

FLESHY-FRUIT CONSUMPTION IN DOÑANA

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Study description

Seed dispersal has a main role in ecology, influencing plant dynamics. Many plants offer fleshy fruits leading to their dispersal by animals. These plant–animal interactions might be mutualistic, when animals legitimately disperse seeds, while others might be antagonistic, involving predation that reduces seed dispersal; but most are somewhere in between. For animals, fruits also provide nutrients to enrich their diet. This two-sided process creates a web of interactions between different plants and animals, crucial for supporting ecosystems on Earth. In this photo gallery, with images from camera traps, we showcase frugivory among various species, highlighting an array of plant–animal interactions.



Photo 1. Various animal species feeding on *Arbutus unedo* in Madroñas scrubland, Spain: (A) *Genetta genetta* and (D) *Turdus merula* interact in the canopy while (B) *Meles meles* and (C) *Cervus elaphus* forage fallen fruits from the ground. Photo credit: Pablo Villalva.



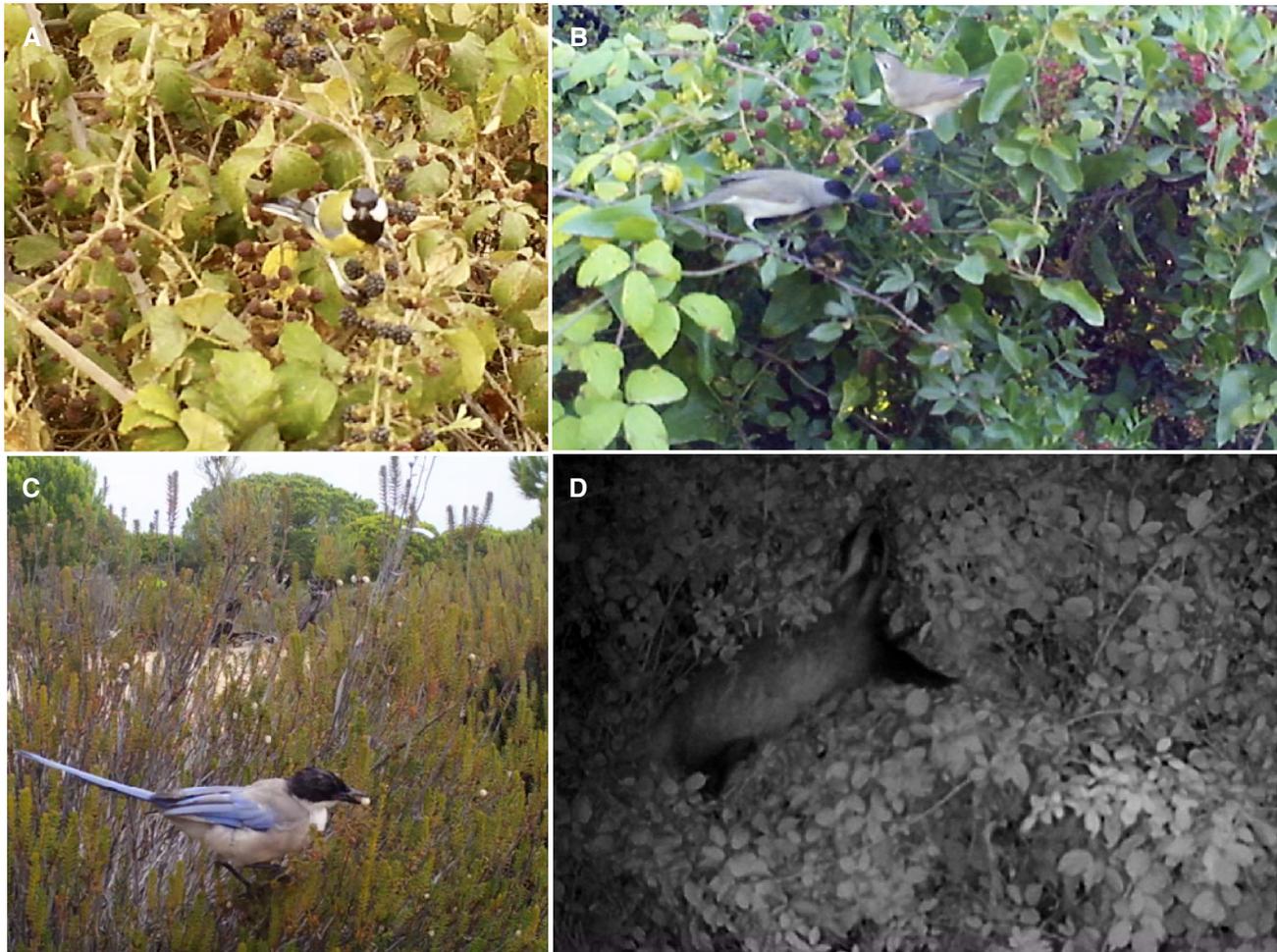
Photo 2. Four bird species are shown interacting with *Myrtus communis* near the Santa Olalla lagoon. (A) *Turdus philomelos*, (B) *Sylvia atricapilla*, and (D) *Erithacus rubecula* are commonly seen interacting with this plant, while this specimen of (C) *Turdus iliacus* represents a rare interaction that is difficult to observe. Photo credit: Pablo Villalva.



Photo 3. In this figure, the common red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is depicted interacting with various plant species: (A) foraging for mature fallen pears from *Pyrus bourgaeana*; (B) atop a 2.5-m tall spiny *Rubus ulmifolius*; (C) on the canopy of *Pyrus bourgaeana* in search for the first pears of the season; and (D) searching in the canopy of *Juniperus phoenicea*. Photo credit: Jorge Isla (panel D) and by Pablo Villalva (panels A–C).



Photo 4. In this figure, we illustrate interactions between common bird species and two plant species in the Mediterranean region. *Pistacia lentiscus*, a common plant species, is shown interacting with (A) *Erithacus rubecula* and (D) *Saxicola rubicola*. The hemiparasitic plant *Osyris lanceolata*, a rarer species found under the forest canopy of stabilized sand dunes, is depicted interacting with (B) *Sylvia atricapilla* and (C) *Erithacus rubecula*. Photo credit: Elena Quintero (panels A and D), and Pablo Villalva (panels B and C).



Phot 5. In this figure, three bird species are shown interacting with *Rubus ulmifolius* during the day near the almost dry Santa Olalla lagoon. In (A), *Parus major* is perched and about to forage on the polidrupe. In (B), *Sylvia atricapilla* and *Sylvia borin* share space and resources from the abundant fruits offered by this *Rubus* specimen. Nearby during the night in El Puntal, a badger (D) *Meles meles* is avidly foraging atop the 2-m-high *Rubus*. In (C), a young Iberian magpie *Cyanopica cooki* obtains water and food from a *Corema album* individual in the sand dunes. Photo credit: Pablo Villalva.

These photographs illustrate the article “FRUGIVORY CAMTRAP: A dataset of plant-animal interactions recorded with camera traps” by Pablo Villalva, Blanca Arroyo-Correa, Gemma Calvo, Pablo Homet, Jorge Isla, Irene Mendoza, Eva Moracho, Elena Quintero, Francisco Rodríguez-Sánchez, and Pedro Jordano published in *Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.4424>