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Lombardy Seed Bank**

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Stations at High Altitude for Research on the Environment



# **CLIMATE AND MOUNTAIN VEGETATION**



A photograph of several bright pink, spiky mountain flowers growing in a rocky, grassy environment. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing more developed heads than others. The background is a mix of green grass and brownish soil with small rocks.

# **CLIMATE CHANGE EXERTS A GREAT PRESSURE ON LIFE:**

**Are high mountain plant species able to cope with  
climate change? How?**

**Monitoring, field and lab. experiments on a critical  
life-phase: REPRODUCTION**



# TIPS FOR A DISCUSSION

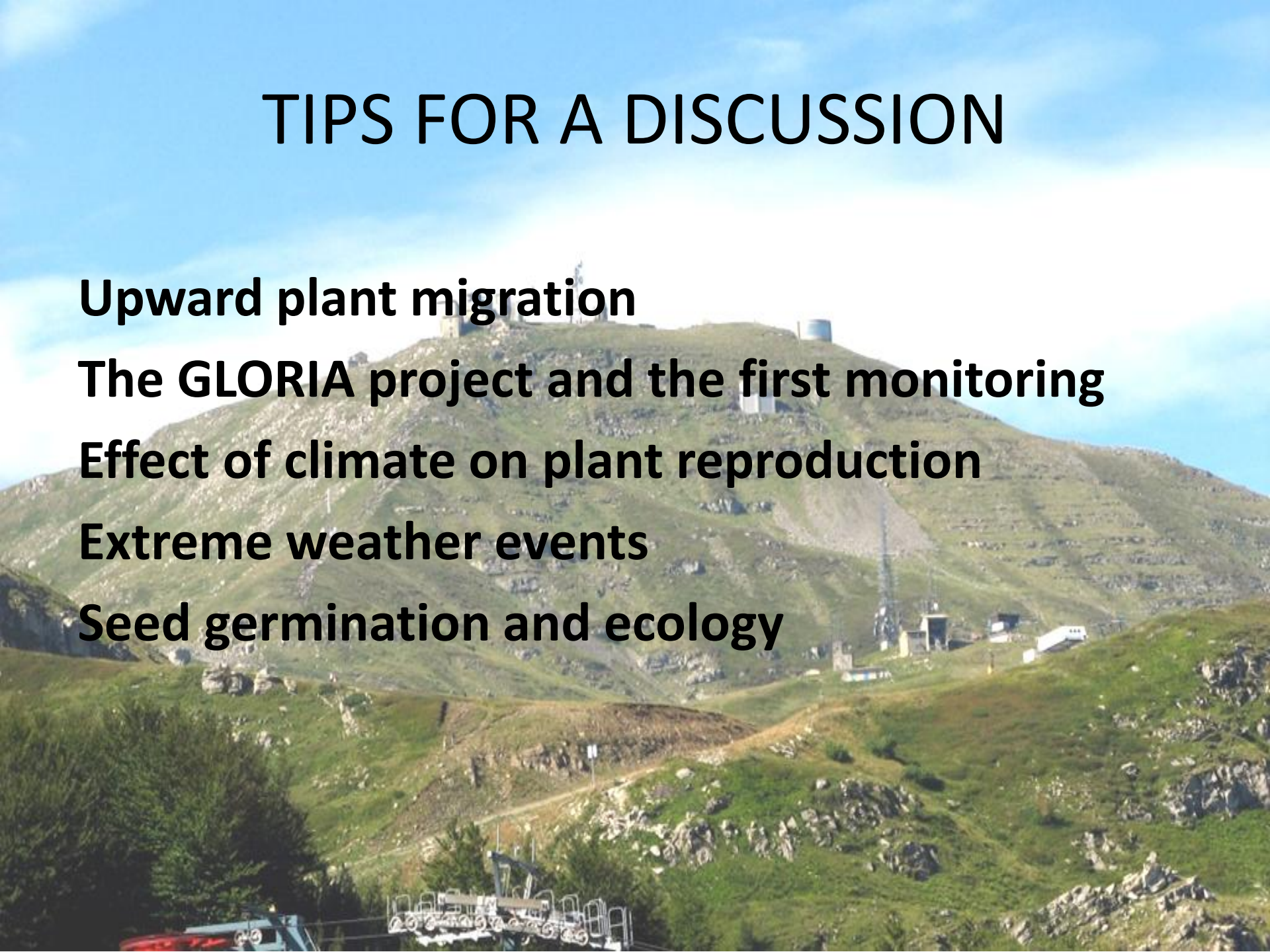
**Upward plant migration**

**The GLORIA project and the first monitoring**

**Effect of climate on plant reproduction**

**Extreme weather events**

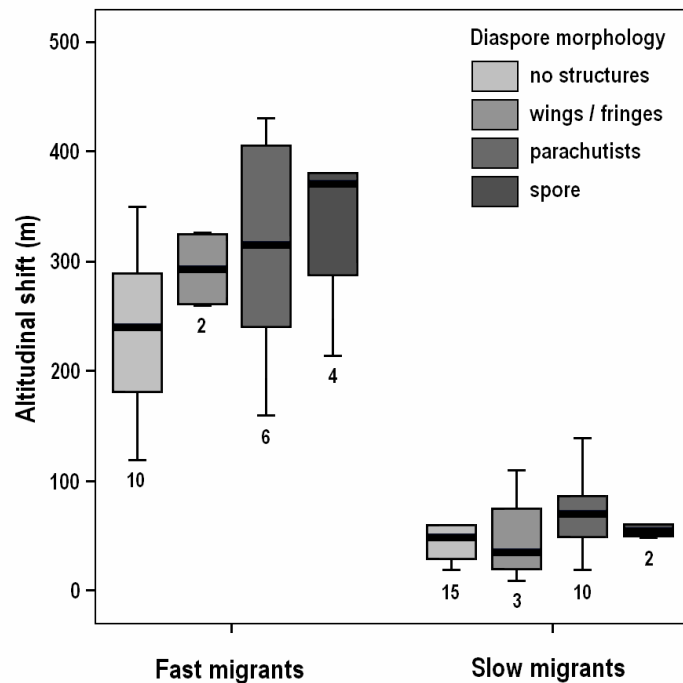
**Seed germination and ecology**





# UPWARD MIGRATION

An increase in species richness from 153 to 166 species was observed in Bernina area (4049 m). Moreover, **52 species** were recorded from altitudes 10–430 m higher than their 1950s limits.



# SPECIES HAVE MOVED UPSLOPE TERMOPHILIZATION

opposite effects on richness:

Boreal-temperate, increase (+3.9 species)

Mediterranean, decrease (−1.4 species)



**Recent Plant Diversity Changes on Europe's Mountain Summits**  
Harald Pauli *et al.*  
*Science* **336**, 353 (2012);  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1219033

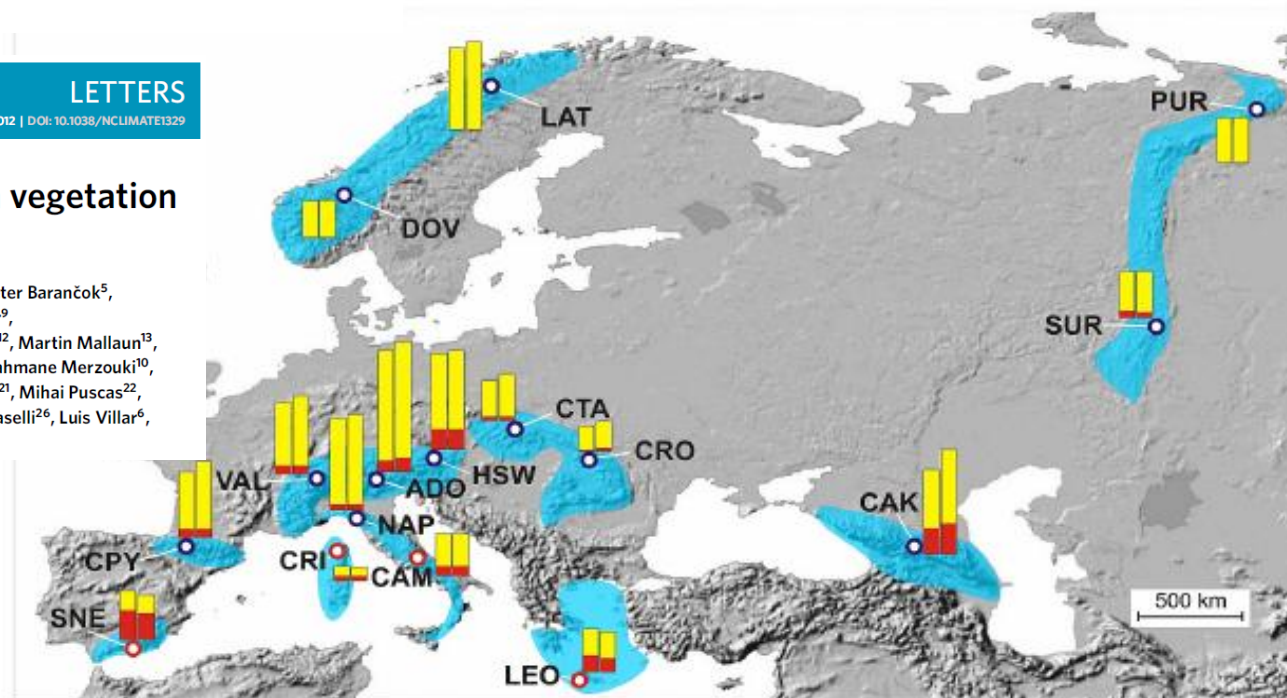


LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 10 JANUARY 2012 | DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE1329

## Continent-wide response of mountain vegetation to climate change

Michael Gottfried<sup>1</sup>, Harald Pauli<sup>2\*</sup>, Andreas Futschik<sup>3</sup>, Maia Akhalkatsi<sup>4</sup>, Peter Barančok<sup>5</sup>, José Luis Benito Alonso<sup>6</sup>, Gheorghe Coldea<sup>7</sup>, Jan Dick<sup>8</sup>, Brigitta Erschbamer<sup>9</sup>, Maria Rosa Fernández Calzado<sup>10</sup>, George Kazakis<sup>11</sup>, Ján Krajčí<sup>5</sup>, Per Larsson<sup>12</sup>, Martin Mallaun<sup>13</sup>, Ottar Michelsen<sup>14</sup>, Dmitry Moiseev<sup>15</sup>, Pavel Moiseev<sup>15</sup>, Ulf Molau<sup>16</sup>, Abderrahmane Merzouki<sup>10</sup>, Laszlo Nagy<sup>17,18</sup>, George Nakhutsrishvili<sup>19</sup>, Bård Pedersen<sup>20</sup>, Giovanni Pelino<sup>21</sup>, Mihai Puscas<sup>22</sup>, Graziano Rossi<sup>23</sup>, Angela Stanisci<sup>21</sup>, Jean-Paul Theurillat<sup>24,25</sup>, Marcello Tomaselli<sup>26</sup>, Luis Villar<sup>6</sup>, Pascal Vittoz<sup>27</sup>, Ioannis Vogiatzakis<sup>28</sup> and Georg Grabherr<sup>2</sup>



Pauli *et al.* (2012) *Science* 336:  
353-355



# CLIMATE CHANGE AND REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

## Response of alpine plant flower production to temperature and snow cover fluctuation at the species range boundary

Thomas Abeli • Graziano Rossi •  
Rodolfo Gentili • Andrea Mondoni •  
Paolo Cristofanelli

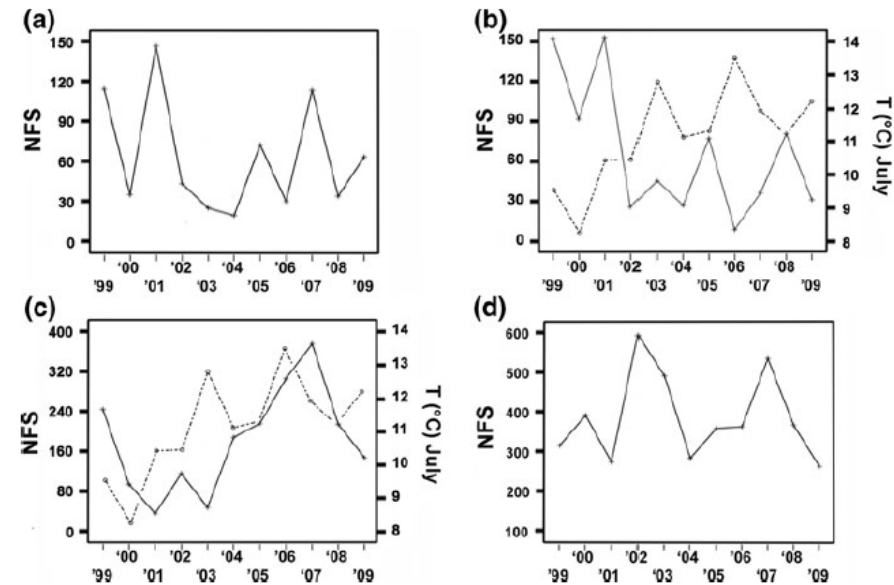
High mean temperature  
(June-July) is significantly  
correlated with low number of  
flower produced.



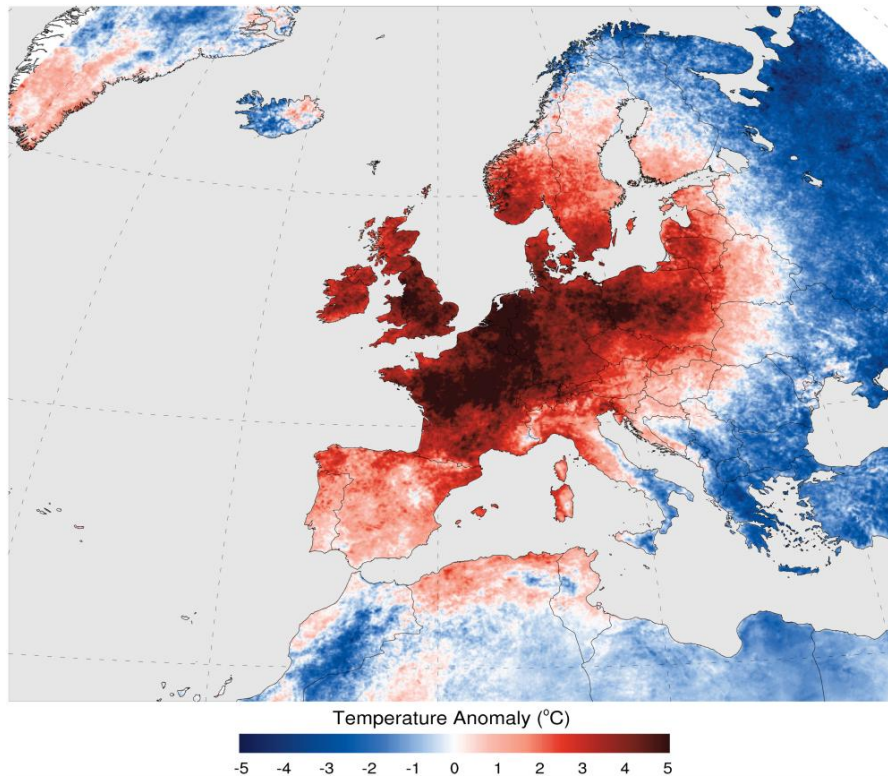
10

Plant Ecol (2012) 213:1–13

**Fig. 4** Trends (solid line) of the number of flowering stems (NFS) of the studied species from 1999 to 2009; **a** *C. foetida*, **b** *L. alpina*, **c** *S. incanus* subsp. *incanus*, **d** *S. suecica*. Dashed line in **b** and **c** represents the mean temperature of July recorded at M. Cimone and resulted significantly correlated with the flowering abundance of *L. alpina* and *S. incanus*



# HEAT-WAVE EFFECTS ON ALPINE PLANTS



Nordic Journal of Botany 29: 001–007, 0000

doi: 10.1111/j.1756-1051.2011.01303.x,

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Subject Editor: Jens Christian Svenning. Accepted 31 August 2011

## Effect of the extreme summer heat waves on isolated populations of two orophitic plants in the north Apennines (Italy)

Thomas Abeli, Graziano Rossi, Rodolfo Gentili, Maurizia Gandini, Andrea Mondoni and Paolo Cristofanelli

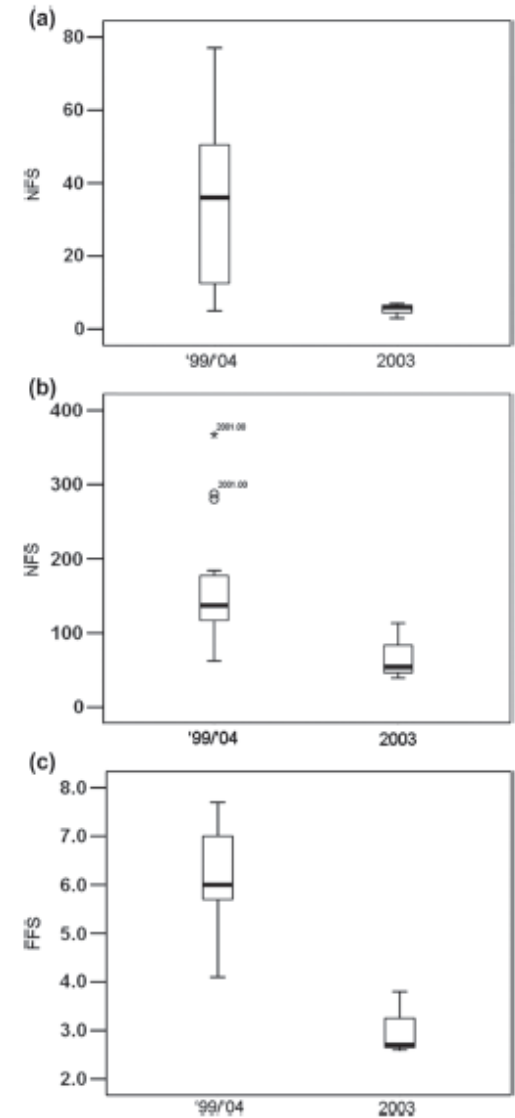


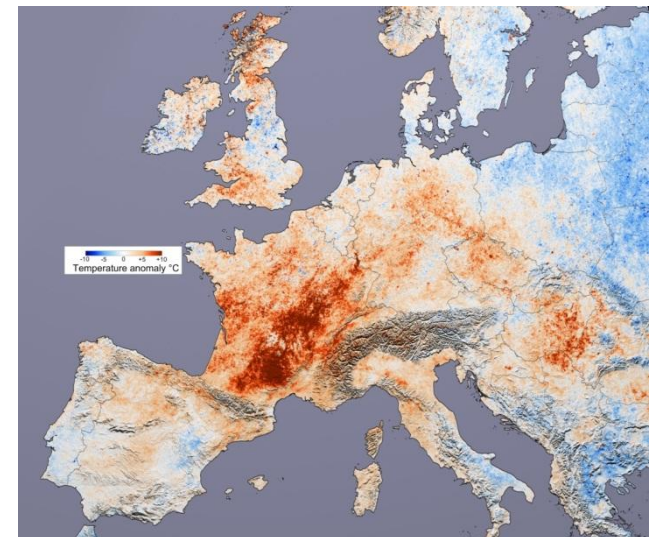
Figure 2. Comparison between the number of flowering stems (NFS) and inflorescences per flowering stems (FFS) in 2003 and the rest of the time series. Box plots on the left represent the values of NFS or FFS of the whole time series (2003 excluded), while box plots on the right represent the values of NFS or FFS recorded in 2003 only: (a) NFS of *Alopecurus alpinus*, (b) NFS of *Vicia cusnada* and (c) FFS of *Vicia cusnada*.



# EFFECTS OF HEAT WAVES ON GERMINATION OF ALPINE PLANTS

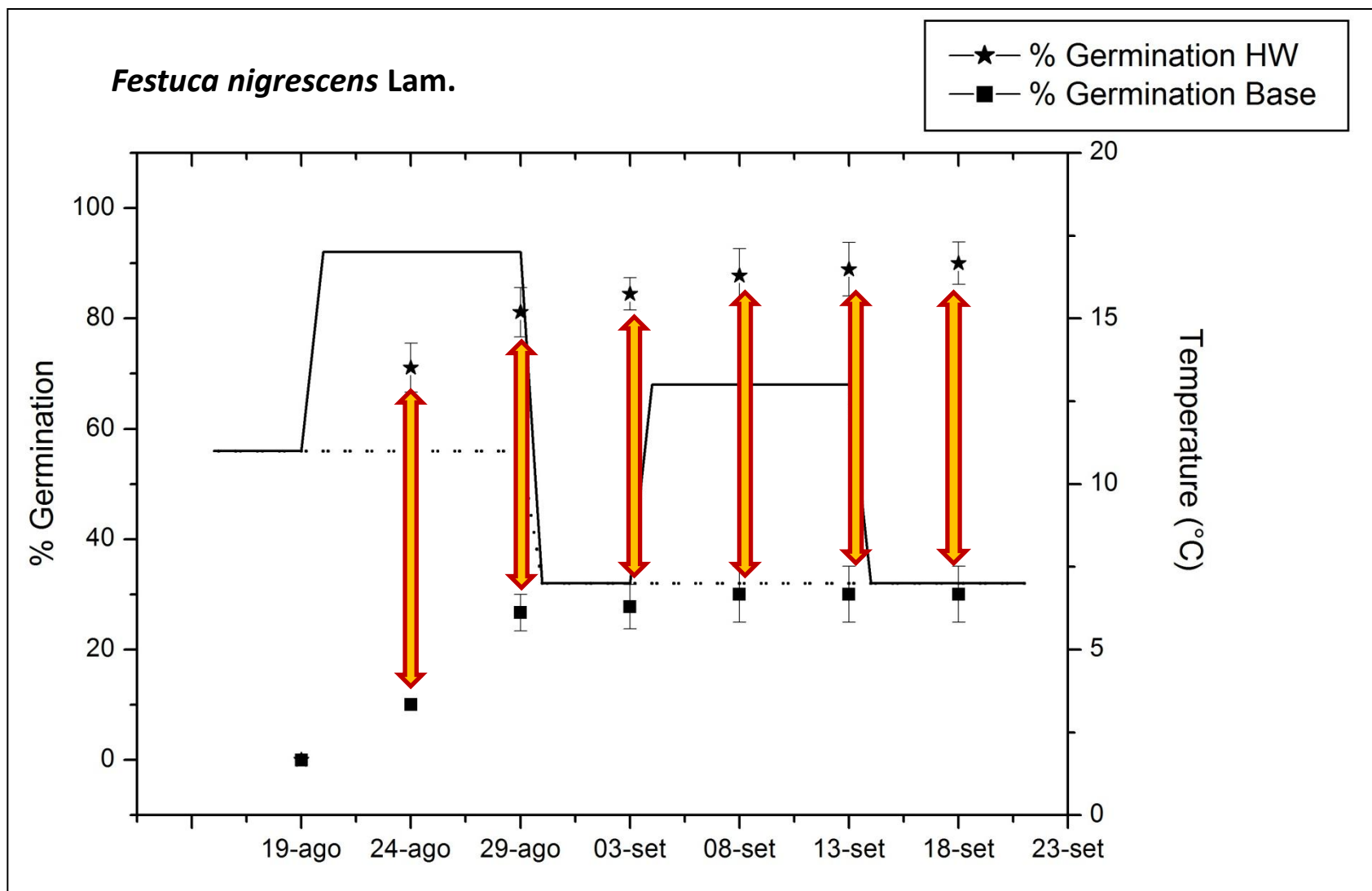
One of the consequence of climate change is the increase of extreme climatic events like heat waves, storm and drought (IPCC, 2007)

MONTE CIMONE, 2165 m

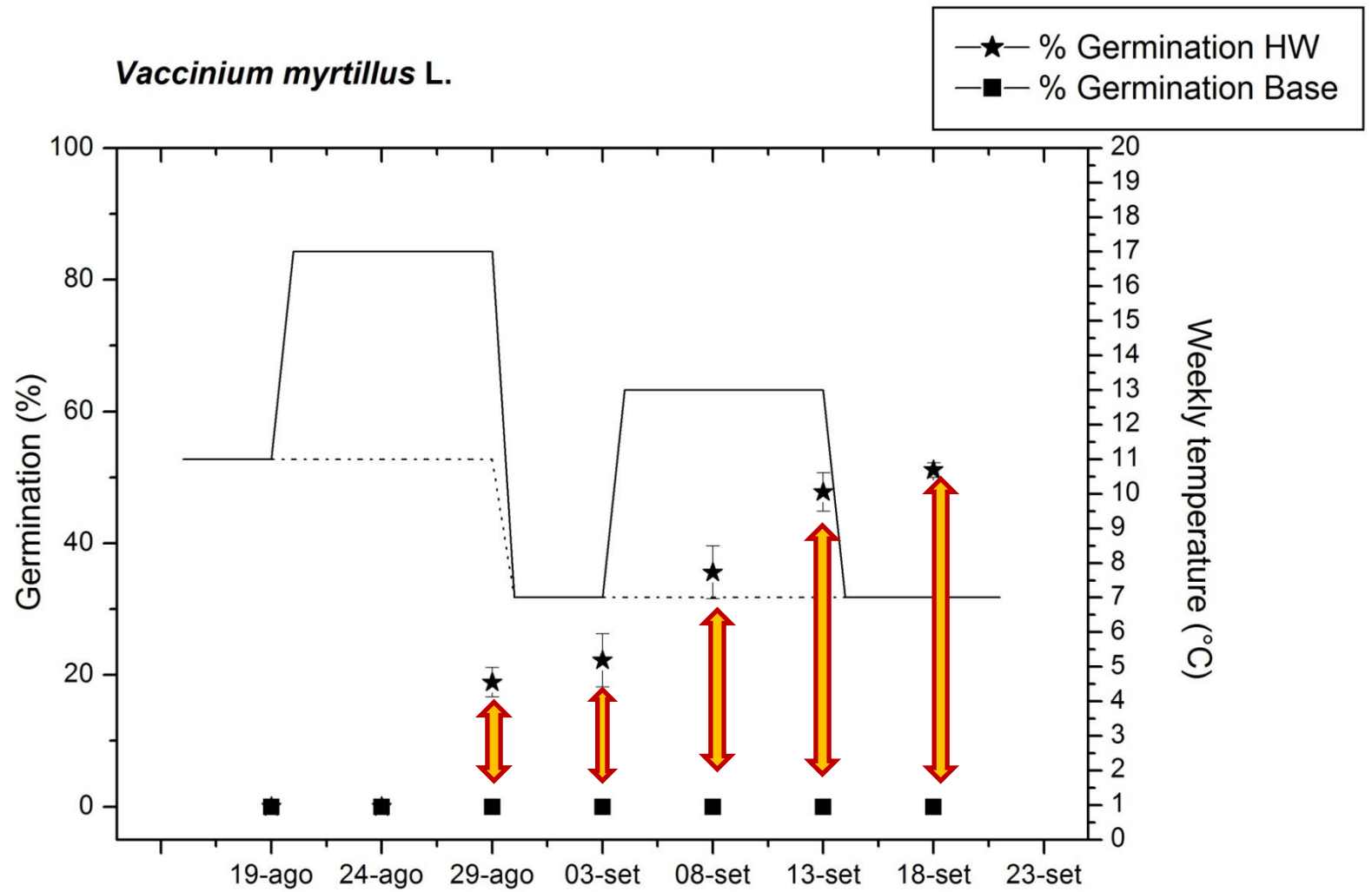




## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE OF GERMINATION TO HWs



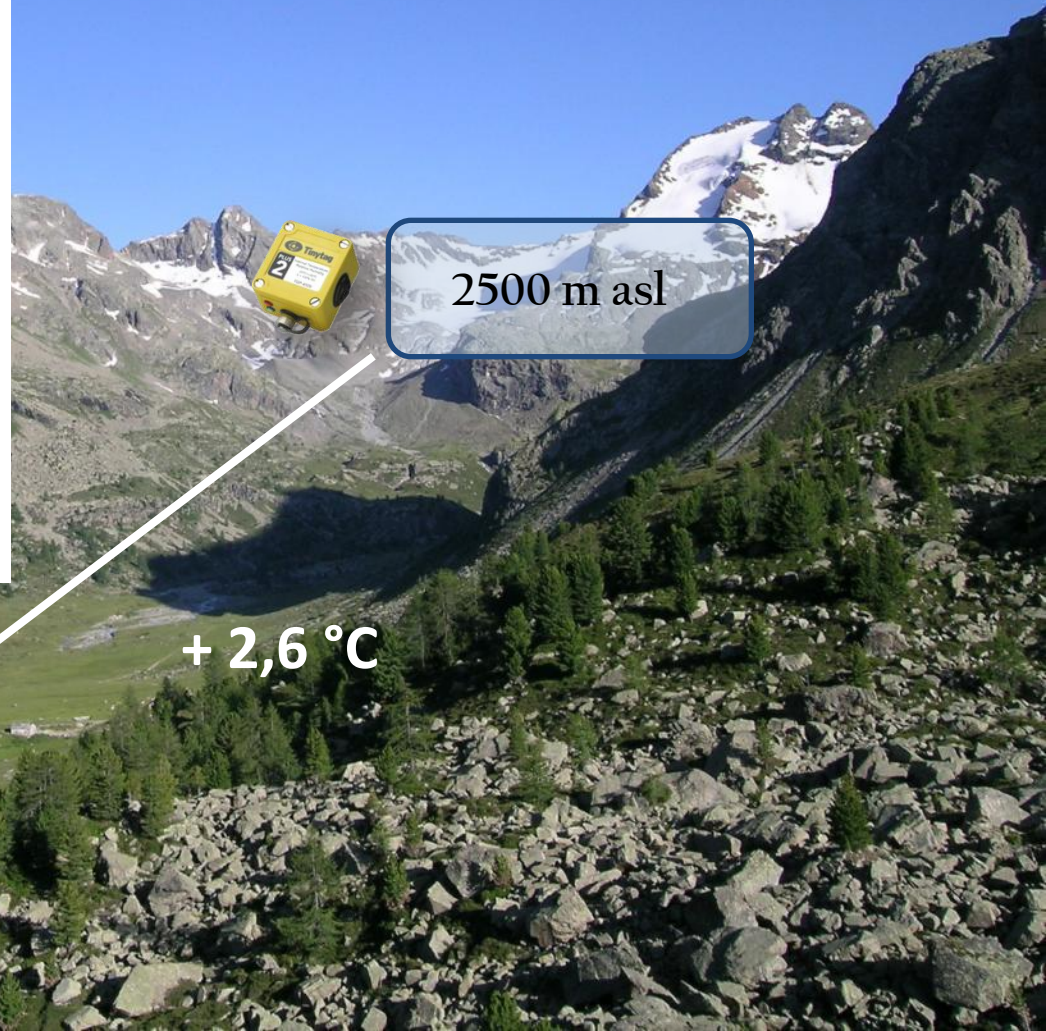
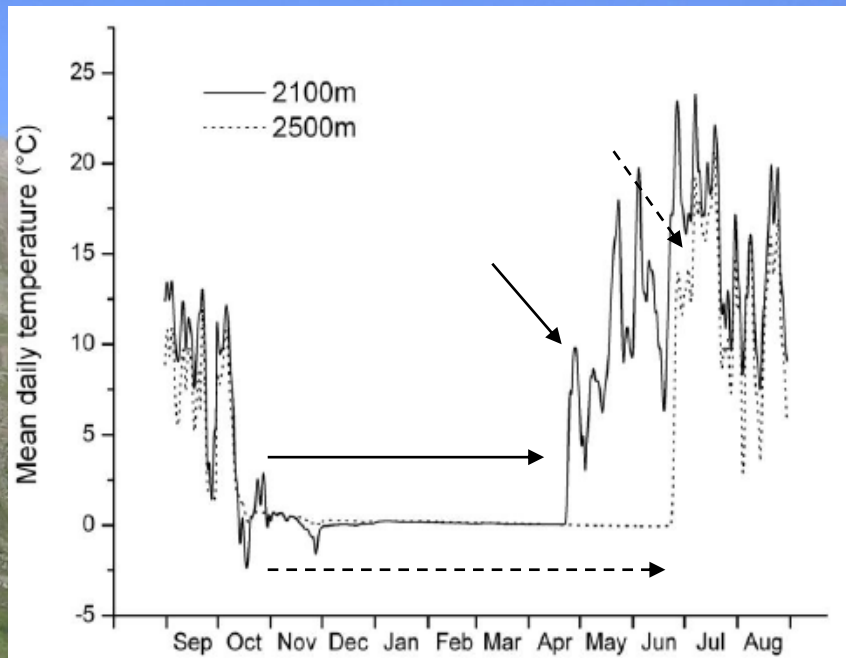
## DELAYED RESPONSE OF GERMINATION TO HWs





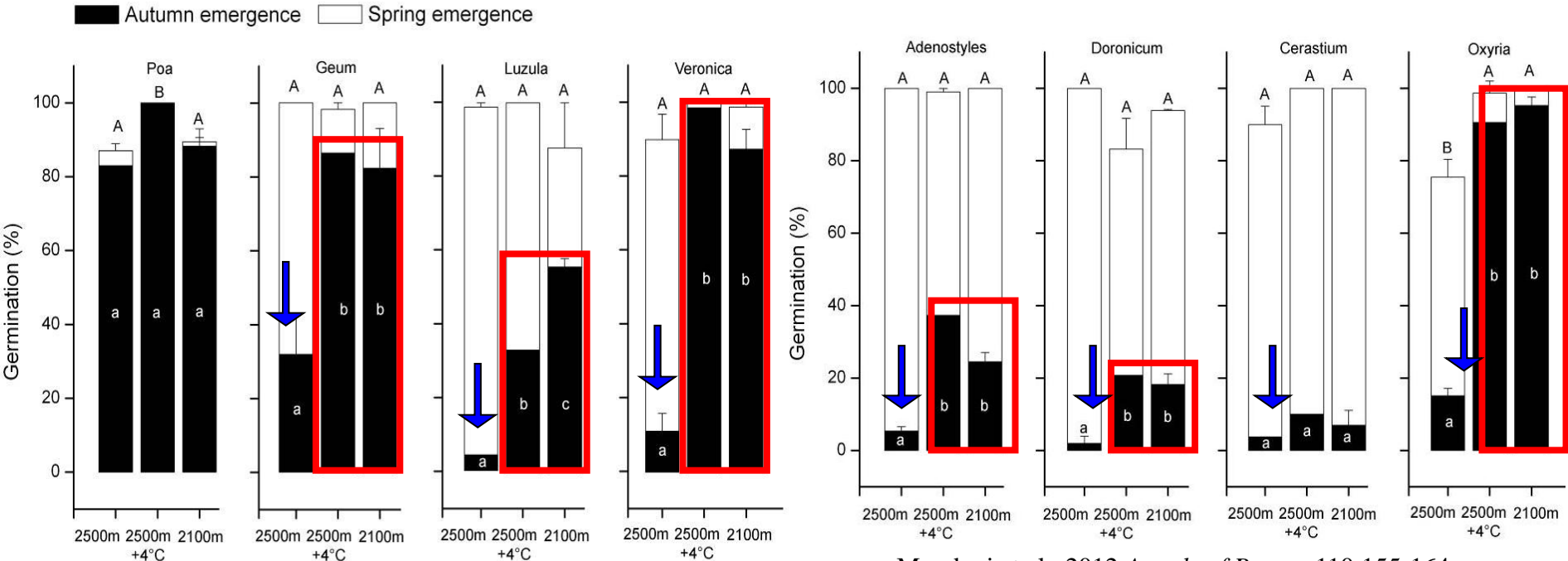
# SEED ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Future scenarios with **autumn T higher** and **spring T lower** will influence time of seed **germination** (shift from spring to autumn) rather than final percentage.



# Climate warming could shift the timing of seed germination in alpine plants

Andrea Mondoni<sup>1,\*</sup>, Graziano Rossi<sup>2</sup>, Simone Orsenigo<sup>2</sup> and Robin J. Probert<sup>3</sup>







**ENSCONET**

## European Native Seed Conservation NETWORK

19 partners in Europe and  
Mediterranean Area

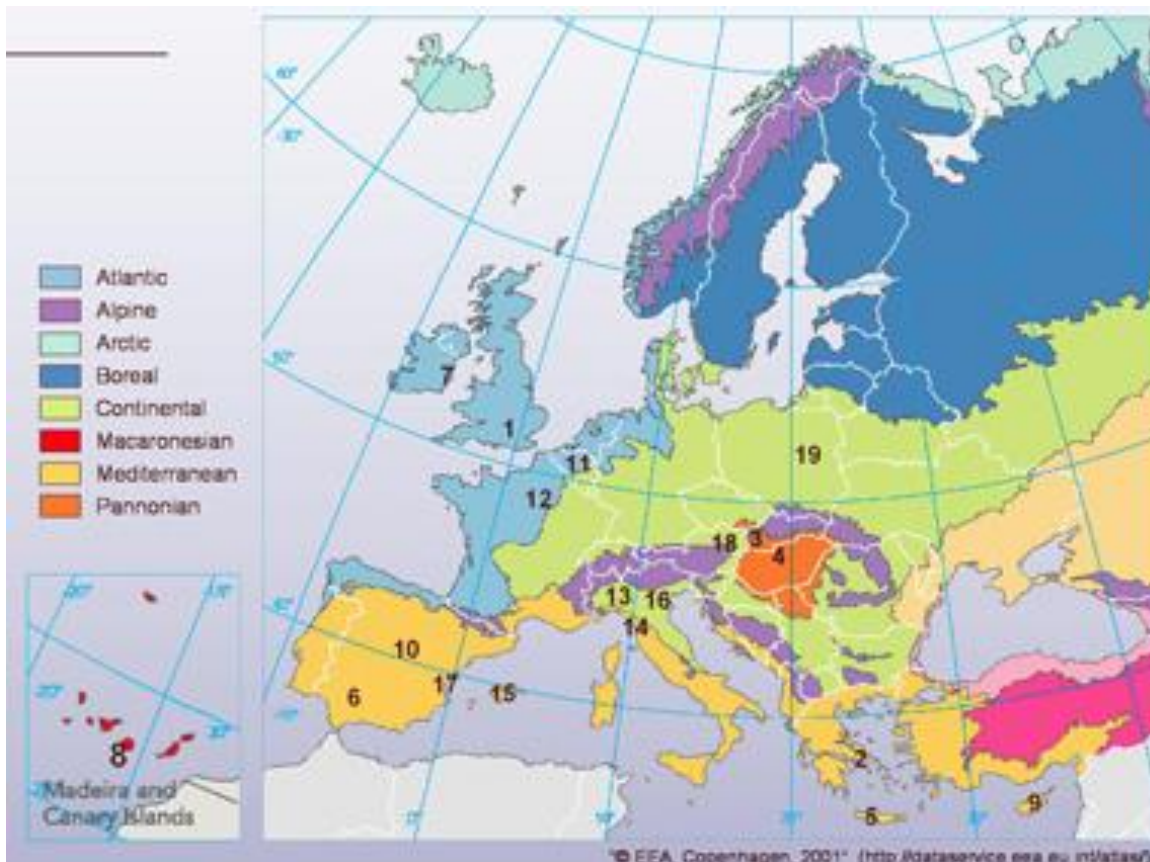


### **ENSCONET** Seed Collecting Manual FOR WILD SPECIES

Main editors:  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK) &  
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

Edition 1: 17 March 2009\*

\* This document will be updated as improvements become apparent





# NEPAL

2010-2013

Seeds of 100 species collected in 1 year of field activity





## ***Ex situ* conservation in developing country, Nepal as study case.**

*Studi Trent. Sci. Nat.*, 90 (2012): 227-231

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### **Ev-K2-CNR/NAST Himalayan Seed Bank Project - Kathmandu (Nepal)**

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# **WHAT'S NEXT?**

**Effect of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) on seed germination**

**Combined effect of photoperiod, temperature  
and water availability on plant adaptation**

**Seed germination above vegetation limits**



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# **THANK YOU**