

27/03/2015




To whom it may concern,

The Quinta de São Pedro study Centre provides the perfect base for our second year undergraduate students to explore the unparalleled diversity of the early spring flowers of the Mediterranean. The nearby forest and shrubby “macchia” (particularly at Arrabida) offer lessons in adaptations to climatic extremes and contrasting responses to disturbance, fire and summer drought. The sand dunes and salt marshes of the Troia Peninsula also offer fascinating insights into primary succession and floristic adaptations. Nearby, the mosaic of agriculture encompasses pine and eucalypt forest, as well as cork oak savanna, vineyards and rice paddies, which exemplifies land use in the Mediterranean regions. Finally, the Caparica coast also hosts unrivalled geomorphology and fossil stratigraphies, from dinosaur footprints in Jurassic limestone to the diversity within more recent Quaternary alluvial deposits.

We have been returning to the Quinta de São Pedro Study Centre, Sobreda da Caparica, near Lisbon, Portugal, each year since 2003. The grounds of the Quinta capture the range of Mediterranean vegetation and diversity, with both native and alien invading species, and offer an ideal location for student research projects. The Quinta offers affordable accommodation for up to 50 students and staff, with the option of self catering or dining locally in restaurants. The staff are supportive and accommodating, and keen to improve facilities to aid research and teaching projects.

In conclusion, having used the site both for undergraduate teaching and also as a venue to hold two recent Environmental Physiology Research workshops in environmental techniques, I unreservedly commend the site as a field studies centre.

Best wishes,



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