

# B O C A G I A N A

## Museu Municipal do Funchal

Madeira

26.V.1986

No. 90

### NEW PLANT RECORDS FROM THE SALVAGE ISLANDS

By J. R. Press \*, M. Biscoito \*\* and F. Zino \*\*\*

**RESUMO.** No presente trabalho os autores assinalam cinco novas espécies de plantas para as Ilhas Selvagens das quais duas representam novas famílias e outras duas novos géneros para a flora destas ilhas. São fornecidas indicações quanto à distribuição geográfica das espécies.

The Ilhas Selvagens, or Salvage Islands, lie some 290 km. south of Madeira and 150 km. north of Tenerife. Although floristically most closely allied to the Canaries, politically the Salvage Islands form part of the Madeiran archipelago.

The islands are inhospitable, low and dry with no natural water (Nóbrega, 1955). The vegetation was in the past intensively grazed by goats and is currently so by rabbits. In October 1971 the islands were designated by the Portuguese Government as a natural reserve and from 1977 have been patrolled by wardens to prevent unauthorised landings and indiscriminate collecting. However, the Salvages have been rarely visited by botanists and collections of plants from the islands are consequently few. A review of those between 1860 (the first) and 1963 is given by Pickering & Hansen (1969). To date the total number of vascular-plant species listed for the islands is 91 (Hansen & Sunding, 1985).

The largest and most accessible island of the group is Selvagem Grande and in March 1985 two of us (MB and FZ) paid a visit there. The preceeding winter months had been unusually wet with exceptionally

\* British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

\*\* Museu Municipal do Funchal, 9000 Funchal, Madeira.

\*\*\* Rua do Dr. Pita, 7, 9000 Funchal, Madeira.

heavy rains falling in September, November, December and February. This visit was made in the hope that the conditions might prompt the appearance of previously unrecorded species and, although only 25 specimens were collected (8 more were not collected due to being extremely common and listed by all authors), five of these represent new records for the Salvage Islands and one other is a noteworthy variant of a previously recorded species.

These new and noteworthy species are recorded here. The specimens are held in the herbarium of the Museu Municipal do Funchal (MADM).

#### ASPIDIACEAE (NEW FAMILY RECORD)

**Cyrtomium falcatum** (L. fil) C. Presl

932 A

N. E. of Baía das Pedreiras on the edge of the Plateau, in a large concavity with water. 19.3.1985.

A native of E. Asia but naturalized in other areas. Previously recorded from the Azores (except Santa Maria, Graciosa, Corvo), Madeira and Canaries (Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Palma).

#### COMPOSITAE

**Sonchus tenerrimus** L. (New record)

478 A

Near a wall, west of Pico dos Tornozeiros. 16.3.1985.

A weed of southern Europe, North Africa and Asia eastward to Pakistan. Also introduced in South Africa, Mexico, parts of North America and Australasia. Previously recorded from the Azores, Madeira and the Canaries (except Gomera, La Palma).

The specimen has been grazed and is somewhat stunted with rather smaller involucre (7-8mm before anthesis) than in Canarian specimens (8-10mm before anthesis) and the pollen has many malformed and sterile grains.

#### GERANIACEAE (NEW FAMILY RECORD)

**Erodium cicutarium** L'Herit. ssp. **cuticarium**

126

Pico da Atalaia. South slope, midway between Cisterna Nova and the top. 16.3.1985.

A common ruderal throughout most of Europe, though probably introduced in a number of areas. Previously recorded from Azores (Terceira, São Jorge), Madeira, Porto Santo, Desertas and Canaries.

841B

## GRAMINEAE

**Rostraria pumila** (Desf.) Tzvelev (New genus record)  
(= *Lophocloa pumila* (Desf.) Bor)

Pico da Atalaia, near lighthouse. 14.3.1985.

More or less pan-temperate weed. Previously recorded from Porto Santo and Canaries (except Gomera). *R. cristata* (L.) Tzvelev (= *Lophocloa cristata* (L.) Hyl.) is recorded from Azores (except Graciosa, Pico, Flores), Madeira, Porto Santo, Desertas, Canaries and Cape Verde (Santo Antão, Fogo) and *Lophocloa azorica* A. Hans. has been recorded from Azores (Santa Maria).

561B triat-ne  
do  
misopates, misopates

## SCROPHULARIACEAE

**Misopates cf orontium** (L.) Raf. (New genus record)

Base of Pico dos Tornozeiros, near a wall, in the middle of *Suaeda vera*. (White flowers). 16.3.1985.

Common throughout most of Europe, W. & C. Asia and N. Africa, often as a weed of open habitats. Previously recorded from Azores, Madeira, Porto Santo, Canaries and Cape Verde (Santo Antão, São Nicolau).

The specimen is rather poor, having been grazed, but does possess both flowers and mature capsules. It matches *M. orontium* in most characters but the seeds, which are taxonomically significant in this group, are smaller (c. one half the size) and differ in some morphological features. More material is needed to determine whether or not this represents a new taxon.

**Scrophularia arguta** Soland. ex Ait.

565

Carreiras — on top of the slope. (White flowers). 16.3.1985.

According to Dalgaard (1979) the only *Scrophularia* species present on the Salvage Islands is *S. arguta*, with reddish-brown flowers, short, thick pedicels and stems with numerous stalked glands. The closely related Madeiran endemic *S. lowei* Dalg. is said to be distinguished from *S. arguta* by its white flowers, long slender pedicels and stems with few, generally sessile glands. This specimen has white flowers like *S. lowei* but the pedicels are short and thick and the stem bears copious stalked glands as in *S. arguta*, which it more closely resembles.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks are due to Drs. S. Blackmore, M. Gibby and D. A. Sutton (BMNH), Dr. T. Cope (Kew) and Dr. V. Dalgaard (Institute of Systematic Botany, Copenhagen) for confirmation of various points.

## REFERENCES

- Dalgaard, V. :  
1979. Biosystematics of the Macaronesian species of *Scrophularia*. *Op. bot. Soc. bot. Lund* 51 : 4-64.
- Hansen, A. & Sunding, P. :  
1985. Flora of Macaronesia. Checklist of vascular plants. 3. revised edition. *Sommerfeldtia* 1 : 1-167.
- Nóbrega, M. :  
1955. Notas botânicas sobre a Selvagem Grande. *Bol. Mus. Mun. Funchal* 8(22) : 22-32.
- Pickering, C. H. C. & Hansen, A. :  
1969. Scientific expedition to the Salvage Islands July 1963. *Bol. Mus. Mun. Funchal* 24 : 63-71.