

## On the Rediscovery of *Lotus kunkelii*

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### Resumen

Nota sobre el redescubrimiento de una leguminosa rarísima: ***Lotus kunkelii*** (Esteve Chueca) Bramwell & Davis, con datos sobre la vegetación acompañante.

The locality in which *Lotus kunkelii* was originally collected (Esteve Chueca 1972) was destroyed by an urbanization project about ten years ago and it seemed, thereafter, to have disappeared. In fact it was not found again until the end of December 1972 when a chance walk along the coast, north of the Barranco de Jinamar, revealed numerous plants growing on the rocky, part sand-drifted cliffs directly above the sea. Not only on the seaward cliff face but also on the landward slopes, and some vigorous plants are well established along the edge of a bulldozed trackway.

*Lotus kunkelii* seems to be locally abundant but only within a quite small area. It is even to be found near to a rain water lagoon where it grows with *Polygonum maritimum*. The species, according to Esteve Chueca (1972), belongs to the *Loto-Polycarphaetum niveae* association and as originally described (Esteve Chueca 1968) as a member of the *Polycarphaeo-Lotetum lancerottensis* association. Part of the area in which this endemic species grows is recommended for protection.

Data on the locality and list of accompanying species: (end of December) Gran Canaria, Barranco de Jinamar, approximately 20 m ab. sea level. Sea cliffs, on sandy

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to stony slope and, landwards, on sand-drifted slopes:

General vegetation (mainly perennial plants):

- Euphorbia balsamifera (wind-shaped forms)
- Euphorbia paralias (frequent in parts)
- Crithmum maritimum (small colony only)
- Astydamia latifolia (regularly distributed)
- Chenolea tomentosa (frequent, low and spreading)
- Atriplex glauca var. ifniensis (quite common)
- Zygophyllum fontanesii (more frequent on sandy part)
- Polycarpha nivea (very variable species)
- Limonium pectinatum (small specimens only)
- Schizogyne sericea (very low specimens)
- Launaea arborescens (few)
- Aizoon canariense (dried specimens only)
- Mesembryanthemum crystallinum and  
M. nodiflorum (beginning to germinate)
- Neochamaelea pulverulenta (rare; flowering)
- Heliotropium ramosissimum (frequent)
- Frankenia sp. (few plants, not flowering)

(For further species see Esteve Chueca 1968, and Sunding 1972).

#### References

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