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PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

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THE STATE OF SHORELINE IN THE KARADAG AREA

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The Karadag area landslip endorsed the flora and fauna of this unique place. It lead to decreased plant numbers. It is necessary to preserve this object of historical, aesthetic and scientific value. Therefore, the main purpose of our research was to explore the factors of shoreline destruction and peculiarities of the development of exogenous processes. The following tasks were laid down: (1) to define factors influencing shoreline destruction; (2) to define the main physical characteristics of soils; (3) to find out the structure of vegetative assemblies. The profile method was applied using linear transect crossing on over maximum variation. The classification of plants and ordination of the vegetation is included in the results. Tests of soils were taken and their main physical characteristics were determined by means of standard methods. The enroute methods of geobotanical researches were used for a description of vegetative assemblies. The data for construction of the classification of phytocenosis were received as a result of these researches. The list of plants was established and pictures of the research area were taken. The conclusions were: (1) major factors influencing the destruction of the shoreline are abrasion and surface erosion; (2) brown, strongly washed off soils with the layer habitable by roots thicker than 8-16 cm are formed in this area; (3) the prevalence of tomillars with domination *Limium kuntze*, *Ephedra distachya*, *Cappares spinosa*, *Rygotxyllum vulgares*, *Ailanthus altissima* is determined; (4) decreasing of biodiversity and quantity of some species are observed in the zones of the greatest activation of the landslip. *Ailanthus altissima* and *Rygotxyllum vulgares* are strengthening soil plants, and they might be recommended for strengthening of shoreline slopes; (5) decreasing a transparency of water is found in the shelf-zone as a result of abrasion. It leads to increasing of the epiphytic forms of algae.

THE MUSEU CARLOS MACHADO IN PONTA DELGADA AND THE ONSET OF MARINE BIOLOGY IN THE AZORES

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The Biological Marine collections of the Museu Carlos Machado in Ponta Delgada comprise more than 1800 specimens belonging to 544 species. Included are specimens of historical importance material and rare and endangered local species. The collections

contain specimens collected during the second half of 19th century, reflecting the typical activities of the naturalists of those days. The biological collections formed the nucleus of the Museum when it was opened as a school museum. From this 19th century approach the collections have increased by an active policy to fill gaps for teaching and also by donations from collectors and benefactors. The marine biological collections of mainly historical interest include mammals, birds, fishes, molluscs, crustaceans and algae. Notable specimens include some rare crustaceans mentioned in the early publications on the natural history of the islands. Following the needs and curiosity of naturalists and curators, some important publications are housed in the library of the Museum. These include volumes, by Drouet (1861), Barrois (1888) and Guerne (1887; 1889), as well as the full collection of *Resultats des Campagnes scientifiques par Albert Ier*, considered to be of important historical and scientific value. Details of collections and important specimens are presented as well as some related interesting publications and letters.