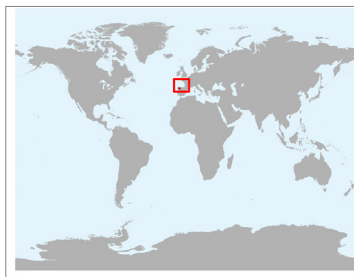




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: *Eryngium viviparum*

Eryngium viviparum is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This aquatic plant species now occurs at a single site in Portugal, 16–18 sites in north-west Spain and a single site in north-west France where it has declined from approximately 50 sites between 1975 and 1980.

Eryngium viviparum depends upon the poaching feet of cattle to break up the surface of heathland to expose seed and suppress aggressive grasses. In north-west France, the traditional practice of grazing heathlands, which created and maintained muddy, winter-inundated hollows, has now been abandoned. The catastrophic decline of this species is a combination of a reduction in cattle-grazing of heathlands, the replacement of heathland by conifer plantations and the disposal of waste on former heathland habitats.

At the single site in Brittany, *Eryngium viviparum* has been maintained through annual scraping of areas of heathland, however, after an initial increase, this population is also declining. The creation of micro-reserves, the monitoring and restoration of the habitat and the translocation of individual plants are the recommended conservation measures for this Endangered aquatic plant.

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