Field trip to the Serra do Cando

Timetable (approximate times)

09:00h	**Leaving from Pontevedra** to the village of Cavadosa (Cerdedo, Pontevedra) Meeting point: https://maps.app.goo.gl/AwHJjcSQWx24qzTV7
10:20h	Approximate time of **arrival to Cavadosa** Introduction to the fieldtrip, basic directions, safety instructions, and distribution of the picnic-style lunch
11:00h a 17:00h	Fieldwork
17:15h	**Pickup in the village of Cavadosa** Meeting point: https://maps.app.goo.gl/599SSpWc24jHWm7L8
18:15h	Approximate time of arrival back in Pontevedra

Planning

Once we get to the village of Cavadosa and the organizers have introduced everyone to the fieldtrip and the safety instructions, we will start to make our way to the starting point of the morning itinerary: the Seixo River trail

This trail starts at the end of Cavadosa, and it then descends trough rural paths between agricultural land, until we reach the Seixo River within the first 300 meters. From there, the path continues following the course of the river, as it flows down the valley, forming rapids, waterfalls, and natural pools. Our itinerary ends at Pozo Sangoento, a 5-meter-high waterfall that cascades into a clear (and very cold!) natural pool.

Pozo Sangoento (on the left) and path along the Río Seixo trail (on the right)

This first trail is approximately 1.8 km long, with a maximum elevation change of 100 meters. It begins by crossing meadows and agricultural land, then continues through young forests with oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and sweet chestnut plantations (*Castanea* spp.), eventually reaching riparian forests populated by oaks, ashes (*Fraxinus* spp.), alders

(*Alnus lusitanica*), birches (*Betula* spp.), and willows (*Salix* spp.). In these forests, Jaime Blanco-Dios from Pontevedra has discovered a species of fungus he named *Ramaria* sp. '*cerdedensis'* (pending publication).

Those who wish may continue on a second route, which starts at the same point as the first, but instead of heading downhill toward the river, it climbs upward along the lower slopes of Monte Seixo. This route passes through slightly drier terrain and includes some pine plantations, therefore we expect the habitats found here to be quite different. The landscape is dominated by Atlantic scrub with heathers (*Erica* spp.), gorses (*Ulex* spp.), rockroses (*Cistus* spp.), and brooms (*Cytisus* spp.), as well as pine plantations (*Pinus* spp.) and oaks (*Quercus robur*).

Path upwards through oak groves (on the left), Atlantic scrub with scattered pines (center), and pine plantations (right)

Those who have provided their information for the collection permit application will be allowed to collect specimens from the following cryptogamic divisions: Ascomycota, Basidiomycota, Zygomycota, Oomycota, Chytridiomycota, Myxomycota, Bryophyta, Marchantiophyta, Anthocerotophyta, Chlorophyta, and Streptophyta/Tracheophyta. Authorized participants will be asked to create duplicates of their collections to be deposited in the Galician collections **LOU-F** (for non-lichenized fungi and myxomycetes) and **SANT** (for lichenized fungi and the remaining collected cryptogamic organisms).

Participants are free to move throughout the area, as long as they stay on the designated paths and do not enter private properties marked as such. While the organizers recommend completing one of the routes in the morning and the other in the afternoon, each participant is free to do just one or both. Before heading out, participants will be given a picnic bag, which they may enjoy at any time during the day. It will include a bottle of water, though it is recommended to bring an additional bottle from home or the hotel. Participants are responsible for managing their own waste throughout the day; proper waste disposal facilities will be available at the end of the activity.

At 17:15, the bus will be waiting in the village of Cavadosa. It is mandatory for all participants to be ready at this time for the return trip to Pontevedra. The bus will drop everyone off at the same pick-up point as in the morning.

Recommendations:

- It is **highly recommended to bring a backpack** to carry the picnic lunch that will be provided, as well as an extra bottle of water and sunscreen for reapplication throughout the day.
- Although the field trip will take place in July, the route along the Seixo River may still be very wet, with muddy areas. Therefore, **we recommend wearing closed-toe hiking shoes/boots**.
- Due to the presence of stagnant water in some areas, there will be mosquitoes. To avoid bites, **we recommend using insect repellent spray**.
- Please **take extra precautions due to the high likelihood of ticks** (Ixodida): wear long pants and closed shoes, choose light-colored clothing, and, if possible, apply repellents such as DEET (over 40%) to exposed skin. After returning from the field, check your body and clothes thoroughly to prevent ticks from attaching to your skin

iNaturalist project

It is important for us to assess the impact that bringing together world experts in cryptogamic botany at a symposium like ours could have on documenting the cryptogamic diversity of a region such as Galicia.

For this reason, we have created an **iNaturalist project** so that symposium participants can upload their observations of cryptogamic organisms—not only during the scheduled field trips but also at any other time. For example, we encourage you to upload observations during your walks around the city of Pontevedra.

Click on the image above, and join the project!

All the observations made in Galicia from July 6th until July 13th 2025 will be considered as biodiversity data generated by the Symposium to our community

Thank you very much for your participation!