Vegetation mapping in Italy: an overview

G. Bocci, S. Carlesi, P. Bärberi

Institute of Life Sciences - Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna
Pisa - Italy

Problem

Italy has a very complex set of climatic and orographic conditions => high number of habitats and plant species (6711 species) => the richest flora in Europe (World Conservation Monitoring Center, 1992)

* Coastal areas
* Mediterranean areas (Olive area)
* Sub-mediterranean areas (Grapevine area)
* Po valley
* Appennines (N-S mountain chain)
* Alps
* High Mediterranean mountains
Problem

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Less attention has been paid to common agricultural species; occasional papers/reports when a new species or biotype (e.g. herbicide resistant) is found

According to our knowledge no comprehensive mapping activity exist on weeds in Italy

Technical difficulties in mapping

Mapping data are fragmented

Maps grids used by botanist are not uniform (homogenisation of already existing maps would require additional work)
Present situation in Italy

Prosser (2005) tried to summarise the vegetation mapping activities for the 21 Italian Regions:

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region has built a geographic atlas of its flora

Analisi territoriali

Aree di massima concentrazione di *Campanula zozysii* all’interno dell’area del Parco riportate su DTM (Modello Digitale del Terreno).
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Present situation in Italy

Prosser (2005) tried to summarise the vegetation mapping activities for the 21 Italian Regions:

- Friuli Venezia Giulia Region has built a geographic atlas of its flora
- The Province of Cremona (north Italy) has built a similar atlas
- Tuscany region is trying to develop such an atlas (G.I.F.T. Project – Geographical Information on the flora of Tuscany)
Ongoing Activities: Existing Floras

*Italian Flora* (Pignatti, 1982): 5599 species

An annotated check-list of the Italian vascular flora
(Conti et al., 2005): 6711 species
Other sources of information on distribution of weeds

“Grey literature” : important source of information BUT not easily accessible

E.g. SIRFI (Italian Weed Research Society) abstracts freely downloadable by the web, provides info BUT no electronic maps
Perspectives

The Italian Ministry for the Environment seemed keen to support mapping of weed populations as one priority research activity linked to the National Action Plan (EU Framework Directive on Sustainable Pesticide Use) at least before the summer 2011 economic crisis …

We will try keep this idea alive and link it up to this WG activities to exploit international networking potential
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