CBGP
Centre de Biologie pour la Gestion des Populations

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Grande salle + visio

Azores Islands as a Model System: Understanding the Biodiversity, Ecological and Genetic Patterns, along Gradients of Anthropogenic Disturbance

par
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- Globally, and particularly on islands, anthropogenic activities have led to considerable change in soil cover and biodiversity patterns. This seminar exhibits the Azores archipelago as an interesting region to be used as a model, in studies devoted to diversity pattern changes, associated with anthropogenic activity, and to the potential ecosystem services originated by different vegetation types.
- The Azores is an isolated archipelago, situated in the mid-Atlantic Ocean comprising nine volcanic islands, which belongs to the Macaronesia biogeographical region hosting a unique biodiversity. The present Azorean landscape is strongly modified by the presence of man and only in small areas, where the soil or climate was too rough, have primitive conditions remained unchanged. Invasive plants are considered one of the major threats to biodiversity in the Azores, where they invaded many protected areas and where they can constitute even 70% of the flora. The continuous expansion of some invasive plants like *Pittosporum undulutum*, *Hedychium gardnerianum*, *Hydrangea macrophylla* and *Gunnera tinctoria*, is threatening several fragments of native vegetation, leading to the prediction that several communities of lichens, vascular plants, molluscs, and arthropods native and endemic to the Azores might be endangered.
- Along of this seminar, I'm to present a general overview of the holistic research approach and management which integrates studies devoted to indigenous and non-indigenous species, that range from endemic to invasive species, and a broad array of ecosystems, including forest resources, pastureland, natural habitats, and ecological services.
- Finally, I'll briefly present the project AllnterAZ that I'm going to develop along these two years at CBGP, which focus on the multitrophic interactions of phytophagous arthropods and associated natural enemies with alien plants in the Azores and present two main actions. In action 1, the taxonomic characterization of communities of arthropods associated with invasive plants in the Azores. In Action 2, unravelling genetic and ecosystem factors influencing interactions in arthropod communities associated with alien plants. In addition to the valuable knowledge on biodiversity and invasion ecology results could have implications on invasive plants management and on biosecurity issues.