

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.