

Onobrychis caput-galli (L.) Lam., a new fabaceae for the portuguese flora

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Abstract

In this note, the first record of *Onobrychis caput-galli* (L.) Lam. in Portugal is reported. The species was collected in two occurrence sites and herbarium vouchers were prepared. All evidence suggests that the species is native in Portugal and should be added to Portuguese vascular flora.

Key words: Fabaceae, Portugal, *Onobrychis caput-galli*

Resumen

Onobrychis caput-galli (L.) Lam., una nueva fabaceae para la flora portuguesa

Se informa por primera vez de la presencia de *Onobrychis caput-galli* (L.) Lam. en Portugal. La especie fue recolectada en dos localidades y se prepararon pliegos de herbario. Toda la evidencia sugiere que la especie es nativa en Portugal y debe añadirse a la flora vascular portuguesa.

Palabras clave: Fabaceae, Portugal, *Onobrychis caput-galli*

In 2021, the author observed and collected *Onobrychis caput-galli* (L.) Lam., in the south of Portugal. According to Sequeira *et al.* (2011) and Valdés (2000), this species of Fabaceae was previously unknown to the Portuguese vascular flora.

Onobrychis caput-galli (L.) Lam.

PORTUGAL, Algarve (Ag), São Bartolomeu de Messines, Entre Cortes e Gregórios. UTM 29SNB52: Prado, em solo argiloso avermelhado. André Carapeto, 30-03-2021, COI 00102701.

PORTUGAL, Algarve (Ag), São Bartolomeu de Messines, Cerro da Aguida - Abrutiais. UTM 29SNB62: Prado, em solo argiloso avermelhado. André Carapeto, 24-04-2021, ALGU 15759 (Figure 1).

Onobrychis caput-galli (L.) Lam. (Figure 2) is an annual herb, widely distributed in the Mediterranean basin, spreading eastwards to Azerbaijan (GBIF.org, 2021).

It was collected in South Portugal, near the village of São Bartolomeu de Messines, in the municipality of Silves, province of Algarve. After the first collection, more records were made in the surrounding area, in several different sites, covering a small extent of occurrence (EOO) of 2.393 km². Its presence in the Algarve represents a relevant geographical disjunction, as the nearest known subpopulation occurs near Tabernas, in Almeria province (Spain), circa 500 km to east, according to a preserved specimen in the herbarium of Real Jardín Botánico (MA-02-00263540) (GBIF.org, 2021). There is also an isolated record in Tablas de



Figure 1. Voucher of *Onobrychis caput-galli* (ALGU 15759). Photo: Manuela David

Figura 1. Pliego de *Onobrychis caput-galli* (ALGU 15759). Foto: Manuela David

Daimiel National Park, in Ciudad Real province, apparently closer to the Portuguese subpopulation, distant circa 450 km to northeast (Cirujano & *al.* 1994, cita 1489144 in Anthos, 2021). However, the occurrence of this species in this province is not mentioned in *Flora iberica* (Valdés, 1999), neither its presence in Daimiel is listed by Martín-Blanco & Carrasco (2005), which raises some uncertainty about that record. Another dubious record from Central Spain shown in Anthos, is a record in Cerro Negro, province of Madrid (cita 2394208 in Anthos, 2021). Both records are most likely a confusion with a similar species, because all confirmed records known to date in Iberian Peninsula (with herbarium vouchers), are in coastal regions or nearby.



Figure 2. Aspect of *Onobrychis caput-galli*. Photo: André Carapeto

Figura 2. Aspecto de *Onobrychis caput-galli*. Foto: André Carapeto

In most Portuguese sites, the species was found in dry grasslands, or in the edge of *Thymra capitata* and *Genista hirsuta* shrubland. In a single location, the species was found colonizing a roadside. In all sites, the species occurred in claysoils of reddish hue, originated from pelites with carbonated and evaporite intercalations. Its presence in several sites, all of them associated with these very specific geological conditions, and its abundance in some of the sites, suggest that this species is native to

Portugal, although it has gone unnoticed to the present. A possible explanation is that the species was overlooked because is often found in the vicinity of other similar Fabaceae, namely *Hedysarum glomeratum* and *Onobrychis humilis*, both very frequent in the surrounding area.

Considering its restricted area of occupancy (AOO = 20 km²), small number of locations (< 5) and the existence of several threats, such as abandonment of pastoralism, use of herbicide in roadsides and agricultural intensification, the Portuguese subpopulation of this species is likely to qualify in a threat category (Vulnerable D2). Therefore, it should be also considered in a future addition to the Portuguese Red List of Vascular Plants.

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