

**Sicily (Italy) surveying/collecting *A. insularis* (May 8th to May 10th 2010)**

Gideon Ladizinsky, Ferdinando Branca, Alessandro Tribulato and Andreas Katsiotis

Dear Lorenzo,

We've had a successful trip around Sicily in order to find old and new spots where populations of *Avena insularis* grow and collect seeds together with Gideon Ladizinsky and Andreas Katsiotis. We spent three days visiting the sites where Gideon Ladizinsky had previously found *A. insularis* (lago Comunelli) and mount Giase. In both sites *A. insularis* is found in areas reserved for planting eucalyptus and pine trees, thus can be considered as protected sites. During the trip in the centre-West of Catania province, a new site with *A. insularis* was found close to mount Capezzano (between Cinquegrana and Borgo Franchetto). Search was also done in other areas for possible new sites (north of the Catania-Palermo highway and west of the Catania-Messina highway) but with no success. A meeting with the conservation agency in Catania was as well organized, to whom a report and recommendations for in situ conservation action on sites visited will be sent by Andreas Katsiotis. *A. insularis* seeds were collected from all sites and stored at the DOFATA seed bank. The passport data of the conserved accession is showed in annex 1.

Regarding mission costs, enclosed you will find the invoices of the expenses for meals and lodging of Dr. Alessandro Tribulato and myself.

King regards,

Prof. Ferdinando Branca

Alessandro Tribulato:	Meal € 30,00
Ferdinando Branca:	Meals € 110,00
	Lodging € 120,00
Total	€ 270,00

I think the overall costs are lower compared to what was initially being calculated.

## Annex 1

Avena insularis	Fornitori: Branca, Kasitios, Iadizinsky, Tribulato.	GPS coordinates
Accession number	area and soil	GPS coordinates
UNICT 4429 AV43	new road, not paved. At the junction, instead of going up towards the lake (Comunale – artificial lake, the road is at the lower end where the artificial soil dam is), you turn left, and continue for about 2-3 km. the soil is whiteish eroded.	alt. 56m N 37 08 769 E 014 07 602
UNICT 4430 AV44	after 3 km in the paved road there is a right opening where you get into a soil road leading to the field. Move towards the cliffs. same area further up to the cliffs large population of insularis (pure stand) with no sterilis typical insularis landscape.	alt. 78m N 37 08 970 E 014 07 305 alt. 75m N 37 09 011 E 014 07 356
UNICT 4431 AV45	inside the protected area going up the road to Butera and parallel to the lake on your right hand, on the left the area is fenced and protected from grazing. A road on the left leads inside the protected area. About 2 km after the junction	alt. 186m N 37 09 422 E 014 08 507
UNICT 4432 AV46	again on the road around the lake where a hairpin road is (on your right is the lake on your left an opening in the fence and cliffs). A good stand of insularis with few sterilis plants at the edges.	alt. 100m N 37 09 586 E 014 08 935
UNICT 4433 AV47	inside a protected area this area has been recently planted with pine trees. nearby eucalyptus trees were cut down. mixed stand with insularis and sterilis. spread population in a large area.	alt. 245m N 37 11 49,1” E 014 20 05,5”
UNICT 4434 AV48	mixed stand with sterilis. new site. distant to previous locations where insularis is present. large population. on the cliffs over the bank of a crick.	alt. 170m N 37 28 21.3” E 014 42 28,0”
UNICT 4435 AV49	probably only sterilis. check chromosome numbers	alt. 211m N 37 33 49,9” E 014 44 30,5”