

A new species of *Crambe* (Brassicaceae) from La Gomera, Canary Islands, Spain

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A new bracteate species of *Crambe* (Brassicaceae) from La Gomera, Canary Islands, Spain, is described. The ecological characteristics of its habitat are given and the main morphological features are illustrated in line drawings.

Key words: Brassicaceae, Canary Islands, *Crambe*, taxonomy

In the course of an as yet unpublished taxonomic revision of the genus *Crambe* (Brassicaceae) by the first author, a specimen from La Gomera, Canary Islands, was found to display some particular morphological characters. The specimen was collected by the second author, who suspected it might represent an undescribed species. A detailed examination of the specimen showed that, apart from other characters, all the pedicels are bracteated, a feature unknown up to now in the genus.

Crambe wildpretii Prina & Bramwell, *sp. nova* (Fig. 1)

Frutex caule glabro, ramis teretibus, rugosis, cicatrisatis. Folia caulina sessilia, breviter auriculata, oblanceolata, inciso-dentata, infra

nervis prominentis, pilis brevis, densis ad nervos; nervia ad reverso prominentes. Inflorescentia densa, pedicelis laevis, 3.5–5 mm long., angulosis, bracteatis; bractea lineares, breviter dentatae, saepe mucronatae; filamenta interiora satis gibbosa. Siliculae articulo inferiore quadrangulato, 0.5–0.6 mm long., articulo superiore globoso, quadricostato, rugoso-reticulato, 2.5–3 mm long. × 1.5–1.8 mm lat., apiculato.

HOLOTYPE: Spain. Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Isla de La Gomera, Epina, cliff of Lomo de Carretón, 850 m, 2.VII.1969 D. Bramwell 2074 (RNG).

Plants about 50–60 cm high. Stems glabrous, with conspicuous leaf scars on its base. Cauline leaves 8–12 cm long, 1.5–4 cm wide, sessile to shortly petiolate, sometimes slightly auriculate, oblanceolate, toothed, with short, rough hairs very dense along nerves. Inflorescence dense, much

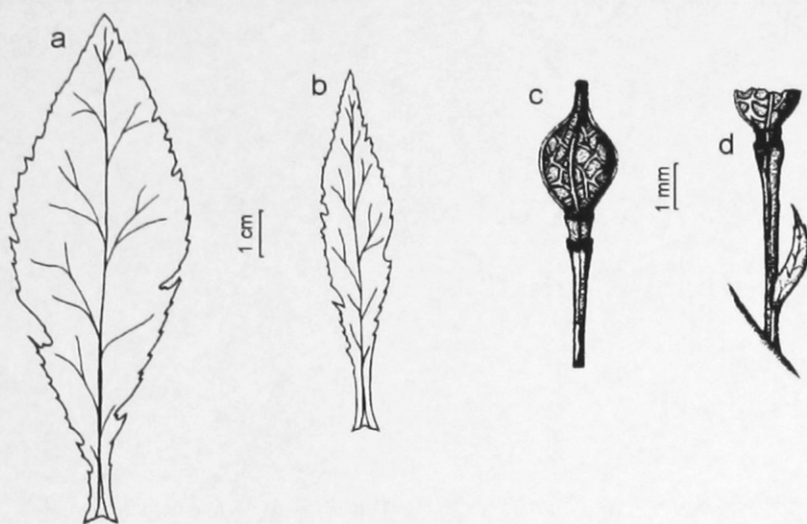


Fig. 1. *Crambe wildpretii* Prina & Bramwell (from the holotype). — a: Lower cauline leaf. — b: Upper cauline leaf. — c: Fruit. — d: Fruit pedicel with bract.

branched; pedicels glabrous, tetragonous, 3.5–5 mm long, each carrying a linear, shortly toothed and frequently mucronate bract; sepals oblong, glabrous, 2–2.3 mm long; petals obovate, 2.5–3 mm long, 1.5–1.7 mm wide, including a claw ca. 0.5–0.7 mm long; filaments of inner stamens 2–2.2 mm long, anthers oblong, 0.8 mm long. Lower article of the fruit tetragonous, 0.5–0.6 mm long; upper article 2.5–3 mm long, 1.5–1.8 mm wide, 4-ribbed, rugose-reticulate between ribs, ending in an acute beak ca. 0.5–0.7 mm long.

This species grows in the *laurisilva* of La Gomera Island. At the moment it is only known from the type locality.

The tetragonous upper article of the fruit, with its rugose-reticulate surface and acuminate beak, clearly indicates that this species belongs in the

sect. *Dendrocrambe*, as all the other Macaronesian species. The new species is closely related to two other Canarian species, *C. gomeræ* Webb ex Christ from La Gomera, and *C. microcarpa* A. Santos from La Palma. The three species can be separated by the following key:

1. Plants glabrous; fruiting pedicels bracteate with a linear, mucronate bract *C. wildpretii*
1. Plants densely pubescent; fruiting pedicels ebracteate 2
2. Upper article of fruit 1.8–2 mm long; cauline leaves frequently widely auriculate *C. microcarpa*
2. Upper article of fruit (2.5–)3 mm long; cauline leaves narrowly auriculate or non auriculate *C. gomeræ*

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