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Uniqueness matters: patterns of α and β-diversity highlight conservation priorities for plant communities in Italian agricultural landscapes

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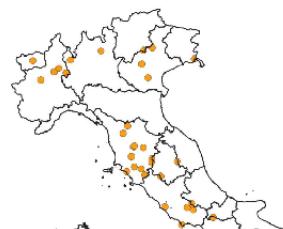
Uniqueness matters: patterns of α and β -diversity highlight conservation priorities for plant communities in Italian agricultural landscapes

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Agricultural landscapes can host a diversified mosaic of different ecosystems and habitat types, each supporting specific plant communities.

Though it is acknowledged that habitat diversification is crucial for the maintenance of a high farmland biodiversity, there is still lack of quantitative information on the contribution of different plant

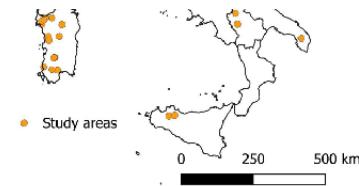


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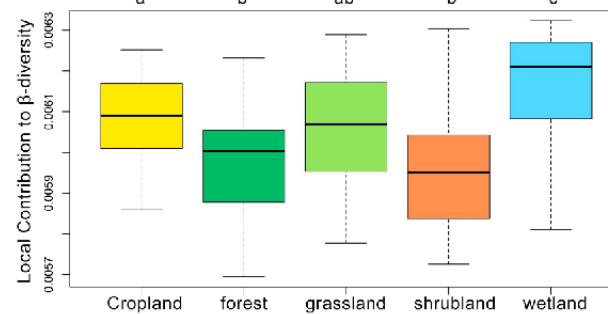
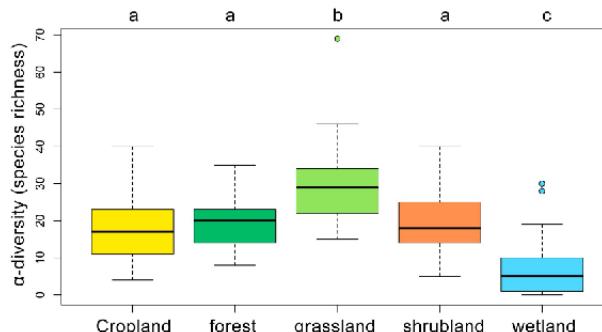
Vegetation shrublands

community types to biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.

Here, we aimed at highlighting the conservation priorities for the plant communities of different ecosystems across Italian agricultural landscapes through an analysis of their contribution to biodiversity.



We compa
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Species An



Species	SCBD
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	0.024371602
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	0.021952752
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	0.019882528
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	0.018280297
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	0.014677318
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	0.013944897
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	0.013223803
<i>Lemna minor</i>	0.012652517
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	0.011065955
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	0.010151648
<i>Acer campestre</i>	0.00973291
<i>Cytisus villosus</i>	0.009526767
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	0.009476622

Wetland species, shrubs, and trees gave the highest contribution to β -diversity.

All the ecosystem types differed from one another in plant community species composition based on PERMANOVA, and they hosted distinctive species based on INSPAN.



Top indicator species

Cropland: *Papaver rhoeas*
Shrubland: *Prunus spinosa*
Forest: *Acer campestre*
Grassland: *Dactylis glomerata*
Wetland: *Phragmites australis*



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