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**OBSERVATIONS ON THE SEASONALITY OF THE
INTERTIDAL ALGAL ZONATION IN THE AZORES**

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the results of an investigation into the seasonality of the intertidal algal zonation at a relatively exposed site on the island of São Miguel, Azores. The algal communities were examined in terms of species composition and percentage cover along a permanent transect. Three distinct and well established algal zones were detected. The upper one, dominated by *Fucus spiralis* and *Gelidium microdon*, is described for the first time for the Azores. The three algal zones were present throughout the year but, for certain species, seasonal fluctuations were nevertheless detected in cover, vertical position, or both. Some algae were present all year round while many others showed a marked seasonality in their occurrence: *Gelidium microdon* was absent in autumn, *Bryopsis hypnoides* and *Gastroclonium reflexum* were absent in summer and autumn, *Chondria* sp. was absent in winter, *Jania crassa* was absent in spring and summer, while *J. rubens* was absent in spring only.