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New records and noteworthy data of plants, algae and fungi in the peri-Mediterranean and adjacent regions, 1

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ABSTRACT:
This paper presents new records and noteworthy data on the following taxa in the peri-Mediterranean and adjacent regions: algae *Valonia utricularis* and *Zonaria tournefortii*, mosses *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Geehbia fallax Ptychostomum creberrimum*, and *Tortula brevissima*, lycophyte *Diphasiastrum alpinum* and dicots *Abutilon grandifolium* and *Zinnia elegans*.

Keywords: new report, *Abutilon grandifolium*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Diphasiastrum alpinum*, *Geehbia fallax*, *Ptychostomum creberrimum*, *Tortula brevissima*, *Valonia utricularis*, *Zinnia elegans*, *Zonaria tournefortii*, peri-Mediterranean.

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***Abutilon grandifolium* (Willd.) Sweet, fam. Malvaceae (dicot, vascular plant)**
Contributors: Miquel Rodríguez and Marcello D. Cerrato
Geographical focus: Balearic Islands, Spain
New record and noteworthy data: A new, non-native species to the Balearic archipelago.
Specimen data: Balearic Islands, Ibiza, Santa Eulària des Riu, Can Rafel des Trull d'en Vic. A group of fewer than ten reproductive individuals in a ruderalised area between a residential area and a road, with abundant recruitment; N 38.989583°, E 1.483611°, 71 m a.s.l.; 18 December 2025; leg. Rodríguez M. det. Rodríguez M, Cerrato M.D.
Voucher: Photo archive and voucher in the personal herbarium of M. Rodríguez.

Native to tropical America, this species is widely distributed in many regions worldwide due to its ornamental use, as well as for medicinal purposes and fibre production (Sánchez de Lorenzo-Cáceres 2007; Rodríguez-Navarro *et al*. 2025). It has been recorded as a weed in some localities of southern Europe (the Iberian Peninsula, the Canary Islands, Sicily, southern France, and Madeira), as well as in countries of tropical and subtropical Africa, America, East Asia, and Oceania (Randall 2017; GBIF 2025). It can be identified by its shrub-like habit, rarely exceeding 2 m in height, fruits composed of around 10 mericarps, and petals measuring 1.2–2.5 cm long (Sánchez de Lorenzo-Cáceres 2007). In Spain, it is known from some localities in the eastern Iberian Peninsula, where it colonises ruderal habitats (Gómez-Bellver *et al*. 2019; Verloove *et al*. 2020), as well as from southern areas of the peninsula (Paiva & Nogueira 1993; GBIF 2025). Currently, it is not listed in the Spanish Catalogue of Invasive Exotic Species (Real Decreto 630/2013). In the Canary Islands, it is regarded as a potentially invasive species, becoming locally invasive in some areas due to its rapid spread and biological traits which facilitate the establishment of new populations (Rodríguez-Navarro *et al*. 2025; Verloove 2025). It is included in the Portuguese invasive species catalogue for its invasive nature in Madeira, although it appears under the name *Abutilon sonneratianum* (Cav.) Sweet due to a taxonomic confusion (Verloove 2025). Until now, the only known representative of the genus in the Balearic Islands was *Abutilon theophrasti* Medik. (Cerrato *et al*. 2023), easily distinguishable by its annual habit. The present record of *Abutilon grandifolium* therefore constitutes the first report of the species for the Balearic Islands. The specimens located in Ibiza exhibit an ecology similar to that described for the Canary Islands and the eastern Iberian Peninsula, showing vigorous growth along a roadside margin and abundant recruitment, although their establishment in the territory appears to be recent.

***Cryphaea heteromalla* (Hedw.) D. Mohr, fam. Cryphaeaceae (moss, bryophyte)**
Contributors: Dror Melamed and José Gabriel Segarra-Moragues
Geographical focus: Israel
New record and noteworthy data: Confirmation of a 30-year-old report and two additional localities, significantly increasing its distribution area in Israel.
Specimen data: 1) Upper Galilee, Adir Mountain; on *Quercus* bark, in some trees sympatric with *Leptodon smithii* (Hedw.) F. Weber & D. Mohr; N 33.0328°, E 35.3722°, 996 m a.s.l.; 04 February 2022, leg. Melamed D., det. Melamed D. and Segarra-Moragues J.G. **2)** Golan Heights, Odem forest; on bark of *Quercus coccifera* L.; N 33.214748°, E 35.755609°, 1042 m a.s.l.; 10 June 2022, leg./det. Melamed D. **3)** Upper Galilee, Mount Meron, on bark of *Quercus coccifera* in deep shade, sympatric with *Leptodon smithii*; N 32.994823°, E 35.414756°, 1110 m a.s.l.; 7 November 2025, leg./det. Melamed D.

Vouchers: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Collection of Bryophytes (HUJ-HERB-BR-0001048001, 0001048094 and personal collection of D. Melamed).

Cryphaea heteromalla is widespread across from Mediterranean to northern European countries (Ros *et al*. 2013; Hodgetts & Lockhart 2020). However, its records become increasingly rare eastwards of its distribution area. This asymmetric pattern has been explained as the consequence of the species having recently expanded eastwards (Csiki *et al*. 2025; Ellis *et al*. 2025). Previous reports from Mount Hermon in Israel (Herrnstadt *et al*. 1982, 1991) based on two specimens collected by T. Kushnir in 1943 and 1970 turned out to be misidentifications with *Antitrichia californica* Sull. (Heyn & Herrnstadt 2004 and personal revision of the vouchers by the authors). A third collection from May 1994 by W. Frey and H. Kürschner from Meron Mountain (Har Meron) was reported in Kürschner & Erdag (2021), however, no voucher exists at HUJ and no clarification was obtained after consulting H. Kürschner about the specimen. Additionally, the publication of local Flora in 2004 without including this finding suggests that this species was not confirmed from Israel, and no subsequent records for the following 30 years indicate its rarity at that time. However, the area was revisited on November 2025 and abundant fruiting colonies were found on the bark of *Quercus coccifera* trees in deep shade, sympatric with *Leptodon smithii,* thereby confirming its presence. Two additional populations, one of which is from a different district, are also reported here. In Adir Mountain, fruiting colonies were observed on *Q. coccifera* bark sympatric with *Leptodon smithii*, and on one of the trees examined young shoots of the locally relatively rare species *Leucodon sciuroides* (Hedw.) Schwägr. were also found. In Odem Forest in the Golan Heights district, a single fruiting colony was observed on *Q. coccifera*. Since the new reports of *C. heteromalla* are from extensively investigated regions by both local and foreign bryologists, it is likely that its colonisation is relatively recent and possibly expanding.

***Diphasiastrum alpinum* (L.) Holub, fam. Lycopodiaceae (lycophyte, vascular plant)**
Contributors: Guillermo Santos and Ruymán David Cedrés-Perdomo
Geographical focus: Cantabria, Spain
New record and noteworthy data: The species is scarce in Spain, with a few populations limited to the northern provinces. It is listed as Endangered (EN) in the Basque Country and Aragón, and as Vulnerable (VU) in Castilla y León and Cataluña. It is also included in Annexe V of the EU Habitats Directive.
Specimen data: Portillo de la Sía (the southern border of Cantabria, municipality of Soba); on a slope near the wind-farm substation; N 43.153444°, W 3.578306°; WGS84; *ca*. 1246 m a.s.l., 6 August 2025; obs./leg./det. Santos G. and Cedrés-Perdomo R. D.
Voucher: Herbarium of the Faculty of Biology, Complutense University of Madrid, MACB 135514 and photo archives of the authors.

Diphasiastrum alpinum is a boreo-alpine lycophyte which is rare in Spain. In the Iberian Peninsula, it is restricted to the Cantabrian–Pyrenean mountains. It has been reported from only a few provinces (León, Asturias, Cantabria, Bizkaia, and Navarra), with scattered localities which are often difficult to confirm. During a field survey to study the populations of another lycophyte, *Lycopodium clavatum* L., specimens of *D. alpinum* were discovered. Previously, the species had only been documented from the Sierra de Peña Sagra and the southern mountains of Liébana in Cantabria (Aedo *et al*. 2000; Carlón *et al*. 2014). The newly found population, consisting of three fertile but strongly depauperate individuals, was located at Portillo de la Sía on a sheltered slope.

The plants occurred under the lee of rocks on a bryophyte-carpeted substrate within a heathland dominated by ericaceous shrubs (*Erica vagans* L., *E. cinerea* L., *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull, *Daboecia cantabrica* (Huds.) K.Koch, and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (L.) Spreng.). The surrounding area has been extensively transformed by the establishment of a wind farm. Given the extremely small population size and the presence of *L. clavatum* populations, urgent preventive measures are recommended to protect local populations of these lycophytes. Recommended actions include avoiding ground disturbance and rock removal on the occupied slope (e.g. preventing trampling and substrate stripping) and implementing periodic monitoring to detect population trends. Furthermore, legal recognition and protection of the species at both provincial and national levels are needed to safeguard the last remaining populations and to address their poor conservation status.

***Geheebia fallax* (Hedw.) R.H.Zander, fam. Pottiaceae (moss, bryophyte)**
Contributors: Pere Miquel Mir-Rosselló
Geographical focus: Balearic Islands, Spain
New record and noteworthy data: The first record for Cabrera Island
Specimen data: Jardí Botànic de Cabrera, Cabrera, the Maritimoterrestre de l'Arxipèlag de Cabrera National Park; on calcareous soil among decorative stones; N 39.1399157°, E 2.9411717°; 35 m a.s.l.; 22 March 2024, leg./det. Mir-Rosselló P.M.
Voucher: University of the Balearic Islands, UIB:CBI:2024.0974

Geheebia fallax (=*Didymodon fallax* (Hedw.) R.H.Zander) is a xerophilous species common both in the Iberian Peninsula (Jiménez 2006) and the Balearic Islands (Cros *et al.* 2008). However, this species has not been previously recorded for the Cabrera sub-archipelago. At the indicated locality, *G. fallax* was found growing on calcareous soil in an anthropogenic habitat within the botanical garden of the National Park.

***Ptychostomum creberrimum* (Taylor) J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay, fam. Bryaceae (moss, bryophyte)**
Contributors: Duilio Iamonico and Lucian Nicolae Calina
Geographical focus: Italy
New record and noteworthy data: A very rare species along the Tyrrhenian sector of Italy (second recent record, and edge population).
Specimen data: Italy, Rome, Appia Antica Regional Park, Caffarella valley; in meadows on compact volcanic soil; N 41.864444°, E 12.527778°, 45 m a.s.l.; 26 January 2025, leg. Calina L.N., det. Calina L.N., Iamonico D., Aleffi M.
Voucher: Herbarium RO s.n. (University of Rome Sapienza, Department of Environmental Biology).

Ptychostomum creberrimum is an acrocarpous moss mainly distributed through the northern hemisphere, especially in Europe and America (a few occurrences in Asia); in the southern hemisphere the species occurs in southern Australia and New Zealand only (GBIF 2025). In Italy, *P. creberrimum* is recorded mainly in the northern regions. Along the peninsula it occurs in some sites in the eastern Adriatic regions of Marche, Abruzzo, and Apulia, whereas old records are reported for the Tyrrhenian sector for the regions of Liguria and Lazio (Aleffi *et al.* 2020). These historical findings refer to the localities of Rapallo and Monte Castello (eastern Liguria; Fleischer 1892) and Isola Farnese (north-west of Rome; Béguinot 1897). A recent discovery in the Lazio region was made by Aleffi (2021) in the Castelporziano State Natural Reserve (a protected area outside the city of Rome). Hence, the species can be considered very rare in the Tyrrhenian sector of the Italian Pen-

insula and our finding represents not only the first recent record within the urbanised area of Rome (i.e. within the Great Ring Road, the major orbital motorway in the Italian capital), but also the second in this Italian sector approximately 130 years since the reports made by Fleischer (1892) and Béguinot (1897).

***Tortula brevissima* Schiffn., fam. Pottiaceae (moss, bryophyte)**
Contributors: Marko S. Sabovljević and Aneta D. Sabovljević
Geographical focus: Cyprus
New record and noteworthy data: A new species to Cyprus.
Specimen data: Park Hemielos, Larnaca; on calcareous soil; N 34.905881°, E 33.620499°; 14. December 2025; leg./det. Sabovljević M. S. and Sabovljević A. D.
Voucher: BEOU-Bryo s.n.

Tortula brevissima is a small pottioid moss often overlooked and mistaken for small specimens of *Tortula muralis* Hedw. (Campisi & Cogoni 2019). However, the latter species rarely grows on soil substrates, while the former is a colonist species of exposed, dry, calcareous soils, also known to be halo-tolerant (Privitera & Puglisi 1999; Dierssen 2001).

According to Ros *et al.* (2013) and Hodgetts & Lockhart (2020), *Tortula brevissima* has not been previously reported from the island of Cyprus. The new record is not surprising bearing in mind that it has previously been reported in eastern, south-western and central Europe as well as in the Middle East (Campisi & Cogoni 2019), but also in North America (Kellman 2012), North Africa and the Near East (Ibrahim *et al.* 2013; Taha 2019) and East Asia (Kou *et al.* 2015). It seems that outside the Mediterranean region, it is associated with loess and dry affiliated habitats (e.g. Zechmeister & Kropik 2024, 2025). In Cyprus, it was found growing on bare sandy-like calcareous soils with other xerophyte mosses: *Aloina aloides* (Koch ex Schultz) Kindb., *Didymodon rigidulus* Hedw., *Pterygoneurum ovatum* (Hedw.) Dixon, and *Syntrichia ruralis* (Hedw.) F. Weber & D. Mohr.

The bryophyte flora of Cyprus is known to consist of 252 species to date (Kaufmann & Berg 2014; Ellis *et al.* 2018; Cano 2020). However, since the bryophyte flora of Cyprus still remains very poorly documented, new species are expected to be found with new bryophyte investigations of the island (Blockeel 2003; Frahm *et al.* 2009; Kaufmann & Berg 2014). Frahm *et al.* (2009) provide a short but valuable history of bryological investigations of the island of Cyprus.

This new record serves to fill a gap in the distribution range of this species, which has already been documented from nearby areas of Greece (Blockeel 2010), Turkey (Kürschner & Parolly 1998) and Israel (Heyn & Hernstadt 2004).

***Valonia utricularis* (Roth) C.Agardh, fam. Valoniaceae (green alga, algae)**
Contributors: Lluís Salom-Vicens
Geographical focus: Balearic Islands, Spain
New record and noteworthy data: The second occurrence for the island of Menorca and a long under-recorded taxon.
Specimen data: Balearic Islands, Menorca, Maó, La Mola; upper infralittoral zone, 1 m depth, epilithic; N 39.871389°, E 4.309000°; 21 May 2025; leg./det. Salom-Vicens L.
Voucher: Photo archive and voucher in the personal herbarium of L. Salom-Vicens.

On the island of Menorca, only one confirmed record of *Valonia utricularis* with complete data is currently available, included in the database of Deude-

ro-Company (2025). Although Ribera Siguan & Gómez Garreta (1985) reported the presence of the species on the island, no precise data or specific localities were provided. The record included in Deudero-Company (2025) dates from 2001 and places the species in the circalittoral zone at a depth of 63 m. Historical records from the archipelago indicate that the species has traditionally been found in deep waters, reaching depths of up to 66 m (Ballesteros 1993). In contrast, the specimen reported here was found in shallow coastal waters, at approximately 1 m depth, within the infralittoral zone, on a poorly illuminated rocky substrate. This finding is consistent with the habitat descriptions provided by Cormaci *et al*. (2014) and Ballesteros (1993). The species thus shows a remarkably wide bathymetric range, as it has also been reported from the surface (0 m) by Ballesteros (1993), suggesting that the taxon could be more widely distributed along the coastline of the archipelago than currently documented and may be under-recorded. Consequently, this observation should be considered the second formal record with complete data for the island of Menorca.

***Zinnia elegans* Jacq., fam. Asteraceae (dicot, vascular plant)**
Contributors: Miquel Rodríguez and Jordi Serapio
Geographical focus: Balearic Islands, Spain
New record and noteworthy data: A new non-native species to the Balearic archipelago.
Specimen data: Balearic Islands, Ibiza, Sant Antoni de Portmany, Torrent des Regueró; a flowering individual growing on an accumulation of soil over the concrete bed of the torrent, within an area characterised by a high abundance of alien species; N 38.975139°, E 1.311528°, 2 m.a.s.l.; 30 December 2025; leg. Rodríguez M, Serapio J. det. Rodríguez M, Serapio J, Cerrato M.D.
Voucher: Photo archive and voucher in the private herbarium of M. Rodríguez.

Native to Mexico, this species has been widely used as an ornamental plant, leading to its escape from cultivation in several regions worldwide (Torres 1963). Its presence has been confirmed mainly as a casual weed, and occasionally as a naturalised species in Europe (eastern and central Europe, the Balkans, the British Isles, and parts of the western Mediterranean), Asia (Japan, China, North Korea, and India), Africa (Chad and Madagascar), Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), and other American territories (Belize, Brazil, Ecuador, Florida, and Puerto Rico) (Torres 1963; Randall 2017). The species can be identified by its annual life cycle, wide hemispheric capitula with fimbriate-lobed paleae at the apex, and awnless achenes (Torres 1963). In Spain, its presence has so far been reported only as a casual weed in Valencia (Guillot 2001) and Aragon (Mateo 2009), with a few doubtful records in other databases (GBIF 2025). Its habitat in Ibiza consists of an anthropized concrete-lined torrent with an accumulation of clayey soils deposited by water flow and rich in organic matter. The site is characterised by high soil moisture and well-exposed, high-light conditions. Several alien species co-occur in the same area, including *Datura ferox* L., *Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn., and *Salvia hispanica* L., which take advantage of the humid substrate. Although previously included in the Balearic alien flora (Cerrato *et al*. 2023) based on Bonafè (1980), that source refers to its cultivation in the archipelago and provides a single voucher from Majorca (Vicens 2022), without evidence of escape from cultivation. Consequently, the present record constitutes the first confirmed evidence of *Zinnia elegans* occurring outside cultivation in the Balearic Islands and the first record of the species in Ibiza and the Pityusic Islands.

***Zonaria tournefortii* (J.V.Lamour.) Mont., fam. Dictyotaceae (brown alga, algae)**
Contributors: Lluís Salom-Vicens
Geographical focus: Balearic Islands, Spain
New record and noteworthy data: The second occurrence for the island of Mallorca, the first full data occurrence; a long under-recorded taxon.
Specimen data: Balearic Islands, Mallorca, Cala Murada; upper infralittoral zone, 7 m depth, epilithic; N 39.452981°, E 3.277867°; 14 August 2025; leg./det. Salom-Vicens L.
Voucher: Photo archive and voucher in the private herbarium of L. Salom-Vicens.

On the island of Mallorca, only one confirmed record of *Zonaria tournefortii* is currently available, although the depth was not recorded (Gómez-Garreta *et al*. 1998). The presence of the species on the island was also noted by Ribera Siguan & Gómez Garreta (1985); however, no locality or additional data were provided. The record reported by Gómez-Garreta *et al*. (1998) dates from 1982 and corresponds to the 10 × 10 km UTM grid 31SED49, at the locality of Cap de Cala Ratjada. Historical data from the Balearic archipelago indicate that the taxon is present on all islands (Ribera Siguan & Gómez Garreta 1985; Ballesteros 1993; Boisset 2023). On the island of Cabrera, the species has been reported at depths between 15 and 40 m (Ballesteros 1993). In contrast, the specimen reported here was found in coastal waters at a 7 m depth, within the sciaphilous infralittoral zone, growing on the rocky substrate inside a cavity. The record corresponds to the 1 × 1 km UTM grid EE2366, included within the 10 × 10 km grid 31SED26, at the locality of Cala Murada. This finding is consistent with the habitat descriptions provided by Ballesteros (1993) and Montañés *et al*. (2006). Although records from the Balearic Islands that include depth information generally place the species at depths greater than 15 m, this observation demonstrates that *Z. tournefortii* can also occur at shallower depths, when shaded conditions are present. This suggests that the taxon may be more widely distributed along the coastline of the archipelago than currently documented and may be under-recorded. Therefore, this observation should be considered as the first occurrence with a specific locality on the island of Mallorca.

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COMPREHENSIVE PLANT BIOLOGY

REZIME

Novi i značajni podaci o biljkama, algama i gljivama iz peri-Mediterana i susednih regiona, 1

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U radu su dati novi i značajni podaci sa područja peri-Mediterana i susednih regiona za sledeće taksone: alge *Valonia utricularis* i *Zonaria tournefortii*, mahovine *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Geehbia fallax, Ptychostomum creberrimum* i *Tortula brevissima,* likofitu *Diphasiastrum alpinum* i dikotile *Abutilon grandifolium* i *Zinnia elegans*.

Ključne reči: novi nalaz, *Abutilon grandifolium*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Diphasiastrum alpinum*, *Geehbia fallax*, *Ptychostomum creberrimum*, *Tortula brevissima, Valonia utricularis*, *Zinnia elegans*, *Zonaria tournefortii*, peri-Mediteran.