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Algal zonation patterns in the Acores.

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Algal zonation patterns were studied on the islands of Flores (Occidental Group) and São Miguel (Oriental Group), Açores Archipelago. Transects made on each island revealed the occurrence of two distinct and well established zones. High on the shore, the algae were growing in a dense and short tangle forming a mat, that is called "algal turf". Immediately below this zone, the algae are larger and frondose.

Species composition was analysed for both algal zones. Gigartina acicularis (Roth) Lamouroux, Ceramium flabelligerum J. Agardh, Polysiphonia fruticolosa (Wulfen) Sprengel and P. opaca. (C. Agardh) Mor. et De Not. were important species of the "algal turf". Halopteris filicina (Grat.) Kuetz., H. scoparia (Linnaeus) Sauvageau, Pterocladia capillacea (S. Gmelin) Bornet et Thuret, Corallina officinalis Linnaeus, Jania adhaerens Lamouroux and J. rubens. (Linnaeus) Lamouroux were the dominant frondose algae found.

These patterns of zonation and species composition are compared with those of open rocky shores elsewhere.