

# The Canary Islands

*Dragon Trees & Blue Chaffinches*

A Greentours Trip Report

20<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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Daily reports and checklists by Paul

All photos by Paul unless indicated.



**Echium acanthocarpum**

## Travel day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Travel day – all to El Patio, El Guincho

I flew in from Dublin, met up with Karen, David and Knut at Tenerife South airport. We all had noticed the snow on Mount Teide, standing proud above the clouds. We picked up the hire car and headed off to our hotel El Patio. Here we met up with Keith and Lynn who had already spent a couple days on Tenerife. Before we headed for our evening meal Keith and Lynn showed us the local resident Long-eared Owl. We had wonderful views of it, and it was seen most days while staying at El Patio. All took an early night as most of us had had an early start. I waited up to meet Ian, Susan, and Jean on their arrival. We sat in the courtyard and talked about the following day. A small Tenerife Gecko was seen scurrying about on a wall below a wall light.

## Day 1 – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 – Los Silos walk; Buenavista & Punta del Fraile

We met up for a hearty breakfast, with views across the banana plantations and out to sea. Ian introduced himself to all and gave us our plans for the day. The skies were rather grey looking as we headed off to Los Silos. The church bells struck 10 as we started our walk from the centre of town. We looked in the fountain which had Least Duckweed (*Lemna minuta*), and Fool's Water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) growing in it, and a few tadpoles were seen swimming about. To start with it was a gentle stroll along narrow lanes with walls, which either had a fence or hedge on top. We admired several very large cobwebs with large Prickly-pear Spiders (*Cyrtophora citricola*) that were black and white. We looked at many of the street weed flora which included a large variety of species such as: Black-jack (*Bidens pilosa*), Gallant Soldier (*Galinsoga parviflora*), Annual Mercury (*Mercurialis annua*) and Knotted Hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*). As we walked, we passed large banana plantations,



and small orchards of Avocado, with large numbers of fruits hanging, which looked like dark green pears. As we left the houses behind and took the steep path, we heard Blackcaps calling. Here we saw the first magnificent orange bells hanging of *Canarina canariensis*, this scrambles up through the scrub. We admired many species on the way up, partly to give us a break. *Erysimum bicolor* put on a lovely show

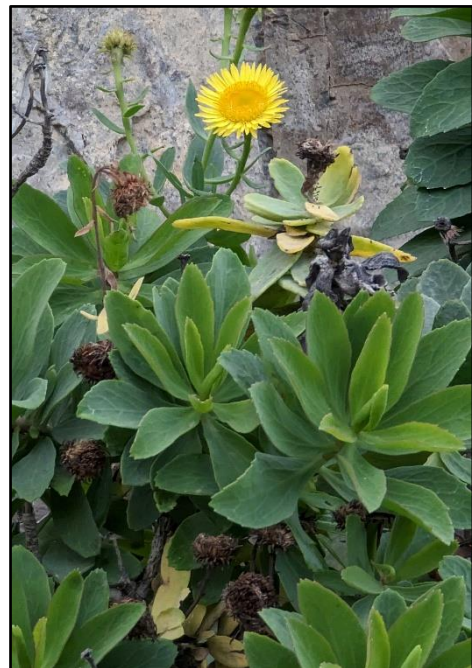
of pink and purplish flowers. But nothing could out compete the large showy *Sonchus* we were seeing, these had flowers as large as teacups. We saw *Sonchus acaulis* and *Sonchus congestus*. We didn't go all the way to the top as it was getting rather cool as we walked up. We did stop for a drink and a biscuit before we started our descent.





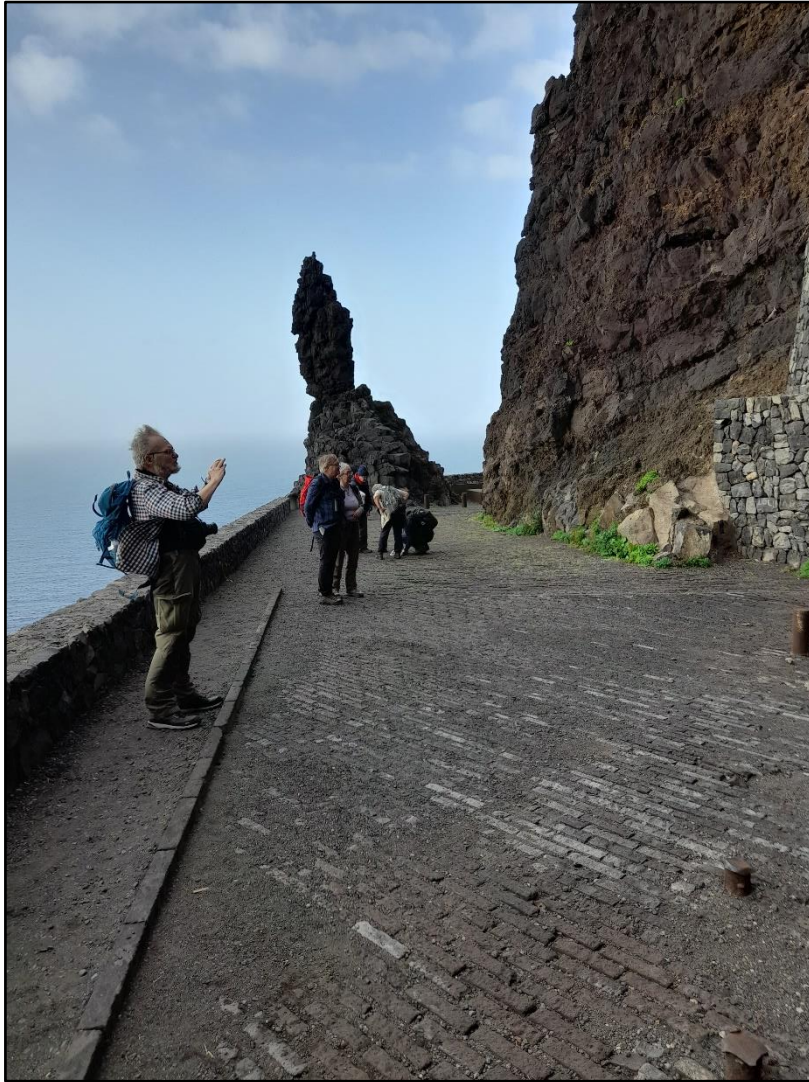
We drove down to the coast for our lunch as it was warmer, and sat on the road walls and benches while we ate, listening to the crashing waves. *Forksskaolea angustifolia* a member of the nettle family grew on the roadside next to bushes of *Periploca laevigata*.

We drove up the road as far as we were able to, as only large buses were permitted to take tourists sightseeing along the cliff road to Punta de Teno. We could look down over where we had our lunch, see large areas under cultivation and what looked like large greenhouses, but these were covered in cloth rather than glass. We saw several Kestrels below us. It was a gentle but steep walk as we made our way along the road watching out for buses. The cliffs towered above us as we started to study the plants along the roadside. Here we saw the beautiful *Lavatera acerifolia*, and on the dry open ground Blue Pimpernel (*Anagallis foemina*) was abundant. As we made our way up the road it got a little warmer. We saw many interesting plants. *Scilla haemorrhoidalis* has small pink flowers, with black fruits. Unfortunately, the *Pancratium canariense* we could see up on the cliff ledges had gone to seed. *Allium*



*Vieraea laevigata*. Photo © Knut





*canariense* had pale pinkish flowers. *Vieraea laevigata* a very rare endemic grew on the cliff-face, often well out of our reach. It was one of the many endemic plants we saw on the trip. We had decided it was too far to walk to the point Punta del Fraile where we could look around the corner, but gave in, and all eventually made it. It was calm one side, and rather windy the other. On our return we watched a large herd of goats amongst the scrub on the steep cliff side.

We headed back to the hotel around 5pm. We started on our checklists at 7pm, sitting out in the courtyard, but it soon became too cool, and with rain in the air we moved inside. We took a break to

have our evening meal, before we turned to finish our checklists, as they were rather long for the first day in the field.

### **Day 2 – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Anaga Mountains – Chinamada**

We woke to grey skies and a little rain. We took breakfast at 8am as we had to be finished and organised by 8.30am as the power was due to go off for the day. We headed out at 9am and stopped in Icod de Los Vinos at a supermarket to get our picnic lunches.

We headed along the main road to the Anaga Mountains, up through the laurel and tree heather forests, dripping with moisture as it was foggy in places. We choose not to stop at any miradors as the weather wasn't clear enough for a good view. By the time we had arrived at our destination, the Mirador Pico del Inglés, we were above the clouds. We could feel the sun trying to break through, and it wasn't long before we had reasonable views across the mountains. We walked the short distance to the mirador to look for Bolle's Pigeon, we had a quick glimpse of two as they flew across the forest. At the mirador we were at head height with the evergreen tree *Pleiomeris canariensis*, with dainty star like





flowers. *Teline canariensis* was growing on the roof of a derelict building. We took the steep path down into the forest, we had to take care as the steps and rocks were damp and slippery. We looked at an array of fungus under the trees from brightly coloured orange to brown. The ferns put on a wonderful display with

the giant fronds of *Woodwardia radicans* to the much smaller dainty Irish Spleenwort (*Asplenium onopteris*). The main ground flora was *Luzula canariensis*, and on the side of the path we were introduced to the strange *Gennaria diphylla*, an orchid with green flowers, and one flower of *Arisarum simorrhinum* with leaves that look rather like an *Arum*.

We reassembled back at the vehicles and started our descent down the mountain taking a quick roadside stop to look at *Gesnouinia arborea* a shrub of the nettle family. Because of the lateness of the season *Ranunculus cortusifolius* was still in bud. As we were still amongst the clouds, we headed off for our lunch stop.

We arrived at Chinamada for our picnic. Ian, Jean, Susan and I laid out the picnic in a shelter. It was clear skies now, but was still a little chilly in the slight breeze. We sat on other low walls and steps enjoying our first made picnic which included a freshly prepared salad, very tasty locally grown strawberries, chocolate, a good variety of biscuits etc. We kept our coats on as we started our walk, but regretted it as it soon became a nice warm temperature. Looking down at one of the many terraces under cultivation we could see *Hyoscyamus albus* flowering on the margin of a patch of broad beans. Other annual weeds of the terraces



included Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*) and Small Nettle (*Urtica urens*). We followed a path along the cliff side with wonderful views across the mountains, and eventually out to sea. *Echium leucophaeum* with white flowers was often as large bushes. On the side of the path was several beautiful red cage fungi. We had our first butterfly of the trip the Canary Speckled Wood, which had more orangey markings compared to what is seen in the UK. We looked at



many small annuals including *Crassula campestris* on the rockfaces, and several small clovers, the most intriguing being Suffocated Clover (*Trifolium suffocatum*) as it has tiny green flowers hidden amongst the rosette, and even with a hand lens are difficult to see. We all assembled in the café for refreshments, sitting out to enjoy the scenic view. As we were about to get ready to return to the vehicles, we had a downpour and had to make a



quick dash for it.

The rain was a hint it was time to head back to the hotel. We took a quick stop to see the striking *Echium simplex* growing in a garden. It had now become heavy rain, and thick fog in places, we headed back to the hotel. The traffic was heavy in places. We were back before 6pm and met up to do our checklists at 7pm before settling down to our evening meal half an hour later.

### **Day 3 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 – Masca road; Le Jardín Botánico (Puerto de la Cruz)**

Despite some very heavy rain over night the morning skies looked more welcoming today. The Long-eared Owl was seen sitting on the roof of our hotel by me when I popped out to make a coffee before breakfast.

We took a quick stop again in Icod de Los Vinos to replenish our picnic supplies. A Little Egret was seen from the car I was driving. We headed off for the Masca road, a very twisty road, with many hairpin bends. We pulled over on a straight stretch of road west of Las Lagunetas to look at our first target species, *Lathyrus tingitanus* and *Pericallis echinata*, both flowering very prolifically. The wetter than usual winter Tenerife had been experiencing had certainly





made the island look greener than usual and meant that most species were flowering better



than in an average year. A Buzzard flew over and landed on a pole. A Serin was seen in a bush, and a Small White was on the flower of *Sonchus acaulis*. The flowering stems of *Silene vulgaris* were standing up amongst the scrub.

We headed on up the road round many more hairpin bends to our parking spot at Mirador Altos de Baracán, where every other tourist also wanted to park. We just managed to find a space big enough to park our two vehicles behind each other. Here we were on the ridge of the mountain with panoramic views inland and out to sea. A few Painted Lady butterflies were seen flying by. We could only find one bush of *Cistus monspeliensis* flowering. Some of the plants with small less showy flowers included *Petrorhagia nanteulii* and *Volitaria tubuliflora*, the latter with a thistle like flower head.

We headed off to our next stop, going down the steep narrow mountain road, then up again, and



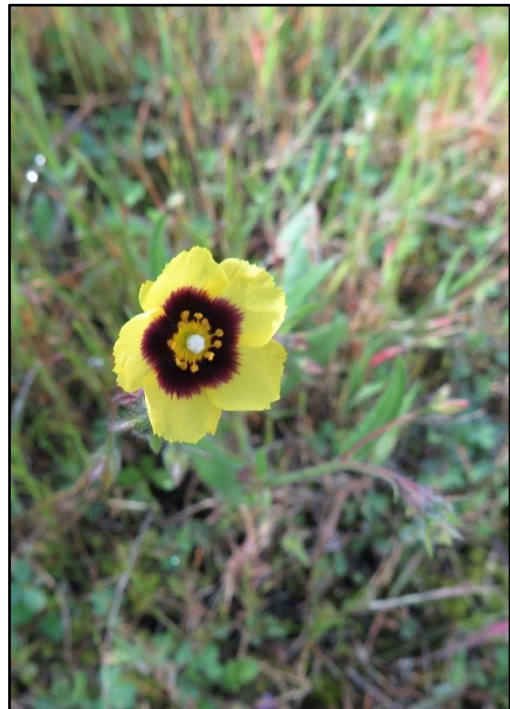


this time we were the only vehicles that chose to park where we did, just east of Carrizales. We could now feel the heat from the sun. The Tenerife Lizards were seen on the wall by where we parked. We crossed over to the other side of the road where a partly scrubby rocky slope with clearings. Here we were in search of *Habenaria tridactylites* a small yellowish-greenish endemic orchid. They are very dainty, with flowering stems up to 40cm. It took some time before we could find any flowering, as most were well and truly in seed. Several Ravens flew over whilst we all photographed the orchids. This was one of the few sites we saw *Euphorbia atropurpurea* flowering nicely. These grow into a shrub up to 2m tall. On the bare open rocky areas there were some tiny annuals. Narrow-leaved Cudweed (*Filago gallica*) having the tiniest flowers which were not much to look at to Smooth Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*) with a rosette and little yellow flowers, but much nicer was the showier Spotted Rock-rose (*Tuberaria guttata*), which drops its petals by early afternoon.

We headed up to the summit of the road where there is a café and shop for our lunch stop. Yet again



every tourist had the same idea. Ian parked his van okay. There was no space for my car, and I had to drive on down the road with Keith and Lynne some way before we could turnaround. By the time we had returned Ian had kept a parking space for us. We laid out the picnic in the back of the van. Some took a coffee in the café.





We headed off along the mountain road through the first village, on up round many hairpin bends until the traffic came to a stop. A bus and breakdown lorry had met on a very sharp hairpin and brought the traffic to a standstill. We were made to turn around, which meant we had a much longer trip to our afternoon visit to Le Jardín Botánico garden in Puerto de la Cruz. We all wandered around the gardens enjoying the many exotic and native plants. We all met up in a café on the opposite side of the road for refreshments. Lynne was the last to join us as she was busy watching a pair of blackbirds feeding their young chicks in the nest.

Once back at the hotel most of us relaxed before doing our checklists. Jean and Susan enjoyed a swim in the pool.

**Day 4 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Chio area, ferry from Los Cristianos to San Sebastián de La Gomera, and onto Playa de Santiago.**



We woke up to much clearer skies. Ian and I popped out and did our picnic shopping straight after breakfast. From Icod de Los Vinos we had clear views of Mount Teide and could see the patches of snow still on it. We bid our farewells to Hotel El Patio and set off for the day.

Our first stop was on a very sharp hairpin bend on the TF-421 to El Tanque. I stayed with the vehicles whilst Ian took the group up a narrow steep path. Here there were wonderful views along the coast. *Ceropegia fusca* was in flower, a strange looking plant with long straw-like stems, no leaves as such, and brownish flowers.

Leaving the north side of the island we headed up over the mountains, passing through a few villages. There was a new road being built in one area we drove through. Dropping down again, before heading up the TF-38 towards Teide into the mountain pine forests.

We went a long way up through the forest to the Área Recreativa Pinar Chío where we parked in the picnic area; it was rather cool this high up. This was a birding stop. We were not disappointed as we had good clear close-ups of them. Blue Chaffinch was the first we saw, and they were in good numbers and rather friendly. For the fun of it Ian broke up some bread for them. There was soon a crowd of Blue Chaffinches squabbling over the bread. This gave good opportunities for the photographers amongst us. Karen was the first to spot the endemic race of the Great Spotted Woodpecker in a Canary Pine. Then another flew into the tree and gave us great views. We also had good views of Goldcrest and Berthelot's Pipit. There wasn't much in the way of ground vegetation, with *Lotus campylocladus* forming large yellow cushions under the pines. There was also *Scrophularia glabrata* flowering.



As the low cloud was starting to roll in, we headed back down to a much lower altitude and pulled in off the road. Here we went hunting for an orchid *Himantoglossum metlesicsianum*, but only one rosette was found. There were large dome shaped *Euphorbia lamarckii* bushes in flower by the road. Under the pines were many clumps of two ferns *Notholaena*

*subcordata* and

*Cheilanthes pulchella*.

Our picnic was laid out under the pines. After our feast we dropped down the road to a café for coffee and a comfort stop. We had clear views down over the forests and out to sea, with La Gomera in the far distance. It was time to head for the ferry port at Los Cristianos. The traffic was extremely busy, and we were



concerned about arriving on time at the ferry port. Luckily, we did as there was some



confusion over my passport number on the booking ticket. It took a little while to sort all this out. There were many Collared Doves about the port. Once on the ferry we could look out over the port and Los Cristianos. There was a Viking ship in the harbour. As we sailed for La Gomera the peak of Mount Teide could be seen poking above the clouds. Once disembarked we headed straight for our hotel at Playa de Santiago, arriving a little after 6pm. Ian was the only member of the group lucky enough to see the only Gomera Gecko of the trip, on the wall by the light outside his bedroom.

### **Day 5 Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February - El Parque Nacional de Garajonay, El Cedro**

There were very few clouds around when we took our breakfast on the terrace, overlooking the sea. We headed off at 9am, stopping by the coast in Playa de Santiago to buy our picnic for the day.



Photo © Susan

We drove up into the mountains through the forests pulling into a layby to see a large bush of *Echium acanthocarpum*. As the sun was out there were a few Canary Red Admirals drinking the nectar from the flowers of the *Echium*. We were now up in the tree-heather and laurel forests. We took a quick stop at a mirador. Chiffchaffs were heard calling, and a few Swifts flew over.

Our third stop was at another mirador, with striking rock formations. On the car park wall were seen many large Gomera Lizards which were rather tame, as they were very used to all the visitors to the spot. There was a TV crew filming rare wildlife of La Gomera. One of the



insects they showed us was an endemic Gomera Stick Grasshopper (*Acrostira bellamyi*) which is only known from five sites on La Gomera.



We followed a narrow path which ran parallel to the road. Saw a Peregrine Falcon fly round one of the large rock pinnacles. Along a track Karen found our first Jersey Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*), this is a tiny annual fern. Also, along the track was seen the scarlet flowers of *Fumaria coccinea*. The track started to descend very quickly, and as it was starting to get cool as the clouds rolled in, we headed back to the vehicles.

Heading off for El Cedro we took the wrong turning at the roundabout. It was long before Ian found the correct turning down a steep paved twisty road

through the forest to a car park and picnic area. We were all surprised to see such a large puddle covering at least half the parking area. Our picnic feast was laid out on a table, and we all enjoyed it in the sun. A Cleopatra was seen while we were packing away our picnic ready for our afternoon walk through the forest. We pondered over whether Greater Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) was native to the Canary Islands. We headed along a path through the woods. On the roadside bank was the endemic *Cryptotaenia elegans* with white flowers, a member of the Apiaceae family. A tree of *Arbutus canariensis* was flowering well. A Small Copper was sunning itself on the





bank of the path. As we headed deeper into the woods, we came across a good selection of ferns including Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*) and *Asplenium hemionitis*. We walked as far as a small church. Here we studied the growth on *Laurus novocanariensis* which looked like a frilly lichen but was in fact a fungi *Laurobasidium lauri*. We sat on the low wall by the church throwing biscuit crumbs to the Canary Chaffinch which has a much richer red colour than those back home.



Photo left: © Knut

We all met up at the café overlooking the picnic area for refreshments. Some of us took a path down from the café that crossed over a stream, here we stopped to look at Greenish Bladder-fern (*Cystopteris diaphana*). It was time to make our way back to the hotel. We met up for a quick run through of the checklists before our meal.

#### **Day 6 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Chorros de Epina, Valle Gran Rey, Los Barranquillos, Fortaleza**

It was a much darker start to the day, and almost seemed too dark to sit on the terrace for breakfast. As we left the hotel car park there was a lovely full rainbow in the distance. The fog was so thick in places that whilst following Ian's minibus I often lost sight of it completely.



Because of the rain we swapped the daily plan around and started at Chorros de Epina where took a path to a small church and spring, doing a circular walk. With the rain dripping from the trees and the fog we could imagine we were in a cloud forest. Despite the weather the flowers of *Romulea columnae* subsp. *grandiscapa* were fully open. There were some nice rosettes of *Aeonium*



*diplocyclum* on the rocks, but none were quite yet in flower. As we admired a single bush of *Euphorbia bourgeana* the rain set in. The trees had many lichens on them including Golden Hair Lichen (*Teloschistes flavicans*). We even looked at the emerging heads of a grass: Rough Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus echinatus*).

Back in the vehicles we headed for another forest walk in high tree heathers at Los



Barranquillos. By now the rain was very heavy and nobody fancied the idea of getting out of the vehicles. Giving up on the walk Ian thought it best to head down to the coast for our picnic. Ian took us to Valle Gran Rey where we parked on the seafront. At least the sun was out. We looked at some of the coastal plants first. Here we had flowering shrubs of *Salsola divaricata*, and small species like *Fagonia cretica* with pink flowers, and the very beautiful *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* which lived up to its named and looked as though

it was covered in crystals. We laid out the picnic in the back of the minibus. Most of us chose to sit on the rocky beach to eat. It did not last long as the clouds descended and both

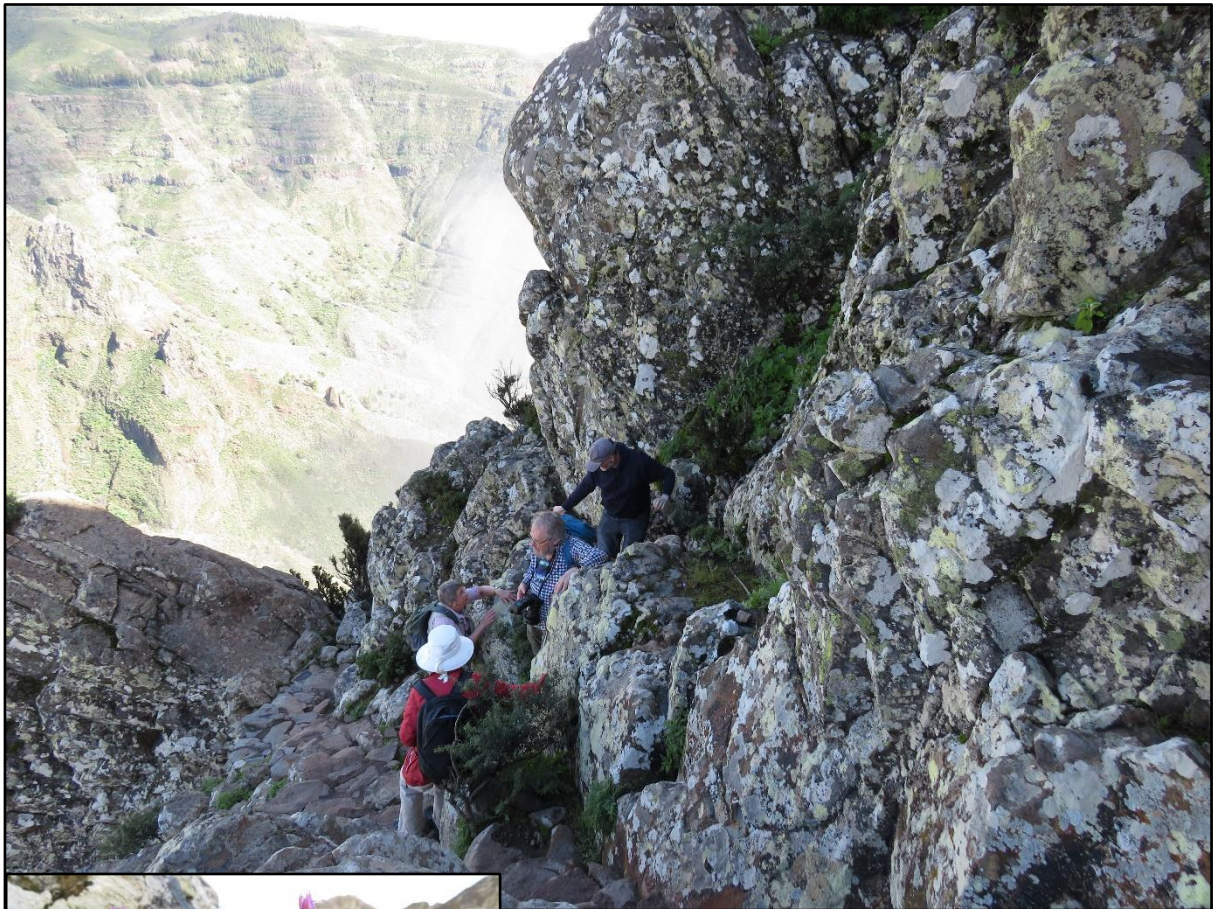
Photo © Ian





headlands that were clearly visible disappeared out of sight. We took shelter and finished our picnic.

We headed back up to Los Barranquillos into the tree heather and laurel forests hoping that the sun would do as the forecast had predicted and shine again for us. There was occasionally some blue sky showing, and our hopes were high. The rain had stopped as we pulled into a car park to take our earlier planned walk. Here the Tree Heathers are really like trees, it is hard to imagine a heather being so large. We admired the vast patches of flowering *Gennaria diphylla*. There can't be many orchids species that form such large patches as this one does. By the time we had reached the view point the clouds had parted enough for us to see the sea once again.



With the weather now improving the decision was made to do our last stop which should have been our first of the day to go hunting for more orchids high up on Fortaleza, a flat rock outcrop. There was a road/track up past the houses, which on leaving the village turned to a dirt path. *Convolvulus althaeoides* with pink flowers was in full flower on the margins of one of the small fields. The path turned rockier as it took us up through the low *Cistus* scrub. Several Partridge were seen flying low to the scrub. It wasn't long before the first *Orchis canariensis* was spotted high up on a rock ledge out



of reach. Following the path on up it wasn't long before we came to orchids that we easy to take photos of. Only in leaf but forming many green cushions amongst the rocks was *Pimpinella junoniae* a La Gomera endemic. Once back on flatter ground we looked at some of the flowering annuals such as *Erodium botrys* and Subterranean Clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*). Back at the vehicles we had refreshments and a biscuit whilst looking at the roadside weeds which included Shepherd's-needle (*Scandix pecten-veneris*), a very rare arable weed back at home.

On our drive back to the hotel we could look down on the airport, and watched several planes take off. We met up once again to do a quick checklist before we went for our evening meal.

**Day 7 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - miradors, Garajonay National Park visitor centre, San Sebastián de La Gomera, Malpaís de Güímar**

It was a lovely sunny day for our last day on La Gomera. We had our breakfast as usual on the terrace. A few Spanish Sparrows were seen while we ate. I tidied my car and fed the local chickens some bread left over from the day before. We said our farewells and were ready to leave by 9.30am.

We stopped again to buy our picnic at Playa de Santiago, noticing how black the sand is on the beach, made from volcanic rock. Heading back up into the mountains we stopped at a viewpoint with good views across to Tenerife with Mount Teide standing proud above the



clouds. We stopped at several more viewpoints before we arrived at Garajonay National



Looking from the ferry back to La Gomera sunshine. Ian stayed with the vehicles whilst we the rest of us had a walk around the gardens. It was nice to have all the plants with labels. Some of us took coffee and tried the curry flavoured biscuits. I joined Ian back at the minibus to lay out the picnic. The idea was to make a couple of rolls to take to eat on the ferry. Those who returned early ate their lunch while waiting for the others to return. It was a good job we left in good time as the road was rather busy to the ferry port. It was rather hot waiting in the queue to board the ferry. David just joined me, Knut, Ian and Susan in time to see several pods of Shortfin Pilot Whales.



Once we had disembarked, we headed east to the volcanic lava fields of Malpaís de Güímar. The succulent scrub is a stunning landscape, and well worth a visit, with the Atlantic Ocean as a backdrop. The area was dominated by many tall cacti-like *Euphorbia canariensis* stands. Ian found a Spurge Hawkmoth caterpillar munching on *Euphorbia lamarckii*. There was also *Campylanthus salsoloides* flowering, and some nice clumps of *Ononis diffusa*, both having small pink flowers. It was time to head off to our next hotel in the hillside town of San Miguel de Abona. This was a very rustic hotel compared with our previous accommodation.





**Day 8 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Pino Gordo, Mount Teide**



I went for a morning stroll before breakfast to see where the nearest supermarket was to buy our picnic. I met up with Knut and we bought the bread rolls for the day from the local baker. The supermarket wasn't yet open. Ian and I walked up after breakfast to buy the picnic salad and meat.

We headed off at 9am up through the pine forest to stop at Pino Gordo (the 'fat pine') to marvel over the largest Canary Island Pine on Tenerife. Standing at 45 m

high and 9.35 m circumference and estimated at 800 years old. We strolled down the road to look at the endemic *Pericallis lanata* on the rocks by the road. A Greater





Spotted Woodpecker was seen in a garden on an apple tree on the opposite side of the road.

Yet again every tourist was out and finding a parking place was a big problem. This impacted on the order of our stops. We next pulled into a layby for excellent views of Mount Teide and the desert like habitat. We could see the many dead flower spikes from last year of



*Echium wildpretii* over the mountainside. We moved onto another stop passing all the parked cars, to an area which was even more barren. Hidden amongst the rocks was the occasional plant. Here we were looking for *Erysimum scoparium*, after some hunting, we



managed to find one plant in flower. Other endemics we saw flowering included *Argyranthemum tenerifae* and *Descurainia bourgeauana*. We next pulled into the car park for the visitor centre which had many of the endemic plants are grown, and all were nicely labelled. As a parking space was almost out of the question, the group was dropped off, and Ian and I kept driving around the car park until a space became available. I have



never driven around a car park so many times before.

The above stop was our planned picnic spot, but we decided it would be quieter if we moved on, and this was true as we were the only two cars in the next layby. Whilst Ian and I laid out our picnic, the others went and looked at a rock formation La Piedra de la Rosa. To me it looked like a cross section of a pine cone. As we ate our picnic the clouds rolled in, and it became quite cool for a while. There was *Juniperus cedrus* and *Rumex maderensis* on the margin of the viewing point.

We dropped on down the north side of Teide on TF-21 road below the cloud level. Two Rabbits were seen on the roadside. Just below the Mirador de la Bermeja we had to search hard to find flowers on *Cistus osbeckiifolius*, even though there was a forest of bushes. As the flowers are a deep pink Ian eventually spotted some for us to take photos of. On a road bank were the black spotted rosette leaves of *Neotinea maculata*. We drove back up the road, making a quick stop for a photo opportunity, as we were now above the clouds.



We made one more stop for a walk along the Roque de Garcia, west of the parador where we later took refreshments. Lynn and I were the only two who braved the steep short walk. The others all stayed on the level path. There were some great views of flocks of Canaries. Ian thought he had spotted an eagle sitting on a pinnacle only to realise it was a rock. Several Small Whites were seen flitting about. Refreshments were taken and it was time to head back.



On our way back along the road between Vilaflor and San Miguel, Ian spotted a nice *Aeonium arboretum* subsp. *holochrysum* in full flower, and we stopped for photos. There was a good weed flora here, and several new species were added to our plant list.



We met up for our evening meal, and I surprised everyone by saying it was my birthday and would they all join me with a glass of cava. Then I was embarrassed when I had happy birthday song to me. A great day was had by all.

### **Day 9 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 - Montana Roja, airport, and home**

I went and bought our picnic lunch before breakfast. We had a hearty feast, and as we were late finishing our meal the evening before, we did checklists after breakfast. With our flights being at different times Ian set off to the airport with Susan and Knut to drop off David and Karen, who had an early flight.

Jean, Keith, Lynn, and I went to the coast at Montana Roja, which was just south of the



airport. There were many Tenerife Lizards around where we parked. It was fun later while having our picnic watching them dash out take the food we had dropped and disappear as quick as they had arrived. We hadn't walked very far until Ian, Knut and Susan had joined us. This was a very different habitat to what we had visited elsewhere on Tenerife. We saw so many new plants, all of which were generally small.



*Limonium pectinatum* was forming beautiful mauve cushions. *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* turned the ground a blood red in places. One of my favourites was tiny, small clumps of *Ophioglossum polyphyllum*. There were lots of Canary Blues flying around, but never stayed still long enough to take a photo. And even quicker at moving was the Crimson Speckled moth (*Utetheisa pulchella*). And one Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) was found.

A great holiday was had by all. We headed off for the airport, saying our farewells.





## Systematic List Number 1 Plants

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 split into dicotyledons (includes pre-dicots and eu-dicots) and monocotyledons.

### FERNS

#### Adiantaceae

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	El Patio, scattered elsewhere.
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Roque de Agando
<i>Cheilanthes maderensis</i>	Pine forests
<i>Cheilanthes pulchella</i>	Pine forests
<i>Notholaena subcordata</i>	Pine forests

#### Aspleniaceae

<i>Asplenium hemionitis</i>	El Cedro
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Anaga laurel forest, El Cedro

#### Blechnaceae

<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Anaga
<i>Woodwardia radicans</i>	Anaga, impressive arching fronds common in El Cedro

#### Davalliaceae

<i>Davallia canariensis</i>	Widespread and common on old lava flows, forest edge, walls
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#### Dennistaedtiaceae

<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Widespread and common
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#### Dryopteridaceae

<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	Holly Fern, growing from walls at El Patio
<i>Dryopteris guanchica</i>	El Cedro
<i>Dryopteris oligodonta</i>	The dominant large fern at El Cedro
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Anaga laurel forest

#### Hymenophyllaceae

<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	El Cedro
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#### Ophioglossaceae

<i>Ophioglossum polyphyllum</i>	Montana Roja
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#### Polypodiaceae

<i>Polypodium macaronesicum</i>	Forest edge, rocks, Anaga forests, El Cedro
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#### Pteridaceae

<i>Pteris vittata</i>	El Patio
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**Selaginellaceae***Selaginella denticulata*

On damp rocks Los Silos and El Cedro

**Woodsiaceae***Athyrium filix-femina*

El Cedro by stream

*Cystopteris diaphana*

El Cedro by stream

*Diplazium caudatum*

El Cedro

**CONIFERS****Cupressaceae***Juniperus cedrus*

Mt Teide

**Pinaceae***Pinus canariensis*

Locally dominant, large forests on Teide

*Pinus pinaster*

Planted

**FLOWERING PLANTS (PRE-DICOTS AND EU-DICOTS)****Acanthaceae***Acanthus mollis*

Fortaleza

**Aizoaceae***Aizoon canariense*

Coastal areas

*Aptenia cordifolia*

Los Silos

*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*

Coastal areas

*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*

Buenavista

*Tetragonia tetragonioides*

Los Silos

**Amaranthaceae***Achyranthes sicula*

Los Silos

*Amaranthus* sp.

Roadsides

**Anacardiaceae***Schinus molle*

Pepper Tree, introduced and widely planted on Tenerife

**Apiaceae***Apium nodiflorum*

Los Silos

*Astydamia latifolia*

Buenavista

*Crithmum maritimum*

Buenavista

*Cryptotaenia elegans*

Spindly species in the forests at El Cedro

*Daucus carota*

Chinamada

*Drusa glandulosa*

Peculiar scrambling herb

*Ferula linkii*

Scattered

*Foeniculum vulgare*

Scattered alien

*Petroselinum crispum*

Lunch stop below Mt Teide

*Pimpinella junoniae*

Fortaleza

*Scandix pecten-veneris*

Roadside at Fortaleza



<i>Tinguarra cervariaefolia</i>	El Cedro
<i>Tinguarra montana</i>	El Parque Nacional de Garajonay
<i>Torilis leptophylla</i>	Los Silos
<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Annual weed of open bare places

#### **Apocynaceae**

<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Planted on roadsides (introduced)
<i>Vinca major</i>	El Cedro

#### **Aquifoliaceae**

<i>Ilex canariensis</i>	Laurel forests
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#### **Araliaceae**

<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Laurel forests
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#### **Asclepiadaceae**

<i>Ceropegia dichotoma</i>	Along the cliff at Los Silos
<i>Ceropegia fusca</i>	Rare
<i>Periploca laevigata</i>	Widespread in dry areas of Tenerife

#### **Asteraceae**

<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	Los Silos
<i>Allagopappus canariensis</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Andryala pinnatifida</i>	Roadside shrublet with greyish leaves and yellow flowers
<i>Argyranthemum broussonetii</i>	Anaga, El Cedro
<i>Argyranthemum callichrysum</i>	Common yellow-flowered species
<i>Argyranthemum coronopifolium</i>	Anaga
<i>Argyranthemum foeniculaceum</i>	Widespread
<i>Argyranthemum tenerifae</i>	Las Roques in Mt Teide
<i>Artemisia thuscula</i>	Widespread in dry zone
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Alien, scattered
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Widespread alien
<i>Carduus clavulatus</i>	Chinamada
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Chinamada
<i>Carlina salicifolia</i>	Common and widespread
<i>Carlina xeranthemoides</i>	Pine forests, Mt Teide
<i>Cheirolophus canariensis</i>	Chinamada
<i>Cheirolophus teydis</i>	El Teide
<i>Cotula australis</i>	Very common annual weed
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Fruiting plants, Gomera
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Valle Gran Rey
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Los Silos
<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	Los Silos
<i>Filago gallica</i>	Masco, El Parque Nacional de Garajonay
<i>Filago germanica</i>	Malpaís de Güímar
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	Chinamada
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Widespread weed



<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	Scattered as at Los Silos
<i>Gonospermum fruticosum</i>	Los Silos
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Chinamada
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Masca, El Parque National de Garajonay
<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i>	Common and widespread in dry communities
<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	Widespread weed
<i>Launaea arborescens</i>	Dry areas on La Gomera, Montana Roja
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Chinamada
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	disused terraces
<i>Pericallis echinata</i>	Los Silos, Anaga
<i>Pericallis lanata</i>	Pino Gordo
<i>Pericallis steetzii</i>	Widespread in laurel forest margins on La Gomera
<i>Pericallis tussilaginis</i>	Anaga
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Schizogyne sericea</i>	Common in rocky coastal areas
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	La Gomera
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Scattered weed
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Chinamada
<i>Sonchus acaulis</i>	Common in northern Tenerife (fine herbaceous species with huge rosettes of leaves and tall inflorescences smothered in white woolly hairs)
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Anaga
<i>Sonchus canariensis</i>	By road to Teide above Chio
<i>Sonchus capillaris</i>	Masca, Los Silos
<i>Sonchus congestus</i>	Common on north coast of Tenerife and Anaga
<i>Sonchus hierrensis</i>	La Gomera in laurel forest
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Scattered weed
<i>Sonchus leptocephalus</i>	Scattered
<i>Sonchus radicans</i>	Common at Los Silos
<i>Symphotricum squamatum</i>	Scattered weed with tiny flowers
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Lawns
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Vieraea laevigata</i>	Los Silos
<i>Volutaria canariensis</i>	Disturbed area on roadside
<i>Volutaria tubuliflora</i>	Scattered

### **Bignonaceae**

<i>Pyrostegia venusta</i>	Frequent orange-flowered climber near houses
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Planted

### **Boraginaceae**

<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Los Silos
<i>Echium acanthocarpum</i>	Laurel forest, Roque de Agando
<i>Echium aculeatum</i>	Dry areas in Barranco de la Villa also Vallehermoso
<i>Echium giganteum</i>	Los Silos
<i>Echium leucophaeum</i>	Chinamada (white flowers and glaucous leaves)
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Widespread weed
<i>Echium simplex</i>	Chinamada



<i>Echium strictum</i>	Los Silos
<i>Echium virescens</i>	Chinamada
<i>Echium wildpretii</i>	Mt Teide
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Montana Roja

**Brassicaceae**

<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	El Cedro
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	roadside weed
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Montana de Roja
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Scattered
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Rare weed
<i>Carrichtera annua</i>	Weedy ground below Mt Teide
<i>Crambe scaberrima</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Crambe wildpretii</i>	El Cedro
<i>Descurainia bourgeauana</i>	High montane zone on Teide
<i>Descurainia millefolia</i>	Widespread pinnate leaved shrub with yellow flowers
<i>Erysimum bicolor</i>	Los Silos
<i>Erysimum scoparium</i>	El Teide
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	roadside weed
<i>Lepidium didymus</i>	scattered weed
<i>Lobularia canariensis</i>	Locally common on dry rocks
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	In stream at Los Silos
<i>Raphanus raphinistrum</i>	Roadside weed
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Roadside weed
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	Los Silos, roadside weed

**Cactaceae**

<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>	Widespread alien
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Widespread alien

**Campanulaceae**

<i>Campanula erinus</i>	small annual of bare ground
<i>Canarina canariensis</i>	Frequent in Los Silos, Anaga
<i>Wahlenbergia lobelioides</i>	very slender annual, Punta del Fraile

**Caprifoliaceae**

<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Garden escape at El Cedro
<i>Sambucus palmensis</i>	El Cedro
<i>Viburnum rigidum</i>	Widespread in laurel forests

**Caryophyllaceae**

<i>Arenaria leptoclados</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Rare but widespread
<i>Moehringia pentandra</i>	Tree-heather forests
<i>Petrorhagia nanteulii</i>	Masca
<i>Polycarpaea aristata</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Polycarpaea carnosa</i>	Punta del Fraile

<i>Polycarpaea divaricata</i>	Chinamada
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Pavement weed, scattered
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Chinamada
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Garajonay National Park
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Widespread annual weed
<i>Silene tridentata</i>	Weed terrace
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>commutata</i>	Los Silos, road to Masca
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Rare annual weed
<i>Spergula fallax</i>	By the coast
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common weed

### **Chenopodiaceae**

<i>Atriplex glauca</i>	Montana Roja coastal sands
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Los Silos
<i>Patellifolia patellaris</i>	Montana Roja
<i>Salsola divaricata</i>	Valle Gran Rey

### **Cistaceae**

<i>Cistus chinamadensis</i>	El Parque National de Garajonay
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Widespread on both islands, white flowers
<i>Cistus osbeckiifolius</i>	Southern pine woods of Teide
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Masca, and other open bare places

### **Convolvulaceae**

<i>Convolvulus altheoides</i>	Fortaleza, etc
<i>Convolvulus floridus</i>	Punta Del Fraile
<i>Convolvulus sicalus</i>	weedy terrace
<i>Cuscuta</i> agg.	Several species seen, but named
<i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	Los Silos

### **Crassulaceae**

<i>Aeonium canariense</i>	Chinamada
<i>Aeonium dodrantalis</i>	Masco, Fortaleza
<i>Aeonium diplocycla</i>	Common species on Gomera
<i>Aeonium haworthii</i>	Masca
<i>Aeonium arboreum</i> ssp. <i>holochrysum</i>	Widespread
<i>Aeonium lindleyi</i>	Chinamada
<i>Aeonium saundersii</i>	El Parque National de Garajonay
<i>Aeonium tabulaeforme</i>	Los Silos
<i>Aichryson laxum</i>	Frequent in shady forest regions
<i>Aichryson pachycaulon</i>	Scattered in shaded areas
<i>Crassula lycopodioides</i>	Chinamada
<i>Crassula multicava</i>	Chinamada, El Cedro (introduced)
<i>Crassula tillaea</i>	Widespread tiny annual
<i>Monanthes laxiflora</i>	Los Silos
<i>Monanthes minima</i>	Chinamada
<i>Monanthes pallens</i>	Los Siloa
<i>Monanthes polyphylla</i>	Los Silos



*Sedum rubens* Reddish very succulent leaves  
*Umbilicus horizontalis* Very common on walls and rocks

### **Cucurbitaceae**

*Bryonia verrucosa* Los Silos  
*Citrullus colocynthis* Los Silos

### **Dipsacaceae**

*Ptercephalus lasiospermus* Mount Teide

### **Ericaceae**

*Arbutus canariensis* El Cedro, below Mt Teide  
*Erica arborea* Common and dominant, forming a tall shrub or tree  
*Erica scoparia* Anaga, Gomera

### **Euphorbiaceae**

*Euphorbia aphylla* Punta del Fraile  
*Euphorbia atropurpurea* Common near Masca (with distinctive reddish-purple bracts)  
*Euphorbia balsamifera* Los Silos  
*Euphorbia berthelotii* Widespread on Gomera  
*Euphorbia bourgeana* Rare - a few at Chorros de Epina, 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 peplus* Los Silos  
*Euphorbia prostrata* Small annual weed  
*Mercurialis annua* Widespread weed  
*Ricinus communis* Widespread alien

### **Fabaceae**

*Adenocarpus foliolosus* Mt Teide  
*Adenocarpus viscosus* Mt Teide  
*Bituminaria bituminosa* Frequent roadside species  
*Chamaecytisus proliferus* Widespread white flowered broom of forest zones  
*Lathyrus tingitanus* Las Lagunetas on road to Masca  
*Lotus campylocladus* Pinewoods above Chico  
*Lotus glinoides* El Parque Nacional de Garajonay  
*Lotus tenellus* Punta del Fraile  
*Medicago polymorpha* Scattered  
*Medicago trunculata* Fortaleza  
*Melilotus indica* annual weed  
*Ononis diffusa* Malpaís de Güímar  
*Ononis reclinata* Punta del Fraile  
*Ornithopus compressus* Scattered  
*Scorpiurus muricatus* Mt Teide  
*Spartium junceum* Garajonay National Park

<i>Spartocytisus supranubius</i>	Dominant shrub on the high montane plateau of Teide
<i>Scorpiurus subvillosus</i>	Weedy terrace
<i>Teline canariensis</i>	Anaga
<i>Teline stenopetala</i>	Malpaís de Güímar
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	dry open ground
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Open bare ground
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Weedy places
<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i>	Chinamada
<i>Trifolium scabrum</i>	open bare ground
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	roadside, El Parque National de Garajonay
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Fortaleza
<i>Trifolium suffocatum</i>	Chinamada
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Below Mt Teide
<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>	Los Silos, Masca, below Mt Teide
<i>Vicia cirrhosa</i>	Scattered at scrubby aeas
<i>Vicia disperma</i>	Fortaleza
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Gomera

#### **Fagaceae**

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	El Cedro
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#### **Frankeniaceae**

<i>Frankenia capitata</i>	Malpaís de Güímar
<i>Frankenia ericifolia</i>	Punta del Fraile

#### **Fumariaceae**

<i>Fumaria coccinea</i>	Scattered, open bare ground
<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	In weedy areas

#### **Geraniaceae**

<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Scattered
<i>Erodium chium</i>	Bare open ground
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Widespread, open habitats
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Los Silos
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Widespread, open habitats
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Roadsides
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Scattered
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Scattered
<i>Geranium reuteri</i>	Anaga, El Cedro
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Rare weed
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	weedy places
<i>Pelargonium inquinans</i>	Garden escape

#### **Globulariaceae**

<i>Globularia salicina</i>	Pale blue flowered shrub, Los Silos
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#### **Hypericaceae**

<i>Hypericum canariense</i>	Los Silos, Anaga, etc.
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*Hypericum grandifolium* Anaga, etc.  
*Hypericum reflexum* Fortaleza

### **Lamiaceae**

*Bystropogon canariensis* Widespread on Gomera  
*Bystropogon organifolius* El Cedro  
*Cedronella canariensis* El Cedro  
*Lavandula buchii* Chinamada (greyish pinnatisect leaves)  
*Lavandula canariensis* Widespread (with green leaves)  
*Lavandula minutolii* Masca  
*Marrubium vulgare* El Cedro  
*Melissa officinalis* Anaga  
*Sideritis cretica ssp. cretica* Los Silos  
*Sideritis dendro-chahorra* Chinamada  
*Sideritis lotsyi* El Cedro  
*Sideritis soluta* Mt Teide  
*Stachys arvensis* Scattered, as at Los Silos

### **Lauraceae**

*Laurus novocanariensis* Anaga  
*Ocotea foetans* Laurel forest, El Cedro, black fruits

### **Malvaceae**

*Lavatera acerifolia* Punta del Fraile  
*Malva paviflora* Tiny flowers, common on open bare ground  
*Sida rhombifolia* Los Silos on roadside

### **Moraceae**

*Ficus carica* Los Silos

### **Myricaceae**

*Myrica faya* Anaga and Garajonay forests

### **Myrsinaceae**

*Pleiomera canariensis* Anaga

### **Oleaceae**

*Jasminum odoratissimum* Seen at Los Silos

### **Orobanchaceae**

*Orobanche trichocalyx* Side of path, Los Silos

### **Oxalidaceae**

*Oxalis corniculata* Los Silos  
*Oxalis pes-caprae* Widespread

### **Papaveraceae**

<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Buenavista
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Pino Gordo
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Rare in open disturbed ground
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Roadsides
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	
<i>Plantago afra</i>	Scattered
<i>Plantago arborescens</i>	Widespread shrubby plantain
<i>Plantago aschersonii</i>	Los Silos
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Scattered
<i>Plantago loeflingii</i>	Fortaleza
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>	
<i>Limonium arborescens</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Limonium fruticans</i>	Buenavista
<i>Limonium macrophyllum</i>	Chinamada
<i>Limonium pectinatum</i>	Common along coasts e.g. Vallehermoso
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Los Silos
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	
<i>Emex spinosa</i>	Weedy places
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Widespread red sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Masca, roadside
<i>Rumex lunaria</i>	Widespread shrubby dock with rounded leaves
<i>Rumex maderensis</i>	By lunch stop below Mt Teide
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	El Cedro
<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	El Cedro
<b>Portulacaceae</b>	
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Valle Gran Rey
<b>Primulaceae</b>	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Masca
<i>Anagallis foemina</i>	Very common on open bare ground
<i>Asterolinon linum-stellatum</i>	El Parque National de Garajonay
<i>Samolus valerandii</i>	Damp rocks on side of path, Los Silos
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	
<i>Delphinium staphisagria</i>	Fortaleza
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i>	Widespread in damp area, in flower, road south of Masca
<b>Resedaceae</b>	
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Mt Teide
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	
<i>Rhamnus crenulata</i>	Amongst scrub
<b>Rosaceae</b>	



<i>Bencomia exstipulata</i>	Mt Teide
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Widely planted
<i>Marcetella moquiniana</i>	Like a shrubby burnet, on the track at Los Silos
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond - a common orchard tree
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Scattered in laurel forests.
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	Frequent
<i>Rubus</i> agg.	Frequent

### **Rubiaceae**

<i>Galium aparine</i>	Frequent roadsides
<i>Galium murale</i>	Los Silos on pavement
<i>Galium parisiense</i>	Occasional on open bare ground
<i>Phyllis viscosa</i>	Los Silos
<i>Plocama pendula</i>	Los Silos
<i>Rubia agostinhoi</i>	Laurel forest in La Gomera, fantastically 'sticky' leaves
<i>Rubia fruticosa</i>	A shrubby madder, common in <i>Euphorbia</i> communities
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Open bare ground

### **Salixaceae**

<i>Salix canarensis</i>	Los Silos and in damp gulleys in La Gomera
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### **Scrophulariaceae**

<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	walls, Los Silos
<i>Campylanthus salsoloides</i>	Pink flowered shrub
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Los Silos
<i>Isoplexis canariensis</i>	Anaga,
<i>Isoplexis isabelliana</i>	Garajonay National Park visitor centre
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Dry bare disturbed open areas
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Chinamada
<i>Scrophularia arguta</i>	Los Silos
<i>Scrophularia glabrata</i>	Pine forests and Mt Teide
<i>Scrophularia smithii</i>	Laurel forest at Anaga
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Annual of open bare ground
<i>Veronica persica</i>	El Cedro

### **Solanaceae**

<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Several by road south of Alajero
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	Chinamada
<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	Scattered on roadsides.
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Buenavista
<i>Nicotinia paniculata</i>	Punta del Fraile
<i>Salpichroa organifolia</i>	Shrub with white bell-shaped flowers
<i>Solandra maxima</i>	Garden shrub
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Scattered on roadsides
<i>Withania aristata</i>	Curious green flowered shrub

### **Tamaricaceae**

<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Los Silos and El Cedro
<b>Tropaeolaceae</b>	
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Los Silos
<b>Urticaceae</b>	
<i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i>	Widespread
<i>Gesnouinia arborea</i>	Laurel forest, Anaga, El Cedro
<i>Parietaria debilis</i>	El Cedro
<i>Parietaria Judaica</i>	Widespread
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Los Silos
<i>Urtica morifolia</i>	Native shrubby nettle, Gomera
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Terrace weed at Chinamada
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	Scattered
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Valle Gran Rey
<b>Verbenaceae</b>	
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Los Silos
<b>Violaceae</b>	
<i>Viola odorata</i>	El Cedro forests
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	El Cedro forests
<b>Zygophyllaceae</b>	
<i>Fagonia cretica</i>	Valle Gran Rey, Malpaís de Güímar, Montana Roja
<b>FLOWERING PLANTS (MONOCOTS)</b>	
<b>Agavaceae</b>	
<i>Agave americana</i>	Abundant alien in dry communities
<i>Agave attenuata</i>	Planted widely, distinctive drooping flower spike.
<i>Dracaena draco</i>	Los Silos
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	
<i>Pancratium canariense</i>	in fruit on Punta del Fraile cliffs
<b>Araceae</b>	
<i>Arisarum simorrhinum</i>	One in flower at Anaga
<i>Arum italicum</i> ssp. <i>canariense</i>	Leaves only
<i>Dracunculus canariensis</i>	Leaves only at Los Barranquillos
<i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	Los Silos
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Introduced, often near houses
<b>Cannaceae</b>	
<i>Canna indica</i>	Los Silos
<b>Commelinaceae</b>	



*Commelina diffusa*

Los Silos

### **Cyperaceae**

*Scirpioides holoschoenus*

roadside at Fortaleza

### **Poaceae**

*Arundo donax*

By the larger rivers

*Briza maxima*

Chinamada

*Briza minor*

Chinamada

*Brachypodium sylvaticum*

Laurel forests

*Cynosurus echinatus*

Los Barranquillos

*Lamarckia aurea*

Widespread

*Pennisetum setaceum*

Malpaís de Güímar

*Poa annua*

Widespread

*Poa infirma*

Bare open places

*Polypogon viridis*

Weed of urban areas

### **Dioscoreaceae**

*Tamus edulis*

Widespread e.g. Los Silos, El Cedro, preferring laurel forest

### **Iridaceae**

*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*

El Cedro (introduced)

*Romulea columnae* ssp. *grandiscapa*

A few at Chinamada, more common on Gomera

especially at

Chorros de Epina

### **Juncaceae**

*Juncus bufonius*

Chinamada

*Luzula canariensis*

Laurel forest in Anaga

### **Lemnaceae**

*Lemna minor*

Spring at Los Silos

*Lemna minuta*

Spring at Los Silos

### **Liliaceae**

*Allium canariense*

Widespread

*Asparagus arborescens*

Malpaís de Güímar

*Asparagus scoparius*

Los Silos

*Asphodelus fistulosus*

Widespread

*Asphodelus ramosus* ssp. *distalis*

Chinamada, Masca

*Drimia hesperia*

Masca, leaves only

*Muscari comosum*

Terrace below Mt Teide

*Nothoscordum gracile*

Terrace below Mt Teide

*Scilla haemorrhoidalis*

Punta del Fraile, Chinamada, Masca

*Semele androgyna*

Los Silos

*Smilax canariensis*

Chinamada

**Orchidaceae**

*Gennaria diphylla*

Locally common in Laurel forests at Anaga and on Gomera

*Habenaria tridactylites*

A few at Los Silos in fruit and Chinamada in fruit and some with fresh flowers on damp bank opposite small radio mast by road south of Masca

*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 on road bank below Mt Teide

*Orchis canariensis*

A good colony at Fortaleza

**Palmae**

*Phoenix canariensis*

Widespread and common, especially on La Gomera



## Systematic List: Birds

Order follows taxonomy of the Collin's Guide'

Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>	Thought to be this fly across road, and seen flying over scrub at Fortaleza
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectois rufa</i>	El Patio, and elsewhere
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	good views on the ferry journey to and from La Gomera.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Seen from Paul's car
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	By reservoir at El Patio
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Noted in small numbers most days, the Canary subspecies <i>insularum</i> .
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common and widespread, this is the West Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> .
Peregrine		One seen flying over tall pinnacle
Barbary Falcon	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>	May of seen on day 6
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Frequently encountered. The Macaronesian subspecies <i>atlantis</i> .
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Widespread and common.
Bolle's Pigeon	<i>Columba bollii</i>	Endemic to the Canaries. Two fly over laurel forest at Anaga.
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Ubiquitous.
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia sengalensis</i>	Heard at grounds of hotel at Playa de Santiago
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Le Jardín Botánico
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Seen about El Patio
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	El Parque National de Garajonay
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	two picnic areas, and one on apple tree in gaden at Pino Gordo. The distinctive Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> .
Berthelot's Pipit	<i>Anthus berthelotii</i>	A widespread and very approachable endemic bird.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Scattered records
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Scattered records. This is the West Canary subspecies <i>superbus</i> .
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread.
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Scattered records, mostly heard.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Widespread. The West Canary subspecies <i>heineken</i> .
Canary Islands Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>	Widespread endemic.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Seen at picnic area in pine forests and at El Cedro. The distinctive <i>teneriffae</i> race.
African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>	Widespread and recorded in small numbers on most days.

Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Four above Masca. Records refer to the N. African subspecies <i>tingitanus</i> .
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Seen daily on La Gomera.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Seen occasionally. The West Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> is a striking bird.
Blue Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla teydea</i>	Endemic to the Canaries. Good numbers at the picnic area in the pine forests. Also seen on the last full day.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Malpaís de Güímar
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Occasional
Atlantic Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	Common throughout, frequently encountered.

## Odonata

Atlantic Darter	<i>Sympetrum nigrifemur</i>	One low-down at Los Silos
Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Two at Los Silos

## Systematic List: Butterflies

Taxonomy follows Haahtela *et al.* (2011) *Butterflies of Britain and Europe*.

Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Scattered records
Tenerife Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleobule</i>	Several at El Cedro. Also seen from vehicles several times.
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	El Cedro, and occasionally elsewhere
Canary Blue	<i>Cylyrius webbianus</i>	Seen on day 3, and at Montana Roja
Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphoides</i>	Seen on many days, but never more than a few.
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Not very common but seen on several days.
Canary Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa vulcanica</i>	La Gomera
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	One seen at Masca

## Mammals

DOR = dead on road.

Rabbit	<i>Orytolagus cuniculus</i>	Two on roadside below Mt Teide
Short-finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	About 30 on the ferry journey from La Gomera.

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Tenerife Lizard	<i>Gallotia galloti</i>	Widespread, seen most days on Tenerife in small numbers. Endemic to Tenerife.
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Boettger's Lizard	<i>Gallotia caesaris</i>	Endemic to La Gomera.
Tenerife gecko	<i>Tarentola delalandii</i>	One at El Patio on first evening. Endemic to Tenerife.
La Gomera gecko	<i>Tarentola gomerensis</i>	Present in the grounds of the hotel on La Gomera. Endemic to La Gomera.

#### OTHER WILDLIFE SEEN

Prickly-pear Spider ( <i>Cyrtophora citricola</i> )	Seen at several sites on Tenerife. Black & white spider that spins large communal webs.
Spurge Hawk-moth ( <i>Hyles euphorbiae</i> )	One caterpillar seen on Euphorbia at Malpaís de Güímar.
Crimson Speckled moth ( <i>Utetheisa pulchella</i> )	Several at Montana Roja.
Desert Locust ( <i>Schistocerca gregaria</i> )	One in Susan's bedroom on Gomera, and one at Montana Roja.
Gomera Stick Grasshopper ( <i>Acrostira bellamyi</i> )	One on roadside shrub at Roque de Agando, La Gomera
a ladybird beetle ( <i>Coccinella miranda</i> )	One found by Keith.

Photo of Lizard ©Jean