An orophilous plant species occurring in Jura, in the Alps and in the mountains of the Western Balkan Peninsula. Apart from the EU it is known from Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Croatia. It is a species of the mountain meadows and subalpine natural grasslands and pastures.

The conservation status in both the Alpine and the Continental biogeographical region is ‘unfavourable inadequate’. The species is on decline in most of the countries where it was reported and the habitat of the species, particularly in the lower altitudes, is further threatened due to an abandonment of a traditional management. Eryngium alpinum, like other decorative species, is often collected.
Assessments of conservation status as reported by Member states (all biogeographical regions - EU25)

Legend
Conservation Status
- Favourable
- Unfavourable - inadequate
- Unfavourable bad
- Unknown

Data quality is based on assessments by each Member State, 1 = good, 2 = medium, 3 = poor.

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2007 and covering the period 2001-2006. More detailed information is available at http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17