

NOTA / NOTE

First record of the soft-winged flower beetle *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) from Portugal

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Abstract: The soft-winged flower beetle *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) is reported from Portugal for the first time, extending the known distribution range of the species to the southwestern corner of Iberia.

Key words: Coleoptera, Melyridae, Malachiinae, *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus*, first record, Portugal.

Resumen: Primer registro de *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) para Portugal. Se cita *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) por primera vez de Portugal, ampliando al extremo sudoeste la distribución ibérica conocida de la especie.

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Melyridae, Malachiinae, *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus*, primer registro, Portugal.

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Introduction

Protapalochrus flavolimbatus (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) is a soft-winged flower beetle described from the vicinity of Montpellier (France) as *Apalochrus flavolimbatus* (MULSANT & REY, 1853). The known range of *P. flavolimbatus* includes: in Europe, France (mainland and Corsica), Greece (mainland, Crete, and Lesbos), Hungary, Italy (mainland, Sardinia, and Sicily), Romania, Spain (mainland and the Balearic Islands), and the "Caucasus"; in Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia; and in Asia, Cyprus, Iran, Russia (Krasnodarskii Krai), Tajikistan, and Turkey (MAYOR, 2007; EL-TORKEY *et al.*, 2012; TSHERNYSHEV, 2016).

In the Iberian Peninsula, this species was first reported from Andalusia, the southernmost Spanish autonomous community (KIESENWETTER, 1866). Since then, the first detailed records were published from the Spanish provinces of Murcia (UHAGÓN, 1901), Valencia (MORODER SALA, 1924), and Cádiz (PARDO ALCAIDE, 1975), and in the Balearic Islands from Menorca (CARDONA ÓRFILA, 1878) and Majorca (PLATA NEGRACHE & SANTIAGO HERNÁNDEZ, 1990).

In this contribution, we report *P. flavolimbatus* from mainland Portugal for the first time, extending the known distribution range of the species to the southernmost Portuguese district of Faro.

New record

Faro district: Loulé municipality: Vilamoura marshes (37.088250, -8.135111; MGRS: 29SNB7605; 4 m a.s.l.), 20/07/2022, one individual photographed by Thijs Valkenburg (Fig. 1) after being detected using a beating tray: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/127192696>.

Discussion

The record presented herein adds the malachiine tribe Apalochrini Mulsant & Rey, 1867 and therefore the genus *Protapalochrus* Evers, 1987 to the Portuguese fauna and extends the known distribution range of *P. flavolimbatus* to the westernmost corner of Iberia, as shown in Map 1.

According to POHER *et al.* (2017), *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* is a hygrophilous species that lives on *Typha latifolia* L., *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin ex. Steud. (=Phragmites communis Trin) and *Juncus* sp. where adults and larvae hunt other insects. The low number of Iberian records and the seemingly discontinuous distribution in Iberian may result from this ecological specificity and an under-sampling of those plants.

The observation in mid-July in the Vilamoura marshes is in accordance with the adult phenology reported by various authors, who collected the species between early April and late October (SZALÓKI & MERKL, 2005; EL-TORKEY *et al.*, 2012; PLATA NEGRACHE, 2012; TSHERNYSHEV, 2016).

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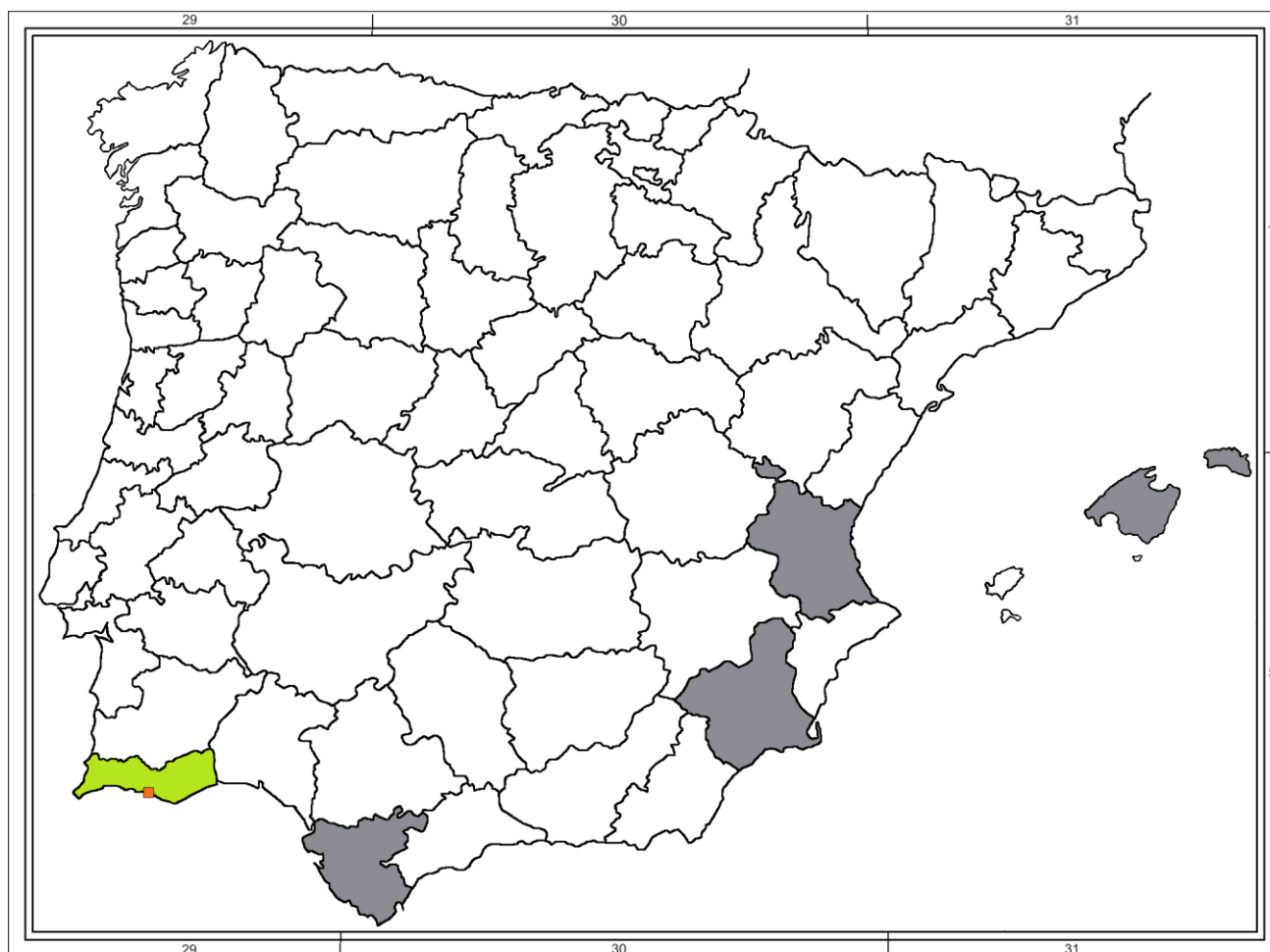
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Map 1. - Iberian distribution of *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853), with the previously known Spanish provinces and islands of the Balearic archipelago in grey, the new Portuguese district in green, and the new Portuguese MGRS 100 km² square in orange.



Fig. 1. - Specimen of *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) photographed in the Vilamoura marshes (Portugal: Faro: Loulé) on the 20th of July 2022 (Photo: Thijs Valkenburg).