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PLATJA DES TALAIER

**GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DATA:**

Municipality: Ciutadella.

Other place names: unknown.

Related urban areas: none.

Access: by road; from Ciutadella via the Ronda Sur (RC-2) and taking Camino de Sant Joan de Missa; it is reached from the Bellavista beach on the sands of Son Saura.

Beach location: south facing.

Surface area of the beach: 850 square metres

Length of the beach: 40 m

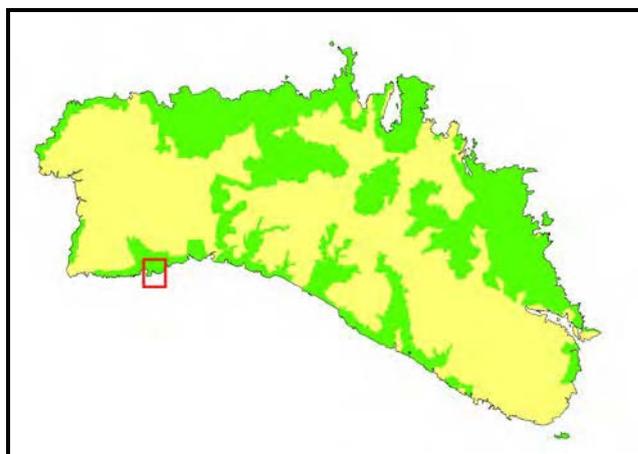
Average width of the beach: 20 m

Beach's level of occupation: high, in peak season.

Geology of the surroundings: carbonated shelf from the upper Miocene age, and made up of white calcareous rocks.

Sediment composition: of carbonated organic composition (+90%), with a high proportion of fine white sand.

Protected natural area: included the Natural Area of Special Interest Me-14 and in the Nature Network of 2000.

**BEACH SERVICES:**

Beach classification according to the CIME: beach type B (natural, with access by road).

Distance from the car park area: 1.000 m from the parking area for Bellavista beach.

Lifeguard service: there is a first aid service on the beach.

Other services: no services.

SURROUNDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

Within the middle southern part of Menorca, Es Talaier is a good example of a small bay with low cliffs and which at the present time has been kept intact, that is to say, in its natural state (see adjoining photo). Its wide and closed shape together with a river which flows at times, does not permit the development of a large and well constituted sand dune system, so that straight away the juniper and pine trees give way to bushes of heather and rockrose. Morphologically speaking, behind the beach there is a valley although this is really a small depression which carries rainwater towards the sea.



The bay is a small inlet from the sea and widens out towards the beach and is associated with a low cliff which is less than 5 metres high, slightly vertical and sloping towards the sea (see adjoining photo). The flat land which forms part of the low coastal area has a large number of erosive morphologies of coastal carst, many of which are used in a traditional way to dry salt for human consumption. We also find good examples of subsidence at the base of the cliff (notch morphologies).



PLANTS AND VEGETATION



As a consequence of the geomorphologic characteristics mentioned, the typical flora is poor as regards species. Basically one can find those plants which can survive on sand which is not very stable, and which can be affected, on occasions, by the direct impact of the swell. These species are also those which appear more frequently in the bays on the south coast: the marine thistle (*Eryngium maritimum*) and the sea lily (*Pancratium maritimum*) (see first photo); sea knot grass (*Polygonum maritimum*); or other annuals and more pioneers such as the prickly saltwort (*Salsola kali*) or *Suaeda spicata*. And although not found everywhere, one can see sea fennel (*Crithmum maritimum*) which takes advantage of the lack of competition to spread down the cliff and grow happily on the beach (see second photo).



ANIMALS



As it is a small beach, with an associated humid area and with a wooded environment literally on top of it, one cannot observe specific fauna on the sandy coastline. However, as on nearly all of the beaches in Menorca they are visited by the yellow legged seagulls (*Larus michahellis*), which are bigger and more abundant (see adjoining photo), or even the Audouins gulls (*Larus audouinii*), less frequently.

IN THE SEA

The sea bed of des Talaier is sandy on the internal and central area, and has posidonia (sea grass) on the outside edges. In the central part of the sandy coves, the Oceanic Posidonia is hardly ever seen as this is where the water flows back in with the swell. This creates currents which do not allow the posidonia grow. These areas are called drainage channels (see adjoining photo). Brown seaweed *Cystoseira stricta*, (indicative of water with high environmental quality) is abundant on the coast of des Talaier. This seaweed is in the shape of a small tree or bush, is 20 cm. high and is greenish brown in colour, and forms very dense populations in this bay and in many other places in Menorca.



HISTORY AND PECULIARITIES



The name of the bay, the beach of des Talaier, appears to come from the person who was in charge of looking after the watchtower. It refers to the Artrutx watchtower, a surveillance and defence tower of Spanish origin which was built in 1.617, which is found between this beach and that of Cala Turqueta (see adjoining photo).