

Madeira - The Floating Garden

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 14 June 2016



Musschia aurea



Orchis scopulorum



Matthiola maderensis on Ponta de São Lourenço



Echium candicans on Pico Ruivo

Report and images by Elizabeth Cooke



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Elizabeth Cooke and Steven Heathcote (Leaders) with 16 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Tuesday 7th June

The group for the week-long exploration of the plants and animals of Madeira came together from a variety of sources: two had arrived the day before from Edinburgh, five transferred from the preceding Naturetrek cetaceans tour and nine flew in from Gatwick. After finding rooms and getting settled, the group assembled in shade round the pool for a light lunch. I

In the afternoon we walked down the hill into the centre of town, looking at the impressive array of street trees and garden plants as we went. Funchal is very much a garden city, with diverse and well-maintained planting. The *Agathis robusta*, *Cassia ferruginea* and Jacaranda trees were particularly admired. A small flock of Canaries was observed calling and flitting between the branches of a Brazilian Kapok (*Ceiba speciosa*) tree. We meandered through the narrow streets to reach the municipal gardens where tonight's restaurant – Combatentes – was pointed out. Some of the group then peeled off whilst the remainder explored the municipal garden, where several Monarch butterflies and one Long-tailed Blue were seen. This garden contains a wide selection of mature trees from all over the world, many helpfully labelled, including a bizarre Sausage Tree (*Kigelia africana*). We explored the city and then found a café and refreshed ourselves with coffees and pastel de nata. Most then made their own way back, whilst a few went on to the Museo Municipal to see the extensive collection of natural history specimens, including a stuffed Madeiran Woodpigeon (which is now extinct) and large collections of fish, both stuffed specimens and living ones in an aquarium. We all met up again at the restaurant and enjoyed a delicious meal.

Day 2

Wednesday 8th June

Our drivers for the week, Paul and Thiago, met us at 9am at the Residencia and we boarded the two minibuses for our first destination of Pico Arieiro, the second highest peak on the island. The peak is accessible by a good road which winds first through conifer and eucalyptus plantation and then into native *Erica* scrub. On the way we passed the last remaining ice house on the island that was built at the turn of the 20th century and used to supply ice to the hotels in Funchal. The viewpoint at the top of Pico Arieiro provides an impressive panoramic view of the island. We could pick out geological features such as dykes, which are harder and thus more resistant to weathering than the surrounding pyroclastic tuffs. Consequently, the dykes protrude from the side of the mountain as giant sheets of rock. Though touristy, the viewpoint gave us a taste of the spectacular scenery of the island and produced a few interesting plants such as Madeiran Mountain Stock (*Erysimum bicolor*) and Garden Rock-cress (*Arabis caucasica*) as well as butterflies, including our only sighting of Madeiran Grayling.

Heading on to Ribero Frio we admired bushes of Pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*) by the side of the road covered in impressive purple spires of flowers. At Ribero Frio we first visited a small garden which was planted up in 1960 by the Regional Forestry Service. The garden has a specimen of *Frangula azorica* which is now extinct in the wild in Madeira (but still occurs in the Azores); it also has representatives of many other components of the laurisilva forest, with convenient labels, so we took the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with some of the species that we'd be seeing for the rest of the week. Next we headed along the levada of Serra do Faial to the Balcoes viewpoint. This gentle walk provided a good introduction to the Laurel Forest. Along the way we compared two of the endemic, yellow-flowered *Aichryson* – Madeira and Mossy Stonecrops (*A. divaricatum* and *A.*

villosum), growing in the rock above the levada. We admired the Madeira Blueberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*) whose cream flowers were striped with red where they were exposed to direct sunlight. Yellow-flowered Strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*) was seen both in flower and fruit.

We walked the short distance to the Balcony where we had excellent views of the valley of Ribera da Metade below. A hydroelectric plant could be seen further up the valley. The viewpoint hosts some tame chaffinches, and looking over the edge there were some plants of the endemic *Sideritis candicans* and the Madeira Holly (*Ilex perado*).

We returned to the bus and drove a little way up the road to a picnic site where we were entertained by the ever-present Madeiran Wall Lizards and a passing Madeiran Firecrest, as the clouds rolled in from above and below.

After lunch we returned to Ribero Frio to walk Levada do Furado towards Portela. The banks above the levada were often damp and covered in mosses, liverworts and filmy ferns. We noted different floras on the tuff and basalt rocks. Along the walk, Besom Heath (*Erica scoparia*) seedlings were frequently seen growing out of cracks in the rock faces. At the furthest extent of the walk, where we turned round, there was a Madeiran Firecrest and a few people caught a glimpse of the Trocaz Pigeon. Later arrivals got excellent view of a Trocaz Pigeon foraging amongst the leaves on the forest floor. On the walk back, a single plant of the supposedly widespread but diminutive orchid *Gennaria diphylla* was spotted.

Tonight we ate at Taberna Ruel which specialised in fish and seafood.

Day 3

Thursday 9th June

The weather forecast on the central peaks was bad today so, instead of the scheduled trip up Pico Ruivo, we opted to head to the driest part of island, Ponta de São Lourenço. The peninsula is the eastern most point of Madeira and has a landscape quite different from the rest of the island; more reminiscent of the dry climates of Porto Santo or the Canary Islands. The weather out on the peninsula was characteristically hot and sunny and, with no shelter from the sun, the undulating terrain was quite exposed, so we took things gently and admired the spectacular views of the coastal cliffs and geology. The peninsula is believed to have once supported coastal scrub with Dragon Trees, but deforestation and intensive grazing has resulted in grassland and open vegetation.

Walking along the trail that runs the length of the peninsula, it was easy to spot a range of plants that are well-adapted to cope with the hot, dry conditions and grazing, including the ferocious looking Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus* var. *ferocissima*), believed to be the wild ancestor of artichokes. There were two other spiny thistles, both with yellow flowers, Spotted Golden Thistle (*Scolymus maculatus*) and Downy Safflower (*Carthamus lanatus*). Berthelot's Pipits were out in number, and a Kestrel kept appearing hunting over the hill sides. Some other unusual plants were spotted along the walk, including Scorpion Vetch (*Scorpiurus muricatus*), with seed pods like a scorpion tail, and the Macronesian endemic *Aizoon canariense*. Aizoon is an unusual case of an invasive species from Macronesia which has invaded the rest of the world, rather than the other way round. We found a plant of Mandon's Chrysanthemum, the coastal subspecies of *Agryanthemum pinnatifidum* (subsp. *succulentum*), a species we had previously seen on open areas of the laurisilva forest.

The furthest point of the walk reached by the group provided a good show of Rock Sparrows. The viewpoint also gave great views of the unusual rock formations exposed as the tide erodes the coastal cliffs, and we particularly enjoyed spotting dykes which cut through the tuff that forms most of the promontory.

Over lunch we watched the semi-tame lizards, which were brave enough to approach us and help themselves to apple cores and other pieces of food. After lunch we left Ponta de São Lourenço for a brief stop at the neighbouring port town of Caniçal, where there were a variety of amusements, from birds and boats in the harbour to cafés selling coffee and ice cream. Yellow-legged Gulls were hanging around the port in good numbers.

Refreshed, we headed west to the Ponta do Garajau, which is famous for its statue of Cristo Rei and where there are remnants of the coastal vegetation community that once covered the lower slopes of the island. On the approach to the statue we walked down the street to look at a good population of Golden Musschia (*Musschia aurea*) growing in a wall. This is one of two species in the endemic genus and is only known from a few locations. A couple of the plants were in full flower, revealing the unusual but spectacular structure of the bright-yellow flowers. There were also a range of garden species and typical weeds, including an unusual-looking plant famous for its records of medicinal use in antiquity, although the name – *Achyranthes aspera* var. *sicula* – is not the most memorable!

Around the statue we found a mix of ornamental planting and some remnants of native vegetation. Of particular note were Fish-stunning Spurge (*Euphorbia piscatoria*), bushes of Globe Flower (*Globularia salicina*) and the critically endangered *Andryala crithmifolia*. Of the planted species, the red-flowered *Aloe arborescens* was particularly prevalent, along with the Elephant's-ear Prickly Pear (*Opuntia tuna*). This cactus was covered with white powdery deposits, the home of Cochineal Beetles, harvested in the past to make the red pigment of the same name. Strung between the cacti were webs of the large stripy spider, *Argyope trifasciata*. Also present were self-sown plants of the invasive Shrub Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). This tree with blue-green leaves is always cool to the touch due to its ability to find water deep in the ground and this allows it to keep itself cool.

This evening we ate at Olives, which had a good range of vegetarian options, and from the rooftop terrace there were views of the harbour and a cruise ship moored for the night.

Day 4

Friday 10th June

With better weather forecast today at higher altitude, we headed round the coast and up into the mountains to Achada do Teixeira for a walk up to Pico Ruivo, which at 1862 metres is the highest peak on Madeira. En route, we stopped briefly in the town of Santana on the north coast where there are a collection of houses built in the traditional design of the island - narrow, single storey and thatched - built around the town's central square. We drove on, passing stands of Madeira Hawkweed (*Tolpis macrorhiza*) flowering along the side of the road, up to the car park at Teixeira, which at 1529 metres gave us an excellent starting point to reach Pico Ruivo.

The trail first passes through a short-grazed grassy area which hosts an impressive diversity of small plants and plenty of butterflies. The grassland had a notable array of legumes including Slender Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus angustissimus*), Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) and Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*). There was also the dainty pink Coral-necklace (*Illecebrum verticillatum*) and the striking white flowers of Mealy Stonecrop (*Sedum*

farinosum). The walk from here took us through a range of mountain habitats including *Erica* scrub, exposed rock with mounds of Madeira Thyme (*Thymus caespitius*) and a large area where charred skeletons of mature Tree Heathers (*Erica arborea*) indicated that it had been badly burned in an intensive fire a few years ago.

There were a range of plants in flower on the way up, with plenty of Madeiran endemics, including the small-leaved form of large-leaved buttercup, *Ranunculus cortusifolius* var. *minor*, and patches of the endemic Madeira Thyme (*Thymus caespitius*). The final ascent up to the peak was steep, but we were rewarded with great displays of the native Madeiran Yellow Violet (*Viola paradoxa*) along with views of Pico de Arieiro and the north coast.

We descended from the peak to eat lunch at one of the stone shelters provided along the trail. From the picnic spot we had great views of a Spectacled Warbler singing from the *Erica* bushes, then flying around to find itself a better perch before resuming its singing.

From Pico Ruivo we headed back to the north coast stopping in Porta da Cruz. After a refreshing coffee on the sea front we visited the last traditional sugarcane-processing factory. The factory is a delightful relic, using steam-powered machines (mainly made in the UK) to extract the sugar from the sugarcane that is grown on the island. The sugar syrup produced from this process is used in various speciality foods and drinks on the island, including 'bolo do mel' cake and the rum-like aguardente. Following the factory visit, some people took to the sea for a refreshing dip, while others walked around the headland. The rocky headland provided good views of the coastal plants Rock Samphire (*Cribbium maritimum*) and Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*).

This evening we went to Taberna o Chaparro, a typical taberna close to the hotel where we enjoyed excellent authentic Portuguese food at this small family run restaurant.

Day 5

Saturday 11th June

Today we headed west along the coast, past the main banana-growing area on the south coast of the island, and then turned north through the Encumeda tunnel, to Sao Vicente. Sao Vicente has the best, and most accessible, lava tubes on the island. The gardens at the visitor centre also contain an interesting mix of native and ornamental trees, in a well-tended setting. A pond there has been colonised by the non-native Perez's Frog which provided a good photo opportunity. The tour of the tubes and visit to the geology museum gave us an insight into the island's geology and volcanic history.

From Sao Vicente we headed west along the northern coast road, stopping at a waterfall for a walk along a disused section of road. This old road, cut into steep cliffs above the sea, provides a spectacular setting to see plants of the rocky coastal cliffs. From the road there are also great views out to sea, some people even caught glimpses of whale spurts. The wall has an amazing display of the endemic Disc Houseleek (*Aeonium glandulosum*), their red-green discs lying flat on the rocks providing a strong contrast to the dark, basaltic rock. Several other plants were in full flower along the road, including Small Pride of Madeira (*Echium nervosum*), White Everlasting (*Helichrysum melaleucum*), Brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*) and Burnt Sow-thistle (*Sonchus ustulatus*).

We drove inland to Chao de Ribeira for our picnic lunch, stopping just before the picnic spot to admire the endemic Madeira Saxifrage (*Saxifraga maderensis* subsp. *maderensis*) growing on some inland rocky cliffs. We sat in the shade of some Madeiran Mahogany (*Persea indica*) trees in a secluded valley to eat our picnic, and were joined

by a few Madeiran Firecrests. After lunch we wandered up the valley a little way, observing some arable fields and orchards, with some pretty arable weeds including False Grass-poly (*Lytbrum junceum*). We found the Madeiran Willow (*Salix canariensis*), another endemic tree, by a stream and in a cow-grazed grassy field a few plants of the red-flowered *Freesia laxa* (False Freesia).

After lunch we headed back southwards the traditional way – over the Encumeda pass. At (only) 1007 metres, it was the most direct way to cross from north to south on the island until the three-kilometre-long tunnel was built beneath it. At the high point of the pass we stopped for coffee and to admire a great display of Madeira Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), with some pale specimens resembling, but eventually identified as not being, the endemic Rock Orchid (*Orchis scopulorum*). The Rock Orchid was found shortly afterwards whilst walking from the café along the Lavada dos Rabacos.

This evening there was a firework display from the harbour of Funchal so we ordered excellent takeaway pizzas from Ratatoui and sat out on the terrace to watch the show. The view from our hotel on the hill in Funchal was excellent.

Day 6

Sunday 12th June

Today was a free day and the majority of the group took the opportunity to go on a cetacean-watching cruise with Ventura in the morning; some even went out for a second trip in the afternoon. Sightings included a large gathering of over a hundred Spotted Dolphins and two pods of Bottlenose Dolphins. There were also good sightings of sea birds, particularly Manx and Cory's Shearwaters. Some in the group used the time to visit a few of Madeira's famous gardens, including visits to the Tropical gardens at Monte and the Botanical garden. The gardens were accessed by cable-car, which gave great views of the sea and the city of Funchal.

Day 7

Monday 13th June

Our first stop today was to look at the last remaining wild Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*) in Madeira, which grows on a cliff by Ribeira. It is a young individual without branches. Two stumps of older trees (reported as living trees in the 2011 Naturetrek tour report) are evident higher up the cliff, directly above the young tree and presumably its parents. The tree has mythical origins, related to the 11th labour of Hercules, with the tree sprouting from the blood of the slain Landon, the Hundred-headed Dragon. The tree produces red sap, formerly used as a dye, which is the 'dragon's blood'. Once widespread in coastal areas the tree has been lost due to collecting, fire, and animals (especially goats) eating the young plants. Despite being almost extinct in the wild, Dragon Trees are widely planted in gardens and there are some particularly impressive specimens in Funchal. Dragon Trees are now being replanted in coastal scrub as part of conservation efforts.

We made a quick stop at a supermarket and then headed on up to the Encumeda pass, turning west at the top of the pass on to the Paul do Serra, a large, high plateau on the western side of the island. Clouds had gathered at the top of the pass but, as we came out onto the plateau, we emerged out of the clouds to stunning views, looking down the mountains to the south coast and across the plateau. The plateau has long been the most intensively grazed part of the island and the vegetation seen along the road, dense stands of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), is a result of this over-grazing.

We stopped at Rabçal, towards the western end of the plateau and walked down the surfaced road that is now closed to all vehicles save the shuttle bus. The road terminates at Rabçal House, where several levada walks originate. On a sunny bend in the road bushes of the endemic shrub Madeira Blueberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*) were in full flower – covered in dangling white bells tinged with red. Another striking plant seen on the way was Madeira Groundsel (*Pericaulis aurita*) with daisy-like flowers in a vibrant shade of purple.

From the buildings we took the path along Levada Risco to a waterfall. The levada cuts across a wooded slope with tremendous old Besom Heath (*Erica scoparia*) trees, their flaking bark and twisted trunks overarching the path creating a wonderful impression. There were many friendly Madeiran chaffinches, as well as Madeiran Firecrests, Blackbirds and Robins. Plenty of endemic plant species were flowering, including Garden Rock-cress (*Arabis caucasica*), Madeira Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*) and the endemic Brystopogon (*Bystropogon maderensis*).

We returned to picnic benches by the buildings for lunch where the resident Madeiran Chaffinches and a stray cat kept us company as we sat under a spectacular Prickly Juniper (*Juniperus cedrus*), a Macaronesian endemic tree. After lunch we returned to the top of the hill and the waiting minibuses, either in the shuttle bus or on foot, and then headed to the northernmost town on the island, Porto Moniz.

At Porto Moniz an intrepid few went for a swim in the well laid out and maintained sea-filled pools along the seafront while others explored the promenade and its cafés. Some Peacock's Tail Algae (*Padina pavonia*) was found at the bottom of the swimming pool.

We returned home via a stop on the south coast at Cabo Girão, one of the highest sea cliffs in Europe. The 580-metre drop can now be admired from a recently installed glass-bottomed viewing platform that extends out over the edge of the cliff.

In the evening we returned to Taberna o Chaparro, our favourite restaurant of the week, for more traditional Portuguese food.

Day 8

Tuesday 14th June

We had a leisurely breakfast before most of the group headed to the airport and flew back to the UK. A few remained behind to catch a flight to Edinburgh on the following day or stay on in Funchal for an extended holiday.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Species Lists

Plants

Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
PTERIDOPHYTES		
FERNS & ALLIES		
Selaginellaceae		
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Lesser Clubmoss Family A Clubmoss	2
Equisetaceae		
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Horsetail Family Great Horsetail	2
Adiantaceae		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern Family Maidenhair Fern	2
Aspleniaceae		
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Spleenwort Family Maidenhair spleenwort	2
Blechnaceae		
<i>Woodwardia radicans</i>	Hard Fern Family Chain Fern	2
Davalliaceae		
<i>Davallia canariensis</i>	Hare's-foot Fern Family Hare's-foot Fern	2
Dennstaedtiaceae		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Family Bracken	2
Hymenophyllaceae		
<i>Hymenophyllum tunbrigense</i>	Filmy Fern Family Tunbridge Filmy Fern	2
Pteridaceae		
<i>Pteris incompleta</i>	Ribbon Fern Family -	2
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)		
CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae		
<i>Juniperus cedrus</i>	Juniper Family Prickly Juniper	7
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)		
Acanthaceae		
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech Family Bear's-breech	2
Aizoaceae		
<i>Aizoon canariense</i>	Dewplant Family Aizoon	3
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Yellow Hottentot Fig	3

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed Family	
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> var. <i>sicula</i>	A Devil's Horsewhip	3
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Ammi majus</i>	Bullwort	3
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Watercress	4
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	3
<i>Melanoselinum decipiens</i> *	Black Parsley	2
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	4
<i>Oenanthe divaricata</i> *	Madeira Water Dropwort	2
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family	
<i>Ilex canariensis</i>	Canary Holly	2
<i>Ilex perado</i>	Madeira Holly	2
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i> subsp. <i>canariensis</i>	Ivy	5
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss	5
<i>Echium candicans</i> *	Pride of Madeira	2
<i>Echium nervosum</i> *	Small Pride of Madeira	3
<i>Myosotis secunda</i>	Creeping Forget-me-not	7
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress	4
<i>Arabis caucasica</i> (A. <i>alpina</i> ssp. <i>caucasica</i>)	Garden Rock-cress	2
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress	2
<i>Erysimum bicolor</i> *	Madeiran Mountain Stock	2
<i>Matthiola maderensis</i> *	Madeira Sea-stock	3
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	2
<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i> subsp. <i>orientale</i>	Bastard Cabbage	3
<i>Sinapidendron gymnocalyx</i> *	Naked-calyx Rock-cress	5
<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	Shepherd's Cress	4
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
<i>Opuntia tuna</i>	Elephant-ear Prickly Pear	3
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Musschia aurea</i> *	Golden Musschia	3
<i>Musschia wollastonii</i> *	Wollaston's Musschia	2
<i>Wahlenbergia lobelioides</i> subsp. <i>lobelioides</i> *	Madeiran Bellflower	3
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Sambucus lanceolata</i> *	Madeiran Elder	2
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i>	Coral Necklace	4
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuilii</i>	Childing Pink	2
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion	3
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	3
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	4

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
Chenopodiaceae	Goose-foot Family	
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Maple-leaved Goosefoot	3
<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	Shrubby Orache	3
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite	3
Clethraceae	Lily-of-the-Valley Tree Family	
<i>Clethra arborea</i> *	Lily-of-the-Valley Tree	2
Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	White Eupatorium	2
<i>Andryala crithmifolia</i> *	an Andryala	3
<i>Andryala glandulosa</i> subsp. <i>glandulosa</i>	an Andryala	3
<i>Andryala glandulosa</i> subsp. <i>varia</i>	an Andryala	2
<i>Argyranthemum pinnatifidum</i> ssp. <i>pinnatifidum</i> *	Argyranthemum	2
<i>A. pinnatifidum</i> subsp. <i>succulentum</i> *	Mandon's Chrysanthemum	3
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	2
<i>Carlina salicifolia</i> *	Willow-leaved Carline Thistle	2
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Downy Safflower	3
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	3
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	4
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i> subsp. <i>andryaloides</i>	Beaked Hawk's-beard	4
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	3
<i>Delairea odorata</i>	German Ivy	5
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican Fleabane	2
<i>Filago minima</i>	Small Cudweed	4
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	3
<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	Shaggy Soldier	4
<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	Gallant Soldier	4
<i>Helichrysum melaleucum</i> *	White Everlasting	2
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	5
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	2
<i>Pericaulis aurita</i> *	Madeira Groundsel	7
<i>Scolymus maculatus</i>	Spotted Golden Thistle	3
<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>	Heath Groundsel	4
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	2
<i>Sonchus fruticosus</i> *	Shrubby Sow-thistle	2
<i>Sonchus pinnatus</i> *	A Sow-thistle	3
<i>Sonchus ustulatus</i> subsp. <i>maderensis</i> *	Burnt Sow-thistle	3
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	4
<i>Tolpis macrorhiza</i> *	Madeira Hawkweed	2
<i>Tolpis succulenta</i> *	Hawkweed	3
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	3
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Morning Glory	2
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Aeonium glandulosum</i> *	Disc Houseleek	5
<i>Aeonium glutinosum</i> *	Viscid Houseleek	3
<i>Aichryson divaricatum</i> *	Madeira Stonecrop	2
<i>Aichryson villosum</i> *	Downy Stonecrop	2
<i>Crassula tillaea</i>	Mossy Stonecrop	5
<i>Sedum brissemoretii</i> *	A Stonecrop	5

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
<i>Sedum farinosum</i> *	Mealy Stonecrop	4
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	2
Ericaceae	Heath Family	
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	4
<i>Erica scorparia</i> subsp. <i>maderinicola</i>	Besom Heath	2
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron	2
<i>Vaccinium padifolium</i>	Madeira Blueberry	2
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	3
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	3
<i>Euphorbia mellifera</i> *	Melliferous Spurge	2
<i>Euphorbia piscatoria</i> *	Fish-stunning Spurge	3
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	2
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	2
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	4
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	5
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	5
<i>Geranium maderense</i> *	Madeira Stork's-bill	2
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	5
<i>Geranium palmatum</i> *	Anemone-leaved Stork's-bill	2
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	2
<i>Pelargonium glutinosum</i>	Pelargonium	3
Globulariaceae	Globularia Family	
<i>Globularia salicina</i> *	Globe Flower	3
Hydrangeaceae	Mock-orange Family	
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Hydrangea	5
Hypericaceae	St.John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum grandiflorum</i> *	A St.John's Wort	5
<i>Hypericum glandulosum</i> *	A St.John's Wort	4
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St.John's Wort	5
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Bystropogon maderensis</i> *	Bystropogon	2
<i>Bystropogon punctatus</i> *	Bystropogon	2
<i>Cedronella canariensis</i> *	Canary Dragon Herb	4
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	2
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	4
<i>Satureja varia</i> subsp. <i>thymoides</i> *	Micromeria	4
<i>Stachys oxymastrum</i>	A Woundwort	3
<i>Sideritis candicans</i>	-	2
<i>Thymus caespititius</i>	Azores Thyme	4
Lauraceae	Bay Family	
<i>Apollonias barbujana</i>	Canary Laurel	5

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
<i>Ocotea foetens</i> *	Fetid Madeiran Laurel	5
<i>Laurus azorica</i>	A Laurel	2
<i>Persea indica</i>	Madeiran Mahogany	5
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family	
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	2
<i>Cytisus scorparius</i>	Broom	2
<i>Lotus angustissimus</i>	Slender Bird's-foot Trefoil	4
<i>Lotus glaucus</i> *	Madeiran Bird's-foot Trefoil	3
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Common Bird's-foot	4
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	3
<i>Teline maderensis</i> *	Shrub Trefoil	7
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	2
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	2
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Yellow Trefoil	4
<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i>	Clustered Clover	4
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	2
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	2
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	2
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	2
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>segetalis</i>	Common Vetch	2
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	7
Lythraceae	Loosestrife Family	
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>	False Grass-poly	5
Mimosaceae	Wattle Family	
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle	7
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle	2
Moraceae	Fig Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	2
<i>Ficus elastica</i>	Rubber Tree	3
Myrtaceae	Myrtles & Gum Family	
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	2
<i>Myrica faya</i>	Wax Myrtle	5
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family	
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea	2
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Odontites hollianus</i>	-	4
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Lesser Broomrape	2
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis latifolia</i>	Garden Pink Sorrel	5
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Californian Poppy	3
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy	5

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
Plantaginaceae		
Plantain Family		
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	2
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	2
<i>Isoplexis sceptrum</i> *	Foxglove Tree	2
<i>Plantago arborescens</i> subsp. <i>maderensis</i> *	Madeira Plantain	3
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	3
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-foot Plantain	3
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	2
<i>Sibthorpia peregrina</i> *	Madeira Moneywort	2
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell	5
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	7
Polygonaceae		
Knotweed Family		
<i>Persicaria capitata</i>	Pink Garden Knotgrass	5
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep-sorrel	4
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i> subsp. <i>canariensis</i>	Red Dock	4
<i>Rumex maderensis</i> *	Madeiran Sorrel	4
Primulaceae		
Primrose Family		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> (Red)	Scarlet Pimpernel	2
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed	5
Ranunculaceae		
Buttercup Family		
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	7
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> var. <i>minor</i> *	A Buttercup	4
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> var. <i>major</i> *	A Buttercup	2
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	2
Resedaceae		
Mignonette Family		
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	3
Rosaceae		
Rose Family		
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Yellow-flowered Strawberry	2
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	2
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	5
<i>Rosa mandonii</i>	Madeira Rose	7
<i>Rubus grandiflorus</i> *	A Bramble	2
Rubiaceae		
Bedstraw Family		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	5
<i>Galium productum</i>	Madeiran Bedstraw	4
<i>Phyllis nobla</i> *	Bastard Hare's-ear	2
<i>Rubia agostinhoi</i>	Madeiran Madder	2
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	4
Salicaceae		
Willow Family		
<i>Salix canariensis</i> *	Madeiran Willow	5
Sapindaceae (Aceraceae)		
Maple Family		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	2
Saxifragaceae		
Saxifrage Family		
<i>Saxifraga maderensis</i> var. <i>maderensis</i> *	Madeira Saxifrage	5

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia hirta</i> *	A Figwort	4
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	3
<i>Solanum linnaeanum</i>	Apple of Sodom	3
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Mauritius Nightshade	4
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	3
Tamaricaceae	Tamarix Family	
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Tamarisk	4
Tropaeolaceae	Nasturtiums	
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Nasturtium	2
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pelitory -of-the-wall	5
<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Mind-your-own-Business	2
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus rubra</i>	Red Valerian	3
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i> subsp. <i>calcitrapae</i>	Small Valerian	2
Verbenaceae	Vervain Family	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	5
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola paradoxa</i> *	Madeiran Yellow Violet	4
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Wood Violet	2
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)		
Agavaceae	Century Plant Family	
<i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant	Y
<i>Agave attenuata</i>	Spineless Agave	3
<i>Dracaena draco</i> *	Dragon Tree	7
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Calla Lily	2
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Pale Galingale	5
<i>Carex peregrina</i>		5
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	Slender Club-rush	5
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiflora</i>	Montbretia	5
<i>Freesia laxa</i>	False Freesia	5
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	3
<i>Luzula elegans</i> *	A Wood-rush	4

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day seen
Liliaceae		
Lily Family		
<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>	African Lily	2
<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	Sword Aloe	3
<i>Ruscus streptophyllus</i> *	A Butcher's-broom	2
<i>Semele androgyna</i> *	Climbing Butcher's-broom	2
Orchidaceae		
Orchid Family		
<i>Dactylorhiza foliosa</i> *	Madeira Marsh Orchid	2
<i>Gennaria diphylla</i>	Gennaria	2
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	4
<i>Orchis scopulorum</i>	Rock Orchid	5
Poaceae		
Grass Family		
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Silvery Hair-grass	4
<i>Agrostis obtusissima</i>	Madeira Bent-grass	4
<i>Anisantha diandra</i>	Great Brome	4
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	3
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender Oat	4
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-Oat	3
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	5
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large Quaking-grass	2
<i>Briza minor</i>	Annual Quaking-grass	5
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> subsp. <i>hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome	4
<i>Cynosaurus echinatus</i>	Rough Dog's-tail	4
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock'sfoot	4
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	4
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	Hyparrhenia	3
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	3
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	4
<i>Phalaris canariensis</i>	Canary-grass	3
<i>Polypogon maritimus</i>	Southern Beard-grass	5
<i>Stipa capensis</i>	Mediterranean Needle-grass	3
Zingiberaceae		
Ginger Lily Family		
<i>Hedychium gardineranum</i>	Yellow Ginger Lily	5
Other groups		
Lichens		
<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>	Lungwort	2
Fungi		
<i>Laurobasidium laurii</i>	Madeiran Laurel Fungus	2
Algae		
<i>Padina pavonia</i>	Peacocks Tail Algae	7

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	June						
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>						✓	
2	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>						✓	
3	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
4	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>	✓		✓				
5	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
6	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓		
7	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
8	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓				
9	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	✓	✓		
10	Feral Pigeon / Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
11	Trocaz Pigeon	<i>Columba trocaz</i>		✓			✓		
12	Plain Swift	<i>Apus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
13	Berthelot's Pipit	<i>Anthus berthelotii madeirensis</i>			✓	✓			✓
14	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea schmitzi</i>		✓		✓	✓		
15	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	H	✓	✓		✓
16	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
17	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heineken</i>			H	H	✓		
18	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	H		H
19	Madeiran Firecrest	<i>Regulus madeirensis</i>		✓			✓		✓
20	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			✓				
21	Common Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia maderensis</i>			✓				
22	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs maderensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
23	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓			✓		
24	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓					
25	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				✓			
26	Atlantic Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Madeiran Wall Lizard	<i>Lacerta (Teira) dugesii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
2	Perez's Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>				✓			✓
3	Common Wall Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>			✓				

Mammals (S=signs of)

1	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>				S	S		S
2	Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>						✓	
3	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>						✓	

Butterflies

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
2	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea failiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3	Madeiran Brimstone or Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx maderensis</i>					✓		
4	Madeiran Small Copper	<i>Lycena phlaeas phlaeoides</i>			✓	✓	✓		
5	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
6	Monarch or Milkweed Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
7	Macaronesian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa vulcania</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
8	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓				
9	European Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>		✓			✓		✓
10	Madeiran Grayling	<i>Hipparchia maderensis</i>		✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	June						
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Moths

1	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		✓		✓	✓		
2	Spurge Hawkmoth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>			L				

Other Invertebrates

1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>					✓		
2	American Cockroach	<i>Periplanata americana</i>			✓				
3	Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus maderensis</i>		✓		✓			✓
4	7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>				✓			
5	5-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 5-punctata</i>				✓			
6	A Garden Spider	<i>Argyope trifasciata</i>			✓				

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Birdwatching on Ponta de São Lourenço



Trocaz Pigeon at Riberio Frio