

*Las poblaciones de Juniperus turbinata en el Valle del río Guadalhorce (Málaga, España) como indicadoras de territorios relictos paleobiogeográficos*

**Inland populations of *Juniperus turbinata* in the Guadalhorce river Valley (Malaga, Spain) as indicators of paleobiogeographic relict areas**

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The communities of *Juniperus turbinata* are distributed in coastal areas and dunes of South and East of the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands, reaching Italy and North Africa. However, in eastern Andalusia, populations of *Juniperus turbinata* can be found in dunes and cliffs and in certain inland areas (Guadalhorce Valley, Malaga). The aim of this work is to study whether the origin of these inland communities of *J. turbinata* could be due to the existence of marine influence in the past even though without marine influence at present. Populations of *Juniperus turbinata* have been geo-referred using SIG and herbarium data (BIOCASE) in the Guadalhorce Valley related to the extension of the Pliocene sea. The results indicate that, in the past, the coast of the Pliocene sea could be the origin of the populations of *J. turbinata*. This fact gives a strong relict condition to those juniper shrublands, increasing the biogeographical and conservation importance of these inland juniper communities.

**Key words:** inland juniper shrublands; *Juniperus turbinata*; paleo-islands; relict; Guadalhorce Valley.