



Field trip to the Fontainebleau forest



photos : CBNBP

Located sixty kilometers South East of Paris, the Fontainebleau forest, a former hunting domain of the kings of France, is a vast wooded area of 25,000 ha. It is famous for having inspired the artists of the 19th century and being one of the first natural site in the world designated as a protected area, the reserve of the Barbizon painters in 1861. Due to its age and its varied topography and geology, it has a remarkable biodiversity



photos : CBNBP

Alternating rocky outcrops, dry plains and valleys, Fontainebleau is renowned for its landscape and botanical diversity: sandstone bedrocks with temporary pools, sandstone chaos, acidophilous heathlands, calcareous and sandy grasslands, oak, beech and pine forests ... The diversity of soil, humidity and exposure conditions allow the presence of floras with various affinities (Atlantic, Mediterranean, continental and sub-montane), a rare combination in European lowland forest.

The area has about 1500 species of higher plants, many of them rare in the French plain and at their range limits (it comprises sixty protected species, such as Fontainebleau Whitebeam, *Sorbus latifolia*).



photos : CBNBP

Conservatoire Botanique National du Bassin Parisien (CBNBP, National Botanical Conservatory of the Paris Basin, <http://cbnbp.mnhn.fr/cbnbp/cbnbp/presentation.jsp>) who conducts inventories there and manages several conservation programs for endangered species.





The tour in the area of the Forêt des Trois Pignons (South West of the Fontainebleau forest) will be accompanied by botanists of the CBNBP and of the Jardin des Plantes of Paris. It will give the opportunity to discover a diversity of viewpoints and landscapes with a remarkable interweaving of acidophilous, calciphilous, xeric and hygrophilous vegetation (Plaine de Chanfroy, Sables du Cul du Chien, Platière de Coquibus) and the experimental reintroduction site of *Arenaria grandiflora* by CBNBP (one of only two lowland stations of this species in France).

Some remarkable species found on our excursion sites

Sandy calcareous grasslands and xeric limestones, pubescent oak forests:

Trinia glauca, *Scabiosa canescens*, *Helianthemum umbellatum*, *Allium flavum*, *Arenaria grandiflora*, *Amelanchier ovalis*, *Anthericum liliago*, *Potentilla montana*, *Ranunculus gramineus*, *Bupleurum falcatum*, *Cephalanthera rubra*, *Sorbus latifolia*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, *Euphorbia esula*, *Helianthemum apenninum*, *Scorzonera austriaca*, *Sesleria caerulea*, *Teucrium montanum*, *Viola rupestris*...

Acid heathlands and temporary pools complex:

Ranunculus nodiflorus, *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Illecebrum verticillatum*, *Crassula vaillantii*, *Pilularia globulifera*, *Juncus pygmaeus*, *Juncus capitatus*...

