

Preliminary study of bryophytes from Azorean wetlands I: Bryophytes from “Paul do Belo Jardim” (Praia da Vitória, Terceira Island, Azores)

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The LIFE project “Ecological Restoration and Conservation of Praia da Vitória Coastal Wet Green Infrastructure” aims to recover and restore a network of wetlands in the coastal area of Praia da Vitória. One of the specific goals of the Project is to make an inventory of the local biodiversity, including bryophytes. Since these species respond quickly to environmental change, they are also going to be used as monitors over time. Prior to the LIFE CWR fieldwork, there were only five species of bryophytes (three mosses and two liverworts) recorded for Paul do Belo Jardim. In November 2014, it was possible to analyse two 300 m’ transects, resulting in a collection of 60 samples (10 cm x 5 cm). This inventory included 15 bryophyte species: 13 mosses (six *Pottiaceae*, five *Bryaceae*, one *Brachytheciaceae* and one *Grimmiaceae*), one liverwort and one hornwort. The moss *Bryum klinggraeffii* Schimp. was recorded new to the Azores (and Macaronesia). Concerning life strategies of the 15 bryophyte species, there are mainly colonists (seven colonists and three ephemeral colonists), such as *Bryum capillare* Hedw. and *B. subapiculatum* s.l., the two species with the highest frequency in Paul do Belo Jardim. The diversity of bryophytes found in Paul do Belo Jardim was lowest than expected, although it roughly doubled the known bryophytes for the location. The low diversity and the predominance of colonist species may be the result of high environmental disturbance, probably due to anthropogenic activities.