

Resumen charla:

## **An account of the myrmecofauna (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Gibraltar**

[Un resumen de la mirmecofauna (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) de Gibraltar]

Rhian Guillem

The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society /GONHS), Jews' Gate, Upper Rock Nature Reserve, PO Box 843, Gibraltar. "ants@gonhs.org"

The Rock of Gibraltar lies on the northern shore of the Strait of Gibraltar, in the southernmost Iberian Peninsula. The Rock consists of Jurassic limestone, differing considerably from the mainly sandstone hinterland. Despite its small size (6 km<sup>2</sup>), it holds a wide range of habitats and species. The Strait area shares a range of species with North Africa, including some ants that, in Europe, are found only along the shores of the Strait. Gibraltar itself hosts species of otherwise North African plants and invertebrates that are found nowhere else in Europe. It is also home to several endemic taxa. The ants of Gibraltar were studied by Saunders in the late 1800s, based on specimens collected by J.J.Walker. Following this, the ant fauna of Gibraltar was not studied in detail until the past three years, during which we have sampled the Rock's habitats extensively. Forty four species of ant have been recorded from Gibraltar so far. These are discussed in relation to habitat selection and biogeography. Problems associated with Saunders' records are discussed.