

The Canary Islands – La Palma in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 19 March 2020



Bolle's Pigeon



Atlantic Spotted Dolphin



Canary Bellflower



La Palma Lizard

Report a by Jessica Turner
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Summary

La Palma is one of the lesser known Canary Islands but offers a wealth of fascinating wildlife and endemic species and subspecies. It is the most green and lush of the islands but also has sparsely colonised lava and ash in the south of the island. This was Naturetrek's first visit to La Palma in spring and we managed a fascinating first half of the week before being locked down in our hotel, due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Before that, we were able to enjoy the verdant Laurel forests with great views of both Laurel and Bolle's Pigeons, leaping Atlantic Spotted Dolphins and numerous Cory's Shearwaters on our sunset boat trip out to the west, the volcanic south of the island, and the scrubby and partially cultivated valley of Juan Mayor on the east side. Even the period in our rooms was made more bearable by the hotel's coastal location. Although it was not the inaugural trip we had planned, we had a great introduction to 'La Isla Bonita'.

Day 1

Thursday 12th March

Fly to La Palma – Mirador de la Concepcion – Juan Mayor

Fourteen tour group members met with Chris at Gatwick's North Terminal for the 6am Tui flight to La Palma Airport. The flight landed on time and the group were soon being greeted by Jessica who was already on the island. We loaded the minibuses and drove the short distance to the hotel, where the check-in process was rather slow. Most people were not yet able to access their rooms, so we sorted ourselves out, stored bags and set out at about 12.30pm. It was another short drive to the Mirador de la Concepcion, a viewpoint overlooking the sea and Santa Cruz, the island's capital. Common Kestrels (western Canary Islands subspecies *canariensis*) were circling around, Atlantic Canary was singing, and we soon heard the characteristic calls of Red-billed Chough (subspecies *barbarus*, of the Canary Islands and NW. Africa), and we could see quite a number. Berthelot's Pipits were also seen by some. The La Palma subspecies of Western Canaries Lizard kept people entertained and included a very fine male with a pale-blue throat. Common Buzzard (Canary Islands subspecies *insularum*) and Canary Islands Chiffchaff were also seen. We enjoyed a delicious picnic seated on a wall, enjoying the warm sunshine as a wonderful change from a wet UK winter.

Replete, we wandered along a path for a brief introduction to some of the plants of the island. These included Canary Dock (*Rumex lunaria*), Canary Islands Candle Plant (*Kleinia neriifolia*), the La Palma-endemic succulent *Aeonium davidbramwellii* (David wrote several books on the flora of the Canaries), two La Palma-endemic Buglosses *Echium brevirame* (white flowers) and *E. webbii* (pale-blue flowers), and the related Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), which is widespread. There was the 'prickly' Prickly Pear (*Opuntia delini*) as well as the less prickly Barbary Fig / Prickly Pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), some of the latter with Cochineal Scale Insects, once a commercial source of dye. We also noted the La Palma Sow-thistle (*Sonchus palmensis*), shrubby with yellow flowers, Canary Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) and the Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*). A female Red-veined Darter dragonfly perched obligingly, so we could see her green and blue eyes, and a Vagrant Emperor did not stop. Small White, Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady and Long-tailed Blue butterflies were on the wing.

We then drove on to the access road to Juan Mayor, which heads up into the hills, bordered on one side by newly restored terraces and small fields and on the other by the barranco and wooded cliff. We walked slowly up the road, enjoying the wealth of birdsong, particularly from Blackcaps (subspecies *heineken*, of SW. Spain, Atlantic

Islands and NW. Africa), Canaries and Canary Island Chiffchaffs which were very vocal. We added the La Palma subspecies of Goldcrest (*ellenthalerae*), Blackbird (subspecies *cabreræ*, of the Canaries and Madeira) and Robin (same as the UK!). A Monarch glided past, showing well, and we also saw Canary Islands Large White, of the La Palma subspecies *benchoavensis*, La Palma Brimstone, Small Copper and Canary Speckled Wood. Plants here were a mixture of the familiar and the new, with Canary St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canariense*) and the La Palma Sow-thistles being particularly fine. We also found Tree Heath (*Erica arborea*), and the magenta Tangier Pea (*Lathyrus tingitanus*), the white vetch *Vicia cirrhosa*, Common and Opium Poppies (*Papaver rhoeas* and *P. somniferum* subsp. *setigerum*), *Jasminum odoratissimum* and Canary Island Sage (*Salvia canariensis*), with its purple-pink bracts and flowers, among a wealth of other species. Hare's-foot Fern (*Davallia canariensis*) was growing out of a wall.

With most feeling the effects of the very early start, we wandered gently back to the minibuses, with some having great views of a Monarch near the vehicles, and returned to the hotel, to settle in to our rooms with time to relax. A good number of Cory's Shearwaters and a few Manx Shearwaters could be seen out to sea. We met again at 7pm to do the checklists, before sitting down to an excellent meal. We soon retired to bed after a long day, but an interesting introduction to La Palma.

Day 2

Friday 13th March

Cubo de la Galga; Los Tilos; Mirador La Tosca

Some of those up early saw the Cory's Shearwaters offshore. After breakfast, with picnic makings on board, we headed north, round the back of Santa Cruz and along the east coast. Our destination today was the laurisilva, the ancient "Atlantic Rainforest" of the Canaries, kept moist by the trade-wind clouds. It was quite cloudy today but there were patches of silver on the sea when we stopped at a viewpoint. A tree here was Canary Laurel (*Apollonias barbujana*) on which we could see the characteristic galls produced by the spider mite *Eriophyes barbujana*.

We soon reached our first destination of Cubo de la Galga, and we were struck by the lush greenness of the area. We parked up and set off along the tarmac road, accompanied by a large white cockerel, who stayed with us until the path got steeper. The ubiquitous Canary Island Chiffchaffs all around, plus the La Palma subspecies of Common Chaffinch, showing their slate-blue backs. Blackcaps, Robins and Blackbirds were active, and we had glimpses of the La Palma subspecies of Goldcrest. However, our target bird species were the two endemic pigeons, Laurel Pigeon and Bolle's Pigeon. A few birds flew over and were hard to see, but one was spotted in a tree and, through the scopes we could see its head clearly and, at times, its characteristic white tail, showing it clearly as a Laurel Pigeon. Nine birds were seen in the course of the morning and we could hear their characteristic low cooing. The tall forest trees included the evergreen Azores Laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*) and *Persea indica*, with some Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) further up, still in winter bareness. Shrubs included Canary Island Guelder Rose (*Viburnum rigidum*) and the yellow-flowered *Genista stenopetalla*, plus magnificent La Palma Sow-thistles, and we enjoyed the pink-flowered daisy La Palma Cineraria (*Pericallis papyracea*). The white-flowered Mexican alien *Ageratina riparia* was abundant, more delicate than the related *Ageratina adenophora* which was also present, plus quantities of the naturalised Small-leaf Spiderwort (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), with a few starry white flowers. Other plants included the twiggy shrublet *Paronychia canariensis*, and Canary Island Mercury (*Mercurialis canariensis*), a recently described, annual Mercury, and the *Torilis*-like endemic *Cryptotaenia elegans*.

Further into the gorge, we started to hear and see Bolle's Pigeon and had amazing views of one perched in a tree at very close quarters, for at least five minutes. Ferns were on the damp gorge walls, with magnificent cascades of the enormous Chain Fern (*Woodwardia radicans*) and we also noted the smaller Kidney-leaved Fern (*Adiantum reniforme*) and Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*). Creepers included Canary Ivy (*Hedera canariensis*), Canary Smilax (*Smilax canariensis*) and the Butcher's-broom-like *Semele androgyna*, with flattened stems like leaves (cladodes). The La Palma-endemic *Aeonium goochiae*, with small succulent rosettes on thin, woody branches, was hanging off the cliffs. Butterflies were scarce with the cooler cloud, but we saw a Canary Islands Large White and a Canary Speckled Wood.

We then moved on a little further north, to Los Tilos, where there is a picnic area, a visitor centre and a bar. The road wound up into a steep-sided gorge, with walls of ferns. Here we enjoyed another delicious picnic, surrounded by fine male Chaffinches which were very tame. Canary Bellflower (*Canarina canariensis*) was magnificent by the centre, and Canary Elder (*Sambucus palmensis*) was in flower. After a coffee, we decided to take a short walk to a waterfall. This path wound along the side of a gorge, following a water channel and passing through tunnels carved through the cliff. On the cliff walls was abundant Mediterranean Clubmoss (*Selaginella denticulata*) plus more ferns. At the end, we emerged to a magnificent waterfall cascading down, in a setting which reminded us of tropical rainforests. Most of this water will have come from the regular clouds and is channelled for irrigation and water supplies for the dryer parts of the island. It was an amazing sight.

Back at the minibuses, we drove north to experience the north coast of the island, passing through the small town of Barlovento. We stopped at the Mirador La Tosca to admire some Dragon Trees (*Dracena draco*) which were much older than the buildings around them. This is an iconic species of the Canary Islands, now very rare except in La Palma. It was very windy here and rather cold and our visit was curtailed somewhat by the side-door handle coming off one of the minibuses, so we couldn't open it. Fortunately, the more mobile group members were able to climb in from the front or back, so we returned to the hotel and Jessica was able to exchange the vehicle with a minimum of fuss.

After a break, we met to discuss the day and enjoy another tasty meal before heading for bed.

Day 3

Saturday 14th March

San Antonio Volcano; Fuencaliente Salt-pans; Bodegas Teneguia; Sunset cruise

Those out early saw a Plain Swift and also recorded Iberian Chiffchaff and a Sardinian Warbler behind the car park. After breakfast, we headed to the south of the island. It was rather cloudy, but as usually happens on La Palma, the sky brightened as we drove south and east. Our first stop was the San Antonio volcano. The official entry and visitor centre were closed, but there was a path running in to the side which linked with the main one. We parked on the edge of the road, the only vehicles there, and had some lovely views of Berthelot's Pipits just over a wall. We wandered across some rough ground, pretty with low-growing Purple Viper's-bugloss, seeing the leaves of Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*), La Palma Savory (*Micromeria herpyllomorpha* subsp. *palmae*), some with a few pale-pink or white flowers, the Carlina Thistle *Carlina falcata*, found on La Palma and Tenerife, and more *Echium brevivrame*. Common Kestrel, Buzzard and more Pipits were seen, and Canaries heard distantly. We were able to walk halfway round the rim of the volcanic cone, which last erupted in 1677-8, looking down onto the scattered

Canary Pines within, and enjoying the extensive, but hazy views to the sea. On otherwise bare ground, we found two species of *Polycarpea*, *P. divaricata* with more rounded leaves, and *P. aristata* with narrow leaves, both having dense clusters of pink-beige flowers. There was also Common Stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*) and Narrow-leaved Forsskaolea (*Forsykaolea angustifolia*), at least one of which had twisted its leaves showing the dense white hairs on the underside, giving the whole plant a silvery appearance. A slender-stemmed multi-headed yellow dandelion-like plant near the minibuses was the Canary endemic *Tolpis laciniata*.

We then moved on to the lighthouse and salt-pans of Fuencaliente, winding our way gently down to sea level. En route, there were some impressive specimens of *Aeonium davidbramwellii*, and just before the car park, a Spectacled Warbler was glimpsed briefly. We enjoyed coffee looking out over the sea, and then explored. A Ruddy Turnstone perched just nearby and then flew over the restaurant into the salt-pans, where it joined a number of others in a couple of the pans. Also present were Common Ringed Plover and Common Sandpiper, while an excellent sighting was a Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail (subsp. *iberiae* of Western Yellow Wagtail) which appears to be a first record for the under-recorded island, although books say it is a not uncommon passage migrant to the Canary Islands. Plants included two which confusingly, share the same English name, Canary Samphire: *Astydamia latifolia*, rather like a dwarf version of the British plant Alexanders, and *Schizogyne sericea*, a bushy plant with grey, very thin leaves and yellow Groundsel-like flowers. There was also the Sea-heath *Frankenia ericifolia* subsp. *latifolia*. Spectacled Warbler was heard but remained elusive. Choughs were seen as we returned up to Fuencaliente.

Our next stop was at the Bodegas Teneguia, a winery where we were given a guided tour and the opportunity to taste some of their products, mainly made from the Malvasia (Malmsey) grape. Here we enjoyed the warmth when the sun shone on the sheltered corner of the courtyard, as the wind was otherwise rather cold; the warmth was also appreciated by a La Palma Lizard. Another nice natural history find here was an adult Barbary Spurge Hawkmoth, of the subspecies *phaelipae* endemic to the islands of La Palma and El Hierro and slightly different to those found in the other Canary Islands or North Africa, with the caterpillar only eating a couple of species of Spurge (*Euphorbia*). We had our slightly late lunch in the shelter of a picnic area above the town.

Refreshed, we then slowly made our way to Puerto de Tazacorte for our late-afternoon boat trip. We went via Puerto Naos and the coastal route, seeing Common Swifts, Raven and Buzzard overhead and stopping to photograph Banana flowers and fruit. A Monarch butterfly flew past. When we got to the port, we had time to wander a little before boarding the Fancy II. Fish in the harbour included Thick-lipped Grey Mullet, Zebra Sea Bream and a couple of Barracuda were glimpsed. Sally Lightfoot Crabs were on the harbour rocks as we left. We travelled north up the coast, the swell making the trip a little bumpy (but calm for the Atlantic!), stopping and going into the entrance of the Cueva Bonita, a very long cave where the water looked amazingly turquoise, and then by the tiny settlement, now of holiday homes, of Poris de Candelaria, tucked into a rocky inlet under the cliffs, accessible on foot or by boat.

We then turned further out to sea, having some fantastic close views of Cory's Shearwaters gliding around us, looking great in the late afternoon sun, and the leaders glimpsing a disappearing Great Skua. We soon encountered Atlantic Spotted Dolphins; it was hard to judge the numbers of these small, agile animals which dived around and under the boat, some being seen through the glass bottom of the vessel. We encountered several groups, probably about 100 of the 200 or so in the area – they were a wonderful sight, especially one which leapt clear of the water just by the boat, and those we were able to see right underneath us. Portuguese Men o' War were on the surface; these are not actually jellyfish but Siphonophores, colonial organisms which function as a whole. As we were

returning, two of the group spotted a Loggerhead Turtle, and later a single Bottlenose Dolphin was encountered. We returned to harbour as the sun was low in the sky and a very enjoyable trip.

To round off the day, we ate out at a restaurant on the port, seeing the golden light of sunset fade into darkness, and enjoying their delicious seafood and pizza. A Marbled Clover moth was on a window. Our journey home was across the centre of the island, where we realised it had been raining just above us in Tazacorte town, but not at sea level. We agreed it had been a long but excellent day.

Day 4

Sunday 15th March

Juan Mayor

After breakfast, some of the group gathered at 9am in the car park, to look for Spectacled Warbler and the Iberian Chiffchaff, neither of which were visible. Canary Islands Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Sardinian Warbler were noted, plus a creeper called *Bosea yervamora*, with clusters of berries. Today we began to really feel the effects of the Coronavirus restrictions. We were due to leave for our safari boat trip when we received a call to say that the police were closing the port so it would have to be cancelled. Public areas, tourist spots and visitor centres were already closed so we decided to try a return to the quiet country road of Juan Mayor we visited on the first afternoon, where the road becomes a track leading up into the hills. The lush green barranco was sunny and sheltered, as we enjoyed our picnic by the minibuses, sitting on low walls. Canaries were showing well, and Choughs, Kestrel and Buzzard were overhead.

As we wandered up the road, we managed excellent views of the La Palma subspecies of African Blue Tit: we could see its darker cap and other distinguishing plumage features. A La Palma Brimstone was seen here, while further on, we had great views of Canary Red Admiral nectaring on a Lantana (*Lantana camera*) bush. Canary Island Large Whites (*benchoavensis*), Canary Speckled Woods, Geranium Bronze, Bath White and Meadow Brown were other butterflies today, plus more Marbled Clover moths. We enjoyed good views of the underside of a resting Canary Speckled Wood, with its beautiful markings. We were also able to enjoy other insects, including Canary Flower Bees, White-banded Digger Bee, a weevil *Lixus brevisrostris*, a Drone-fly on a large-flowered Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota* subsp. *maximus*), and a fine nymph of Palma Green Bush-cricket.

As well as a selection of arable and waste ground weeds, most with a widespread distribution, such as Round-leaved Crane's-bill (*Geranium rotundifolium*), Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*), naturalised Garden Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*) and Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), with yellowish flowers, we found the creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* with tiny white flowers and forming berries, the small 'umbellifer' *Drusa glandulosa*, with spiny seed pods, the menthol-fragranced *Bystropogon origanifolium*, all Canary endemics and the much-branched *Aeonium arboreum* with dead flowerheads. Other plants included *Phagnalon saxatile*, with small 'dandelion-clock' seedheads, and Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), plus a line of planted Ombu (*Phytolacca dioica*), which look like trees but actually have soft wood. Further up, the path led to the edge of the laurisilva, with plenty of Tree Heath (*Erica arborea*) but also the evergreen Azores' Laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*) and Canary Laurel (*Apollonias barbujana*). Here we encountered, Wax Myrtle (*Myrica faya*) and Canary Holly (*Ilex canariensis*) with flowers and fruit, plus the cudweed-like *Laphangium* (*Gnaphalium luteoalbum*), and *Cyperus capitatus*. Birdlife had become very quiet here.

Group members wandered back down as they felt ready, gathering back at the minibuses, where we enjoyed afternoon refreshments. We were just finishing when a police car drove up and we were asked to return to the hotel, which we duly did. After a break, we met to discuss the situation and update our lists, after another excellent day. This evening we ate in pairs, at well-separated tables, rather than as a group.

Day 5

Monday 16th March

Hotel Taburiente

This morning restrictions were relatively relaxed within the hotel, with guests being able to enjoy the grounds and sun loungers. After breakfast, eaten separately again, we agreed to meet at 11am for updates. We were told that the Thursday Tui flight was expected to run as normal for returning visitors, so we would be in the hotel until then. A late-morning sea watch was very quiet, but later in the day, good numbers of Cory's Shearwaters were around. A confident Collared Dove, a Kestrel, Feral Pigeons and Yellow-legged Gulls completed the bird list, while a La Palma Lizard and Canary Bumble Bee were added. Restrictions were later tightened, and we were told that most of the hotel was out of bounds, and we should remain in our rooms apart from going to the restaurant for meals. Not able to have further picnics, we booked in for hotel lunches for the duration.

Today we had a group member's birthday, so our afternoon meet-up was in Chris's room, where we were able to celebrate with cake and drink up the wine and juice already bought for the picnic lunches.

Day 6

Tuesday 17th March

Hotel Taburiente

We met today at mealtimes, with group members visiting each other in the course of the day, but no collective gathering. With most of us having rooms facing the sea, but also the prevailing trade winds and accompanying showers, we basked in the sheltered, sunny courtyard outside the dining room as we waited for lunch! The species list was pretty much the same as yesterday's, with the lizard showing the fine pale-blue throat of an adult male. In the afternoon, a dolphin, probably Bottlenose Dolphin since it was close to the shore, was spotted from a balcony.

Day 7

Wednesday 18th March

Hotel Taburiente

Again today, there was plenty of time to sort photographs, sea watch from rather chilly balconies, read and generally relax, with a few venturing to the supermarket for exercise. We saw each other at mealtimes (sitting in pairs in an increasingly empty restaurant). We had a gathering in the afternoon, to finalise arrangements for our departure and celebrate a somewhat strange but memorable trip.

Day 8

Thursday 19th March

Home!

With the notice that the hotel would be closing, and flights being cancelled or labelled as rescue flights, we arrived at the airport in good time, to try to beat the expected crowds. Most of the group were on the 11.25am Tui flight, with two on an Easyjet flight, having had to cancel their proposed extension. Jessica and Chris, who had been expecting to be in La Palma for another week, were fortunate to get standby tickets for the Gatwick departure. The flight was smooth and Gatwick airport very quiet, so we were soon saying our goodbyes and heading off home.

Jessica and Chris would like to thank the group for their interest, spotting skills, good humour and patience during a week that was not quite as we'd intended! We were fortunate in managing some great wildlife during the first half of the tour and we hope to see you again on future occasions.

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African Blue Tit

Species Lists

	Common name	Scientific name	March								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Our tour checklist follows the names and taxonomy, including species order, of the International Ornithological Congress list of the birds of the world (version 10.1, Jan 2020) which seems destined to become the global standard in future. The species included are based on those thought most likely to be recorded together with what has been seen on previous tours										
	* = Near Endemic Species (also occurring on Madeira & Azores)										
	** = Endemic Species										
1	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			X						
2	Plain Swift *	<i>Apus unicolor</i>			X						
3	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia feral</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4	Bolle's Pigeon**	<i>Columba bollii</i>		4							
5	Laurel Pigeon**	<i>Columba junoniae</i>		9							
6	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			X						
8	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			X						
9	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			X						
10	Yellow-legged Gull (C.Is. & Atlantic Is*)	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			X						
12	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			LO						
13	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	LO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
14	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	LO								
15	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>			X						
16	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X		X					
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			X		LO				
18	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>		X		LO					
19	Common Buzzard (C.Is. & Azores*)	<i>Buteo buteo insularum</i>	X	X	X	X					
20	Common Kestrel (w. Ca**)	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
21	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus</i>	X	X	X	X				LO	
22	Northern Raven (C.Is.**)	<i>Corvus corax canariensis</i>			X						
23	African Blue Tit (La Palma**)	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae palmae</i>				X					
24	Canary Islands Chiffchaff**	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>	X	X	X	X	H	H	H		
25	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>			X						
26	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heikenen</i>	X	X	X	X	H	H	H		
27	Spectacled Warbler (C.Is, Mad & CV*)	<i>Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis</i>			X						
28	Sardinian Warbler (C.Is.**)	<i>Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra</i>	H	H	X	X					
29	Goldcrest (La Palma & El Hierro**)	<i>Regulus regulus ellenthalerae</i>	X	X							
30	Common Blackbird (C.Is. & Mad*)	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>	X	X	X	X					
31	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	X	X							
32	Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>			1						

		March									
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33	Berthelot's Pipit*	<i>Anthus berthelotii berthelotii</i>	X		X						
34	Common Chaffinch (La Palma**)	<i>Fringilla coelebs palmae</i>		X							
35	Atlantic Canary*	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	X	X	X	X					

Plants

	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
	* = Atlantic Islands endemic			
	** = Canary Islands endemic			
	*** = Single Island endemic			
	[] = Introduced or planted			
Please Note: Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two institutions.				
	PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES		
	<i>Lycophytes</i>	Clubmosses & Quillworts		
1	Sellaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family		
2	<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	2	Los Tilos
3				
4	Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns		
5	Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family		
6	<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Irish Spleenwort	2	Cuba de la Galga
7				
8	Blechnaceae	Hard Fern Family		
9	<i>Woodwardia radicans*</i>	Chain Fern	2	Laurel forest
10				
11	Davalliaceae	Hare's-foot Fern Family		
12	<i>Davallia canariensis*</i>	Hare's-foot Fern	1	Juan Mayor
13				
14	Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family		
15	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	1	Juan Mayor
16				
17	Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family		
18	<i>Polypodium macaronesticum</i>	Macaronesian Polypody	4	Juan Mayor
19				
20	Pteridaceae	Ribbon-fern Family		
21	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	2	Los Tilos
22	<i>Adiantum reniforme*</i>	Kidney-leaved Fern	2	Los Tilos
23	<i>Paraceterach (Notholaena) marantae</i>	-	3	San Antonio volcano

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24				
25	GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS		
26	Pinaceae	Pine Family		
27	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> **	Canary Islands Pine	1	Widespread
28				
29	ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS		
30	Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms		
31	Lauraceae	Laurel Family		
32	<i>Apollonias barbujana</i> *	Canary Laurel	2	Mirador / Laurel Forest
33	<i>Laurus novocanariensis</i> *	Azores Laurel	2	Laurel forest
34	<i>Ocotea fotens</i> *	Stinkwood	2	Laurel forest
35	<i>Persea indica</i> *		2	Laurel forest
36				
37	Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons		
38	Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family		
39	<i>Sambucus palmensis</i> **	-	2	Los Tilos
40	<i>Viburnum rigidum</i> **	Canary Island Guelder Rose	2	Cuba de la Galga
41				
42	Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family		
43	<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	Dewplant	5	Hotel
44				
45	Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae)	Goosefoot Family		
46	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Coach-whip	1	Juan Mayor
47	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	Green Amaranth	4	Juan Mayor
48	<i>Bosea yervamora</i> **	Bosea	4	Near hotel
49	<i>Patellifolia procumbens</i> *	-	4	Near hotel
50				
51	Apiaceae	Carrot Family		
52	<i>Astydamia latifolia</i>	Canary Samphire	3	Fuencaliente salt-pans / hotel
53	<i>Cryptotaenia elegans</i> **		2	Cuba de la Galga
54	<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>maximus</i>	Wild Carrot	1	Juan Mayor
55	<i>Drusa glandulosa</i>	-	4	Juan Mayor
56	<i>Ferula linkii</i> **		4	Juan Mayor (dead stems)
57	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
58	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Parsley	4	Juan Mayor
59	<i>Todaroa aurea</i> **	-	2	Roadside in north
60				
61	Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family		
62	<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	1	Juan Mayor
63				
64	Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
65	<i>Ilex canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Holly	4	Juan Mayor
66				
67	Araliaceae	Ivy Family		

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68	<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Canary Ivy	2	Laurel forest
69				
70	Boraginaceae	Borage Family		
71	<i>Echium brevirame</i> ***		1	Scattered in dry places
72	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	1	Scattered in dry places
73	<i>Echium webbii</i> ***	La Palma Viper's-bugloss	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
74	<i>Myosotis latifolia</i>	Broad-leaved Forget-me-Not	2	Cubo de la Galga
75				
76	Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family		
77	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	1	Juan Mayor
78	<i>Crambe santosii</i> ***		2	Cubo de la Galga
79	<i>Lobularia canariensis</i> *	Canary Islands Alison	3	San Antonio volcano
80	<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London Rocket	4	Juan Mayor
81				
82	Cactaceae	Cactus Family		
83	[<i>Opuntia dellinii</i>]	-	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
84	[<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>]	Barbary Fig/ Prickly Pear	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
85				
86	Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
87	<i>Canarina canariensis</i> **	Canary Bellflower	2	Los Tilos
88				
89	Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family		
90	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2	Mirador La Tosca
91				
92	Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family		
93	<i>Paronychia canariensis</i> **	-	2	Cubo de la Galga
94	<i>Polycarpea aristata</i>		3	S. Antonio volcano (thinner lvs)
95	<i>Polycarpaea divaricata</i> **		3	San Antonio volcano
96	<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	1	Juan Mayor
97	<i>Silene vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>commutata</i>	Bladder Campion	1	Juan Mayor
98				
99	Casuarinaceae	Sheoak Family		
100	[<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>]	-	5	Hotel
101				
102	Cistaceae	Cistus Family		
103	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	2	Mirador La Tosca
104	<i>Cistus symphytifolius</i> **	Canary Cistus	4	Juan Mayor
105				
106	Commelinaceae	Spiderwort Family		
107	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Small-leaf Spiderwort	2	Cubo de la Galga
108				
109	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family		
110	<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	-	1	Widely scattered
111	<i>Ageratina ripara</i>		1	Widely scattered (damper areas)

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112	<i>Argyranthemum haouarytheum</i> ***	La Palma Daisy	3	San Antonio volcano
113	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i> agg. **	Paris Daisy	3	Near hotel
114	<i>Argyranthemum webbii</i> ***	-		
115	<i>Artemisia thuscula</i> (<i>A. canariensis</i>)**	-	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
116	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Bur Marigold	1	Common weed
117	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	1	Juan Mayor
118	<i>Carduus clavulatus</i>	-	4	Juan Mayor
119	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender Thistle	4	Juan Mayor
120	<i>Carlina falcata</i> **	Canary Carlina Thistle	3	San Antonio volcano
121	<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Argentine Fleabane	4	Juan Mayor
122	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican Fleabane	4	Juan Mayor
123	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	1	Juan Mayor
124	<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	Shaggy-soldier	1	Juan Mayor
125	<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i> **	Canary Islands Candle Plant	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
126	<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey Cudweed	4	Juan Mayor
127	<i>Pericallis papyracea</i> ***	La Palma Cineraria	2	Scattered in damper areas
128	<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	A Phagnalon	4	Juan Mayor
129	<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>	-	3	San Antonio volcano
130	<i>Schizogyne sericea</i> *	Canary Samphire	3	Fuencaliente salt-pans / hotel
131	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	4	Juan Mayor
132	<i>Sonchus palmensis</i> ***	La Palma Sow-thistle	1	Scattered, esp. in damper areas
133	<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	Tolpis	4	Near hotel
134				
135	Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
136	<i>Convolvulus floridus</i> **	Canary Tree Bindweed	2	Roadside in north
137	<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Common Morning Glory	1	Juan Mayor
138				
139	Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
140	<i>Aeonium arboreum</i> var. <i>holochrysum</i> **	-	4	Juan Mayor
141	<i>Aeonium davidbramwellii</i> ***		1	Scattered mainly in south
142	<i>Aeonium goochiae</i> ***		2	Cubo de la Galga
143	<i>Aichryson laxum</i> **	Annual Houseleek	1	Juan Mayor
144	<i>Aichryson pachycaulon</i> **		2	Los Tilos
145	<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>		1	Juan Mayor
146				
147	Ericaceae	Heather Family		
148	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	1	Juan Mayor
149				
150	Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
151	<i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Cactus-spurge	2	Dry hillsides
152	<i>Euphorbia (broussonetii) lamarckii</i> **	-	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
153	<i>Mercurialis canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Mercury	2	Cubo de la Galga
154	[<i>Ricinus communis</i>]	Castor Oil Plant	1	Juan Mayor

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155				
156	Fagaceae	Beech Family		
157	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	2	Cubo de la Galga
158				
159	Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family		
160	<i>Frankenia ericifolia</i> subsp. <i>latifolia</i> *	a Sea Heath	3	Fuencaliente salt-pans / hotel
161				
162	Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
163	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	3	San Antonio volcano
164	<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	1	Juan Mayor
165	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	2	Cubo de la Galga
166	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	1	Juan Mayor
167	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	2	Cubo de la Galga
168				
169	Hypericaceae	St.John's-wort Family		
170	<i>Hypericum canariensis</i> *	Canary St.John's-wort	1	Juan Mayor
171	<i>Hypericum grandifolium</i> *		2	Cubo de la Galga
172	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St.John's-wort	4	Juan Mayor
173				
174	Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family		
175	<i>Bystropogon origanifolius</i> **	-	4	Juan Mayor
176	<i>Micromeria herpyllomorpha</i> ssp. <i>palmensis</i> ***	La Palma Savory	3	San Antonio volcano
177	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	4	Juan Mayor
178	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	2	Cubo de la Galga
179	<i>Salvia canariensis</i>	Canary Island Sage	1	Juan Mayor
180	<i>Stachys ocymastrum</i>	-	4	Juan Mayor
181				
182	Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family		
183	<i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i> **	Sticky Broom	4	Juan Mayor
184	<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	1	Juan Mayor
185	<i>Genista (Teline) stenopetala</i> **	-	2	Cubo de la Galga
186	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>	Yellow Pea	4	Juan Mayor
187	<i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i>	Tangier Pea	1	Juan Mayor
188	<i>Lotus hillebrandii</i> **	La Palma Bird's-foot Trefoil	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
189	<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	2	Cubo de la Galga
190	<i>Retama rhodorhizoides</i> **	Canarian White Broom	3	Road to Fuencaliente
191	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	4	Juan Mayor
192	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	4	Juan Mayor
193	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	1	Juan Mayor
194	<i>Vicia cirrhosa</i>	Cream Vetch	1	Juan Mayor
195	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Pea	4	Juan Mayor
196				
197	Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
198	<i>Malva multiflora (Lavatera cretica)</i>	Cretan Mallow	4	Juan Mayor

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199	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Least Mallow	4	Juan Mayor
200				
201	Moraceae	Fig Family		
202	[<i>Ficus carica</i>]	Common Fig	1	Juan Mayor
203				
204	Myricaceae	Sweet Gale Family		
205	<i>Myrica faya</i>	Wax Myrtle	4	Juan Mayor
206				
207	Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family		
208	[<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>]	Bougainvillea	1	Roadsides
209				
210	Oleaceae	Olive Family		
211	<i>Jasminum odoratissimum</i> *	a Jasmine	1	Juan Mayor
212				
213	Onagraceae	Willowherb Family		
214	<i>Oenothera rosea</i>	Rose Evening-primrose	1	Juan Mayor
215				
216	Oxalidaceae	Wood Sorrel Family		
217	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	1	Juan Mayor
218				
219	Papaveraceae	Poppy Family		
220	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Mexican Prickly Poppy	3	Near Hotel
221	<i>Eschscholzia californicum</i>	Californian Poppy	3	Roadsides
222	<i>Fumaria montana</i>	A Fumitory	1	Juan Mayor
223	<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	Common Ramping Fumitory	2	Cubo de la Galga
224	<i>Glacium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	3	San Antonio volcano
225	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	1	Juan Mayor
226	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> subsp. <i>setigerum</i>	Opium Poppy	1	Juan Mayor
227				
228	Phytolaccaceae	Pokeweed Family		
229	[<i>Phytolacca dioica</i>]	Ombu	4	Juan Major
230				
231	Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
232	<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-tail Plantain	1	Juan Mayor
233				
234	Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family		
235	<i>Limonium pectinatum</i> *	Dwarf Sea Lavender	4	Near Hotel
236				
237	Polygonaceae	Dock Family		
238	<i>Rumex lunaria</i> **	Canary Dock	1	Widespread
239	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	4	Juan Mayor
240				
241	Primulaceae	Primrose Family		
242	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	4	Juan Mayor

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243	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> var. <i>caerulea</i>	Blue Scarlet Pimpernel	1	Juan Mayor
244				
245	Rosaceae	Rose Family		
246	<i>Bencomia exstipulata</i> **	-	4	Juan Mayor
247	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	-	1	Juan Mayor
248	<i>Sanguisorba megacarpa</i>	a Burnet	4	Juan Mayor
249				
250	Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
251	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	1	Juan Mayor
252	<i>Galium scabrum</i>		4	Juan Mayor
253	<i>Phyllis nobla</i> *	Capitana	2	Cubo de la Galga
254	<i>Rubia agostinhoi</i> **	A Madder	2	Cubo de la Galga
255	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	4	Juan Mayor
256				
257	Salicaceae	Willow Family		
258	<i>Salix canariensis</i> *	Canary Willow	2	Cubo de la Galga
259				
260	Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
261	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thornapple	3	San Antonio volcano (fruit)
262	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	4	Near Hotel
263	<i>Solanum villosum</i>	A Black Nightshade	1	Juan Mayor
264				
265	Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family		
266	<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Tamarisk	4	Near Hotel
267				
268	Tropaeolaceae	Nasturtium Family		
269	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden Nasturtium	1	Juan Mayor
270				
271	Urticaceae	Nettle Family		
272	<i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i> **	Narrow-leaved Forskaolea	3	San Antonio volcano
273	<i>Gesnouinia arborea</i> **	Tree Pellitory	2	Cubo de la Galga
274				
275	Verbenaceae	Verbena Family		
276	[<i>Lantana camera</i>]	Lantana	1	Juan Mayor
277				
278	Monocots	Monocotyledons		
279	Arecaceae	Palm Family		
280	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> **	Canary Palm	1	Widespread
281	[<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>]	Date Palm	1	Widespread
282				
283	Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family		
284	[<i>Agave americana</i>]	Century Plant	1	Widespread
285	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>		4	Juan Mayor
286	<i>Dracaena draco</i>	Dragon Tree	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
287	<i>Semele androgyna</i>	-	2	Cubo de la Galga

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288				
289	Cyperaceae	Sedge Family		
290	<i>Cyperus capitatus</i>	a Galingale	4	Juan Mayor
291				
292	Juncaceae	Rush Family		
293	<i>Luzula elegans</i>	Elegant Woodrush	4	Juan Mayor
294				
295	Poaceae	Grass Family		
296	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Great Reed	2	Cubo de la Galga
297	<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	4	Juan Mayor
298	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain Grass	1	Mirador de la Concepcion
299	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	2	Cubo de la Galga
300				
301	Smilacaceae	Smilax Family		
302	<i>Smilax canariensis</i> **	Canary Smilax	2	Cubo de la Galga
303				
304	LICHENS:			
305	<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>	Lungwort Lichen	2	Cubo de la Galga

Invertebrates

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Butterflies:									
1	C. Islands Large White (La P)**	<i>Pieris cheiranthi benchoavensis</i>	X	X		X				
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	X	X	X	X				
3	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>				X				
4	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colius crocea</i>	X							
5	La Palma Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx palmae</i>	X			X				
6	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	X							
7	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	X							
8	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>				X	X			
9	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	X			X				
10	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				X				
11	Canary Red Admiral*	<i>Vanessa vulcania</i>	X		X					
12	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				X				
13	Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphioides</i>	X	X		X				
14										
15	Moths:									
16	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	LO							
17	Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles tithymali phaelipae</i>			X					
18	Marbled Clover	<i>Heliothis viriplaca</i>			X	X				
19										
20	Other Invertebrates:									
21	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>			X	X				

22	Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>	X			X												
23	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	X			X												
24	Palma Green Bush-cricket**	<i>Calliphona palmensis</i>				X												
25	A Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Acrotylus insubricus</i>	X			X												
26	American Cockroach	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>											X					
27	A Black-and red Bug	<i>Spilostethus pandurus</i>				X												
28	Coccineal Scale Insect	<i>Dactylopius coccus</i>	X			X												
29	Drone-fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>				X												
30	Endemic Hoverfly	<i>Chrysotoxum triarquatatum</i>				X												
31	Canary Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus canariensis</i>	X	X		X												
32	Large Garden Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus ruderatus</i>	X															
33	a Bee	<i>Eucera lanuginosa canariensis</i>	X															
34	Canary Flower Bee	<i>Anthophora alluaudi</i>				X												
35	White-banded Digger Bee	<i>Amegilla quadrifasciata</i>	X			X												
36	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	X	X		X												
37	A Weevil	<i>Lixus brevirostris</i>				X												
38	Millipede sp.					X												
39	Tropical Tent Web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>	X	X		X												
40	Gall mite of Apollonias	<i>Eriophyes barbujana</i>				S												
41	A Sally Lightfoot Crab	<i>Grapsus adscensionis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
42	Portuguese Man o' War	<i>Physalia physalis</i>				X												
	** = Endemic																	
	* = Near Endemic																	
	LO = Leader Only																	
	S = Signs																	
	D = Dead																	

Other groups

			March							
	Common name	Scientific name	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Mammals:									
1	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			X			X		
2	Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>			X					
3	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>		D	D			X		
	Amphibians & Reptiles:									
1	La Palma Lizard	<i>Gallotia galloti palmae</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>			X					
	Fish:									
1	Ornate (Peacock) Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma pavo</i>			LO					
2	Thick-lipped Grey Mullet	<i>Chelon labrosus</i>			X					
3	Zebra Sea Bream	<i>Diplodus cervinus</i>			X					
4	Barracuda sp.	<i>Sphyaena sp.</i>			LO					
5	Island Grouper	<i>Mycteroperca fusca</i>			?					