Fluvial niche reconnaissance of noteworthy bryophytes in Portugal

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Abstract – The new data here presented allow the reinforcement of the overall knowledge about distribution patterns and niche definition of some aquatic and semi-aquatic bryophytes of chorological and conservation interest (mosses: Cyclodictyon laetevirens, Dendrocryphaea lamyana, Fissidens fontanus, Hookeria lucens, Orthotrichum rivulare, Racomitrium hespericum, Racomitrium lamprocarpum and Schistidium rivulare; hepatics Barbilophozia barbata, Pallavicinia lyellii, Porella pinnata and Radula holtii). These species, considered rather vulnerable to hydrologic changes and with a threat status, were re-evaluated recently in the new Portuguese Atlas and Red Data Book and had extensive updates in their total distribution due to more recent efforts in herbarium revision and field studies in Portugal. As a result, we bring their distribution and auto-ecology up to date based on older records and new collections, showing the importance of systematic and extensive studies to narrow the definition of niches of taxa living in the ecotone amongst the aquatic and terrestrial environments. In the future, the improved field recognition of these taxa primary and secondary microhabitats and the protection of the mesohabitats with which they are associated will be the crucial steps for achieving their conservation at national level.

Distribution / Conservation / Mesohabitat / Microhabitat

Résumé – Les nouvelles données présentées ici complètent la connaissance sur les modes de distribution et la définition de niche de certains bryophytes aquatiques et semi-aquatiques, de leur chorologie et de la nécessité de leur conservation (mousses: *Cyclodictyon laetevirens, Dendrocryphaea lamyana, Fissidens fontanus, Hookeria lucens, Orthotrichum rivulare, Racomitrium hespericum, Racomitrium lamprocarpum* et *Schistidium rivulare*; hépatiques: *Barbilophozia barbata, Pallavicinia lyellii, Porella pinnata* et *Radula holtii*). Ces espèces, plutôt considérées comme vulnérables aux changements hydrologiques et avec un statut d'espèce menacée, ont été réévaluées récemment dans la nouvelle édition de l'Atlas et du Livre Rouge des Bryophytes Portugaises; grâce à aux récents efforts dans la révision des spécimens d'herbier et aux récoltes récentes, la distribution globale des bryophytes au Portugal a été précisée. Aussi, nous donnons ici une mise à jour de leur distribution et leur auto-écologie sur la base des plus anciens documents et des nouvelles collections, montrant

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alors l'importance des études systématiques et étendues pour restreindre la définition de niche des taxons vivants dans l'écotone dans les milieux aquatiques et terrestres. Dans l'avenir, la reconnaissance de des micro-habitats primaires et secondaires de ces taxons et la protection des mésohabitats avec lesquels ils sont associés seront les étapes cruciales pour la réalisation de leur conservation au niveau national.

Distribution / Conservation / Mésohabitat / Microhabitat

INTRODUCTION

Rare species are often defined as having low local abundance, small range size, and/or high habitat specificity (Rabinowitz, 1981). In fact, despite many other factors important in determining bryophyte occurrence at different scales (Hedderson, 1992; Hallingbäck, 2002; Söderström & During, 2005; Hylander & Dynesius, 2006; Pharo & Zartman, 2007), the rarity of bryophytes at a regional landscape level is, in part, a function of the mesohabitat (land use, i.e., the surrounding natural or seminatural vegetation formations or artificial land uses) and suitable microhabitat (substrate) quality and frequency (Vitt & Belland, 1997).

Currently, global or national accurate databases on the mesohabitat and microhabitat preferences of aquatic and semi-aquatic species are not so common and, in many text books or floras, their niche is summarily pointed as "in the river margins", "in the stones of rivers", "in fountains" or "in mountain rivulets", with no more information on substrate preference, occurrence patterns in the transversal or longitudinal axis of a watercourse, mesohabitat context or secondary habitats. Moreover, whenever sampling presents added difficulties, and even swimming or boats are not viable options, these taxa occurrence patterns remain widely underestimated. Fluvial niches of bryophytes are quite specialized since each is defined by an intricate interaction between hydrologic and geomorphologic parameters, margins and catchment land use and disturbance events (Suren & Ormerod, 1998; Tremp et al., 2012; Vieira et al., 2012a).

Recently, sampling efforts in Portugal generated improved databases and scattered publications on some fluvial Portuguese taxa at regional or national scales (Vieira *et al.*, 2004a, 2004b, 2005, 2007, 2012b, 2012c; Sérgio *et al.*, 2007a, 2007b, 2007c, 2007d, 2010, 2011; Garcia *et al.*, 2010), greatly contributing to more precise threat assessments in the Portuguese Bryophyte Red Book (Sérgio *et al.*, 2013), when compared with other editions of previous Portuguese and Iberian Red Lists (Sérgio *et al.*, 1994, 2006).

In this context of knowledge strengthening, we aimed at completing national cartography and compile niche information of a selection of taxa considered rather vulnerable to hydrologic changes and threatened in several European countries, and for which a scattered and conceptually weak niche definition was available in the Southern European contexts.

METHODS

Fluvial characterization

The Portuguese climate is a result of the interplay between the influence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, with a predominance of Mediterranean territories. Typically there are mild winters but hot and dry summers. Northern rivers

are at a mean altitude of 506 ± 300 m above sea level (a.s.l.), have a small catchment area ($25 \pm 17 \text{ km}^2$), an annual precipitation of 1944 ± 379 mm and an annual temperature of 11.9 ± 1.5 °C. Southern rivers are located at lower altitudes (< 190 m a.s.l.), have variable sizes of catchment area (up to $388.3 \pm 1080.5 \text{ km}^2$), a maximum annual precipitation of 743 ± 85 mm and all annual temperature above 15°C (Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, 2008). Portuguese rivers are characterized by heterogeneous fluvial conditions depending on the underlying geology: steep, headwater streams dominated by siliceous (granite or schist) bedrock and boulders, fast permanent currents and sequences of pools, riffles, waterfalls and rapids mostly in the northern region; and lowland temporary calcareous segments with meanders and sediment deposits in the southern region (INAG, 2008).

At a national context, springs, flushes and rivers are important habitats for bryophytes but the relatively small area of occupancy of fluvial landscapes multiplies their vulnerability to destruction and disturbance, caused by drainage, losses or alterations to forestry and agriculture management solutions, heavy grazing, water pollution (both acidification and nutrient enrichment), riverbank erosion and water flow management (INAG, 2008; Feio *et al.*, 2014).

Studied taxa

Due to important paleoclimatic events that constrained taxa distribution, a mixture of Atlantic, Boreal and Mediterranean taxa, as well as some endemics, relicts and disjunctions (Allorge, 1947; Sérgio, 1990, 2001a) can be found in watercourses, along with several species considered threatened at the national level (Sérgio et al., 2013). Although the mainland Portuguese territory corresponds to the limit of distribution of many of these taxa, intensive studies of Portuguese fluvial bryophyte communities were initiated only in the XXI century due to academic studies (Vieira et al., 2004b, 2005, 2007, 2011) or surveys of impact studies on various watersheds due to the implementation of Water Framework Directive. In this context, we selected twelve taxa that occur in microhabitats of Portuguese watercourses to focus our analysis on: two Austral disjuncts (Cyclodictyon laetevirens (Hook. & Tayl.) Mitt. and Racomitrium lamprocarpum (Müll. Hal.) A. Jaeger), two Atlantic European endemics (Dendrocryphaea lamyana (Mont.) P. Rao and Radula holtii Spruce), an Iberian endemic (Racomitrium hespericum Sérgio, J. Muñoz & Ochyra), an European sub-Mediterranean taxon (Fissidens fontanus (Bach. Pyl.) Steud.), two Holartic taxa (Hookeria lucens (Hedw.) Sm. and Orthotrichum rivulare Turner), a sub-Boreal species (*Barbilophozia barbata* (Schmidel *ex* Schreb.) Loeske) and three taxa with restricted distribution worlwilde (wide-boreal: Schistidium rivulare (Brid.) Podp.; southern-Temperate and sub-Oceanic: Pallavicinia lyellii (Hook.) Carruth.; southern-Temperate and Oceanic: Porella pinnata L.). Their nomenclature follows Ros et al. (2007) for hepatics and Ros et al. (2013) for mosses and their chorological classification follows Düll (1983, 1984, 1985).

Sampling and data recollection approach

The ecological and chorological information presented here represents a gathering of multiple sources: (1) literature data (corresponding to less than 10% of the total mapped points); (2) herbaria revisions of specimens collected until 2013 (corresponding to more than 90% of all the mapped points, of vouchers of COI, LISU, and PO, since INA did not have specimens of the studied taxa); and,

paradoxically, (3) scattered field collections until 2014 from unexplored areas surveyed for dams construction impact assessment studies, which revealed many bryophytic populations that will soon be destroyed to some extent.

All the literature references (including regional catalogues, see Appendix 1), bibliographic records and cartographic databases published for the Iberian Peninsula (Casas *et al.*, 1992, 1996) were consulted. Moreover, duplicates of records corresponding to the same locality (published by different authors in successive dates) were evaluated and confirmed if they were duplicated or erroneous references, and only the primary citation kept. For each taxon the number of specimens supporting each UTM reference, together with their geographical coordinates, cited in results are listed in Appendix 1. In fact, for the twelve taxa studied, we compiled herbarium and cartographic records in the total number of 454 UTM records from which 420 are sustained with herbarium vouchers (from LISU, PO and to a lesser extent from COI) revised by us and 34 correspond to records we could not find the voucher supporting the published cartography/map/bibliographic reference (see Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Maps with the presently known distribution of each taxon, within the surveyed Portuguese provinces (Fig. 1), are presented in maps (Figs 2-13) and according to UTM grids (1 × 1 km) (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/ cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1). Geographical distribution is presented according to three different periods to highlight the importance of sampling efforts directed to fluvial microhabitats to generate data on these selected species: references or samples before 1950 (since the 19th century was when the first collectors and bryologists began their studies in Portugal), between 1950 to 2000 (the period of scattered collections not directed towards fluvial habitats) and from 2001 to 2014 (the period when a Ph.D. specific for the study of fluvial bryophytes (Vieira, 2008) and many impact assessment studies were performed in fluvial habitats in Portugal (e.g. Tua, Sabor and Tâmega rivers)). We also present some considerations about the international and national distribution trends of taxa, evidencing the originality of the chorological data here presented.



Fig. 1. Portuguese continental territory (study area) and its geographical location and provinces: (Mi) Minho; (TM) Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro; (DL) Douro Litoral; (BA) Beira Alta; (BL) Beira Litoral; (BB) Beira Baixa; (E) Estremadura; (R) Ribatejo; (AAl) Alto Alentejo; (BAI) Baixo Alentejo; (Ag) Algarve.

Autoecology classification

Since no common sampling methodology was used in the previously referred sampling approaches and periods, we compiled all the ecological information available for each herbarium specimen and, as part of it enlarges the niche definition in southern Europe, we comment on microhabitat and mesohabitat patterns to reinforce the originality of some ecological findings in respect to (1) the type of watercourse segment in the longitudinal axis of a river, (2) the fluvial microhabitat in relation to the water velocity and local slope, (3) the shading, as the amount of channel with no direct light incidence, (4) the nature of substrate, (5) and the range of altitude where populations were found. The natural habitats in the river margins where taxa were found were also registered when possible and presented as a summary of information to be recognized of additional importance (European Natural and Semi-natural Habitats), coded and designated according to Habitats Directive (ALFA, 2004).

RESULTS

Taxa distribution data and habitats

Cyclodictyon laetevirens (Hook. & Tayl.) Mitt.

This bryophyte is an element with a disjunctive bipolar distribution, between the regions of Guinea Gulf, Madagascar, Mozambique and Cape region in South Africa (O'Shea et al., 1997), and the hyper-Oceanic fringes of Europe mainland Europe, such as in Ireland, South of England, France, North of Spain and Portugal, and Atlantic islands of Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands (Hedenäs, 1992). In mainland Europe it is considered a nationally rare species in several countries and a priority species for conservation (Preston, 2006), but, although it is more frequent in Azores and Madeira, in the Canary Islands it is critically endangered (Sérgio, 1990; González-Mancebo et al., 2012; Sim-Sim et al., 2014). Considered vulnerable in the Iberian Peninsula (Sérgio et al., 2006) and endangered in Spain (Brugués & González-Mancebo, 2012), it is only known for five 10 km² UTM squares in the Iberian Peninsula (Casas et al., 1992), one of which is located in continental Portugal, within Peneda-Gerês National Park, where it was seen in two different times, one hundred years apart (Machado, 1920) (Fig. 2). In Portugal this species is considered critically endangered - CR B2ab (ii, iii, iv) in the newest Portuguese Red Data Book (Sérgio et al., 2013), because of its single presently known occurrence. This corresponds to a highly sensitive small population in the margins of a permanent spring waterfall on the brink of a regional road, where it occurs next to other conservation interest taxa such as Bryoerythrophyllum campylocarpum (Müll. Hal.) H.A. Crum, Dumortiera hirsuta (Sw.) Nees, Radula holtii and Saccogyna viticulosa (L.) Dumort. Like some populations in the British Isles, the Portuguese population occurs in a permanently wet dripping zone of a waterfall, in zones with 70-100% of shading, growing over granite surfaces, at approximately 500 m of altitude, in a watercourse surrounded by oak woods in a high rainfall region. In total, two records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, which are supported by PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Dendrocryphaea lamyana (Mont.) P. Rao

It is considered a threatened species throughout its European range, showing shows an Atlantic to sub-Atlantic distribution restricted to United Kingdom (Plantlife International, 2003), scattered localities in France, Italy, Spain and Portugal (Lara et al., 2006) and a few scattered ancient records in continental Europe that have proved doubtful (Charissou & Leblond, in press). In Portugal, this taxon is more frequently found in lower altitude valleys and, until 1992, this species was reported from eleven 10 km² UTM squares in the Iberian Peninsula (Casas *et al.*, 1992) being, therefore, considered rare in the first Portuguese Red List (Sérgio et al., 1994). However, and after intensive river surveys since 2000, it was proved to be three times more frequent than previously assumed, and new to Alto Alentejo region, occurring in a total of 71 UTM squares (1 km²) all over mainland Portugal (Fig. 3). In the last Portuguese Red List (Sérgio et al., 2013) it was considered of least concern (LC) due to the presently known national abundant representation. Nevertheless, it seems that most of the recently found localities are typically in the continental part of the country, away from the anthropogenic-impacted rivers of the coastal zone, where the most ancient observations of this species were registered but currently could not be found mostly due to pollution and habitat alteration. Most of the Portuguese populations of this taxon were found on lowland river segments with permanent flow (3th to 5th order rivers), in microhabitats submerged by seasonal to extremely high discharge of mooth or turbulent flows, in zones with 30-80% of shading, growing over schist, granite or tree roots and trunks of *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn., Fraxinus spp. or Salix spp., up to 600 m of altitude. In total, 71 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 65 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/ v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Fissidens fontanus (Bach. Pyl.) Steud.

In mainland Europe, it was reported from Austria, Belgium, Britain, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Switzerland, being considered a sub-Mediterranean species (Sérgio et al., 2010). Its distribution across Europe indicates that it is probably a widespread but infrequent species. Considered a rare or threatened moss in several other European countries, including North and Central Europe and Mediterranean areas (Sérgio et al., 2010), it was considered rare in the first Portuguese Red List (Sérgio et al., 1994), since, at the time, from the 10 localities recognized in Portugal, only three were post-1960. After the update on its distribution, ecology and conservation (Sérgio et al., 2010), its known distribution was enlarged with data of another eleven localities (Fig. 4) and it is now considered of least concern (LC) in the national territory (Sérgio et al., 2013). Additionally, these field expeditions demonstrated a more comprehensive distribution towards the Temperate territories away from its wider Mediterranean distribution. Portuguese populations of this taxon were found either on permanent springs (aquifer resurgences or artificial tanks), or in lowland river segments with permanent flow (3th to 5th order rivers), in the zones permanently to seasonally submerged by smooth flow, in zones with 50-100% of shading, growing over schist, granite or tree roots and trunks of undesignated riparian species (older herbarium material), up to 400 m of altitude, in watercourses of plain to montane levels. Many of the newly found populations are located in the northern rivers, where it was found both in natural and man-made aquatic habitats, such as tanks and fountains. Although it was recorded in relatively polluted river stretches, in such sites its populations



Figs 2-5. Distribution of the mentioned taxa within the Portuguese continental territory. **2.** *Cyclodictyon laetevirens*. **3.** *Dendrocryphaea lamyana*. **4.** *Fissidens fontanus*. **5.** *Hookeria lucens*. Different symbols in the maps correspond to three periods of collection: white circle – before 1950; white circle with dot – 1950 to 2000; black circle – 2001-2014.

were weaker and probably correspond to populations in regression that endure the increasing levels of eutrophication and pollution. In total, 34 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 33 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016. Suppl.Mat.1).

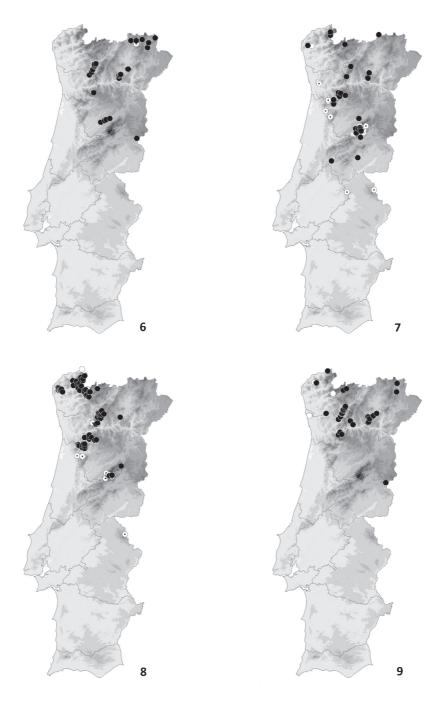
Hookeria lucens (Hedw.) Sm.

With a wide Holartic and Macaronesian distribution (Dierssen, 2001), this sub-Oceanic Temperate species can become restricted to fewer localities in some southern European drier areas, despite being relatively more common in Temperate zones and in the Atlantic islands of Madeira and Azores (Hedenäs, 1992). It was one of the first species of bryophyte recorded in Portugal, with the first samples taken in Gerês by Brotero, Link and Welwitsch (XVIIIth and XIXth centuries) (Machado, 1917). Classically known from localities within the Peneda-Gerês National Park, this species was recently found in other coastal regions. Up until 1992 the species was recorded in twelve 10 km² UTM Portuguese squares (Casas et al., 1992), and after 2000 it was found in 15 localities, some in Beira Litoral, Beira Alta, Trás-os-Montes and Estremadura. Since the publication of the new Portuguese Red List (Sérgio et al., 2013), two new localities were found, all adjacent to the previously known occurrences, emphasizing its Atlantic distribution (Fig. 5). This species is consistently found in margins of mountain watercourses with temporary to permanent flow or in dripping zones of waterfalls or permanent springs, in deeply shaded zones (70-100%), growing over schist, granite or soil, in locations from the sea level to 1993 m of altitude. Although recently new UTM squares were discovered, this species preference for watercourses running through well-preserved autochthonous forests will probably determine its future decline, as the rareness of these forests increases in the national territory. In total, 41 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 34 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Orthotrichum rivulare Turner

A taxon with a typical disjunct distribution between Europe and North America (Dierssen, 2001). It is relatively frequent in the Iberian Peninsula and, until recently, the majority of known localities and most of its extent of distribution have been reported in Spanish territories (Lara *et al.*, 2006). Considered a very rare taxon in Portugal until 2006 (Sérgio *et al.*, 2006) it was classically mentioned only in one locality (in Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro). Since 2000 we specifically focused our attention in searching for this species in its riparian habitat, with fruitful results for 25 new localities in the valleys of the Tua, Tâmega and Mondego rivers (Fig. 6). These new occurrences in Portugal enlarge its Atlantic and austral distribution limits in the Iberian Peninsula. Since the publication of the new Portuguese Red List where it was considered "near threatened" (Sérgio *et al.*, 2013), five new localities were found, reinforcing its northern continental distribution.

Portuguese populations of this taxon were found on lowland river segments with permanent flow (3th to 5th order rivers), in microhabitats seasonally submerged by smooth or turbulent flow, in zones with 30-80% of shading, growing over granite or tree roots and trunks (*Fraxinus* spp., *Populus* spp.), from 100 to 1150 m of altitude. In total, 26 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, all supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).



Figs 6-9. Distribution of the mentioned taxa within the Portuguese continental territory. **6.** Orthotrichum rivulare. **7.** Racomitrium hespericum. **8.** Racomitrium lamprocarpum. **9.** Schistidium rivulare. Different symbols in the maps correspond to three periods of collection: white circle – before 1950; white circle with dot - 1950 to 2000; black circle – 2001-2014.

Racomitrium hespericum Sérgio, J. Muñoz & Ochyra

This Iberian endemic species described by Sérgio et al. (1995) was first collected in Portugal by Newton in 1879, in the Douro Litoral region, and after its description, herbarium and field samples were mostly found in northern, western and central parts of the Peninsula (Casas et al., 1996) where it can be locally common. Originally known to occur in the Portuguese regions of Minho, Beira Litoral, Beira Alta and Alto Alentejo (Garcia et al., 2008; Vieira et al., 2012c). More recently, we found populations in Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro province, strengthening the known distribution of this species in the north and central eastern territories (Fig. 7). Since the publication of the new Portuguese Red List where it was considered a "special attention" taxon (LC-Att) (Sérgio et al., 2013), three new localities were found, one of which is the most northern and inland one yet known, enlarging the continental range of this species in the national territory. Its populations, frequently fertile, although found from sea level to 1993 m of altitude, are more abundant in mountainous territories where watercourses with temporary to permanent flow (1st to 3rd order streams) create microhabitats with permanent spray or which are seasonally submerged by smooth or turbulent flow of high discharge. Apparently indifferent to sun exposure (but found more frequently in the shade), this seems to be a saxicolous taxon restricted to granite or schist substrates of watercourses. In total, 71 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 67 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Racomitrium lamprocarpum (Müll. Hal.) A. Jaeger

Originally considered as an Iberian endemic, this species has now several synonyms with species of the South Hemisphere (Ochyra et al., 1988; Bednarek-Ochyra & Ochyra, 2012). Therefore, this is a disjunct element of a global population with its main center of distribution in the Southern Hemisphere where it has a pan-Holantarctic temperate range from Iles Kerguelen and sub-Antarctic to South Africa (Bednarek-Ochyra & Ochyra, 1998). The Iberian Peninsula is its only known area of occurrence in the Northern Hemisphere. Its initially known Iberian distribution (Casas et al., 1992) was widely updated with the specimens found after 2000 in several Portuguese regions (Garcia et al., 2008; Vieira et al., 2012c) (Fig. 8), and it became considered a non-threatened species at the Iberian level (Sérgio et al., 2006). Nevertheless, in Portugal, it was recently considered a "special attention" taxon (LC-Att) (Sérgio et al., 2013), for its geographical uniqueness and its strict dependence on well-preserved fast-flowing microhabitats in mountainous areas (Vieira et al., 2012c). Since the year 2000, 68 localities have been added to its distribution, reinforcing its occurrence in the northern and central mountainous territories. The populations were found in segments with temporary to permanent flow (1st to 3rd order streams), in permanent spray areas of waterfalls and in microhabitats seasonally submerged by high discharge flow, either smooth or turbulent. More likely to be found in deeply shaded locations, this taxon, like R. hespericum, is restricted to granite or schist substrates of riverbeds. In total, 107 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 99 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Schistidium rivulare (Brid.) Podp.

Species widely distributed in North America, Asia, America, Antarctica and Australasia (Dierssen, 2001). In Europe this species is common in mountainous

areas (Bremer, 1980) and, in Portugal, until 1950, it was known only in the northern part of the country (Minho region) being, therefore, considered extinct by the time the first Portuguese Red List was published (Sérgio *et al.*, 1994). After 2000, 31 localities extended extensively the known distribution to more continental and northern territories of Douro Litoral, Beira Alta and Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro regions, and, very recently, to the Beira Baixa region (Fig. 9). These new records emphasize how overlooked this species was until direct efforts were made to locate it in its specific fast-flowing habitat in mountainous territories. In the new Portuguese Red List it was considered "near threatened" (Sérgio *et al.*, 2013) and after that, eight localities were found in Tua River valley. Unfortunately these correspond to populations that will soon disappear due to a hydroelectric power scheme construction.

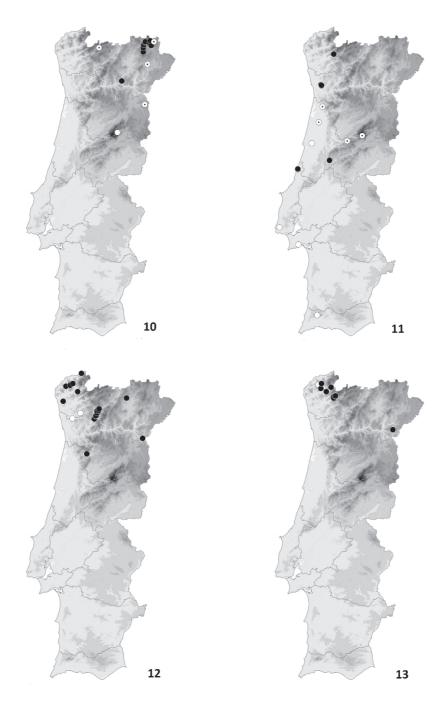
This taxon appears to be more common in valley river segments with permanent flow (2nd to 5th order rivers), usually in the driest habitats of the riverbed, only seasonally submerged during the high discharge events, in fully-exposed to deeply shaded niches, always growing as a saxicolous taxon over granite or schist, and was found over a range of altitude from 200 to 1993 m. In total, 34 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 33 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016. Suppl.Mat.1).

Barbilophozia barbata (Schmidel ex Schreb.) Loeske

An example of a sub-Boreal species with a representation in montane areas of the northern half of the Iberian Peninsula (Casas et al., 2009) and infrequent in Mediterranean countries (Bischler, 2004), this species was first reported from Portugal in the highest mountain of the continental territory (Serra da Estrela) (Allorge, 1931). Up until 2000, old herbarium material was revised and only other two localities were added for Peneda-Gerês National Park and Serra de Marofa (Sérgio & Séneca, 1994). After the extensive work on fluvial habitats since 2000. this liverwort has been recorded in the vicinities of the classic localities and also in many more continental localities of Trás-os Montes e Alto Douro, reinforcing its known eastern limit definition in Portugal (Fig. 10). Despite the nine new localities recently found, in the new Portuguese Red List it continued to be considered a "vulnerable" taxon (Sérgio et al., 2013), since the populations observed since 2000 are small and locally restricted to the margins of well-preserved watercourses all in Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro. Its populations were found in mountain watercourses with temporary to permanent flow, in deeply shaded microhabitats splashed only during high discharge by smooth flow, growing over schist, soil or trunk roots of Quercus spp. from 500 to 1000 m of altitude. In total, 14 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, which are all supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl. Mat. 1).

Pallavicinia lyellii (Hook.) Carruth.

Despite its occurrence in all continents (except Antarctica), this species is known to show restricted distributions in Mediterranean areas (Bischler, 2004). In the Holartic region it shows a suboceanic tendency and in Europe it is considered vulnerable, since it is threatened or considered extinct in several countries (ECCB, 1995). In the Iberian Peninsula it is more commonly distributed in the west, being rarer in the northeast and not considered threatened (Sérgio *et al.*, 2006). In Portugal it was primarily found in southern territories, the first in Algarve in the XIXth century. In the period up until 2000, more localities were found mostly in the center of the



Figs 10-13. Distribution of the mentioned taxa within the Portuguese continental territory. **10.** *Barbilophozia barbata*. **11.** *Pallavicinia lyellii*. **12.** *Porella pinnata*. **13.** *Radula holtii*. Different symbols in the maps correspond to three periods of collection: white circle – before 1950; white circle with dot – 1950 to 2000; black circle – 2001-2014.

country, but localities in the north, along with further populations in central territories, were found only after 2000 (Claro et al., 2012) (Fig. 11). Essentially, the number of localities known in each decade for this species remains continuously small, and corresponds to highly preserved hygrophilous acidic habitats concomitantly with high precipitation levels (> 900 mm/year), rare in the Mediterranean regions (Bischler, 2004). Since the publication of the new Portuguese Red List, where it was considered "vulnerable" (Sérgio et al., 2013) due to the decline of old populations and potential risk of the newly found, two new localities were added, one of which in Peneda-Gerês Park that redefines the northernmost limit of the species in mainland Portugal. This taxon's populations are known to occur in bog springs (upper mountain peaty areas), permanent springs (aquifer resurgences) and on the margins of mountain watercourses with temporary (mostly winter) flow, in the dripping walls and waterfall splash and spray areas, on very deeply shaded granite or schist walls, from sea level to 1700 m of altitude. In total, 19 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 12 are supported by LISU, PO or COI herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Porella pinnata L.

This species is known to occur in some countries of central and western Europe, North Africa, North America and Central America (Bischler, 2004). In the Iberian Peninsula, it is present in the northwestern area: in Spain it is limited to Galicia and Asturias (Garilleti & Albertos, 2012), and in Portugal, it was collected for the first time in the early twentieth century in Minho and Douro Litoral. By the time the first Iberian Red List was published, it was considered extinct in Portugal and no localities were found for more than 50 years (Sérgio et al., 1994). After 2000, fluvial surveys added sixteen new localities in coastal region of Minho (Vieira et al., 2005), and also more continental localities, in Douro Litoral and Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro regions (Garcia et al., 2010). Since the publication of the latter paper, one new locality was added in Vouga watershed in Beira Litoral region, corresponding to the southernmost Iberian population known so far (Fig. 12). This taxon's populations were found more commonly in valley river segments with permanent flow (2nd to 5th order segments), usually in the marginal microhabitats of the riverbed, only seasonally submerged during the high discharge events by smooth or turbulent flow, in medium-exposed to deeply shaded niches, growing as a saxicolous taxon over granite or as an epiphyte on the base of the trunk and roots of the riparian tree Fraxinus angustifolia Vahl, over a range of altitude up to 450 m. In total, 21 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, which are all supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/ v37.iss1.2016.Suppl.Mat.1).

Radula holtii Spruce

This is a species known in Atlantic Europe from Ireland, Scotland, the Iberian Peninsula (NW Spain and Portugal) and Macaronesia (Azores, Madeira, and Canary Islands) (Vieira *et al.*, 2004a), and considered an endangered taxon in many of these countries (Vieira *et al.*, 2004a; González-Mancebo *et al.*, 2012). In Portugal it was first collected by A. Machado in two localities of Minho (Machado, 1925), followed by several authors in the same region until 1947-1949 (Sérgio & Schumacker, 1992). Since no other observations of this species were made during more than 50 years, it was considered extinct in the first Iberian Red List (Sérgio *et al.*, 1994). Between 2002 and 2010 it was rediscovered in various locations of the Peneda-Gerês National Park, as well in other localities of Minho (Vieira *et al.*, 2005,

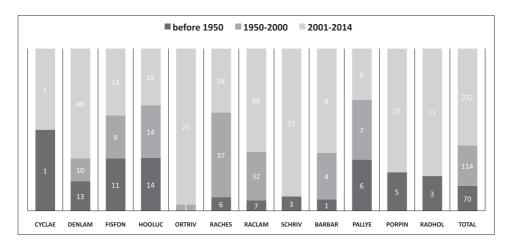


Fig. 14. Number of observations (corresponding to number of 1×1 km UTM squares) in each period contributing to each taxon's total amount of observations. CYCLAE: Cyclodictyon laetevirens; DENLAM: Dendrocryphaea lamyana; FISFON: Fissidens fontanus; HOOLUC: Hookeria lucens; ORTRIV: Orthotrichum rivulare; RACHES: Racomitrium hespericum; RACLAM: Racomitrium lamprocarpum; SCHRIV: Schistidium rivulare; BARBAR: Barbilophozia barbata; PALLYE: Pallavicinia lyellii; PORPIN: Porella pinnata; RADHOL: Radula holtii.

2012c). Subsequently, it was observed in Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro region, enlarging the distribution area of this species to a new province and a much more continental territory (Sérgio *et al.*, 2013) (Fig. 13). Currently, this taxon is considered vulnerable (VU) in mainland Portugal due to its restricted distribution and habitat specificity. This taxon seems to show a specific preference for mountain segments with permanent flow (1st to 3rd order streams), running through vertical granite surfaces and forming dripping or spray zones, where it occurs in more deeply shaded niches located from 50 to 800 m of altitude. In total, 14 records were listed in Portugal for this taxon, of which 13 are supported by LISU or PO herbarium vouchers (Appendix 1, cf. Supplementary Materials: doi/10.7872/cryb/v37.iss1.2016. Suppl.Mat.1).

Data meta-analysis

Appendix 1 presents all the UTMs (1×1 km squares) and geographic coordinates where each taxon was known to occur, in each time period. Fig. 14 graphically summarizes the number of observations (corresponding to 1×1 km UTM squares), in each period considered, contributing to each taxon's total amount of observations. Fig. 14 shows that more than 50% of *Dendrocryphaea lamyana*, *Orthotrichum rivulare*, *Racomitrium lamprocarpum*, *Schistidium rivulare*, *Barbilophozia barbata*, *Porella pinnata* and *Radula holtii* observations were done after the year of 2000. Sixty percent of the total amount of collections of the twelve noteworthy taxa were also done in the last 14 years, contrasting with the amount of data collected in the period of more than one hundred years of previous bryological observations in Portugal.

Fig. 15 summarizes the information on meso-habitat preferences (in more recent collections made by the authors). Alluvial forests with "Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)" (91E0) and "Galicio-Portuguese oak woods with Quercus robur and Quercus pyrenaica" (9230),

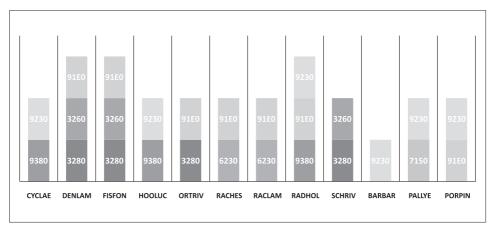


Fig. 15. Qualitative information on the types of Habitats (correspondence to Habitats Directive codes and classification) found associated with the collections of each taxa. Species abbreviations as in Fig. 14. Code and designation of European Natural and Semi-natural Habitats as listed in Habitats Directive (ALFA, 2004): 3260 – Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* Vegetation; 3280 – Constantly flowing Mediterranean rivers with *Paspalo-Agrostidion* species and hanging curtains of *Salix* and *Populus alba*; 6230 – Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe); 7150 – Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rynchosporion*, 91E0 – Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*); 9230 – Galicio-Portuguese oak woods with *Quercus robur* and *Quercus pyrenaica*; 9380 – Forests of *Ilex aquifolium*.

are the woodland mesohabitats that are typical of the watercourse surroundings for more taxa, but the mesohabitat of "Mediterranean rivers with *Paspalo-Agrostidion* species and hanging curtains of *Salix* and *Populus alba*" (3280) is also the natural riparian context where many of the taxa appear.

DISCUSSION

In this study we analysed data from twelve taxa corresponding to 324 different UTM squares (1×1 km), from which 79 have more than one of the twelve species selected for this paper. Taking into consideration that these taxa correspond to perennial populations, it is important to underline the importance of maintenance the monitoring of these UTMs and the conservation of the watersheds concerned. As shown in Fig. 14 almost all of the species had their data expanded substantially in the most recent, but shortest, period (2001-2014), when a higher number of specialists directed their efforts for a specific search in fluvial habitats which are seldom overlooked because of added difficulties in sampling. Nevertheless, this primary knowledge is essential and internationally recognized as a means of assessing the bryological importance of watercourses and justifying thorough surveys for any particular hydroelectric proposal with adverse impacts on the bryophyte flora (Averis *et al.*, 2012).

In the more recently published Portuguese Atlas and Red Data Book of Endangered Bryophytes (Sérgio *et al.*, 2013) it was evaluated the conservation status of many fluvial bryophytes using the current IUCN Red List criteria and the results showed the responsibility of Portuguese territories in preserving some of the European

southernmost populations of Atlantic populations in Mediterranean watercourses, particularly well represented in our country. Moreover, this Red Data Book showed that the threat status of these species is an ongoing trade-off between the changes in their fluvial habitat quality and the continuously improved occurrence data.

Many of these twelve bryophytes occur in the ecotone microhabitats of two very different environments – the aquatic and the terrestrial – which determines their dependence on the quality of the hydrologic regimes and water quality, and the integrity of the surrounding mesohabitats, many of which have a very restricted spatial representation in the country (e.g. "Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas and submountain areas, in Continental Europe (6230)", "Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* (7150)" or "Forests of *Ilex aquifolium* (9380)").

All the species presented here grow in unpolluted rivers not prone to silting up and where the continuity and health of riparian vegetation are vital to their survival, depending on trees for substrate or for the creation of the adequate humid and shaded environment. Some taxa persist because of their ability to disperse and survive in (un-)expected secondary habitats (Vanderpoorten & Engels, 2002, 2003): we found some populations of *Porella pinnata* on walls built in the river margins with granite blocks, *Radula holtii* populations growing on a dripping granite wall or in drainage ditches of a thermal park, *Racomitrium hespericum* populations on old dripping granite walls of railway tracks running next to the river and *Dendrocryphaea lamyana* populations on the stones of bridge pylons. Nevertheless, these populations are ecological outliers and are not the major, reproductive, nuclear populations in the Portuguese territory, persisting only because of the stability of the constructed structures and the pure quality of the water running by.

Over the last few decades the reaches of Portuguese watercourses have certainly been irreversibly changed through embankments, hydroelectric power schemes construction, nutrient enrichment and increased sedimentation. This habitat's decline has certainly provoked major effects on the presented taxa's populations. With this paper we intend to contribute for international conservation of these taxa, contribute to a more comprehensive knowledge of their niche and chorology, improve the possibility of finding new populations in the field and increase the confidence of their conservation assessment in national and global Red Lists (IUCN, 2008).

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