



### **In this issue:**

But what is Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark after all?  
Environmental education sessions within Life Imperial Project  
Training course for teachers in Naturtejo Geopark  
Gala Group fam trip in Naturtejo  
...and more!

# **CRUZIANA**

**GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE**



## GEO-stories of our places and people: Proença-a-Velha

On the three possible village entrances the panels claim: Proença-a-Velha celebrates its 800 years of age. But this territory of Proença-a-Velha, with 57,75km<sup>2</sup> of plane on the north of Iberian Southern Plateau, dipping into the Ponsul river, goes beyond the village and is much older. Taliscas stream crosses this vast plane from north to south and is the structuring axis for a travel through the area. The stream runs in meanders made through prevailing fracturing NE-SW of the substrate, late-Variscan granite at West and metamorphic shales and greywackes at East, with almost 600 million years old. The granite area has always been more productive as shown by the presence of several Roman remains around the old chapel of Senhora da Granja with medieval origin. Near the old watermill of Coxo and in the meander of the Medelim Stream we find the plains of Faisca where for decades a significant part of Proença-a-Velha residents tried their luck during the rush of tungsten mining, an episode immortalized by Fernando Namora in his book "The Mines of San Francisco". The ruins of one of those ore separators used to formalize what was illegally extracted from these lands still tell its story in its ruins located close to the bridge of Proença. Right after this bridge, slowly flowing or even completely dry in the summer, Taliscas Stream suddenly turns to East though a fault in the Site of the Watermills, creating numerous captures bordered by a fresh riparian gallery. From this, the stream will fit into shale lands, forming meanders controlled by the tectonic structure until reaches Ponsul River. The surface of the polygenic plain, tens of millions years old shows only residues from the granitic massif of late Variscan origin. Around Lajes from the almost absolute plain stands a large pedunculate rock, a stone mushroom conventionally called Photographer's Rock. Yet in the shales at the East, where Taliscas Stream underlines its valley, with more twisted meanders in a landscape dissected by the drainage network, as in Cabeça do Homem or Pisão, the shale roughened ridges are rare, where the ancient traffic stressed the rocks and anonymous heroes chose their final resting place. A large block of quartz lode was erected on the landscape of Azinhal as a landmark; maybe to set land based wealth yet unknown. In Barreiros, an evocative name in the granitic plain, more Roman remains at surface contrasting the fertility of granites with the cistus-only aridity of the shale. Finally, Taliscas Stream discovers Vale Parais, ultimate reason for its meander shape. This valley with 3km diameter, almost perfectly circular, is a weathering alveolus developed by differential erosion of the grey-blue medium-grained biotite granodiorite, surrounded by hornfels, shale metamorphosed by contact with the intrusive rocks, tougher by the fluvial cuddle, as its name proofs. Through times, Taliscas Stream changed the course of its convergence with Ponsul River, leaving traces of its paleovalleys chiselled in the landscape. At the valley bottom, in the shore of the dam we find the oldest traces of human presence in Proença-a-Velha, in the form of old dolmens and prehistoric art carved on the igneous rock.

## GEO-stories of our places and people: Proença-a-Velha

But let us go back to the Templar Proença-a-Velha. The village nests between both sides of the stream marking the connection of granites and shales. These last rocks cooked by granite intensify to East, in Taliscas Valley, serving as bulwark for the missing Templar Castle. In this head only remains the Church of Nossa Senhora da Silva, dated from 1764 but rich in older evidences and an older quarter with delightful corners. Another prominent monument is the Mercy Church, built with granite ashlar from the nearby Roman city of Egitânia, which earlier unveiled a precious wood Calvary Temple from the 13th century.

Walking through the medieval streets we find numerous chapels, the pillory dating from 1510, different fountains with varied and colourful waters, as the fountain of Devesa, and stately homes with precious regional architecture. From the viewpoint of the chapel of Senhor do Calvário we get the best perspective above the village and the surrounding landscape, framed by olive groves in almost every direction. The importance of olive oil to the economy, primary based, of the 224 inhabitants of Proença-a-Velha, is paramount. Therefore the Museum of olive oil, also called the Mills Complex, was designed to convey the production history of this precious liquid. This museum also has an organic production of olive oil and is the core to the main festival, the Festival of Olive Oil and Smoked Sausage, raising Proença-a-Velha to recognition. Moreover, the elderly and scarce population has a very dynamic associative movement, responsible for an annual calendar full of animation. The numerous still open paths are traced by the Great Route of the Historical Villages, but the area still needs a short path to discover precious nooks and heritage of this village, to unite this to its precious Senhora da Granja. To celebrate 800 years of Proença-a-Velha rises the opportunity to give a new reading to this historical village and create the conditions for the development of thematic tourism around ancient paths and olive oil landscapes.

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Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

The editor  
Carlos Neto de Carvalho  
Scientific coordinator  
Geologist



# MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



**19 January – “But what is Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark after all?” in School of Sarzedas.** On this day, 6 children from the local Basic School discovered the municipalities and Naturtejo Geopark's area and understood Sarzedas is located in this classified territory. First the group met the instruments used by geologists for the fieldwork. They also learned that time in Geology is counted in million years. Next they watched and touched rock samples, fossils and the most common minerals in the Geopark. The group understood that Sarzedas is part of the Schist Villages Network, as one of the most used materials in the past to build houses and buildings was Schist, very abundant in the area's landscape. But to the attentive and eager questioners, the biggest surprise was discover that in the parish of Sarzedas once were mines of tungsten, antimony and even gold! And also learned on the existence of a spring responsible for miracles and the local clay was once used for the ceramic industry. Curiosity settled between these students, hungry to know better the secrets hidden in the rocks, minerals, soils and landscape. In the final part of the Workshop, students went to the school yard to watch and identify the rocks in their walls. Several research suggestions were presented so that these small curious minds think and decide which clues/ themes they will follow and deepen together, along with their teacher, involving families and the community and supported by the educational service of Naturtejo Geopark. Then, an idea to create a new annual Educational Project “Anim'a Rocha” arises. The monitor for this activity was Manuela Catana.



**24 to 26 January – Environmental Educational Sessions within the framework of “Life Imperial” Project intended to kindergarten students from EB1 of Ladoeiro and Zebreira**

**24 to 26 January – Environmental Educational Sessions within the framework of “Life Imperial” Project intended to kindergarten students from EB1 of Ladoeiro and Zebreira.**

The Iberian-Imperial-Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) is one of the most threatened birds of prey in Europe and is among the rarest in the world. This is an endemic species in Iberian Peninsula and has a preservation status in Portugal as Critically Endangered.

Life Imperial Project – Preservation of the Iberian-Imperial-Eagle in Portugal is stimulated by the National Protection League (LPN) and has an environmental educational component. This project aims to promote the population increasing of Iberian Imperial Eagle in Portugal, with interventions in Special Protection Areas (ZPE) of Natura Network 2000 from Castro Verde, Vale do Guadiana, Mourão/Moura/Barrancos and Tejo International, Erges and Ponsul. Thus, in partnership between LPN, the Educational Services of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Educational Service of Naturtejo Geopark, 2 villages were selected close to ZPE area of Tejo International, Erges and Ponsul namely Zebreira and Ladoeiro. The activities consisted in two sessions: one class at school and a field trip to the Imperial Eagle habitat. In the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova the goal is that the field trips occur in Segura, in the area of International Tejo Natural Park/ Cross border Biosphere Reserve International Tejo-Tajo, including a visit to the Interpretative Centre for Biosphere Lands of Idanha. For these first sessions in class, students performed educational games, puppet theatre, observed biologic materials (feathers, eggs, skulls), observed and compared real sized birds' silhouettes. 75 students from 1st cycle of EB1 from Ladoeiro and Zebreira and 25 students from JI of Ladoeiro and Zebreira participated in these sessions accompanied by 8 teachers. These activities were boosted by Raquel Alcária, Technician for Environmental Education, and Manuela Catana. (To learn more about this project: <http://lifeimperial.lpn.pt>).



**26 January – Training Course for teachers “Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark as educational resource” – 2nd Edition.**

The second edition of the training course for teachers from Preschool to Secondary schools had 25 teachers from several school backgrounds from the territory (Castelo Branco and Idanha-a-Nova) and a School Group from Seia. This course gave 0,7 credits, lasted 18 hours, and had practice and theoretic sessions, in classroom and field trips, to present and discuss educational resources designed by trainees. The trainers were José Brilha, from University of Minho and Manuela Catana. It was integrated in the Educational Programmes of Naturtejo Geopark 2017/2018 and in the Training Plan 2017/2018, organized by the Educational Service of Naturtejo Geopark, in partnership with University of Minho and Earth Sciences Institute. The first session took place in the School Group Afonso de Paiva in Castelo Branco and discussed Geoconservation, Geodiversity, Geological Heritage, Geosites, UNESCO Global Geoparks and emphasized the relation between Geodiversity, UNESCO Global Geoparks and Education for Sustainability. Participants received several educational and promotional resources from Naturtejo Geopark. The other sessions will occur on 23rd February, 3rd March and 11th May. This first session was attended by 3 foreign students (Brazil, Morocco and Mexico) from the Earth Sciences Department at University of Minho, who also made the Field Trips through Naturtejo Geopark, namely Penha Garcia, Monsanto and Vila Velha de Ródão, accompanied by Professor José Brilha.



**31 January – Gala Group fam trip in Naturtejo Geopark.** Through a partnership with Grutas da Moeda Caves, Naturtejo Geopark received the visit of the Gala Group, an operator that associates several companies in Portugal and Spain, with many years of experience operating in Editorial, Services Marketing and Tourism Promotion areas. Armindo Jacinto and Joana Rodrigues accompanied the group in order to analyze the potential of various locations in the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova.

# IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA



## Newspapers & www

10 January (Povo da Beira) – Youth Associations visited the Geopark in Vila Velha de Ródão

17 January (Gazeta do Interior) – Perdigotos takes young people to Naturtejo Geopark in Vila Velha de Ródão

18 January (Reconquista) – Perdigotos in the Geopark

# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Pcatana, A. (coord.) – Agenda dos Mistérios da Páscoa em Idanha. Município de Idanha-a-Nova, 47 pp.

FESTIVAIS TEMÁTICOS

**16º FESTIVAL AZEITE E FUMEIRO**  
10, 11 FEV 2018  
PROENÇA-A-VELHA  
Idanha.pt

10.FEV	11.FEV
<p>09:00 Abertura do recinto do Festival</p> <p>Exposição e venda de produtos regionais e artesanais</p> <p>Atividade de animação</p> <p>10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30 24:00</p>	<p>09:00 09:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30 24:00</p>



Nome da Ação:

«O Geopark Naturtejo - Geoparque Mundial da UNESCO como recurso educativo»

Modalidade: Curso de Formação  
Duração: 18 horas | N.º de Créditos: 0,7  
Formadores: José Briha e Maria Manuela Catana  
Registo de Acreditação: CCPFC/ACC-88022/16  
Destinatários: Educadores de Infância, Professores dos Ensino Básico e Secundário  
Data limite de inscrições: 10 de janeiro de 2018

**CRONOGRAMA:**  
26 de janeiro: 18h00 às 21h00  
23 de fevereiro: 18h00 às 21h30  
3 de março: 9h00 às 18h00  
11 de maio: 18h00 às 21h30

Local de Realização: A. E. Afonso Paiva - Castelo Branco

**BTL'18**  
26 FEB - 04 MAR  
Meseta do Turismo da Sétima  
www.naturtejo.com

Pavilhão 2  
Stand 2C24

**30 ANOS**

**naturtejo**  
GEOPARK

Quarta-feira, 28 de fevereiro

Sexta-feira, 2 de março

Quinta-feira, 1 de março

Passatempo

# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



## Vamos trazer a Rosa-Albardeira às ruas, quintais e jardins dos Toulões

**11 DE FEVEREIRO 2018**

- 12:30 Descrição das sementes da **Rosa Albardeira dos Toulões** (*Paeoni broteri*) e formas de semear (no Salão de Apoio à Junta de Freguesia dos Toulões)

- Após o Almoço de Carnaval, distribuição de Sementes pelos habitantes dos Toulões

- Semear sementes da **Rosa Albardeira**, símbolo dos Toulões, pela Aldeia: canteiros, jardins, vasos, ..., com apoio de técnicos



Organização e apoio:



### Visit Naturtejo Geopark in:



[www.geoparknaturtejo.com](http://www.geoparknaturtejo.com)



[www.facebook.com/geoparknaturtejo.mesetameridional](https://www.facebook.com/geoparknaturtejo.mesetameridional)



[www.instagram.com/geopark\\_naturtejo/](https://www.instagram.com/geopark_naturtejo/)



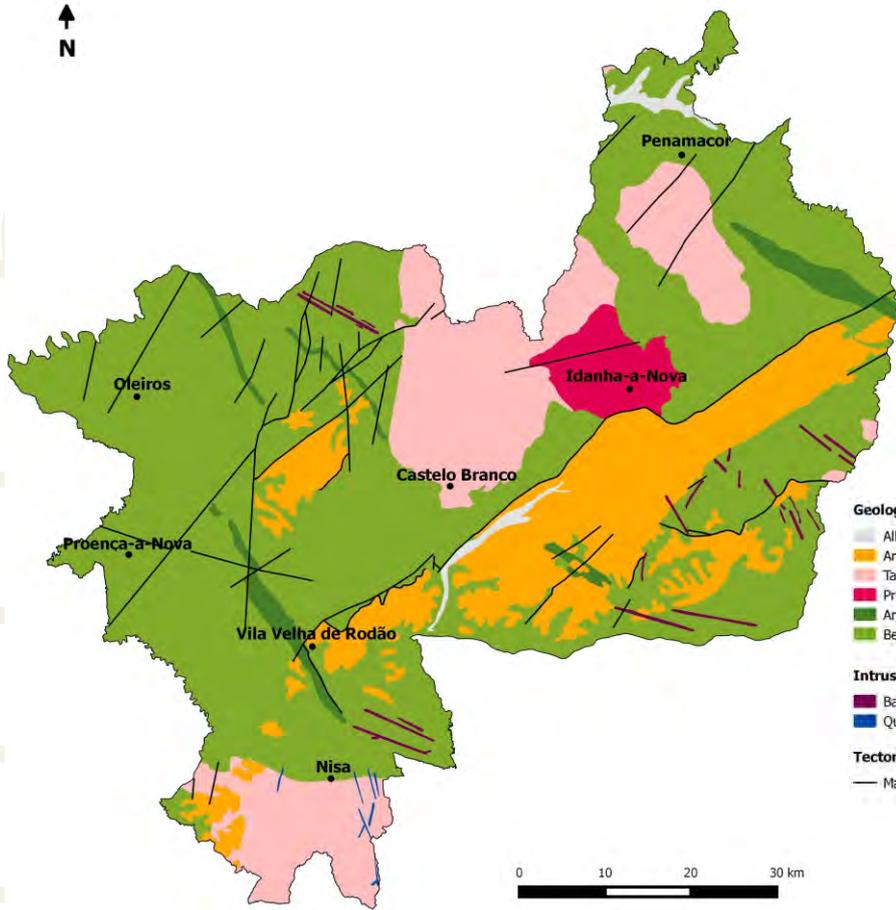
[www.youtube.com/geoparknaturtejo](https://www.youtube.com/geoparknaturtejo)



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[www.slideshare.net/geoparknaturtejomesetameridional](https://www.slideshare.net/geoparknaturtejomesetameridional)



#### Geological Formations (Ma-Million years)

- Alluvium and fluvial terraces - Pliocene-Holocene (1Ma-present)
- Arkoses, breccias and conglomerates - Eocene-Pliocene (50-2.6Ma)
- Tardi-Variscan orogenic granites (315-300Ma)
- Pre-Variscan granodiorites (480-472Ma)
- Armorican Quartzite and schists - Ordovician-Lower Silurian (488-435Ma)
- Beiras Group (schists and greywackes) - Neoproterozoic (610-542Ma)

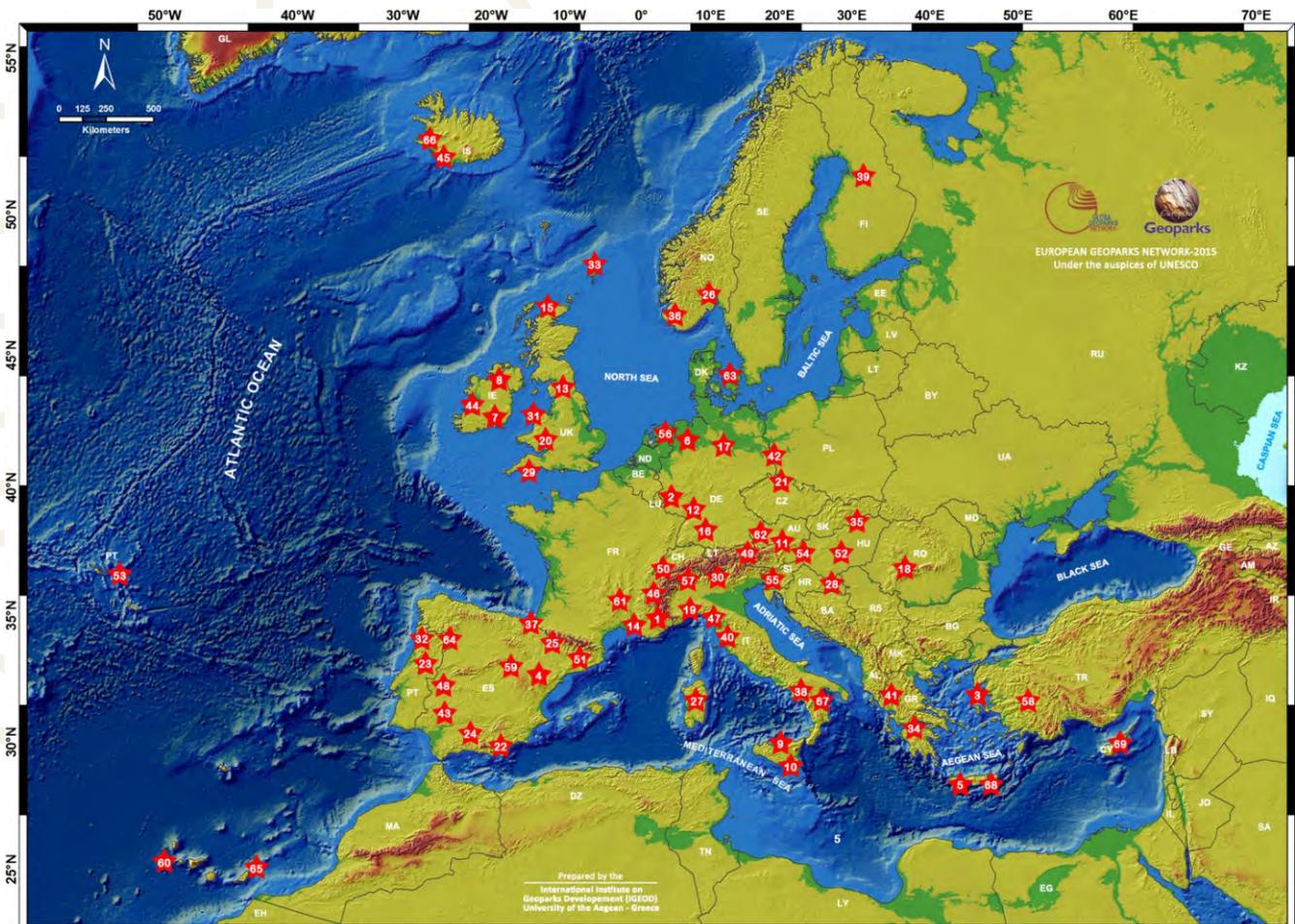
#### Intrusive rocks

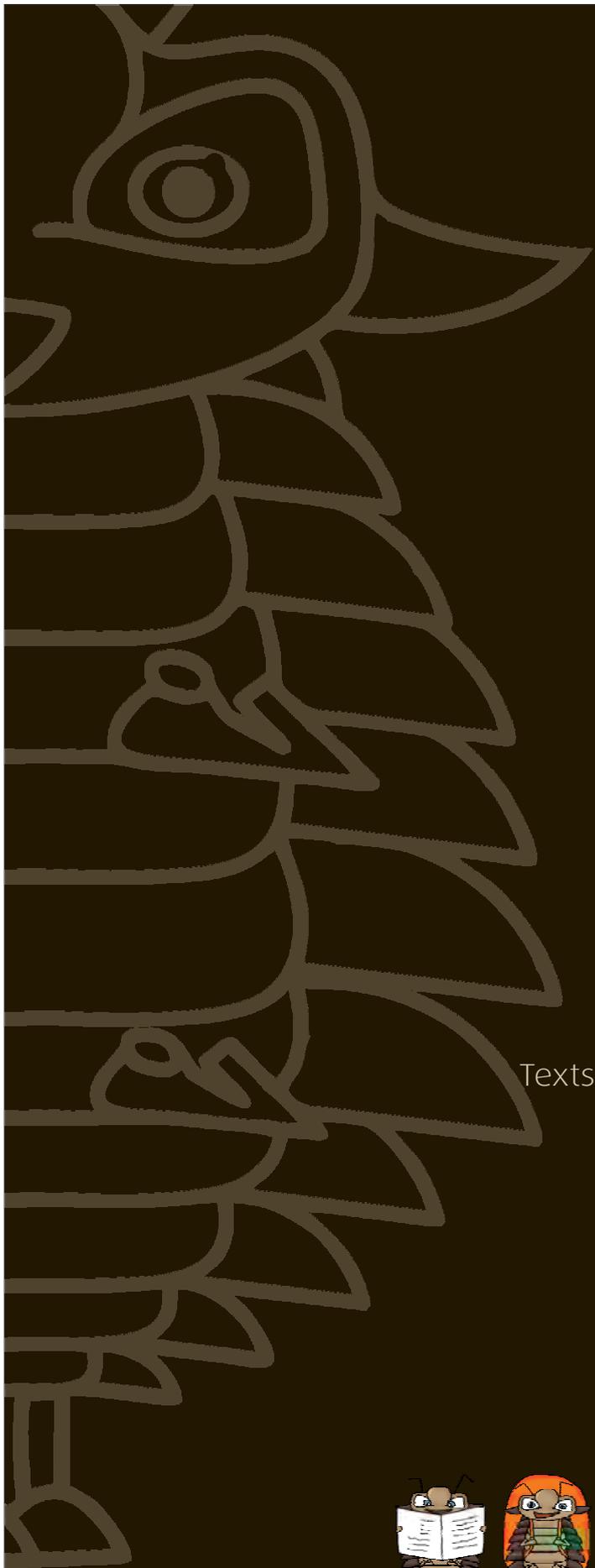
- Basic rocks, aplites and pegmatites
- Quartz

#### Tectonic

- Main faults

## Geoparks: Geology with human face





Ficha técnica:

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Manuela Catana, Mariana Vilas Boas,  
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Design - Layer [Design and Print Studio]  
Editing - Joana Rodrigues



**CRUZIANA**

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK MONTHLY REPORT

[www.geoparknaturtejo.com](http://www.geoparknaturtejo.com)