

PROTECTED BIOTOPE OF THE DEBA-ZUMAIA COASTAL SECTION

Terrestrial environment

Here the landscape is dominated by fields that attract migratory birds such as thrushes or warblers. However, where farms have been abandoned, the meadows give way to moors or Atlantic scrub. Buckthorns and olaguina stand out in the high scrub, while on the slopes with scarce soil, the characteristic scrub is pre-heat, where gorse accompanies heather and olaguina. Finally, in the heather, in addition to heather and gorse, ferns grow.

The forests of the Biotope are concentrated around the Errotaberri stream. On the south-facing slopes, the Cantabrian holm oak grows, while on the humid slopes there are patches of mixed forest, where the pedunculated oak is accompanied by ash, chestnut or hazelnut trees. It is the domain of the Aesculapian snake and the black-green lizard.

The alder groves form a narrow gallery surrounding the banks of the streams, where the native crayfish live.

On the cliffs, the soil is meager, landslides occur, the waves hit,... Depending on their degree of adaptation, the cliff plants are located at different heights: at the base, the sparse vegetation only takes root in the cracks, while on the landings located higher halophyte plants abound above.

Insects, a few reptiles and small birds make up the fauna of the coastal cliffs.

Marine environment ↓



Cliffs, coastal scrub and countryside from Mendatagaña.



Atlantic landes



Sea fennel

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Marine environment

In the marine environment, a rocky and gently sloping bed is the substrate on which seaweed beds settle. Some of them are collected when they arrive from the shore and are used industrially.

Close to the coast, the remains of the cliff form an extensive abrasion platform marked by the oscillation of the tide and which is exposed at low tide. In the intertidal zones, stripes or bands are also observed depending on how tolerant the living beings are to the elements.

Thus, in the upper area, under water for just a few hours a day, periwinkles and black lichens appear covering the rocks. The barnacles disappear beyond where the sea spray reaches. At the other extreme, only during the highest low tides is it possible to see certain species in the lower intertidal level.

In contrast, tidal pools offer more stable conditions and shelter many algae and animals that try to cope with the periodic variation in environmental conditions.

Organisms on abrasion platforms must be adapted to retain water, to prevent drying out, or to cope with wave action. Some of the birds visit the platform to hunt in the puddles and between the nooks and crannies of the rocks.



Intertidal in Algorri



Green alga of the genus *Codium*



Macaw browsing on the rock