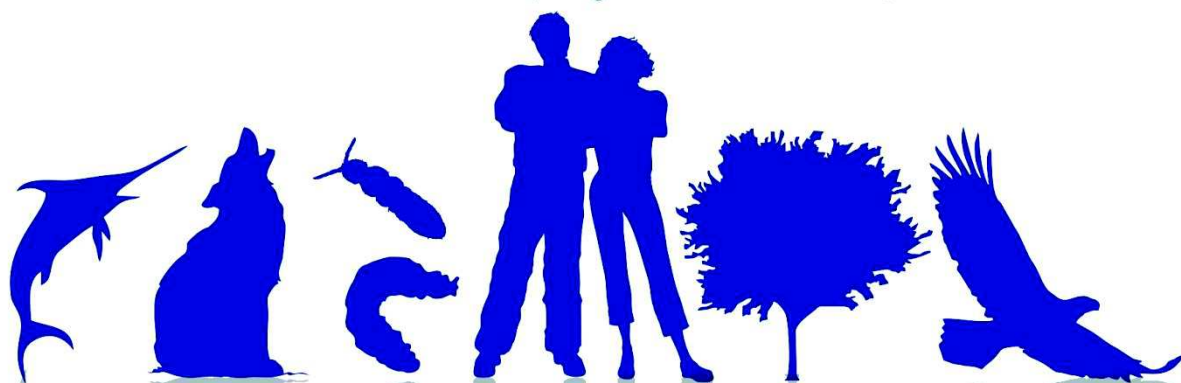


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4º Encontro Ibérico de Ecologia 4º Congreso Ibérico de Ecología

Coimbra, Portugal • 16 a 19 Junho de 2015 / 16 a 19 de Junio de 2015



A Ecologia e os Desafios Societais La Ecología y los Retos Sociales



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DOI: 10.7818/4IberianEcologicalCongress.2015

Deadline editorial: 01/06/2015

Publica:

Asociación Española de Ecología Terrestre (AEET)
C/ Tulipán s/n, 28399, Móstoles, Madrid, Spain

Elaboração/Maquetación: Susana Rodríguez Echeverría, João Loureiro, Sílvia Castro.

S1. Poster

Using niche modelling of indicator species to predict the distribution of xerophitic shrub dune communities in South-Western Portugal

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Inland sand dune systems are amongst the most threatened habitat types of Europe. Affected by severe conditions, these habitats present distinct community compositions, which makes them excellent for studying possible interactions among their integrating species and the environment. We focus on understanding the distribution and co-occurrence of the species from dune plant assemblages as a key step for the adequate protection of these habitats. Using data from an extensive survey we identified the shrub species that could be considered indicators of the different xerophytic scrub dune communities in South West Portugal. Then, we modelled the responses of these species to the environmental conditions using Ecological Niche Factor Analysis. We present some preliminary results elucidating whether using species distribution models of indicator species at a regional scale is a valid approach to predict the distribution of the different types of communities inhabiting these endangered habitats.