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Portulaca granulato-stellulata new for El Hierro Island (Canary Islands)

Portulaca granulato-stellulata (Poellnitz) C. Ricceri & P. V. Arrigoni is a subcosmopolitan plant of uncertain origin (DANIN *et al.*, 1978; DANIN, 2000). It has been recently reported from Tenerife Island (DANIN & REYES-BETANCORT, 2006), the first reference for the Canary Islands, since prior to this, the taxon had not been detected from any of the Macaronesian islands. Its presence was undetected due to its inclusion within the complex *Portulaca oleracea sensu lato* (HANSEN & SUNDING, 1993: 170; STIERSTORFER & GAISBERG, 2006).

Specifically, and for El Hierro island, the authors who had previously dealt with the island's flora had only indicated the presence of *P. oleracea*, a polymorphic taxon which englobes different species. No specimens of *P. granulatostellulata* from El Hierro had been located in any Herbarium.

The distribution of *P. granulato-stellulata* on the islands of the Macaronesian Archipelago is unclear (DANIN & REYES-BETANCORT, 2006) and the same applies to the Canary Archipelago, where a thorough revision, on all the islands, is required, on the same scale as that made for the island of Tenerife by DANIN & REYES-BETANCORT (2006).

A proof of the partial knowledge of the chorology of this taxon is that it has been detected from different localities on El Hierro island, localities that are indicated in the accompanying map (Fig. 1).

El Hierro island localities: Llano de los Cangrejos, El Hierro airport, 30 m, gardens, UTM: 28 R 215 3079, BC; Between la Montaña de Orchilla and la Playa de Orchilla, 50 m, compacted terrain, UTM: 28 R 190 3068, BC.

In El Hierro it is limited to areas close to the coast, where it is found growing in ruderal environ-

ments, that mainly must be referred to the *Chenopodio-Malvetum* association, see GAISBERG (2005) and STIERSTORFER (2005).

It has been recorded from sea level to 80 m above sea level in El Hierro. In the localities where the plant has been detected to date it can be seen to occupy areas not far from the littoral zone. This ecology is similar to that given for the plant on the island of Tenerife by DANIN & REYES-BETANCORT (2006).

This taxon has seeds with a typical ornamentation, as described by DANIN & REYES-BETANCORT (2006). The most vigorous populations are found on the western side of the island, whereas to the east the populations are smaller both in plant size and number of individuals.

Taxon associated with strongly ruderalized environments, habitats which at present are in no danger of receding.



Figure 1. Distribution of *Portulaca granulato-stellulata* in El Hierro Island.

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