

A revision of Portuguese records of the genus *Psorosa* Zeller, 1846 (Pyralidae: Phycitinae)

Martin Corley

Pucketty Farm Cottage, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 8JP, U.K. email: martin.corley@btinternet.com;
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4240-8007>

Introduction

The Portuguese checklist (Corley, 2015a) was a synthesis of published information on the Portuguese Lepidoptera fauna together with the results of examination of recent and historical collections, all subject to critical evaluation. Some of the province records were unpublished, but many of these were later made available on GBIF (Corley & Afonso, 2021).

Knowledge of the Lepidoptera of southern Europe has always lagged behind that of more northern parts of the continent, so it was inevitable that a work of this sort would be found to contain errors. Most often these result from poor understanding of particular species or genera at the time of publication. Improved knowledge of many species comes from new papers clarifying the taxonomy of difficult groups or from the results of DNA barcoding, but also from collection of new specimens. When such new information becomes available it can present an opportunity for a revision updating knowledge of particular species or genera. In this paper the genus *Psorosa* Zeller, 1846 in Portugal is re-examined.

According to GlobIZ (2003–2026) the genus *Psorosa* has 26 known species, and occurs in Europe, Asia extending east to India and China and Africa, reaching South Africa. Very little is known of the bionomics of *Psorosa* species. One host-plant is recorded for *P. mediterranea*.

Corley (2015a) listed *Psorosa dahliella* (Treitschke, 1832) and *P. mediterranea* Amsel, 1953 for Portugal but excluded *P. nucleolella* (Möschler, 1866). In 2018 *P. ferrugatella* (Turati, 1924) was discovered in Algarve (Corley et al., 2019). Before 2018 *P. dahliella* was considered to be a species that could be distinguished without resorting to examination of genitalia. After the discovery of *P. ferrugatella*, this was no longer the case. As a result it became necessary to re-examine earlier records of *Psorosa*. Unfortunately several records of *P. dahliella* were based on specimens that were identified in the field but not collected.

Abbreviations

AAL Alto Alentejo

ALG Algarve

BA Beira Alta

BAL Baixo Alentejo

BB Beira Baixa

BL Beira Litoral

Coll. Collection of

DL Douro Litoral

GP genitalia preparation

Leg. Legit – collected by

NHMW Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria

TM Trás-os-Montes

ZMCP Zoological Museum of the University of Coimbra, Portugal

***Psorosa mediterranea* Amsel, 1953 (Fig. 1)**

In Corley (2015a) this species was only recorded from Trás-os-Montes but subsequently was recorded from Beira Litoral, Beira Baixa, Beira Alta and Douro Litoral (Corley et al., 2019, 2020). Externally it does not closely resemble *P. dahliella* or *P. ferrugatella*. There are few permanent genitalia preparations of this species, but some records were confirmed by genitalia examination without the preparations being retained.

Records confirmed by genitalia examination: **DL**: Maragoutos, Lousada, 25.viii.2022, leg. J. Nunes and F. Gil (Nunes & Gil, 2023). **TM**: Arnal, Serra de Alvão, 2.ix.2002, leg. M. Corley (P6609), Corley GP 1772 male (Corley et al., 2006); Vilarinho das Azenhas, Tua Valley, 25.vii.2006, leg. M. Corley (P8189), Corley GP 6119 male (Corley et al., 2014). **M**: Fradelos, 3.ix.2020, leg. J. Nunes, Corley GP6015 male.

Other records accepted here, although without retained genitalia preparations: **BL**: Quinta do Canal, Bissorreiro, 14.ix.2019, leg. M. Corley, J. Rosete, J. Nunes and S. Ferreira (Corley et al., 2020). **BB**: Segura, 30.ix.2018, leg. M. Corley and S. Ferreira (Corley et al., 2019). **BA**: Algodres, Faia Brava, 15.ix.2018, leg. C. Silva, E. Jesus and J. Nunes. **TM**: Amieiro, Tua Valley, 28.viii.2013, leg. M. Corley (Corley et al., 2014); Guadramil, 20.ix.2019, leg. M. Corley, J. Nunes and S. Ferreira. This is the only species of the genus with known host-plant: *Polygonum equisetiforme* Sm. (Huertas Dionisio, 2007). According to Flora-on this plant is not present in some of the localities from which *P. mediterranea* is known. Other host-plants are therefore likely. Accepted records indicate that the species flies from July to September.



Fig. 1. *Psorosa mediterranea* Amsel, 1953. Arnal, Serra de Alvão, Trás-os-Montes, 2.ix.2002, leg. M. Corley.

***Psorosa dahliella* (Treitschke, 1832) (Fig. 2.)**

Monteiro & Carvalho (1984) recorded this species from Sapais de Castro Marim in Algarve. This probably refers to *P. ferrugatella* as there are confirmed records of that species from the locality. Corley (2015a) lists *P. dahliella* from Algarve, Alto Alentejo, Beira Alta and Trás-os-Montes, the last three provinces based on records published in Corley et al. (2015). More recently it was also recorded from Baixo Alentejo (Marabuto, 2018) and Douro Litoral (Corley et al., 2018), but this last record was later found to be a misidentification of *Pempelia genistella* (Duponchel, 1836) (Nunes, 2023).

Confirmed records: **ALG**: Algoz, 22.ix.1995, leg. M. Corley (P3404), Corley GP 6120 female (Corley et al., 2000). **AAL**: São Julião Igreja, Serra de São Mamede, 27.ix.1999, leg. M. Corley (P5433), Corley GP 1458 female (Corley et al., 2015b).

Records from BAL and BA are currently unconfirmed as also are Algarve records from Santa Catarina (Carvalho & Corley, 1995) and Sagres (Corley et al., 2000).

September is the only month with confirmed records.



Fig. 2. *Psorosa dahliella* (Treitschke, 1832). São Julião Igreja, Serra de São Mamede, Alto Alentejo, 27.ix.1999, leg. M. Corley.

***Psorosa ferrugatella* (Turati, 1924) (Fig. 3)**

This species was described from Libya. Leraut (2014) mentions it from Tunisia and figures female genitalia. This figure allowed the recognition of *P. ferrugatella* as a Portuguese species (Corley et al., 2019). Slamka (2019) mentions the new Portuguese record and also an old record from Spain, Granada, 14.vi.1914, leg. Knitschke, in coll. NHMW.

Confirmed records: **ALG**: Moncarapacho, 23.iv.1979, leg. A. Contente, in Passos de Carvalho coll., Corley GP JPC98-70; Praia Verde, 20.iv.1992, leg. M. Corley (two specimens, P1101, P1104) Corley GP 289 male, 290 male (Carvalho & Corley, 1995, as *P. dahliella*); Ludo, 6.v.1995, leg. M. Corley (P2838), Corley GP 709 female (Corley et al., 2000 as *P. dahliella*); Sapais de Castro Marim, 18.v.2003, leg. M. Corley, GP 1906 female; Sapais de Castro Marim, 2.x.2018, leg. M. Corley and

S. Ferreira, Corley GP 5514 female (Corley et al., 2019). **TM**: Amieiro, Tua Valley, 10.ix.2006, leg. M. Corley (P8299), Corley GP 6118 male (Corley et al., 2015b, as *P. dahliella*).

Records indicate that the species flies in April and May and again in September and October.

The presence of this mainly North African species in Trás-os-Montes is surprising, but the Tua Valley fauna (Corley, 2025) also includes other species with strongly southern distribution in the Iberian Peninsula, such as *Horisme scorteata* (Staudinger, 1901) and *Idaea nigrolineata* (Chrétien, 1911).



Fig. 3. *Psorosa ferrugatella* (Turati, 1924). Sapais de Castro Marim, 2.x.2018, leg. M. Corley and S. Ferreira.

Excluded species: *Psorosa nucleolella* (Möschler, 1866)

Mendes (1904) recorded *P. nucleolella* from Sao Fiel, Beira Baixa. An unlabelled specimen under this name in the National Collection (ZMCP) is presumably this specimen. It is *P. mediterranea* (Corley GP 3837 female) (Corley, 2015b).

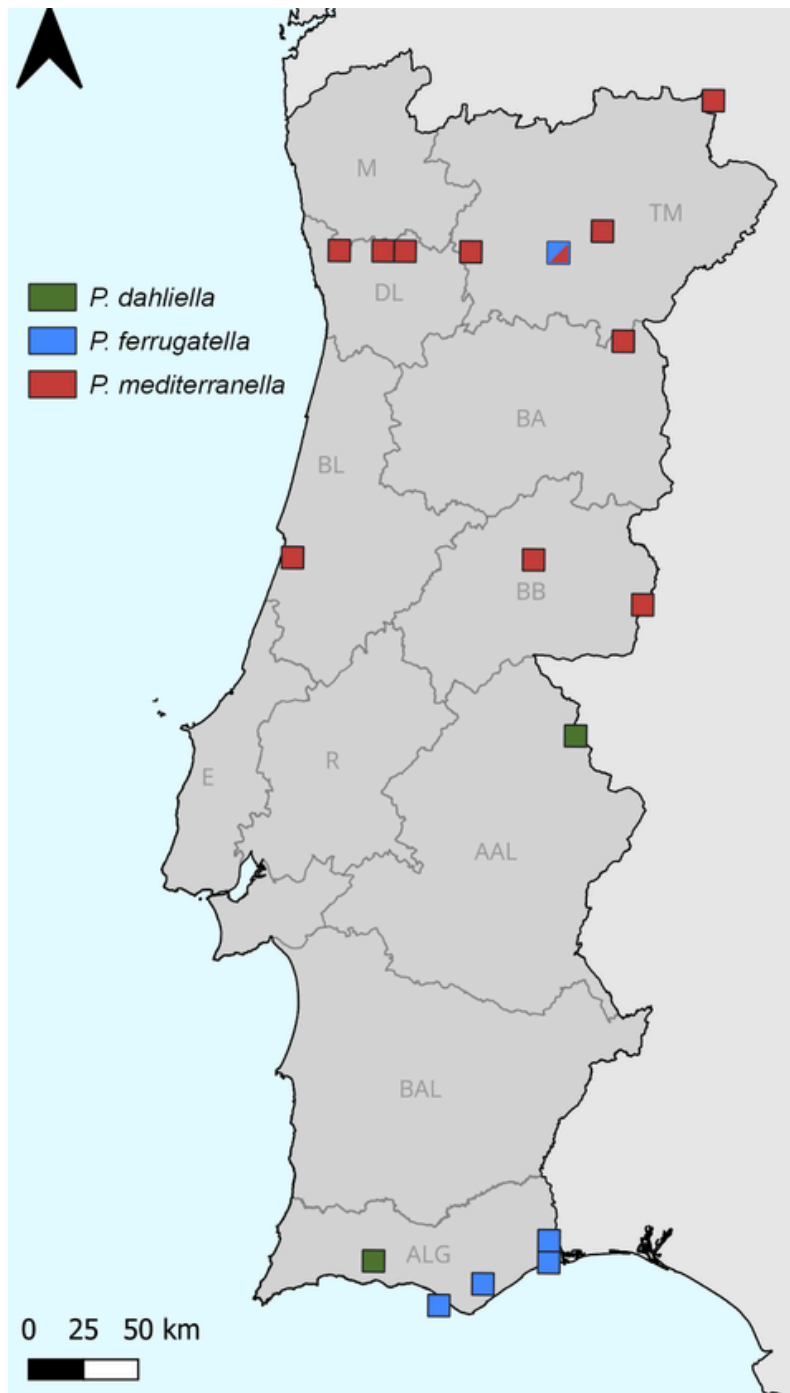


Fig. 4. The distribution of *Psorosa* species in Portugal.

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