

THE DISCOURSE OF NATURE

Biodiversity and balance

I recognize myself as an ancient tapestry that has taken shape in rhythm with time. On my slopes, holm oak groves intertwine, sustaining me like a deep, living memory, alongside the scrubland that pushes its way through clearings and rocky outcrops, and the aromatic and medicinal plants that perfume my seasons and have served the folk wisdom of the people who traverse me.

Within me also dwell the creatures that complete this balance: birds that circle above my heights, discreet mammals that glide through the shadows of the pastureland, reptiles and amphibians linked to my small seasonal springs, and a multitude of arthropods that silently maintain the invisible web of life.

In my continuity, each biological cycle is a form of permanence, each season a new inscription on my ancient skin. I remain a refuge, a balance, and a living memory of the Andalusian Mediterranean landscape that persists here.

———— RIGHT SIDE PANEL

The language of plants

Species and knowledge in the Mediterranean landscape

I rise as a territory of great biological richness. On the slopes, I sustain the holm oak forest, ancient guardian of shade and fertile soil, alongside diverse vegetation that weaves a balance resilient to sun, drought, and the elements.

Among my clearings also grow aromatic and medicinal plants, gathered by the local people for cooking, healing, and the folk wisdom passed down from generation to generation. Olive groves, vineyards, and almond orchards spread across my landscape, living traces of a historic agriculture that has conversed with me for centuries. Within me, nature, biodiversity, and culture coexist, giving rise to a dynamic and profoundly Mediterranean landscape.

Labels:

1. OLIVE TREE

Olea europaea

Mediterranean tree with silvery leaves and twisted trunk, symbol of the steppe agricultural landscape and origin of the prized olive oil.

2. ALMOND TREE

Prunus dulcis

Early flowering deciduous tree, whose white and pink flowers announce the end of winter in the Mediterranean landscape.

3. PALMITO

Chamaerops humilis

The only native palm tree of Western Europe, hardy and adapted to the Mediterranean climate. Its leaves were traditionally used in handicrafts.

4. CHICORY

Cichorium intybus

Perennial plant with bluish flowers. With various culinary uses and a root traditionally used as a coffee substitute.

5. HAWTHORN

Crataegus monogyna

A deciduous, thorny shrub with white spring flowers and red berries. Traditionally used in cardiotoxic and sedative infusions.

6. ZAHAREÑA

Sideritis angustifolia

Aromatic Mediterranean shrub with yellow inflorescences. Traditionally used as a digestive aid, wound healer, and natural revitalizer.



———— LEFT SIDE PANEL

Inhabitants of the mountains

Animal diversity and ecological balance

Within me lies a complex ecosystem where mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and arthropods fulfill essential functions for my balance. Foxes and bats inhabit the shaded areas; lizards and snakes slither across the rocks; and resident and migratory birds cross my skies, taking advantage of my position on seasonal routes.

The creation of an ornithological station has allowed for the scientifically rigorous study and understanding of my rich birdlife. In my soils and flowers, arthropods work silently, pollinating and regulating life. Thus, a profound biodiversity is woven within me, where each species maintains the pulse of my existence.

Labels:

1. MONTAGU'S HAWK

Circus pygargus

A medium-sized bird of prey with long, narrow wings and a long tail. It nests in agricultural soils, hunting small vertebrates and insects in low flight.

2. SHRIKE

Laniidae

Small predatory bird with a reddish head and black mask, exhibiting prey storage behavior.

3. STONECHAT

Saxicola Rubicola

A small bird of open habitats, with a black head and orange breast. It perches on high points to keep watch and is an active insectivore.

4. GRIFFON VULTURE

Gyps fulvus

Large scavenging raptor with a long, featherless neck, specialized in consuming carrion in open environments.

5. SWIFT

Apus apus

Insectivorous bird with continuous flight, sickle-shaped wings, and a short, forked tail. Dark brown plumage with a pale throat, fully adapted to the air.

6. CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

A long-tailed bird with pointed wings, grayish plumage on its head, back, and neck. It is notable for its distinctive song and breeding strategy of nesting in the nests of other species.

