

58TH ANNUAL MEETING

of the **SOCIETY**

FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY

BRAGANÇA - PORTUGAL

JUNE 4-9, 2017

Living in a global world:

local knowledge and sustainability

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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SPRINGER NATURE



Wednesday, June 7 – Parque Natural de Montesinho

The Natural Park of Montesinho, Bragança, Portugal: territory, ethnobotany and cultural identity.

Author: Carvalho, Ana Maria [1].

The Natural Park of Montesinho is a natural protected area in the Northeastern Portugal created in 1979 in order to preserve the existing environmental qualities and enhance important biocultural patrimony, developed for a long interaction between humans and nature. A territory of 75000 ha that included 91 communities and nearly 8,000 residents in 2011, distributed by two municipalities (Bragança a and Vinhais). It is one of the largest natural parks of the 13 existing ones in Portugal. Two of the most important mountain ranges (Serras) are Serra de Montesinho (north of Bragança a) and Serra da Coroa (north of Vinhais). Elevation varies between 1486 meters in Montesinho and 438 meters in Mente riverbed (Vinhais). Geography, climate and soil conditions along with particular land management carried out over centuries have contributed to an extraordinary diversity of habitats, wildlife and plant communities, a differential biodiversity of great significance at national, Iberian and European levels. There is still a rich socio-cultural patrimony, combining ancestral traditions and some innovation, marked by festivals, religious ceremonies and many reasons for the reunion all over the year of families and neighbours. Some examples are the All Saints' Day and the pig slaughters, St. Stephen's Day and the winter solstice feasts. Traditional music and the sounds of bagpipes are other important aspects of the regional identity. Local architecture (e.g. stone roofs, water mills, dovecotes and forges), using the characteristic materials available according to particular knowledge and skills is also remarkable. Montesinho and the neighboring communities of França and Portelo are strongly connected by polychromatic landscape and the paths of shepherds, miners and smugglers. Rio de Onor is also an emblematic village with distinguished significant features: (i) the international border runs across the village dividing it in two sides. Rihonor de Castilla is the Spanish side, and Rio de Onor, the Portuguese one; (ii) a communitarian governance surviving to the end of XX century, based in collective resource management and mutual help among residents, controlled through a community board, where every household involved with the collective property was represented; (iii) an own dialect belonging to the Astur-Leonese linguistic group.

Keywords: Natural Park of Montesinho, Biocultural heritage, Montesinho ethnobotany, Rio de Onor, Northeastern Portugal.

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Wednesday, June 7 – Vimioso, Terras de Miranda

Terra de Miranda: agrobiodiversity, cultural heritage and sustainable development.

Authors: Sá, Isabel [1], Rodrigues, João Brandão Rodrigues [2].

The Miranda Plateau corresponds to one of the most remote but most beautiful regions of Portugal. In the border with the west Province of Zamora, Castilla y León, Spain, this mountainous region clearly suffered the effects of the rural exodus during recent decades, facing now a serious depopulation problem. The remaining population, largely composed of elderly people, is still dedicated to the primary sector, mainly based on subsistence farming systems. Technology improvement and mechanization of the agro-forestry sectors, together with the imposition of foreign production models, contributed to a significant loss of biodiversity, but also to the loss of historic, cultural and genetic heritage. The reduction of use of native breeds as working animals, such as the Mirandês donkey and the Mirandesa cow, is just an example to understand the current situation. A similar trend can be seen when referring to plants species and the traditional varieties' seeds, where the observed loss might be irreversible. However the region noted in the last decade an emerged growing association movement in different areas but focused in common goals. These Non-Governmental Organizations are nowadays responsible for different initiatives, promoting rural development through a contemporary perspective of traditional knowledge, practices and materials. Vimioso is one of the Municipalities where these NGO's find a bigger support, promoting and including these organizations in the municipal development strategy for this territory. Vila Chã da Ribeira is a small village, where the local old primary school was rebuilt and converted in one of the headquarters of ALDEIA, a NGO who developed since more than 10 years a wide range of activities directly focused on nature conservation and heritage promotion. For instance, the inventory of knowledge, practices and cultural traditions related to plants and the preservation of endangered traditional seeds. In Picote, at the top of the Arribas do Douro, another NGO – FRAUGA supports local cultural initiatives, such as those concerning the Mirandesa Language and the EcoMuseum Terra Mater. The old city of Miranda and its Ethnographic Museum enhance characteristic features of the Mirandese culture.

Keywords: Rural development, cultural heritage, Mirandese identity and features, Terra de Miranda, Douro International, Northeastern Portugal

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