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PhD project: Diversity and Ecology of Oceanic cephalopods from the Macaronesian Region

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Summary: Cephalopods comprise approximately 845 living species and the commonly known as squids, are the most diverse group of cephalopods with around 300 species classified. It is well-known that oceanic cephalopods, particularly squids, are an important component in marine ecosystems and play a central role in marine food webs. Despite this ecological and economical importance, many aspects of its systematic, ecology and biogeography, especially in offshore communities and deep-sea habitats are scarce. To our knowledge, a limited number of research have improved the knowledge of the cephalopods fauna of the Canary Islands. This thesis project aims to provide the first comprehensive view of the cephalopods community, its richness and distribution from the Canary Island, as well study its trophic importance to marine top predators, particularly to teuthophagus odontocetes which have resident populations during all year around in the Canary Islands.

