

New records of alien plants from Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain)

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Abstract

NEW RECORDS OF ALIEN PLANTS FROM GRAN CANARIA (CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN).— During recent fieldwork, in December 2023 and 2024, a number of interesting non-native plant species were firstly discovered in Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain). Some are also first-recorded for the whole of the Canary Islands. Nearly all species have escaped from ornamental cultivation and their residence status varies from more or less locally established to (for most species) casual. However, even these latter species have the potential to eventually naturalize or, at worst, become invasive, since all are known as weeds or invaders in other parts of the world with a similar climate. The following species are treated: *Cynodon nlemfuensis*, *Delonix regia*, *Euphorbia umbellata*, *Ficus lyrata*, *Helianthus annuus*, *Koeleria paniculata*, *Physalis peruviana*, *Psidium nudum*, *Ruellia simplex*, *Solanum mauritianum*, *Tithonia diversifolia* and *Volkameria inermis*. Miscellaneous notes are also added for some additional species that are of interest, i.e. *Cyperus brevifolius*, *Digitaria setigera*, *Euphorbia cyathophora* and *Setaria geminata*.

Key words: allochthonous; chorology; escape from cultivation; horticulture; invasion; Macaronesia; naturalization; non-native; North Africa; weed.

Resumen

NUEVOS REGISTROS DE PLANTAS ALÓCTONAS DE GRAN CANARIA (ISLAS CANARIAS, ESPAÑA).— Durante un trabajo de campo reciente, en diciembre de 2023 y 2024, se descubrieron por primera vez en Gran Canaria (Islas Canarias, España) varias especies de plantas no autóctonas interesantes. Algunas también se citan por primera vez en todo el archipiélago canario. Casi todas las especies han escapado del cultivo ornamental y su estatus varía desde más o menos naturalizada hasta (para la mayoría de las especies) ocasional. Sin embargo, estas últimas especies tienen el potencial de naturalizarse con el tiempo o, en el peor de los casos, convertirse en invasoras, ya que todas son conocidas como malas hierbas o invasoras en otras partes del mundo con un clima similar. Se trata las siguientes especies: *Cynodon nlemfuensis*, *Delonix regia*, *Euphorbia umbellata*, *Ficus lyrata*, *Helianthus annuus*, *Koeleria paniculata*, *Physalis peruviana*, *Psidium nudum*, *Ruellia simplex*, *Solanum mauritianum*, *Tithonia diversifolia* y *Volkameria inermis*. También se añaden notas diversas para otras especies de interés, como son *Cyperus brevifolius*, *Digitaria setigera*, *Euphorbia cyathophora* y *Setaria geminata*.

Palabras clave: África del Norte; alóctona; corología; escape del cultivo; horticultura; invasión; Macaronesia; maleza; naturalización; no nativa.

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INTRODUCTION

Despite the long tradition of studies on the flora of the Canary Islands, native as well as introduced, in recent years, many new distribution data have been published with great regularity. These often dealt with non-native flora which is still insufficiently known. The number of new introductions, both deliberate and accidental, indeed still seems to be increasing, also in Gran Canaria.

The author of this article has done extensive fieldwork in the Canary Islands since 2004, especially in Gran Canaria and Tenerife. This paper is a sequel to, among others, Verloove & Reyes-Betancort (2011), Verloove (2017, 2021), Verloove *et al.* (2018) and reports about newly-detected alien vascular plants found in Gran Canaria, mostly in December 2023 and 2024. New records are here presented for 12 taxa that are either new to the Canary Islands or specific to the island of Gran Canaria. Four taxa that are otherwise of interest are also discussed.

Assessing the current invasive status of the treated taxa is not straightforward and the final degree of naturalization will only become clear over time. Most of the species presented in this paper are currently considered ephemerals or are only locally more or less established. However, nearly all of them have the potential to naturalize or even become invasive, taking into account their reported weediness elsewhere in the world, in regions with climatic conditions similar to those in the Canary Islands (compare with, for example, Randall, 2017). The reproduction from seed or clonal reproduction of introduced species are a first, but essential step towards a possible naturalization. The early detection of such events is therefore crucial in invasion biology. Documenting the first cases of garden plant escape is not only important for invasion biology but also for effective management and mitigation of future invasions. These early records provide valuable data on how species spread and can help develop strategies to prevent or minimize ecological damage caused by invasive plants (e.g. Hayden Reichard & White, 2001; Hulme *et al.*, 2018).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The records here presented mostly result from fieldwork carried out by the author in Gran Canaria in December 2023 and 2024. On these occasions, numerous localities were explored throughout the island, especially in the lowland areas. The focus was on anthropogenic (often urban) habitats, agricultural fields and other highly disturbed habitats.

Herbarium specimens were collected for most records and these are preserved in the herbarium of the Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium (BR). After mounting and digitization, the specimens will also be made available in the virtual herbarium at <https://www.botanicalcollections.be/>. All records (all substantiated by photos) were also registered on the observation.org online platform (<https://observation.org/>), data which were subsequently loaded into GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility; <https://www.gbif.org/>).

The nomenclature of the taxa is in accordance with Plants of the World Online (POWO, 2025).

RESULTS

New plant records from Gran Canaria

Cynodon nlemfuensis Vandyerst (Poaceae; Chloridoideae)

Spain, Gran Canaria: San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Maspalomas (Meloneras), fallow land next to the GC-500 road, close to the golf court, locally, with aboveground stolons (no rhizomes seen), 17.XII.2023, *F. Verloove 14949* (BR0000027060452V). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294769463/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – casual.

The native distribution area of this species ranges from Ethiopia to southern Tropical Africa. It has different uses (erosion control, ground cover, forage and silage crop) and was therefore introduced throughout the tropics and subtropics. It easily escapes and is now naturalized in many parts of the New World, Australia and Asia. *Cynodon nlemfuensis* is an aggressive, fast-growing grass that spreads through vegetative growth. It forms dense monospecific mats which completely out-compete native vegetation, to such an extent that it is often considered to be an invasive species.

There are no records of *Cynodon nlemfuensis* from the Euro+Med Plantbase area (<https://europlusmed.org/>), although it probably is overlooked, especially in the warmer and drier areas of the Mediterranean area, due to its morphological resemblance to *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. Since 2017 it has been known from La Palma, Canary Islands, where it is locally firmly established (Otto & Verloove, 2020). It is here reported for the first time from Gran Canaria. A few plants (along with *C. dactylon*) were found in Maspalomas, next to a golf course from where it might have escaped. Surprisingly, it has also been recorded from Germany (Klotz, 2013); the species is apparently less cold-sensitive than is often assumed.

In contrast with *C. dactylon*, *C. nlemfuensis* has no underground rhizomes but forms vigorous, long stolons. The number of spikes per inflorescence is usually higher (3–13 spikes, in a single whorl) and they are also often longer (4–11 cm long).

Delonix regia (Bojer ex Hook.) Raf. (Fabaceae; Caesalpinioideae) (Figs. 1 and 2)

Spain, Gran Canaria: Mogán, Puerto Rico, Barranco de Puerto Rico, dried-out, gravelly riverbed, two young, self-sown trees, 05.XII.2023, F. Verloove 14938 (BR0000027060476V). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294232634/>, <https://observation.org/observation/294272387/> and <https://observation.org/observation/335605730/>.

First record in the Canary Islands – casual.



Figure 1. A self-sown individual of *Delonix regia*, surrounded by *Cyperus alternifolius* subsp. *flabelliformis*, in a barranco in Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria, on 5 December 2023 (photograph: F. Verloove).



Figure 2. *Delonix regia*, self-sown in a *barranco* in Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria, on 6 December 2023. This individual was found more than one kilometer downstream of the suspected parent plants. In the vegetative state, the divided stipules are quite characteristic (photograph: F. Verloove).

This species is a Madagascan endemic. It is, however, widely grown as an ornamental tree (‘Flamboyant’) in the tropics and subtropics of both the Old and New World. It easily reproduces from seed and often escapes. Recently, it has been observed to be naturalizing or becoming invasive, for instance in Australia and on some Pacific islands. It has a tendency to form monospecific populations that prevent the regeneration of native species.

Delonix regia has been reported from Egypt and Lybia in North Africa (African Plant Database, 2024; Euro+Med Plantbase, 2024) but likely only as planted. It is here probably reported for the first time in the wild in the entire Euro+Med Plantbase area. Several obviously self-sown individuals were observed in a shallow ravine (Barranco de Puerto Rico) in Mogán. In a first locality—where two individuals were observed—mature, fruit-bearing trees are planted next to the ravine, about 200 m further upstream. However, a second growing site—with a single individual—is located more than one kilometer downstream of this plantation. At present, none of the three subspontaneous individuals has reached the reproductive stage but they will probably do so in the near future (there is a more or less permanent supply of water, mostly from sewers). All plants are about two meters tall now and their persistence was recorded in December 2024. They are found along with the invasive and (vegetatively) similar-looking *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit. Compared with that species, the leaves are much larger and the pinnate stipules are very characteristic (Du Puy *et al.*, 1995). Although *Delonix regia* is very commonly planted in the Canary Islands, the species could only become established in those parts of the islands where there is sufficient water available.

Euphorbia umbellata (Pax) Bruyns (syn.: *Synadenium grantii* Hook. f.) (Euphorbiaceae) (Figs. 3 and 4)

Spain, Gran Canaria: Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, El Dragonal Bajo, Carretera del Dragonal (GC-308), rough ground between the road and ravine, 11.XII.2023, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294475233/>.

First record in the Canary Islands – casual.



Figure 3. Habit of *Euphorbia umbellata* in degraded natural bushland, growing among the endemic *Rumex lunaria*, in El Dragonal Bajo, Gran Canaria, on 11 December 2023 (photograph: F. Verloove).



Figure 4. Detail of the leaves of *Euphorbia umbellata* in El Dragonal Bajo, Gran Canaria, on 11 December 2023. The vinaceous spots are a distinctive characteristic (photograph: F. Verloove).

The native range of this species is from South Sudan to Burundi and Tanzania. It is widely grown as an ornamental shrub in the tropics and subtropics. As an escape from cultivation, it is apparently rarely reported but it is naturalized or locally invasive in parts of India (see for instance Reddy, 2008; Wagh & Ashok, 2015). It is also known as an escape in Australia and Cuba (CABI, 2024).

Euphorbia umbellata is rather frequently grown as an ornamental shrub in the Canary Islands but it has apparently not previously been recorded in the wild. On rough ground in El Dragón Bajo, a single clone was observed that probably has resprouted from discarded garden waste. Its persistence in that locality was confirmed in December 2024. Because the species grows in dry, open forests in its natural range, it could find suitable habitats in the Canary Islands.

Ficus lyrata Warb. (Moraceae) (Fig. 5)

Spain, Gran Canaria: Santa Brígida, Hotel Rural Villa del Monte, self-sown at foot of wall, 14.XII.2024, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/335190127/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – casual.



Figure 5. A seedling of *Ficus lyrata* in Santa Brígida, Gran Canaria, on 14 December 2024. Although the species-specific pollinator is supposedly absent from the Canary Islands, the species is able to reproduce from seed (photograph: F. Verloove).

The escape of this tropical West African species in the Canary Islands has been reported before from Tenerife. In a ravine in Buenavista del Norte, a self-sown individual of *ca.* 2.5 m tall was seen in 2010 (Verloove & Reyes-Betancort, 2011). In addition, two individuals of this species have been known from the Barranco Martiánez in Puerto de la Cruz since (at least) June 2014; by September 2022 they had reached a height of 4–5 meters (obs. author). The species has occasionally been recorded elsewhere in Tenerife as well, for instance in Poris de Abona (mouth of barranco near the beach) in January 2019 (obs. author). The

origin of these plants is unclear. Most *Ficus* species, including *Ficus lyrata*, rely heavily on their specific pollinating wasps to reproduce sexually. In the apparent absence of its pollinator (*Agaon spatulatum* Wiebes) in the Canary Islands, fruits are probably rarely produced. The plants found earlier in Tenerife could possibly have emerged from washed-up (or discarded) root fragments.

However, a seedling observed in Gran Canaria in December 2024 is undeniably a plant that germinated from seed. Next to the seedling were a few fruit-bearing parent plants. This seems to suggest that either the pollinator is present in the islands, or the species can be pollinated in another way.

***Helianthus annuus* L. (Asteraceae; Asteroideae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Maspalomas, Barranco del Cañizo, on sewage sludge, 22.XII.2024, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/335790562/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – casual.

According to Biota Canarias (2025), this American species is only known from La Palma, Tenerife and Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands (see also e.g. Hansen, 1970). It is probably widely overlooked (or merely neglected) and in fact regularly observed on sewage sludge in dried-out riverbeds, along with e.g. *Cucumis* spp., *Cucurbita* spp., *Salvia hispanica* L., *Solanum lycopersicum* L., etc. Under these conditions, all these species germinate from food refuse, bird seed waste, etc. that has been carried down the sewers.

Although not previously reported, *Helianthus annuus* is also regularly observed in Gran Canaria, as testified through the observation given above.

***Koelreuteria paniculata* Laxm. (Sapindaceae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, El Dragonal Bajo, Carretera del Dragonal (GC-308), self-sown in road gully grating, 11.XII.2023, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294475234/>.

First record in the Canary Islands – casual.

This tree is native to East Asia but is widely grown as an ornamental elsewhere. It easily escapes and is naturalized in many warm-temperate regions across the world. From the Canary Islands, however, it had not been reported so far (Biota Canarias, 2024).

A young self-sown individual was observed in a road gully in El Dragonal Bajo, in front of the Viera y Clavijo Botanical Garden from where it probably escaped.

***Physalis peruviana* L. (Solanaceae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: Telde, Barranco Real de Telde, 14.XII.2023, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: numerous observations, e.g. <https://observation.org/observation/294592333/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – casual.

This South American species is commonly grown for its edible fruits (*aguaymanto*, *uvilla* or *uchuva*). It was already reported from the Canary Islands more than a century ago (e.g. Bornmüller, 1904) but it is probably nowhere genuinely naturalized in the archipelago. It is reportedly known from El Hierro, La Palma, La Gomera and Tenerife (Biota Canarias, 2024), but apparently not from Gran Canaria.

In reality, it is regularly seen on sewage sludge in *barrancos* where it germinated from kitchen waste, along with e.g. *Salvia hispanica* and *Solanum lycopersicum*. In addition to the observation here reported, we have also seen it in Tafira, Guinguada, Arucas, Santa Brígida, etc. The presence of *Physalis peruviana* in Gran Canaria is also evident from online observation platforms such as iNaturalist or observation.org, at least since 2012 (Jinámar, Santa Cristina and Santa Brígida).

***Psilotum nudum* (L.) P. Beauv. (Psilotaceae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Maspalomas, Avenida de Touroperador Tui, Hotel Maspalomas Princess, garden weed at the foot of palm trees, a few plants, very locally, 20.XII.2024, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/335509544/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – casual (?).

This pantropical weed was relatively recently reported for the first time from the Canary Islands, from Lanzarote and Tenerife (Santos-Guerra *et al.*, 2013; Wildpret & Martín-Orsorio, 2014). It was subsequently also recorded in Fuerteventura and La Gomera (Scholz *et al.*, 2021).

It is here reported for the first time from Gran Canaria, in exactly the same conditions as elsewhere and previously in the Canary Islands. Although the plants are probably regularly removed during weeding, it seems that sufficient spores are formed in a short time to allow local survival.

***Ruellia simplex* C. Wright (Acanthaceae; Acanthoideae) (Figs. 6 and 7)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Maspalomas (Meloneras), GC-500 at Barranco de las Meloneras del Pocillo Real, shallow ravine, monospecific population, ca. 300 individuals, 17.XII.2023, F. Verloove 14941 (BR0000027060469V). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294769469/> and <https://observation.org/observation/335437033/>; Gáldar (Cueva las Cruces), small stream along the road, a single individual, 08.XII.2024, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/334936414/>.

First records in the Canary Islands – casual (?).



Figure 6. A massive stand of *Ruellia simplex* in a shallow depression in Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, on 17 December 2023 (photograph: F. Verloove).



Figure 7. Close-up of inflorescence of *Ruellia simplex* in the population shown in Fig. 6 (photograph: F. Verloove).

The native range of this species is Mexico to Tropical America. It is widely cultivated as an ornamental in the tropics and subtropics, also in the Canary Islands. *Ruellia simplex* is here reported for the first time in the wild in the archipelago. A dense, monospecific stand was found in a shallow ravine alongside the road, near to a golf course in Meloneras. Although the species was not observed in ornamental plantations in the surroundings, the colony most likely developed from washed up root fragments, originating from upstream. It is unlikely that the plants germinated from seeds as the species does not appear to produce fruit in Gran Canaria.

In the locality where it was found, there is at least a temporary water supply, which enabled other ornamentals to establish, either from seeds (*Washingtonia spec.*) or root fragments (*Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski, for which see Verloove, 2017). If the water supply were to disappear, *Ruellia simplex* would probably quickly disappear as well. In the very dry environment—in the south of the island—the chance of a genuine naturalization is therefore small; in the more humid north of the island this cannot be ruled out, however. The species' persistence in Meloneras was observed in December 2024 and according to Google Streetview images from October 2022, the species was already present then as well. In December 2024, *Ruellia simplex* was also observed (a single individual) in a drain in Gáldar (Cueva las Cruces).

Ruellia simplex is a recent escape in southern Europe and the Mediterranean area. There are a few recent records from mainland Italy (Calabria, Lazio and Puglia), Sardegna and Sicily (Lazzeri *et al.*, 2015; Galasso *et al.*, 2016; Iamónico, 2022; Galasso *et al.*, 2023; Musarella *et al.*, 2024). Elsewhere in the world, the species is considered as a highly invasive species. Breeding programs aiming to develop sterile, non-invasive cultivars were therefore recently established (Freyre, 2015).

***Solanum mauritianum* Scop. (Solanaceae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: Arucas, rough ground (abandoned *finca* or palm groove?) next to the Parque Municipal de Arucas, a single non-flowering individual, 13.XII.2023, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294558085/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – casual (?).

This South American shrub is an invasive species in the northern islands of Macaronesia. In Madeira and the Azores it forms dense stands in the laurel forest (Silva *et al.*, 2008). In the Canary Islands on the contrary—although already known since the 1960s (Hansen, 1970)—*Solanum mauritianum* remains a rarity, both in its distribution and abundance. It is very locally naturalized near La Laguna in Tenerife (Rodríguez Navarro *et al.*, 2019) and it has been known from two localities in La Palma since 2005 (Otto & Verloove, 2016).

It is here reported for the first time from Gran Canaria. A single non-flowering (self-sown) individual was recorded in an abandoned palm groove (old *finca*?) in Arucas, below the municipal park. In all probability the species is/was cultivated in the *finca* and is now running wild there. Nearby, a flowering individual of *Hibiscus calyphyllus* Cav. was also observed, possibly a relic of former cultivation.

Tithonia diversifolia (Hemsl.) A. Gray (Asteraceae; Asteroideae)

Spain, Gran Canaria: Santa Brígida, Barranco de la Angostura, alongside track in dried-out riverbed, a small population of about 10 individuals, 10.XII.2023, F. Verloove s.c. Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294435082/>.

First record in Gran Canaria – naturalized.

This Central American species is widely grown as an ornamental shrub in the Canary Islands, from where it has been reported as an escape from cultivation since the 1970s (Hansen, 1975). It is at present known from La Palma and Tenerife (Biota Canarias, 2025). According to data from iNaturalist and observation.org, the species has also been recorded in the wild in La Gomera.

It is here reported for the first time from Gran Canaria (for details, see above). There are scattered observations from Gran Canaria on iNaturalist—all from the Santa Brígida area—but most seem to refer to planted individuals.

Tithonia diversifolia is tolerant to heat and drought and is additionally characterized by its rapid growth rates and its large production of tiny seeds which are easily dispersed. It is often considered an invasive species in the introduced range (e.g. Kriticos & Kriticos, 2021; Rai *et al.*, 2023).

Volkameria inermis L. [syn.: *Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn.] (Lamiaceae; Ajugoideae) (Fig. 8)

Spain, Gran Canaria: Mogán, Puerto Rico, Barranco de Puerto Rico, gravelly dried-out riverbed, 05.XII.2023, F. Verloove 14936 (BR0000027060483V). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294232615/>.

First record in the Canary Islands – casual (?).

The native range of this species is tropical and subtropical Asia and the western Pacific. It is widely grown as an ornamental liana and has occasionally been reported as an escape from cultivation, for instance in Tunisia (El Mokni *et al.*, 2013) and Kiribati (Thaman & Samuelu, 2016). The species is a potentially invasive weed: numerous seeds are produced that appear attractive to birds and vegetative growth is aggressive (Starr *et al.*, 2003).

Two flowering and fruiting individuals of *Volkameria inermis* were observed in the Puerto Rico barranco in Gran Canaria in December 2023 (and subsequently confirmed in December 2024). Both were found under a water drain and may have developed from washed-up rhizomes. No putative parent plants were seen in the surroundings.



Figure 8. A flowering and fruiting individual of *Volkameria inermis* in a barranco in Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria, on 5 December 2023 (photograph: F. Verloove).

Miscellaneous records

Cyperus brevifolius (Rottb.) Hassk. (Cyperaceae)

Spain, Gran Canaria: San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Maspalomas, GC-500-510 roads, irrigated lawn, 16.XII.2024, F. Verloove 15289 (BR). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/335358429/>.

This pantropical weed is a recent introduction in the Canary Islands and is only known from a few localities in Gran Canaria (Arguineguín) and Tenerife (Verloove, 2012, 2014).

In December 2024, its massive presence was observed in irrigated lawns in the Campo Internacional area in Maspalomas. There is no longer any doubt about the status of the species in Gran Canaria, it has clearly become (locally) naturalized.

Digitaria setigera Roth (Poaceae; Panicoideae)

Spain, Gran Canaria: Agaete, Puerto de las Nieves, Urb. El Palmeral, garden weed, scattered but present since 2017 already, 06.XII.2024, F. Verloove 15296 (BR0000027059845V). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/334816323/>.

This species from the Old World tropics (mainly Asia and Australia) is commonly naturalized as a weed in the neotropics. It is not included in the Euro+Med Plantbase, indicating its absence in Europe, Macaronesia and the entire Mediterranean Basin. However, a small population of this species was discovered in Agaete in December 2017 (Verloove *et al.*, 2018). Interestingly, in December 2024 the persistence of this species in the same locality has been recorded. Several individuals were found on bare soil at the entrance of the Polideportivo Municipal facility.

Digitaria setigera is very similar to *Digitaria ciliaris* (Retz.) Koeler but easily distinguished: the lower glume is completely wanting and the upper glume is shorter, much less than ½ spikelet length.

***Euphorbia cyathophora* Murray (Euphorbiaceae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: Mogán, Arguineguín, near Barranco de Arguineguín, weed in plant nursery (in pots, etc.), 09.XII.2023, *F. Verloove 14937* (BR). Other data: <https://observation.org/observation/294378646/>.

This species has been known from Gran Canaria since the 1960s, when it was reported as a plantation weed in Arguineguín (Kunkel, 1969). The species was subsequently also discovered in Fuerteventura, La Gomera and Lanzarote (Biota Canarias, 2025) and in La Palma as well (Otto & Verloove, 2016).

It is, however, a rather rare adventive, with few (none?) observations in Gran Canaria since its first discovery. It is therefore interesting that, more than half a century later, the species still appears to be present in the area of Arguineguín.

***Setaria geminata* (Forssk.) Veldkamp [syn.: *Paspalidium geminatum* (Forssk.) Stapf] (Poaceae; Panicoideae)**

Spain, Gran Canaria: Mogán, Arguineguín, humid depression near la Fabrica, 24.XII.1974, *J. Duvi-gneaud 75Can20* (BR0000006116378); Telde, Jinámar, barranco de Telde, close to the sea, riverbed, near sewer, locally frequent, 15.XI.2015, *F. Verloove 11981* (BR0000015231840V); Mogán, Arguineguín, barranco de Arguineguín close to the sea, dry riverbed, 03.IV.2017, *F. Verloove 12812* (LPA); San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Playa del Inglés, El Veril, beach, in dense monospecific stands, 21.XII.2017, *F. Verloove 13109* (BR0000025410853V); San Bartolomé de Tirajana, Maspalomas, Paseo Marítimo, below *Casuarina*, on the beach, 15.XII.2023, *F. Verloove 14940* (BR).

In the Canary Islands, this species from the Old World tropics is only known from Gran Canaria. All known growing locations (rather few in number) are in the humid north of the island (Kunkel, 1969; Biota Canarias, 2025). However, the species has also been observed repeatedly in the south of the island in the past decades, as shown by the herbarium collections listed above. At one of the locations, in Arguineguín, the species was already present in the 1970s and at most other southern locations the species often forms very large populations.

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