

BRASSICA BOURGEOUI (CRUCIFERAE) REDISCOVERED IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

by

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RESUMEN

Se redescubre *Brassica bourgeoui* (Webb in Christ) O.Kuntze nuevamente en las Islas Canarias (1975), localizada en esta ocasión en la isla de La Palma. Bourgeau había herborizado esta planta con anterioridad (1845-1846) en Tenerife, Hierro y Gomera.

ABSTRACT

Brassica bourgeoui (Webb in Christ) O.Kuntze was rediscovered in the Canary Islands in 1975 by the authors. Our collection was made in La Palma, Barranco Jieque, at the western side of the island.

Brassica bourgeoui (Webb in Christ) O.Kuntze was rediscovered in the Canary Islands in 1975 by the authors. Previously the collections of Bourgeau from 1845-1846 were the only ones recognized, and the species has probably not been collected since then. On the basis of Bourgeau's collections the species was described as a *Sinapidendron* Lowe by CHRIST (1888), but its inclusion in *Brassica* L., previously done by KUNTZE (1891), seems more appropriate (BORGEN et al., 1979).

Bourgeau's collections were from Tenerife (Barranco de Martianez), Gomera (Barranquillos de Vallehermoso), and Hierro (Barranco de Valverde). Our collection was made in La Palma, Barranco Jieque, at the western side of the island (Fig. 1).

Only two plants were discovered in 1975. They grew on rocks in a shady, north-ernly exposed barranco wall at about 600 m above sea level (Fig. 2). In 1978 we visited the same locality and sought extensively for more individuals, but without results.

Both individuals were sterile and had apparently never flowered. They seemed to be extremely slow-growing. In 1978 it was still possible to trace the scars after our collection in 1975. The two plants ought therefore to be left alone and not be collected any more for years. Cuttings were taken in 1978, and the species is now in culture in the botanical Garden, University of Oslo.

We hope that this notice will encourage other botanists to seek for this rare species and that someone will have even more luck in such an attempt than we had. It may also be worthwhile to seek for it in the herbaria as erroneously labelled specimens. Vegetatively the species is most similar to a cabbage, *Brassica oleracea* L., with glaucous green, somewhat succulent leaves, and the most probable misidentification is with that species.

(Recibido el 10 de Marzo de 1979)

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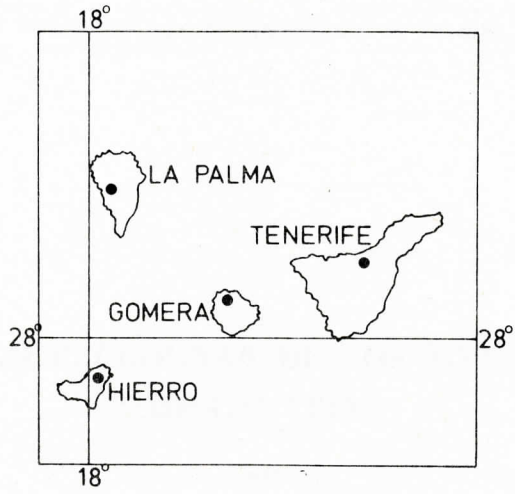


Fig. 1 - The presently known distribution of *Brassica bourgeai* (Webb ex Christ) O. Kuntze.

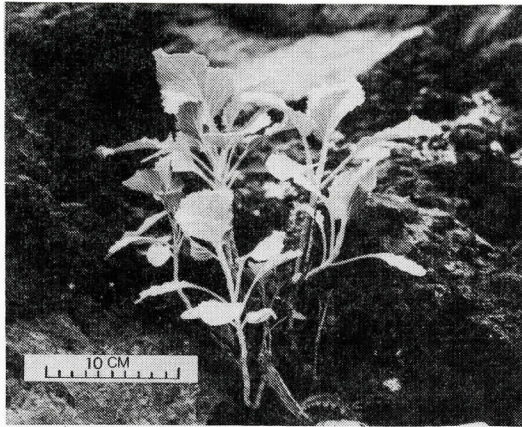


Fig. 2 - *Brassica bourgeai* (Webb ex Christ) O. Kuntze growing in its natural habitat in the Canary Islands, La Palma, Barranco Jieque, February 1978. Foto: R. Elven.

