

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ODONATA OF MONTESINHO NATURAL PARK (NE PORTUGAL)

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Abstract: The state of knowledge of Montesinho Natural Park (North-east Portugal) odonatofauna is presented and commented. Seven species are recorded for the first time.

Key words: Odonata, faunistics, new records, Montesinho Natural Park, North-east Portugal.

Contribución al conocimiento de los Odonata del Parque Natural de Montesinho (NE Portugal)

Resumen: En este trabajo se presentan y comentan los conocimientos sobre los odonatos del Parque Natural de Montesinho. Siete especies se citan por primera vez.

Palabras clave: Odonata, faunística, nuevos registros, Parque Natural de Montesinho, NE de Portugal.

Introduction

Montesinho Natural Park is located in the North-eastern tip of continental Portugal and comprises the mountain ridges of Montesinho and Coroa. Covering close to 75,000 ha and ranging from 438 to 1481 metres above sea level, it is one of the largest protected areas in the country and it is also part of the Natura 2000 site “Montesinho-Nogueira”, which extends southwards to include the mountain ridge of Nogueira. The area of Montesinho Natural Park is run through by a large number of brooks, streams and rivers, the largest of which are rivers Sabor, Rabaçal, Tuela and Baceiro.

During the first week of June 2005, the authors visited Montesinho Natural Park and collected the information about its Odonatofauna that is presented in this paper, together with a compilation of the previously available data for the area.

A summary of the knowledge on the Odonata of Montesinho Natural Park

The compilation of the bibliographical data available for Montesinho Natural Park has hitherto resulted in a list of nine species recorded in a single reference: Malkmus (2002). The data contained in this paper is presented in the form of 10x10 km UTM grid maps with the distribution of 63 species in continental Portugal and the only available information on the mapped records concerns their date, which is either before or after 1985. All Malkmus' (2002) records for Montesinho Natural Park relate to the latter category, *i. e.*, 1985 onwards.

In this work we present records of 14 species, seven of which are new for the Park.

List format

The specimens listed below include vouchers collected by the authors and deposited in CIBIO/UP's collection and also field observations (specimens captured for identification

and released afterwards, which are indicated by the abbreviation “obs.”). Some exuviae, which are also preserved in CIBIO/UP's collection, were collected as well, being indicated by the abbreviation “exuv.”.

Specimens' identification was based on Askew (1988) and Aguilar & Dommanget (1998).

Species list

AESHNIDAE Sélys, 1850

Anax imperator Leach, 1815

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Near Santo Amaro chapel (29TPG7940 – 780 m), 06-06-2005 (1 ♂). Vinhais: Tuizelo (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♀).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG93.

GOMPHIDAE Sélys, 1850

Gomphus pulchellus Sélys, 1840

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG93.

CORDULEGASTRIDAE Fraser, 1940

Cordulegaster boltonii (Donovan, 1807)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Castrelos (29TPG7433 – 640 m), 04-06-2005 (1 exuv.). Vinhais: Anta stream (29TPG6746 – 870 m), 04-06-2005 (2 exuv.).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG93 and 29TPG94.

LIBELLULIDAE Sélys, 1850

Crocothemis erythraea (Brullé, 1832)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Serra Serrada reservoir (29TPG8447 – 1260 m), 04-06-2005 (1 ♀).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

Libellula depressa Linnaeus, 1758

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Vinhais: Fresulfe (29TPG7340 – 840 m),

05-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.); Tuizelo (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♂).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG93 and 29TPG94.

Libellula quadrimaculata Linnaeus, 1758

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Vinhais: Tuizelo (29TPG6140 – 850 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♀).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

CALOPTERYGIDAE Buchecker, 1876

Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis (Vander Linden, 1825)

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG93.

Calopteryx virgo (Linnaeus, 1758) *ssp. meridionalis* Séllys, 1873

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Castrelos (29TPG7433 – 640 m), 04-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.). Vinhais: Santalha: (29TPG5744 – 600 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG53, 29TPG54, 29TPG63 and 29TPG73.

Calopteryx xanthostoma (Charpentier, 1825)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Vinhais: Tuizelo (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG54 and 29TPG93.

COENAGRIONIDAE Kirby, 1890

Coenagrion mercuriale (Charpentier, 1840)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Gondesende (29TPG7734 – 790 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♀). Vinhais: Tuizelo (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♂).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

Coenagrion puella (Linnaeus, 1758)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Near Santo Amaro chapel (29TPG7940 – 780 m), 06-06-2005 (2 ♂ and 3 ♀). Vinhais: Anta stream (29TPG6746 – 870 m), 04-06-2005 (4 ♂ and 2 ♀); Tuizelo (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (3 ♂ and 2 ♀).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

Enallagma cyathigerum (Charpentier, 1840)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Serra Serrada reservoir (29TPG8447 – 1260 m), 04-06-2005 (2 ♂ and 2 ♀).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

Ischnura graellsii (Rambur, 1842)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Near Santo Amaro chapel (29TPG7940 – 780 m), 06-06-2005 (1 ♂); Serra Serrada reservoir (29TPG8447 – 1260 m), 04-06-2005 (1 ♂ and 1 ♀). Vinhais: Anta stream (29TPG6746 – 870 m), 04-06-2005 (1 ♂ and 1 ♀); Tuizelo (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (2 ♂).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

Ischnura pumilio (Charpentier, 1825)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Near Santo Amaro chapel (29TPG7940 – 780 m), 06-06-2005 (1 ♀); Serra Serrada reservoir (29TPG8447 – 1260 m), 04-06-2005 (1 ♂).

COMMENTS: First record for the Park.

Pyrrhosoma nymphula (Sulzer, 1776)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Castrelos (29TPG7433 – 640 m),

04-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.); Near Santo Amaro chapel (29TPG7940 – 780 m), 06-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.); Parâmio (29TPG7640 – 850 m), 03-06-2005 (1 ♀); Serra Serrada reservoir (29TPG8447 – 1260 m), 04-06-2005 (2 ♂ obs.). Vinhais: Mofreira (29TPG7344 – 1060 m), 03-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.); Tuizelo: (29TPG6040 – 840 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♂ obs.) and (29TPG6140 – 850 m), 05-06-2005 (1 ♀).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG54 and 29TPG93.

PLATYCNEMIDIDAE Tillyard, 1938

Platycnemis acutipennis Séllys, 1841

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Bragança: Near Santo Amaro chapel (29TPG7940 – 780 m), 06-06-2005 (1 ♂); Serra Serrada reservoir (29TPG8447 – 1260 m), 04-06-2005 (1 ♂).

COMMENTS: Mapped by Malkmus (2002) in 29TPG53, 29TPG83 and 29TPG84.

Discussion

As mentioned earlier, before this contribution the Odonata of Montesinho Natural Park had only been studied by Malkmus (2002) who referred nine species from the area. With the records of seven new species for the Park, we raise that number to 16, and at the same time increase the known distribution of seven others. It is worth mentioning that one of the novelties, *Coenagrion mercuriale* (Charpentier, 1840), is considered vulnerable by the IUCN and included in the Fauna-Flora-Habitat directive of the European Union (Sahlén *et al.*, 2004).

Despite the advance that the new data represents for the knowledge of the Odonata of Montesinho Natural Park, it must be emphasized that it results from just four days of fieldwork and therefore the Park's fauna remains very incompletely known not only in terms of the number of species present, but also concerning their distribution, ecology and conservation status.

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