

NEW FINDINGS OF PTERIDOPHYTES FROM THE MOUNTAIN RAINFORESTS OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE.

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ABSTRACT

New distribution data and habitat details on ten species of pteridophytes unrecorded in the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe for the last 40 to 100 years are presented.

FINDINGS

During a botanical expedition to the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe (Gulf of Guinea) in July 1999 (Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas) several pteridophytes were collected. Some had not been recorded in these islands for the last 40 to 100 years. These new findings expand the distribution areas of some taxa, treated in previous work (Figueiredo, 1998), and provide better information for the evaluation of their conservation status.

1. *Asplenium lividum* Mett. ex Kuhn, *Linnaea* 36: 100. 1869.

SÃO TOMÉ: Mendes Leite, Valley of Rio Contador, 600m alt., 25 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Gascoigne 170* (LISC).

On the humid and shaded slopes at the edge of a path, in secondary forest. Not recorded since 1932.

2. *Asplenium unilaterale* Lam., *Encycl.* 2: 305. 1786.

SÃO TOMÉ: Milagrosa to Zampalma, 690m alt., 27 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 184* (LISC); Macambará to Zampalma, 850m alt., 30 Sept. 1997, *Lejoly 97/334* (LISC).

On a humid and shaded road edge (*Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 184*), and in dense rainforest (*Lejoly 97/334*). Not recorded since the 19th century.

3. *Bolbitis acrostichoides* (Afzel. ex Sw.) Ching in *C. Chr., Index filic. Suppl.* 3: 47. 1934.

SÃO TOMÉ: Milagrosa to Zampalma, 690m alt., 27 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 183* (LISC).

Collected on a humid and shaded road edge. Not recorded since the 19th century.

4. Coniogramme africana Hieron., *Hedwigia* 57: 293. 1916.

SÃO TOMÉ: Bom Sucesso to Lagoa Amélia, 1153-1483m alt., 15 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Oliveira 145* (LISC); Macambrará to Zampalma, 920m alt., 30 Sept. 1997, *Lejoly 97/331* (LISC); Lagoa Amélia, 1430m alt., 4 Oct. 1997, *Lejoly 97/365* (LISC); Calvário, 1550m alt., March 1998, *Oliveira 451* (LISC); Lagoa Amélia, 1300-1400m alt., 28 June 1991, *Paiva 57 & 63* (COI).

Occurs in primary and secondary rainforests and on the edges of forest paths and roads. It has also been collected on the edge of a crater (*Lejoly 97/365*). Although it was not recorded since the 1950's, this species is not rare and has been collected several times recently.

5. Lomariopsis hederacea Alston, *J. Bot.* 72, Suppl. 2: 5. 1934.

SÃO TOMÉ: Bom Sucesso to Lagoa Amélia, 1150-1480m alt., 15 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Oliveira 143* (LISC); Vale Carmo to Pico Maria Fernandes, 290m alt., 10 Nov. 1995, *Carvalho 1* (LISC). PRÍNCIPE: E slopes of Pico, 500-800m alt., 4 April 1999, *Gascoigne 25* (LISC).

Occurs in primary and secondary forests and it has also been collected near forest paths. It was not recorded since 1932 and it is a new record for the island of Príncipe. All cited specimens are sterile. According to A. Gascoigne (pers. comm.) this species is common in the islands. The lack of collections may be due to the fact that sterile specimens are usually not collected. Possibly fertile specimens are restricted to tree canopies where they are epiphytes, and not within reach of collectors.

6. Pellaea doniana Hook., *Sp. fil.* 2: 137, t. 125 fig.A. 1858.

SÃO TOMÉ: Mendes Leite, Valley of Rio Contador, 595m alt., 25 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Gascoigne 166* (LISC).

On a humid, shaded and rocky slope at the edge of a path, in secondary forest. Although it was recently (1973) collected in a small islet in the south of the island, it has not been collected in the island itself since the 19th century.

7. Pteris pteridioides (Hook.) F. Ballard, *Kew Bull.* 1937: 348. 1937.

SÃO TOMÉ: Bom Sucesso to Lagoa Amélia, 1150-1480m alt., 15 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Oliveira 139* (LISC).

On the shaded and humid edge of a path in the rainforest. Not recorded since 1913. It is possible that collectors have overlooked this fern due to its superficial similarity to *Pteris paucipinnata*, a species more common in the island, also found in this locality.

8. Selaginella molleri Hieron. in Engl. & Prantl, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.* 1(4): 697. 1901.

SÃO TOMÉ: Milagrosa to Zampalma, 690m alt., 27 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 185* (LISC); Milagrosa to Bombaim, 490m alt., 28 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 194A* (LISC).

On the rocky, wet walls bordering a waterfall (*Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 194A*) and in humid, rocky slopes on the edge of roads (*Figueiredo, Arriegas & Chozas 185*). Not recorded since 1932.

9. *Trichomanes erosum* Willd., Sp. pl. 5: 501. 1810.

SÃO TOMÉ: Vale Carmo, 180m alt, 17 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Gascoigne 158* (LISC).

Collected in a very shaded and humid area of the rainforest, on a rock. Not recorded since the 1950's.

10. *Trichomanes radicans* Sw., J. Bot. (Schrader) 1800 (2): 97. 1801.

SÃO TOMÉ: Bom Sucesso to Lagoa Amélia, 1153-1483m alt., 15 July 1999, *Figueiredo, Arriegas, Chozas & Oliveira 138* (LISC); Bom Sucesso to Lagoa Amélia, 1250m alt., 25 Sept. 1997, *Lejoly 97/228* (LISC); Bom Sucesso to Morro Claudina, 1250m alt., 2 Oct. 1997, *Lejoly 97/353* (LISC); Estação Souza, 1460m alt., March 1997, *Oliveira 465* (LISC); Esperança, 29 June 1991, *Paiva 95* (COI).

Occurs in primary rainforest and it has also been found near the edges of paths in secondary forests. Not recorded since 1932.

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