

Contributions to the Flora of the Canary Islands

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Summary

Stray contributions to the flora of the Canary Islands, mainly the islands of Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, Tenerife and Gomera, and based on observations mainly from the years 1973-1974, including 7 species (mostly aliens or escapes from cultivation) supposed to be new to this group of islands. Further, some new records of rare and otherwise interesting species have been given, and finally a plea has been adduced for the revival of the old (and eldest) name *Artemisia thuscula* Cav. for the Canarian plant generally known as *A. canariensis* (Bess.) Less. The author wishes to thank Mr. K. W. Larsen, Lyngby, Copenhagen, Mr. Anfr. Pedersen, Vordingborg, Denmark, and the curator of the Botanical Museum, University of Helsinki, Finland (Herb. H), who all placed at my disposal material from the islands, for determination or verification.

Resumen

Adiciones para la flora canaria, especialmente para las islas de Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, Tenerife y La Gomera, incluyendo siete especies aparentemente nuevas para el Archipiélago en general. Se discute, además, un problema nomenclatórico tratando ***Artemisia canariensis***, un endemismo de las islas, cuyo nombre válido se debe cambiar en ***A. thuscula*** Cav.

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Species new to the Canary Islands

Alstroemeria pulchella L.f. (Alstroemeriaceae or Amaryllidaceae).

TENERIFE: Puerto de la Cruz, on roadside in Carretera Botanico not far from the Orotava Garden, 30/8-1972 and 25/10-1974; perhaps an escape from this garden. A perennial herb from Brazil, S. America, often cultivated as an ornamental plant; also seen on Madeira as an escape from cultivation (Grabham 1934), and 1973 still present (Funchal, observed by the author).

Filago desertorum Pomel (Compositae).

GRAN CANARIA: Las Palmas, on waste ground near Avenida de Escaleritas, 11/4-1973, det. J. Holub. Prostrate annual, distributed in Southern Spain, North Africa (Algérie to Egypt), the Near East to Pakistan (Wagenitz 1968, 1970).

Filago pyramidata L. var. *prostrata* (Fiori) Wagenitz (Compositae).

GRAN CANARIA: El Hormiguera, 13/4-1973, and near Guía, 16/4-1973, det. J. Holub. A variety new to the Canary Islands, a more-or-less prostrate annual distributed in the West mediterranean area, mostly on islands, and obviously preferably growing in habitats close to the sea (Wagenitz 1969).

Tithonia diversifolia (Hemsl.) Gray (Compositae).

TENERIFE: Spontaneous on roadside slope at Puerto de Guimar, 22/10-1974. A tall annual (up to 3 m high) originating in Mexico and Central America, sometimes cultivated as "Mexican Sunflower", f. inst. in SE. Asia (Malacca, Thailand, Java) and South Africa, escaped from cultivation and is more or less established.

Verbesina encelioides (Cav.) Benth & Hook f. ex A. Gray (Compositae).



Fig. 1. *Verbesina encelioides* (Cav.) Benth. & Hook.f.
(after Henderson & Anderson 1966).

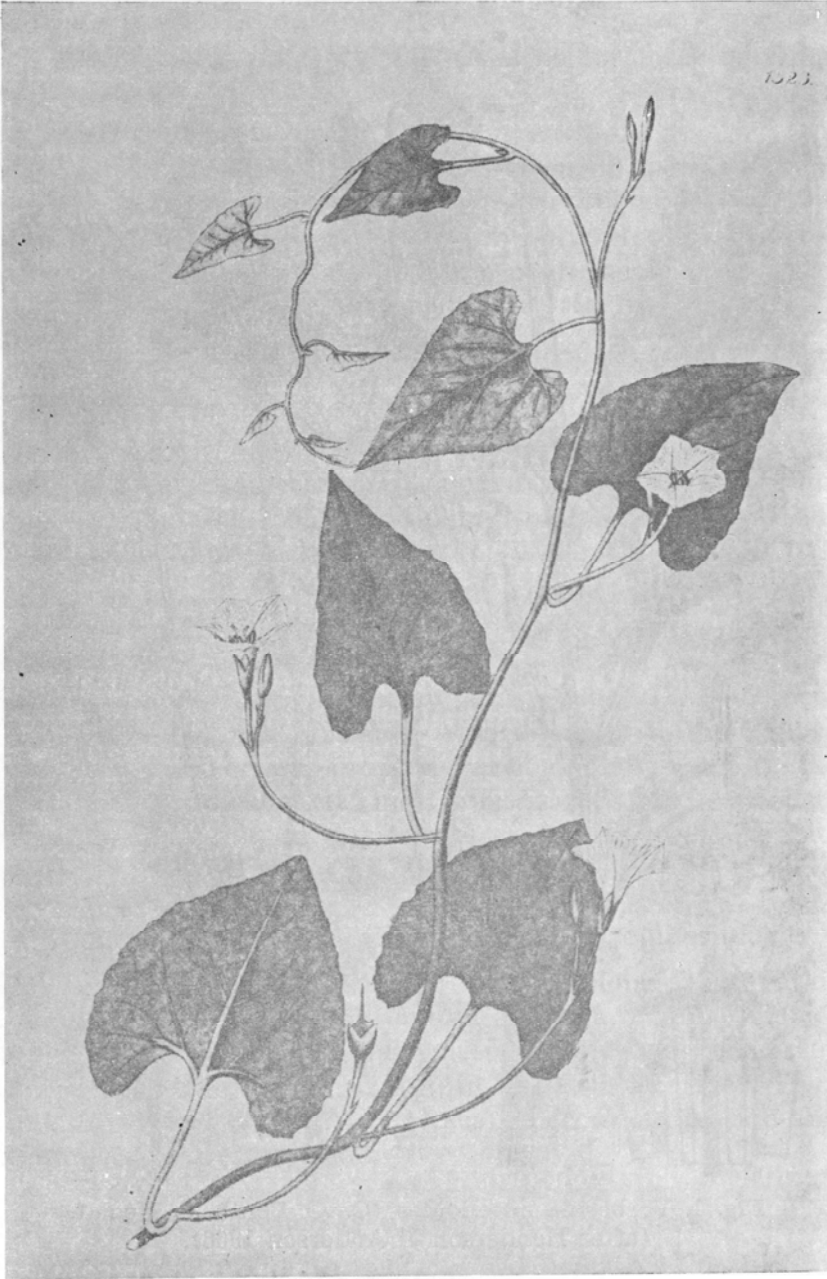


Fig. 2. *Convolvulus farinosa* L. (after Edward's Bot. Reg. vol. 16,1830).

GRAN CANARIA: On roadside between San Augustin and Los Ingles, south coast, 19/3-1974, leg. A. Nordström, no. 127 (Herb. H., Helsinki). Most likely a very recent introduction; annual from North America (Southern USA-states to Central America), introduced in many countries in Europe, yet it is a question whether it has been naturalized or not in the countries concerned; further, naturalized in South Africa, known since 1934 (Henderson & Anderson 1966), also in Sudan and Senegal.

Convolvulus farinosa L. (Convolvulaceae).

TENERIFE: On roadside and in a small banana-plantation in Puerto de la Cruz (La Paz), 25/10-1974. A perennial, twining, small- and pink - flowered, *Convolvulus* - species originating in Central and South Africa; in Europe naturalized near Lisboa, Portugal (Flora Europaea 1973).

Festuca arundinacea Schreb. (Gramineae).

TENERIFE: Puerto de la Cruz, at the tennis-court near Parque San Antonio, April 1973, leg. A. Pedersen. Perennial grass, distributed in most of Europe, and introduced as a fodder-grass into many other parts of the world, f. inst. N. and S. America, S. Africa, New Zealand.

Sporobolus diander (Retz.) P.Beauv. (Gramineae).

TENERIFE: Santa María del Mar west of Santa Cruz, on waste ground near small drain, perfectly established, 22/10-1974, det. C.E.Hubbard. Perennial grass and a native of the tropics and sub-tropics from West Pakistan, throughout India, Ceylon, Burma, Thailand to Borneo and Australia.

Various records:

Amaranthus deflexus L. (Amaranthaceae).

LANZAROTE: On roadside above Haria, 29/10-1974, rare on this island, written for the first time by Duvigneaud (1974). Known on Fuerteventura, G. Canaria and Tenerife.

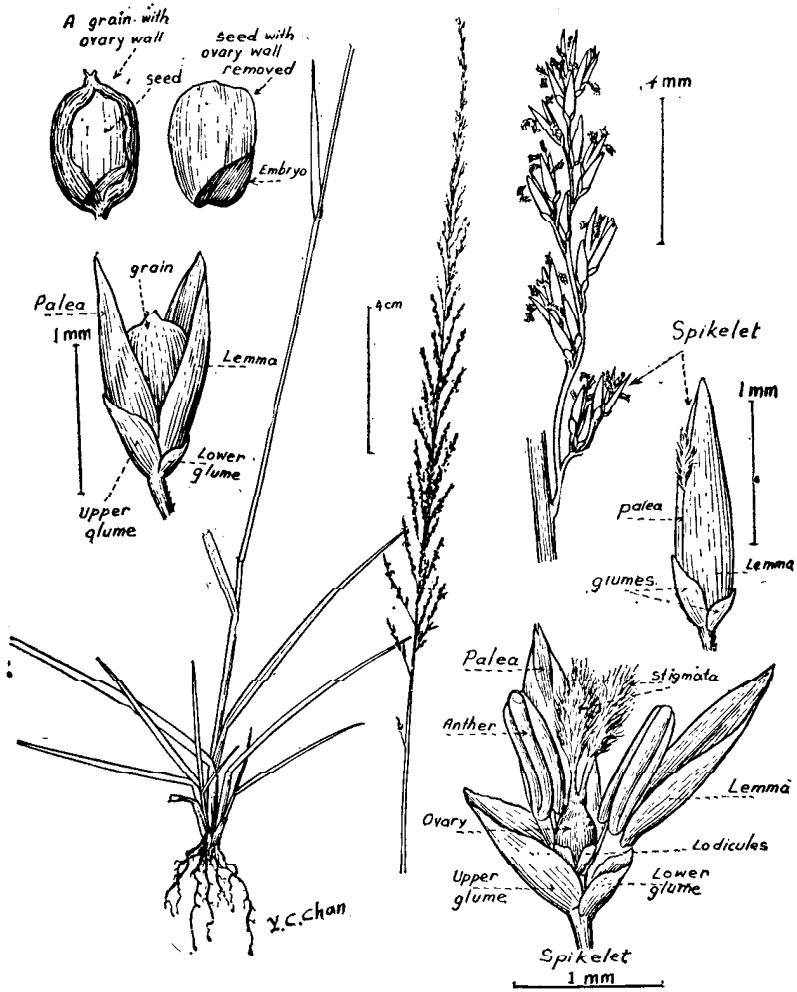


Fig. 3. *Sporobolus diander* (Retz.) P. Beauv. (after Gilliland et al.: A revised flora of Malaya, III. Grasses of Malaya, 1971).

Azolla filiculoides Lam. (Azollaceae).

TENERIFE: Abundant in a water-tank at El Palmar, Teno Area, 21/10-1974. At present only known on G. Canaria and Tenerife, on the latter island found hitherto in a few places at Puerto de la Cruz, always floating on the surface of water-tanks or in irrigation-canals (Hansen 1973 a).

Lithospermum microspermum Boiss. or *Mairetis m.* (Boiss.) Johnst. (Boraginaceae).

GRAN CANARIA: Maspalomas, 28/12-1964, leg. the author. Seems to be new to this island; endemic to Morocco and the Canaries, where up to now it has been known only on *Lanzarote*, found for the first time by Bourgeau in 1845 and rediscovered in 1972 by Duvigneaud (3 localities mentioned, Duvigneaud 1974). An annual flowering in winter (December, January), may be confused with the blue-flowered *Lithospermum arvense* L. var. *coerulescens* DC., or overlooked. A collection from the Isle of Graciosa off the north coast of Lanzarote, by Kunkel, no 13216, 8/4-1970, seems to belong to this species too.

Crepis vesicaria L. ssp. *taraxacifolia* (Thuill.) Thell. (Compositae).

GRAN CANARIA: Grutas de los Artiles, along fieldroad, 15/4-1973. Mentioned from the Canaries for the first time as an introduced plant on Gran Canaria by Kunkel (1969), referring to a single collection from Barranco del Castillo (Kunkel 10379), published in 1969 mistakenly under *Crepis biennis* L. An annual, biennial or perennial, widespread in C. and W. Europe and in the Mediterranean Region; since long well established on the Isle of Madeira.

Moricandia arvensis (L.) DC. (Cruciferae).

GRAN CANARIA: Park-weed, Playa del Inglés, 25/2-1974, leg K. W. Larsen (Herb. C.); on roadside and ditch between San Augustin and San Glorias, south-coast, 11/3-1974, leg. A. Nordström, no. 76 (Herb. H., Helsinki). Among the Ca-

naries hitherto only recorded on G. Canaria and at present obviously spreading over this island (Hansen 1973b).

Cyperus alopecuroides Rottb. (Cyperaceae).

TENERIFE: West of Tabaiba, south-coast, along small riverlet, 22/10-1973. A new station for this rare plant, only known from a few finds (Hansen 1971).

Cyperus alternifolius L. "Umbrella plant" (Cyperaceae).

TENERIFE: Valle de Guerra, on roadside through the village, 20/10-1969; Puerto de la Cruz, on roadsides 1970 and 1974, in all three stations an escape from cultivation. Seems to be new to this island, but known on G. Canaria and La Palma. Perennial, originating in Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, and now cultivated throughout the tropics and subtropics of the world.

Hyparrhenia rufa (Nees) Stapf (Gramineae).

TENERIFE: Between Puerto de la Cruz and Lomo Román, on roadside close to the sea, 27/10-1974. A new station for this introduced grass, recorded for the first time on the Canaries in 1970 (Hansen 1971). Its present area seems to be limited to the triangle Puerto de la Cruz - La Orotava (village) - Lomo Román, but it will most likely spread further in the near future.

Setaria geniculata (Lamk.) PB. (Gramineae).

TENERIFE: San Juan near Meza del Mar, 18/10-1971, Valle de Guerra, Northwest of La Laguna, on roadsides, 18/10-1971 and 31/10-1974, both new stations for this grass on this island, recorded as new to the Canaries in 1970 (Hansen 1971). Up to now its area on Tenerife seems to be limited to the triangle Los Rodeos - Airport - San Juan - Valle Guerra (village), but very likely will occupy further areas in the years to come.

Hydrilla verticillata (L.f.) Royle (Hydrocharitaceae).

TENERIFE: In large masses in a water-tank at the edge of Barranco de Felipe, Puerto de la Cruz, 1/11-1974; furthermore, observed by the author in another water-tank west of Tejina, N. W. of La Laguna, 31/10-1974. At present only known on Tenerife, where the first find was made in 1970 in an artificial pond situated just east of Tejina (Hansen 1971). A closer examination of all the water-or irrigation-tanks existing on Tenerife today would most likely reveal the fact, that this plant is no rarity at all, and is probably spread all over the island. The flora ought to be more closely investigated, these tanks being the only large water-accumulations or "ponds" on the islands.

Lathyrus cicera L. (Leguminosae).

GRAN CANARIA: Cruz de Tejada, a field-weed, 16/4-1973. New to this island, further known on Hierro and La Palma, recorded for the first time by Lid (1967).

Vicia lutea L. (Leguminosae).

LANZAROTE: Haría, 2/3-1974, leg. K. W. Larsen (in Herb. C.). New to this island, but well known on the western islands.

Phytolacca americana L. (Phytolaccaceae).

TENERIFE: Along a path between banana-plantations on the eastern outskirts of Puerto de la Cruz, 27/10-1974. A rare plant on these islands, only recorded on Tenerife and Hierro.

Ruppia maritima L. (Ruppiaceae).

LANZAROTE: Abundant in the brackish pool at El Golfo, west-coast, 29/10-1974, new to this island. Previously recorded on Fuerteventura, G. Canaria and Gomera.

Sclerophylax spinescens Miers (Solanaceae).

GRAN CANARIA: In stone-heap along the road between San Augustin and the beach, south-coast, 11/3-1974, leg. A

Nordström, no. 73 (Herb. H., Helsinki). Again a new record for this South American plant known on G. Canaria (only island) since at least 1972 (Hansen 1973a). At present obviously spreading on this island.

GOMERA: The following aliens and escapes from cultivation —but all now quite established— are new to this island, all observed during a stay in October 1974. *Aptenia cordifolia* (L.) N. E. Br. (Aizoaceae), Las Rosas; *Aster squamatus* Spreng.) Hier. (Compositae) Hermigua and S. Sebastián; *Bidens aurea* (Dryand.) Sherff (Compositae), Hermigua; *Ipomoea acuminata* (Vahl) R. & S. and *I. cairica* (L.) Sweet (Convolvulaceae), both in Hermigua; *Lepidium virginicum* L. (Cruciferae), Agulo; *Sisymbrium erysimoides* Desf. (Cruciferae), Vallehermoso; *Cyperus rotundus* L. (Cyperaceae), S. Sebastián; *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* Swartz f. *hirsutum* (Willd.) Radl. (Sapindaceae), Hermigua.

TENERIFE: Among a collection made in April 1973 by A. Pedersen, lecturer in Vordingborg, Denmark, the following 3 species were found which do not seem to have been recorded earlier on this island: *Ageratina riparia* (Regel) King & Robinson (Eupatorium r. Regel, Compositae), previously known only on La Palma, where on the other hand it is fairly common in many barrancos; *Alyssum minus* (L.) Rothm. (*A. campestre* auct., Cruciferae), previously found in high altitudes on Gran Canaria (above 1100 m); *Polypogon maritimus* Willd. (Gramineae), hitherto known only on G. Canaria. Unfortunately the collector has failed to state the exact localities on Tenerife where he gathered his plants. They are herewith recommended to further research.

Artemisia canariensis (Bess.) Less. — The correct name of this common Canarian plant found in at least the 5 western islands, without any doubt, should be *A. thuscula* Cavanilles, described in 1801 on the basis of material sent to Cavanilles by P. Broussonet, who was French consul in La Laguna, Tenerife, in the years 1798-1807. The short latin

description by Cavanilles reads like this: "Artemisia fruticosa foliis pinnatis, digitatisque, canis; floralibus simplicibus; floribus globosis paniculatis". Type material may still be present in the Broussonet-herbarium kept in the Botanical Institute of the University, Montpellier, France, or in the Cavanilles-herbarium, Jardín Botánico, Madrid, Spain. The name *Thuscolum* is the same as the vernacular name of this plant in the Canaries, viz. "Incienso", which means incense, and it seems quite obvious that the plant used as an incense by the inhabitants is the big, stout, strong-smelling, common shrub *A. canariensis*, rather than one of the other two *Artemisia*-species present on the Canary Islands, viz. *A. ramosa* and *A. reptans*. The synonymy of *A. thuscula* Cav., *Anal. Cienc. Nat.* 4 (10): 86, 1801, is: *Artemisia argentea* Buch, *Phys. Besch. Can. Ins.* 148, 164, 1825, non l'Hérit.; *Absinthium canariense* Besser, *Bull. Soc. Imp. Mosc.* 1829 (8): 229; *Artemisia canariensis* Less., *Linnaea* 6: 217, 1831. — *A. thuscula* was referred to the N. African and SW. European species *A. herba-alba* Asso (*A. aragonensis* Lamk.) together with *A. ramosa* by Webb & Berth. 1845 (p. 299), and this may be the reason why this name has been neglected for so many years. It may seem regrettable to have to exile the very striking name *Artemisia canariensis* into the rows of synonyms, yet on the other hand the epithet "thuscula" is also a characteristic name.

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