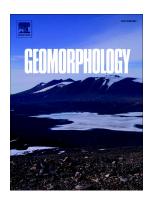
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Measuring geomorphological diversity on coastal environments: a new approach to geodiversity

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ABSTRACT

Geodiversity can be defined as the spatial variability of geo-elements. Its emergence as a research field is relatively recent, with a wide range of approaches and methods of evaluation and quantification already in use. The work described in this paper was carried out from a novel perspective. Firstly, the emphasis is specifically centred on geomorphological diversity. Secondly, mathematical ecology calculations are applied which tackle the problem on the basis of a larger number of diversity parameters. In addition, whereas most authors have focussed on mountainous and/or continental areas, for the first time a study of this type is applied to coastal landscapes. The analysis covers the full 459 km of volcanic coastline of the islands of Gran Canaria and La Palma (Canary Islands). These two oceanic islands were chosen for purposes of diversity comparison given their differing stages of geomorphic development. In accordance with an *ad hoc* geomorphological taxonomy, as developed in this study, 14 geomorphic groups and 42 subgroups were identified and quantified according to their presence [1] or absence [0] along the coastline. A cartographic-analytical method (coastline data-storing or CDS), based on the

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