

CUCAMACUCA STAIRWAY

BIODOMUS AT CUCAMACUCA STAIRWAY - B2

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 Habitat Directive.



Maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*)

Is a coniferous tree belonging to the Pinaceae family that can reach a height of 40 meters. Its leaves are arranged spirally-shaped and arranged in pairs. It is not very demanding in terms of soil type and mechanical structure and that way it takes around three years to establish itself. This species is of great importance to industries and is used in many ways in construction and furniture manufacturing and its use is used to make different products such as floors, panels, and vanishes.



Photo: M. L. L. (www.vegeta.com)

The red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)

Has 4 fingers and 5 toes and its tail is as long as its body. It feeds mainly on seeds, but also eats berries, mushrooms, and nuts and their eggs. A sign of its presence is the appearance of gnawed pinecones. It was extinct in Portugal for several decades due to habitat loss but has been reintroduced to Portuguese forests thanks to reproduction reserves (e.g. in the Serra da Estrela).



Photo: M. L. L. (www.vegeta.com)

Jay (*Corvus glaucus*)

Its blue wing feathers stand out against its brownish back and chest and the black and white pattern on its wings. It is an "imperator" that we find among our birds, being able to replace the songs of other birds with which it shares the habitat, as well as other different sounds that it may hear. It provides an essential service to the ecosystem as it collects and distributes the acorns in the soil, contributing to the regeneration of the forest. It is under the protection of the Birds Directive.



Photo: M. L. L. (www.vegeta.com)

The European stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

Is the largest beetle in Europe. The males have more developed mandibles than the females, which they use during the breeding season to fight rival males for the chance to mate. It is a species that lives in close contact with oak forests, with its larvae feeding on dead oak twigs. It is classified as a protected species under the Habitat Directive and the Bern Convention. To find out more, you can visit www.valongo.org.



Photo: M. L. L. (www.vegeta.com)

The slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)

Is a limbless reptile. Despite its name, it does not produce any kind of venom and it is not a snake. When threatened, it is capable of performing tail autotomy, breaking itself from its tail to escape when it is in a dangerous situation, where it feeds on small invertebrates and larvae, making it a good ally for pest control in gardens and plantations.



Photo: M. L. L. (www.vegeta.com)

Wildlife shelters

Different species use them as shelter and a source of food which is why the biodiversity of wildlife shelters contributes to the maintenance of several sensitive species, such as the European stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*).



Photo: M. L. L. (www.vegeta.com)