

Editorial Note

Rolling up our sleeves

The challenge of carrying on the ambitious project to publish regular issues of *Zoologia Caboverdiana* is becoming ever greater. The journal has gained notoriety within the scientific community with the various issues published up to now. We express our gratitude to the outgoing Editor-in-chief, the reviewers, as well as all the authors who have placed their trust in our journal to disseminate their scientific work. With a remodeled editorial team, it is time to roll up our sleeves and fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us and reciprocate the trust that has been placed in this journal. It is in this spirit that this issue brings new scientific approaches with observation methodologies implemented in three groups of organisms most featured in the journal, namely: birds, reptiles, and fishes.

In this present issue, the first publication is entitled "*Herpetological notes from the islands of São Vicente and Santo Antão, Cabo Verde.*" The author of this work used visual census to carry out a survey of the amphibian and reptile fauna of the islands of São Vicente and Santo Antão. The results revealed the strong predation of eggs and juveniles of the *Caretta caretta* turtle by feral dogs on the northeast coast of São Vicente, as well as in many locations where the *Hemidactylus mabouia* gecko, considered an invasive species, is present.

The second publication presents the first documented cases of hypomelanososis in the territorial waters of Cabo Verde. In the article entitled "*Abnormal skin pigmentation in sharks in the Eastern Atlantic: a case study from Maio island, Cabo Verde*", the authors reveal the presence of abnormal skin pigmentation in three nurse sharks *Ginglymostoma cirratum* on that Island. It is worth noting that abnormal pigmentation is very rare in cartilaginous fishes

compared to other animal groups. This study recommends future investigations into this abnormal pigmentation condition and the collection of tissue samples to identify and better assess this condition.

The third and final publication is a short note that reports, for the first time, the presence of new bird species in Cabo Verde. The authors of the note "*New records of terrestrial birds for Fogo Island and Cabo Verde Archipelago*" performed visual census between March and November 2022 and photographed five bird species that were not included in the reported species lists for Cabo Verde. This study demonstrates the importance of seasonal census, as well as the hard work that environmental NGOs have been doing in monitoring and understanding the Caboverdean biodiversity.

Having said all that, I wish you a good read and hope you enjoy this issue, which marks yet another new milestone for the journal.

Evandro Lopes
Interim Editor-in-chief of *Zoologia Caboverdiana*