

= Jiloca (river) =

The Jiloca (Spanish pronunciation : [xi?loka]) is a river in Aragón , Spain , a tributary of the river Jalón , and part of the watershed of the Ebro basin . The course of the river runs through the provinces of Teruel and Zaragoza . It has a length of 126 kilometres (78 mi) and an average flow rate of 2 @. @ 1 cubic metres per second (74 cu ft / s) , although this varies between the seasons . The river flows in a generally north easterly direction from its source near Monreal del Campo .

The valley was an historic route between the Meseta Central and the Mediterranean coast . Roman bridges remain in many pueblos and remains of watermills can be seen . The water is generally of good quality and supports a range of wildlife . Cleaning works by the regional government have been criticised by environmental organisations who claim that the ecology has been damaged . The watershed covers an area of 2 @, @ 957 square kilometres (1 @, @ 142 sq mi) .

= = Course = =

The source is disputed , tradition holds that it rises at an artesian well , the Fuente de Cella , at the base of the Sierra Albarracín in Teruel province . The well is surrounded by an elliptical parapet wall built by the Italian engineer Domingo Ferrari . It is now thought that the stretch of river between Cella and Monreal del Campo is the remains of an 18th @-@ century canal which was cut to drain the Laguna Cañizar at Villarquemado . It is currently accepted that the Jiloca raises at the Ojos (Eyes) of Monreal , 2 kilometres (1 @. @ 2 mi) from the town . These are a series of ponds linked by channels . From Monreal the river flows northwards and near Luco de Jiloca (Calamocha) , the Jiloca is joined by its only tributary , the Pancrudo , which rises 46 kilometres (29 mi) away in the Sierra de la Costera . From this point there is an irrigation channel which waters a small valley near Daroca .

The river flows on from Daroca in a north easterly direction , past Manchones , Morero , Montón , Morata de Jiloca , Maruenda and Paracuellos de Jiloca until it joins the Jalón between Carramolina and Calatayud .

Towns named after the river are Morata de Jiloca , Paracuellos de Jiloca , Fuentes de Jiloca , Torremocha de Jiloca , Velilla de Jiloca and Villanueva de Jiloca .

= = = Hydrographics = = =

The Jiloca has an average flow rate of 2 @. @ 1 cubic metres per second (74 cu ft / s) , although there are seasonal variations , due to a long dry season and wet seasons in the spring and autumn in the Meseta Central . Annual rainfall in the watershed varies from around 400 millimetres (16 in) to 950 millimetres (37 in) , with peak precipitation in May and June . The watershed covers an area of 2 @, @ 957 square kilometres (1 @, @ 142 sq mi) .

= = Natural history = =

The Ojos de Monreal are a series of artesian wells which form pools connected by small channels . This area is rich in wildlife , including waterfowl , grebes , wrens , kingfishers , owls , orioles and woodpeckers . There are frequently visiting wildfowl from the Laguna de Gallocanta , some 23 kilometres (14 mi) away . Thickets of poplar , willow and walnut trees give plenty of shelter . The water is considered in very good condition according to the assessment of the Plan Hidrológico de la Cuenca del Ebro (Hydrological Plan of the Ebro) .

Further downstream in the valley between Manchones and Morero , birdlife includes goshawks , eagles , orioles , robins , finches , hoopoe and kestrels . Deer and bobcats are found in the Sierra Santa Cruz which borders the river , hedgehogs and shrews are to be found near the banks . Trees include poplars , elm , and ash .

In 2000 , the Asociación Naturalista de Aragón strongly condemned cleaning works by the regional government , which they said were systematically destroying riparian vegetation , killing fish and

upsetting the ecology of the river in the reaches between Daroca and Calatayud . In November 2009 , an investigation into soil erosion in the Jiloca basin was announced , with the intention of determining suitable future land use strategies .

= = History = =

In the past many water @-@ mills were powered by the river , but now only ruins of these remain . The valley of the Jiloca is an ancient route between the Meseta Central , the Ebro and the coast of the Levante . Many Roman bridges remain in the pueblos of the valley .

= = Tributary = =

There is one tributary , the Pancrudo , which rises 3 kilometres (1 @.@ 9 mi) above the pueblo of Pancrudo , in Teruel province and flows generally north east past Torre los Negros , Navarette del Rio and Lechago before joining the Jiloca at Luca de Jiloca after 46 kilometres (29 mi) .