

HOSTING GROUPS FOR INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Pharmaceutical Botany Group



Research themes:

- Taxonomy and chorology of Sicilian plants, including medicinal species.
- Acclimatisation and spread of exotic medicinal plants in Sicily.
- Phytochemical and pharmacobotanical studies on Sicilian flora.
- Endophytic micromycetes in medicinal *Ranunculaceae*.
- Traditional uses of indigenous Sicilian plants.
- Toxic plants in Sicilian flora (wild and cultivated).
- Allergenic plants in urban contexts.

Methodologies:

- Taxonomic surveys, field studies, herbarium work.
- Phytochemical analysis (chromatography, spectroscopy).
- Molecular techniques for fungal identification.
- Ethnobotanical data collection (interviews, literature review).
- Pharmacobotanical testing.

Involved laboratories: University of Palermo, University of Catania and University of Messina.



Prof. Vivienne Spadaro

Selected publications:

- Bonanno F., Aprile S., Spadaro V., Raimondo F.M., Giovino A. *Preliminary Study on the Genetic Diversity of Sicilian Populations of Crataegus azarolus (Rosaceae) and Their Wild Relatives for Conservation and Valorisation Purposes. Diversity*, 17(4), 258 (2025) (<https://doi.org/10.3390/d17040258>).
- Malfa G.A., Simone Bianchi, Spadaro V., Di Giacomo C., Raimondo F.M., Acquaviva R. *Oxalis pes-caprae L. (Oxalidaceae): From Invasive Concern to Promising Bioresource for Health and Sustainable Applications* **Plants**, 14, 578 (2025) (<https://doi.org/10.3390/plants14040578>).
- Spadaro V., Marino P., Scuderi L., Venturella G., Raimondo F.M. *Biodiversity in some populations of Crataegus (Rosaceae) from western Sicily: Description of two new species and notes on conservation and valorisation. Fl. Medit.*, 34, 239-255 (2024) (<http://doi.org/10.7320/flmedit34.239>).
- Kozuharova E., Malfa G.A., Acquaviva R., Valdes B., Aleksanyan A., Batovska D., Stoycheva C., Rejdali M., Al-Tawaha A.R., Marino P., Spadaro V. *Wild Species from the Family Apiaceae, Traditionally Used as Food in Some Mediterranean Countries. Plants*, 13, 2324 (2024). (<https://doi.org/10.3390/plants13162324>).
- Taviano M.F., Arena P., Davì F., Cavò E., Spadaro V., et al. *Contribution of Phenolic Compounds to the Antioxidant Activity of Leaf and Flower Extracts of Sinapis pubescens L. subsp. pubescens (Brassicaceae). Chem Biodivers*, 21(5), e202400272 (2024) (<http://doi.org/10.1002/cbdv.202400272>).