

## Preliminary study of bryophytes from Azorean wetlands III: Bryophytes from “Paul da Praia da Vitória” (Praia da Vitória, Terceira Island, Azores)

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The coastal wetland “Paul da Praia da Vitória”, is the largest and most well-known wetland of Terceira Island (Azores). Through the years, this area was studied by different biologists and its inventory is more complete than those of the neighbouring coastal wetlands, e.g. “Paul do Belo Jardim” and “Paul da Pedreira do Cabo da Praia”. Nevertheless, the changes in land use have been extreme through time, and in the 80’s it was actually transformed into a lawn. In the late 90’s, a process of re-naturalization began. This process resulted in the return of some species to the area – which is particularly observable with wintering birds. Presently, the LIFE project “Ecological Restoration and Conservation of Praia da Vitória Coastal Wet Green Infrastructure” (LIFE-CWR) aims to further recover and restore this network of wetlands. Concerning bryophytes, previous inventories accounted for 19 species of mosses and one species of liverwort (*Frullania azorica*). Inventories made in February 2016, along two 300 m’ transects, resulted in a collection of 10 samples (microplots; 10 cm x 5 cm). Although not all samples are fully identified yet, it is possible to register the presence of a new species for the Azores (Macaronesia), *Bryum bornholmense*. Other species, such as *Fissidens crispus*, which has few records in the Azores, was also present in the area. Further monitoring of this process will allow a better assessment of the effects of the restoration of the wetlands of Praia da Vitória.