



**ENCONTROS  
SCIENTIA**

## **Co-occurring Mediterranean Orchids: insights on Morphometrics, Genetic Diversity and Introgression/ genetic exchange between of two closely related species**

**Joana Abreu**

PhD Student at cE3c (Natural History & Systematics Group)

Hybridization is a phenomena extensively occurring among orchids, being largely documented. Namely within the genus *Ophrys* (subtribe Orchidinae, tribe Orchideae, subfamily Orchidoideae), the “bee orchids”. It is not infrequent to find plants of mixed morphology resembling both parental species, what turns taxonomic work into a difficult task. Like several other plants, they defy the species concept. Figures vary from 19 species and 65 subspecies (Pederson and Faurholdt 2007) to 251 species (Delforge 2002), also a consequence of the huge variability of floral morphology, that might be partitioned in discrete entities when geographically circumscribed and supposedly with a specific pollinator, or grouped in morphologically broader species when gene flow is thought to occur and a more inclusive concept of species is used.

Our target plants, *Ophrys dyris* Maire and *Ophrys fusca* Link have similar morphological characters and are frequently misidentified in the field. Populations of the two taxa occur in sympatry, and supposedly hybridizing populations of the species *O. fusca*/*O. dyris* are known to occur in nature. Furthermore, the two taxa have locally overlapping flowering times. In Portugal these species overlap in at least three regions: Aire and Candeeiros mountains, Arrábida and Algarve.

The work presented aims to understand which morphological characters allow us to better characterize the plants studied, verify if there are specific morphological traits associated to seed set, and determine to what extent is gene flow happening, within and between species. Three different approaches were considered: morphometric and phenological data, microsatellites as molecular markers, and cytogenetics.

**5ª feira, 16 de Junho de 2016**

**FCUL (Edif. C6) – 12.00h-13.00h – Sala 6.2.51**

**Transmissão por videoconferência:**

**Ponta Delgada - 11.00h-12.00h - Slnf2**

**Angra do Heroísmo - 11.00h-12.00h - PURze 1**