The Canary Islands

Dragon Trees & Blue Chaffinches

A Greentours Trip Report

8th – 17th February 2020

Leaders: Ian Bennallick and Paul Green

Daily reports by Paul. Checklists by Ian



Canarina canariensis

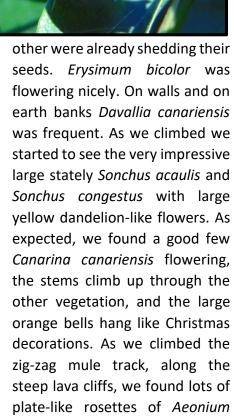
Day 0 – Saturday 8th February 2020 – Travel day – all to El Patio, El Guincho

I flew in from Dublin, met up with Otto at Tenerife South airport, both our flights arriving late, we headed off to pick up my vehicle. In the meantime Ian had met up with the others, we all joined up at the hire car centre. By this time it was dark, Ian knew his way to our hotel the El Patio, which was about an hour drive. Once we had all settled in, we met up in the restaurant for our evening meal, and Ian told us what we would be doing the following day.

Day 1 – Sunday 9th February 2020 – Los Silos walk; Buenavista & Punta del Fraile

Woke to a lovely sunny morning, we could now enjoy the view over the banana plantations, out to sea, and in the other direction the mountains. After a hearty breakfast, we set off for Los Silos, parking in the town square, by a splendid modern art sculpture of *Canarina canariensis* made from waste metal, which we were aiming to see later on our walk. We started our uphill walk from Los Silos which is 5.7 km if you reach Erjos, where there are caves (Cuevas Negas), which we didn't get to by a long way. Plenty of stops were taken for photos

and a rest. Canary Speckled Woods were frequent, often settling. Some gardens had avocado trees loaded with fruit, like dark green pears hanging. A Little Egret flew over, and a number of Kestrels were seen. Nettle-leaved Goosefoot was common along the base of the garden walls. *Salix canariensis* was common along the almost dry stream, some trees were still flowering, while



tabulaeforme, none anywhere near flowering. A couple of Laurel Pigeons flew along the cliffs, spotted by Ian. On the sun-baked walls on our way down a few Tenerife Lizards darted away as we got near them.

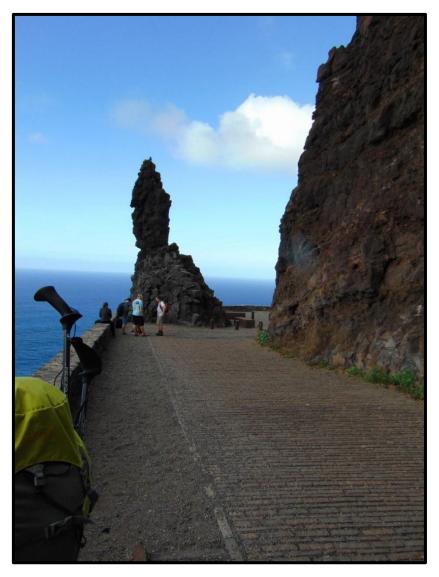


We drove west along the coast to Buenavista for our packed lunch which the hotel had prepared for us. The waves were crashing against the very rocky shore, very spectacular at times as the water jumped high into the air. *Astydamia latifolia* with bright yellow flowers, and leaves very similar to Sea-kale, was common here.

After our refreshments and a little rest, we drove a short distance up the road and parked in a cliff top pull-in, as there was a barrier, and a policeman stopping vehicles going along the



road, except for buses, which we were told our van wasn't, we headed for and reached Punta del Fraile. There were scarlet Geraniums flowering on the road bank, a garden escape here. The very twisty road slowly climbed upwards, the first flowering Asphodelus ramosus of the trip was seen, and on the cliff ledges, many leaves, and some fruiting stems of Pancratium canariense could be seen. Along the road bank many bushes of Lavatera acerifolia, with pretty pale pink flowers, were photographed. We slowly made our way up the road, stopping to see the white flowers of



Crambe scaberrima. An endemic species, Vieraea laevigata with yellow flowers was on the bare rock-face above the road, plus on the roadside wall. At this point most of the group decided to turn back. David, Lynne, Marge and I (Paul) continued up the road to the view point, where it was extremely windy. Here we could go through the short tunnel, out the other side of the headland, and look further along the coast. found Frankenia ericifolia on the side of the paved path around the point. It was time to turn around, as the others were starting to wonder where we disappeared to. Once we were all united again we headed back to the hotel.

We met at 6.30 pm to do our first checklist of the trip, and sat down, just over an hour later for our delicious evening meal. Wandering back to our rooms, Ian, Lynne and I went hunting for Tenerife Geckos, only one was found, high up on a wall.

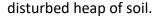
Day 2 - Monday 10th February 2020 - Anaga Mountains

A very dark sky greeted us first thing, this soon disappeared, and we could amble around the hotel grounds before breakfast, Tenerife Chaffinches and Canaries were hoping about, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker could be heard in the distance.

We headed off in full sun, up through heather and laurel forests into the Anaga Mountains. Our first quick stop was a comfort stop, at the only visitor centre / café. We continued on up the steep mountain road to the Mirador. Here we had wonderful views across the mountains. A white dove was sitting on a roof of a derelict building, there was some debate whether it was a bird of interest, lan and I assured the group it was only a domestic dove. After enjoying the backdrop, we took a steep narrow path down into the laurel forest. The ferns were rather wonderful here, with the large frond *Woodwardia radicans*, and even several of our familiar ferns from home were seen, such as *Blechnum spicant* (Hard Fern) and *Polystichum setiferum*



(Soft Shield-fern). As we wandered along the path, Otto was the first to find a patch of *Gennaria diphylla*, with a few flowering stems. *Geranium reuteri* was plentiful, but only one flower could be found. In an open sunny spot along the path *Andryala pinnatifida* was flowering well, and we found the first flowering *Romulea columnae* subsp. *grandiscapa* of the trip, many more were seen over the following days. Once back to the vehicles we wandered along the road in the warm sun, where we found one large *Carduus clavulatus* flowering on a





We headed off along the many hairpins to a view point for our lunch stop, had planned to stop a little lower down, but it was too noisy, two chaps were busy cutting concrete. Three swallows flew over while we ate.

We dropped down to where we planned to walk from, taking the path to the right first, hoping to see *Habenaria tridactylites* flowering, even though we saw many plants, all were well into seed. The small bright yellow flowers of *Aichryson parlatorei* had to do. We could hear a church bell

chiming in the distance, and looked down on tiny houses cut into the cliff face, with their small areas of farmed terraces. We retraced our steps and took the other path, where a Tenerife Lizard was sitting nicely on a bush. We had wonderful views across the mountains, and down the valley to the sea. Potatoes were being cultivated in the small terraces, and Silene gallica (Small-flowered Catchfly) was a weed around the margins. Hanging out of the cliffs was the white flowering Echium leucophaeum. Down in the valleys several Kestrels could be seen flying about the cliffs. Only Ian, Lynne, Marge and I made it to the end of the path. On our return journey we saw Limonium macrophyllum and Lavandula buchii flowering.



We did another quick roadside stop to photograph better *Canarina canariensis* and *Erica arborea*. Pulled again into where we had first stopped in the morning, for refreshments, some bought post cards, while others drank coffee, and ate cake. Our last stop of the day at Mirador de Jardina was to enjoy more spectacular views, unfortunately it was rather hazy. Here we saw one Swift, a single Blue Chaffinch, lots of *Malva parviflora* with tiny pink flowers, and hanging out of the wall was the yellow flowers of *Nicotiana glauca*.

Day 3 Tuesday 11th February 2020 – Masca Road; Le Jardín Botánico (Puerto de la Cruz)

We stopped in Icod on our way out to do a little shopping, even though it wasn't yet 10 am it was very warm. The Acacia trees along the streets gave some very welcome shade, as well as an interest, because more than one species had been planted.

We headed off for the Masca road, one of the twisty, and most hairpin roads I have ever driven along, how the large buses we kept meeting ever managed to navigate the bends was

a mystery. Our first stop was on the roadside, to look at *Lathyrus tingitanus* which deep reddish-purple flowers. There were flocks



of Canaries flying, and a few Painted Ladies on the wing. The road verge also had a few of our friends from home, such as *Trifolium dubium* (Lesser Trefoil) and *Vicia hirsuta* (Hairy Tare). We moved on to the first summit of the road, where we could see the sea on both sides. Here Marge



found the first pale yellow flowers on *Carlina salicifolia*. *Cistus monspeliensis* had a few white flowers out, and a Clouded Yellow flew by.

The next stop had wonderful flowering large bushes of Euphorbia aptropurpurea. With some



canariense still had good flowers showing.

Photo by Liz.

We moved onto the next summit for our lunch stop, sitting on a wall in the warm sun as we ate. A number of Ravens could be seen high up above the mountains. There was a café here for anybody needing a coffee. We slowly continued along the ever increasingly steep road. Pulled hunting, four Habenaria found tridactylites were flowering under the scrub on a steep bank. Ian took photos for anybody who wasn't able to climb up the bank. One Tuberaria guttata (Spotted Rock-rose) was flowering. A short distance down the road a large bush of Hypericum canariense was covered in vellow flowers. Overhead several buzzards could be seen. On the road verge opposite to where we had parked few Allium



over at one stage to take photos of the view, and Echium virescens.

The afternoon was spent visiting Le Jardín Botánico garden. The shade from the many planted trees in the garden gave relief from the heat, as it now had reached 26°C. Otto, Ian and I spent a good bit of time watching two Monarch butterflies, flitting about a sunny clearing in the garden, and a Blackbird enjoying the fruits of a palm. We all ended up in the café on the opposite side of the road for coffee, freshly squeezed orange juice, and ice cream.

Day 4 Wednesday 12th February 2020 – Icod, ferry from Los Cristianos to San Sebastián de La Gomera, and Playa de Santiago.

Another stunningly sunny, clear blue sky start to the day. An owl was heard in the hotel garden. We bid El Patio farewell, and drove into Icod to see a very old Dragon Tree.

We left Icod and headed off to the pine forest above Chio, in search of *Himantoglossum* metlesicsianum, it was very dry, and only two rosettes were found. As it was very warm, we dropped back down the road to a café for refreshments. From here we headed into the very



busy Los Cristianos for the ferry, we had a good wait, but needed the time to sort out our tickets, and it gave us chance to have our lunch. Once onto the ferry several of us went up onto the top deck, in search of dolphins and Short-finned Pilot Whales, we were not disappointed, we saw a surprisingly large number of both, but only for the first half of the journey, once near La Gomera, there was no sign of either. We enjoyed the views of La Gomera as we came into the harbour.



The traffic was busy as we drove out of San Sebastián, once we left the town and headed up into the mountains the roads were quiet again. After a short while we pulled into a layby at Roque de Agando, to enjoy the views and to see what was flowering. A Canary Red Admiral soon distracted us, as it moved about the flowers enjoying the nectar of *Echium* acanthocarpum, there were hundreds of bees on the Echium, and it was lovely hearing the hum they were making. We followed a narrow path, where Pericallis steetzii was flowering well, a species that was common on La Gomera. We found two Stork's-bills flowering, Erodium botrys and Erodium malacoides. Several Painted Ladies were seen, and a Barbary Partridge was heard. On a rocky slope a fine clump of *Tinguarra* cervariaefolia with creamy white flowers, clung on.

We headed off to Playa de Santiago and our hotel, Jardin Tecina. The grounds were nicely laid out, with some of the many exotic trees labelled. After a rest we all met up again for our evening buffet meal.

Day 5 Thursday 13th February 2020 – El Cedro & Garajonay National Park visitor centre

A Hoopoe was heard in the hotel garden, but not seen. We headed off on a paved road through the laurel forest, dropping down to El Cedro, where we found a nice parking area, with a squashed rabbit, and a picnic area. *Vinca major* (Greater Periwinkle) was on the road bank. Our walk was through the forest along a path to a small church. The shade was welcome in the heat. We stopped several times to admire the pink flowers and marbled prickly leaves



of *Galactites tomentosa*. On the side of a terrace wall was a patch of scented *Viola odorata* subsp. *maderensis*, and we also saw *Viola riviniana* (Common Dog-violet) on the side of the track. A large flock of Plain Swifts were swirling around above us. As we made our way we saw many species of ferns. On a stone bank *Cystopteris diaphana* (Greenish Bladder-fern), a slightly damp spot in the forest had a patch of *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern), and



Pteris incompleta had large fronds. We only walked as far as the small church, here there was a spring, which was fascinating as the water was coming out of the centre of a tree into the well. Many of the Laurus novocanariensis had a growth on, which looked like a very frilly lichen, but were a fungi, Laurobasidium lauri. We ambled back to the car park, setting our picnic out on the tables provided.

Our first afternoon stop was Garajonay National Park visitor centre where the plants were labelled for us. It was good to see many of the species endemic to the Canary Islands. A tree sea-lavender (*Limonium arborescens*) was very interesting to see, with the typical bluish-purple flowers, but growing like a tree. Some of us took a coffee break, trying the curry biscuits. We headed off stopping at a viewing point

where we could look across the mountains to the juniper forests. One last stop was taken to photo *Aeonium diplocyclum*.

Day 6 Friday 14th February - Fortaleza & Valle Gran Rey

Another lovely sunny start to the day. A flock of Tree Sparrows, and a male Blackcap were seen in the hotel grounds while walking up for breakfast.

We set out for Fortaleza along a cobbled track passing houses, and on up a dirt path to the base of the rocky mountain top. We slowly made our way, stopping to photo a Prickly-pear kindly pointing the way. A single Geropogon (Tragopogon) hybridus was flowering on the side of the path, just after the track had stopped. As a weed in some of the cultivated terraces was Calendula arvensis (Field Marigold). The path made its way steeply up through Cistus monspeliensis scrub. Romulea columnae subsp. grandiscapa flowering in large numbers in places. I was first to reach the rock face, here I soon

found our goal, Orchis canariensis, we saw a good few in flower. The orchids only seemed to grow out of small pockets of soil in rock crevices. We slowly descended, enjoying the views as we went. A few Ravens were seen soaring overhead. In between the cobble cracks was the tiny Poa infirma (Early Meadow-grass), once back to the road we had time to look at a few more species. Scandix pecten-veneris (Shepherd's-needle) was on the road verge, and on the roadside was Convolvulus siculus.

A quick roadside stop was taken to photo the long arching yellow-greenish flowering stems of *Agave attenuata*. Not long after, another roadside stop was taken for *Aeonium arboreum* 'Atropurpureum' being



grown in a garden, and on the other side of the road was a large patch of the climber *Pyrostegia venusta*, with deep orange flowers.



We took our lunch stop at a view point, looking down the valley, and out to sea. From here we stopped in the heather and laurel forest for an amble to the see many extensive patches of Gennaria diphylla. Only the leaves of Arum italicum subsp. canariense could be found. Catherine was kind enough to stand by the largest tree heather, to have scale at just how large these heathers were. One more woodland stroll, this time a short circular walk to a small church and springs. We puzzled over an evergreen tree for some time, before we realised it was Ilex perado.

tree nettle, Gesnouinia arborea, grew on the bank, and one large bush of the rare Euphorbia bourgeana (lambii), was flowering. As we made our way back towards the vehicles, we came across the leaves of Dracunculus canariensis, unfortunately no flowers. Golden Hair Lichen (Teloschistes flavicans) hung from a few trees. It was rather warm, once back to the road, we headed over to the café for refreshments. As we were relaxing, a Laurel Pigeon delighted us, by landing in a tree very close to where we were sitting.

As it was Valentine's Day, our dinner had a love theme, at least the dessert dishes. Several of us tried all the various heart shape sugary delights, and many of us had great fun dipping our strawberries under the chocolate fountain. A very enjoyable meal!

Day 7 Saturday 15th February 2020 – Mirador de Tajaqué & Ermita de Guadalupe

It was time to say our farewells to Hotel Jardin Tecina. Ian and I brought the vehicles down from the car park. David remembered it was Ian's birthday, Ian turned red as we sang Happy Birthday. We noticed my car had a slow puncture. I moved the car back into the car park, and changed the tyre. Visiting Playa de Santiago for our picnic shopping, we made enquiries and found we had to go to San Sebastián for a tyre centre. While Ian took the rest of the group to Mirador de Tajaqué, Liz and I went to sort out the tyre. Dropping down to San Sebastián I noticed a large industrial estate, we soon spotted the large Michelin sign. As the staff were not over busy, the puncture was quickly sorted. At one stage 4 men were trying to work out how to put the spare tyre back under the car, this seemed to defeat all, the spare tyre had to stay in our boot for the rest of the trip. We found the others without any troubles.

A short drive took us to Ermita de Guadalupe where we parked in a layby and followed a paved road down the hill. I took the opportunity to take a group photo while they all admired a flowering *Arbutus canariensis* (Otto pointing at), and *Ruta macrocarpa* with yellow flowers.



As we made our way down to a tiny shrine, we found *Smilax canariensis*. Ian and I retraced our steps, and brought my car down with the picnic, the track was too narrow for Ian's minibus. Had our lunch sitting in the shade on a wall. A Canary Speckled Wood enjoyed drinking the moisture from Sue's tomato. We tossed our crumbs for a Canary Chaffinch, these birds are a much deeper red than the Chaffinches back home.

It was time to drive back to Hotel Jardin Tecina to collect our suitcases. On the way we made one quick roadside stop for those that wanted to photograph the large yellow trumpet flowers of *Solandra grandiflora*. We also found a *Kleinia neriifolia* (Tree Groundsel) with a few pale yellow flowers, and at the base of a wall *Forsskaolea angustifolia* was seen.

We arrived back at the ferry port in good time. Refreshments were taken in the café, where the cool air gave us a break from the heat. The ferry crossing was even calmer this time. Most of us went up to the top deck to watch for dolphins and whales, disappointing this time round as only 6 dolphins were seen, at least we saw them jumping out of the water. Once we had disembarked the ferry, we headed straight to El Nogal Boutique Hotel.

Day 8 Sunday 16th February 2020 - Mount Teide

Another super blue sky, which stayed with us all day. Ian and I popped out and did the picnic shopping while the others were having breakfast.



least a few of us anyway) were luckily enough to see a Blue Chaffinch (in the shade the males almost disappear, but in the sunlight their slate-blue colours shine out), and the endemic Great Spotted Woodpecker, which was busy tapping away at the tree trunk. Also saw lots of Canaries.

We moved on up the mountain to a viewing point, it now started looking more like desert, with some low scrub.

We left Vilaflor, taking the road to Mount Teide. Our first stop was to see a very large Canary Island Pine – Pino Gordo (the 'fat pine') was 45 m high, and 9.35 m circumference, and estimated at 800 years old. A Robin was seen in the pine. On the roadside was the brightly coloured orange *Eschscholzia californica* (Californian Poppy), a long way from home!

We moved up the road to Las Lajas for our only real bird stop of the trip. The birds were very reluctant to make an appearance. But we (at

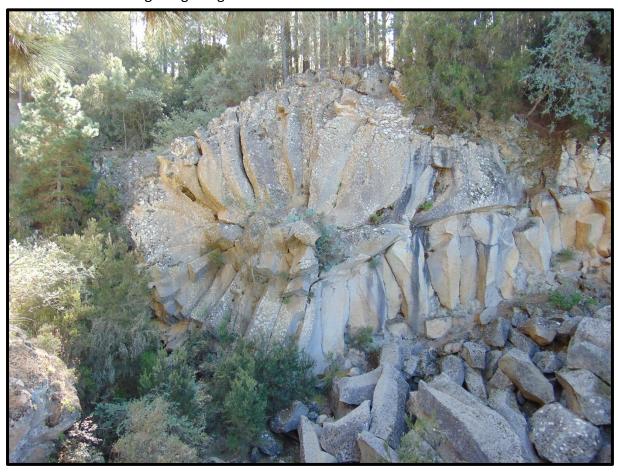




There were many of last year flower spikes on *Echium wildpretii*, and at least we did see the living leaves. On the roadside one *Erysimum scoparium* had a couple flowers open, even though we did see more flowering later in the day, none were at their best yet. Moving even higher, passing the many parked cars everywhere, it became even more barren. We pulled into another layby, here the ground was bare gravel and rocky outcrops. We had a few flowers out on *Argyranthemum teneriffae*. It was much cooler here, we had to put on our jackets.

We dropped back down to the warmth, into the *Cistus symphytifolius* forest, there were many pink flowers on the bushes. Sue found *Pterocephalus lasiospermus* in flower, and *Scrophularia glabrata*, was flowering nicely. A Blue Tit was seen, these are a much richer blue than ours at home.

Our lunch stop was taken in some shade from the heat, here we sat on a low wall, enjoying our picnic. After most of us took a short wander to see La Piedra de la Rosa, which to me looked like a cross section of a pine cone. This formation was made when the lava got cold, which formed this singular geological structure.



We next visited the visitor centre, where many of the endemic plants are grown, and all were nicely labelled.

It was time for another short walk, and a refreshment stop. Here we found a kind tourist to take a group photo of all of us. Photo provided by Marge.



There was time for one more stop, to see *Pericallis lanata* with flowers in the sun. The shadows were moving fast, and by the time we had all taken our photos, the plants were in the shade. *Lotus campylocladus* formed a large yellow strip behind the crash barrier.

It was time to head back to the hotel, for checklists, our last dinner and night on Tenerife.

Day 9 Monday 17th February 2020 – Malpaís de Güímar and home.

We took the motorway to the south part of the island to the Malpaís de Güímar – about an hours drive. The succulent scrub on the fresh lava flow by the Atlantic Ocean is a stunning landscape, and well worth a visit. There were many tall cacti-like *Euphorbia canariensis*. There was a good breeze blowing. We sat on a seafront low wall for our last early picnic. Sadly it was time to head to the airport, and drop off most of the group.



With just Ian, Lynne and me having much later flights, we headed off to Santiago del Teide, for a coffee break, and a short walk. On a weedy patch in the town we added *Volutaria canariensis* and *Lathyrus articulatus* to our flowering list of species, and on a roadside Lynne spotted another for our list, the very prickly *Argemone ochroleuca*, with pale yellow flowers. It was time to return to the airport.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants – 2018 list

The following list concentrates primarily on the native species seen. Many introduced species exist on the islands, but time and resources were insufficient to identify all of these but more notable or colourful ones seen have been included. NB this is the 2018 list as 2020 one not yet provided.

To make searching easier, families and species are listed alphabetically and the list is split into three sections: Ferns (includes clubmosses, quillworts, adder's-tongues, moonworts and horsetails); Conifers; and Flowering Plants. Flowering plants are further spilt into dicotyledons (includes predicots and eu-dicots) and monocotyledons.

Note: [Species in square brackets are species seen on earlier trips but not noted in 2018]

FERNS

Adiantiaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris El Patio, scattered elsewhere

[Adiantum reniforme Looked for on wall at Mirador Degollada De Peraza,

junction to Playa de Santiago, La Gomera but not

found in 2018]

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum Anaga laurel forest and El Cedro

[Asplenium filare ssp. canariense Teno]

Asplenium hemionitis Anaga laurel forest and El Cedro

Asplenium onopteris El Cedro

[Ceterach aureum Rock crevices along Barranco de la Villa]

Blechnaceae

Blechnum spicant Anaga

Woodwardia radicans Impressive arching fronds common in El Cedro

Davalliaceae

Davallia canariensis Widespread and common on old lava flows, forest edge

Dennistaedtiaceae

Pteridium aquilinum Widespread and common

Dryopteridaceae

Cyrtomium falcatum Holly Fern, growing from walls at El Patio
Dryopteris oligodonta The dominant large fern at El Cedro

Polystichum setiferum Anaga laurel forest

[Polystichum aculeatum Anaga]

Hymenophyllaceae

Trichomanes speciosum El Cedro

Oleandraceae

Nephrolepis exaltata Sword Fern, frequently planted exotic fern

Ophioglossaceae

Ophioglossum lusitanicum Roadside south of Masca

Polypodiaceae

Polypodium macaronesicum Forest edge, rocks, Anaga forests, El Cedro

Pteridaceae

Pteris incompleta Garajonay

Selaginellaceae

Selaginella denticulata On damp rocks Los Silos and by road south of Masca

Sinopteridaceae

Cheilanthes guanchicaEl Teide, GarachicoCheilanthes marantae ssp. subcordataChio road to El TeideCheilanthes pulchellaChio road to El Teide

Woodsiaceae

Athyrium filix-feminaEl Cedro forestCystopteris diaphanaEl CedroDiplazium caudatumEl Cedro

CONIFERS

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens Lower northern slopes of Teide (introduced)

Juniperus cedrus Teide (Aguamansa) also on Gomera near Roque Agando

Juniperus canariensis Widespread, Anaga peninsula, Masca, etc. also N

Gomera e.g. Agulo, Roque Cano

Pinaceae

Pinus canariensis Locally dominant, large forests on Teide
Pinus pinaster Roadside planting on Gomera (introduced)

FLOWERING PLANTS (PRE-DICOTS AND EU-DICOTS)

Aizoaceae

[Mesembryanthemum crystallinum Punta de Teno and other coastal areas]

Tetragonia tetragonioides Punta Negra

Amaranthaceae

Achyranthes siculaRoadsides, e.g. at Los SilosAlternanthera caracasanaScattered at lower altitudesAmaranthus sp.Roadsides, e.g. at Los Silos

Bosea yervamora Red-berried shrub with arching branches along the

track at Los Silos

Anacardiaceae

Schinus molle Pepper Tree, introduced and widely planted on Tenerife

Apiaceae

Apium graveolens Los Silos Apium nodiflorum Los Silos

Astydamia latifolia On rocky coast at Punta Negra, Punta de Teno and

Malpais de Guimar

Cryptotaeina elegans Spindly species in the forests at El Cedro

Drusa qlandulosa Peculiar scrambling herb found in lower zone e.g. Los

Silos, Agulo

Ferula linkii Scattered in north Tenerife and in flower at Las

Lagunetas on road to Masca

Foeniculum vulgare Scattered alien
[Pimpinella junoniae Fortaleza]
[Scandix pecten-veneris Masca (alien)]

Todaroa aurea Masca and road above San Sebastian on Gomera

Apocynaceae

Nerium oleander Planted on roadsides (introduced)

Vinca major Anaga roadside planting

Aquifoliaceae

Ilex canariensisLaurel forests, El Teide, AnagaIlex perado ssp. platyphyllaCruz del Carmen, Anaga

Araliaceae

Hedera canariensis Laurel forests

Asclepiadaceae

Ceropegia dichotoma Along the cliff tops at Garachico and Los Silos [Ceropegia fusca A plant at Malpais de Guimar with seedpods (2008)

Good plants above Los Cristianos (2007)]

Periploca laevigata Widespread in dry areas of Tenerife and Gomera (long

seedpods)

Asteraceae

Ageratina adenophora Common in laurel forest margins (white flowers,

pungent leaves, alien)

Allagopappus canariensis Malpais de Guimar

Andryala pinnatifida Roadside shrublet with greyish leaves and yellow

flowers seen at Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

[Argyranthemum adauctum Aguamansa (El Teide – 2007)]

Argyranthemum broussonetii Widespread on La Gomera [also Anaga 2008]
Argyranthemum callichrysum Common yellow-flowered species on Gomera (no

flowers on 2018 trip)

[Argyranthemum coronopifolium Teno on N facing cliffs (fleshy leaves)]

Argyranthemum frutescens Widespread

[Argyranthemum tenerifae sticky plants found at Las Roques in El Teide]

Artemisia thuscula Widespread in dry zone

Bidens pilosa Alien, scattered
Calendula arvensis Widespread alien

Carduus tenuiflorus Chinamada

Carlina salicifolia Common and widespread

[Carthamus lanata Big thistle at Majona, Gomera. Alien]
[Cheirolophus burchardii On the cliffs in Punta de Teno]

Cheirolophus teydis El Teide

Cotula australis Scattered on pavements as at Anaga visitors centre

Cynara cardunculus Fruiting plants on road at Alajero, Gomera

Galactites tomentosa Widespread weed, especially on Gomera (introduced)

Galinsoga parviflora Scattered as at Los Silos
[Gonospermum fruticosum Los Silos, Barranco de la Villa]

Kleinia neriifolia Common and widespread in dry communities with

flowers at Vallehermoso (extraordinary looking groundsel similar to a *Euphorbia* with a tuft of long leaves at atop bare stems, seedheads give it away)

Launaea arborescens Dry areas on La Gomera and southern Tenerife

[Pallenis spinosa Northern La Gomera]

Pericallis appendiculata Distinctive grey leaves in laurel forest at Anaga

Pericallis echinata Los Silos, Anaga [Orotava Valley]
Pericallis lanata Above Vilaflor (not flowering in 2018)

Pericallis steetzii Wıdespread in laurel forest margins on La Gomera

Pericallis tussilaginis Las Mercedes, Anaga [Phagnalon rupestre Masca (introduced)]

[Phagnalon purpurascens Probably this native species below Vilaflor and on

Gomera in dry areas.]

[Pterocephalus lasiospermus high mountain zone El Teide]

[Reichardia crystallina Glaucous rosettes scattered on cliffs at Punta de Teno]

[Reichardia liquiata Cliffs along Barranco de la Villa]

Schizogyne sericea Common in rocky coastal areas e.g. Malpais de Guimar

Senecio angulatus Chinamada (introduced)

[Silybum marianum Anaga (alien)]

Sonchus acaulis Common in northern Tenerife (fine herbaceous species

with huge rosettes of leaves and tall inflorescences

smothered in white woolly hairs)

Sonchus canariensis By road to Teide above Chio (tall stems and dense

inflorescence but no flowers in 2018)

Sonchus capillaris Masca, Los Silos [Punta de Teno] (very fine-leaved

species)

Sonchus congestus Common on north coast of Tenerife and Anaga [Sonchus filifolius Barranco de la Villa, Roque Agando, Vallehermoso

visitors centre (very fine-leaved species)]

Sonchus hierrensis Scarcer than S. ortunoi on La Gomera in laurel forest

margins

Sonchus oleraceus Scattered weed

Sonchus ortunoi Widespread and common on Gomera Sonchus radicatus Common at Los Silos [Punta de Teno]

[Sonchus regis-jubae Cliffs near Agulo]
[Tragopogon sinuatus Masca (introduced)]

[Tolpis proustii Common in leaf at Roque Agando, Gomera]

[Vieria laevigata Very rare, Punta de Teno only – a monotypic genus]

Bignonaceae

Pyrostegia venusta Frequent orange-flowered climber near houses

Boraginaceae

Echium acanthocarpum Roque Agando and nearby Laurel forest, El Cedro

(probably the finest species with tall spires of sky blue

but no flowers in 2018)

[Echium aculeatum Dry areas in Barranco de la Villa also Vallehermoso

visitor centre]

[Echium bonnettii Herb seen at Los Cristianos (2007)]

Echium giganteum White flowered species with green leaves seen at El

Tanque, Los Silos and Masca

Echium leucophaeum Anaga, Chinamada (white flowers and glaucous leaves)

Echium plantagineum Widespread herb
Echium simplex Leaves at Chinamada

[Echium strictum Taganana and a good specimen at Teno]

Echium virescens Masca and Anaga (fine species with variable pinkish to

bluish flower spikes)

Echium wildpretii Dead plants on Teide but living rosettes in garden of El

Nogal hotel near Vilaflor

[Heliotropium bacciferum On dry slopes at Los Cristianos, also Guimar]

[Myosotis discolor Teide pine forest]
[Myosotis latifolia In leaf at El Cedro]

Brassicaceae

[Cakile maritima Montana de Roja (2007)]

Capsella bursa-pastoris Scattered

[Crambe scaberrima Rough-leaved species at base of cliffs at Punta de Teno]

[Crambe strigosa Anaga]

Descurainia bourgaeana High montane zone on Teide

Descurainia millefolia Widespread pinnate leaved shrub with yellow flowers

Eruca vesicaria Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

Erysimum bicolour Locally frequent purple wallflower in lower and forest

zones, as at Los Silos

Erysimum scoparium El Teide (not in flower in 2018)
Lobularia canariensis Locally common on dry rocks

Nasturtium officinaleIn stream at Los Silos[Parolinia intermediaPunta de Teno (2007)]

Sinapis arvensis Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

[Thlaspi arvense Masca]

Cactaceae

Opuntia dillenii Widespread alien
Opuntia ficus-indica Widespread alien

Austrocylindropuntia exaltata Occasional in xerophytic communities near towns, alien

Callitrichaceae

Callitriche stagnalis Los Silos, in stream

Campanulaceae

Canarina canariensis Frequent in Los Silos, El Tanque, Anaga

Caprifoliaceae

Sambucus palmensisEpina (a rare plant on Gomera)Viburnum rigidumWidespread in laurel forests

Caryophyllaceae

[Dicheranthus plocamoides Shrub found on the cliffs in Punta de Teno, Barranco de

la Villa and Roque Cano]

[Minuartia montana Punta de Teno]

Paronychia canariensis Widespread but scattered in dry areas

[Paronychia capitata Taganana (2007)]

[Polycarpaea carnosa Rare only seen once along Barranco de la Villa]

[Polycarpaea nivea Montana Roja coastal sands]

[Polycarpaea divaricata Roque Cano]

Polycarpon tetraphyllumPavement weed, scattered[Silene canariensisAnnual endemic at Anaga]Silene vulgaris ssp. commutataLos Silos, Las Hayas

Stellaria media Gomera and Tenerife

Chenopodiaceae

Atriplex glauca Montana Roja coastal sands

Beta patellaris Malpais de Guimar

[Beta procumbens Chimanada]

[Chenoleoides tomentosa Teno (Montana Roja coastal flats 2007)]

Chenopodium murale Los Silos
Salsola divaricata Punta negra

[Traganum moquini Los Cristianos cliffs]

Cistaceae

Cistus monspeliensis Widespread on both islands, white flowers

[Cistus symphytifolius Southern pine woods of Teide]

Tuberaria guttata Near Masca

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus altheoides Vilaflor (roadsides, big pink flowers and divided leaves,

alien)

[Convolvulus canariensis Grassy areas in Barranco de la Villa]

[Convolvulus floridus Beautiful flowering shrubs planted at Pirimides and a

few at El Cedro]

[Cuscuta calycina Punta de Teno, Barranco de la Villa]

Ipomoea cairica Vallehermoso (alien)]

Crassulaceae

[Aeonium appendiculatum ?La Gomera]

Aeonium canariense Common on rocks in north coast, Chinamada

Aeonium ciliatum Frequent in Anaga (pale green leaves, red and ciliate

margins)

Aeonium cuneatum Chinamada

Aeonium decorum Gomera, e.g. Barranco de la Villa (small species with

leaves suffused red)

Aeonium castello-paivae Frequent on Gomera (greyish leaves)

[Aeonium gomerense Possibly this species along Barranco de la Villa, Gomera]
Aeonium arboreum ssp. holochrysum Widespread in south Tenerife and also west Gomera

(yellow flowers in dense heads, a multi-stemmed shrub)

Aeonium lindleyi Chinamada (leaves small and very succulent)

Aeonium rubrolineatum on dragon tree walk near Alajero

Aeonium pseudourbicum Common at Teno and S Teide (long unbranched stem

and pinkish flowers)

[Aeonium smithii El Teide visitors centre]

Aeonium spathulatum Small dense plant. Cliffs in forest regions throughout

Aeonium subplanum Very common in La Gomera (bright green large

spathulate leaves)

Aeonium tabulaeforme Garachico, Los Silos, Chinamada (species with flattened

disc of leaves with ciliate margins)

Aeonium viscatum Widespread on N Gomera e.g. Agulo, Barranco de la

Villa (greyish leaves crowd hanging stems)

Aichryson laxum Frequent in shady forest regions (similar to Aeonium

spp. but with more lax, softly hairy leaves)

Aichryson pachycaulon Scattered in shaded areas

Crassula multicava Chinamada, El Cedro (introduced)

Crassula ovata Chinamada (introduced)

[Greenovia aurea Common on rocks in El Teide (like Aeonium but leaves

glaucous and glabrous – there are big populations on

the northern slopes of Teide)]

Greenovia diplocycla Common species on north Gomera

[Monanthes adenoscapes Garachico]

[Monanthes amydros Cliffs near Agulo, Barranco de la Villa, Majona]

Monanthes anagensis Chinamada

[Monanthes icterica Little annual species at Los Silos]

Monanthes laxiflora Los Silos

[Monanthes muralis Agulo and Fortaleza]

Monanthes pallens On dry rocks in Masca and Punta de Teno

Monanthes polyphylla Los Silos

[Sedum rubens Reddish very succulent leaves. Widespread, very

common at Majona]

[Umbilicus horizontalis Very common on walls, introduced]

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia verrucosa Los Silos, Masca, Gomera

[Ecballium elaterium Scattered (introduced) (2007)]

Ericaceae

Arbutus canariensis El Cedro

Erica arborea Common and dominant, forming a tall shrub or tree

(leaves ascending)

Erica scoparia Las Mercedes, Anaga, Gomera (leaves patent)

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia aphylla Leafless small shrub, common on cliffs at Punta de

Teno, Malpais de Guimar, Punta Negra

Euphorbia atropurpurea Common near Masca (handsome species with

distinctive reddish-purple bracts)

Euphorbia balsamifera Common on south Tenerife coasts e.g. Malpais de

Guimar (flattened spreading bushes with gnarled stems

and smallish leaves at stem tips)

Euphorbia berthelotii Widespread on Gomera

Euphorbia broussonetii Widespread and very common on Tenerife

Euphorbia canariensis Impressive organ-pipe like succulent common in coastal

and dry regions, cliffs, etc., especially fine at Malpais de

Guimar

Euphorbia lambii Rare - a few at Chorros de Epina, Gomera

[Euphorbia mellifera Taganana laurel forest (2007) - a tree of up to 15 metres

tall]

Euphorbia milii Used as bedding plants on roadsides and roundabouts

Euphorbia peplus Los Silos

Euphorbia pulcherrima Familiar 'Poinsettia' growing along road to El Tanque

Mercurialis annua Widespread weed (introduced)

Ricinus communis Widespread alien

Fabaceae

Lotus campylocladus

Adenocarpus foliolosus Anaga, El Teide

Adenocarpus viscosus Frequent in Las Canadas del Teide
Bituminaria bituminosa Frequent roadside species (introduced)

Chamaecytisus proliferus Widespread and common white flowered broom of

forest zones, as at Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

Lotus berthelotii x maculatus Hybrid of native species used as roadside plantings and

masses in flower at Valle Gran Rey picnic area Pinewoods below Vilaflor and road above Chico

[Lotus dumetorum Taganana and Roque de las Animas]

[Lotus emeroides Gomera, e.g. Epina, Majona]

[Lotus glaucus Teno]

[Lotus sessilifolius Coastal areas of S Tenerife]

Medicago polymorphaPunta NegraOrnithopus compressusEl Cedro

[Ononis pendula ? coastal pink Ononis Malpais de Guimar]

Paraserianthes lophantha Los Silos (introduced)

[Retama raetam Pinewoods below Vilaflor]

[Spartocytisus filipes Masca]

Spartocytisus supranubius Dominant shrub on the high montane plateau of Teide

Teline canariensis Anaga

[Teline gomerae Yellow-flowered shrub at Majona, Epina, etc.]

Ulex europaeus Santiago del Teide to El Tanque (introduced)

[Vicia villosa Chio (alien)]

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa Leafless trees in montane districts, all planted

Frankeniaceae

[Frankenia capitata Punta de Teno, Chinamada]
Frankenia ericifolia Montana Roja, Malpais de Guimar

[Frankenia pulverulenta Malpais de Guimar]

Fumariaceae

Fumaria coccinea Teno area e.g. Punta de Teno, Masca, Garachico

Fumaria muralis In weedy areas

Gentianaceae

[Ixanthus viscosus Laurel woods at Anaga]

Geraniaceae

Erodium botrys Scattered

Erodium chiumMasca, Epina, etc. (introduced)Erodium cicutariumValle Gran Rey (introduced)

Erodium malacoides Los Silos

Geranium canariense Frequent in laurel woods in Anaga, El Cedro, etc. (no

early flowers in 2018)

[Geranium lucidumAlien]Geranium molleScatteredGeranium purpureumScattered[Geranium robertianumAlien]

Pelargonium inquinans Las Lagunetas on road to Masca (introduced)

Globulariaceae

[Globularia salicina Pale blue flowered shrub seen at Taganana and on

Gomera]

Hypericaceae

Hypericum canariense Anaga, Los Silos (narrowly elliptical leaved shrub)

[Hypericum glandulosum Anaga forest edge]

Hypericum grandifolium Anaga (broadly ovate-leaved shrub)

[Hypericum reflexum Basalt cliffs and gorges e.g. Los Silos. Decussate and

sessile leaved shrublet]

Hydrophyllaceae

Wigandia caracasana East of Icod (introduced bush with large leaves and

purple flowers)

Lamiaceae

[Bystropogon canariensis Widespread on Gomera and Tenerife in laurel forest

areas]

[Bystropogon origanifolius Roque Cano]
[Calamintha sylvatica Roque Cano. Alien]

[Cedronella canariensis El Cedro]

Lavandula buchii Chinamada (greyish pinnatisect leaves)

Lavandula canariensis Widespread (similar to Lavandula buchii but with green

leaves)

Marrubium vulgareEl CedroMentha pulegiumNear Masca

Micromeria varia Widespread and common

[Salvia canariensis Agulo cliffs]
Sideritis cretica ssp. cretica Los Silos

[Sideritis gomeraea Barranco de la Villa]

[Sideritis spicata Barranco de la villa, Majona]
Stachys arvensis Scattered, as at Los Silos

Lauraceae

Apollonias barbujana Scattered in Laurel forest in Anaga, El Cedro
Laurus novocanariensis Common in Laurel forest Teno, Anaga, El Cedro

Ocotea foetans Laurel forest El Cedro, black fruits

Persea indica Laurel forest

Malvaceae

[Abutilon grandiflorum ?probably this species with orange flowers]

[Lavatera acerifolia Gomera, El Bailadero and below cliffs at Agulo; also

Teno]

Sida rhombifolia Los Silos on roadside

Moraceae

Ficus carica Planted and common

Myricaceae

Myrica faya Anaga and Garajonay forests

Myrsinaceae

Pleiomeria canariensis Possibly this species in good fruit at Los Silos, red

berries like holly but denser and close to stems.

Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus globulus Widespread alien tree

[Myrtus communis Agana (2007)]

Nyctaginaceae

Bougainvillea glabra Often on edges of gardens sometimes an escape

Mirabilis jalapa Los Silos

Oleaceae

Jasminum odoratissimum Seen at Los Silos

[Olea europaea ssp. cerasiformis Scattered near cliffs and among scrub]

Picconia excelsa Epina

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis corniculata Los Silos

Oxalis pes-caprae Widespread alien

Papaveraceae

[Eschscholtzia californica Frequent alien poppy]

Papaver somniferum Chinamada

Plantaginaceae

[Plantago afra Chio]

Plantago arborescens Widespread shrubby plantain

Plantago lagopus Chinamada

Plumbaginaceae

Limonium arborescens Anaga

[Limonium dendroides Vallehermoso visitor centre]
Limonium fruticans Colony at Punta Negra near café

Limonium pectinatum Common along coasts e.g. Vallehermoso

Polygonaceae

Rumex lunaria Widespread shrubby dock with rounded leaves

[Rumex obtusifolius Agulo cliffs, Gomera]
Rumex pulcher Valle Gran Rey

Rumex vesicarius Icod, south of Vilaflor (Tenerife), Alajero (La Gomera)

Portulacaceae

Portulaca oleracea Valle Gran Rey

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis Masca (the blue-flowered form)

Ranunculaceae

Ranunculus cortusifolius Widespread in damp area adjacent to laurel forest, in

flower beside road south of Masca

Resedaceae

[Reseda luteola Masca, El Teide (2007) (introduced)]

[Reseda scoparia Wiry-stemmed shrublet at Los Cristianos and north

Gomera]

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus crenulata In Euphorbia scrub in north Tenerife and Gomera

Rosaceae

[Bencomia caudata Growing near the Arbutus stop on north Teide (2007)]

[Bencomia exstipulata El Teide visitor centre]
Eriobotrya japonica Widely planted fruit tree

Marcetella moquiniana Like a shrubby burnet, on the track at Los Silos

Prunus dulcis Almond - a common orchard tree, growing well on lava

and in flower!

Prunus lusitanica Scattered in laurel forest e.g. Anaga

Rubus ulmifolius Frequent

Rubiaceae

Galium aparine Frequent roadside alien
Galium murale Los Silos on pavement

Phyllis nobla Anaga and near Agulo on Gomera

[Phyllis viscosa Los Silos (initially mistaken for a Mercurialis)]

Plocama pendula Widespread in dry communities in south Tenerife

[Rubia agostinhoi Laurel forest in La Gomera, fantastically 'sticky' leaves]

Rubia futicosa A shrubby madder, common in Euphorbia communities

Sherardia arvensis Las Lagunetas on road to Masca (introduced)

Rutaceae

Ruta chalepensis Leaves only near Masca

Salixaceae

Salix canarensis Los Silos and in damp gulleys in La Gomera

Scrophulariaceae

[Misopates orontium 2007]

[Campylanthus salsoloides Pink flowered shrub, Malpais de Guimar]

Cymbalaria muralis Los Silos

Isoplexis canariensis Non-flowering shrubs seen at Los Silos

[Kickxia scoparia Yellow toadflax at Guimar and Los Cristianos]

Scrophularia glabrata Montane species seen on Teide Scrophularia smithii Laurel forest at Anaga, El Cedro

Veronica anagallis-aquatica In stream Los Silos

Solanaceae

Brugmansia suaveolensWidely planted alien shrubDatura stramoniumSeveral by road south of Alajero

Lycopersicon esculentum Scattered on roadsides

Nicotiana glauca Scattered as at Montana Roja

Solanum nigrum Scattered on roadsides

Withania aristata Curious green flowered shrub above Los Silos

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix canariensis Near coasts on Gomera and Tenerife

Tropaeolaceae

Tropaeolum majus Scattered near houses (alien)

Urticaceae

Forsskaolea angustifolia Widespread especially on Gomera

Gesnouinia arborea Laurel forest in La Gomera on the road up to El Cedro

Soleirolia soleirolii Los Silos

[Parietaria filamentosa Punta de Teno]

Urtica membranacea Los Silos

Urtica morifolia Native shrubby nettle, Gomera

Valerianaceae

Centranthus ruber Garachico

Verbenaceae

Lantana camara Icod

Violaceae

[Viola odorata Los Silos and El Cedro forests]

Viola riviniana El Cedro forests

Vitaceae

Vitis vinifera Cultivated widely

Zygophyllaceae

Fagonia cretica Montana Roja

Zygophyllum fontanesii SouthTenerife coasts e.g. Guimar, Montana Roja and

on beach at Valle Gran Rey, Gomera

FLOWERING PLANTS (MONOCOTS)

Agavaceae

Agave americana Abundant alien in dry communities

Agave attenuata Planted widely, distinctive drooping flower

Dracaena draco Genuine wild specimens of this rare and local plant seen

at Los Silos, Chinamada and near Alajero on Gomera.

Amaryllidaceae

Pancratium canariense Several plants in fruit on Garachico cliffs

Araceae

Arisarum simorrhinum

Arum italicum ssp. canariense

Dracunculus canariensis

Leaves only at Epina

Leaves only at Los Silos

Zantedeschia aethiopica Introduced, often near houses

Commelinaceae

Tradescantia pallida Occasional in laurel forest at El Cedro (alien)

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus edulis Widespread e.g. Los Silos, El Cedro, preferring laurel

forest

Iridaceae

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora El Cedro (introduced)

Romulea columnae ssp. grandiscapa A few at Anaga, more common on Gomera especially at

Epina and Arure

Juncaceae

Juncus acutus Several places on La Gomera

Juncus effusus El Cedro

Luzula canariensis Laurel forest in Anaga

Liliaceae

Allium canariense Widespread Agapanthus praecox El Cedro

Asparagus arborescens Dry areas on south Tenerife

Asparagus scoparius Los Silos [Asparagus umbellatus Los Silos]

Asphodelus fistulosus Southern lower slopes of Tenerife

Asphodelus ramosus ssp. distalis Widespread in Tenerife and east Gomera Drimia hesperia Fruited stalks by coast at Punta de Teno

[Muscari comosum Southern Tenerife (alien)]
Scilla haemorrhoidalis Santiago del Teide, Los Silos

Semele androgyna Los Silos and Anaga

Smilax canariensis Los Silos

Orchidaceae

Gennaria diphylla Locally common in Laurel forests at Anaga and on

Gomera

Habenaria tridactylites A few at Los Silos in fruit, but some in flower at

Chinamada and lots of fresh flowers on damp bank opposite small radio mast by road south of Masca – under fine flowering *Euphorbia atropurpurea*

[Himantoglossum metlesicsianum Only leaves seen under pines in site below road above

Chio (previous trips have seen it in flower here)

[Neotinea maculata Leaves only in pine forest zone in El Teide, Roque

Agando]

[Orchis canariensis A good colony at Fortaleza (Gomera), also Masca]

Palmae

Phoenix canariensis Widespread and common, especially on La Gomera

Phoenix dactylifera Scattered

Systematic List: Birds – 2018 list

Order follows taxonomy of the Collin's Guide'. () = birds recorded by song or call only or occasionally other sign.

Barbary partridge	Alectoris barbara	A pair crossing the road on La Gomera one day was seen by all. The van team had one on the slopes of Teide (Tenerife) on the last full day.
Cory's shearwater	Calonectris diomedea	Seen daily in variable numbers with a maximum of 300+ off Punta Teno one day. We finally got good views on the return ferry journey from La Gomera.
Macaronesian shearwater	Puffinus baroli	Two close in past El Guincho on the first evening in a fierce blow. One seen poorly from the ferry to La Gomera. Another one gloriously close past Malpais de Guimar on the last full day.
Gannet	Sula bassana	Four or five off Punta Teno (Tenerife). One on the return ferry journey from La Gomera.
Little egret	Egretta garzetta	Reported times by the minibus crew on Tenerife.
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	Scattered singles on both islands.
Glossy ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	Jonathan had one en route to Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife). Another was seen flying over the hotel on La Gomera on the last morning there. This is a vagrant to the Canaries I believe.
Common buzzard	Buteo buteo	Noted in small numbers daily, the Canary subspecies <i>insularum</i> .
Common kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Common and widespread, this is the West Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> .
(Barbary falcon)	Falco pelegrinoides	Pair heard at Chinamada!
Coot	Fulica atra	Two on a tiny reservoir on La Gomera.
Little ringed plover	Charadrius dubius	One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only).
Semipalmated plover	Charadrius semipalmatus	Single second-year bird, a long-staying vagrant from North America, at the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only).
Ringed plover	Charadrius hiaticula	One on La Gomera. Another on the pool east of Los Abrigos for Phil on the last day.
Sanderling	Calidris alba	One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only).
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only).
Common sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	One at on the rocky seashore from the fish restaurant on the first day. Another single on

La Gomera. One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning. Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus One at Tejita Beach (Tenerife). Another on La Gomera. One last one near the pool east of Los Abrigos. Pomarine skua Stercorarius pomarinus One off the hotel on La Gomera was mugging shearwaters (Phil only). Yellow-legged gull Larus michahellis Frequently encountered. The Macaronesian subspecies atlantis. Lesser black-backed gull Larus fuscus One on the first evening during the very windy evening seawatch. A gathering on the sea outside Los Cristianos (Tenerife). Sandwich tern Sterna sandvicensis Small flock in mid-channel on the ferry between Tenerife and La Gomera. More on the return journey as we approached the harbour in Tenerife. Rock dove Columba livia Widespread and common. Laurel pigeon Columba junonae Endemic to the Canaries. One or perhaps two birds on the Los Silos-Erjos trail on the first Columba bollii Bolle's pigeon Endemic to the Canaries. One seen perched at Picos del Ingles lookout on Day 3. Others seen in flight there. Just one on La Gomera at El Cedro on the last day on the island. Collared dove Streptopelia decaocto Ubiquitous. We also saw some 'Barbary doves' in the Tejita beach area on both visits but Phil does not except this 'taxon'... Plain swift Apus unicolor Endemic breeding bird in the Canaries and Madeira. Jonathan had a two over the El Patio hotel on the first full day in Tenerife. Phil had 2-3 as we approached San Sebastian harbour (La Gomera) and thereafter we saw 2-10 daily on La Gomera. The slopes of Teide were hooching with them on the last full day. Great spotted woodpecker Dendrocopus major Noted at the two picnic areas on the southern slopes of Teide (Tenerife). The distinctive Canary subspecies canariensis. Anthus berthelotii Berthelot's pipit A widespread and very approachable endemic bird. Motacilla cinerea Scattered records on four dates on both Grey wagtail islands. Motacilla alba (White wagtail) One at Valle Gran Rey whilst 'scoping in vain for the giant lizard. Heard only. Robin Erithacus rubecula Scattered records. This is the West Canary subspecies superbus. Blackbird Turdus merula Widespread.

Sylvia melanocephala

Scattered records, mostly heard.

Sardinian warbler

Spectacled warbler Sylvia conspicillata At least two seen well at Tejita beach

(Tenerife). Another two at Valle Gran Rey (La Gomera). The Canaries is a great place to

La Gomera). The Canaries is a great pla

see this species.

Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla Widespread, most easily seen in the hotel

garden on La Gomera. The West Canary

subspecies heineken.

Canary Islands chiffchaff Phylloscopus canariensis Widespread endemic.

Yellow-browed warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* We met a birder just outside the gate to the

botanical garden in Puerto Cruz and he told us there was a yellow-browed warbler in the tree by the gate and there was too! A nice surprise but becoming a very scarce wintering bird on the Canaries these days.

Goldcrest Regulus regulus Two seen by Phil at El Cedro on La Gomera.

The distinctive *teneriffae* race. Some authors accord this taxon species status as Canary

Island kinglet.

African blue tit Cyanistes teneriffae Widespread and recorded in small numbers

on most days.

Great grey shrike Lanius excubitor One at Tejita beach (Tenerife), another in the

caldera on Mount Teide and two for phil on the last day. Svensson places the birds we saw in the *königi* race of great grey shrike.

Raven Corvus corax Four above Masca on Tenerife. Records refer

to the N. African subspecies tingitanus.

Seen daily on La Gomera.

Spanish sparrow Passer hispaniolensis

Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs Pair on Day 3. The West Canary subspecies

canariensis is a striking bird akin to the birds

in N. Africa.

Blue chaffinch Fringilla teydea Endemic to the Canaries. Good numbers at

the two picnic areas on the southern slopes of

Teide (Tenerife) on the last full day.

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis Recorded every day in small numbers on La

Gomera.

Greenfinch Carduelis chloris Only recorded in the Jardin Botanico at

Puerto de la Cruz.

Serin Serinus serinus One immature at El Guincho for Phil.
Atlantic canary Serinus canaria Common throughout, frequently

encountered.

Odonata – 2018 list

Atlantic darter Sympetrum nigrifemur One low-down on the Los Silos to Erjos trail, thanks to

Ian B.

Emperor Anax imperator Two on the Los Silos to Erjos trail.

Systematic List: Butterflies - 2018 list

Taxonomy follows Haahtela *et al.* (2011) *Butterflies of Britain and Europe* (sic). A woeful list that really indicates the poor weather we experienced rather than the level of observer effort which was considerable.

Small white Pieris rapae Scattered records lower down on Tenerife.

Tenerife cleopatra Gonepteryx cleobule One on the Los Silos walk on the first full day

for Peter and Ruth.

African grass blue Zizeeria knysna Small numbers in the coastal amenity

planting at lunchtime at Buenavista del

Norte.

Canary blue Cyclyrius webbianus An astonishing creature, one or two flying at

the same spot at Buenavista del Norte on Day 4. The trip highlight for the butterfly-

inclined members of the team.

Monarch Danaus plexippus One on the Los Silos walk on the first full

day.

Plain tiger Danaus chrysippus A very fleeting and unsatisfactory encounter

with one on Terjita Beach (Tenerife).

Canary speckled wood Pararge xiphoides Only seen on the Los Silos walk on the first

full day.

Mammals - 2018 list

DOR = dead on road.

(Rabbit) Orytolagus cuniculus One DOR on La Gomera was the closest we got to this

species!

Short-finned pilot Globicephala Just two on the ferry journey to La Gomera. Just two on

whale macrorhynchus the way back too!

Reptiles and Amphibians - 2018 list

Tenerife lizard Gallotia galloti Widespread, seen most days on Tenerife in small

numbers. Occasionally we saw large adult individuals

but most were immatures. Endemic to Tenerife.

Boettger's lizard One for Phil just outside Tecina (La Gomera). Endemic

to La Gomera.

Tenerife gecko Tarentola delalandii Four or five nightly at El Patio (El Guincho). Endemic to

Tenerife.

La Gomera gecko *Tarentola gomerensis* Present in the grounds of the hotel on La Gomera.

Endemic to La Gomera.