**PROTECTED NATURAL AREA “LES MADRIGUERES”**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES**

 **KENTISH PLOVER**

The Kentish plover is a small cosmopolitan [shorebird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shorebird) (40-44 g) of the family [*Charadriidae*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charadriidae) that breeds on the shores of saline lakes, lagoons, and coasts, populating sand dunes, marshes, semi-arid desert, and tundra. Its scientific name is ***Charadrius alexandrinus****.* ***Les Madrigueres*** is a key place for the conservation of this endangered species which has on the beaches of *Baix Penedès* the third largest population in Catalonia.

**BLACK WINGED STILT**

Its scientific name is ***Himantopus himantopus****.* They have extremely long legs, hence the group name and thin bills. Stilts typically feed on aquatic insects and other small creatures. They live in wetlands. They nests in***Les Madrigueres*** since 2016, before then there was no evidence of its reproduction in *Baix Penedès*.

 **TAMARISK or SALT CEDAR**

Its scientific name is ***Tamarix sp***. They are large shrubs or small evergreen trees that reach 6 to 8 meters high. The leaves are alternately disposed, flake-shaped, lanceolate grey-blue. It blooms from April to June. The flowers are white or pink in compact cylindrical spikes of 4 to 5 cm. They are species adapted to live by the sea, since they tolerate salinity well. The generic name originated in Latin and may refer to the *Tamaris River in Hispania Tarraconensis*. In ***Les Madrigueres***we can find two species *African Tamarix* and *Canariensis Tamarix* and they are the biggest in all this zone called Baix penedès.

**SEA THISTLE**

 This plant grows to a height of 20 to 60 cm. Its scientific name is ***Eryngium maritimum***. It’s a dune plant. They are usually on the European coastlines. Its flowers are burr-shaped and its colour is metallic blue or mauve. We can see them on ***Les Madrigueres*** dunes.

 **BERMUDA GRASS**

Its scientific name is ***Cynodon dactylon****.*  It grows on the dunes above the beach. By anchoring shifting sand and cutting coastal winds, it creates a place where other plants can grow more easily. It is not an endangered species but we highlight it because that is all these beaches were before the tourism boom.