

## **The lady's slipper orchid in France: status assessment and recommendations**

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The lady's slipper is a terrestrial orchid with high patrimonial value. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, an alarming decline was observed in Europe. In this context, we sought to establish a detailed assessment of the current situation in France. A thorough bibliographic analysis allow to review the knowledge on *Cypripedium calceolus* L. and assess the status of the French populations. In a second time, we evaluate the evolution of 36 French populations during the first decade of the 21<sup>th</sup> century. Surveys were performed in 2012 and 2013 on sites previously investigated between 1999 and 2002. Several environmental parameters were collected and analyzed statistically to identify the causes of expansion or decline. Our study results in recommendations for the conservation management of lady's slipper. To expand data collection and improve the species status assessment in France, we propose an easy-to-implement and unified long-term census protocol.