

THE HERPETOFAUNA OF THE “AREA MARINA PROTETTA DI TAVOLARA E PUNTA CODA CAVALLO” (NE SARDINIA, ITALY)

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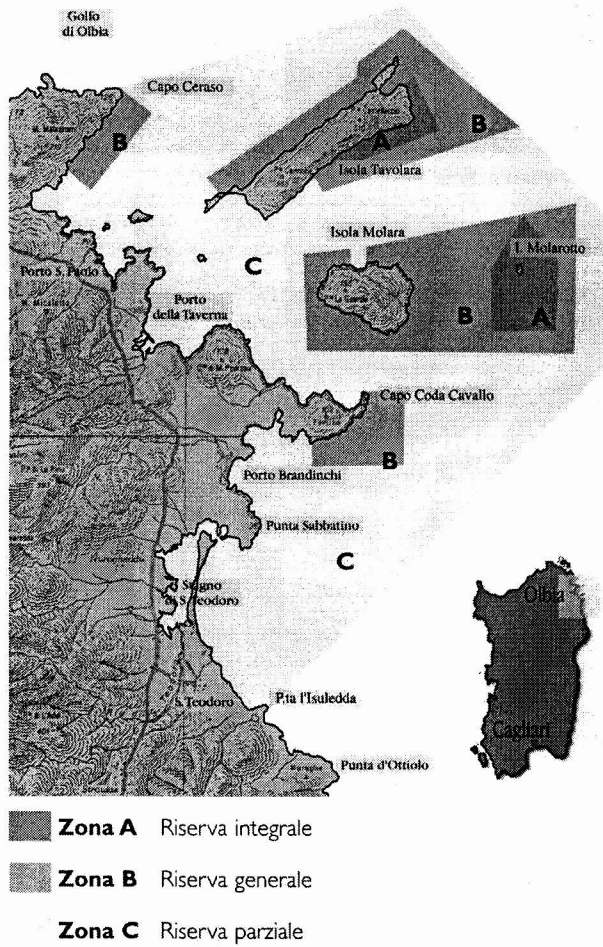
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The marine protected area “*Area Marina Protetta di Tavolara Punta Coda Cavallo*” (Fig.1), which has been created in 1997 by the Ministry of the Environment, includes 15.000 hectares of sea and coastal habitats. Geologically differentiated, this territory is mainly characterized by pink granite and quartz-feldspatic beaches, while Tavolara Island is characterized by calcareous-dolomitic relief. Along the coastal area, in the backdune system, ponds and lagoons are formed thanks to streams and channels which connect the sea with the inshore. Molaro Island and many other islets as well, show the typical geology of granitic relief. The vegetation is typically Mediterranean. Many protected species of Amphibians, Reptiles and Birds are present in this area.

In the present work we will review the herpetofauna of the whole protected area mentioning all species present in each locality. Following Poggesi et al. 1995 (*Erpetologia delle isole circumsarde. Biogeographica, (N.S.) 18 [1994]: 583-618*), we will give an updated list of the herpetofauna of each single island and islet of this territory [I.la Tavolara, I.to Spalmatore (= I.la dei Porri), I.la Piana di Tavolara, I.la Verde (=I.la dei Topi), I.la Cavalli, I.la Reulino (=I.to Rosso), I.la Cana, I.to del Fico, I.la Molaro, I.to Molarotto, Scogli i Cerri (=I tre Fratelli), I.la Proratora, I.la Brandinchi)].

As follow the species which were at present recorded in the whole area: *Hyla sarda*, *Euleptes europaea*, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Testudo hermanni*, *Testudo marginata*, *Algyroides fitzingeri*, *Podarcis sicula*, *Podarcis tiliguerta*, *Chalcides chalcides*, *Chalcides ocellatus*, *Natrix maura*, *Hierophis viridiflavus*.



La presente cartina non costituisce documento tecnico; per l'esatto riferimento delle coordinate rivolgersi alla Capitaneria di Porto di Olbia.

Fig. 1. Map of the Area Marina Protetta di Tavolara Punta Coda Cavallo.

Key words: *Tavolara Island; Amphibians, Reptiles.*