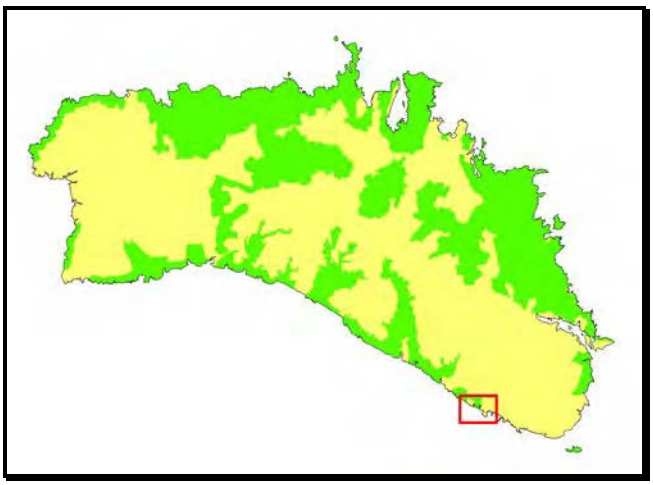
Index 47 BINIPARRATX

GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DATA:

Municipality: Sant Lluís
Other place names: unknown.
Associated urban areas: Cap d'en Font, Binissafúller
Access: on foot, from the untidy parking area on the road connecting Binidalí and Binissafúller.
Beach location: south.
Surface are of the beach: 422m^2.
Length of the beach: 20 m.
Average width of the beach: 20 m.
Beach's level of occupation: medium, in high season. Increased frequentation of boats.
Geology of the surroundings: carbonated platform of the upper Miocene, formed by white limestone.



Composition of the sand: of organic carbonated origin (+90%), with a high proportion of fine white grains and a significant amount of small boulders present.
Natural protected area: included in the Natural Area of Special Interest Me-11.

SERVEIS DE PLATJA:

Beach ranking according to the CIMe: type C beach (natural with no road access).
Distance to parking area: 300 metros
Lifeguard services: none.
Other services: none.

SURROUNDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

This beach is a good example of the typical morphology presented by a cove situated at the end of a ravine formed by the erosion of karstic material. Biniparratx is a small cove of sand and pebbles found at the end of the outlet of the small, but relatively deep, ravine of Biniparratx. It is a cove of reduced expansion situated between reasonably well vegetated carbonated cliffs of more than 15 metres in height, which continue beyond the beach until they reach the open sea about 400 metres further out. This, together with the fact that the beach faces east but the way out to open sea is in a westerly direction, makes this one of the most sheltered beaches of the island.

Even though it is surrounded by rocks, the landscape of the beach is green, thanks to the abundant vegetation which grows protected from the moisture of the ravine (see adjacent photo). In spring, the road leading down to the beach at the bottom of the ravine is flooded by the aroma of intense yellow gorse and on arrival at the beach one is surprised by the variety of flowers and colours that fill the beach and the surrounding cliffs.

PLANTS AND VEGETATION

Due to the morphology of the cove, as in similar cases, the beach has a reduced expansion, but is relatively rich in species, although human visitation poses a threat to its existence. Usually in these coves it is difficult to tell apart the different divisions of beach vegetation and the different species are distributed in a uniformed manner across the surface. The most common species are the yellow hornpoppy (*Glaucium flavum*) (see adjacent photo), bird´s foot trefoil (*Lotus cytisoides*), buck´s horn plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), sea daffodil (*Pancratium maritimum*), sea holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), sea beet (*Beta maritima*) or *Atriplex postrata.*

ANIMALS

Despite having a small sandy area, this cove enjoys a large variety of plants and the fact that it is situated at the bottom of a ravine ensures an increased level of moisture. These conditions are favorable to the life and observation of lepidópteros ropalóceros, or, flambuoyant butterflies. There is a great number of species specialized in living in this type of environment, a few of which are present in Menorca.

For example, you can find: the common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) a small butterfly (wingspan of 3cm) with a strong sexual formation (males are metallic blue in colour and females have brown tones with orange edges to their wings) which can be seen from April until the end of September; the cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*), with a large wingspan (up to 6cm) and yellow wings and two orange spots which make it unmistakable. This is especially plentiful during the months of May and June. The speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*) (see photo on the previous page) has a wingspan of about 4cm. It has brown wings containing orange cells and ocelli, and it is found in abundance from March to October, especially the end of May until the beginning of June. Finally, you can also see the cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*), a buttefly with white wings with black spots, which flys from spring until the beginning of autumn, being especially abundant from the end of June until the beginning of July.

IN THE SEA

Biniparratx has a largely rocky floor, especially inland and the borders. In return, the central outward part has a sandy floor with some areas covered with seagrass. These heterogeneous areas, a mix of rock, sand and seagrass, are excellent for the observation of coastal fish, such as the painted comber (*Serranus scriba*), two-banded seabream (*Diplodus vulgaris*), annular seabream (*Diplodus annularis*), mediterranean rainbow wrasse (*Coris julis*), fredi (*Thalasoma pavo*) (see male in adjacent photo) and others.

Brown algae *Cystoseira stricta*, commonly found in well-lit, uncontaminated, rocky zones, in many parts of the Mediterranean, grow on the right edge of the cove, but not on the left. This may have something to do with the summer huts found nearby.

HISTORY AND PECULIARITIES

In the middle of the cliff to the right of the beach, approximastely 5 metres in height, you can see excavated chambers in the rock which were used as burial caves during the bronze age by the ancient inhabitants of the island (at the end of the I millenium BC).