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GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE



Organização das Nações Unidas para a Educação, Ciência e Cultura



Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional Geoparque Mundial da UNESCO



GEO-stories of our places and people: Alcains

Alcains was once and for many years the biggest village in Portugal. This town is in the heart of the plain of Castelo Branco, not far from this main city. In the middle of Castelo Branco platform, almost 400 meters high, in the heart of the granite plutonite, an almost perfect plain where several streams and particularly Lória Stream runs, old as 30 million years where only small granite rock clusters remain. As important agricultural area with 36,95 km² where grazing and cork oak forest are abundant, the Roman dam of Tira Calças in Tapadas Stream marks the ancientness of this economic activity. In one of these small granite bollards sprinkling the landscape lays the Chapel of Santa Apolónia, protecting the area of the quarries where, by wide hundreds of years the "Alcains' White" has been explored. In these small pits into the urban area of intermittent exploration, according to the difficulties of local companies and the demand, this thin and soft granite by weathering of the feldspars, reveals the geological time of 310 million years ago, as well as the marks of different stages of exploration. The Stonemason School of Alcains has over 500 years of existence. With significant value for the region, manifested by high ornamental detail in the construction of buildings like the branch of the Bank of Portugal in Castelo Branco or the Town Hall in Covilhã, or in the Statues in the famous Garden of the Episcopal Palace in Castelo Branco and most train stations scattered throughout the country, also arrived at Maputo and Macau, crystallizing its memory in the magnificent Stonemason Museum located in the no less charismatic Solar dos Goulões, interesting Baroque and neoclassical architecture. Also this granite and its weathering originated during the period of the Second World War several mining concessions for Tin and Wolfram belonging to the mining area of Lardosa. Other monumental buildings of Alcains are made of these granites: House of Alcains, classified as public interest, the "Roman" Fountain, built in the 16th or 17th centuries, the Church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, large Baroque-style building dating from the 16th century, or the Chapel of Espírito Santo. Granite is just one of the historical industrial activities of Alcains. The main industrial pole of Castelo Branco till the mid-80's has as reference the factories Lusitana, dated from 1954, produce the famous "Snow White" flours in the Centre of the village. Nowadays, in addition to these industries, the prestigious Dielmar and meat processing factories include also the cheese makers producing the famous cheese ODP of Castelo Branco.

The importance of cheese production in Alcains appears on Cheese Fair which is organized the weekend before Easter. In fact, the fairs and festivals boost cultural and commercial activity in this village, including as headliners the Fair of the Saints, the Feast of Popes (Cobs) and Festins – Festival of culture and Associations. Social revitalization is carried out by the numerous existing associations and organizations in the town, with 5022 inhabitants. From the tourist point of view, and enjoying the proximity to the highway A23 and the train station, Alcains has an equestrian centre and a bicycle path on the urban periphery.

GEO-stories of our places and people Alcains

However, the plain paths of the parish offer many possibilities for cycling and development of themed walking trails around the granite and its applications in monuments, a Route of the Stonemason and Stonework, as well as other connecting cheese makers and the nice shops with traditional products that are opening in the village. In these conditions, one might expect the development of quality rural accommodation, taking advantage of the 19th century solar architecturally interesting and revealing a secular land structure still very well preserved. The magnificent Solar de Alcains – TER is a great example, located in Quinta de S. Pedro. The massive concrete grain storage silos are tearing the flat landscape of Alcains, landscape made of a vast sky with limit on Gardunha Mountain.

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GEO-stories of our places and people: Alcains

COTELO NEIVA, J.M. & LIMPO DE FARIA, F. (1955) – Granitos dos afloramentos de Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova e Gardunha. Comunicações dos Serviços Geológicos de Portugal, XXXVI, 53-66.

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Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

The editor
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Scientific coordinator
Geologist



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



28 November – Training Course on Evaluation of Geodiversity and Geological Heritage on the 7th Young Researchers for Geosciences Meeting. The 7th Young Researchers for Geosciences Meeting was another successful event organized by University of Évora and the Living Science Centre of Estremoz, supported by Naturtejo Geopark, where hundreds of Portuguese, Spanish and Brazilian students shown their first research results. Within the framework of this meeting held a workshop on Geodiversity and Geological Heritage Evaluation organized by researchers at University of Minho, focused on relevance analysis and identification of geosites. The practical part of the meeting took place at the Syncline of Ródão, in Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark. Coordinated by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, the group ranged 5 geosites and Geodiversity sites inventoried in this Syncline and sought to analyze the criteria that led to its identification and characterization within the inventory of Geological and Mining Heritage of Naturtejo Geopark.



7 December – Creation of mini seedbeds with native trees in the Kindergarten of Rosmaninhal.

7 December – Creation of mini seedbeds with native trees in the Kindergarten of Rosmaninhal. An Outdoor class held in the courtyard of the kindergarten in Rosmaninhal, in an area devoted to organic garden, children had the opportunity to meet and to distinguish three species of native trees in their municipality (Cork oak, Holm oak and Portuguese Oak) and learn about their importance. Each student planted acorns in reused milk and coffee boxes. During the school year the group will take care of these baby trees and transplant to a definite place next year. The trainer for this activity was Manuela Catana within the framework of the Native Forest Month in Idanha-a-Nova and part of the program of Ancient Music Festival “Out of Place” 2017.



7 to 25 December – Christmas Celebration in Penamacor – Bonfire Village. Penamacor hosted another Christmas in Bonfire Village. During three weeks the program was filled with different activities bringing thousands to the town to see the biggest bonfire in Portugal, organized by the Municipality of Penamacor and supported by local associations and Naturtejo Geopark. During the entire month took place the usual book fair. On weekends the streets were filled by music with “Sons do Minho” and the traditional Christmas Carols Meeting. During this period of extra food, the sport activities received priority with competition on orienteering Orisabor and Orimadeiro. The environmental activities were conducted in the main stage of the tent with the Enchanted Forest attended by students from local schools. December 23rd was the most waited moment by lighting the bonfire near the Main Church, a giant pile of dead trees prepared to heat up the Christmas Night. This celebration moment was attended by more than a thousand people in a small square, heated by human warmth and the flames that went beyond the Church roof.

7 to 24 December – Exhibition “The Tree in my Forest”. In the aftermath of Christmas Celebrations of Penamacor Bonfire Village, students had a drawing competition on Bonfire Village. The challenge was made to schools and each class had to draw one of four species (Holly, Black Oak, Holm Oak, Cork-oak). These initiatives were boosted by Mariana Vilas Boas and Raquel Moreira, in a partnership between Naturtejo Geopark and the Municipality of Penamacor.

9 and 10 December - Traditional Flavours are back to Idanha-a-Nova. The best traditional products, good music and sports were the main ingredients for the event Traditional Flavours last weekend in Idanha-a-Nova. For two days, the Square of the Republic hosted animation for the entire family, and the highlight was the 4th São Silvestre Race in Idanha-a-Nova with 300 athletes from all over the country. João Carlos Sousa, Councillor at the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova presided to the Market inauguration, promoted by the Municipality, the Union of Parishes of Idanha-a-Nova and Alcafozes and Clube União Idanhense. “The event Traditional Flavours have been contributing to boost the historical area of Idanha-a-Nova, and so we will continue to do so, gathering residents and visitors and promoting initiatives to value our traditions”, said João Carlos Sousa. Besides the biggest São Silvestre Race ever, the event had other highlight moments with the arrival of the bonfire of “baby Jesus”, the Solidarity Walk, the exhibition of Creative Christmas Trees and the traditional Nativity Play.

These last two initiatives, promoted by the Union of Parishes of Idanha-a-Nova and Alcafozes, can be visited during the festive season. The president of the Union of Parishes, Vítor Mascarenhas, intends to “stimulate the historical area of Idanha-a-Nova”, a goal shared by João Almeida, president of Clube União Idanhense.

16 December – Naturtejo Geopark in Sustainable Tourism Show in Lisbon. Naturtejo Geopark participated in the Sustainable Tourism Show, held in the Riding Arena of the National Museum for Natural History and Sciences in the University of Lisbon. This initiative aimed to value cultural and natural heritage of emerging tourist destinations and already consolidated in Portugal. This initiative was organized within the framework of the International Year on Sustainable Tourism for Development (2017), and was attended by several entities dedicated to value natural and cultural heritage in the country, as well as other Geoparks and diverse entities. Jorge Costa boosted the space dedicated to Naturtejo Geopark, presenting the territory, the sustainable approach made since the beginning and several tourist products available.

16 and 17 December – Music and Christmas Traditions in Oledo. The Christmas Village in Oledo offered a weekend filled with charm and magic. The event “Music and Christmas Traditions” was promoted by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Parish of Oledo to boost local economy and support local producers and traders, attracting visitors and tourists. In the opening ceremony, the president of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo Geopark, Armindo Jacinto, highlighted the importance of this event to “promote local traditions and products, during a period in which families and friends gather to celebrate and share Christmas spirit”. Christmas Circus, music shows, Santa Claus House, Elves Workshops, Nativity Play and live cooking with seasonal flavours which delighted all.

19 December – Ordo Christi Seminar presented at Museum of Guarda. The Museum of Guarda hosted the presentation of Ordo Christy Project – Artistic Heritage for the Order of Christ between Zêzere and Tejo (15th and 16th centuries). The project coordinator João Neves explained this project aims to contribute to the study, protection, valuation and boosting regional and local heritage connected to the Order of Christ, with a profound interest to communicate openly in an accessible way to the civil society. Researchers for this project presented the main themes “Art in the context of the Order of Christ”, “Marketing contribution for tourism and territory”, by Teresa Paiva, “Communication for tourist promotion” and Joana Rodrigues was the moderator to the panel which discussed main difficulties, challenges, opportunities, new forms of pathways between investigators and decision makers, creation of accessible communication tools appealing to the society. The Councillor for Culture from the Municipality of Guarda, the Vice President of IPG, the Director of CEDER of IPCB, the Councillor from Vila Velha de Ródão and other entities attended the Seminar.



30 December to 1 January – New Year's Eve in Naturtejo Geopark. The tour operator Arawak brought 54 Spanish tourists for New Year's Eve in the territory. During 3 days the group visited the Embroidery Interpretation Centre in Castelo Branco, the Garden of the Episcopal Palace of Castelo Branco, Museum Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior, cross the Tejo River in a boat tour through the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão, the Oil Press in Vila Velha de Ródão and also walked through the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia and through the Boulders Trail in Monsanto. Rui Nunes from the partner company Geo.Life accompanied the group.

IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA



Newspapers & www

7 December (Reconquista) – Ah, Barrocal, Barrocal!

14 December (Reconquista) – Barrocal lives

20 December (Gazeta do Interior) – Research on Rural world prioritizes population

22 December (Reconquista) - Priority to rural population

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



BAYET-GOLL, A., NETO DE CARVALHO, C., DARAEI, M., MONACO, P. & SHARAFI, M. – Sequence stratigraphic and sedimentologic significance of the trace fossil *Rhizocorallium* in the Upper Triassic Nayband Formation, Tabas Block, Central Iran. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*. DOI10.1016/j.palaeo.2017.12.013.

PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



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**Feria Internacional de Turismo
International Tourism Trade Fair**



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PROMOÇÃO PARA O PÚBLICO EM GERAL



Feliz Natal

Bom Ano 2018

Józepe Nete
BOLDOG KARÁCSONY
Καλά Χριστούγεννα
SELAMAT HARI NATAL GLEBILEG JÖL
メリークリスマス VESELE VIANOCE
SELAMAT HARI KRISMAS GOD JUL WESOLYCH ŚWIĄT
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROHE WEIHNACHTEN VESELE VANOCE 圣诞节快乐 BOŽIC
ORACIÓN PERICIT MUTLU NOELLER GIANG SINH VUI VÔ VROLIJK KERSTFEEST
GLIMDAGI SHI SREYAN VESEL BOŽIC MARI KRISMAS FELIZ NAVIDAD HYVÄÄ JOULLUA



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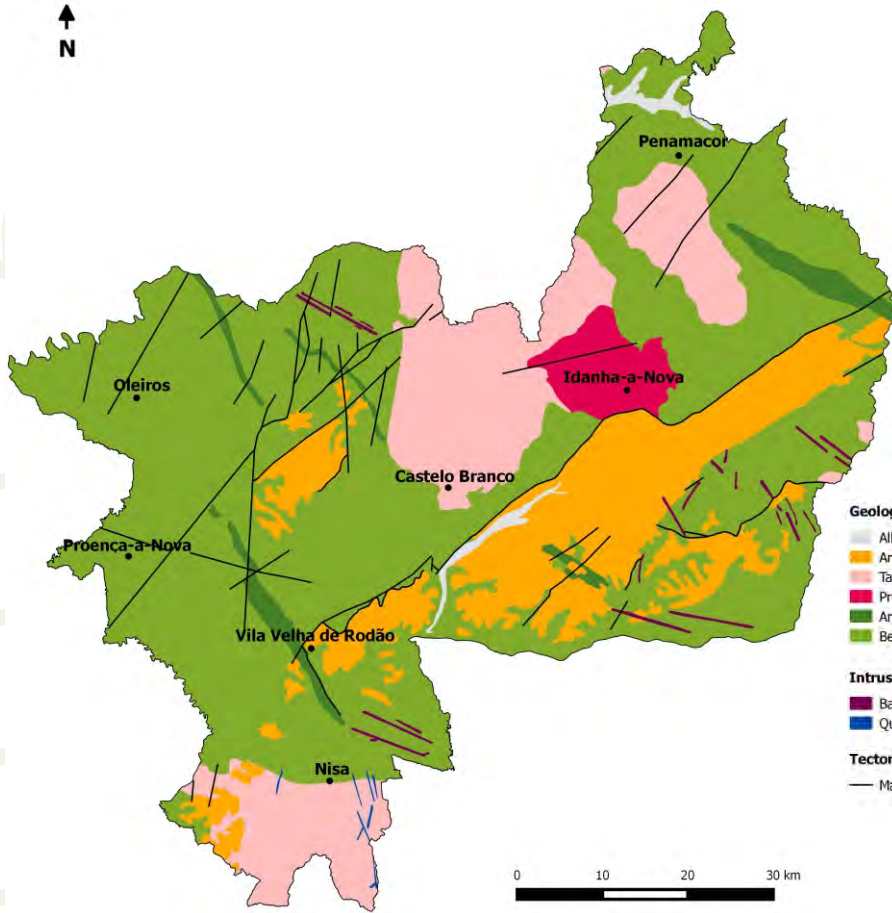
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Geological Formations (Ma-Million years)

- Alluvium and fluvial terraces - Pliocene-Holocene (1Ma-present)
- Arkoses, breccias and conglomerates - Eocene-Pliocene (50-2.6Ma)
- Tardi-Variscan orogenic granites (315-300Ma)
- Pre-Variscan granodiorites (480-472Ma)
- Armorican Quartzite and schists - Ordovician-Lower Silurian (488-435Ma)
- Beiras Group (schists and greywackes) - Neoproterozoic (610-542Ma)

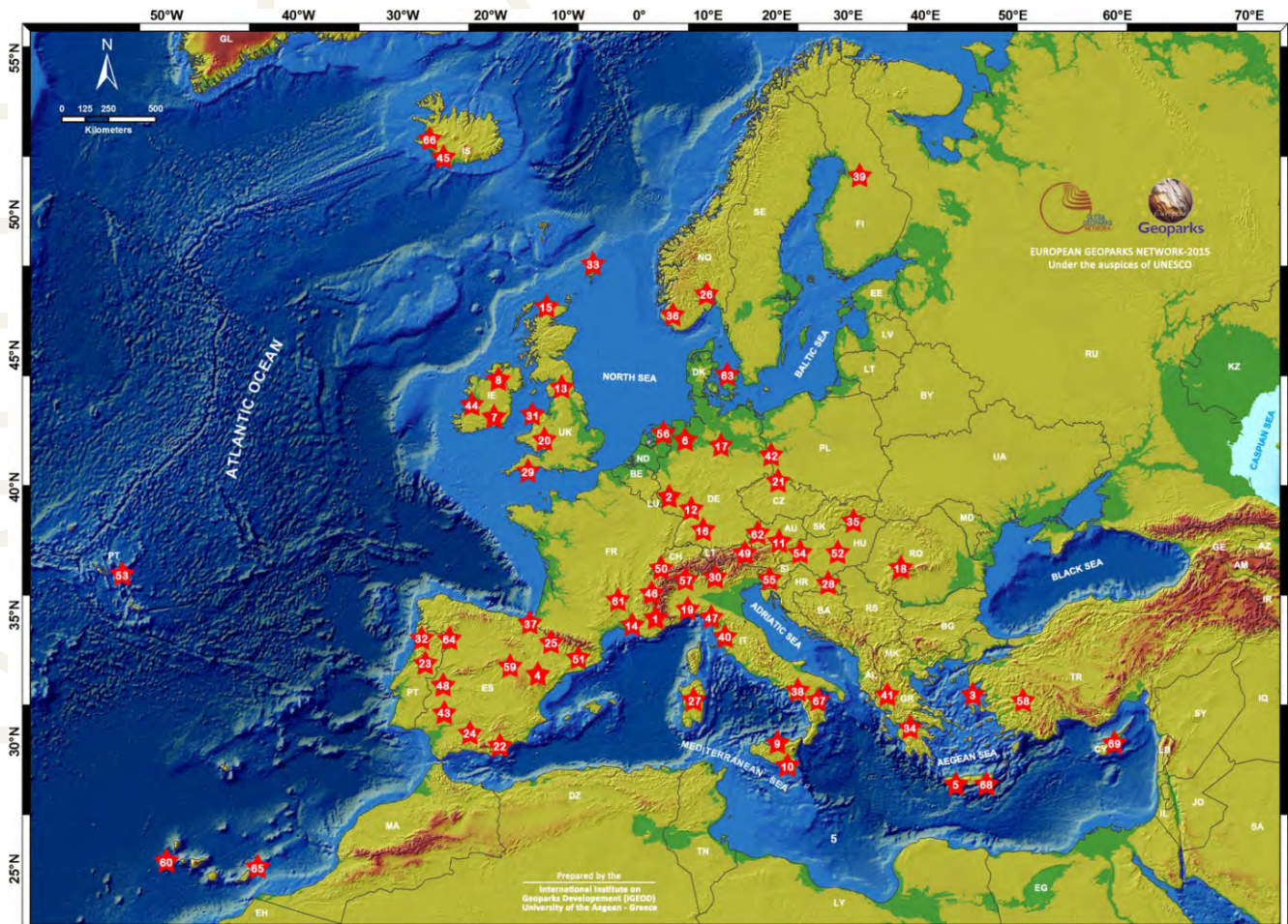
Intrusive rocks

- Basic rocks, aplites and pegmatites
- Quartz

Tectonic

- Main faults

Geoparks: Geology with human face





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