

## *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius, 1798), new species for mainland Portugal (Odonata, Libellulidae)

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**Abstract:** *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius, 1798) (Odonata, Libellulidae) was recorded in Quinta de Cima do Palácio do Marquês de Pombal (Oeiras, Lisbon), on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2025. Confirmed records of the species in mainland Portugal are compiled and the new occurrence is added.

**Key words:** Odonata, Libellulidae, *Pantala flavescens*, wandering glider, dragonfly, vagrant species, range extension, Portugal, Iberian Peninsula.

**Resumen:** *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius, 1798), nueva especie para Portugal continental (Odonata, Libellulidae). Se registra *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius, 1798) (Odonata, Libellulidae) en la Quinta de Cima do Palácio do Marquês de Pombal (Oeiras, Lisboa), el 18 y 19 de agosto de 2025. Se recopilan los datos confirmados de la especie en Portugal continental y se añade el nuevo registro.

**Palabras clave:** Odonata, Libellulidae, *Pantala flavescens*, libélula rayadora naranja, libélula, especie errante, ampliación de área de distribución, Portugal, Península Ibérica.

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The wandering glider, *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius, 1798) (Odonata, Libellulidae), is a libellulid dragonfly, first described as *Libellula flavescens* by Fabricius (1798). The species has a worldwide circum-tropical distribution, being present in all continents except Antarctica (De Knijf et al., 2024) and is considered a large-scale migratory species (Cano-Villegas & Martínez-Darve Sanz, 2014). Records in Europe are scarce, with the species being mostly recognized as vagrant in countries such as Montenegro, Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Italy, Russia, Bulgaria, France and Lithuania (De Knijf et al., 2024). Occasional reproduction has been confirmed in Switzerland, Germany and Poland (De Knijf et al., 2024), as well as Malta (Gauci, 2024). The species has been reproducing regularly in Cyprus (Sparrow et al., 2020).

The first official record of the species in Portugal comes from the Azores in 2014 (Vieira & Cordero-Rivera, 2015). The species has also been repeatedly sighted in the Canary Islands (Spain) since 2014, when it was first recorded in Gran Canaria (Cano-Villegas & Martínez-Darve Sanz, 2014) and where reproduction has also been confirmed (Martínez-Darve Sanz & García Pérez, 2023). In 2021, the species was recorded for the first time in continental Spain (Bernal Sánchez & Conesa García, 2021) and, in 2024, reproduction was confirmed (Sánchez et al., 2024). However, to date the species had yet to be sighted in mainland Portugal. In this paper, we present the first records of *P. flavescens* in mainland Portugal, compiling also all confirmed occurrences of the species in the country, including a map of the sightings (Fig. 1).

The first sighting of *P. flavescens* in continental Portugal was made on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 by Reinhilde Verweyen, near Quelfes, in the Algarve region (Faro district; 37.03398° N, 7.81188° W - WGS84 datum), where a specimen was photographed perched on a branch, and uploaded to the platform Observation.org (see [here](#)). Our own record was made in Quinta de Cima do Palácio do Marquês de Pombal in Oeiras (Lisbon district; 38.6958° N, 9.3150° W - WGS84 datum), on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2025, where a single vagrant female was sighted hunting along a dry grass patch and photographed by the authors (Figs. 2-3). This sighting come as the second of the species in mainland Portugal. Soon after, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2025, a third record of the species was published on the platform Observation.org by user Jörg Schulte (see [here](#)), near Vila Franca de Xira, in the Tagus Estuary (Lisbon district; 38.83566° N, 8.97197° W - WGS84 datum).

Considering these findings, as well as the increasing number of occurrences in the Iberian Peninsula, we recommend naturalists pay special attention when observing libellulids of orange coloration, especially in areas near the coast, as more vagrant specimens may arrive, and even reproduce, in the near future.

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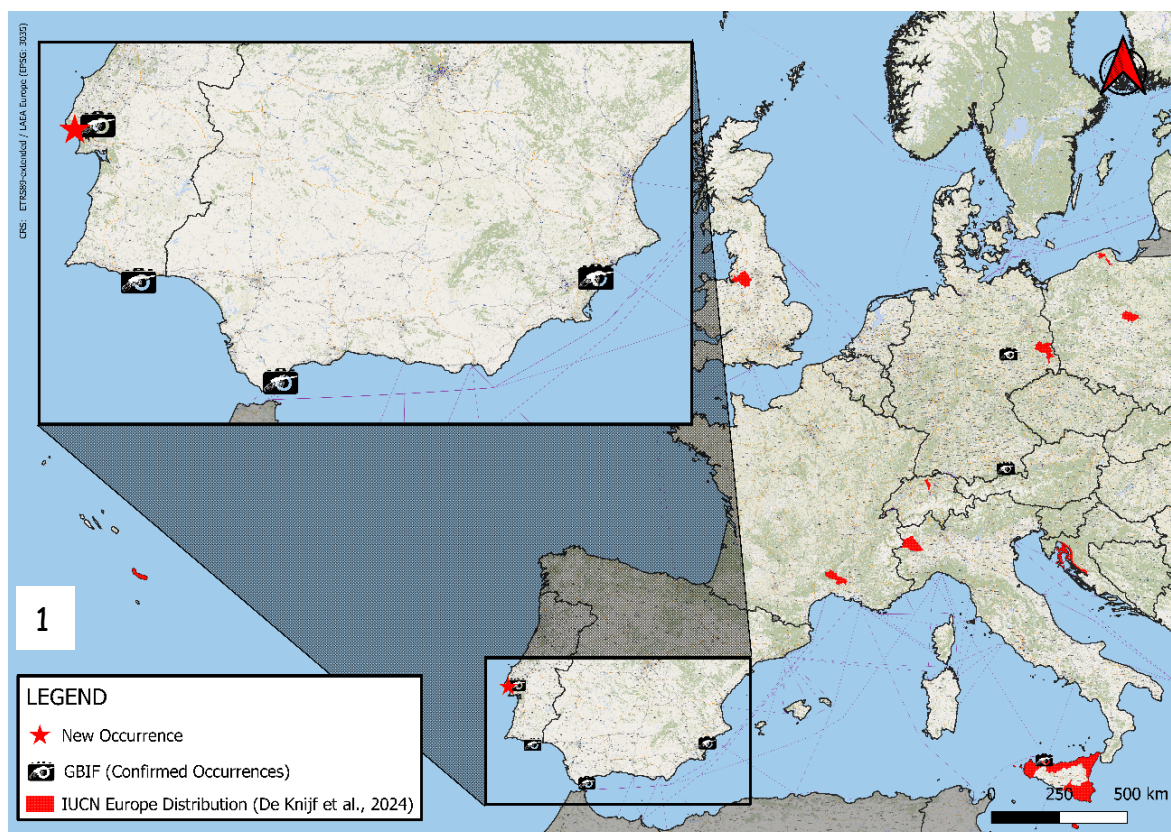
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**Fig. 1.-** New confirmed occurrence of *Pantala flavescens* in the Iberian Peninsula. The other confirmed occurrences were extracted from GBIF (DOI: [10.15468/dl.wcxbzx](https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.wcxbzx)), and the European-wide distribution was extracted from the IUCN Redlist (De Knijf et al., 2024). Mapped Iberian sightings do not include the published record of 2021 (Bernal Sánchez & Conesa García, 2021).



**Fig. 2.-** Habitat where the female of *Pantala flavescens* was observed in Quinta de Cima do Palácio do Marquês de Pombal on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2025, in Oeiras municipality.



**Fig. 3.** - Photographic records of the single vagrant female found in Quinta de Cima do Palácio do Marquês de Pombal at 11:00 AM on 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2025, in Oeiras municipality during a session of pollinator monitoring of the project "Mais Polinizadores da Quinta do Marquês". **3a.** - The specimen was hunting along the dry patch of vegetation near a small stream. **3b.** - Specimen perching on the vegetation. Photo credits: Albano Soares.