

# MARINE BENTHIC COMMUNITIES FROM MESA DEL MAR (TACORONTE, TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS)

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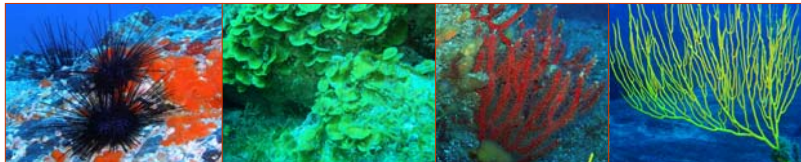
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

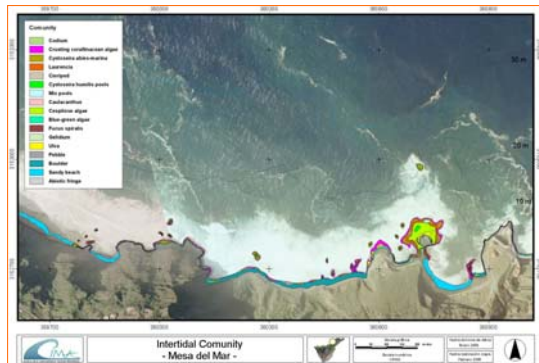
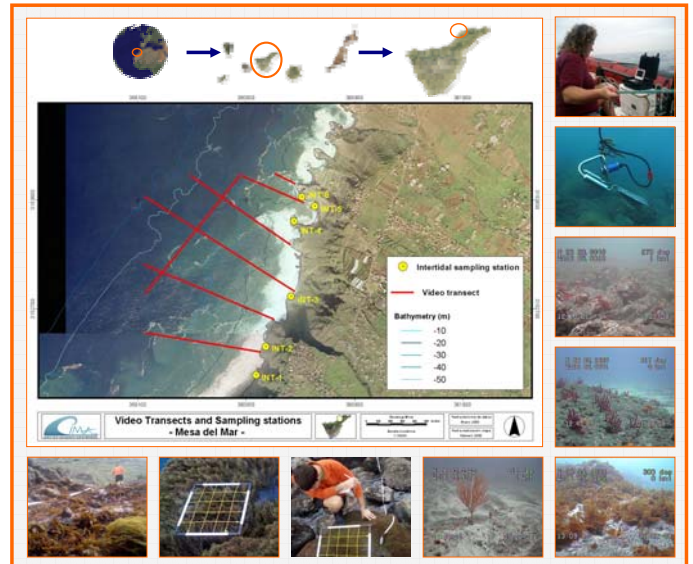
The bionomic cartography is one of the most useful tools that can be used in the integration of marine coastal areas. The information given by these kind of cartographies is essential in order to have reliable information of the eulitoral and sublitoral marine communities (fauna and flora), and to identify anthropogenic and natural pressures (e.g. pipelines, desalination, harbours, aquaculture, farms, among others).



## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A bionomic cartography was done from the protected area "Paisaje protegido de la Costa de Acentejo" during January and February 2008.

- The methodology consisted of marine video georeference transects that provide data about seabed community and habitat structure, as well as, marine benthic communities.
- In order to complete the study, a series of dives were done to identify and collect flora and fauna specimens.
- In the intertidal, a visual journey by foot was carried out and six stations were selected to be representative of the marine communities present in this area.
- Geomorphological and biological data (coverage and frequency) of the conspicuous species were collected using a 50 x 50 cm quadrat and a tape measure.



**Station INT-1**

- Slope: 2 (25-50%)
- Algae coverage: 50-75%
- Tide width: 15 m.
- No intertidal pools found.
- Algae dominant: *Corallina elongata*, *Ulva prolifera*, *Caulacanthus ustulatus* and *Cystoseira abies-marina*



**Station INT-4**

- Slope: 2
- Algae coverage: 75-100%
- Tide width: 6 m
- Small intertidal pools present
- Algae dominant: Encrusting corallinacean, *Laurencia* spp. and *Cystoseira humilis* (pools)



**Station INT-2**

- Slope: 4 (75-100%)
- Algae coverage: 25-50%
- Tide width: < 2 m.
- No intertidal pools found.
- Algae dominant: *Cystoseira abies-marina*, *Corallina elongata* and *Gelidium canariensis*



**Station INT-5**

- Slope: 2.
- Algae coverage: 75-100%
- Tide width: 5 m.
- Intertidal pools present
- Algae dominant: *Ulva* spp. (pools), *Corallina elongata*, *Gelidium canariense* and *Cystoseira abies-marina*.



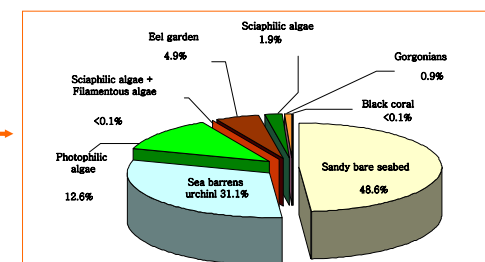
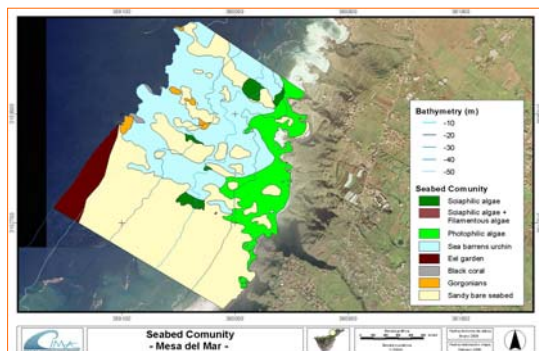
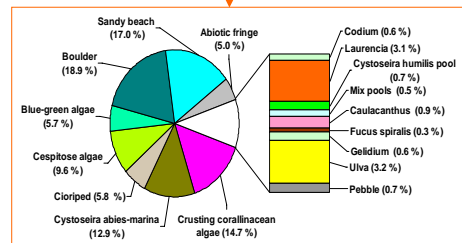
**Station INT-3**

- Slope: 2
- Algae coverage: < 25%
- Tide width: 15 m.
- No intertidal pools found
- Algae dominant: *Caulacanthus ustulatus*, *Cystoseira abies-marina* and *Corallina elongata*



**Station INT-6**

- Slope: 3 (50-75%)
- Algae coverage: 50-75%
- Tide width: 10 m.
- No intertidal pools.
- Algae dominant: *Fucus spiralis*, *Bangia atropurpurea* and *Colpomenia sinuosa*.



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