New records of *Pelodytes* spp. and *Pleurodeles waltl* outside their distribution range in northern Portugal

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This work aims to present new distribution limits for *Pelodytes* spp. and *Pleurodeles waltl* in the northwest of Portugal. These data were collected during several surveys performed in 2009 at the Natural Park ‘Litoral Norte’ (NPLN) in order to produce a herpetological atlas (Matos, 2009), and in 2010 during other sporadic surveys.

Currently, three species have been described inside the genus *Pelodytes*: *P. punctatus*, in the Iberian Peninsula, France and North-east Italy (Barbadillo, 2002a); *P. ibericus*, endemic to the Iberian Peninsula (Barbadillo, 2002b); and *Pelodytes caucasicus*, in the western coast of Black Sea (Kaya et al., 2008). In Portugal, the taxonomy is not resolved because the limits between *P. punctatus* and *P. ibericus* are not well established, and the existence of a third *Pelodytes* form in the south-western part of Portugal is being investigated (Crespo et al., 2010). In Iberia, Barbadillo (2002a) cited *P. punctatus* in the eastern half of Spain, and in Portugal. Then, *P. ibericus* should occupy only the south-western part of Spain (Barbadillo, 2002b). In any case, the species of the genus *Pelodytes* are distributed in Portugal from the south (Algarve region) to the north (Mindelo, Vila do Conde) following the coast (Crespo et al., 2010).

The genus *Pleurodeles* includes three species: *P. waltl*, distributed in the Iberian Peninsula and Northwestern Morocco; *P. poireti*, located in North Algeria and Tunisia, and *P. nebulosus*, restricted to Edough Peninsula in Algeria (Carranza & Wade, 2004). In the Iberian Peninsula, *P. waltl* occupies the southern two-thirds with an irregular northern boundary. These species populations are more numerous in the southern and western parts of Iberia, rarefied to the north, especially above the Central System Mountains and very fragmented to the east (Montori et al., 2002; Montori & Llorente, 2010). In Portugal, this species is present in the interior and southern parts of the country, and extends the distribution to the northwest along the coastline, resulting in a U-shaped distribution. The actual northwest limit known for this species is the region of Mindelo and Póvoa de Varzim, in Ave river-basin (Montori & Llorente, 2010).

In February 2009 and January 2010, we registered...
one adult of *Pelodytes* spp. vocalizing in a temporary pond located in a sand-hill with *Pinus pinaster* in Fão (Esposende) (Figure 1). In March 2010, we found more 3 individuals (Figure 2) in Marachão (Rio Tinto, Esposende), 5 km to the east from Fão record (Figure 1). *P. waltl* was collected in March 2009 on a sand-hill drain that goes directly into the sea, located at Cepães (Marinhas, Esposende) (Figure 1). This drain is exposed and the predominant vegetation is *Juncus* sp. and *Salix alba*. These records for both species correspond to a regression or a recent expansion process. In fact, more species records between the new and the previous limits are possible and studies in both species. In fact, more species records between the new and the previous limits are possible and studies are important to define the species distribution limits through the interior of the mainland.

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References
