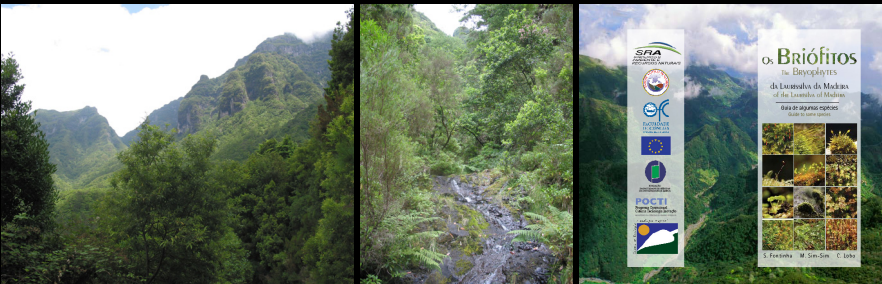


The Bryophytes of the Laurisilva of Madeira. Guide to some species

Os Briófitos da Laurissilva da Madeira. Guia de algumas espécies

The book “The Bryophytes of the Laurisilva of Madeira. Guide to some species” is a bilingual field guide, which includes 64 selected bryophyte species that can be found on the main habitats of the Madeiran Laurisilva. This technical-scientific publication, with 104 pages, is appropriate for the public in general, for botanists, naturalists, and professors. It includes some introductory notes, a photograph and a description of each of the species as well as a final glossary. Its main objective is to divulge the actual knowledge about the Bryoflora of the Madeiran Laurisilva, contributing also to enhance the conservation of this Natural Heritage. This book by the authors: Susana Fontinha, Manuela Sim-Sim and Carlos Lobo, is an edition of the SRARN – SPNM and the FFCUL/CEBV-FCUL, and results from a joint research project between several Portuguese Institutions, namely the University of Lisbon - Sciences Faculty and the Madeira Natural Park with the cooperation of the Madeira Botanical Garden and was supported by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation.

O livro “Os Briófitos da Laurissilva da Madeira. Guia de algumas espécies.”, tem como objectivo principal promover e divulgar o conhecimento acerca dos briófitos da Laurissilva da Madeira, contribuindo para fomentar a protecção deste património natural. Esta publicação técnico-científica bilingue (Português-Inglês) com 104 páginas, inclui a descrição e uma imagem de 64 espécies de briófitos representativas dos principais habitats da Laurissilva da Madeira, assim como notas introdutórias e um glossário. Destina-se ao público em geral e em particular a botânicos, naturalistas, estudantes e professores. Da autoria de Susana Fontinha, Manuela Sim-Sim e Carlos Lobo, resulta de um projecto conjunto entre a Universidade de Lisboa - Faculdade de Ciências, o Parque Natural da Madeira e o Instituto Superior de Agronomia, em que colaboraram outras instituições nomeadamente o Jardim Botânico da Madeira e o Jardim Botânico. Museu Nacional de História Natural. Esta publicação foi financiada pela Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia e pelo Parque Natural da Madeira.



Due to its particular geographic, climatic and insular characteristics, Madeira Archipelago comprises an important floristic diversity. Its main forest formation, the Laurisilva is considered to be a relict of the forests of the Tertiary period that dominated southern Europe and northern Africa millions of years ago. Nowadays, at this Archipelago, the Laurisilva is restricted to Madeira Island where it covers an area of approximately 15.000 hectares, equivalent to 20% of the island. Here it is situated essentially on the northern coast, between 300 and 1300 m, and in some locations of difficult access on the southern coast, between 700 and 1500 m. The Laurisilva is considered a living relict with a great biodiversity that includes exclusive species, resembling a true Living Laboratory. About 540 bryophyte taxa are considered to be present in Madeira Archipelago. Of these, 70% correspond to mosses and 30% to liverworts and hornworts. Approximately 31 taxa are endemic to Macaronesia, including 15 taxa exclusive to Madeira. The laurel forest also hosts a rich and diverse bryoflora which covers large surfaces of soil, banks, rocks and tree trunks. In this forest, about 80% of the Madeira endemics can be found. Some of them are very rare, such as the mosses *Echinodium setigerum*, *Fissidens nobreganus* and *Thamnobryum fernandesii* which are exclusive to Madeira Island. Completed and ongoing research projects, involving various national and foreign institutions and researchers, have contributed to a deeper understanding of the relationships between the species and their habitats in the Laurel forest. These understandings have lead to the development of effective management measures of the natural resources, allowing their sustainable use and protection. Most of the Madeiran Laurisilva is included in the Natural Park of Madeira and is protected by regional, national and international legislation. It is a priority habitat, under the Habitats Directive, it has been designated a Natura 2000 Network Site, and in 1999 it was recognized as world Natural Heritage by UNESCO.

