

## First record of *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) for Portugal and confirmation of the occurrence of *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 (Dictyoptera, Mantodea)

José Manuel Grosso-Silva<sup>1</sup> & Patrícia Soares-Vieira<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CIBIO/UP - Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, Universidade do Porto, Campus Agrário de Vairão, 4485-661 Vairão; PORTUGAL. E-mail: jmgrossosilva@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup> R. D. Afonso Henriques, 95 - 1.º direito; 2040-273 Rio Maior; PORTUGAL. E-mail: pmsvieira@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** The praying mantis *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) (Mantodea, Mantidae) is recorded for the first time for Portugal, and the occurrence there of *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 (Mantodea, Amorphoscelididae) is confirmed.

**Key words:** Dictyoptera, Mantodea, Mantidae, Amorphoscelididae, *Apteromantis aptera*, *Perlamantis alliberti*, first record, confirmation, Portugal.

**Primera cita de *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) para Portugal y confirmación de la presencia de *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 (Dictyoptera, Mantodea).**

**Resumen:** Se cita por primera vez para Portugal a *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) (Mantodea, Mantidae) y se confirma la presencia en este país de *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 (Mantodea, Amorphoscelididae).

**Palabras clave:** Dictyoptera, Mantodea, Mantidae, Amorphoscelididae, *Apteromantis aptera*, *Perlamantis alliberti*, primera cita, confirmación, Portugal.

### Introduction

The Mantodea fauna hitherto recorded for continental Portugal includes 9 species (Seabra, 1942; Fernandes, 1960; Harz & Kaltenbach, 1976) whose distributions and general status in the country are very unequally known. In fact, as occurs with the majority of the Portuguese fauna of insects, although most of the species have been known from the country for a very long time, their distributions, ecology and life traits have not been studied properly and are, thus, very poorly known.

In the present contribution, two records are presented on account of their particular interest for the knowledge of the Portuguese fauna of the suborder Mantodea Burmeister, 1838, being one of them a new species for the country's fauna and the other a confirmation of the occurrence of a species collected only once.

### First record of *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) for Portugal

*Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894), the only species of the genus *Apteromantis* Werner, 1932 present in Southern Europe (Harz & Kaltenbach, 1976), is an Iberian endemic recorded from the central and southern parts of Spain (Ciudad Real, Madrid, Cuenca, Jaén, Granada and Cádiz provinces) but until now unrecorded from Portugal.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2004, one specimen of *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) was collected by P. Soares-Vieira in Malhão (29SPB32), a site located in the Castro Marim area (South-eastern Algarve) (Map 1). This finding represents the first record of the species for continental Portugal, extending its known distribution further to the West in the southernmost part of the Iberian Peninsula, following a trend derived from the papers published recently by Brenes (2003) and Ruiz (2004).

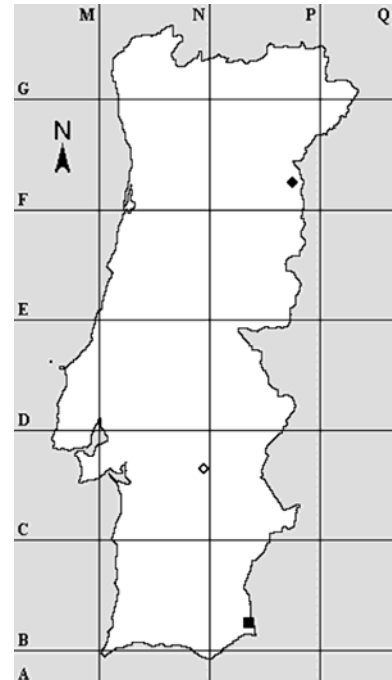
The finding of *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) in Portugal and the resulting extension of its known range has a particular interest concerning Nature Conservation, since the species is included in the Appendix II of Bern Convention and in Appendices II and IV of the 92/43/CEE Directive ("Habitats" Directive).

### Confirmation of the occurrence of *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 in Portugal

*Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 is the only representative of the family Amorphoscelididae occurring in Southern Europe (Harz & Kaltenbach, 1976). The presence of this species in Portugal was recorded twice by Seabra (1937, 1939) from Herdade da Mitra, in the Évora area (Alentejo region). However, both records apparently derived from the same specimen, which was collected in August (Seabra, 1939), and the species was, therefore, collected only once in the country.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1997, one specimen of *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 was collected by J. M. Grosso-Silva in Castelo Rodrigo (29TPF72) (Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo area), a record that enables us to confirm the presence of the species in the Portuguese territory and to considerably increase its known area of occurrence in the country (Map 1).

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**Map 1:** Distribution of *Apteromantis aptera* (Fonte, 1894) (■) and *Perlamantis alliberti* Guérin-Méneville, 1843 (◇ - old record; ◆ - new record) in continental Portugal.