

## NOTA / NOTE

*Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae),  
new species for PortugalJosé Manuel Grosso-Silva<sup>1</sup>, Thijs Valkenburg<sup>2</sup> & Nelson Filipe Patarata da Conceição<sup>3</sup>

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**Abstract:** *Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) is recorded for the first time from Portugal. An overview of the global distribution of the species is presented and its known Iberian distribution is summarised and mapped.

**Key words:** Neuroptera, Ascalaphidae, *Puer maculatus*, first records, Portugal.

**Resumen:** *Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae), nueva especie para Portugal. Se cita *Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) por primera vez de Portugal. Se presenta una visión general de la distribución mundial de la especie y se resume y mapea su distribución ibérica conocida.

**Palabras clave:** Neuroptera, Ascalaphidae, *Puer maculatus*, primeras citas, Portugal.

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The subject of this study is the owl-fly *Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae), described as *Ascalaphus maculatus* from the vicinity of Avignon, in southern France (OLIVIER, 1789). *Ascalaphus niger*, described from Occitania, also in southern France (BORKHAUSEN, 1791), was for a long time the only widely recognized (e.g., ASPÖCK et al., 1980, 2001) synonym of *P. maculatus*, but *Puer algericus* Van der Weele, 1909 (described from Algeria) was also recently considered conspecific with *P. maculatus* (AISTLEITNER, 2019).

According to MONSERRAT (2022), the known distribution of *P. maculatus* includes France (original description by OLIVIER, 1789), Spain (first record by ASPÖCK & ASPÖCK, 1987), Tunisia and Turkey (first record by AISTLEITNER, 2019 in both cases) and Israel, to which Algeria must be added if AISTLEITNER's (2019) synonymy proposal is followed. Regarding Israel, an extensive literature survey failed to produce a true primary record: ASPÖCK et al. (1980, 2001) included Israel in the distribution range of the species but provided no actual records or data sources, while SZIRÁKI (1998) mentioned VAN DER WEELE (1909) when in fact this author did not mention Israel at all regarding *P. maculatus*.

The Iberian distribution (Map 1) includes the Spanish provinces of (ordered chronologically by the first record for each): Valencia (ASPÖCK & ASPÖCK, 1987), Zaragoza (REDONDO, 1991), Teruel (HYND, 1992), Toledo (REDONDO, 1992), Huesca (GRUSTÁN, 2005), Almería (MONSERRAT et al., 2014), Cuenca (CARDO-MAESO et al., 2017), Granada and Murcia (AMARILLO et al., 2019), Ourense

(REY-MUÑIZ *et al.*, 2020), Jaén (QUESADA *et al.*, 2022), Badajoz, Castellón, Málaga, and Salamanca (MONSERRAT, 2022). MONSERRAT *et al.* (2012) mapped the occurrence of *P. maculatus* in five provinces but apparently mistook the location of the Toledan site as belonging to the province of Cáceres, seemingly the reason for the listing of Cáceres in the Iberian distribution range compiled by MONSERRAT (2022); for this reason, we have not marked Cáceres in Map 1.

In this note, we present the first Portuguese record of *P. maculatus* based on a specimen deposited in the collection of MHNC-UP (Museu de História Natural e da Ciência da Universidade do Porto, Portugal).

## Material examined

### PORTUGAL:

- **Faro district:** São Brás de Alportel municipality: North from Tareja, near the Alportel stream (37.180481, -7.881128; MGRS: 29SNB9915; altitude: 239 m a.s.l.), 19/05/2024, 1 specimen, Thijs Valkenburg leg., MHNC-UP col.: MHNCUP-ART-42328; photographed by Nelson Conceição (see [here](#)) and Thijs Valkenburg (see [here](#)).

## Comments

The addition of the genus *Puer* Lefèbvre, 1842 to the known Portuguese ascalaphid fauna that results from the record of *P. maculatus* presented herein completes the catalogue of Iberian genera documented from the country and raises the number of owl-fly species known in Portugal to seven (70% of the diversity recorded from Iberia by MONSERRAT, 2022).

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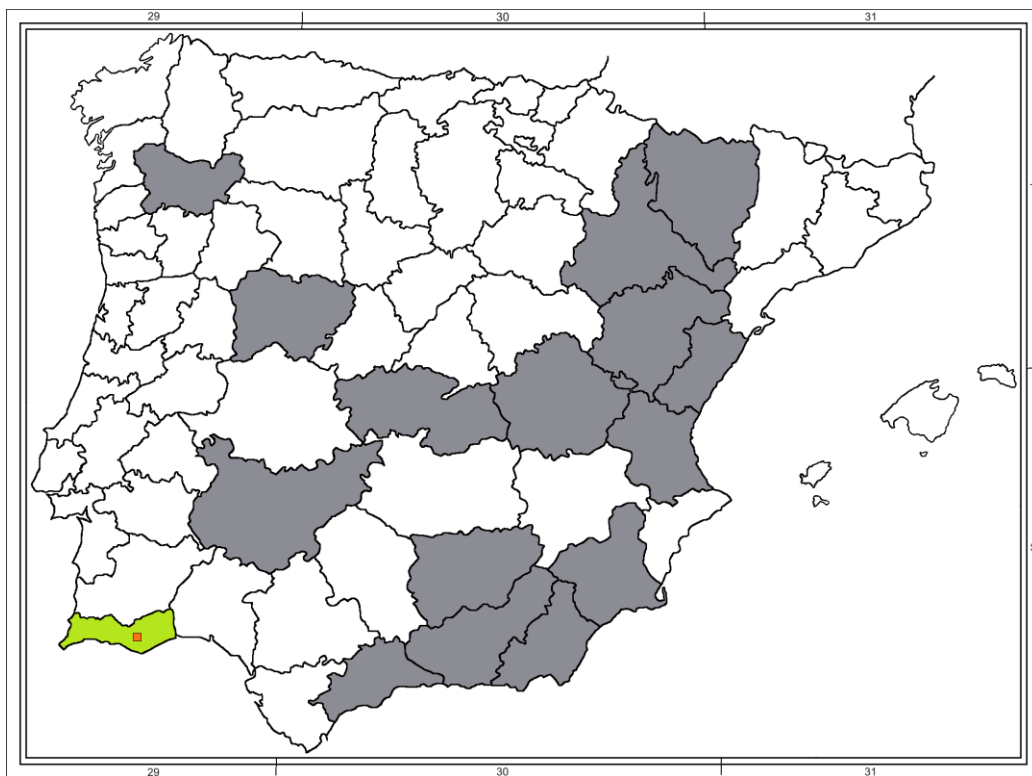
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Fig. 1.- The specimen of *Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) photographed in São Brás de Alportel (Faro, Portugal) on 19/05/2024 (MHNCUP-ART-42328). Photo: Nelson Conceição.



Map 1.- Iberian distribution of *Puer maculatus* (Olivier, 1789) [grey: previously known Spanish provinces; green: new Portuguese district; orange: new Portuguese MGRS 100 km<sup>2</sup> square].