

Vegetal landscape of the Llobregat delta dunes

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Location: *Biogeografía de Medios Litorales: Dinámicas y conservación* (2014), ISBN 978-84-617-1068-3, pages 27-33

Language: Spanish

A study on dune vegetation landscape of the Llobregat river delta has been completed, based on the field survey of existing dune systems. Data were collected on dune morphologies and species that colonize the dunes. It was found the prevalence of sand sheets semi fixed by vegetation and the scarcity of foredunes and shifting dunes. A total of 94 species that colonize the dunes have been identified, which have been classified into five groups according to their ecological optimum: restricted to dune habitats species; halophytes, nitrohalophytes and psammophytes that further colonize continental environments; species from neighboring coastal habitats (cliffs, marshes); common species on dry Mediterranean environments (xerophytes) and a group of alien species. The geographical distribution of some very rare species on the Catalan coast and present in the Llobregat delta as *Lotus creticus*, *Otanthus maritimus* and *Malcolmia littorea* is also discussed.

Key words: dune; dune landscape; vegetation; Llobregat river delta; Catalonia.