

## LIFE

Life is the EU's funding programme supporting environmental, nature and biodiversity projects throughout the EU.



<http://ec.europa/environment/life/index.htm>

## THE EREMITA PROJECT

Four species of protected insects in the Emilia-Romagna Region have become endangered due to loss of habitat.

Two of these species, the Hermit beetle and *Rosalia longicorn*, live in forest environments. The Dytiscid beetle and the Southern damselfly are aquatic.

The aim of the project is to restore and expand their habitats and increase their populations by releasing specimens into the wild.

Life Eremita's main action plan is to raise public awareness on the ecological value of these four species, and to create a network of volunteers to support all project activities.

## THE PARTNERSHIP

Coordinator Beneficiary Regione Emilia-Romagna

### Associated Beneficiaries

National Park  
Appennino Tosco-Emiliano



National Park Foreste Casentinesi,  
Monte Falterona e Campigna



Management Bodies for Parks and Biodiversity:

Emilia Occidentale



Emilia Centrale



Emilia Orientale

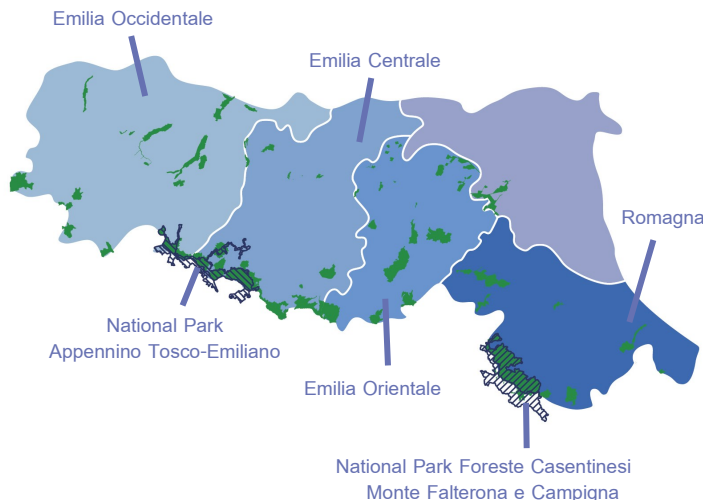


Romagna



## THE LOCATION

More than 50 Natura 2000 network sites involved in the project!



Actions sites

## Contact us

**Project management: Regione Emilia-Romagna**  
Protected Areas, Forestry and Mountains Development  
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**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/liferemita](http://www.facebook.com/liferemita)



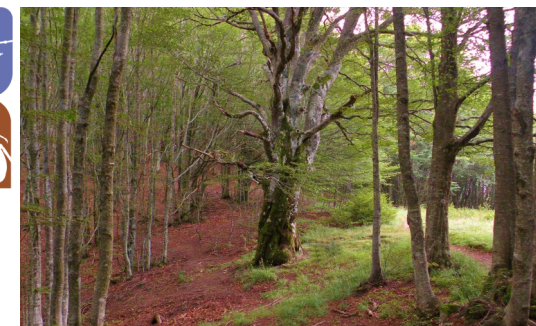
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Realized in cooperation with Centro Stampa Regione Emilia-Romagna - APRIL 2017



Regional actions for the  
Conservation of four  
endangered species of insects



LIFE14 NAT/IT/000209 EREMITA

Coordinated actions to preserve residual and isolated populations  
of forest and freshwater insects in Emilia-Romagna



with the contribution of LIFE the EU funding instrument for the Environment

# THE SPECIES

## *Osmoderma eremita*



**Common name:** Hermit Beetle

**Description:** Saproxylc beetle (feeds on decaying wood) 2.4-3.7 cm long, large glossy black-bronze body; active between June and August.

**Distinguishing marks:** the male releases a strong pleasant smell of ripe peaches.

**Habitat:** cavities of any species of old broadleaved trees rich in wood mould, in forests, gardens and rows of trees, ranging from the flatlands to the mountains. Larvae feed on dead wood affected by fungal decay.



MARCO ULIANA

## *Graphoderus bilineatus*



**Common name:** Dytiscid Water Beetle

**Description:** predator aquatic beetle, active all year round, 1.4-1.6 cm long; broad oval flat body; a broad yellow band between two black bands covers the *pronotum*, the coloration of *elytrae* is marbled yellow and black.

**Distinguishing marks:** the sides of the *elytrae* are lined with a band making the insect appear even broader.

**Habitats:** the Apennines, generally in large ponds or lakes with clear deep waters, rich in riparian vegetation and bogs.



JOSEF HUSEK

## *Rosalia alpina*



**Common name:** Rosalia Longicorn

**Description:** Longicorn saproxylc beetle, active between June and August, 1.5-3.8 cm long. Coloration: velvety steely blue-grey with variable black spots.

**Distinguishing marks:** elegant colours and distinctive patterns. Both male and female specimen have extremely long antennae with alternating black and blue bands.

**Habitat:** mountains, beech forests with decaying trees and in sunlit areas.



ROBERTO FABRI

## *Coenagrion mercuriale castellanii*



**Common name:** Italian Southern Damselfly

**Description:** 2.7-3.1 cm long with a wingspan of 2.5-4.0 cm Thin bright blue body with black markings, flight period April to August.

**Distinguishing marks:** a black mark on the second proximal segment of the abdomen similar to the helmet of Mercury, god of the Greek and Roman mythology, hence the name *mercuriale*.

**Habitats:** lower Apennines, small sunlit water streams rich in riparian vegetation, such as seeps and streams with perennial moderate water flow.



ROBERTO SINDACO

# ACTIONS

From 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020:

**MONITORING** to find out more about the presence and distribution of the residual population of these 4 species.

**IMPROVING HABITATS** by increasing the distribution and enhancing the quality of the insects' habitats, which will facilitate the settlement of new populations and their relationships.

**CAPTIVE BREEDING** to have available larvae and adults to be introduced into the wild.

**RELEASE INTO THE WILD** to enhance the populations growth and to increase the areal spread of the species.

**RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS** on the ecological value of these 4 species and the role they play in wildlife conservation.

**INVOLVING** volunteers to set up a regional network team to help our entomologists working on monitoring and conservation activities.