

A NEW *SILENE* SPECIES FROM GRAN CANARIA

DAVID BRAMWELL

Jardín Botánico Canario "Viera y Clavijo", Apdo. 14 de Tafira Alta. 35017 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Islas Canarias.

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SUMMARY

Silene tamaranae, a new species from the island of Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain) is described for the first time.

RESUMEN

Silene tamaranae, una nueva especie para Gran Canaria (islas Canarias), se describe por primera vez.

INTRODUCTION

The identity of the perennial endemic *Silene* species from the island of Gran Canaria has been, in the past, a source of considerable confusion (LID 1968, KUNKEL, 1975). It is usually referred to in the literature as *Silene cf. nocteolens* but is clearly not the same taxon as this high mountain endemic from the island of Tenerife.

During the course of the preparation of a synoptical account of *Silene* in the Canary Islands, numerous specimens from Gran Canaria have been examined and found not to correspond to *S. nocteolens* Webb & Berth. or to any of the other related Canarian taxa.

The Gran Canaria species, though very variable in leaf shape and size, is easily distinguishable from the nearest members of its group. It differs from

Silene berthelotiana Webb ex Christ and *S. nocteolens* by its green calyx nerves and longer carpophore and by its generally glabrous or subglabrous vegetative parts. It can be separated from *S. lagunensis* Chr. Sm. by its subglabrous calyx and deeply bifid petals. It is, therefore, considered to be an undescribed species which must be treated as new to science.

81.- *Silene tamaranae* sp. nov.

Ex affiniatē S. nocteolens Webb & Berth. et *S. berthelotiana* Webb ex Christ ab utroque foliis subglabris, pedicellis brevioribus, nervis calycis viridibus pallidis, carpophoro longiore distinctum.

HOLOTYPUS : Gran Canaria, Bco. del Palo, Guayedra, 500 m s.m. 20.4.1989 A. Marrero Legit. HERB.(LPA) no. 016920.

Woody-based perennial, usually rupicolous. Stems erect, glabrous or very sparsely pubescent. Leaves narrowly oblanceolate to obovate-spathulate, glabrous with a papillose surface or sparsely and remotely pubescent, petiolate, acute to acuminate, the margins finely ciliate. Upper leaves narrowly lanceolate. Inflorescence a simple dichasial cyme with linear bracts, usually glabrous. Calyx 7-8 mm, narrowly oblong to ovoid, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, slightly truncated at the base; the veins 10, pale green, anastomosing. Calyx teeth 1 mm, narrowly triangular, acute to acuminate, the margins slightly erose. Petals cream-white, the limb deeply bifid. Stamens unequal. Carpophore broad, up to 3 mm long. Capsule ovoid, 10 X 6 mm, the mature teeth triangular, subpatent. Seeds brown, reniform, faces flat, the back grooved with papillate margins.

Endemic to the island of Gran Canaria where it occurs in the central and western regions, caldera de los Marteles, barranco de Guayadeque, caldera de Tirajana, riscos de Guayedra, cliffs of the pinares de Tamadaba, Sansón etc. 500-1600 m.

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