SISV 2026

59th congress

PALERMO

59th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

ITALIAN SOCIETY OF VEGETATION SCIENCE

Società Italiana di Scienza della Vegetazione (SISV)

Vegetation Science for Sustainability and Ecological Transition

2nd Circular

June 4–5, 2026

Botanical Garden of the University of Palermo

Via Lincoln 2, Palermo, Italy

June 6, 2026

Field trip to Parco della Favorita, Palermo

Università degli Studi di Palermo

Centro di Sostenibilità e Transizione Ecologica

UNIPA HERITAGE ORTO BOTANICO

Società Italiana di Scienza della Vegetazione

About the 59th SISV Congress

The 59th International Congress of the Italian Society for Vegetation Science (SISV) will focus on the fundamental role of vegetation science in understanding ecosystem functioning and in supporting concrete pathways towards sustainability and ecological transition.

In a context marked by global environmental change, climate instability, and biodiversity loss, vegetation science provides essential conceptual and applied tools to interpret ecological processes and to design effective strategies for conservation, management, and ecosystem restoration.

Special attention will be devoted to traditional agroecological systems, which are increasingly recognised as exemplary models for integrating biodiversity conservation, sustainable land-use practices and resilient territorial management. These systems, shaped by the long-term coevolution between human societies and local environments, represent a natural and cultural heritage of exceptional value and offer valuable insights for addressing current challenges related to ecological transition.

Tentative sessions

Session 1 – Vegetation patterns, processes and diversity

Session dedicated to Professor Sandro Pignatti

Keywords: phytosociology, community ecology, vegetation dynamics and succession, vegetation diversity, vegetation mapping.

Session 2 – Traditional agroecological systems: vegetation values, management and restoration opportunities.

Keywords: landscape heterogeneity, effects of global change on vegetation, weed vegetation, historical vegetation ecology,

Session 3 – Habitat conservation: assessment, monitoring and trends

Keywords: Habitats Directive (Art.17), conservation status, habitat monitoring, Natura 2000 habitats, vegetation indicators, habitat mapping, long-term changes.

Session 4 – Free session

Keywords: general vegetation science, new methods, case studies, cross-disciplinary approaches, open topics.

Organizing committee

Giuseppe Bazan, Lorenzo Gianguzzi, Riccardo Guarino, Eliana Lombardo, Rosario Schicchi, Natale Surano

Scientific committee

Claudia Angiolini, Giuseppe Bazan, Erwin Bergmeier, Daniela Ciccarelli, Panayotis Dimopoulos, Romeo Di Pietro, Edy Fantinato, Lorenzo Gianguzzi, Riccardo Guarino, Javier Loidi, Corrado Marcenò, Carmelo Maria Musarella, Salvatore Pasta, Rosario Schicchi, Francesco Sottile, Daniele Viciani

Congress Secretariat

Edy Fantinato, infosisv@gmail.com

Registration form

https://forms.gle/n5KKtnVwoSHer2MA8

Registration Fees

Category	Until April 15, 2026	After April 15, 2026
Senior – SISV Member	170€	220€
Senior non-member (including SISV membership)*	220€	270€
Students & PhD – SISV Member	100€	130€
Students & PhD non-member (including SISV membership)*	150€	180€

* Registration is possible upon request for admission to the Italian Society of Vegetation Science: https://www.scienzadellavegetazione.it/en/the-society/membership/

Payment Information

Payments should be made by bank transfer to the following account:
Beneficiary: Società Italiana di Scienza della Vegetazione
Bank: Intesa Sanpaolo – Viale C. Battisti, 18 – Pavia (PV), Italy
IBAN: IT15C0306911310100000079333
BIC / SWIFT: BCITITMM
Please indicate in the payment reference:
"59th SISV Congress – [Name Surname]"

Not Included in the Registration Fee

- Social dinner (June 5, estimated cost 50 €).

Abstract submission

Abstract submission deadline: April 19, 2026.

Abstract template:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hw_mWekbcQIi37c7vQ7Zi5lve7NvBZmGfGNX1A_FGvE/edit?usp=sharing

Abstracts should be sent to both of the following addresses:
infosisv@gmail.com; 59thsisvcongress@gmail.com.

Email subject:
SURNAME-NAME-SESSION NUMBER
(e.g. *Bianchi-Luca-Session2*)

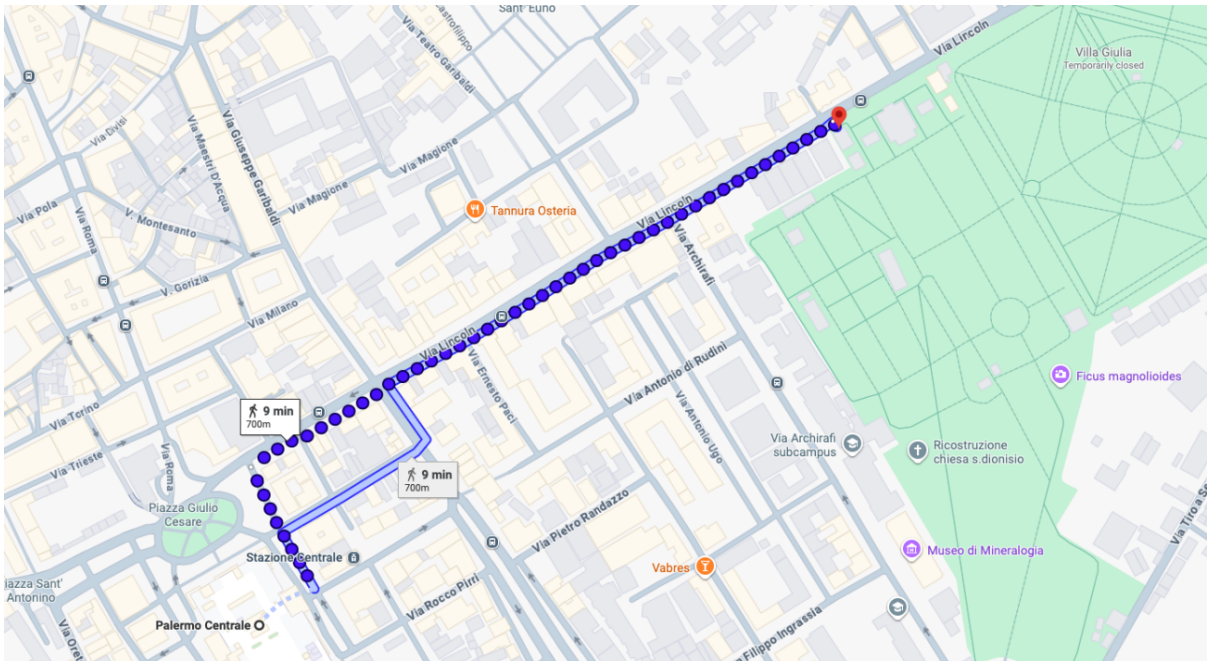
Contributions may be submitted as either oral presentations or posters; please clearly indicate your preference in the email at the time of submission.
Oral presentations will be selected by the Scientific Committee from the submitted abstracts.

Parco della Favorita of Palermo and Monte Pellegrino

Travel information

The conference venue (Orto Botanico) is located approximately 700 meters from Palermo central railway station and the main bus terminal.
Participants arriving at the station are recommended to reach the venue on foot, as it is within easy walking distance.

Botanical Garden - University of Palermo



How to reach Palermo

By Air
Palermo Airport “Falcone–Borsellino” (PMO) is located in Punta Raisi, approximately 30 km west of Palermo, along the A29 motorway.
Several airlines operate flights to Palermo, including ITA Airways, EasyJet, Ryanair, Volotea, Vueling, and others. The airport also offers a number of international connections. More information is available at: http://www.gesap.it

A convenient connection between the airport and the city centre is provided by the bus company **Prestia e Comandè**. The service runs every 30 minutes, with several stops within the city and a terminus at Palermo Centrale railway station. Travel time is approximately 50 minutes. Ticket price: €6.00 (one-way).

An alternative connection option is the **train service** departing from “Palermo Aeroporto” station, located within the airport terminal. The train connects the Palermo Aeroporto to Palermo Centrale railway station, with several intermediate stops within the city. Travel time is approximately 1 hour. Ticket price: €6.80 (one-way)

Taxis are generally not recommended, as fares to the city centre can exceed €50, especially in the evening.
Shared taxi services are available at a lower cost (approximately €8 per person).
Major car rental companies are also available at the airport.

By Sea
From Palermo’s port, several ferry companies operate regular connections to major Mediterranean destinations.

Grandi Navi Veloci (GNV) provides services to Civitavecchia, Genoa, and Naples.
Tirrenia operates routes to Livorno, Civitavecchia, Genoa, and Salerno.
Grimaldi Lines connects Palermo with Civitavecchia, Livorno, Genoa, Cagliari, Salerno, and Naples.

By Train
Palermo Centrale railway station is well connected to mainland Italy by long-distance train services. Among the most common routes are those from Rome and Naples, operated by Trenitalia. Overnight services (InterCity Notte) are also available, allowing convenient travel between Palermo and major Italian cities while travelling overnight.
More information is available at: **https://www.trenitalia.com/it.html**

By Car
Palermo can be reached via motorway.

Palermo – Catania (A19)
Toll-free motorway managed by ANAS. This is the main route connecting Palermo with central and eastern Sicily (Enna, Caltanissetta, Agrigento).

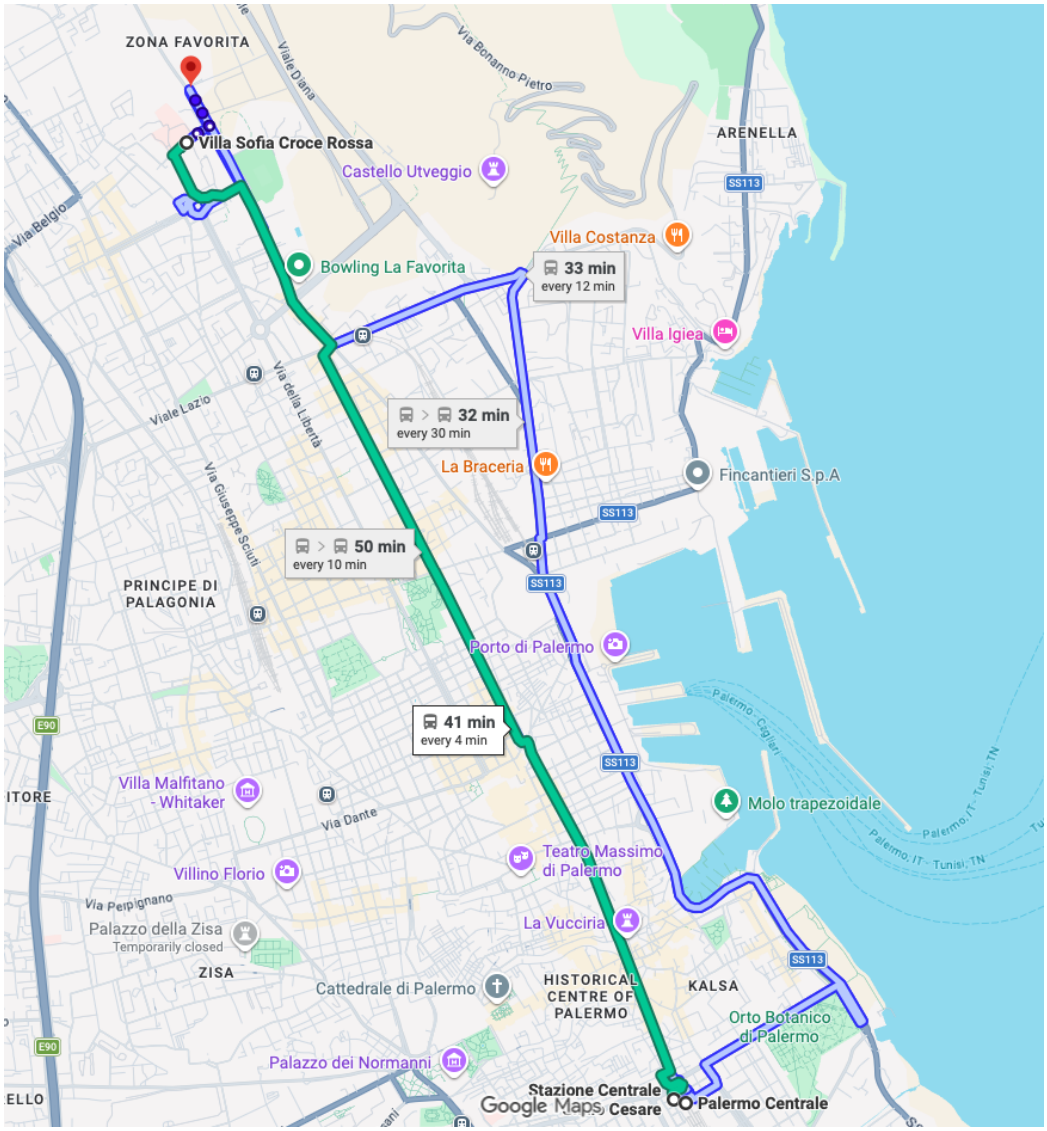
Messina – Palermo (A20)
Toll motorway (CAS), approximately 182 km long. It runs along the northern coast and connects Palermo with Messina.

How to Reach Parco della Favorita (Palermo)

Parco della Favorita is located at the north-western edge of Palermo, at the foot of Monte Pellegrino. Parco della Favorita is located at the north-western edge of Palermo, at the foot of Monte Pellegrino, and will serve as the **meeting point** for the Congress field trip.

By public transport
The park can be reached from the city centre by bus (line 101), which connects Palermo Centrale and Teatro Politeama with Stadio Renzo Barbera.

By car
The park is easily accessible by car from the city centre (10–15 minutes, depending on traffic). Parking is available along the main entrances.



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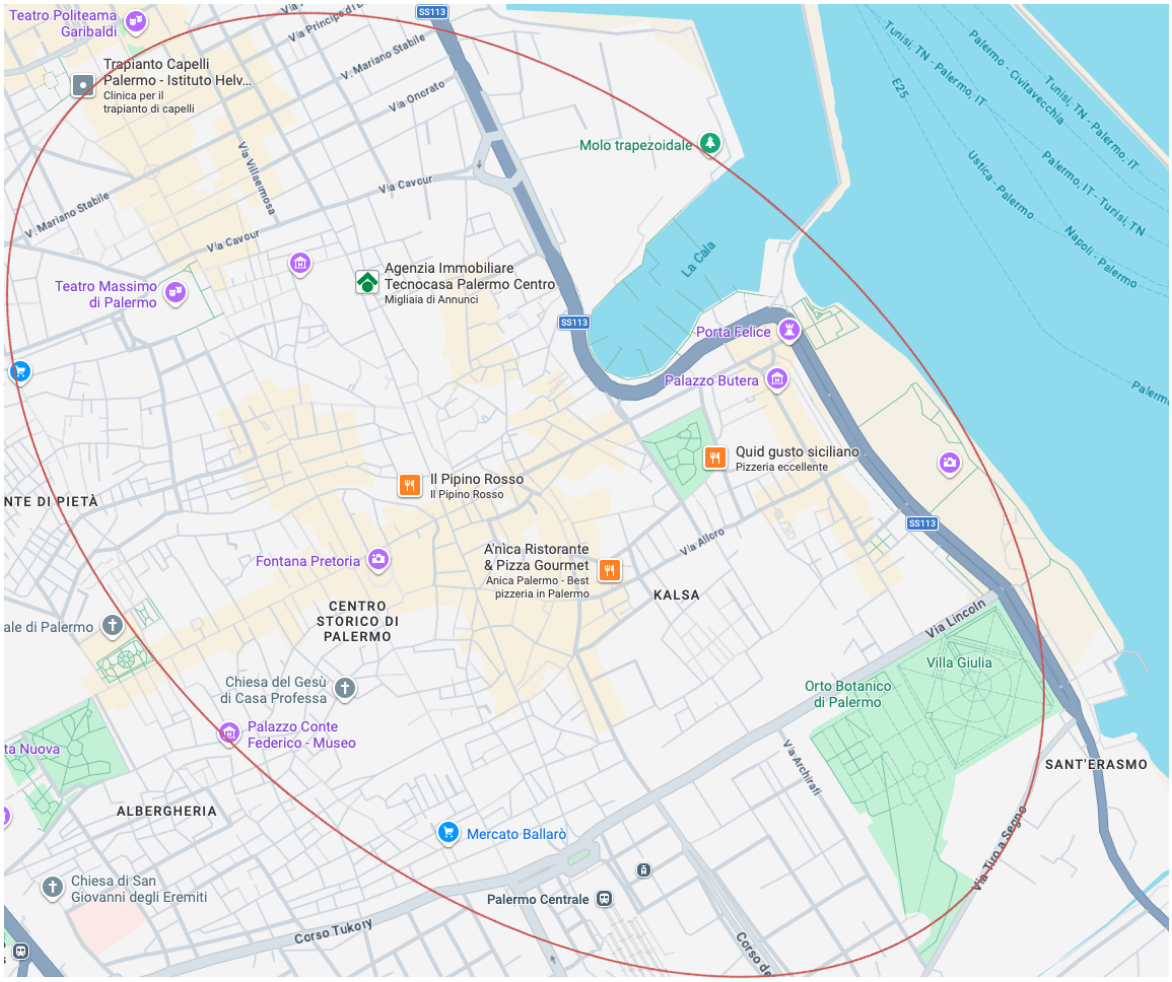
Accommodation Information

Palermo offers a wide range of accommodation options, including B&Bs, apartments, and hotels, which can be easily found through online platforms such as Booking.com, Airbnb, and Trivago.

We strongly recommend choosing accommodation within walking distance of the venue, ideally in this area



Although slightly offset from the Congress venue, this area includes a large part of Palermo's historic centre, a restricted traffic zone rich in monuments, bars, pubs, cultural attractions, and pedestrian areas.

As Palermo attracts many tourists throughout the year, we strongly recommend booking your accommodation well in advance.

Suggestions for accommodation

HOTEL NH PALERMO ****	Foro Italico Umberto I, 22/B 90133 Palermo	+39 091 616 5090
HOTEL PORTA FELICE ****	Via Butera, 45 90133 Palermo	+39 091 617 5678
MERCURE PALERMO CENTRO ****	Via Mariano Stabile 112, 90139 Palermo	+39 091 324 911
BUTERA 28 APARTMENTS	Via Butera, 28 90133 Palermo	+39 348 000 7673
HOTEL VILLA ARCHIRAFI ***	Via Lincoln, 30 90123 Palermo	+39 091 616 8827
HOTEL JOLI ***	Via Michele Amari 11 90139 Palermo (IT)	+39 091 611 1765
HOTEL TONIC ***	Via Mariano Stabile, 126 90139 Palermo	+39 091 581 754

FIELD TRIP

Flora and vegetation of the Parco della Favorita and the cliffs of Monte Pellegrino (Palermo)

Organized by Lorenzo Gianguzzi
(Department of SAAF, University of Palermo)

June 6, 2026 – Walking itinerary between the Parco della Favorita and the foothills of the cliffs of Monte Pellegrino [circular flat route of approximately 3–4 km (08:30–14:00/15:30), with an elevation range between 50 and 150 m a.s.l.].

The Parco della Favorita (also known as *Real Tenuta della Favorita*) covers approximately 4 km² to the north of the city centre, at the foothills of Monte Pellegrino. It has significant historical value – having been established in 1799 by King Ferdinand III of Bourbon as a royal estate for hunting and agricultural experimentation – as well as notable naturalistic importance. For this reason, it is included within the regional nature reserve "Monte Pellegrino", at the margins of the Special Protection Area ITA020014.

The planned route develops across the calcarenitic sands of the Palermo plain, as well as the detrital slopes and carbonate cliffs of Monte Pellegrino, within the thermomediterranean subhumid bioclimatic belt.

The field trip will focus on the main floristic and phytocoenotic features characterising the vegetation landscape (Fig. 1), structured around the following forest communities as head of series:

i) **Holm oak forest (*Quercus ilex*)** (*Pistacio lentisci-Quercetum ilicis* Brullo & Marcenò 1985, subass. *viburnetosum tini* Gianguzzi et al. 1996), established on humified soils developed on Quaternary calcarenites [Solimovic Regosol (Arenic)];
ii) **Sclerophyllous maquis with *Phillyrea latifolia***, including *Arbutus unedo* and *Viburnum tinus* (*Viburno tini-Phillyreetum latifoliae* Gianguzzi & Caldarella 2024), associated with sandy and xeric soils on Quaternary calcarenites [Eutric Arenosol (Chromic)];
iii) **Wild olive woodland/maquis** (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleastretum silvestri*, subass. *cercidetosum siliquastri* Gianguzzi & Bazan 2020), occurring on detrital-clastic substrates surrounding Monte Pellegrino [Skeletic Regosol (Ochric)];
iv) **Shade maquis with *Phillyrea latifolia*** (*Teucrio flavi-Phillyreetum latifoliae* Gianguzzi & Caldarella 2024), also on detrital substrates, but on shaded slopes interspersed among the cliffs of Monte Pellegrino.

These communities partly represent dense and impenetrable forest formations ("subclimax"), resulting from long-term development under low disturbance conditions, and include the presence of old-growth individuals of forest and maquis species (e.g. *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Arbutus unedo*, *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*), some of which are among the largest recorded in the regional context.

The excursion will also examine the microgeoseries of the calcareous cliffs of Monte Pellegrino, partly referable to *Scabioso creticae-Centauretum ucriae* Brullo & Marcenò 1979, characterised by *Scabiosa cretica* and several rare or endemic species such as *Centaurea panormitana*, *Helichrysum panormitanum*, *Lithodora rosmarinifolia*, *Dianthus rupicola*, *Brassica rupestris*, *Seseli bocconei*, *Euphorbia bivonae*, *Iberis semperflorens*, among others.

Particular attention will also be given to plant communities dominated by invasive alien species – especially *Opuntia ficus-indica* (*Opuntietum* s.l.) and *Pennisetum setaceum* (*Penniseto setacei-Hyparrhenietum hirtae* Gianguzzi, Ilardi & Raimondo 1996) – which are currently expanding in xeric environments of the area, as well as in other parts of the Mediterranean region.

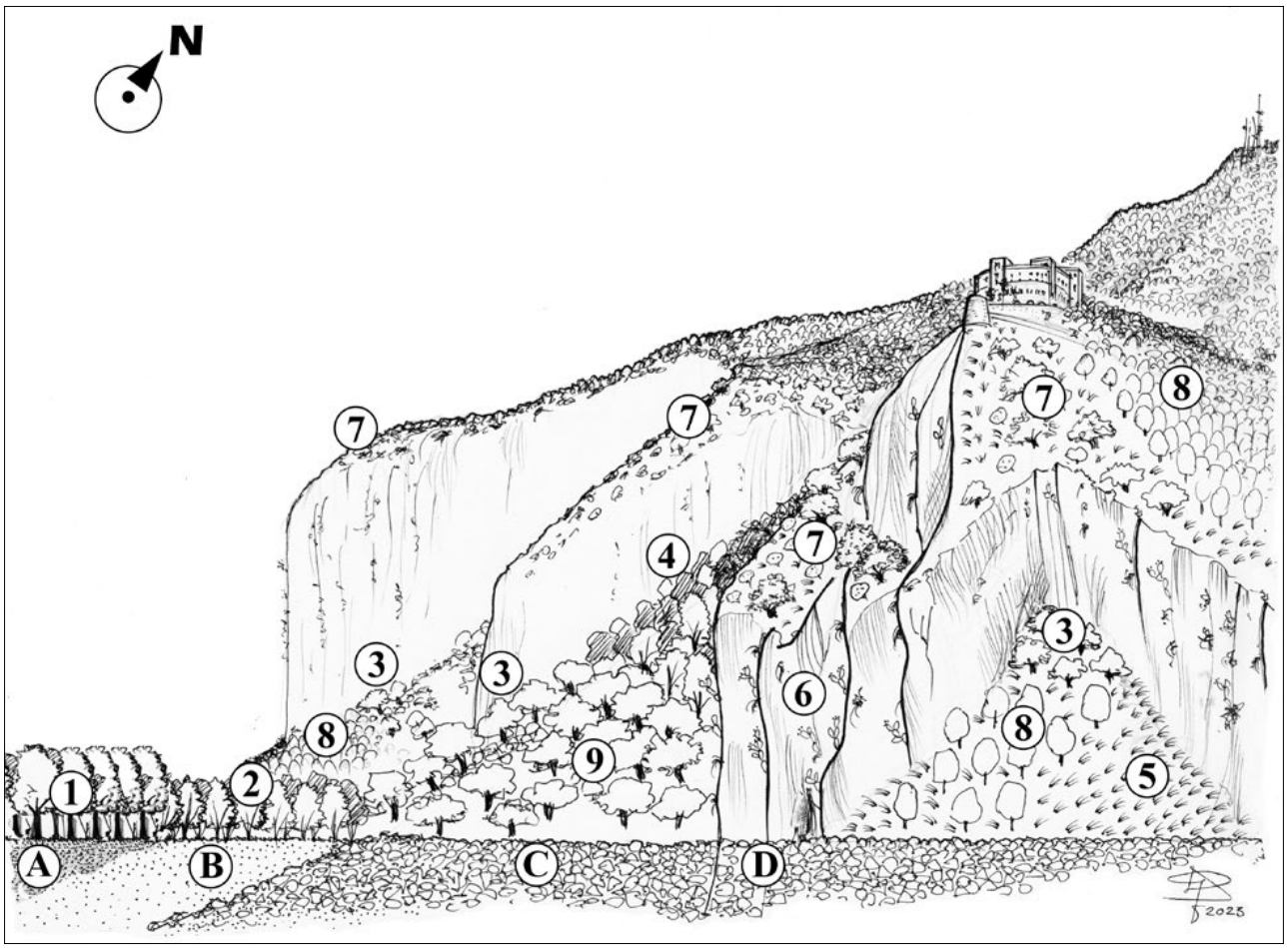


Figure 1. Schematic transect of the vegetation landscape between the Palermo plain (approximately 50 m a.s.l.) and the base of the cliffs of Monte Pellegrino (630 m a.s.l.).
Soil types: (A) Quaternary calcarenites [Solimovic Regosol (Arenic)]; (B) Quaternary calcarenites [Eutric Arenosol (Chromic)]; (C) detrital-clastic materials [Skeletic Regosol (Ochric)]; (D) limestones and dolomitic limestones.
Vegetation types: (1) *Quercus ilex* forest (*Pistacio lentisci-Quercetum ilicis*, subass. *viburnetosum tini*); (2) sclerophyllous forest-maquis with *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Arbutus unedo*, and *Viburnum tinus* (*Viburno tini-Phillyreetum latifoliae*); (3) maquis with *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* and *Cercis siliquastrum* (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleastretum sylvestris*, subass. *cercidetosum siliquastri*); (4) shade maquis with *Phillyrea latifolia* and *Teucrium flavum* (*Teucrio flavi-Phillyreetum latifoliae*); (5) grassland dominated by *Pennisetum setaceum* (*Penniseto setacei-Hyparrhenietum hirtae*); (6) chasmophytic vegetation (*Scabioso-Centauretum ucriae*); (7) maquis with *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris* and *Euphorbia bivonae* (*Ruto chalepensis-Oleastretum sylvestris*, subass. *euphorbietosum bivonae*); (8) artificial plantations; (9) former cultivations (olive groves, etc.).
(By GIANGUZZI et al., 2024)