Cuad. Bot. Canar. XIII: 1-7; 1971

Floristic Notes from the Canary Islands (mostly Tenerife)

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Resumen

Notas florísticas: Se trata de **Chenopodium giganteum, Ipomoea acuminata, Glyceria declinata, Hyparrhenia rufa, Lolium lowei, Paspalum distichum, Setaria geniculata, Hydrilla verticillata** y **Asarina scandens** como adiciones para la flora insular y se mencionan varias otras especies como adiciones locales.

Summary

The present paper states the following plants (mostly adventives or garden-escapes, naturalized or not) as being new to the Canary Islands: **Chenopodium giganteum** D. Don, **Ipomoea acuminata** (Vahl) Roem. & Schult., **Glyceria declinata** Breb., **Hyparrhenia rufa** (Nees) Stapf, **Lolium lowei** Mnzs., **Paspalum distichum** L., **Setaria geniculata** (Lam.) PB., **Hydrilla verticillata** (L. f.) Royle and **Asarina scandens** (Cav.) Penn. Some notes on a few other rare Canarian plants are also given.

Bufonia (Caryophyllaceae).

Since H. Christ's time this genus is said to be represented on the Canary Islands (Tenerife only), by the asserted endemic species *B. teneriffae* Christ (Christ 1888). But already Pitard & Proust (1908) doubted its identity and mentioned it as possibly being identical with the European species *B. macrosperma* J. Gay, a synonym of *B.paniculata* Dubois (yet the name B.macrosperma had been employed for this plant already by E. Bourgeau in his "Canarian Exsiccate" from 1855, Plantae Canarienses no. 1234). Lindinger (1926) is also

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of the opinion that *B.teneriffae* should be referred to *B paniculata*. Nevertheless, Burchard (1929), Lems (1960) and Lid (1968) have brought it again under the name *B. teneriffae*. In 1967 Kunkel published *B.paniculata* from Gran Canaria as a plant new to the Canary Islands. In 1970 the author collected this plant in its classical locality on Tenerife: The Teyde-Caldera, and could identify it as *B.paniculata*. Besides the Caldera, it is at present known from San Lourenco on Tenerife. It is of great importance for its identification to stress upon the fact that *B.paniculata* occurs both as an annual and a biennial. The correct naming of this plant should be as follows: *B.paniculata* F. Dubois in Delarbre. Fl. Auvergne ed.2, p.300, 1800 (syn.: B.macrosperma J. Gay ex Mutel, B. teneriffae Christ).

Chenopodium giganteum D. Don (C. amaranticolor Coste & Reyn. (Chenopodiaceae).

Found as a weed on Tenerife in 1970 new to the Canary Islands: Fields above La Orotava Village, and at Cruz Chico near Los Rodeos Airport. An annual from Northern India, introduced into other warmer regions of the world.

Ipomoea acuminata (Vahl) Roem. & Schult. (I. learii Paxt.) (Convolvulaceae)

On arable fields at Cruz Chico near Los Rodeos Airport, Tenerife, 1970. A native of tropical and subtropical America and a well-known adventive plant in the West Mediterranean region; also known from Madeira. New to the Canary Islands.

Cyperus alopecuroides Rottb. (Cyperaceae).

A few specimens seen at the border of an artificial pond at Tejina, NE-Tenerife, 1970. On the Canary Islands previously recorded on Tenerife (La Laguna and Bufadero, old records by Webb & Berthelot [1836/50]); with doubt from Gran Canaria, and without precise localities from La Palma. Probably not originally a native plant of the Canaries, but since long quite established, at least on Tenerife. A native of NE-Africa.

Agropyron repens (L.) PB. (Gramineae).

On roadside and fields in the eastern outskirts of the village Tejina, NE-Tenerife, 1970, probably introduced. Previously recorded from the islands only from La Palma (without locality by Webb and Berthelot [1836/50]) and from Teror, Gran Canaria (Kunkel 1969). Kunkel further mentions some material of this plant from Tenerife said to have been collected by A.S. Hitchcock, but without any details. At least a rare plant on Tenerife. Known from Madeira, where it is also a rare species.

Glyceria declinata Bréb. (Gramineae).

In the herbarium at the Botanical Museum, University of Copenhagen, is kept a specimen of this grass-species, collected by the Norwegian botanist Chr. Smith (1785-1816), from the Canary Islands ("E Canariis", locality not stated). Chr. Smith together with L. von Buch, stayed in the islands in 1815. None of the species of the genus *Glyceria* hitherto have been reported from the Canary Islands; *G. declinata* is also known on Madeira (Hansen 1970).

Hyparrhenia rufa (Nees) Stapf (Gramineae).

On roadside and fields between Puerto de la Cruz and the Humboldt Mirador, and on waste ground in the Northern part of the village La Orotava, Tenerife, 1970. A perennial, tall, robust grass (up to 2,5 m high), a native of tropical Africa, introduced as fodder grass into other parts of the world, f. inst. tropical America (Clayton 1969). New to the Canary Islands.

Lolium lowei Mnzs. (Gramineae).

A collection from Cuesta da Silva, Gran Canaria, 7/2-1966, made by G. Kunkel, Tafira Alta, Gran Canaria (no. 8406, seen in Geneva's herbarium), has been identified with this very rare grass-species, previously known only from the Isle of Chao (Desertas), and also possibly from the Isle of Porto Santo, both in the Madeira Archipelago (Hansen 1970). A close relative of *Lolium canariense* Steudel, known from

all the Canary Islands except Fuerteventura, and from the Cape Verde Islands. *Lolium lowei* might well be quite a native plant of Gran Canaria.

Panicum maximum Jacq. (Gramineae).

On wet ground in Puerto de la Cruz where the Carretera Botanico-road is crossing Barranco Martianez, and along the road between Sauzal and Punta del Sauzal, northwest of Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, 1970. A native of tropical Africa, and new to Tenerife. Previously recorded only from Gomera (Lid 1968) in the Canary Islands.

Paspalum (Gramineae).

Lid (1968) recorded so-called "Paspalum vaginatum Sw." from Guanarteme west of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, as new to the Canary Islands. However after having been able to study this collection in the Oslo Museum herbarium it could be identified as belonging to *Paspalum paspaloides* (Michx.) Scribn. (P. distichum auct. non L.). The same species was collected on Tenerife in 1970, growing in a small artificial pond at Tejina, Northwest of La Laguna, forming dense carpets round the pond. On very wet roadside at the same place, another *Paspalum*-species, viz. *P. distichum* L. (= P. vaginatum Sw.) was seen, so thus this plant is after all stated as existing on the Canary Islands, though not for the first time on Gran Canaria as Lid suggested. The nomenclature of these species are in fact rather intricate (see Bor 1967), but they are easily recognized f. inst. by the hairiness or non-hairiness of the upper glumes: Hairy in *P. distichum* L., smooth in *P. paspaloides* (Michx.) Scribn. Both species are natives of America, but now wide-spread weeds in the tropics and subtropics all over the world. *P. paspaloides* is also known from Madeira and the Azores.

Setaria geniculata (Lam.) PB.

On waste area at Cruz Chico near the Los Rodeos Airport, Tenerife, 1970. New to the Canary Islands; a native of tropical America, but introduced elsewhere; f. inst. known

Fig. A. *Asarina scandens*. Adapted from Cavanilles, Icones et Descriptiones Plantarum 2, plate 116 (1793). B, *Asarina antirrhiniflora*. Adapted from Curtis's Botanical Magazine 40, plate 1643 (1814). From DE WOLF, Baileya 4, 1956.

as a recent and rather rare introduction into Madeira (Hansen 1968).

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

In large masses in an artificial pond (for irrigation) at Tejina, NE-Tenerife, 1970. A submerged branched herb, with long slender stems, and sessile whorled linear-lanceolate leaves. The flowers are dioecious, surrounded by tubular spathes and sessile in the axils of the leaves, male flowers solitary and female one or two together, but no flowers were observed in the Tejina-material. Known from the warmer region of the Old World, most likely introduced into Tenerife. New to the Canary Islands.

Thymus origanoides Webb & Berth. (Labiatae).

In the herbarium at the Botanical Museum, University of Copenhagen, is kept a specimen of this plant collected by the Danish botanist and geographer M. Vahl (1869-1946) "On driftsand, Puerto de la Luz, Gran Canaria", 21/8-1902 (in a withered stage; the locality may be destroyed now). This rare, endemic species has only been recorded earlier from Lanzarote.

Asarina scandens (Cav.) Penn. (Maurandya s. (Cav.) Pers., M. semperflorens Ort.) (Scrophulariaceae).

Waste place between Carretera Botanico and Barranco Martianez, Eastern part of Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, 1970. A glabrous shrubby climber; stems slender supported by twining petioles and pedicels, may reach 3 m or more in length; leaves deltoid-hastate, corollas funnel-formed, 3½ - 4½ cm long, with whitish tube and purplish spreading lobes. A native of South Mexico. It may be a garden-escape on Tenerife, but is probably a new addition to the adventive flora on the Canary Islands. Known also from Madeira.

Datura inoxia Miller (Solanaceae).

As published recently by Kunkel (1971), the statements of so-called "Datura metel L." from Gran Canaria in fact are referable to another *Datura*-species, *D.inoxia* Miller. The

author believes the same mistake has been made on Tenerife too, as some collections from Puerto de la Cruz 1969 and 1970 and from Punta Hidalgo 1970 belong to this species, and most likely all findings from this island do in fact belong to *D.inoxia*. The oldest find of *D.inoxia* from the Canary Islands seen by the author dates back to 1837: "Iles Canaries", leg M. Despreaux (in the Copenhagen Herbarium). Another sheet from Gran Canaria, Las Palmas, 13/4-1897, leg. O. Gelert (also in the Copenhagen Herbarium) also represents this species (originally identified as D.metel).

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