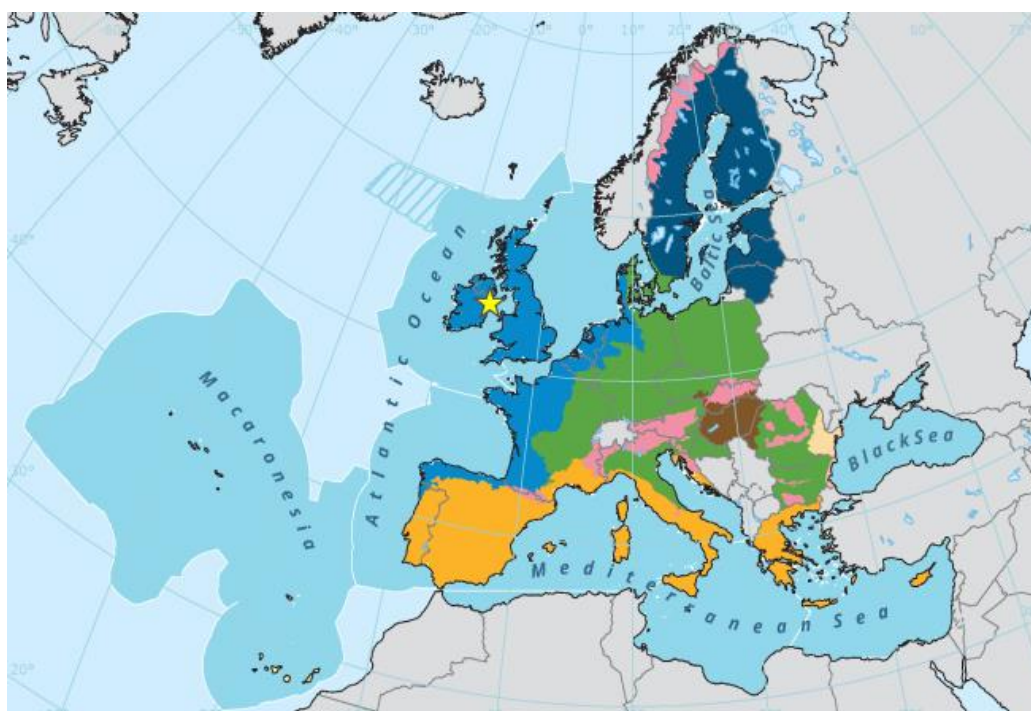


3rd Natura 2000 biogeographical
seminar for the Baltic marine region

Excursion information

10 November 2023



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia



Latvijas
vides
aizsardzības
fonds

Information about field trips to marine and terrestrial protected natural areas

Nature reserve “**Vidzemes akmeņainā jūrmala**” (Natura2000 site code LV0508600) area includes unmodified coastal section of the Gulf of Riga with a unique coastal landscape in Latvia: steep banks and rocky beaches. 22 types of specially protected habitats of EU importance have been detected in the territory, a very large diversity of coastal habitats is found: marine, beach and dune habitats as well as forests and grasslands. The main values of the rocky sea edge are habitats of EU importance 1230 *Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts*, 1220 *Perennial vegetation of stony banks*, 6510 *Lowland hay meadows* and 1210 *Annual vegetation of drift lines*. Down the river Kurliņupīte, stretches of river surrounded by sandstone outcrops gives special experience in exploring surroundings. Overall, this site is an important complex of habitats for many rare and protected plant and animal species.

Marine protected area “**Vitrupe - Tūja**” (Natura 2000 site code LV0900600) under marine waters hides biologically high-value reefs that are found in a narrow 2-5m shallow-water strip, containing *Sphacelaria arctica* and *Polysiphonia fucoides* as well as *Ceramium tenuicorne* and *Furcellaria lumbricalis*. At the depth of 5-20 meters special unique reef of geological origin – sandstone outcrops covered with a layer of boulders can be found. As a result of a wave activity, boulders have sunk into soft sandstone substrate, forming fine, fragile sandstone structures that offer shelter to many underwater invertebrate species. This kind of substrate is not found in any other places in Gulf of Riga.

Place of our visit “**Veczemju klintis**” are the most spectacular and magnificent sandstone rock group on the coast of Gulf of Riga. The waves of the sea have formed up to 6 meters high steep bank where red sandstone cliffs with shallow abrasion caves, niches, grottos, and other formations are exposed over several hundred meters. The cliffs that you will see on the coastline during field trip are the same as those under water.

VECZEMJU KLINTIS



Agenda

08:10h	Departure from Riverside Hotel (11th Novembra krastmala, 33, Riga)
09:40	Arrival at Veczemju rocks, welcome snacks
10.00	Guided tour
11:30	Departure to the "Sidrabiņi" pub, Liepupe, Limbažu district
12.00	Lunch
13:30	Departure back to Riga
15.00	Return to Riverside Hotel, Riga

Speakers

- ❖ **Solvita Strāķe**, Senior researcher, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
- ❖ **Anete Fedorovska**, Research assistant, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
- ❖ **Pēteris Daknis**, Nature Conservation Agency, LIFE REEF project expert - ornithologist