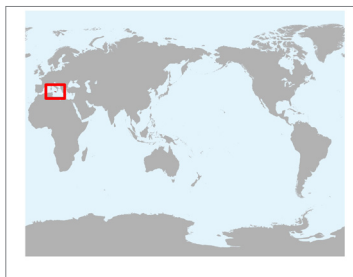




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: White Ferula Mushroom

The **White Ferula Mushroom**, *Pleurotus nebrodensis*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This species was first described by Giuseppe Inzenga in 1863 and he called it "the most delicious mushroom" in Sicily. This edible and prized mushroom only occurs in northern Sicily, growing in scattered localities in the Madonie Mountains at an altitude of 1,200 to 2,000 metres.

The area where the White Ferula Mushroom is found covers less than 100 km² and its population is severely fragmented. This is due to the increasing number of mushroom gatherers, both professional and amateur, who usually collect unripe fungi. As a result, it is estimated that less than 250 White Ferula Mushroom individuals reach maturity each year.

This species is now being cultivated to reduce collection of the species from the wild. This *ex situ* (i.e. outside of its natural habitat) cultivation also provides additional income for local farmers, who can offer a cheaper product than that collected from the wild, therefore reducing pressures on this species.

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