

58TH ANNUAL MEETING

of the SOCIETY

FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY

BRAGANÇA - PORTUGAL

JUNE 4-9, 2017

Living in a global world:

local knowledge and sustainability

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

58TH ANNUAL MEETING

of the **SOCIETY**
FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY
BRAGANÇA - PORTUGAL
JUNE 4-9, 2017

Title: Living in a global world: ethnobotany, local knowledge and sustainability. 58th Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Botany. Book of Abstracts

Coordination: Ana Maria Carvalho, Manuel Pardo de Santayana & Rainer Bussmann

Edition: Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Centro de Investigação de Montanha & Society for Economic Botany · 2017
5300-253 Bragança · Portugal
Tel. (+351) 273 303 200 · Fax (+351) 273 325 405
www.ipb.pt

Design: Image Services of Instituto Politécnico de Bragança

ISBN: 978-972-745-224-8

Disponível em: <http://hdl.handle.net/10198/14256>



SPRINGER NATURE



Plants species and techniques used for charcoal production in the Northeast of Portugal.

Authors: Barreira, Isabel de Sá [1], Carvalho, Ana Maria [2].

Humanized landscapes are mosaics of great natural and anthropological values. People have been modeling the landscapes, and as closely linked, both evolved together. The forest and the scrublands provided the necessary woody resources for the most diverse human activities. For example, wood for the construction of structures and for the manufacture of objects, wood for lighting, heating and cooking. In this context, communities have developed many strategies to obtain the materials needed for their existence. These strategies, conditioned by regional availability, were also determined by skills and technical capacities as well cultural habits of each community. Charcoal has been following the path of societies since the earliest times, being a major energy product in many processes. The use of charcoal has made many advantages for social life such as heating houses, cooking, and also as fuelwood for mines and forges. For decades, in Aveleda, a community in the mountainous Portuguese northeastern region of Trás-os-Montes, charcoal production represented the main source of subsistence for many families. Some experts used to make charcoal out of the combustion of wood from *Erica australis* L. (an Iberian heather species) and *Cistus ladanifer* L. (gum rockrose). The charcoal production required knowledge and a laborious manufacturing process. The most important skills were mainly concerned with the selection of the particular plant materials (e.g. heather roots and stems and gum rockrose trunks) and the precise moment to stop combustion. The charcoal was sold in the city of Bragança and, especially, after the Spanish Civil War was quite well paid, because the raw material was scarce due to overharvesting. Nowadays charcoal production is mainly used for domestic consumption, mostly to use in forges to manufacture tools and traditional handmade knives. This presentation focuses the plants species and techniques used for charcoal production and its social context, in rural communities of the Northeastern Portugal.

Keywords: Charcoal, Traditional knowledge, *Erica australis* L., Portuguese Ethnobotany, Northeastern Portugal.

Affiliation: 1 - ALDEIA, Ap 29 , 5230-314 Vimioso, Portugal; 2 - Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Mountain Research Centre (CIMO), Campus de Santa Apolonia, 5300-253 Bragança, Portugal