Wild Vines of Cyprus

**InWiGrape**
“Increasing the efficiency of conservation of wild grapevine genetic resources in Europe”

5th of July
Split, Croatia

Savvas Savvides
Agricultural Research Institute
Cyprus
Findings of pips and pip inprints in pottery during excavations at several archeological sites prove the existence, collection and use of wild grapes 5000 years B.C.

- At the village of Pyrgos in Lemesos District two jugs were found, that had been used for storing wine — even grape pips were traced!
- At the nearby village of Erimi 18 pots were discovered, twelve of which had been used for wine at some period between 3500 and 3000 B.C.

1932-35 Excavations at Erimi/Bamboula.
There has been no previous research on wild vines in Cyprus. The only report is from R.D. Meikle a British botanist that published the book “Flora of Cyprus” in 1977. In his book mentions the existence of wild populations of Vitis not specifying if these are indigenous or subspontaneous plants.
The long-term objective of this project is to preserve and study \textit{in-situ} and \textit{ex-situ} populations of wild vines and to promote their future utilization.

Work in progress involves:
- Search,
- Collection,
- Identification and
- Evaluation of wild vines \textit{in situ} and \textit{ex-situ}.
Until now more than 300 individual wild vines have been marked and collected in river beds of 8 remote forest areas.

- Potamos Kampou (20)
- Potamos Limniti (40)
- Potamos Pyrgou (23)
- Stauros Psokas (67)
- Ayia (23)
- Saramas (24)
- Platys (9)
- Roudhias (30)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW Number/Code</td>
<td>VSATIL1A08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLD Number/Code</td>
<td>VS1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection No:</td>
<td>1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS Bearing:</td>
<td>35.089358, 32.759442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation/Altitude (m):</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area:</td>
<td>Tilliria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Ayia Varvara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Location:</td>
<td>Near the church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant climbing on:</td>
<td>Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil description:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of vine (m):</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk size (circumference / cm):</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Flower (M / F / H):</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunch present and description:</td>
<td>Small bunches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry Description (size, colour):</td>
<td>Small black</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Altitude: 300-750m  
Located: River beds and streams  
Climb on trees and bushes (up to 12m)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Acanthus orientalis</em> Decne</td>
<td>Oriental Alder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus coccifera</em> L.subsp.</td>
<td>Kermes Oak, Holly Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>calliprinos</em> (Webb) Homboe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus alnifolia</em> Poech</td>
<td>Golden Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus infectoria</em> Oliv. Subsp.</td>
<td>Oak, Cyprus Oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>veneris</em> (A.Kern.) Meikle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Platanus orientalis</em> L.</td>
<td>Oriental Plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer obtusifolium</em> Sibth.et Sm</td>
<td>Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer pseudoplatanus</em> L.</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Myrtus communis</em> L.</td>
<td>Common Myrtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Arbutus andrachne</em> L.</td>
<td>Eastern Strawberry Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Styrax officinalis</em> L.</td>
<td>Storax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pinus brutia</em> Ten.</td>
<td>Calabrian Pine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A collection of 150 individuals has been planted at Saittas Experimental Station for:

- Conservation of the genetic material and 
- *ex-situ* evaluation

**Conservation of the genetic material**

- Protection
  - Human activities
  - Environmental disasters
  - Phylloxera invasion
- Future use for vine improvement
  - Resistance to pests and diseases
  - Resistance to environmental conditions
**Ex-situ evaluation**

- **Phenotypical** characteristics
  - Ampelographic description (young shoots, mature leaves, bunches and berries etc)
  - Collection of seeds

- **Phenological** characteristics
  - BBCH scale
  - Time of ripening