the east and an upward trajectory in the west. The first results from RADseq-based conservation genomic research in February 2024 identified that the Danube, the largest river in the Pannonian Basin, has shaped the current regional genetic structure. Of even greater concern was the discovery of alarmingly low levels of genetic diversity, potentially lower than those observed in the rarest mammals.

These findings shed light on the discord between existing legislation and the population trends of the hamster in Hungary. Although data on crop losses as a result of hamster population increases are scarce, the absence of significant reports from farmers suggests losses may not be as substantial as perceived. The future of the Pannonian hamster depends on collaboration between conservationists and farmers to balance conservation with agricultural interests.

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Benefits of restoring a daya in arid Algeria: the reappearance of *Teucrium campanulatum* after 168 years

The bell-shaped germander *Teucrium campanulatum* L. (family Lamiaceae) is a perennial herbaceous plant occurring in the western Mediterranean (Algeria, Baleares, France, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Sicilia, Spain and Tunisia). Like all members of the genus *Teucrium*, this species is known for its medicinal properties and ornamental potential. Although *T. campanulatum* has not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List, it is considered rare in Algeria, France, Italy and Spain. In Morocco, it is categorized as Endangered (Fennane, 2018, Tela-Botanica, Fascicule 7, Fagaceae–Lythraceae).

In March 2024, during a floristic exploration of the degraded steppe rangelands north of the Aïn Sefra region in Naâma, Algeria, near the village of Mékalis, I observed plants with a particular appearance, forming more or less compact tufts. They were growing in a small, fenced but abandoned daya (a shallow depression where water from adjacent land accumulates temporarily) at 1,250 m altitude. I identified the plant as *T. campanulatum*. This was the first record of the species in Naâma for 168 years. This new location is c. 80 km south of Taoussera Foukani near Aïn Benkhelil, where Cosson (1856, *Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France*, 3, 559–565) first recorded it in

Teucrium campanulatum in Mékalis, Naâma: (a) habit and (b) inflorescence. Photo: Belkacem Gordo.

Algeria. The reappearance of this species underlines the importance of protecting steppe environments, including daya, which are becoming degraded, leading to a reduction in plant cover and the disappearance of food plants important for grazing animals and pastoralism.

My preliminary assessment suggests *T. campanulatum* should be categorized nationally in Algeria as Critically Endangered based on IUCN Red List criteria B1ab(v) (i.e. the extent of occurrence is < 100 km², the population is severely fragmented or occurs in only a single location and there is a continuing decline in area and number of mature individuals). Further field studies are required to facilitate a comprehensive national Red List assessment of this species.

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First record of the spotted pond turtle *Geoclemys hamiltonii* in Shuklaphanta National Park, Nepal

Eleven species of turtles of the family Geomydidae are known from Nepal (Rai et al., 2022, *Arco-Nepal Newletter*, 3–23), including the spotted pond turtle *Geoclemys*