

Editorial Note

In great strides

The production of scientific knowledge through partnerships between national and foreign authors has been highlighted as the key to the scientific growth of Cabo-verdean researchers. They have been taking great strides in leading studies in various areas of biological sciences, many of which are led by women, resulting in publications of very high quality. It is in this context that we present the current issue of Zoologia Caboverdiana, which includes three articles resulting from multinational partnerships, all headed by national authors, two of whom are women.

The first publication is entitled "Emergency Patterns and Survival Success of Neonate Sea Turtles on the Beach." The authors of this article analyzed the emergence and survival of neonate loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) on the beach through morning censuses of hatchling tracks, using João Barrosa beach on Boavista Island as a model. The results showed that more than half of the turtle hatchlings that emerged daily died after hatching from the nest. The study concludes that variables associated with this phenomenon include predation by ghost crabs (*Ocypode cursor*), the distance from the tide line, the nesting location of the turtle, as well as the moon phase on the day the neonates hatch.

The second publication is a short note entitled "*Teeth of Otodus megalodon (Lamniformes: Otodontidae) from Cabo Verde, eastern Atlantic*". In this work, the authors document for the first time the presence of *Otodus megalodon* in the territorial waters of Cabo Verde, based on the teeth found in rocks from two different locations and times: in Baía dos Barreiros, São Nicolau, in April 2013, and another in Fazenda, Santiago, in January 2023. Although the possibility of *O. megalodon* having passed through Cabo

Verde had been suggested before, the species of teeth presented in this study confirm this occurrence.

The third publication is a short note that reports, for the first time, the presence of the species *Hemidactylus mabouia* on the island of Sal. The authors of the note "*First record of the house gecko H. mabouia for the island of Sal, Cabo Verde*" highlight that the species, which was introduced in Santo Antão, Brava, and São Vicente, is expanding its distribution area due to human mediation. The adopted methodology was based on nocturnal and diurnal transects, with the confirmation of specimen taxonomy through DNA analysis. The results demonstrated that the introduction of *H. mabouia* on the island of Sal is recent, reinforcing the need to implement measures to prevent the spread of this species among the islands, thus ensuring the protection of endemic species that may be impacted by this invader.

Therefore, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, I wish everyone an enjoyable reading and hope you appreciate this issue.

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