

Amanda Luna

University of Vigo

Nationality: Spanish

Date doctoral degree: 27/11/2021

Orientation: Ocean Observation and Global Change

Specialization Area: Ocean Observation

Research Area: 1.1 Physical Oceanography



PhD project: **Taxonomía, Biogeografía y Ecología de los cefalópodos del noroeste de África (CCLME, Gran Ecosistema Marino de la Corriente de Canarias).**

Supervisors: Dr. Francisco Rocha (Universidade de Vigo)

Dr. Ana Ramos (Instituto Español de Oceanografía)

Summary: Taxonomic, Biogeographic and Ecologic study of the collections of cephalopods found in the multidisciplinary campaigns in Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea waters. The area belongs to the region of the Big Marine Ecosystem of the Current of Canaries (CCLME), considered one of the greater marine ecosystems of upwelling in the World. The cephalopods fauna in the region is diverse and abundant, with species of global distribution and important fishery commercial value. In CCLME exist one of the greatest cephalopods fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean by high catches volume. In spite of that, the majority of the regional species with commercial value have been studied. However, in general the cephalopods fauna -especially those not currently exploited- is largely unknown. This thesis will complete an exhaustive study of these collections to identify and describe the teuthological fauna of the CCLME, emphasizing in those hardly known or unknown species appeared. Together with the classical taxonomic identification, I will develop studies on beaks developing 3D modelling of jaws as tool to the identification of species. This modelling will add supplementary value to the thesis contributing to the correct specific identification on both taxonomic studies and in ecological diet investigations of their predators. Also, the biogeographical research will be conducted with the species and their associations in the area. In this sense, the relationships between water masses, oceanic currents, geomorphological and sedimentological characteristics of the platform and continental slope will be discussed.

