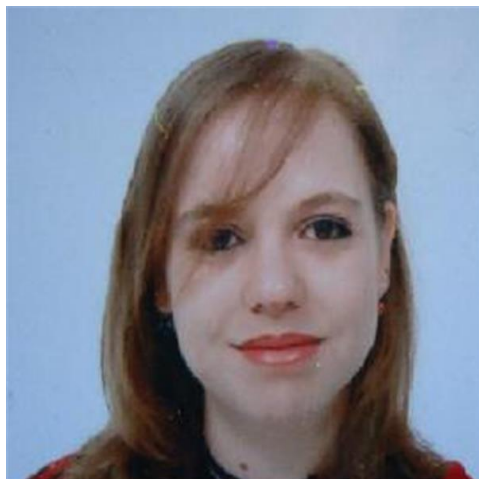


García Fernández, Alicia
University of A Coruña
Nationality: Española

Orientation: Integrated Management of the Sea
Specialization Area: Analysis and Environmental assessment
Research Area: 3.5 Biodiversity and littoral zone ecology



PhD project: The community of *Cystoseira baccata* (Fucales, Ochrophyta) in Northern Iberian Peninsula

Supervisors: Dr. Ignacio Bárbara Criado (University of A Coruña)

Summary: Some *Cystoseira* species make the upper canopy of communities with a complex structure and high stratification, harboring a wide associate biota (substrate and epiphytic strata). The Iberian Peninsula contains 24 *Cystoseira* species, but only 6 inhabit in Northern Iberian Peninsula. Although several Mediterranean species have been deeply analyzed and there is some partial studies of *Cystoseira* in the Atlantic Iberian coast, it has not been accomplished a general study of the species in the NW Iberia. This thesis is focused in *C. baccata*, because it forms the community with the best geographic representation, apparently the most diverse and in which is integrated other species of the genera. Moreover, is the only Iberian species with restricted Atlantic distribution. It will be studied abiotic parameters which affect to the distribution and biological parameters, and also the community biodiversity, by making biogeographic comparisons in order to know the spatial distribution. It also will be studied the temporal variations of the *C. baccata* community and its associated flora during an annual cycle. The methodology employed will be the often used one in the phycological taxonomic studies, as microscopic observations of the three main groups, and also the preparation of the registration material for the herbarium of Santiago de Compostela. Finally, it will be make an integral study of the information generated during the thesis to evaluate the environmental situation of the community in the Galician coast.

