THREATS / PRESERVATION

Man, its best enemy

In the heart of the Park and the adjoining National Nature Reserves, the spontaneous development of the environments that host the Alpine rock jasmine does not seem to threaten these plants.

Outside the protected areas, populations of Alpine rock jasmine may be threatened by different development projects, particularly in ski areas. Objective impact studies carried out well ahead of the project, should make it possible to implement solutions that will prevent these protected plants being destroyed.

EXPERT OPINION

1/ FALSE. Alpine rock jasmine is found throughout the Alps from France to Austria.

2/ FALSE. Swiss rock jasmine, for example, has only single hairs on its leaves.

3/ TRUE. There are many species of wild bees, often solitary, that help to pollinate plants up to the Alpine level.

4/ TRUE. Three new species of rock jasmine were described in the Alps in 2020, including the androsace albimontana, which can also be found in the Vanoise.

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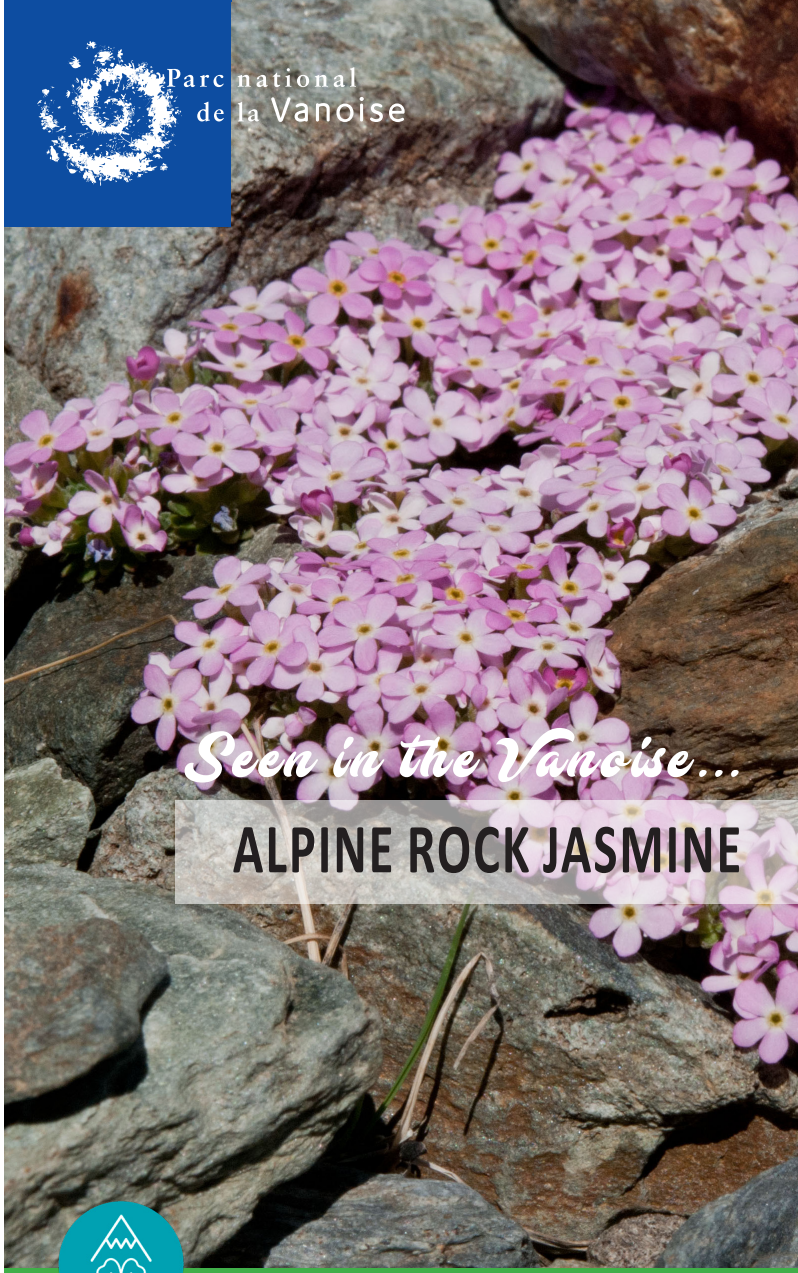
MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Parc national de la Vanoise



Seen in the Vanoise...

ALPINE ROCK JASMINE

Family: Primulaceae
Height: 1 to 3 cm
Flower (diameter)**:** 7 to 9 mm
Flowering: from June to August
Altitude: 2 000 to 3 500 m

Distinctive features

- ✓50 shades of pink, from purple to white
- ✓Stars in their hairs
- ✓Impossible to uproot!

DISTRIBUTION

A little, a lot, passionately Vanoise...

150, is the approximate number of species of rock jasmine found worldwide. Annuals or perennials, they mostly grow in the mountainous areas of the northern hemisphere.

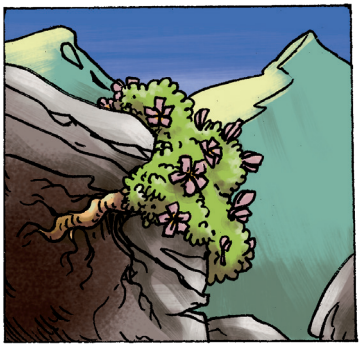
The Vanoise region is home to the largest populations of Alpine rock jasmine in France.

It was first reported in this massif in the 18th century by Carlo Allioni, an Italian botanist and author of a remarkable *Flora pedemontana*. The inventories drawn up by the National Park agents have only confirmed the regular presence of this endemic alpine species in the different high-altitude environments of the Vanoise which are suited to it.

HABITAT

Preferably silica

To find it, you will have to go up to an altitude of around 2500 m. It is at this altitude that it is most frequently observed. But not just anywhere. It prefers the siliceous parts of the massif where it thrives on fine scree, moraines and sometimes rocky ridges. Proving to anyone who still doubts it that, like all high-mountain enthusiasts, it is good at clinging on!



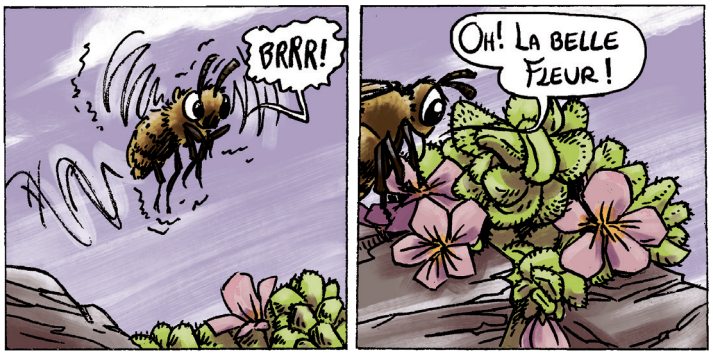
ADAPTATION

Firmly rooted and stocky

"With my stocky, cushion-like habit and rosettes of leaves, covered with star-shaped hairs, I am particularly well suited to withstanding the icy cold, drying winds and intense sunlight.

With my taproot, I anchor myself firmly, even in loose soil, and become one with the slope. Don't even think about uprooting me anyway, I'm a protected species and it's forbidden!

Every summer, my foliage is hidden under numerous small five-petalled flowers in a thousand and one shades of pink. This spectacular flowering attracts many pollinators to ensure my progeny and the evolution of my species."



TRUE OR FALSE

Answers: on the last page

1/ A rare species, is the Alpine rock jasmine only found in the French Alps?

2/ Do all rock jasmines have star-shaped hairs on their leaves?

3/ Do bees love to feed on the Alpine rock jasmine?

4/ Are new species of rock jasmine still being discovered in the Alps?