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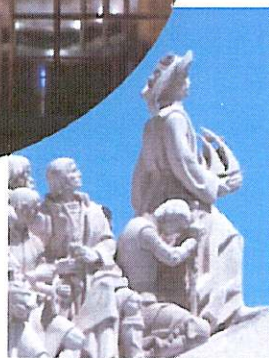
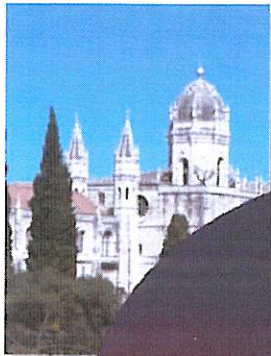
Book of abstracts

VIII INTERNATIONAL ETHNOBOTANY SYMPOSIUM

To honour Prof. Walter F. de Oliveira

Ethnopsychiatrist

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Ethnobotany and traditional knowledge in the North-eastern Portugal: Past and present plant use and management

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Some ethnobotanical surveys conducted since ten years ago (Etnobotânica do Parque Natural de Montesinho (2000-2005), Etnobotânica do Nordeste Português: saberes plantas e usos (POCI/ANT/59395, 2004-2008), Cultibos, yerbas y saberes (ON2-03-0230-FEDER-000066, 2009-2011) focus on the system of local knowledge on plant resources and the persistence of traditional plant use practices. Past and present plant use and management issues emerged from these broader studies.

Data have been collected through consented interviews, participant-observation and field walking. The reported species were identified according to Flora Iberica and voucher specimens are stored at the Herbarium of the Escola Superior Agrária in Bragança.

An ethnobotanical catalogue related to 400 vascular *taxa*, 55% wild species, has been set. Twenty five fungi species and lichen are also mentioned. About 848 practical uses organized in ten main categories and corresponding to 626 popular names were reported. A high consensus index (0,93) was registered. Medicinal plants (180 spp.) and food plants (120 spp.) had the highest number of citations and were those with the highest number of described applications.

Traditional plant use was/is largely based on a rich and diverse wild flora existing in the Portuguese north-eastern region and on daily agricultural practices and management. Decades of isolation and economic and social constrains promoted a local knowledge and expertise and constructed a folk plant-use system which is suffering a recent decline, although the persistence of some plant-based uses applied simultaneous with modern trends, recently introduced in local culture by present-day media, popular books and middle-aged emigrants returning home, for instance.

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