

# Madeira – The Floating Garden

Naturetrek Tour Report

13th – 20th June 2025



*Dactylorhiza foliosa* – Madeira Marsh Orchid



*Sedum farinosum* – Mealy Stonecrop



*Daucus decipiens* – Black Parsley



View from summit of Pico Ruivo

Tour report and photos by Philip Thompson



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Tour participants: Philip Thompson & Alexandre Cruz (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Friday 13th June

We arrived into Funchal Airport from Gatwick in the mid-afternoon where we were met by our coach driver to take us directly to the hotel. The journey allowed us to admire the diverse mix of alien and introduced plant species in the roadside municipal plantings from several corners of the globe! Our attractive hotel was overlooking the ocean with a large and popular pool. After checking in, a time was arranged to meet up for an introductory drink and nibbles before our group dinner in the hotel restaurant.

## Day 2

Saturday 14th June

Our first excursion took us to the central highlands of the island and the area of Ribeiro Frio. Having admired the many exotic planted street trees of the town of Funchal, our route led steadily upwards into areas of plantation forests of *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Pinus pinaster* and various *Acacia* species. The roadsides demonstrated the spread of non-native species such as *Agapanthus praecox*, *Ageratina adenophora* and *Erigeron karvinskianus* with several others that would become familiar during our journeys around the island. We crested the mountain pass onto the northern slopes and suddenly the vegetation took on a different aspect. Here we had entered the protected Laurisilva forests that would have clothed most of the island before man's arrival. The trees and roadside plants here were now mainly native with a number of endemics noticed as we passed. We pulled over to begin our first walk that led along one of the iconic irrigation levadas. Before we set off, we explored the nearby roadside areas that held several notable plants. A healthy colony of the endemic Madeira Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza foliosa*, drew most of our attention, with several other notable plants seen.

At the start of the levada walk, a rockface held both *Sibthorpia peregrina* and *Aichryson villosum* making for a good start. As we made slow and steady progress through the *Laurus novocanariensis* forest, several other plants of note were discovered such as *Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*, *Pericaulis aurita* and *Geranium palmatum*. We eventually reached a splendid viewpoint at Balcoes looking across the forested valley. The very tame Madeiran Chaffinches hopped among the many tourists without much concern. Other notable plants on the rocks here included *Bystropogon punctatus*, *Hypericum glandulosum* and *Helichrysum melaleucum*. Our route then led back to take a steep track down to the road where our bus was parked. We picked up our packed lunches whilst we scanned the local vegetation finding *Cedronella canariensis* growing among the bracken below the road.

A change of scenery was taken after lunch with a drive to the north coast town of Porto do Cruz where we walked through the town and around a large rocky headland promontory. A very different mix of plants were found here such as *Matthiola maderensis*, *Andrayala glandulosa*, *Lotus glaucus* and *Aeonium glutinosum*. The iconic Dragon Tree, *Dracaena draco*, seen by the school was interesting to see, but was a planted specimen. The species is reduced to a couple of wild specimens on the island.

## Day 3

Sunday 15th June

Once again, we headed up into the high centre of the island, this time with a longer walk up to the highest peak, Pico Ruivo, at 1,862m. The early mornings weather was not looking great, with the tops clouded in mist and fog as is common. Luckily, as the day drew on, the mist cleared, and soon we were able to experience and enjoy the

views on offer. We spent the day above the tree line in a habitat of heather dominated slopes. The ericaceous species present comprised both *Erica arborea* and the endemic *Erica platycodon subsp. madericola* with scattered examples of Madeira Bilberry, *Vaccinium padifolium*. An excellent find early in our walk was a large colony of *Sedum farrinosum*, looking rather splendid among the exposed rocks.

As we made our way along the trail, we regularly came upon new species, many of them endemic to the island. Rates of progress varied among the group, depending on their personal interests resulting in us becoming considerably strung out. We passed the area damaged by a bad bushfire from last year, with the plants yet to recover fully. The burn had reached almost to the summit, meaning that a couple of high alpine species remained unfound. Reaching the mountain café, most stopped for refreshments with a few continuing up the final steep climb to the summit. The views here were excellent but, as mentioned, the flora was perhaps not what it could be unfortunately. Regrouping back at the café we retraced our steps to the bus with time having run away from us somewhat. As a result, we were somewhat late for our lunch restaurant some way back down the mountain. We enjoyed a nice meal anyway once it had arrived! Any plans for further explorations were cancelled as we were well into the afternoon by the time we left the restaurant, meaning we headed straight back to the hotel.

## Day 4

## Monday 16th June

Our route today took us to the far east of the island where we parked at the start of the hiking route out onto the Sao Lourenco peninsular. The habitat here was, once more, a complete contrast to areas previously visited. The terrain was open windswept grassland and bereft of any trees or shrubs. As such, we were to encounter several new plant species during our walk. Several members of the *Aizoaceae* and *Asteraceae* families were prominent such as *Aizoon canariensis*, *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, *Phonus lanatus*, *Cynara cardunculus subsp. ferocissima* and the *Helichrysums*, *devium* and *obconicum*. Flora was not the only thing that caught our attention as we encountered a couple of Berthelot's Pipits and a Hoopoe. The Hoopoe could be heard distantly calling for some time before luckily it eventually flew from behind a hillock to settle on a stone wall before flying close past. We also were able to pay attention to the geology of the area, with several lava tubes exposed on the surface from the islands early volcanic origins. There were a couple of impressive viewpoints of the coastal cliffs and geological formations where we spent a little time among the crowds of general tourists. Walking on a little further we found a few flowering examples of the *Echium nervosum* or Small Pride of Madeira for comparison to *Echium candicans*, the Pride of Madeira, seen on previous days.

With time drawing on, and not wanting a repeat late lunch as yesterday, we timed our return accurately. A couple of the group had managed to walk further to enjoy the far end of the route before catching up with the main group once more. We then drove into the small fishing village of Conical where we had a fine seafood lunch. A number of Atlantic Canaries were seen within the town on our walk to and from the bus.

On our return journey we had plenty of time to visit an intact valley near Porto Novo that showed the Olive/Mediterranean flora that occurred throughout the southern side of the island at lower levels. This is a habitat that has sadly suffered from urban development and only now occurs in small pockets. Here were good examples of *Olea europaea subsp. cerasiformis* among plentiful *Euphorbia piscatoria* forming the taller components beneath which grew a number of widespread Mediterranean herbaceous plants. Overhead a couple of Trocaz Pigeons flew in to settle on the trees on the skyline shortly followed by a Peregrine, a species rarely seen on the island, our local guide having never previously seen one!

## Day 5

Tuesday 17th June

Today was a 'free' day for the group members, to allow them to explore independently as their tastes dictated. Most had opted to take an additionally arranged morning boat trip from Funchal harbour. This proved to be an enjoyable and productive trip. We got off to a great start with the sighting of a large Loggerhead Turtle picked out by chance in the vast expanse of open ocean! We then picked up a couple of distant Cory's Shearwaters, with increasingly better and closer views as the trip progressed. A single Bulwer's Petrel made a rapid transit past the front of our boat to soon pass out of sight. Things then got pretty exciting with the boat connecting with a large school of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins that swam very close alongside the boat on both sides affording wonderful close-up views for a considerable time before it was deemed appropriate to leave them undisturbed and begin our return to shore. The Cory's Shearwaters that had increased in number with several rafts on the surface had been a little overshadowed by the dolphins, but had given some great encounters too.

Back in the harbour the group members split up with most, once more, taking the cable car up to the Monte Palace Tropical Garden and the Madeira Botanical Garden. Others explored the town and historic buildings as well as the abundant cafes.

## Day 6

Wednesday 18th June

We set out in the morning heading along the coast westwards to reach the impressive Cabo Girao sea cliffs, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the world at 580m. We stopped here to walk out to the viewpoint with its glass floor, through which one could see down to the sea far below! A couple of new interesting plants were growing alongside the viewpoint such as *Sideritis candicans* and *Phagnalon saxatile*.

Travelling on a little further west we stopped off at the cliffs in a small valley near Ribeira Brava. The spot has a degree of protection as it lies alongside some rather industrial units in a rather unprepossessing spot. Nonetheless, there were a number of particular rare and scarce endemic plants found. Of major significance were several examples of *Musschia aurea* (unfortunately not in flower), *Sedum fusiforme*, *Aeonium glandulosum* and *Teucrium heterophyllum*.

Heading on, we climbed up to the centre of the island to further explore the laurisilva forest whilst walking another levada trail at Encumeada. Our previous visit to the laurel forest had mainly comprised *Laurus novocanariensis*, but during our walk now we were able to compare examples of *Persea barbuiana* and *indica*. These trees are all rather similar with evergreen coriaceous leaves, but our local guide pointed out a couple of distinguishing features. We were fortunate to discover a couple of examples of the rather scarce *Orchis mascula* subsp. *scopulorum* by the track. Another tree species picked out was *Myrica faya*, the Wax Myrtle. In the levada stream a few small Rainbow Trout were spotted. Completing our walk, having retraced our steps, we stopped in a nearby restaurant for lunch.

Refreshed, we drove on down to the northern side of the island to another rather unexpected stop near the main road. We pulled off into a small car park and walked out to scan the surrounding forested slopes. This spot has proved very reliable to obtain decent views of Trocaz Pigeon, as so it proved, as we were soon watching a number of birds close by feeding among the shrubby trees. A further stop was taken in a small municipal park and recreation area nearby where we sought the Climbing Butcher's Broom, *Semele androgyna*. We found several plants, a few of which were in flower. We ended the day with the rather lengthy drive back.

## Day 7

Thursday 19th June

To complete our exploration of the length and breadth of Madeira, we headed to the western end beginning with a walk in the open grassy plateau region of Paul da Serra. This area can prove popular with general tourists, but we carefully chose an area away from the crowds. The terrain was very different to areas previously explored, being much more open and grassy, resulting our only land mammal sighting of the trip, a Rabbit! Our walk began in fairly open habitat but the track led through a forest of Tree Heath, *Erica arborea*, with a very different feel to our previous walks. Among the rather sparse ground flora were further examples of the endemic *Viola sequeirae*. A little passing mist helped create a quiet dreamy quality to the walk. Our route led out into an open area of very thin soils over the base rock and views of the surrounding valleys appearing from the mist. A number of widespread European plants were found growing in this rather depauperate soil conditions, all of which were rather diminutive and prostrate, such as *Illecebrum verticillatum*, *Crassula tillaea* and *Alchemilla australis*.

At our next stop proved we could not avoid the crowds as we pulled over at the Fanal area. Here the attraction was clear as the surrounding area had an open parklike quality, quite unlike anywhere else on Madeira. The closely grazed grassland was dotted with ancient and venerable specimens of the Fetid laurel, *Ocotea foetens*, another member of the Lauraceae and a Macronesian endemic. Walking out across the open grazed grassland we headed towards a pond. Interestingly we found numerous flowers of the small *Sisyrinchium micranthum*, a species native to Central and South America, looking very much naturalised, but not currently included in the written Flora of Madeira or the excellent online flora of Portugal. The pond water level was quite low but full of both Bog Pondweed, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, and Perez's Frogs!

For lunch we headed on to the coastal village of Porto Moniz where the restaurant chosen was known for its excellent seafood. Walking back to our bus along the seafront, we admired the volcanic rock pools that created an idyllic and safe swimming area. A passing Roseate Tern was picked out among the numerous Common Tern by one of the group.

We then drove on eastwards along the coast to pull off and admire the famous waterfall of Veu da Noiva or Bridal Veil with a drop of 30m into the Atlantic. Whilst enjoying the views of the coastal cliffs and ocean, we were still finding new plants such as the Macronesian endemic *Asparagus umbellatus* and the Madeiran endemic *Sideroxylon mirmulano* of the Sapotaceae.

## Day 8

Friday 20th June

We were due to fly home on a mid-afternoon flight and with no planned excursion today this morning allowed the group members to have a final exploration of the town and its bountiful parks.

The plant pots outside the front door of the hotel had caught the sharp eyes of one of the group, as within were two rather fascinating ferns, one of which of a very primitive form. This was the Whisk Fern, *Psilotum nudum*, growing alongside a close relative, the Small Adder's-tongue Fern, *Ophioglossum azoricum*. The latter species is regarded as a rare native to the island, the former not currently recorded on the island! How they arrived together in the plant pots at the hotel remains a mystery?!





View from Balcoes

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## Species lists

### Plants

Scientific name	Common name
<b>Macaronesian endemic *, Madeiran endemic **</b>	
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES</b>	<b>FERNS &amp; ALLIES</b>
<b>Lycophytes</b>	
<b>Selaginellaceae</b>	<b>Lesser Clubmoss Family</b>
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	A Clubmoss
<b>Calamophytes</b>	
<b>Equisetaceae</b>	<b>Horsetail Family</b>
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great Horsetail
<b>Leptosporangiate Ferns</b>	<b>True Ferns</b>
<b>Blechnaceae</b>	<b>Hard-fern Family</b>
<i>Woodwardia radicans</i>	Woodwardia or Chain Fern
<b>Davalliaceae</b>	<b>Hare's-foot Fern Family</b>
<i>Davallia canariensis</i>	Hare's-foot Fern
<b>Dennstaedtiaceae</b>	<b>Bracken Family</b>
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<b>Ophioglossaceae</b>	<b>Adder's-tongue Family</b>
<i>Ophioglossum azoricum</i>	Small Adder's-tongue Fern
<b>Polypodiaceae</b>	<b>Polypody Family</b>
<i>Polypodium macaronesicum*</i>	Macaronesian Polypody
<b>Psilotaceae</b>	
<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	Whisk Fern
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>	<b>CONIFERS</b>
<b>Cupressaceae</b>	<b>Juniper Family</b>
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Japanese Red Cedar
<i>Juniperus cedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas Cedar
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey Pine
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>
<b>Pre-dicots</b>	<b>Primitive Angiosperms</b>

Scientific name	Common name
<b>Lauraceae</b>	<b>Bay Family</b>
<i>Laurus novocanariensis</i> *	A Laurel
<i>Ocotea foetens</i> *	Fetid Laurel
<i>Persea barbuja</i> *	Canary Laurel
<i>Persea indica</i> *	Madeiran Mahogany
<b>Eudicots</b>	<b>True Angiosperms</b>
<b>Acanthaceae</b>	<b>Bear's-breech Family</b>
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech
<b>Aizoaceae</b>	<b>Dewplant Family</b>
<i>Aizoon canariensis</i>	Aizoon
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Yellow Hottentot Fig
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Common Ice-plant
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	An Ice-plant
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>	New Zealand Spinach
<b>Amaranthaceae (incl. Chenopodiaceae)</b>	<b>Pigweed Family</b>
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> var. <i>sicula</i>	-
<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	Shrubby Orache
<i>Bassia (Chenoleoides) tomentosa</i>	A Saltwort
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>
<i>Ammi majus</i>	Bullwort
<i>Bupleurum salicifolia</i> subsp. <i>salicifolia</i> **	
<i>Cyclospermum leptophyllum</i>	-
<i>Daucus decipiens</i> **	Black Parsley
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire
<i>Oenanthe divericata</i> **	Madeira Water Dropwort
<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Parsley
<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>	<b>Holly Family</b>
<i>Ilex perado</i> subsp. <i>perado</i> **	Madeira Holly
<b>Araliaceae</b>	<b>Ivy Family</b>
<i>Hedera maderensis</i> **	Ivy
<b>Berberidaceae</b>	<b>Barberry Family</b>
<i>Berberis maderensis</i> **	
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Forget-me-not Family</b>
<i>Echium candicans</i> **	Pride of Madeira
<i>Echium nervosum</i> **	Small Pride of Madeira
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress



Scientific name	Common name
<i>Crambe fruticosa</i> **	
<i>Erysimum bicolor</i> *	Madeiran Mountain Stock
<i>Lepidium didymum</i>	Lesser Swinecress
<i>Matthiola maderensis</i> **	Madeira Sea-stock
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water-cress
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish
<i>Sinapidendron angustifolium</i> **	Narrow-leaved Mustard
<i>Sinapidendron frutescens</i> **	A Rock-cress
<i>Sinapidendron gymnocalyx</i> **	Naked-calyx Rock-cress
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	Shepherd's Cress
<b>Cactaceae</b>	<b>Cactus Family</b>
<i>Opuntia tuna</i>	Elephant-ear Prickly Pear
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>
<i>Musschia aurea</i> **	Golden Musschia
<i>Musschia wollastonii</i> **	Wollaston's Musschia
<i>Trachelium caeruleum</i>	Throatwort
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>
<i>Valeriana calcitrapae</i>	Small Valerian
<i>Valeriana rubra</i>	Red Valerian
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i>	Coral Necklace
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<b>Clethraceae</b>	<b>Lily-of-the-Valley Tree Family</b>
<i>Clethra arborea</i> **	Lily-of-the-Valley Tree
<b>Asteraceae</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	White Eupatorium
<i>Andryala glandulosa</i> **	an Andryala
<i>Andryala subglabrata</i> **	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Mayweed
<i>Argyranthemum pinnatifidum</i> subsp. <i>pinnatifidum</i> **	Argyranthemum
<i>Argyranthemum pinnatifidum</i> subsp. <i>succulentum</i> **	Mandon's Chrysanthemum
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	A Bur-marigold
<i>Bidens pilosa</i> var. <i>minor</i>	A Bur-marigold
<i>Bidens pilosa</i> var. <i>radiata</i>	A Bur-marigold
<i>Carlina salicifolia</i> *	Willow-leaved Carlina Thistle
<i>Cichorium pumilum</i>	Chicory
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i> var. <i>ferocissima</i>	Cardoon
<i>Delairea odorata</i>	German Ivy
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican Fleabane
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	Gallant Soldier
<i>Helichrysum devium</i> **	Everlasting
<i>Helichrysum foetidum</i>	Stinking Everlasting
<i>Helichrysum melaleucum</i> **	White Everlasting
<i>Helichrysum obconicum</i> **	Everlasting
<i>Helminthotheca (Picris) echinoides</i>	Prickly Oxtongue
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's-ear
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Pericaulis aurita</i> **	Madeira Groundsel
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	Phagnalon
<i>Phonus lanatus</i>	A Safflower
<i>Scolymus maculatus</i>	Spotted Golden Thistle
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus fruticosus</i> **	Shrubby Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus pinnatus</i> **	A Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus ustulatus</i> **	A Sow-thistle
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Tolpis macrorrhiza</i> **	Madeira Hawkweed
<i>Tolpis succulenta</i> *	Hawkweed
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Morning Glory
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	<b>Stonecrop Family</b>
<i>Aeonium glandulosum</i> **	Disc Houseleek
<i>Aeonium glutinosum</i> **	Viscid Houseleek
<i>Aichryson divaricatum</i> **	Madeira Stonecrop
<i>Aichryson villosum</i> **	Downy Stonecrop
<i>Crassula multicava</i>	Crassula
<i>Crassula tillaea</i>	Mossy Stonecrop
<i>Sedum farinosum</i> **	Mealy Stonecrop
<i>Sedum fusiforme</i> **	
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heath Family</b>
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather
<i>Erica platycodon subsp. madericola</i> **	Besom Heath
<i>Vaccinium padifolium</i> **	Madeira Bilberry
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>
<i>Euphorbia mellifera</i> *	Melliferous Spurge
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge
<i>Euphorbia piscatoria</i> **	Smooth Spear-leaved Spurge
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak

Scientific name	Common name
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<b>Geranium Family</b>
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium palmatum</i> *	Anemone-leaved Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Pelargonium glutinosum</i>	Pelargonium
<b>Hydrangeaceae</b>	<b>Mock-orange Family</b>
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Hydrangea
<b>Hypericaceae</b>	<b>St.John's-wort Family</b>
<i>Hypericum grandifolium</i> *	A St.John's Wort
<i>Hypericum glandulosum</i> *	A St.John's Wort
<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>	Trailing St.John's Wort
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>
<i>Bystropogon maderensis</i> **	Bystropogon
<i>Bystropogon punctatus</i> *	Bystropogon
<i>Cedronella canariensis</i> *	Canary Dragon Herb
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil
<i>Origanum vulgare</i> subsp. <i>virens</i>	Marjoram
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Sideritis candicans</i> **	Madeira Ironwort
<i>Stachys oxymastrum</i>	A Woundwort
<i>Teucrium abutiloides</i> **	
<i>Teucrium betonicum</i> **	A Germander
<i>Teucrium heterophyllum</i> **	
<i>Thymus caespititius</i>	A Thyme
<b>Leguminosae (Fabaceae)</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Cytisus scorpiarius</i>	Broom
<i>Genista maderensis</i> **	Shrub Trefoil
<i>Genista tenera</i> **	Madeira Greenweed
<i>Lotus glaucus</i> **	Madeiran Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Lotus parviflorus</i>	A Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Common Bird's-foot
<i>Scorpiarius vermiculatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch
<i>Trifolium ligusticum</i>	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	Soft Clover
<i>Vicia capreolata</i> **	A Vetch
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flax Family</b>

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Linum strictum</i>	Upright Yellow Flax
<b>Myricaceae</b>	<b>Wax Myrtle Family</b>
<i>Myrica faya</i> *	Wax Myrtle
<b>Myrtaceae</b>	<b>Myrtles &amp; Gum Family</b>
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum
<b>Nyctaginaceae</b>	<b>Bougainvillea Family</b>
<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Olive Family</b>
<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cerasiformis</i> **	Olive
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<b>Broomrape Family</b>
<i>Odontites hollianus</i> **	Madeiran Eyebright
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Lesser Broomrape
<b>Papaveraceae (incl Fumariaceae)</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Californian Poppy
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<b>Plantain Family</b>
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Globularia salicina</i> *	Canary Globe Flower
<i>Plantago arborescens</i> subsp. <i>maderensis</i> **	Madeira Plantain
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago leiopetala</i> **	Maderian Giant Plantain
<i>Sibthorpia peregrina</i> **	Madeiran Moneywort
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Knotweed Family</b>
<i>Persicaria capitata</i>	Pink Garden Knotgrass
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep-sorrel
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned Dock
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex maderensis</i> **	Madeiran Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<b>Primrose Family</b>
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> var. <i>minor</i> *	A Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> var. <i>major</i> *	A Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<b>Resedaceae</b>	<b>Mignonette Family</b>
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld

Scientific name	Common name
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>
<i>Aphanes arvensense sensu stricto</i>	Parsley Piert
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Potentilla indica</i>	Yellow-flowered Strawberry
<i>Rosa mandonii</i>	Madeira Rose
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium productum**</i>	Madeiran Bedstraw
<i>Phyllis nobla*</i>	Bastard Hare's-ear
<i>Rubia occidens</i>	Madeiran Madder
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>
<i>Salix pedicellata subsp. canariensis*</i>	Madeiran Willow
<b>Sapindaceae (incl. Aceraceae)</b>	<b>Pride-of-India &amp; Maple Family</b>
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<b>Sapotaceae</b>	
<i>Sideroxylon mirmulano**</i>	Ironwood
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>
<i>Scrophularia hirta**</i>	Madeira Figwort
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<b>Nightshade Family</b>
<i>Solanum linnaeanum</i>	-
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Mauritius Nightshade
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>	<b>Tamarix Family</b>
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Tamarisk
<b>Tropaeolaceae</b>	<b>Nasturtiums</b>
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Nasturtium
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<b>Nettle Family</b>
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pelitory -of-the-wall
<i>Soleirolia soleiroliae</i>	Mind-your-own-Business
<b>Verbenaceae</b>	<b>Vervain Family</b>
<i>Lantana camera</i>	Lantana
<b>Violaceae</b>	<b>Violet Family</b>
<i>Viola sequeirae**</i>	a Wood Violet
<b>Monocots</b>	<b>Monocotyledons</b>
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	<b>Daffodil Family</b>
<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>	African Lily
<i>Nothoscordum gracile</i>	Slender False Garlic



Scientific name	Common name
<b>Araceae</b>	<b>Arum Family</b>
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Taro
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Calla Lily
<b>Asparagaceae</b>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>
<i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant
<i>Agave attenuata</i>	Swan's-neck Agave
<i>Dracaena draco</i> *	Dragon Tree
<i>Semele androgyna</i> *	Climbing Butcher's-broom
<b>Cannaceae</b>	<b>Canna Lily Family</b>
<i>Canna indica</i>	Yellow Canna Lily
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>
<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiflora</i>	Montbretia
<i>Sisyrinchium micranthum</i>	
<i>Watsonia borbonica</i>	Bugle Lily
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchid Family</b>
<i>Dactylorhiza foliosa</i> **	Madeira Marsh Orchid
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i> subsp. <i>scopulorum</i> **	Madeiran Rock Orchid
<b>Potamogetonaceae</b>	<b>Pondweed Family</b>
<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	Bog Pondweed
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae (Asphodelaceae)</b>	<b>Asphodel Family</b>
<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	Sword Aloe
<b>Zingiberaceae</b>	<b>Ginger Lily Family</b>
<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>	Yellow Ginger Lily
<b>FUNGI</b>	
<i>Laurobasidium laurii</i>	Madeiran Laurel Fungus

## Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>				✓				
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			✓					
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>					✓			
Bulwer's Petrel	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>					✓			
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>								✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						✓	✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓						
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougalii</i>							✓	
Feral Pigeon / Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Trocaz Pigeon	<i>Columba trocaz</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Plain Swift	<i>Apus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓				
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heineken</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Curruca conspicillata orbitalis</i>			✓					
Madeira Firecrest	<i>Regulus madeirensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula cabreræ</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓				H	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea schmitzi</i>		✓				✓		
Berthelot's Pipit	<i>Anthus berthelotii madeirensis</i>				✓				
Madeiran Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla maderensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>						✓	✓	
Atlantic Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i>		H		✓			✓	✓

## Other vertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
<b>AMPHIBIANS &amp; REPTILES:</b>	
Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>
Madeiran Wall Lizard	<i>Lacerta (Teira) dugesii</i>
Perez's Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>
Common Wall Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>
<b>MAMMALS:</b>	
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
	<b>Pieridae</b>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea faillae</i>
	<b>Lycaenidae</b>
Madeiran Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas phlaeoides</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
	<b>Nymphalidae</b>
Monarch or Milkweed Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Macaronesian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa vulcania</i>
	<b>Satyrinae</b>
European Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>
Madeiran Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphia</i>