# SPECIAL CONSERVATION AREA OF THE UROLA ESTUARY

Upstream, the materials carried by the river have been deposited and formed the alluvial terraces of Oikia, where the riverside forest prevails with alders, willows, ash trees and large plane trees.

The fish fauna of the upper section presents typically freshwater fish such as minnow, loina and barbel, accompanied by others from brackish waters, such as corcón or flounder. There is no shortage of common frogs or water snakes.

In the middle estuary, the sediments have formed islands and silt beaches, at the mercy of tidal cycles and salinity variations. Plants such as marine purslane, sea rush, salicor live here and where there is fresh water reeds and cattails grow.

In the fauna community, birds such as the osprey, the kingfisher, the spoonbill or the avocet stand out. The Little Plover nests in stony areas bordering the Urola. In the water, fish such as eel, sea bass or capuchin coexist with others from the shallow coastal bottoms, such as flatfish, mullet and bream.

On the beach of Santiago, the vegetation wages its battle against the tide and desiccation. It is the territory of the sea caterpillar, the sea cabbage, the sea thistle, the mouse's tail and the sea carnation. Insects, arachnids, mollusks live in the dunes and the presence of the green lizard stands out.

In several areas of the Urola estuary, there are Cantabrian holm oak groves, where the holm oak is accompanied by buckthorns, strawberry trees, privet and mostajos.

Bedua islets

Sea caterpillar on the sand

Interior of the holm oak