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Author(s): Tim M. Upson and Susyn Andrews

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## A new species of *Lavandula* L. (*Lamiaceae*) from Gran Canaria, Canary Islands

TIM M. UPSON<sup>1</sup> & SUSYN ANDREWS<sup>2</sup>

*Summary.* *Lavandula bramwellii* Upson & S. Andrews is described as a new species endemic to the south-west area of Gran Canaria, Canary Islands.

### INTRODUCTION

Four species of *Lavandula* L. are currently recognised as native to the Canary Islands; all of them are endemic: *L. buchii* Webb & Berthol.; *L. pinnata* L. f.; *L. minutolii* Bolle and *L. canariensis* Mill. (Hansen & Sunding 1993; Bramwell & Bramwell 2001). The latter two species are native to Gran Canaria; although *L. buchii* is also occasionally cultivated there. *Lavandula minutolii* var. *minutolii* is endemic to Gran Canaria where it occurs in the southern half of the island. It is principally a species of the dry xerophytic scrub zone occurring from near sea level up to 1200(–1500) m, where it can be found in the transition zone growing at the edge of *Pinus canariensis* forest. Sventenius (1960) recognised another variety, *L. minutolii* var. *tenuipinna* Svent., as a narrow endemic to north-west Tenerife. The second species, *L. canariensis* is found in the northern part of Gran Canaria and is again a species of the dry xerophytic scrub zone. It is the most widespread of all the native Canary Islands species and is also known from Tenerife, La Gomera, El Hierro, La Palma, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote. The new species described here is thus the third to be recognised from Gran Canaria.

All these taxa belong to section *Pterostoechas* Ging. which contains 15 species distributed from Macaronesia across North Africa, parts of the Mediterranean basin, W Asia, the southern Arabian Peninsula to Iran in the east, and is the largest section in the genus. It is characterised by the single-flowered cymes subtended by narrowly ovate bracts, parallel veined, with a decussate arrangement giving a 4-seriate spike. The calyx is always bilabiate (three upper and two lower lobes) and the middle upper lobe usually differs in form from the other lobes.

The presence of this taxon in the south of the island was first brought to our attention by Dr David Bramwell, Director of the Jardín Botánico de Canarias. The genus *Lavandula* is currently being monographed by the authors and this species will be fully illustrated in that work. Colour descriptions follow the RHS colour chart (1986).

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EA, U.K.

<sup>2</sup> Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, U.K.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *LAVANDULA* FROM GRAN CANARIA

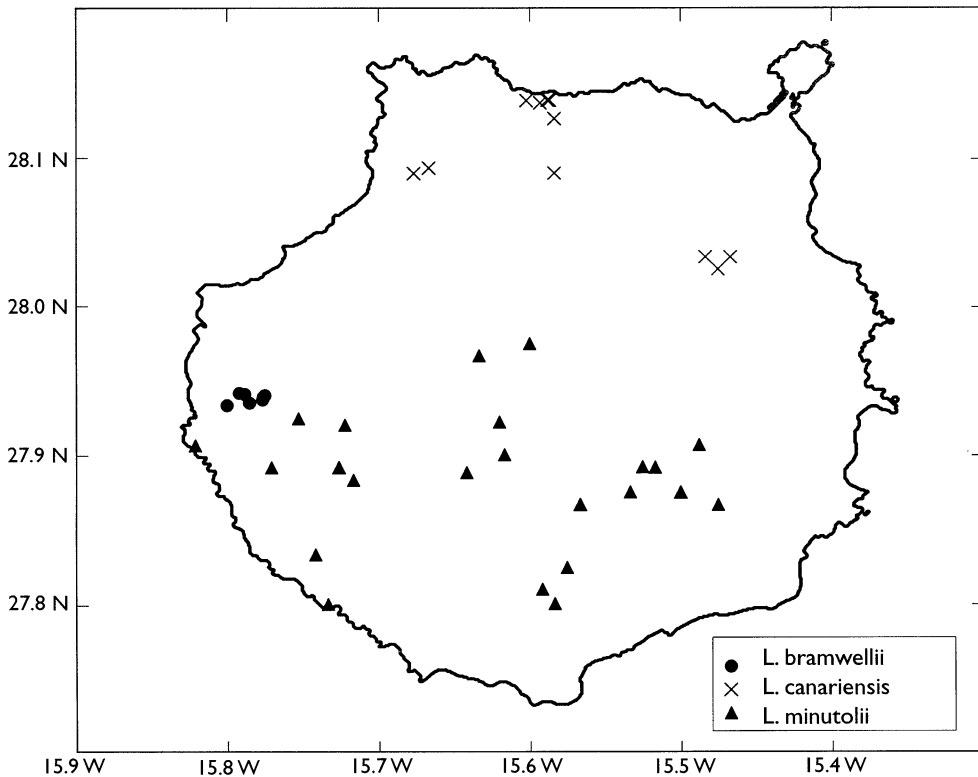
1. Leaves narrowly-ovate in outline and pectinate with dense indumentum of highly branched hairs ..... *L. minutolii* var. *minutolii*  
 Leaves ovate in outline and pinnatisect with indumentum of uncinata hairs, occasionally bifid, highly branched hairs scattered if present ..... 2
2. Leaf indumentum of capitate glandular and uncinata to bifid hairs; upper half of calyx flushed violet-pink ..... *L. canariensis*  
 Leaf indumentum of sessile glandular hairs and uncinata hairs; whole calyx deep violet-blue ..... *L. bramwellii*

***Lavandula bramwellii*** *Upson & S. Andrews sp. nov.* *L. canariensis* similis sed foliis indumento pilorum brevium uncinatorum et glandium sessilium obsitis, calyce toto violaceo-caeruleo differt. Typus: Canary Islands, Gran Canaria, Barranco de Tasártico, Ladera padre gosa, 400 m, 28 Jan. 1984, V. Montelongo 13804 (holotypus JVC!).

*Woody shrub* to 40 – 50 high × 50 – 80 cm wide, pleasantly aromatic. *Leaves* fresh green, ovate, regularly pinnatisect, (1.5 –)2.5 – 3.5(– 4) × (0.8 –)1.5 – 1.8(– 2) cm, petiole 0.5 cm long, lobes narrowly-ovate, indumentum variable, rarely ± glabrous, with sessile glandular hairs to puberulous indumentum of uncinata hairs and occasional branched hairs, particularly on veins. *Peduncles* (15 –)22 – 24(– 26) cm long, branched once or twice, green with purple margins on the upper third. *Spike* (2.5 –)3 – 5(– 8.5) cm long, deep violet-blue (86A Violet Group). *Bracts* 0.75 to ± 1 × the length of the mature calyx, 0.4 – 0.5 mm long, ovate, acute, deep violet-blue at anthesis, with five usually very deep purple nerves. *Calyx* 5 – 6 mm long, the upper middle tooth deltoid, the lateral two narrowly triangular, the whole calyx deep violet-blue. *Corolla* twice the length of the calyx, five-lobed, the upper two lobes twice as large as the lower three; corolla bicoloured, upper half violet-blue (90A Violet Blue Group or 86D Violet Group), lower half purple (76A or 77C Purple Group) with darker guidelines. Nutlets elliptic, 1.2 – 1.5 × 0.7 – 0.8 mm, dark-brown, lateral scar  $\frac{1}{3}$  length of nutlet; mucilage produced on wetting.

**SPECIMENS EXAMINED.** GRAN CANARIA: Degollada de Tasártico, 500 m, 26 March 1971, *Kunkel* 14025 (G); Degollada de Tasártico by 12 km marker, 600 m, 29 March 1972, *Kunkel* 14755 (G); La Pasadilla, 700 m, 2 April 1972, *Kunkel* 14793 (G); Barranco de Tasártico, Ladera Padre Gosa, 400 m, 28 Jan. 1984, *Montelongo* 13803, 13805 & 13806 (JVC); Montana de los Espejitos, Agüimes, 800 m, 9 Feb. 1986, *Montelongo* s.n. (JVC); SW region, Barranco de Tasártico on minor road off GC-810 to Playa del Asno, 570 m, 27°56'N, 15°46'W, 11 Feb. 2001, *Upson* 320 (CGG, JVC, K, RNG); Barranco de Tasártico, 27°56'N, 15°47'W, 420 m, 11 Feb. 2001, *Upson* 321 (CGG, JVC, K, RNG); Barranco de Tasártico, 495 m, 27°56'N, 15°46'W, 11 Feb. 2001, *Upson* 322 (CGG, JVC, K, RNG).

**DISTRIBUTION.** Endemic to the Marizo de Güigüi in south-west Gran Canaria (Map 1). All collections to date are from the Barranco de Tasártico, the most accessible valley in the area, but this species is reported to occur elsewhere in this



MAP 1. Map of Gran Canaria showing the distribution of *L. bramwellii*, *L. canariensis* and *L. minutolii* var. *minutolii*.

area (Bramwell *pers. comm.*). The Marizo de Güügüi is a distinct and rich botanical area of the island with 31 endemic species, the highest concentration for any part of the Canary Islands (Bramwell *pers. comm.*). The existence of a narrow endemic here is therefore not surprising. *Lavandula bramwellii* is not found in association with any of the other native species of *Lavandula*.

**HABITAT.** Xerophytic scrub in open rocky habitats, most commonly on south facing slopes. Associated with *Euphorbia canariensis*, *E. regis-jubae*, *E. balsamifera*, *Echium decaisnei*, *Launea arborescens*, *Ononis angustissimus* subsp. *ulicina*, *Plocoma pendula* and *Senecio kleinia*. 400 – 600 m.

**CONSERVATION STATUS.** We assess *L. bramwellii* as Endangered (EnB1ab(iii)) based on the criteria of the (IUCN 2001). Its area of occurrence is highly restricted (less than 100 km<sup>2</sup>) and it is known from fewer than five localities. This species was frequent to common where it did occur and the populations we observed were not under any obvious immediate threat. It would, however, be susceptible to habitat loss, demographic fluctuations and stochastic events.

**NOTES.** This is a striking species on account of the dark violet-blue spike (due to the coloured calyx and bracts) and the purple tinge to the upper third of the peduncle that contrasts with the fresh green leaves. The five bract veins are very

deep purple, almost black. Some individuals of *L. minutolii* var. *minutolii* also have coloured spikes but this is not consistent and the bracts of this species become brown and scarious at anthesis. The leaves of *L. bramwellii* are typically regularly pinnatisect and lack any secondary lobing (compared to the frequent secondary lobing in *L. canariensis*) and the lobes are widely spaced (regularly and closely spaced in *L. minutolii*). The indumentum is variable from  $\pm$  glabrous with sessile glandular hairs to an indumentum of sessile glandular and uncinata hairs (Fig. 1C) compared to the stalked glandular hairs of *L. canariensis* (Fig. 1B). A few specimens occasionally bear sparse highly branched hairs but lack the dense indumentum of highly branched hairs typical of *L. minutolii* var. *minutolii*. The bicoloured flowers are reminiscent of both *L. canariensis* and *L. minutolii*. Long-tongued bees were noted visiting the flowers. Flowers and fruits from January to March.

We name this species in honour of Dr David Bramwell. Collections of this species at JVC were initially referred to and determined on the sheets as *L. sp. nov.* (South) by us. This species was also previously collected by Kunkel (Herb. Kunkel 14025, 14755, 14793) who evidently recognised it as distinct, placing the note 'hybrid?' on the herbarium sheets.

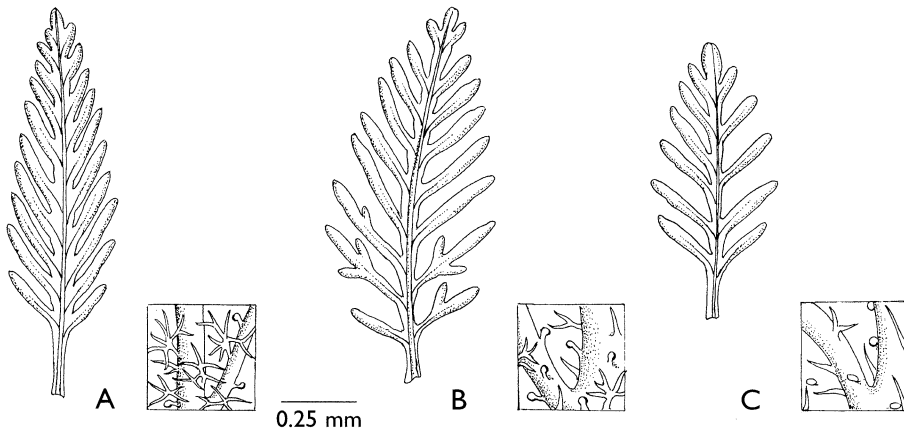


FIG. 1. Details of leaf outlines and indumentum for all three species of *Lavandula* from Gran Canaria **A** *L. minutolii* var. *minutolii*; **B** *L. canariensis*; **C** *L. bramwellii*. The leaves are shown at twice life size.

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