On OSYRIS LANCEOLATA Hochst & Steud. (Santalaceae) in the Canary Islands

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Resumen

Se trata de *Osyris lanceolata,* una santalácea recubierto en Tenerife en el Barranco del Agua (Los Silos). Se menciona, además, varios hallazgos de una forma crestada de esta especie.

Osyris lanceolata Hochst. & Steud. was first collected from the Canary Islands (sine loc.) by BROUSSONET over 150 years ago (Herb. Paris) but had never appeared in the literature as a Canarian plant until it was rediscovered in 1965 by the late *KORNELIUS LEMS* in a barranco above Los Silos on the island of Tenerife.

The rediscovery of the species was reported by LEMS in a short paper in the Boletín del Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agronómicas 59: 197-202 (1968).

LEMS however reports the finding of female plants only (the species is dioecious) of which about 30 individuals occur in the locality cited (Barranco del Agua, Los Silos ca. 200-250 m. asl.). On the 22nd of April 1969 I visited the locality with Dr. E. R. Sventenius of the Jardín Botánico de La Orotava, Tenerife, and in the same area but in more inaccesible places on west-facing cliffs several examples of the male (staminate) plant were found.

The species in this habitat seems to be native to the Canary islands and grows in one of the geologically oldest areas of Tenerife where many rare species including some of the rarest endemic plants occur (eg. *Marcetella moquiniana, Limonium fruticans, Dorycnium eriophtalmum* and *Lavatera phoenicia*). As *LEMS* suggests, the species may be yet another link with the East-African Flora.

On several shrubs interesting monstrous (cristataeform) branches were noticed. Specimens of plants of both sexes and also the cristatae-form plants are to be conserved in the Herbaria of Orotava (ORT), Reading (RNG) and the University of Sevilla.

Acknowledgement