

SOME INTERESTING FLORISTIC RECORDS FROM THE «SERRA DO MONTEMURO» MOUNTAIN (PORTUGAL)

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The «Serra do Montemuro» is a granitic mountain situated in the North of Portugal, in the limits of the «Douro Litoral» (**DL**), «Beira Alta» (**BA**) and «Trás-os-Montes» (**TM**) provinces. It constitutes a poorly known territory, from the floristic point of view. In 1940, GIRÃO (*Vegetação. In Montemuro - A mais desconhecida Serra de Portugal*, Coimbra Editora) described the vegetal cover of this mountain, referring the most frequent species. More than ten years latter, MENDONÇA & VASCONCELOS (*Anais Inst. V. Porto*, I-VII. 1954-1971) published some data regarding peripheric areas of this mountain. It was TELES (*Agron. Lusit.*, XXXI: 5-132. 1969) who referred the highest number of species in his relevés of the water meadows of this and other Northern areas of Portugal. More recently, PAIVA & SILVA (*A vegetação do sistema Gralheira-Montemuro. In Entre Freita e Montemuro*. Associação para a Defesa da Cultura Arouquense, Arouca, 2.^a ed.: 19-25, 1998) made reference to some rare and threatened species occurring in this area.

An autonomous study, focused on the floristic diversity of this mountain, is still lacking. However, the location of «Serra de Montemuro», in an Iberian and regional context, and its ecological conditions, seem to indicate the possible existence of some rare and threatened plants and new chorological data. For this reason we visited the area several times in 1998 and 1999 and present here some of the first results obtained. Among the prospected locations we point out the highest area (with the maximum altitude of 1.381 m.a.s.) and the «Lagoa Pequena» and «Lagoa

de D. João», two peat-bog areas placed at the mean altitudes of 1.290 m.a.s. and 1.110 m.a.s., respectively.

An important part of this mountain was included in the «Rede Natura 2000» network of natural reserves.

Carex echinata Murray, *Prodr. Stirp. Gott.*: 76 (1770)

Lu, DL: «Serra de Montemuro, Lagoa de D. João», NF8840, alt. 1.110 m, peat-bog, over granite, 10-7-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10754.

In spite of the TELES (*op. cit.*) citation of this taxon for «Serra do Montemuro: Panchorra» (DL), LUCEÑO (*Ruizia*, XIV: 5-139, 1994) did not include the DL on his list of provinces where *Carex echinata* is known to occur. With our collection the presence of this taxon in the «Montemuro» mountain and DL is confirmed.

Drosera rotundifolia L., *Sp. Pl.*: 281 (1753)

Lu, DL: «Serra de Montemuro, Lagoa Pequena», NF8637, alt. 1.290 m, on a peat-bog, 10-7-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10757.

This is the second collection of this taxon from DL. The first has been published by SILVA & CARVALHO (*Bol. Soc. Brot.*, 2.^a Sér., LXII: 183-193, 1989) and is from the «Serra do Valongo».

Echinospartum ibericum Rivas-Martínez, Sánchez-Mata & Sancho *in Lazaroa*, 7: 111 (1987)

Lu, BA: Serra de Montemuro, junto ao marco geodésico Montemuro, NF8536, alt. 1.380 m, 6-3-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10750; *ibidem*, 10-7-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10756.

This small population, along with another already cited by GIRÃO (*op. cit.*) and still surviving near «Portas de Montemuro», is located, precisely, on the limits between the BA and DL provinces. Much more interesting than constraining a new province citation (for DL) is to point out their fitogeographic relevance. They are, in fact, two small isolated populations located on the Western limits of the distribution area of this Iberian endemism. The Western most population known is on the «Serra do Gerês», where this plant is known since 1804 (BROTERO, *Flora Lusitânica*), and the nearest one is located on BA: «Moreira de Rei» (MENDONÇA & VASCONCELLOS, *op. cit.*), at more than 50 km East.

Gentiana pneumonanthe L., *Sp. Pl.*: 228 (1753)

Lu, DL: «Serra de Montemuro, Lagoa Pequena», NF8537, alt. 1.290 m, numa turfeira, 11-8-1999, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10760.

This is the second citation of this beautiful plant for DL. The first was made by TELES (*op. cit.*), also for «Serra do Montemuro» at «Panchorra».

Phalacrocarpum oppositifolium (Brot.) Willk., *Bot. Zeit.* 22: 252 (1864)

Lu, DL: Serra de Montemuro, cerca do km 44 da EN321, NF8236, alt. 1.150 m, exp. N, 8-5-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10753.

This is, also, the second citation of this taxon for DL. The first was made by PAIVA (Anuário Soc. Brot., XXVII: 17-31. 1961) for «Arouca, Serra da Freita (Maciço da Gralheira)» which was overlooked both by NIETO FELINER (*Anales Jard. Bot. Madrid*, XXXIX: 53. 1982) and BLANCO, ABAD & SIMÓN (*Fontqueria*, XXX: 185. 1990).

Ranunculus bulbosus L. subsp. **bulbosus** var. **hispanicus** Freyn *in* Willk. & Lange, *Prodr. Fl. Hispan.* 3: 932 (1880)

Lu, DL: «Serra de Montemuro, Lagoa de D. João», NF8840, alt. 1.110 m, peat-bog over granite, 10-7-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10755; Ídem, Lagoa Pequena, NF8537, alt. 1.290 m, peat-bog, 10-7-1998, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes* 2289, COI s.n.

This is the first time this rare plant is cited for areas South of river Douro, and for DL. In Portugal it was known only from TM (COOK, GRAU & G. LÓPEZ, *Flora iberica*, I: 345. 1986), from the vicinities of Bragança (B. NEVES, *Contribuição para o estudo cariosistemático das espécies Portuguesas do género Ranunculus* L. 1944). These two populations may have been isolated in these relatively high altitude peat-bogs in consequence of the global warming after the quaternary ice ages. Before then, this plant was probably more widespread in the Iberian peninsula, especially towards the South and West.

Scrophularia herminii Hoffmanns. & Link, *Fl. Port.* 1: 266 (1813)

Lu, BA: «Serra de Montemuro, Campo Benfeito, num muro da margem do Rio Balsemão», NF9039, alt. 970 m, 11-8-1999, *P. Silveira & M. J. Fernandes*, COI s.n., HVR 10761.

FONTES & P. DA SILVA (*Agron. Lusit.*, XL: 5-40. 1980) have already cited this taxon from «Montemuro, Ponte de Reconcos, margens do rio Pequeno». They have included it in TM but, following COSTA (Diccionario chorographico de Portugal Continental e Insular. 12 vols. Typographia Privativa do Diccionario Chorographico. Azurara - Vila do Conde, 1938), this location should be included in DL. ORTEGA & DEVESA (*Ruizia*, XI, 1993) overlooked these populations, including in their account only the ones from «Serra da Estrela» and, after a big gap, the ones from the Northern most areas of Portugal (Mi and TM), and Galiza (Spain). This population, from «Campo Benfeito», is more than 60 km North of the ones from «Serra da Estrela» (although in BA) and is, therefore, important from a chorological point of view.