

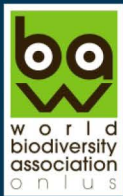
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*Juniperus turbinata* Guss. - Piano Pirrera, Acate, Sicily

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***Juniperus turbinata* Guss. (Cupressaceae).** *Juniperus phoenicea* was described by Linnaeus (1753) from specimens collected from Montpellier, southern France; later Gussone (1845), described *J. turbinata* from southern Sicily differentiating it from the previous one. After many taxonomic vicissitudes, the two species are currently recognized by various authors and by the IUCN's Conifer Specialist Group. *Juniperus turbinata* differs from *J. phoenicea* mostly by having a larger (12-14 mm), sub-ovoid cone and leaves without scarious border (Arrigoni, 2012). *J. phoenicea* is a western European taxon that grows in a wide bioclimatic range from thermo- to supramediterranean belt with semiarid to humid ombrotype, in Spain, southern France, Italy in Maritime and Apuane Alps, while *J. turbinata* is found from the infra- to supramediterranean belt with arid to humid ombrotype and is widespread in the Mediterranean region and Canary Islands, both in coastal and inland regions (Mazur et al., 2016). *J. turbinata* is a large shrub or a small tree (8-12m tall), which grows mainly in coastal areas of the Mediterranean region and in mountains of northwest of Africa. In Sicily, the species is generally rare but a large population was recently discovered near Acate in SE Sicily (Minissale & Sciandrello, 2013). It is a typical Mediterranean species globally evaluated as Near Threatened (NT) by the IUCN world red list (Farjon, 2013). In fact although it is widely distributed along the coasts of the Mediterranean, subpopulations are scattered and usually small or very small. It often occurs close to urbanized coastal strips, or paleo-dunes where much of the original habitat has been destroyed. So reinforcement of *J. turbinata* populations and habitat restoration should be implemented.

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