



Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays  
with  
Madeira Wind Birds



Madeira  
9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## Participants

Chris Durdin  
Geoff Tilbury  
David Hughes-Davies

Jane and Malcolm Key  
John Rumpus and  
Rosemary Macdonald

## Leaders

Catarina Fagundes and Hugo Romano

Report by Catarina Fagundes, with some additions by Chris Durdin.

Our base for the holiday was the comfortable Quinta do Furão near Santana

[www.quintadofurao.com](http://www.quintadofurao.com)

All the photos in this report were taken during the holiday, those edged red by Madeira Wind Birds, edged yellow by Chris Durdin, edged green by John Rumpus and edged blue by Malcolm Key.

Cover photo: looking east towards Funchal from the viewpoint at Cabo Girão, with the Desertas Islands on the horizon.

Below: the group with Dr. Frank and Mrs.Elizabeth Zino.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of this one was put towards a local conservation project, in this case for the Freira Conservation Project (FCP), working for the conservation of Zino's petrel, Europe's rarest breeding seabird, which is endemic to Madeira and once thought to be extinct. During the week the group was given a presentation by the FCP's president Francis (Frank) Zino, son of Alec Zino who rediscovered the bird and named it as a separate species, on the conservation work undertaken by the FCP (see [www.freira.org](http://www.freira.org)).

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by Gift Aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, and by three personal donations from Honeyguiders following the fire that so damaged the petrels and their nesting grounds in 2010. This led to a total donation of £588. The total amount of conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991, as at January 2012, is £75,934.

## DAILY DIARY

### Wednesday, 9th November 2011

An early flight from Gatwick made us wake up very early for take-off at 7 am. The flight was going well until 10:30 when, almost in Madeira, the captain said that the wind conditions in the island would not allow us to land and so we had to go back to Lisbon. So, back to Lisbon and an hour to wait in the plane and off again flying towards Madeira...

After 7 hours and 30 minutes of sitting on a plane we were pleased to get up, walk out and feel the warm breeze of a sunny day in Madeira. We met Catarina – Hugo had come from London on the same flight as us – who told us that other planes had landed shortly before and after ours had been diverted to Lisbon.

We then took the half hour journey, though many tunnels, to Quinta do Furão to check-in, rest and walk around the hotel gardens. Local birds included many canaries, always in and out of the small organic vineyard that surrounds the hotel, plain swifts, blackcaps, robins, grey wagtails and the small, dark race of sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus granti*, for which the open land round the hotel was as good a place as anywhere to see this species. Butterflies included clouded yellows, long-tailed blues and speckled woods (the brighter form found in southern Europe), often around a weedy patch in the garden a stone's throw from the hotel's main entrance.

### Thursday, 10th November 2011



A nice summer morning started at 10 am with the group heading to Machico (*left*), the place where the discoverers of Madeira first landed when coming from Porto Santo Island. Walking upstream from the river mouth we first spotted a Sandwich tern and then observed wildlife such as turnstones, little egret, waxbills, monarch butterflies, dragonflies including blue emperor, a brown rat and grey mullets in the water. There was also an interesting part where we got to know some of the exotic fruit trees grown in Madeira, such as avocados and custard apples.



After this we went to Caniçal, starting in the harbour, where there were only some yellow-legged gulls, though on a short walk along the bay we saw Spanish sparrows around the houses. Lunch was a tasting experience of fish delicacies at a local restaurant.

Before we headed to the marina we stopped at a viewpoint where we observed a kestrel fighting with a hen harrier (*photographed left*). This bigger raptor turned out to be the first confirmed record of a hen harrier for Madeira. There are two previous records but these are considered to be dubious.

Berthelot's pipits here – the local subspecies *Anthus berthelotii madeirensis* – were very tame and easy to see. We also observed a pyroclastic bomb, small rocks composed of volcanic materials and commonly associated with explosive volcanic activity, a reminder of the island's origin.

On the sea trip on board Oceanodroma RHIB, the boat owned and crewed by Madeira Wind Birds, we first headed to the northeast where we saw a juvenile gannet. When we turned past the tip of São Lourenço we started to see Cory's shearwaters flying and we were soon among small flocks sitting on the water. These were all juvenile birds, the adults having left a few weeks ago. Unfortunately we did not find any cetaceans but the views of the coast were really nice.





Yellow-legged gull of the Atlantic islands race *atlantis*, on the harbour wall at Caniçal; and juvenile Cory's shearwater photographed from the boat.

### Friday, 11th November 2011

We left the hotel at 9 am and headed west, passed through São Jorge and stopped at a viewpoint. This was mainly to admire the nice view but it turned out to be a good spot for trocáz pigeons, where we observed three birds sitting and two flying. Some of us also saw a firecrest. We continued west until São Vicente where we looked again for these endemic pigeons on a cliff but without luck. Here, as in many places, there was a grey wagtail, robin, blackcaps and blackbirds, plus a whimbrel in a field by the sea.

We then went up to Chão da Ribeira, a laurel forest, to look for firecrest and chaffinches, both successfully seen, and some of the endemic trees. Several speckled woods and a Madeiran small copper were also observed closely as we caught them in a butterfly net.

Lunch was scabbard fish with banana in Porto Moniz, which was followed by a show of waves close to the natural swimming pools and some Cory's shearwaters flying far away. Geoff glimpsed what he was sure were the dorsal fins of orcas.



Breaking waves at Porto Moniz, and the green-winged north American vagrant teal (*carolinensis*) showing the vertical white line on the side of his breast.

Next stop was at Ribeira da Janela to see the long-staying green-winged teal, accompanied by some muscovy ducks. It was also a chance to get to know some of the coastal endemic flora. This included plate-like disc houseleeks and banks of the shrub called fish-stunning (or smooth spear-leaved) spurge *Euphorbia piscatoria*. The former and more interesting name is because it was used for fishing in shallow water: the abundant and poisonous white latex, as for many spurges, is supposed to stun fish and render them easy to catch.

We went up to Paul da Serra, driving across the heathy, high parts of the island, and as we got up there the weather changed completely. Here it was very windy and chilly and even though we went for a walk on a good area to see Berthelot's pipits and spectacled warblers we were not successful. Going down towards the south coast the weather changed again and our last stop of the day at Lugar de Baixo was under some rain and we saw little more than coots and moorhens, both recent colonists as nesting birds.

Back to Quinta do Furão we passed through Funchal where it was raining and only after Porto da Cruz was it dry again.

**Saturday, 12th November** – Free day (written by Chris)



Hugo and Catarina dropped us all in Funchal, pointing out the provisions market and the cable car station for Monte. At this point we went our separate ways, though in practice most of us spent time in the market, trying fruits and making various purchases. Geoff and I checked out the many gulls on the shore (yellow-legged, lesser black-backed and black-headed; other group members later found a sanderling here) before walking through the elegant main streets of Funchal. This led us to the park of Santa Catarina – no connection with our guide – where monarch and clouded yellow butterflies proved difficult to photograph, but Madeira wall lizards were more cooperative.

Left – looking down onto the central courtyard of Funchal market.

Below – ascending 560 metres to Monte.

David spent the day in Funchal while the rest of us took the terrific cable car ride up the hill to Monte. From this there were several kestrels of the local and distinctly dark subspecies *Falco tinnunculus canariensis* but, above all, it was all about the view ahead and over Funchal, down to the visiting cruise ships.

In the gardens of Quinta Baden Powell in Monte, as well as gathering scouts, there was a monarch butterfly and hummingbird hawkmoth feeding on a pride-of-Madeira that was still in flower. From Monte, Malcolm and Jane took the other cable car down to the botanic gardens. Geoff, myself and others, after finding something to eat, briefly watched the start of the celebrated toboggan run down the steep streets that lead to Funchal, and then went round the tropical gardens, with their many tile friezes depicting Portugal's history. Both gardens are far from their best in November but it was a restful, pottery day before Hugo and Catarina collected us – having first picked up David in Funchal – and returned us to the hotel.





## Sunday, 13th November

The morning was rainy, as the forecasts said it would be, so Catarina and Hugo had already decided to change the programme and stay around Santana as it would be the best weather on the island. So we went first to São Jorge, to a viewpoint which was used as a whaling observation point. We did not see any whales but the landscape was very nice and we got to know a new endemic tree for Madeira: ironwood.

Then the tour was about water, so we went to see a levada (Levada do Rei) and looked at how the water was managed. The intention was to visit a watermill, but it was closed.



Levada walking; and white-rumped sandpiper with a much larger greenshank.

We visited São Jorge beach to look for its endemic coastal plants and some birds, though these last were only grey wagtails. We then drove up the mountain to Pico das Pedras but the rain was heavy there and we quit the levada walk of the day.

We had a picnic lunch at another viewpoint, over Faial, and after it we went to Faial beach for a short walk. We walked along the riverside to observe vagrant birds which was very successful, including white wagtails, common sandpipers and a kingfisher. The highlight was a white-rumped sandpiper, Madeira's fourth, which fed in the river alongside a greenshank.

The last stop of the day was at Porto da Cruz, a small village by the sea from where we could see the eastern tip of Madeira.

## Monday, 14th November

Today the morning was much clearer than yesterday and we went up to Ribeiro Frio for a levada walk of about 1.5 km to a wonderful viewpoint called Balcões. Along the walk we observed some firecrests and also some of the native plants of the laurel forest. At the viewpoint – understandably a popular spot for walkers – a stone bird table provided a chance to study very tame Madeira chaffinches.

After this walk we kept driving uphill towards Pico do Areeiro, but before the top we stopped for a picnic in a good place to look for spectacled warbler, and a good but brief view of it was had by some group members only. After this we were driven to the top of the third highest peak of Madeira where we could appreciate the amazing views over the mountains and valleys of Madeira and observe a group of canaries and linnets.

Coming down towards the south coast we stopped at Quinta do Santo, a public garden with many interesting species of exotic flora and some fallow deer as well. The short walk through this garden was peaceful and reinvigorating, albeit thin on birds. We went back to Santana through Portela where we stopped at another viewpoint just for the view and then just before heading to the hotel we stopped at Praia do Faial to have a second look at the white-rumped sandpiper. Apart from the kingfisher, the vagrant species we saw on the day before were still there, including the white-rumped sandpiper.

In the evening we met Frank and Elizabeth Zino and listened to a very interesting presentation about Zino's Petrel – its history, conservation and studies, developed by the Freira Conservation Project managed by Frank. Dinner was also amusing with the company of the couple who have worked so hard to protect the seabird named after them.



Madeira chaffinch at Balcões; and spectacled warbler on a sword aloe.

At Faial, on the previous day, Catarina had been given a juvenile Cory's shearwater, found struggling on the ground. Frank had examined it, ringed it, and concluded its best chance was to release it as soon as possible and hope it would join one of the groups of shearwaters still around, feeding at sea. Taking it to the clifftop by the hotel it showed no signs of wanting to fly away, so we moved to a darker, more secluded spot where we left it. There was no sign of the bird on checking the clifftop the following morning

### **Tuesday, 15th November**

The morning was sunny, though the wind was a bit chilly. We went towards the east side and when we got to São Vicente we started to go up the mountain so the total ride was about 1 hour and 20 minutes. We stopped at Encumeada which is on a top of a mountain with 1007 metres of altitude and from there we walked on the Folhadal Levada.



Walking the Folhadal Levada among many ferns, including hare's foot fern (above).

The levada was wider than yesterday's and after 40 minutes of walking through Laurel Forest with some exotic species in between, we reached a tunnel. Catarina produced head torches and although it only took us about 10 minutes to go through it was still a relief to reach the other side of it. On the north side of the tunnel the exotic species were less though the agapanthus were still a constant. We passed a few waterfalls, through a second tunnel and alongside places where there had been a landslide and where the endemic vegetation was growing strongly, taking advantage of the lack of



shade and competition. This included *Euphorbia mellifera*, here more like a small tree, and the leaves of Madeira buttercups. Ferns were very striking, thriving in the damp conditions – see the list at the end of this report.

On the way back we observed a Madeiran small copper and, at last, good views of some Madeira speckled wood butterflies. We had a peaceful picnic at the tables by where we'd parked before driving back down to the dual carriageway that stretches along much of the south side of Madeira and to the most famous viewpoint in Madeira – Cabo Girão. This is one of the highest sea capes in the world, with 550 metres of altitude and a great view over Câmara de Lobos and Funchal. Construction work underway was adding a transparent platform beyond the edge of the huge cliff: not something for those who get vertigo.

Our last stop was at Garajau, another viewpoint over Funchal but also a nice place for some endemic coastal plants like *Muschia aurea* and also spectacled warbler, and this time we all had great views of the warbler.



For the farewell dinner we went to Caniçal to a local restaurant (*left*) where Hugo and Catarina knew the owner, Manuel. He prepared us very typical dishes, normally for locals only. As a starter we had tuna entrails and dried skipjack tuna while for main dish we were served with a plate of polenta (maize meal) and one of tuna steak with onion and pepper sauce. As Jane's birthday had been two days before and Malcolm's was the next day, Manuel brought his guitar and played and sang Happy Birthday in Portuguese, together with our tour leaders. Then we spent time hearing Manuel and Chris playing the guitar, which was very amusing.

### Wednesday, 16th November

We checked out and left Quinta do Furão at 9:20 am for the airport for our flight just before noon. It was a smooth flight, safely home.

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A short tunnel on the Folhadal Levada.



## Species observed in Madeira

BIRDS		
<b>Barn Owl</b>	<i>Tyto alba schmitzi</i>	Heard at Quinta do Furão by some of us.
<b>Berthelot's Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus berthelotii madeirensis</i>	Seen in Caniçal and in Pico do Areeiro.
<b>Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>	Seen every day at Quinta do Furão.
<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heineken</i>	Seen often all around the island.
<b>Black-headed gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	6 on the shore in Funchal.
<b>Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen in Chão da Ribeira and Encumeada.
<b>Canary</b>	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	Seen almost every day all around the island and some in the hotel garden.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs madeirensis</i>	Observed very well in Balcões, Ribeiro Frio.
<b>Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	About 50 flying over Caniçal industrial estate.
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Birds seen in Caniçal marina, in Faial river and in Machico.
<b>Coot</b>	<i>Fulica atra</i>	3 in Faial and some in Lugar de Baixo pond.
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Several on the sea trip, some off Porto Moniz and the one we took from Faial beach and later released.
<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1 bird on the river mouth of Machico.
<b>Feral Dove</b>	<i>Columba livia feral</i>	Everywhere.
<b>Gannet</b>	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	1 juvenile seen on the sea trip.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis parva</i>	Seen in Machico, Paul da Serra, São Vicente and Quinta do Furão.
<b>Greenfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1 at Quinta do Furão.
<b>Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1 observed in Faial river mouth.
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	Madeira 1 <sup>st</sup> record - still in Ribeira da Janela for more than 4 years.
<b>Grey heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	At two or three coastal spots.
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea schmitzi</i>	Several seen during the week, often but not always in rivers.
<b>Hen Harrier</b>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1 observed and photographed flying in Caniçal. This is the 1 <sup>st</sup> confirmed record for Madeira with 2 previously unconfirmed.
<b>Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>	Observed almost every day.
<b>Kingfisher</b>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	A rare migrant to Madeira, observed in Faial river mouth.
<b>Lesser black-backed gull</b>	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Funchal shore, count of c. 57.
<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Observed in Machico and Faial.
<b>Madeira Firecrest</b>	<i>Regulus madeirensis</i>	Seen in Ribeiro Frio and in Encumeada.
<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Or what looked to be a pure one in Faial.
<b>Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	7 seen in Faial river mouth.
<b>Mute swan</b>	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	In parks and gardens at Funchal and Monte.
<b>Plain Swift</b>	<i>Apus unicolor</i>	Seen almost every day in Quinta do Furão.
<b>Robin</b>	<i>Erithacus rubecula rubecula</i>	Observed in São Vicente, Ribeiro Frio and regularly at Quinta do Furão.
<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Seen by some of us in Funchal harbour on the free day.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	In Machico, 3 birds seen on the sea trip in Caniçal and in Porto Moniz.
<b>Spanish Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	A few seen before lunch, in Caniçal village.
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>	Most often seen around Quinta do Furão.
<b>Spectacled Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia conspiciolata orbitalis</i>	Some of us saw one in Pico do Areeiro and all of us saw it in Garajau on the 15th.
<b>Trocaz Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba trocaz</i>	Some seen in São Jorge and 1 seen at Balcões, Ribeiro Frio, and various views as we were driving.

<b>Turnstone</b>	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Biggest group was 24 in Machico; also in Caniçal harbour and Funchal.
<b>Whimbrel</b>	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1 seen in São Vicente.
<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2 in Faial river bed.
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	4th record for Madeira of this North American bird.
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>	Seen every day along the coast.

Cory's shearwaters photographed from the boat, with Ponta de São Lourenço in the background.



#### BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

<b>Clouded Yellow</b>	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Hotel garden, Funchal and elsewhere.
<b>European Speckled Wood</b>	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Around the hotel and in Encumeada.
<b>Long-tailed Blue</b>	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	At the hotel garden.
<b>Madeira Speckled Wood</b>	<i>Pararge xiphia</i>	Caught and released in Chão da Ribeira.
<b>Madeira Small Copper</b>	<i>Lycaena phlaeas phlaeoides</i>	Caught and released in Chão da Ribeira.
<b>Monarch</b>	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Observed in Machico, Funchal and Monte.
<b>Red Admiral</b>	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Observed in Monte.
<b>Small White</b>	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	At the hotel garden.
<b>Hummingbird Hawkmoth</b>	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Monte.



Madeira small copper and Madeira wall lizard.



#### DRAGONFLIES

<b>Blue Emperor</b>	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Seen in Machico and Faial.
<b>Island Darter</b>	<i>Sympetrum nigrifemur</i>	Seen in Machico.
<b>Small Bluetail</b>	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>	Seen in Machico.

#### REPTILES

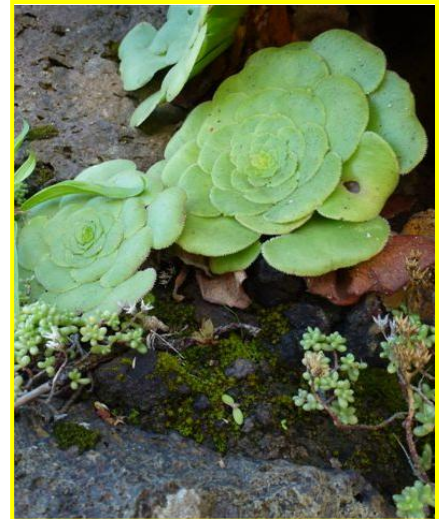
<b>Madeira Wall Lizard</b>	<i>Lacerta dugesii</i>	Everywhere.
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**FLORA – native species, many not in flower, listed by Catarina.**

<b>Disc Houseleek</b>	<i>Aeonium glandulosum</i>
<b>Viscid Houseleek</b>	<i>Aeonium glutinosum</i>
<b>Madeira Stonecrop</b>	<i>Aichryson domosum /divaricatum</i>
<b>Downy Stonecrop</b>	<i>Aichryson villosum</i>
<b>Madeira Sowthistle</b>	<i>Andryala crithmifolia</i>
<b>Downy Sowthistle</b>	<i>Andryala glandulosa glandulosa</i>
<b>Canary Laurel</b>	<i>Apollonias barbujana</i>
<b>Madeira Chrysanthemum</b>	<i>Argyranthemum pinnatifidum montanum</i>
<b>Madeira Chrysanthemum</b>	<i>Argyranthemum pinnatifidum succulentum</i>
	<i>Bystropogon madeirensis</i>
<b>Madeira Marigold</b>	<i>Calendula maderensis</i>
<b>Willow-leaved Thistle</b>	<i>Carlina salicifolia</i>
<b>Canary Dragon's Herb</b>	<i>Cedronella canariensis</i>
<b>Lily-of-the-valley Tree</b>	<i>Clethra arborea</i>
<b>Dragon Tree</b>	<i>Dracena draco</i>
<b>Pride of Madeira</b>	<i>Echium candicans</i>
<b>Pride of Madeira</b>	<i>Echium nervosum</i>
<b>Heather</b>	<i>Erica scoparia</i>
<b>Tree Heather</b>	<i>Erica arborea</i>
<b>Madeira Mountain Stock</b>	<i>Erysimum bicolor</i>
<b>Melliferous Spurge</b>	<i>Euphorbia mellifera</i>
<b>Fish-stunning or Smooth Spear-leaved Spurge</b>	<i>Euphorbia piscatoria</i>
<b>Madeira Soft Broom</b>	<i>Genista tenera</i>
<b>Madeira Cranesbill</b>	<i>Geranium maderense</i>
<b>Anemone-leaved Cranesbill</b>	<i>Geranium palmatum</i>
<b>Globe Flower</b>	<i>Globularia salicina</i>
<b>White Everlasting</b>	<i>Helichrysum melaleucum</i>
<b>Silver Everlasting</b>	<i>Helichrysum obconicum</i>
<b>Large-leaved St John's Wort</b>	<i>Hypericum grandifolium</i>
<b>Canary Holly</b>	<i>Ilex canariensis</i>
<b>Yellow Foxglove</b>	<i>Isoplexis sceptrum</i>
<b>Madeira Juniper</b>	<i>Juniperus cedrus madeirensis</i>
<b>Bay Laurel</b>	<i>Laurus novocanariensis</i>
<b>Bird's Foot Trefoil</b>	<i>Lotus glaucus</i>
<b>Black Parsley</b>	<i>Melanoselium decipiens</i>
<b>Golden Musschia</b>	<i>Musschia aurea</i>
<b>Wollaston's Musschia</b>	<i>Musschia wollastonii</i>
<b>Madeira Laurel</b>	<i>Ocotea foetens</i>
<b>Madeira Water Dropwort</b>	<i>Oenanthe divaricata</i>
<b>Wild Olive Tree</b>	<i>Olea maderensis</i>
<b>Madeira Mahogany</b>	<i>Persea indica</i>
<b>Madeira Groundsel</b>	<i>Pericallis aurita</i>
<b>Bastard Hare's Ear</b>	<i>Phyllis nobla</i>
<b>Picconia</b>	<i>Picconia excelsa</i>
<b>Madeira Buttercup</b>	<i>Ranunculus grandifolium</i>
<b>Madeira Wild Rose</b>	<i>Rosa mandonii</i>
	<i>Rubia fruticosa fruticosa</i>
<b>Giant Bramble</b>	<i>Rubus grandifolium</i>
	<i>Salix canariensis</i>
<b>Smooth Stonecrop</b>	<i>Sedum fusiforme/nudum</i>

<b>Madeira Moneywort</b>	<i>Sibthorpia peregrina</i>
<b>Ironwood</b>	<i>Sideroxylon mirmulans</i>
<b>Shrubby Sow Thistle</b>	<i>Sonchus fruticosus</i>
<b>Sow Thistle</b>	<i>Sonchus pinnatus</i>
<b>Burnt Sow Thistle</b>	<i>Sonchus ustulatus maderensis</i>
<b>Madeira Bilberry</b>	<i>Vaccinium padifolium</i>



Native species seen on Madeira: Madeira marigold; globe flower; and disc houseleek.

## FLORA – non-native species, contributed by Chris.

### Selected plants from around the world

One of the fascinating – but sometimes confusing – elements of Madeira is the huge range of tropical plants from around the world. The formal gardens are well-known but perhaps equally interesting was to see what was planted in streets, around the hotel Quinta do Furão, growing in gardens or on smallholdings. The usual suspects were there – bougainvillea, hibiscus, oleander, giant reed, poinsettia, palms, acacias and eucalyptus – and this is a list of some of the others that we saw. Some are decorative and harmless, others invasive. Many have more than one English name.

Agapanthus or African Lily *Agapanthus praecox* (S Africa). Abundant on roadsides and growing in seriously plague numbers. Mostly not in flower but still large numbers of both white and blue flowers seen.

Sword aloe *Aloe arborescens*.

Custard apple tree *Annona cherimola* (Peru, Ecuador). Around Quinta do Furão.

Swan's neck agave *Agave attenuata* (Mexico). Especially roadside planting near airport, also at Quinta do Furão.

Norfolk Island pine *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island). Occasional, widespread.

Weed blackjack, a bur marigold *Bidens pillosa* (S America).

Angel's trumpets *Brugmansia versicolor* (= *Datura mollis*).

Bony-tip fleabane *Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexico). Abundant and highly invasive, especially along levadas.

Loquat *Eriobotrya japonica*. Around Quinta do Furão and elsewhere.

Ginger lily *Hedychium gardnerianum* (Western Himalayas). Recognised as one of "The World's 100 Worst Invasive Alien Species" by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. Widely seen in fruit, still in flower near Quinta do Furão.

Marvel of Peru / four o'clock flower *Mirabilis jalapa*.

Banana passion flower/fruit *Passiflora x exoniensis*. Ribeiro frio, especially.

Garden knotweed *Polygonum capitatum* (India, Himalayas).



King protea *Protea cynaroides* (South Africa). Quinta do Furão.

Mauritius nightshade *Solanum mauritianum* (Tropical Africa and tropical America). By Quinta do Furão, and Machico, sometimes in thickets.

African tulip tree *Spathodea campanulata* (Tropical Africa). Funchal, especially.

Bird-of-paradise *Strelitzia reginae* (South Africa). Widely planted.

### Arable weeds / wayside flowers

These are plants that you could find in a European flora, but still often from around the world. Numbers are those in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* by Marjorie Blamey & Christopher Grey-Wilson.

112 Virginia poke *Phytolacca americana* (North America).

115 Hottentot fig *Carpobrotus edulis* (South Africa).

508 Pitch trefoil *Psoralea bituminosa*.

824 Castor oil plant *Ricinus communis* (Tropical Africa).

1321 Morning glory *Ipomoea acuminata* (Tropical America).

1418 Vervain *Verbena officinalis*.

1525 Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium*.

1563 Black nightshade *Solanum nigrum*.

1611 Weasel's snout or lesser snapdragon *Misopates orontium*.

1894 Corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*.

- Shaggy soldier *Galinsoga ciliata*.

- Wood scabious *Knautia dipsacifolia* or something very similar. Folhadal Levada.

### Ferns

Maidenhair fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris*.

Hard fern *Blechnum spicant*.

Hare's foot fern *Davalia canariensis*.

Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

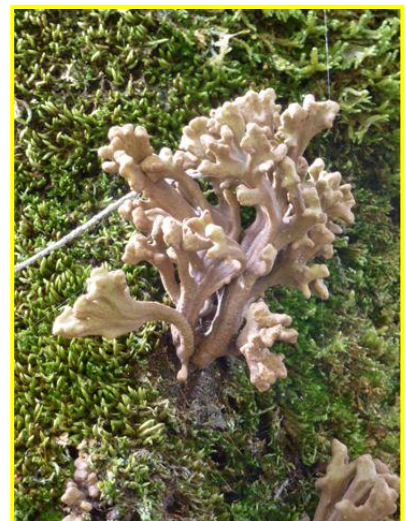
Macaronesian polypody *Polypodium (cambricum) macaronesicum*.

Shield fern *Polystichum falcinellum*.

Chain fern *Woodwardia radicans*.

### Fungus

*Laurobasidium laurii*. A mass of curly, branched galls on the trunks of *Laurus azorica* produced by this parasitic fungus.



Non-native species seen on Madeira: custard apples; sword aloe; and *Laurobasidium laurii*.