Laburnum anagyroides, Common Laburnum

Assessment by: Rivers, M.C.


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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plantae</td>
<td>Tracheophyta</td>
<td>Magnoliopsida</td>
<td>Fabales</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxon Name:** *Laburnum anagyroides* Medik.

**Synonym(s):**
- *Cytisus laburnum* L.
- *Laburnum vulgare* J. Presl

**Common Name(s):**
- English: Common Laburnum, Golden chain tree, Golden rain tree

**Taxonomic Source(s):**

**Taxonomic Notes:**
Burnat (1896) proposed that the species has three distinct native areas (once referred to three subspecies):

- **subsp. linnaeanus:** E France (Jura, Alps); quoted from southwestern Germany (Baden-Württemberg) from Döll (1862), but this assertion seems doubtful and is not confirmed by recent German authors.

- **subsp. jacquinianus:** Carinthia, Carniola, Styria, Lower Austria, W Hungaria, Bulgaria, Serbia.

- **subsp.alschingeri:** W and S Switzerland, Italia, Tyrol, Istria, Dalmatia, Croatia.

The subspecies are no longer recognised, but according to Burnat and older authors, they do exhibit slight morphological differences in the shape of the calyx and dorsal petal. The important point here is that, since the plant from Central Europe and the Carpathians has morphological peculiarities, it cannot be introduced from other parts of the area (J.-M. Tison pers. comm. 2017).

**Assessment Information**

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern [ver 3.1]

**Year Published:** 2017

**Date Assessed:** October 11, 2016

**Justification:**
Global and European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)
EU 28 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

This species is native to mountain chains of central and southern Europe, from the Jura in eastern...
France to the Balkan peninsula, and it has been very widely introduced within Europe, and its origin in some countries is uncertain. There are no population estimates for this species in Europe, but it is likely to be large. It has wide distribution and there are no known threats. It is held in many ex situ collections and is commonly planted as an ornamental. The species is assessed here as Least Concern.

**Geographic Range**

**Range Description:**
This species is native to mountains of central and southeastern Europe (Talavera 2000), from the western Alps (Jura Mountains in France), the central Alps, extending south in the Balkan Peninsular to Albania (Qafa e Gajorit, Gur-Shpat; Rovje, Tamare and Dajti Mt, from 1,000 to 1,500 m a.s.l.; L. Shuka pers. comm. 2017), and east to Bulgaria. In Croatia the species (Nikolić 2017) In Italy, the species is present in all regions except Val d’Aosta and islands, and probably native in most areas, from near sea level (but most often from 200-300 m to 800 m asl (Peruzzi and Bedini 2016, Barberis et al. 2016, C. Montagnani pers. comm. 2017). The natural distribution within Europe is uncertain in parts of its range as a result of widespread cultivation and introductions. For example in Lorraine in northeastern France, some parts have warm calcareous soils and obvious Mediterranean affinities, and the species could be native in these areas (J.-M. Tison pers, comm. 2017). The species is considered introduced to Czechia (P. Mráz pers. comm. 2017).

Burnat (1896) recognised three distinct native areas of distribution (once referred to as three distinct subspecies) for this species;

- eastern France (Jura and the Alps, and quoted (Döll 1862) from southwestern Germany (Baden-Württemberg), but this assertion seems doubtful and is not confirmed by recent German authors);
- Carinthia, Carniola (Slovenia), Styria, Lower Austria, western Hungary, Bulgaria, and Serbia.
- western and southern Switzerland, Italy, Austria (Tyrol), and Croatia (Istria and Dalmatia).

The species has been very widely introduced and become naturalised elsewhere, including to numerous European countries (DAISIE 2017), Australia (Queensland Government 2016), the USA and New Zealand.

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native:** Albania; Austria; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; France (France (mainland)); Hungary; Italy (Italy (mainland)); Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Romania; Serbia (Kosovo, Serbia); Slovakia; Slovenia; Switzerland

**Introduced:** Belarus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Germany; Ireland; Moldova; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal (Portugal (mainland)); Russian Federation (Central European Russia, European Russia, South European Russia); Spain (Spain (mainland)); Sweden; Ukraine (Krym, Ukraine (main part)); United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland)
**Population**
There is no population information for this species.
**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

**Habitat and Ecology** *(see Appendix for additional information)*
This species is a deciduous woodland tree that is tolerant of a wide variety of soil types, provided the soil is well drained and does not dry out for prolonged periods. It can fix nitrogen within its root nodules. The fruits and seeds of this species are toxic (Queensland Government 2016).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

**Use and Trade**
This species is commonly grown in gardens as an ornamental due to its attractive flowers. The timber of this species is easy to work with and is used as make turned objects, musical instruments, furniture, veneer, fence posts and archery bows. However due to the small stature of this tree large quantities of its timber are not widely available (The Wood Database 2016).

**Threats**
There are no known threats to this species.

**Conservation Actions** *(see Appendix for additional information)*
This species is recorded in 127 *ex situ* collections (BGCI 2016), however they may or may not be from a European source. This species is listed as Least Concern in Switzerland (Moser *et al.* 2002) and Data Deficient in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Šilić 1996).

**Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Rivers, M.C.

**Reviewer(s):** Carta, A., Fenu, G., Montagnani, C., Orsenigo, S., Troia, A. & Allen, D.J.

**Contributor(s):** Boršić, I, Montagnani, C., Shuka, L., Tison, J.-M. & Mráz, P.
Bibliography


DAISIE. 2017. Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe. Available at: http://www.europe-aliens.org.


Nikolić, T. (ed.). 2017. Flora Croatica Database. Zagreb: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Botany and Botanical Garden Available at: http://hirc.botanic.hr/fcd.


Citation


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External Resources

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Appendix

Habitats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.4. Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conservation Actions in Place
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Actions in Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Species Management</td>
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</table>

Subject to ex-situ conservation: Yes

Additional Data Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower elevation limit (m): 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper elevation limit (m): 1800</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitats and Ecology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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