

***Gryllotalpa africana* Palisot de Beauvois, 1805, new species for Portugal (Orthoptera, Gryllotalpidae)**

***Gryllotalpa africana* Palisot de Beauvois, 1805, nueva especie para Portugal (Orthoptera, Gryllotalpidae)**

The Gryllotalpidae fauna hitherto recorded from continental Portugal includes 2 of the 4 species known from the Iberian Peninsula (RAGGE & REYNOLDS 1998, GOROCHOV & LLORENTE 2001) and their distributions and general statutes in the country are very unequally known. *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa* (Linnaeus, 1758) was the first mole-cricket recorded from Portugal (VANDELLI 1797) and has been recurrently recorded ever since (BOLIVAR 1878a, BOLIVAR 1878b, 1898, 1927, SANTOS 1883, CAZURRO 1888, NOBRE 1897, CORDEIRO 1914, AIRES & MENANO 1915, VARGAS 1930, SEABRA 1938, 1939a, 1939b, LOCK 1999, HOCHKIRCH 1999, MIRANDA-ARABOLAZA & BARRANCO 2005). As occurs with the majority of the Portuguese fauna of insects, although being known from the country for a very long time, its distribution, ecology and life traits have not been studied properly and are, thus, very poorly known. The second species, *Gryllotalpa vineae* Bennet-Clark, 1970, has only been reported in the RAGGE & REYNOLDS book (1998) from Albufeira in Algarve and from Herdade da Ribeira Abaixo (Grândola) in Baixo Alentejo (OLIVEIRA *et al.* 2001). However, considering that the species is present in the country, the similarities observed between both and the age of most of the *G. gryllotalpa* records, it is possible that at least a fraction of the records belong in fact to *G. vineae*, a matter which will be subject of a future investigation. The African mole-cricket, *Gryllotalpa africana* Palisot de Beauvois, 1805, is the smallest of the four species recorded from Iberia, being recognizable by its body size alone, which does not exceed 30 mm in males and 34 mm in females, as opposed to the other three, whose smallest specimens are bigger than 35 mm.

In this paper *Gryllotalpa africana* Palisot de Beauvois, 1805 is recorded for the first time for Portugal, the material examined consisting of a male specimen collected 12-03-2007 with pitfall traps in the Monchique Natura 2000 site, in Casa Nova da Cruz (29SNB3150). This finding represents a western extension of its known range in the south of the Iberian Peninsula,

following the Spanish records to the provinces of Almería, Cádiz, Huelva, Málaga, Sevilla and Valencia (GOROCHOV & LLORENTE 2001).

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