

## Cuttings and transplants to save Doñana's native carnation, a species at risk

**LOCATION:** Seville

**DURATION:** 1'36"

**SUMMARY:** Two out of every ten species of Spanish flower are at risk of extinction. One of them is the *Dianthus inoxianus*, an indigenous carnation from the sands of Doñana and capable of surviving 20 days without water. Scientists from the research group 'Reproductive Plant Ecology' are working out a way to save it. They assure that the success achieved thus far with cuttings and experimental transplants allows for optimism, regarding the future of the Doñana carnation.

### VTR:

In this greenhouse at the University of Seville, they are studying and agonising over this flower, a native carnation from Doñana in danger of extinction.

**FRANCISCO BALAO**  
Head of Research US

*"Taking certain conservation measures, the plant shouldn't have problems surviving."*

And these biologists are working on it. *Dianthus inoxianus* is its scientific name. The first task is studying its irregularities.

**FRANCISCO BALAO**  
Head of Research US

*"Its habitat includes coastal sandbanks, juniper trees, and woodland pines that appear around Doñana."*

**CRISTINA LORIS**  
US Researcher

*"They have a pink colour, but some are more pale, almost white even."*

**FRANCISCO BALAO**  
Head of Research US

*"It's the carnation with the most chromosomes in the world. The plant can survive up to 18 or 20 days without being watered, without water."*

It flowers in the summer. And it has a moth as its pollinator, which only comes by at night. The problem is that 90% of new plants die within the first year. That has left the species in danger of extinction. So what are they aiming to do about it?

**FRANCISCO BALAO**  
Head of Research US

*"The macropropagation of the plants material by cutting it so it can be positioned and relocated in protected areas."*

That's what they're trying to do, develop cuttings with hormones in these devices and doing so without soil.

**CRISTINA LORIS**  
US Researcher

*"The only thing it has is water, and it oxygenates and filters this water and that's the only thing it has."*

2 out of every 10 species of Spanish flower are in danger, though the Doñana carnation is closer to being saved. 80% of the cuttings and transplants carried out in the Valverde del Camino quarry, where their experiments are tested, have been successful.