

Editorial note

Pandora's Box

The efforts to conserve biodiversity in the Cabo Verde Archipelago have been echoed in the national and international media. Concrete actions in biodiversity conservation have propelled Cabo Verde into the spotlight, both as an insular country vulnerable to climate change and because of the environmental initiatives adopted. Issues such as the protection of marine ecosystems, endemic or threatened species and the archipelago's vulnerability to the introduction of exotic species have been on the agenda. The need to adjust environmental policies to the caboverdean context has led to an increase in scientific production led by national authors. It is in this context that we present this issue of *Zoologia Caboverdiana*, which includes an article and two short notes, all led by researchers from the country

The first publication is entitled “*On the breeding biology of Alexander's kestrel (Falco tinnunculus alexandri) on Maio Island, Cabo Verde*”. The authors of this article analysed data during the incubation period, including the number of eggs, biometric data, weights, diet and behaviour of the juveniles of this raptor. The results showed that less than half of the juveniles survive in each nest. Competition and cannibalism between juveniles were confirmed in this subspecies. In addition, diet analysis revealed that they preys on endemic species such as the house sparrow *Passer iagoensis* and the Maio skink *Chioninia spinalis maioensis*.

The second publication is a short note entitled “*Hitchhiking on drifting nets*”. In this work, the authors use the *Bolinus cornutus* species as an example to demonstrate how vulnerable the Cabo Verde archipelago is to species that take advantage of driftnets on the West African coast to spread. Fishing nets that

have been lost or abandoned at sea off Cabo Verde end up collecting several specimens of this mollusc that do not naturally occur in the Archipelago.

The third and final short note reviews the publications that focus on the Laginha coral bay on São Vicente Island. In the document entitled “*The Laginha coral bay in Mindelo (Cabo Verde): a natural heritage site under threat*”, the authors demonstrated the importance of the bay as a home to numerous species. It was shown that the number of publications with data from the coral bay has been increasing, largely due to the high number of endemics in the area, mainly fish. This has led to the submission of a proposal to create a protected area in the site, with the aim of giving this ecosystem a protected status.

The conservation of Cabo Verde's biodiversity is a task for all those who benefit from it, directly or indirectly. In this context, researchers have been doing their role, opening the pandora's box of knowledge about species and ecosystems, producing valuable information for political decision-making. Having said all this, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, I wish you a nice reading and hope that you will appreciate this issue.

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Zoologia Caboverdiana