

**Italian Society of Vegetation Science 56th Congress**  
**Next Challenges in Vegetation Science: Facing the Anthropocene**  
**Siena, 13-14 July 2023**



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**Salt-marsh vegetation of the “Palude la Vela” Regional Nature Reserve (Taranto, Apulia)**

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Palude La Vela Regional Nature Reserve is a protected natural area located in the municipality of Taranto (southern Apulia). With an extension of 116 hectares, the area stretches along the shores of Taranto’s “Mar Piccolo” and is included in the SCI IT9130004 “Mar Piccolo” (Margiotta et al. 2020).

Whithin the Project BEST “Addressing joint Agro- and Aqua-Biodiversity pressures Enhancing SuSTainable Rural Development”, funded by the Interreg V-A Greece-Italy European Territorial Cooperation Program 2014/2020, a vegetation survey was carried out between 2021 and 2022. Vegetation data were sampled in the field according to the phytosociological approach. A total of 77 original relevés have been organized into a dataset and then subject to cluster analysis. The literature relevés from Chiesura-Lorenzoni & Lorenzoni (1977) were not included in the elaboration, due to some issues about the taxonomic identity of some species. The outcomes of the numeric analysis allowed to identify various associations, many of them floristically and physiognomically-structurally well differentiated, and referable to the classes: *Salicornietea fruticosae*, *Therosalicornietea*, *Saginetea maritimae*.

1. Chiesura Lorenzoni F., Lorenzoni G.G., 1977. Ricerche sulla vegetazione del Mar Piccolo di Taranto (Puglia). Primo contributo. *Thalassia Salentina*, 7: 27-42
2. Margiotta B., Colaprico G., Urbano M., Veronico G., Tommasi F., Tomaselli V., 2020. Halophile wheatgrass *Thinopyrum elongatum* (Host) D.R. Dewey (Poaceae) in three Apulian coastal wetlands: vegetation survey and genetic diversity. *Plant Biosystems*, 156(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/11263504.2020.1829732>