

{rokbox title=|Map of the study area :: Image: Authors|

thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-csic-distribution-macro-micro-litter-items-beaches-marine-protected-area-mediterranean-compa-et-al-2022-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-csic-distribution-macro-micro-litter-items-beaches-marine-protected-area-mediterranean-compa-et-al-2022.jpg{/rokbox}

Montserrat Compa, Carme Alomar, Mercè Morató, Elvira Álvarez, Salud Deudero, 2022.

[Spatial distribution of macro- and micro-litter items along rocky and sandy beaches of a Marine Protected Area in the western Mediterranean Sea.](#)

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Abstract: In this study, the spatial distribution and physical characteristics of beach macro- and micro-litter within the Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial National Park (Cabrera MPA), in the Balearic Islands have been analysed. For macro-litter items, a mean concentration of 1.9 ± 2.4 items/m² weighing a total of 13 kg was quantified. In terms of beach composition, cobble beaches with deposited seagrass had almost twice as much marine litter as other beaches. For beach micro-litter items, white and transparent microplastics within the size class of 1–2 mm were the most abundant on all the beaches, and the most common polymer types were polyethylene (64%) and polypropylene (17.2%). Overall, for both macro- and micro-litter items, plastic was the most dominant material (90%) identified on all beaches surveyed within Cabrera MPA, indicating areas of low anthropogenic pressures are increasingly becoming sinks for marine litter.

Keywords: Marine Protected Areas, Polymer characterization, Balearic Islands, Anthropogenic impacts, Coastal conservation, Marine litter