

# CUCAMACUCA STAIRWAY

## BIODOMUS AT CUCAMACUCA STAIRWAY - B1

Along the Cucamacuca Stairway you will find fauna and flora observation points, called **BIODOMUS**, with reference to various species, some of which are in danger of extinction and are listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.



### Wild rabbit

(*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Has a greyish coat and lives in colonies, with a well-defined hierarchy, inside burrows with underground tunnels that connect them to each other. It is a crucial species for the health of forest ecosystems, being the main prey of more than 40 different predator species, such as the round-winged eagle and the fox. It has a high reproductive capacity, but its numbers in Portugal have been declining, largely due to two diseases, myxomatosis and viral hemorrhagic disease.



Photo: Coelho-beijo - J. Hansen (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/coelho-beijo/>), CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons

### Bocage's wall lizard

(*Podarcis bocagei*)

Can reach 20 cm in length. The males of this species have a more greenish back, while the females are more brownish. It is able to detach the vertebrae of its tail, thus creating a distraction for possible predators. The tail usually grows back, but it will be shorter and less flexible than the original, and the new vertebrae are made up of cartilage instead of bone.



Photo: Bocage's wall lizard - João Pereira

### Seven-spotted ladybird

(*Coccinella septempunctata*)

One of the most common coleopteran species (beetles and ladybirds) in Europe, easily identifiable by the 7 black spots on its elytra (hardened wings) and bright red color. These small insects are voracious predators of pests such as aphids, which is why they were one of the first forms of biological control to be used by humans.



Photo: Seven-spotted ladybird - Filipa Aires

### Scarlet dragonfly

(*Crocothemis erythraea*)

Owes its name to the vibrant coloring of the adult males, which are an intense red, while the females and nymphs are golden or yellowish. Like other dragonflies and damselflies, they are expert fliers and effective predators, with a prey capture success rate of around 90 per cent.



Photo: Scarlet dragonfly - João Pereira