

The Andalusian Network of Botanic Gardens in Natural Areas is firmly committed to support the development and efficient application of the World Conservation Strategy for Nature and the Convention on Biological Diversity. As centres for conservation, recovery and reintroduction of wild species, the Network takes part in the conservation strategy of the Regional Ministry for the Environment and coordinates actions with other regional, national and international organizations and institutions, such as the International Association of Botanic Gardens (IABG) or the Iberian-Macaronesian Association of Botanic Gardens (AIMJB).



Botanical Garden Network distribution
Biogeographic regions

EL CASTILLEJO BOTANIC GARDEN

El Castillejo represents the Ronda Biogeographic Sector and the garden is also located in that Biogeographic Sector. It is an area which goes from the Sierra de Grazalema to the Sierra de Loja. It covers all the Serrania de Ronda and Sierra Bermeja, and it is characterised by having quite homogeneous conditions regarding (basic) soils. While visiting El Castillejo, you will get to know some of the most interesting plants in European flora: the "Pinsapo" (*Abies pinsapo*), a Mediterranean fir which can only be found in the mountain ranges of Grazalema, Las Nieves and Bermeja; or the Grazalema poppy. These endemic species reveal the very special conditions necessary for the development of the vegetation.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITORS

- Please keep all areas clean and use the bins provided.
- Respect all plants in the garden.
- Follow the signposted routes.
- Taking photographs, drawing or simply observing are the best ways to enjoy your visit.
- If you walk in silence, you will be able to hear many different sounds.
- If you have any questions, please ask a member of staff.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

e-mail: reservatuvisita.amaya@juntadeandalucia.es

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Regional Ministry for the Environment
Provincial Office of Cádiz
Plaza Asdrúbal, 6.
Edificio de la Junta de Andalucía.
11071 Cádiz
Tfno. 956 008 700-671 591 501 / Fax. 956 008 702

Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park
Avda. de la Diputación, s/n
11670 El Bosque (Cádiz)
Tfno. 600 161 916

El Castillejo Botanic Garden
e-mail: jbotanico.castillejo.cmaot@juntadeandalucia.es

SYMBOLS USED

All plants are identified with plaques which include the following information: common name in Castilian Spanish and scientific name (in Latin, followed by the name of the authors that wrote the description), botanic family, geographical distribution and level of threat, which is shown using the following icons:

- In danger of extinction ●
- Vulnerables ●
- Of special interest ●



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA
CONSEJERÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ORDENACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO



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EL CASTILLEJO

Andalusia's prime location, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as between two different continents, allows for a huge range of ecosystems and environments, with a great variety of climates and terrains, where a rich botanical and mycological heritage has developed. The region has around 4,000 different species of higher plants and around 3,500 species of fungi. Many of these species are endemic to Andalusia and some of them are endangered due to several factors.



● Current network

Botanic and mycological gardens contribute to the conservation of this natural heritage. For this reason, a Network of Gardens has been set up. They are organised according to ecological criteria, to improve awareness, to promote conservation and to exhibit plants and fungi which make up the Mediterranean Forest of Andalusia. Each of the different gardens in the network is dedicated to local flora and vegetation, paying special attention to rare and endangered flora, in coordination with all the other gardens. The Mycological Garden is a regional showcase of fungi in Andalusia.

Location

El Castillejo Botanic Garden is located in the municipality of El Bosque (Cadiz). Access from Cadiz is via Jerez de la Frontera and Arcos de la Frontera (A-372), from Malaga via Ronda and Grazalema (A-372) and from Seville (N-IV) via Villamartin (A-371) and Prado del Rey (A-373). It is located outside of the municipality, in its northern end. Access is via a gravel road starting at the fish farm, or, from the road that links El Bosque with Benamahoma (Km. 31), where you will find a path on the left side of the road. Both accesses are signposted.

The BG El Castillejo is located in Grazalema Natural Park (Biosphere reserve, Especial Conservation Zone and Especial Protection Zone for births).



The Garden

WILD OLIVE TREE WOODLAND

Wild olive trees form forests with other species such as mastic trees, wild rose and myrtle plants. They have a high ecological value as a refuge and feeding area for many birds. This woodland is used, for example, by livestock for browsing and eating the fruits (wild olives), for firewood and for making charcoal from firewood.

CORK OAK WOODLAND

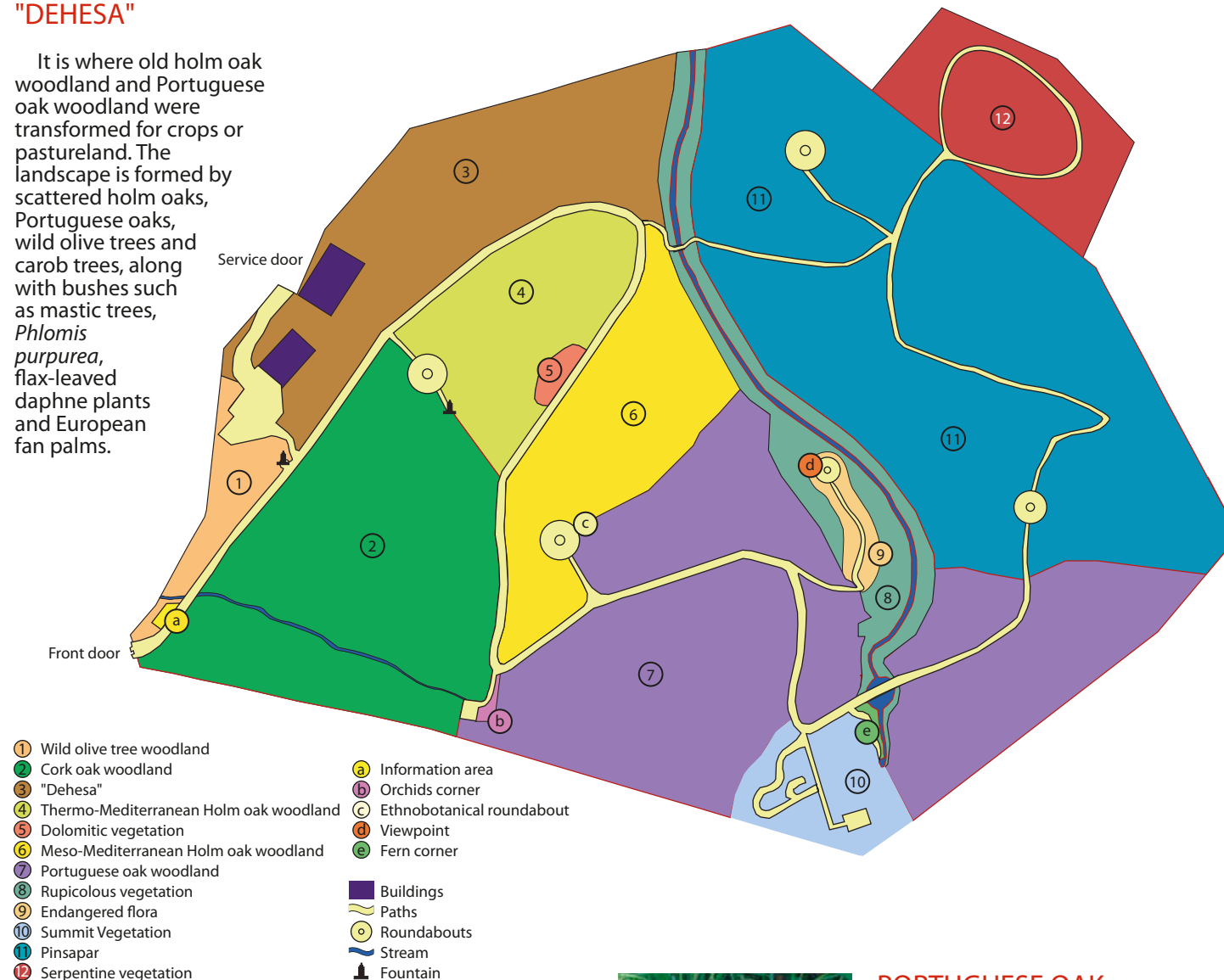
These trees can be found on acid soils (not very common in the Ronda Biogeographic Sector). They take the place of holm oaks from these areas when humidity conditions increase. The understorey is formed by numerous species of *Cistus*, heather, myrtle and *Arbutus unedo*.



Ophrys scolopax

"DEHESA"

It is where old holm oak woodland and Portuguese oak woodland were transformed for crops or pastureland. The landscape is formed by scattered holm oaks, Portuguese oaks, wild olive trees and carob trees, along with bushes such as mastic trees, *Phlomis purpurea*, flax-leaved daphne plants and European fan palms.



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|--|-----------------------------|
| ① Wild olive tree woodland | Ⓐ Information area |
| ② Cork oak woodland | Ⓑ Orchids corner |
| ③ "Dehesa" | Ⓒ Ethnobotanical roundabout |
| ④ Thermo-Mediterranean Holm oak woodland | Ⓓ Viewpoint |
| ⑤ Dolomitic vegetation | Ⓔ Fern corner |
| ⑥ Meso-Mediterranean Holm oak woodland | 🏠 Buildings |
| ⑦ Portuguese oak woodland | 🛤️ Paths |
| ⑧ Rupicolous vegetation | ⦿ Roundabouts |
| ⑨ Endangered flora | 🌊 Stream |
| ⑩ Summit Vegetation | ⛲️ Fountain |
| ⑪ Pinsapar | |
| ⑫ Serpentine vegetation | |

HOLM OAK WOODLAND

It is the most representative vegetation formation covering the largest area. Its total adaptation to the characteristics of Mediterranean climate and its plasticity allow for it to be in places with minimum soil such as ravines and rocky slopes. The main use of holm oak woodland takes place during the *montanera* period when pigs eat acorns. These trees were also used in recent past for charcoal production.



Peony

PORTUGUESE OAK WOODLAND

Portuguese oaks can be found in the most humid and sheltered places (streambeds and riverbeds) where they are mixed with holm oaks, or simply take their place. They are deciduous trees which share the space with deciduous bushes, such as hawthorns and wild rose.

GALLERY FOREST

In rivers with a permanent flow of water there is vegetation called "gallery forest": ashes, willows and and poplars can be found along streambeds, because they would not be able to survive far from them. Along with these trees, bramble, wild roses and mints form a jungle of plants which makes the course of the stream a true green tunnel. A collection of endangered species and of interest in the Ronda biogeographic sector has been set up in this area.

RUPICULOUS AND SUMMIT VEGETATION

The vegetation that can be found at the top of the mountain range, rocky slopes and crevices of rocks has very interesting adaptations to be able to live with excessive solar radiation, scarcity of soil and with wind. Most of these plants have a round, cushion shape, are very close to the soil and have a white appearance. These areas have many of the most interesting species of this biogeographic sector.

"PINSAPAR"

This woodland of *Abies pinsapo* can be found in the northern mountainsides in some areas of the whole biogeographic sector. During glaciations these trees must have covered larger areas, but the increase of temperature restricted them to the coolest and shadiest places of high mountain ranges. The "pinsapo" is in danger of extinction and, because of this, it is protected by law. The vegetation that can be found along with the "pinsapo" is not very abundant, like, for example, Portuguese oaks, stinking hellebore, spurge-laurel, ivy, lilies and and a plant belonging to the orchids family, *Cephalantera rubra*.



"Pinsapo"

SERPENTINE VEGETATION

The south of Malaga province has outcrops of rocks of plutonic origin called peridotites. Its degradation forms serpentines which generate a not very fertile soil and also toxic due to the high concentration of heavy metals. An interesting group of species has been able to adapt to such extreme conditions.