

NOTA / NOTE

Vespa velutina Lepeletier, 1836 (Hymenoptera, Vespidae), new species for Portugal.

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Abstract: The Asian yellow-legged hornet *Vespa velutina* Lepeletier, 1836 (Hymenoptera, Vespidae) is reported for the first time from Portugal.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Vespidae, *Vespa velutina*, first record, Portugal.

Resumen: *Vespa velutina* Lepeletier, 1836 (Hymenoptera, Vespidae), nueva especie para Portugal. Se cita el avispon asiático *Vespa velutina* Lepeletier, 1836 (Hymenoptera, Vespidae) por primera vez de Portugal.

Palabras clave: Hymenoptera, Vespidae, *Vespa velutina*, primera cita, Portugal.

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The yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina* Lepeletier, 1836, is an Asian vespid with a native range that extends from northern India to eastern China, Indochina and the Indonesian archipelago (CARPENTER & KOJIMA, 1997). Outside of its native range, *Vespa velutina* was recently found in South Korea (KIM *et al.*, 2006), and in south-western Europe (VILLEMANT *et al.*, 2006), where it not only established but became an invasive species (South Korea: CHOI *et al.*, 2011; Europe: ROME *et al.*, 2009, VILLEMANT *et al.*, 2011).

In fact, the yellow-legged hornet's recent introduction into Europe constitutes a perfect example of the explosive range expansion that invasive exotic species undergo following their introduction in ecologically suitable areas outside their native range: in the five years following its detection in south-western France in late 2005 (VILLEMANT *et al.*, 2006), it colonized almost half of the French territory, as illustrated by the maps in PÉRE & KENIS (2010, Figure 1) and VILLEMANT *et al.* (2010, map on page 16). In the Iberian Peninsula, the species was first detected in northern Spain during the summer of 2010 (CASTRO & PAGOLA-CARTE, 2010), having already been found in two provinces: Navarra and Guipúzcoa (CASTRO & PAGOLA-CARTE, 2010; IBÁÑEZ-JUSTICIA & LOOMANS, 2011; LÓPEZ *et al.*, 2011).

In this paper we present the first records of the presence of *Vespa velutina* in mainland Portugal, specifically in the north-western province of Minho.

Material examined

Viana do Castelo: Torre (29TNG2318), in an apiary owned by Nuno Amaro, 10-09-2011 (1 specimen, Nuno Amaro leg., col. Miguel Maia); Torre (29TNG2318), in an apiary owned by José Felgueiras, 03-11-2011 (a few specimens collected by José Felgueiras which were not preserved in entomological collections due to their damaged condition); Nogueira (29TNG2220), in an apiary owned by José Morais, 03-11-2011 (a few specimens collected by José Morais which were not preserved in entomological collections due to their damaged condition); Barroso (29TNG2221), in an apiary owned by Pedro Pereira, 10-09-2011 (1 specimen, Pedro Pereira leg., col. Grosso-Silva).

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