

Workshop 3  
Poster presentation  
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**BIOLOGY OF *Eryngium viviparum* GAY (UMBELLIFERAE): A PLANT  
THREATENED THROUGHOUT ITS NATURAL RANGE**

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*Eryngium viviparum* is an Atlantic-region endemic with a disjunct distribution (Dupont, 1962), threatened throughout its range (Danton & Baffray, 1995; Anezzo *et al.*, 1995; Romero & Rubinos, 2003); since 1979 it has therefore been included in Annex I of the Berne Convention, and was subsequently included in the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, in which it is included in Annex II as a priority species. It is a small plant growing in seasonally flooded sites (Cook, 1983; Rodríguez-Oubiña *et al.*, 1997), and with the exception of a single population in France (Morbihan, Brittany; Buord *et al.*, 1999), all known populations are in wetlands in northwest Spain (Romero *et al.*, 2004).

Recent studies of this species have enabled precise mapping of its current distribution, together with population censuses and evaluation of conservation status and major threats to survival. However, we lack information on the biology of this species. The present report provides data on its phenology, together with data on reproductive success and possible critical phases in the life cycle. A population was selected in which 35 individuals (ramets) were randomly marked during the period at which the habitat dried up. These individuals were then visited weekly throughout the dry season between 2000 and 2002 inclusive. During this period, some individuals did not flower, and others died; final data were obtained for a total of 30 individuals in 2000 and 16 individuals in 2001. During 2000, fruits were collected for laboratory trials. The information obtained constitutes the first detailed published data on the reproductive biology of this species, and provides a useful basis for conservation decision-making.