</i> (1988, Tab. 8) – Morocco (Rif at Al Hoceima coastal area).
3) <i>Bupleuro fruticosi-Euphorbietum dendroidis</i> Géhu, Kaabeche & Gharzouli 1992	Géhu <i>et al.</i> (1992, Tab. 1, rels. 2-3) – Algeria (Capo Carbon at Béjaïa); Guinochet (1980, Tab. 6, rel. 8) – Algeria (Northern slope of Djebel Hairech).
Asparago albi-Rhamnion oleoidis Rivas Goday ex Rivas-Martínez 1975	
4) <i>Tamo communis-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Benabid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996	Benabid (1984, Tab. 2, rels. 12-30), Morocco – West Rif, from Mediterranean coast to Tingitana Peninsula (Rharb, Trifa, Sais, Doukkala, Tadla ecc.).
4.1) <i>oleetosum sylvestris</i> Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996	
4.2) <i>fraxinetosum angustifoliae</i> Benadid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996	
Oleo sylvestris-Ceratonion siliquae Br.-Bl. ex Guinochet & Drouineau 1944	
5) <i>Prasio majoris-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Bolòs & Molinier 1969	Bolòs de & Molinier (1969, rel. 1, p. 257); Bolòs de, <i>et al.</i> (1970, Tab. 2, rels. 4-9) – Baleari Island (Minorca Island).
6) <i>Asparago albi-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003	Bacchetta <i>et al.</i> (2003, Tab. 4) – Sardinia (Alghero province at M.te Ricciu, Scala Piccada and La Scaletta).
7) <i>Asparago acutifolii-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003	Bacchetta <i>et al.</i> (2003, Tab. 3) – Sardinia (Sassari province at Scala di Giocca; Alghero at Poglina).
7.1) <i>loniceretosum implexae</i> Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003	
7.2) <i>anagyrietosum foetidae</i> Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003	Bacchetta <i>et al.</i> (2003, Tab. 3) – Sardinia (Sassari province at Rio Mannu and Puttu Codinu).
8) <i>Ruto chalepensis-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S1, rel. 3 Sicily (some localities on the coast zone and hills belt).
8.1) <i>oleetosum sylvestris</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	
8.2) <i>cercidetosum siliquastri</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	
8.3) <i>celtidetosum australis</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	
8.4) <i>euphorbietosum bivonae</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S2, rel. 21) – Sicily (carbonate outcrops located between Mount S. Calogero in Termini Imerese and M. Erice; and the Southern part of the Sicani Mountains (Pizzo Telegrafo).
8.5) <i>rhamnetosum oleoidis</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S3, rel. 46) – Sicily (Coastal region of the Aegadian archipelago).
8.6) <i>periplocetosum angustifoliae</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S3, rel. 57) – Sicily (Linosa and Pantelleria Islands).
9) <i>Chamaeropo humilis-Oleetum sylvestris</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S4, rel. 83) – Sicily (Southern and North-Western part of Sicily).
9.1) <i>acanthetosum mollis</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	
9.2) <i>ephedretosum fragilis</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2018, Tab. S5, rel. 95) – Sicily (Palermo calcarenites (stream mouths in the Jato Valley and Castellammare del Golfo) and in Southern Sicily near Acate).
10) <i>Hippocrepido emeroidis-Oleetum sylvestris</i> ass. nova <i>hoc loco</i>	Tab. 2 (1-2, Albania, at Porto Palermo (rels. ined. – 8.7.2010); 3-7, from Trinajstic 1984 (Tab. 2, rels. 1-4 and 6-7 – Croatia – Jabuka, Obljak and Pelješac).
QUERCETALIA CALLIPRINI Zohary 1955	
Ceratonion siliquae-Pistacion lentisci Zohary et Orshan 1959 (incl. <i>Quercion calliprini</i> )	
11) <i>Rubio tenuifoliae-Euphorbietum dendroidis</i> Géhu, Costa & Uslu 1988	Géhu <i>et al.</i> , 1988, Tab. 1, rels. 3-4 (Turkey –Kas region); Biondi & Gehu (1987) Tab. 1, rels.1-3 (Greece – Monastiraki); Akman <i>et al.</i> , 1978, Tab. 1, rels. 3-6 (Turkey; Feko village, Adana).
12) <i>Junipero foetidissimae-Oleetum sylvestris</i> ass. nova <i>hoc loco</i>	Arkman <i>et al.</i> , 1978, Tab. pag. 24, rels. 1-2 (Turkey – Köprülülü Canyon at North of Beskonak)

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13) <i>Quercus aucheri-Oleatum</i> Vural, Duman, Güner, Dönmez & Şağban 1995	Vural <i>et al.</i> (1995, Tab. 5). Turkey (Muğla province at Köyceğiz-Dalyan).
14) <i>Dorystaecho hastatae-Oleatum oleastri</i> Kurt, Ketenoğlu, Akman, Özdeniz, Şekerciler, Bölükbaşı & Özbey 2015	Kurt <i>et al.</i> (2015, Tab. 1). Turkey (Coastal zone of Antalya Gulf).
15) <i>Spiraeo crenatae-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Karaer, Kilinc, Korkmaz, Guray Kutbay, Yalcin & Bilgin, 2010	Karaer <i>et al.</i> (2010, Tab. 4) – Turkey (Kizilirmak valley between Asagisusuz-Ardıçtepe region and Kepez gorge); Korkmaz <i>et al.</i> (2011, Tab. 3) – Turkey (Ardıçtepe districts).
<i>QUERCETALIA ILICIS</i> Br.-Bl. ex Molinier 1934	
<b>Quercus rotundifoliae-Oleion sylvestris</b> Barbéro, Quézel & Rivas-Martínez in Rivas-Martínez, Costa & Izco 1986	
16) <i>Viburno tini-Oleostretum</i> J.C. Costa, Capelo & Lousa 1994	Costa <i>et al.</i> , 1994 (Tab.1, rels. 1-14) – Portugal (Serra da Arrábida).
16.1) subass. <i>typicum</i>	
16.2) <i>fraxinetosum angustifoliae</i> Costa, Capelo & Lousa 1994	Costa <i>et al.</i> , 1994 (Tab. 1, rels. 15-24). (2009, Synthetic table) – Portugal (Olissiponense, Sadense and Arribadense districts).
16.3) <i>ephedretosum fragilis</i> Neto, Arsénio, & Costa 2009	Neto <i>et al.</i> , 2009 (Synthetic table) – Portugal (Costeiro Vicentino districts).
17) <i>Aro neglecti-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Rivas-Martínez & Cantò 2002 corr. Rivas-Martínez & Cantò	Rivas-Martínez <i>et al.</i> (2002, p. 39) – Spain (Cádiz – from Medina Sidonia to Cantora hill) sub <i>Aro italici-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Rivas-Martínez & Cantò 2002.
17.1) subass. <i>typicum</i>	Galán De Mera <i>et al.</i> , 2000 Gíbilterra (Tab. 1, rels. n. 17 and 69) – Gíbilterra (sub <i>Tamo communis-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Benabid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996).
17.2) <i>fraxinetosum angustifoliae</i> Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo ex subass. <i>nova hoc loco</i>	Galán De Mera <i>et al.</i> , 2000 (Tab. 1, rels. 18, 22, 23, 6, 64, 70, 74) – Gíbilterra (sub <i>Tamo communis-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Benabid ex Pérez Latorre, Galán de Mera, Deil & Cabezudo 1996).
18) <i>Rhamno laderoi-Oleatum sylvestris</i> (Cantò, Ladero, Perez-Chiscano & Rivas-Martínez 2011) nom. nov. prop.	Rivas-Martínez <i>et al.</i> (2011, Tab. 75.3.15) – Spain (Sierra de San Vicente and Alberche valley) sub <i>Asparago albi-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Cantò, Ladero, Pérez Chiscano & Rivas-Martínez 2011.
<b>Fraxino orni-Quercion ilicis</b> Biondi, Casavecchia & Gigante ex Biondi, Casavecchia & Gigante in Biondi, Allegranza, Casavecchia, Galdenzi, Gigante & Pesaresi 2013	
19) <i>Cyclamino repandi-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003	Bacchetta <i>et al.</i> (2003, Tab.1) – Sardinia (Cagliari province at Sarroch, Capoterra and Villa San Pietro).
<i>Erico arboreae-Quercion ilicis</i> Brullo, Di Martino & Marcenò 1977	
20) <i>Myrto communis-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Bacchetta, Bagella, Biondi, Farris, Filigheddu & Mossa 2003	Bacchetta <i>et al.</i> (2003, Tab. 2) – Sardinia (Sassari province at Caprera, and La Maddalena); Paradis <i>et al.</i> (2014, Tab. 12) – SW-Corsica (Monte Barbatu, Sant’Armettu, Burgo).
21) <i>Calicotomo infestae-Oleatum sylvestris</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S6, rel. 112) – Sicily (Trapani (Bosco Scorace and Bosco di Calatafimi), Palermo Mountains (Monte Mirto, near Partinico), Trabia Mountains, Misilmeri, Madonie (Bosco di Munciarrati, Cefalù, etc.)),
21.1) subass. <i>typicum</i>	
21.2) <i>asplenietosum obovatae</i> Gianguzzi & Bazan 2019	Gianguzzi & Bazan (2019, Tab. S6, rel. 117) – Sicily in the Peloritani Mountains (Pace del Mela, Santa Lucia del Mela, Torrente Mela, Fiumara Mazzarra, etc.).
<b>Arbuto unedonis-Laurion nobilis</b> Rivas-Martínez, Fernández-González & Loidi 1999	
Suball. <b>Arbuto unedonis-Laurenion nobilis</b> Rivas-Martínez & Sanche-Mata 2001	
22) <i>Lithodoro diffusae-Oleatum europaeae</i> Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto 1991	Bueno Sánchez & Fernández Prieto (1991, Tab. 2) – Spain (Asturias at Villaviciosa and Cantabria at Comillas).

Appendix II - Pictures illustrating the described vegetation types



Fig. 1 - a) Wood formation dominated by *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* of the association *Prasio majoris-Oleetum sylvestris*, association on carbonate outcrops of Menorca Island (Balearic Islands, Spain); b) detail of *Asparagus stipularis*, characteristic species of the latter coenosis; c-d) *Asparagus albus*, typical element of the the *Asparago albi-Oleetum sylvestris*, a xerophilous formation widespread along the coastal and sub-coastal belts of Sardinia (Italy); e) aspect of the *Hippocrepido emeroidis-Oleetum sylvestris* near Porto Palermo (Albania), along the Southern coast of Albania; f) *Ephedra foeminea* and *Euphorbia dendroides* typical elements of the latter association, spread along the Adriatic coasts of the Balkan Peninsula with isolated presences also in Italy.



Fig. 2 - a) Mount Pellegrino near Palermo (Sicily, Italy): aspects of the *Ruto chalepensis-Oleetum sylvestris*, basiphilous formation typical of limestone substrates of North-Western Sicily; b) *Rhamnus lycioides* subsp. *oleoides*, characteristic species of the subass. *rhamnetosum oleoidis*, growing in Western-Sicily and Aegadian Islands; c) and *Periploca angustifolia*, differential element of the subass. *periplocetosum*, located in the small islands of the Sicily Channel; d) microwood of the *Calicotomo infestae-Oleetum sylvestris* (Palermo province), association widespread on coastal arenaceous outcrops of the Tyrrhenian sector of Sicily; e) the same association on metamorphic substrates of the Peloritani Mountains, near Tripi; f) *Asplenium obovatum* typic element of the subassociation *asplenietosum obovatae*.