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Additions of mycobiota and myxomycetes of the Maltese Islands

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The study of fungi and slime moulds in the Maltese Islands is very limited, evidenced from the the small number of scientific contributions and academic theses. Major contributions date back to 100 years and more recently 30 years ago, with isolated but very valid studies published recently, accumulating to an inventory of about 170 species of macromycetes and 80 species of slime moulds. To increase the knowledge of the local mycobiodiversity, field studies assisted with microscopic examinations have been carried out during the last four years yielding new records both for the Maltese Islands and even for Europe.

In this communication, six new species of fungi (four Ascomycetes and two Basidiomycetes) will be discussed. Most important are the first records of a truffle (*Picoa* sp.) for the Maltese Islands and a recently described species of an autumn-fruiting morel (*Morchella* sp.) which is new for the central Mediterranean Region and possibly even for continental western Europe. Moreover, *Lycogala confusum* Nann.-Bremek. and *Physarum daamsii* Nann.-Bremek. are further new additions to the inventory of Myxogastria occurring in Malta. Detailed descriptions of these species, their classification and pertinent photos and micrographs will be provided.

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