









Geo-stories of our places and people: Santana

The three villages compounding Santana are located at the border of a wide valley that falls gently towards the Tejo river. From an even and vast ground, the slopes raise controlled by faults, between the blocs of Serrinha in the west and S.Miguel in the east. From there the alluvial fan of Taberna Seca drops, which can be observed along the path acceding in the hills of Santana, a magnificent marker of past climate variations. The mountains of S.Miguel developed onwards an impressive fault scarp where important rock-nested birds coexist and the largest colony of griffon vultures in Portuguese territories lives. The graben of Arneiro-Vilas Ruivas is a central element in the landscape as it characterizes the national natural monument "Portas de Ródão". With its existence and its crossing of faults, some of them older than 300 million years, others reactivated until the present, the "Portas de Ródão" were constructed by the Tejo escaping around here in the direction of the Atlantic Ocean since more or less some three million years ago. Over the thousands of years, the Tagus crossed narrowly the "Portas de Ródão", in order to flow into the graben of Arneiro soon after while depositing great quantities of sediments. In these fluvial terraces, the man of the middle Paleolithic left rare evidences of his way of live. Much later, the sandy terraces that give name to Arneiro were revolved by the Roman Empire searching for gold and transforming the landscape radically in what we see today. The "Conhal do Arneiro" goldmine, reaching an extension of 90 ha, is a model of mineral exploitation of secondary deposits of gold in the Roman period with unique characteristics in Portugal. Extensive piles of pebbles of the river mark the landscape in big waves petrified by a river located here long ago and not running anymore, even in times of dramatic flooding. The faces of the exploitation are tailored in detrital sediments presenting themselves still as new with scars of the exploitation method using high amounts of water. And also the decantation ponds of very fine material are still storing water, in the rear of the tailing evacuation canals opening towards the Tejo. But the storage water reservoirs and emissary canals connecting those at the exploitation faces are almost disappearing. In the Vala (trench) dos Mouros, segments of the master canal sending water from river valley of Nisa to the main mine remained. Possibly related with the big exploitation of gold is the "Buraca da Faiopa" in the heights of the S.Miguel Mountain where tales about the Moorish charmers are settled, an iron mine used for producing agricultural and mining tools.

The villages of Arneiro, Pardo and Duque show a popular Alentejo style architecture with smooth outlines. Monuments do not exist, but it is the nature that monumentalizes itself in the surroundings. Following an agricultural tradition, the villages don't forget, however the Tejo passing by so close.

Only a few years ago the traditional boats of the Tejo, the "picaretos", were built here. The fish of the river populate the gastronomy of Santana, with major reference to the Túlio restaurant with a very tasty offer of fish. Indeed the tastes of the river are the theme for an annual festival organized by the parish council. And after a fantastic gastronomical experience, is it possible nowadays to stay at the riverbanks of the Teio, at the Conhal do Arneiro, in a magnificent accommodation between olive trees and with stunning views over Pego das Portas, especially at the end of the afternoon. From here goes the path of Conhal to discover all the marvelous transformed landscapes formed in thousands of years by man, for what the Castelejo and the S.Miguel hills are incredible observation platform und fundamental for the understanding of the Roman mineral exploitation method. The Conhal do Arneiro mine is a jewel for our archaeological heritage which is based in the geological Natural Monument Portas of Ródão. A key for understanding its meaning will be the Interpretation Centre of Arneiro allowing the interpretation of the wide but at the same time distinct heritage. Interpretative routes over walkaways could appreciate and improve the experience in the Conhal while conserving the landscape that makes Santana both special and charming, in the context of the Naturtejo Geopark – Global Geopark of the UNESCO.

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The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



2nd May – Excursion reading the landscape at the footpath "Secrets of the Mourão valley – Segredos de Vale Mourão". This activity was fostered by the Centre for Living Science of the Forest and integrated a project that was developed by the library of the school of Proença-a-Nova linked to different perspectives of reading. On this day 34 students of the 11th grade accompanied by two teachers and one instructor of the Centre for Living Science of the Forest went until the Geomonument "Portas de Vale Mourão". During one part of the footpath "Segredos de Vale Mourão" a reading of the landscape was done which included observation and interpretation of the biodiversity and the geodiversity presented in this area. The instructors of this excursion were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.



4th May – Participation in the International Seminar for good practice in Tourism. It was held in S.Pedro do Sul the 4th edition of the SIBTUR in the days of 4th and 5th May. The Naturtejo Geopark was asked to share its good practices at the panel "Fluvial Tourism and Geotourism". Manuela Catana presented the talk titled "Fluvial Tourism and Geotourism and Geotourism" and Geotourism in the Naturtejo Geopark". The event was organized by the Professional School of Carvalhais with help of the Entidade Regional de Turismo do Centro and the city council of S.Pedro do Sul. During the two days participated around 400 people in the seminar, mainly students and teachers of professional schools and secondary schools as well as of the Instituto Politécnico de Viseu that offers classes in the field of Tourism.



4th May – Technical visit of the National Living Science Network along the walkingpath "Segredos do Vale Mourão. The geomonument "Portas do Amourão" was visited by 3 technicians of the National Living Science Network and 3 technicians of the Centre for Living Science of the Forest with the aim of observing its geodiversity and biodiversity as well its pedagogical and touristic potential in a context of sustainable development. The instructor of this visit was Hugo Oliveira.



4th to 13th May – Ichnia 2016, and international scientific event involving specialists of the whole world. During four days the Naturtejo Geopark, Global Geopark of the UNESCO, held in the rooms of the Management College of Idanha-a-Nova the major international scientific event dedicated to Ichnology with around 150 participants of the whole world and 34 countries represented. This congress, for the first time organized in Portugal and for the second time in Europe, is the most important event organized in the scientific field of Paleontology, in cooperation with the International Association of Ichnology and the National Museum of Natural History and Science.

The welcoming of the congressmen was done with handmade Geoliqueurs Acha Doce: ore, entrails of the earth and gold representing the territory of the Geopark and its natural and traditional values opening the door for discussions of recent progress about the registration of biological behavior with guest speakers, oral communications and posters, workshops presented by researchers such as professors of different and famous international universities in the field of Geoscience and Bioscience, as well as specialists of research institutes and the petroleum industry. Even in the breaks between the works the tasty Trilobite biscuits, Daedalus, pieces of soil and a Cruziana cake designed by the Geocakes factory were eaten by the congressmen.

The International Association of Ichnology attributed eight prizes to students for submitting works at the conference in the frame of their doctoral thesis and commemorated Ichnologists who passed away recently, among them Adolf Seilacher, responsible for the internationalization of the Penha Garcia fossil site and decision maker at the candidature of the Naturtejo Geopark to the Global Geopark Network of the UNESCO.

During the excursion to the ichnological Park in Penha Garcia the delegates could discover one of the most important Portuguese ichnological sites, known worldwide, designed for a special edition of the GeoVinho Súbito "Cruziana from Penha Garcia, since 1884" that delighted the participants at the Icebreaker dinner together with traditional sounds of the Creative City of the UNESCO, in a cultural program that included as well a time travel at the medieval dinner at the Medieval market in Monsanto and with an, already usual, football match between ichnologists at the gym of the local school José Silvestre Ribeiro. The pre- and post-congress excursions, coordinated by Carlos Neto de Carvalho and organized by the Naturtejo Geopark team together with Portuguese and Spanish professors, covered the whole country including a cross-border approach with extending into several locations at the Spanish border.

A special edition of the Portuguese Scientific Communications in Geology Journal: "Ichnology of Portugal and Cross-border" was printed and dedicated to the listing of the evolutionary Fossils in Portugal reuniting the major specialists of the topic. This publication presenting the current state of Ichnological studies in Portugal has a unique character and describes an international reference for specialists dealing with these topics of Paleontology.

This congress was possible with the support of the Naturtejo, the municipals Idanha-a-Nova and Oleiros, the Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco, the Escola Superior de Gestão de Idanha-a-Nova, the Tourist Board of Portugal, the Associação Portuguesa de Geólogos, the Scutvias, the Instituto de Conservação da Natureza, the National Commission of the UNESCO, the Cafés Delta, the Centro de Ciência Viva de Lagos and the Centro de Interpretação Geológica de Canelas, under the high patronage of the UNESCO.

According to Carlos Neto de Carvalho, president of the executive commission of the international congress and scientific coordinator of the Geopark, this event showed the scientific relevance of the ichnological sites in Portugal, for example in Penha Garcia and Serra do Muradal and also strengthened scientific and institutional partnerships, national and international and enhanced the need of providing continuity at study, protection and appreciation of the Portuguese geological heritage.

6th to 8th May – Touristic-program "Spring in the Naturtejo Geopark". Fernando Barbosa brought again a group of friends to the Naturtejo Geopark for participating in a program. This time 28 persons visited Monsanto, Penha Garcia and Idanha-a-Velha guided by Rui Nunes.

6th to 8th May – The Divine Holy Cross transported Monsanto to the past. The Holy Cross pilgrimage again took the Templar town of Monsanto on a travel into the past with uncountable historical recreations and activities occupying the streets and squares of the village. There were parades, theatricalities, tournaments, attack on the castle, Templar dinner, medieval market, witches, travelling players, revelry and traditional games that made the visitor feeling they are in the medieval period. "Through historical recreation, this festival evoke a way how Idanha-a-Nova and its villages, especially Monsanto, contributed to the construction of their Portugality", explains Armindo Jacinto, president of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova.

The medieval fair recreated a visit of the king D. Afonso Henriques to Monsanto conquering it to the Mmoors in the 12th century and giving the responsibility to defend and repopulate these lands to the Order of the Templars. "All the history is medieval experience presented in an exciting way for the visitors with the streets of Monsanto functioning as scenery for realizing this recreation", adds Armindo Jacinto. Even though it rained, the event maintained its brilliance and invited to walk in the streets and alleys of "The most Portuguese village of Portugal".

The Divine Holy Cross fulfilled its tradition with the ancient parade of locals and visitors climbing up the castle as the ritual of throwing the pot in memory of the victory at the fence of this castle.

10th May – Geopark is an example in a Tourism class of UTAD university. The Naturtejo was invited for a small lecture within the curricular unit of touristic routes in the tourism class of the University of Trás os Montes e Alto Douro. Invited by the professor of this class, Veronika Jukes, Sérgio Ribeiro as technician for tourism hold a videoconference via Calibri presenting the touristic programs of the Naturtejo Geopark, the ellaboration process and all the tasks, that are leading to the creation of digital and printed touristic programs for the 2016 Naturtejo Geopark.



13th May – Excursion "The Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto".

13th May – Excursion "The Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto". During this visit 55 students of the High School Alves Martins from Viseu could do parts of the "Fossils Trail" visiting and interpreting the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. Later the group went to the historical village of Monsanto where they learned the important stages building the genesis of Monsanto's inselberg as well as the natural phenomenon responsible for the granitic landscape. In both places, the students learned different historical and cultural aspects of the villages. The instructors were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.

14th to 16th May – touristic program of the Naturtejo Geopark. The Spanish tour operator Arawak realized another program of the Geopark in which 53 persons participated. The 1st day they visited Monsanto, the 2nd day Castelo Branco (Jardim do Paço Episcopal, Museu Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior) and Vila Velha de Ródão with a boat trip. The last day they went to learn about Penha Garcia doing the "Fossils Trail". This program was accompanied by the Casa do Forno company.

16th May – excursion to the "Portas de Ródão" natural monument and the Ichnological park of Penha Garncia. With the school of Belmonte 55 students and 7 teachers of the 7th, 10th and 11th year of the Natural Science and biology and geology classes came to the Park to understand the earth history and evolution of life in two main geomonuments of the Naturtejo Geopark.

During a boat trip on the Tejo River in Vila Velha de Ródão the students learned about different archeological aspects regarding to the human occupation of this area. The students observed the flight of griffon vultures and black-storks at the Portas de Ródão as well as identified some species of the riparian vegetation and analyzed the geological history responsible for the formation of this important natural monument. After the boat trip the students visited the Interpretation Centre for Rock art in the Tejo Valley (CIART). In order to understand the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, the students did a part of the Fossils Trail with an interpretation of the landscape and an analysis of geological, biological, historical and ethnographical heritage of this geomonument and its surroundings. The instructors were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.



18th to 20th May – Bio and Geodiversity in the Erges River gorge –Segura. Under the frame of the natural sciences and mathematics class, 30 students and 3 teachers of the 8th grade of the school Ribeiro Sanches participated in the excursion. Additionally 3 students accompanied by one teacher of the environmental education class of the school Livre da Raia participated in this activity.

Both student groups visited the Interpretation Centre for Biodiversity "Terras de Idanha" (CIB) and explored its panels and multimedia equipment through an exploration guide of the exhibition. During this excursion all the participants did a small hike until the outskirts of the Erges river gorge geomonument learning about the geological aspects of its formation and about the geodiversity of Segura. During the hike the students identified different botanical species like the tamujo, the asparagus and the rosemary as well as different bird species like the griffon vulture and black storks. The instructors were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.

26th May – Association of teachers of the Azores in Castelo Branco. Sérgio Ribeiro did a guided visit of the Paço Episcopal Garden and the Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior Museum for 23 persons of the Association of teachers of the Azores as demanded by the operator Worldtravel.

26th to 28th May – Program "Mountain Trail". A nice couple came to discover the mountains of Oleiros and Proença-a-Nova. They started with the hike "Orvalho GeoTrail" that includes the waterfalls of Fraga da Água d'Alta with the relic forest of Portuguese Laurel and the viewpoint of Mosqueiro. After that they learned to analyze the womb of Serra do Muradal at the viewpoint of Zebro. They ended the first day with a visit of the traditional village of Isna and its ancient chestnut trees. On the following day they visited the Museum Isilda Martins in Sobreira Formosa, and the Schist village of Figueira. Its central part, a community oven, is hidden in a labyrinth of alleys. In the surrounding agricultural grounds populations give name to the "green gold" that is still enriching the village. At the last day they stopped at the Portas de Almourão geomonument, the place where the Ocreza River cuts the intensely deformed quarzite cliffs (once ocean ground thrived with life). In this place the silence of the former geological upheaval is only interrupted by the flights of the griffon vulture. The couple was accompanied by the guides João Geraldes and Rui Nunes.

27th May – Fam Trip of the German operator Marco Polo. The tour operator Marco Polo sent 2 guides to get to know the program provided for June. This recognition was accompanied by Nuno Coelho from Incentivos Outdoor, Jorge Ramos and Sérgio Ribeiro.



28th May to 12th June – Landscape festival returns to the Naturtejo Geopark with a lot of nature and local

products. The European Geoparks Week is an event organized by the UNESCO Global Geoparks and all the geoparks celebrate simultaneously the nature and culture of their territories. The event is extended over whole Europe and the Naturtejo Geopark is taking part since 2006 with the help of the Tourism of Centre board. In the past year, during the European Geoparks Week 900 activities with 80 000 participants were taken place in the European geoparks. In the celebrations of its 10 years after the international recognition as UNESCO territory, the Naturtejo Geopark integrated the municipalities of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Penamacor, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão promoting an integrated way with the municipalities, parishes, companies and local associations in the period of the 28th May until the 12th of June with 15 initiatives representing and promoting the nature, culture and local products. This year the GENERG joins its energy on the environmental promotion of the Naturtejo Geopark with the Festival da Paisagem (Landscape Festival) 2016 as official supporter. At the 28th May the Festival da Paisagem opens with the still mythical Orvalho GeoTrail, one of the best hiking path of the country realized at the end of the afternoon at the crests of the Muradal mountain with a theatricality dinner at the magnificent view point of Cobeço Mosqueiro. On the following day the ARCVASO realizes a hike in the always remarkable village of Vale de Souto. For the less courageous and lovers of the local tastes the traditional Lamb Festival is hold at the same weekend in Rosmaninhal. This is one of the most typical elements of the regional gastronomy and also main topic of the Lamb Fair from Escalos de Baixa held at the weekend of the 11th June. But still at the 29th May the invitation of the village of Aldeia de João Pires is to hike in the unknown Serrinha in search of the granite landforms. This is indeed one of the various geoproposals released by the municipality of Penamacor in association with the villages and local companies for discovering the geological heritage recently recognized by the UNESCO in the Naturtejo Geopark: the workshop of Fossils at the school Ribeiro Sanches, at the 3rd June; the hike "Nature without borders" realized in the Serra da Malcata at the 12th June; the Olympics of the Trilobites during the celebrations of the World Day of Children in the full urban center of Penamacor.

During the same period and complementing the historical offer in a separate environment, the ancient center of Oleiros realizes a medieval market where the products of the mountains, for example the Callum wine, the bread of Isna or the roasted kid, are naturally not missing. At the 5th June the Festa da Espiga do Estreito is taking place in Oleiros. At the last weekend of the Landscape Festival is hold at the Route of Fossils of Penha Garcia. A day full of natural sport activities on "radical tracks". To close the festival, the second Festival of Migas is taking place in Segura with popular celebrations in a regional gastronomical context.

During the period of the landscape Festival, the Incentivos Outdoor Company offers many activities in the nature and boat trips to the Portas de Ródão natural monument. These thematic weekends, filling the Geopark territory with medieval recreations or hiking trails to discover the nature and local culture, offer excellent opportunities for the organization of touristic programs for hotels and tourist animation companies as well as the Naturtejo, E.I.M. with the national and international tour operators and the associates with whom Naturtejo works.

28th May – Landscape Festival begins with the Orvalho GeoTrail. The traditional hike of the Orvalho GeoTrail took place already in its 11th edition. Hundreds of participants followed the traditional path in Orvalho in between gardens, ancient mills and the refreshing waterfalls of Fraga da Água d'Alta, entering the relic woods of Laurissilva and following the walkaways over the Ribeiro da Água d'Alta stream. In the final part the hikers experienced the Muradal mountain in an impressive climb to the viewpoint of Cabeço Mosqueiro, always with great enthusiasm, where a medieval dinner with historical recreation was waiting.

28th May – Hike in the Vale do Souto. The ARCVASO association of the small village of Vale do Souto was again taking part in the Landscape Festival with the organization of its annual hike for tens of participants.



29th May – testing the GeoTrack granits of Serrinha. The municipality of Penamacor in association with the parish council and the Rotas & Raízes company organized the "Hike for discovering the geosite: granite landforms of Serrinha". This was one of Penamacor's various proposals for the European week of Geopakrs event where the people have the opportunity to discover various points of interest at the geosite "granite landforms of Serrinha" along a 12km path in Serrinha in the village of Aldeia de João Pires.



28th and 29th May – In the defense of the lamb with denomination of origin. Again, the village of Rosmaninhal welcomes the Lamb Festival inspired by the extremely strong shepherd culture of the region. There were attractions, arts and crafts, gastronomy products, a living kitchen and the shepherd traditions. It have been two days of festivities where hundreds of people, from lunch to dinner, from regional kitchen to international recipe, with the lamb as "king and master" of the table were served.

Tens of hikers discovered the ancient landscapes of the Naturtejo Geopark through a shepherd's hike "Tracks of Transhumance". "It is an inspiring festival in the heritage of our land, in particular in our cultural legacy of pastoralism, in the animal production, the production of cheese, lamb and other products", stated Armindo Jacinto, president of the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. The attraction was permanent, in and outside of the enclosure, with concerts, thematic activities, living kitchen and rural tours: by foot, by horse and with all-terrain jeeps.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

11 April (Gazeta Rural) – International Paleontological Congress reunites researchers from 30 countries

May (Raiano) – 1st Paeony Festival

May (Raiano) - Divine Holy Cross Fest "carries" Monsanto back to the past

May (O Concelho de Vila Velha de Ródão)– Naturtejo Geopark promotes the Landscape Festival

4 May (Gazeta do Interior) – Divine Holy Cross takes medieval period to Monsanto 4 May (Gazeta do Interior) – Naturtejo Geopark organizes International Congress of Palaeontology

4 May (Gazeta do Interior) – I Paeony Festival was a success

4 May (Povo da Beira) – More than two hundred in the Appalachian Trail

4 May (Povo da Beira) – Monsanto "travels in time" with Medieval Fair

5 May (Reconquista) – Medieval Fair brings life to the village of Monsanto

11 May (Gazeta do Interior) – At the historical village of Monsanto – the Divine Holy Cross resists to time and rain

12 May (Reconquista) – Divine Holey Cross at Monsanto – Back to the past as a party 12 May (Reconquista) – Barrocal gets nature park

12 May (Jornal do Fundão) – Divine Holy Cross Fest "carried" Monsanto back to the Past 25 May (Gazeta do Interior) – Ignited by Geopark – Landscape Festival promotes the region

TV & Radio

May (Radio Clube de Monsanto) – Idanha-a-Nova hosts international congress on ichnology

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



- NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – The massive death of lobsters smothered within their Thalassinoides burrows: the example of the lower Barremian from Lusitanian Basin (Portugal). Comunicações Geológicas, 103 (especial I), 143-152.

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