

**Workshop 2**  
**Oral contribution for „Scientific research“**  
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**The importance of soil seed banks for the conservation of nearly extinct species:  
insights from *Coleanthus subtilis* (Poaceae)**

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Abstract:

The importance of soil seed banks and their dynamics for plant species conservation is demonstrated by the annual Poaceae *Coleanthus subtilis*. The differences in the distribution patterns of endangered plants in the underground vegetation (soil seed bank) versus actual vegetation cover are illuminated and discussed in light of given informations in different European “Red Data Books”. The ephemeral species *Coleanthus subtilis* has not been reported for decades in the vegetation cover of any Austrian habitat. Positive experiences controlling *Coleanthus* localities documented by herbarium material generally encouraged the idea to compare old herbar material of today highly endangered or extinct plant species with seeds of soil samples collected in corresponding localities.