



### ***Silene galica* Small-flowered Catchfly**

A variable annual species that is upright in habit to about 25 cm. Flowers are white or pink and arranged along one side of the stalk. The flower petals may be notched or rounded. Found growing in cultivated or dry sandy ground and trackside's.

**Native to:** All Europe except the north.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow.



### ***Phytolacca acinos* American Pokeweed**

A very vigorous and robust plant to 2 m. Perennial with very thick ribbed but hollow stems that are reddish in colour. Flowers borne in upright, cylindrical spikes up to 10 cm in length. The fruit is a berry-like carpel that is red to black when ripe. A red dye is obtained from the fruit.

**Native to:** North America

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area, rare in the Quinta.



Photo by Dr. Peter Scott

### ***Serapias parviflora* Small-flowered Serapias**

The small-flowered Serapias is distinguished by its small red flowers to about 2 cm in length. The lip is about the same length as the helmet if but a little longer and brick-red in colour, while the helmet is a reddish violet. The Serapias are an orchid species.

**Native:** Mediterranean Region.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area.



### ***Orobanche purpurea* Purple Broomrape**

The purple broomrape is distinguished from others by its purple flowers flushed with yellow at their bases. These florets are borne in a relaxed cylindrical or rounded hairy spike. A single plant is a short stout stem that is not branched.

It is parasitic on *Achillea*, *Artemisia*, and *Cirsium*.

**Native:** Most of Europe

**Location in the Quinta:** The north side of the main driveway



Photo by Dr. Peter Scott

### ***Orobanche crenata* Crested Broomrape**

*O. crenata* is a short, stout plant with white flowers and dark purple veins on the florets. The plant is less hairy than *O. ramosa* and *O. purpurea* and has linear leaves than are quite dense towards the base of the plant. It is usually found in large numbers parasitizing leguminous plants.

**Native to:** All Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow.



### ***Orobanche ramosa* Branched Broomrape**

The flower spikes of *O. ramosa* are a pale blue to pink -white, in a lax, multi-flowered spike that usually has several lateral spikes arising from the base as the above image indicates. It is parasitic on hemp, potato, tomato and tobacco etc (predominantly members of the *Solanaceae* family).

**Native to:** Most of Europe except Northern Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** The lower meadow.



### ***Papaver rhoeas***

### **Corn Poppy**

A poppy with small blooms, 3-7 cm across, typically scarlet with hairs on the stem pointing outwards along the flower stems. Leaves pinnate, typically once or twice so with a coarse toothed margin and acute apex. Quite variable in form. Found on cultivated ground and waste land. The plant is poisonous to livestock and the petals were once used to make red ink.

**Native to:** All Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area, common.



### ***Papaver apulum***

### **Dare Eyed Poppy**

A variable plant, to about 40 cm in height. Leaves are usually 1-2 per plant and pinnate. The flowers can be quite variable with or without the dark centre with the eye edged in white. The plant is not quite as bristly as *P. rhoeas* and *P. hybridum* with which it may be confused, however the blooms are quite large.

**Native to:** Southern Mediterranean Region.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area.



### *Mesembrianthemum sp.* Sea Fig

The species has been widely hybridized with several forms found on the Quinta grounds. The plant is again featured on page 40. The sea fig is a close relative of the Hotentot Fig which is found along the coast and is considered an invasive species.

**Native to:** South Africa.

**Location in the Quinta:** In planter boxes around the Quinta buildings.



### *Lotus berthelotii*\* Parrot's Beak

Now extinct in the wild, and classified as exceedingly rare as early as 1884 it is an example of a plant conserved in gardens. Pollinated by birds, of which there are no such pollinators in the Canary Islands today most likely contributed to its demise. It is a trailing plant with feathery silver foliage and orange/red blooms 2-5 cm long and 6-8 mm across.

**Native to:** Canary Islands.

**Location in the Quinta:** In planter boxes around the Quinta buildings.



### *Cuphea ignea* Cigarette Plant

A plant that forms a rounded plant to about 50 cm in height with the lanceolate foliage often carrying a slight purple tinge that may be personified under water stress. The flowers are borne terminally, generally in clusters of 2-7; tube like to about 2-3 cm in length. *C. ignea* is cultivated as an annual since it will flower throughout the season; there are many developed cultivars grown as I am sure the one is above.

**Native:** Portugal to Yugoslavia.

**Location in the Quinta:** Flower bed above the fire pit.



### *Montbretia sp.* Montbretia

A resilient, tough plant *Montbretia* is found throughout Europe where it has escaped from gardens. A tender geophyte it thrives in warm climates and leans soils. Flowers are typically orange, but have been hybridized in yellow and red as well. It has become a naturalized plant in Southern England and spreads though both seed and bulbs.

**Native:** South Africa.

**Location in the Quinta:** South of the main drive approaching the main Quinta buildings, seen in several large clumps.

***Hermerocallis hybrida*****Daylily**

A common plant that has undergone extensive hybridizing. Lush grass like foliage is superintended by blooms in the orange, red and yellow spectrum. Depending on parentage the blooms may be single or double flowered. The flowers last for a day, but the plant may repeatedly bloom for several weeks. Very hardy due in large part to its fleshy tubers.

**Native to:** Europe, China, Korea and Japan.

**Location in the Quinta:** North of the main drive close to main house.

***Arundo donax*****Giant Reed**

A massive plant exceeding 3 m in height, at a glance resembling bamboo. A vigorous colonizer due to its large penetrating shoots and dense growth. Foliage is strap like, light blue in colour, acutely pointed, ribbon like to 1 m.

The stems are harvested to make the reeds for musical instruments.

**Native to:** Mediterranean Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** The north edge of the lower meadow.

***Avena sterilis*****Animated Oat**

To about 1m, a dense forming sward with nodding inflorescence and long stiff, drooping spikelets. The spikelets contain 3-4 florets, sharply pointed with the lower ones having long, silky hairs. Foliage is thin, ribbon like, somewhat stiff and green veined. The axis below the lower floret has a tuft of hairs. It is called Animated Oats since it seems to be always moving, even in the slightest breeze.

**Native to:** Mediterranean Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area.

***Briza maxima*****Large Quaking Grass**

To about 30 cm tall, leaf blade flat and about 5-7 mm wide and is somewhat rough to the touch. The inflorescence is a panicle that is somewhat pendulous originally green, turning to pale purple as the fruit matures. These triangular glumes are variable in size, up to 1 cm across and quite attractive as they move in the wind. The plant is frequently grown as an annual ornamental. The plants in the Quinta are variable in size since some seem to suffer from drought stress thus producing smaller plants.

**Native to:** Most of Europe

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area.



### ***Cymbopogon citratus* Lemongrass**

A popular Asian culinary plant, the thick lower stems are used to season soups and stock. Lemongrass is a coarse grass to about 75 cm, with many hairs on the foliage. The plant is very rough textured, however the leaves are keenly edged and it is easy to cut oneself while harvesting it. Typically tinged pink at the tips this may be personified under drought stress.

**Native to:** Southeast Asia.

**Location in the Quinta:** Immediately west of the service sheds.



### **Unknown Grass Unknown**

This plant is found throughout the Quinta forming large patches to about 75 cm in height. It appears viviparous.

**Native to:** ?

**Location in the Quinta:** Edges of the lower meadow area.



### ***Cyperus papyrus* Papyrus**

A member of the sedge family this plant is grown as an ornamental in the Mediterranean area usually beside ponds and streams. It reaches a height of about 2 m if moisture is sufficient. Its triangular stems are topped by long, flat, strap-like leaves arranged in a whorl resembling an umbrella. The florets are then produced originating from the center of this umbrella arrangement. It was used by the Egyptians to make paper (*papyrus*).

**Native:** Middle East, dominant in Egypt.

**Location in the Quinta:** North east corner of the service sheds.



### ***Chlorophytum comosum* 'Vittatum' Spider Plant**

A plant that is familiar to most of us a common house plant. Used in milder climates as a groundcover it is a vigorous, drought tolerant plant due to its ability to produce runners and small plantlets and its fleshy tubers that store reserves during drought. Flowers are somewhat insignificant against the variegated foliage but are typically white and about 5 mm across.

**Native:** South Africa.

**Location in the Quinta:** Along the front of Ben's house.



### *Plantago lagopus* Hare's Foot Plantain

The cotton-like, ovoid flower heads make *P. lagopus* easily distinguishable from its cousins listed on this page. From 10-30 cm tall it is one of the smaller plantains with thin, 3-5 ribbed or veined, strap-like leaves that are either hairy or hairless. It is an annual and is found in light sandy soils, on waysides, uncultivated ground and fields.

**Native to:** Mediterranean Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Lower meadow area.



### *Plantago lanceolata* Ribwort Plantain

Easily distinguished by its narrow lanceolate, coarsely ribbed leaves it is also one of the more vigorous plantains in foliage spread with individual leaves to 15 cm long. The solitary flower spike is quite unique in that it is ovoid to cylindrical with the corolla being beige-brown and the bracts a clear yellow fading to beige and briefly persisting after pollination.

**Native to:** All Europe

**Location in the Quinta:** Widely distributed throughout the Quinta.



### *Plantago maritima* Sea plantain

A glaucous, often dull-leaved perennial with a tough, resilient woody base. The flower spikes are quite tough and are difficult to remove from the plant, they are beige-brown and 4-14 cm in length. The leaves are very narrow to linear to about 6 mm wide and very faintly veined, and sporadically dissected into 3 to 5 shallow lobes, resembling a coarse saw blade. *P. maritima* is often found growing in salt marshes and dry, rock ground.

**Native to:** All Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Around the edges of the driveways and edges of buildings throughout the Quinta.



### *Mercurialis perennis* Dog's Mercury

A vigorous, leafy perennial common to shade and most soil conditions it spreads vigorously, almost to the exclusion of other plants by its underground stolons. The flowers are inconspicuous and green, on male plants the flowers are in interrupted spikes to about 5 cm in length while in female plants the flowers are found in long stemmed clusters of 1-3. Leaves are shiny, almost metallic looking, distinctly veined, short stalked and serrate. The plant is both poisonous to humans and livestock.

**Native to:** All Europe, common in England and in particular Stannar Woods opposite the University of Sussex.

**Location in the Quinta:** Along the edges of the eroded valley.



***Mercurialis annua***                      **Annual Mercury**

Similar to *M. perennis* but an annual form lacking stolons. A many branched, short, stout plant to 50 cm. The flowers are similar in character to Dog's mercury with male and female flowers on separate plants. Leaves are a dull yellowish-green and almost hairless, coarsely serrate and slightly reflexed.

**Native to:** Most of Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** East side of the Quinta buildings, in shade.



***Urtica dioica***                              **Stinging Nettle**

A plant that is familiar to most of us, the stinging nettle is wide spread throughout most of Europe. Variable in height depending on growing conditions it is found in hedgerows, fallow land and waysides. Male and female flowers are found on separate plants, the plant pictured above with the drooping catkin-like flower spikes is male.

**Native to:** Throughout Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Along the edges of the lower meadow.



***Parietaria judaica***                      **Pellitory of the Wall**

A relative of the stinging nettle (upper right). A much branched somewhat creeping perennial, with stems and foliage being slightly hairy. The stems are often red, while the leaves are a dull green and deeply veined with an acute apex. Flowers are very small, greenish-red, and hermaphrodite, with yellow stamens, they are found in clusters at the base of the leaves.

**Native:** Southern and Western Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Along the edges of the eroded valley.



***Rumex acetosa***                              **Common Sorrel**

A variable perennial frequently found in grassy meadows and waysides. The leaves are acutely pointed, with the basal lobes of the leaves pointing backwards and the upper ones encircling or partially so the stem. The flowers, a dull green to reddish-brown, are formed on spikes, sparsely or not at all branched. Male and female flowers are found on separate plants. The young leaves may be eaten in salads.

**Native:** Common throughout Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Along the edges of the lower meadow.



### Unknown herb

### Unknown

We suspect this plant to be either a *Solidago* or *Senecio*, Identification will be confirmed on a future visit to the Quinta.

**Native to:** ?

**Location in the Quinta:** Edge of the patio on the east side of the main house.



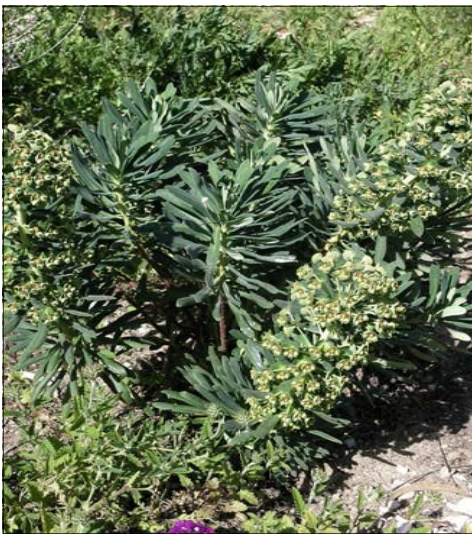
### *Euphorbia pepulus*

### Petty Spurge

A much branched, floppy, low growing annual to about 30 cm in height. The flowers of Petty Spurge have a distinct half-moon shape with long slender horns. Generally in umbels with three rays per umbel with a pale yellow green character to them. Occurs commonly through cultivated ground, fields, gardens waste ground and waysides.

**Native to:** All Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Throughout the Quinta.



### *Euphorbia characias*

### Large

### Mediterranean Spurge

To 1m or more is one of the more attractive spurges with its dark-reddish purple glands and short thick rounded horns. The leaves are lanceolate and are found towards the top of the flower stem with many leaf scars below. All *Euphorbia* species excrete a white latex sap when cut or if a leaf is removed; this may cause an allergic reaction in some individuals if the sap comes into contact with the skin.

**Native to:** Mediterranean Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Center planting bed above the fire pit.



### *Arum italicum*

### Italian Arum

An unusual plant in that it is rare to see the flower with foliage or the fruiting spike with leaves. A geophyte of shade and woodlands, it first produces sagittate shaped leaves of a dull, leathery texture to about 20 cm in length in the summer, these leaves then wither and the plant flowers. The flower is a yellow spadix surrounded by a yellow spathe (*A. maculatum*, common in England has a yellow spathe and a brown spadix). The flower if pollinated, then sets fruit, usually a cluster of orange-red berries, and as these fade in autumn new leaves emerge and persist over the winter. The sap may prove to be an irritant to some people

**Native to:** Mediterranean and Western Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Macchia thicket, leaves present in March.



**Unknown herb****Unknown**

Identification will be confirmed on a future visit to the Quinta.

**Native to:** ?

**Location in the Quinta:** Planting bed in front of Armin's house.

**Foeniculum vulgare****Fennel**

Fennel has very delicate leaves resembling that of ferns, to about 2m in height it is easily identified by its strong smell and anise taste to the foliage. Flowers are umbels to about 5-8 cm across and are composed of sulphur-yellow flowers that are individually 2-3 mm in size. The leaves are eatable as are the fruit.

**Native to:** Mediterranean Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** West of the macchia thicket.

**Asplenium adiantum-nigrum**  
**Spleenwort****Black**

A common fern throughout much of Europe, found growing in hedges, rocky ground and woods, The leaves are usually 2-3-pinnate and triangular in outline. The petiole is as long as the leaf blade with small dark scales at the base. It is called black spleenwort in reference to the underside of the leaves that are 'black' with spores.

**Native:** Throughout Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Macchia thicket under the *Pinus pinea*, along the edge of the pathway to the lower meadow.

**Minuartia hybrida**      **Fine-leaved Sandwort**

A low growing plant to about 4 cm, often found in dry, lean soils such as that found between pavement cracks. Leaves are needle-like, to about 10mm in length and often covered with sticky hairs on the upper surface. Flowers are 6mm across, white to pale pink-beige, with the petals being slightly shorter than the sepals.

**Native:** South and West Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** Around the Quinta buildings.



***Umbilicus rupestris*\***      **Wall Pennywort,  
Navelwort**

Usually with erect, unbranched stems to about 40 cm in height. The flowers are whitish-green to pink and are held on a slender flower spike. Leaves are orbicular, 2-7 cm across and are thick and fleshy, held rigidly.

**Native to:** Mediterranean Europe.

**Location in the Quinta:** East side of main house, upper steps.



***Tillandsia sp.*\***      **Air Plant**

An epiphytic plant, Air Plants attach themselves to trees in the jungles and live of the water and nutrients that run down the trunk. They are not parasitic. Flowers are quite attractive, a pendulous spike with florets ranging from orange to purple depending on the species. The individual plants are monocarpic.

**Native to:** South America.

**Location in the Quinta:** In a tree at the front of the main Quinta bldg.



***Agave americana* 'Variegata' \***      **Variegated  
Agave**

Sometimes listed as *A. americana* 'Marginata', they are one and the same, although confusion is further enhanced by listing an *A. americana* with white margins under the same names. A robust, large plant to about 3 m in height and equal in spread. Unmistakable because of its large, sharply pointed and barbed fleshy leaves that are over 1 m in length. Extremely drought tolerant its relative *A. tequila* is used to make Tequila.

**Native to:** Southern North America to Mexico.

**Location in the Quinta:** In front of the main residence.



***Aloe saponaria*\***      **Soap Aloe**

The Soap Aloe is a plant that can be used as a substitute for soap, the leaves are crushed and added to warm water. Forming a basal rosette of leaves, spotted brown or white with toothed margins the Soap Aloe can grow to about 30 cm. Flowers are borne on short spike, to 40 cm, with one or several clusters of tubular, orange nodding florets.

**Native to:** South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

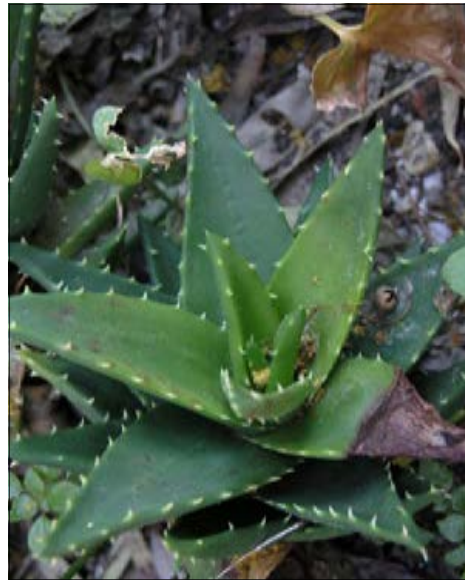
**Location in the Quinta:** Along the north edge of the main drive, just east of the Quinta buildings.

***Aloe arborescens*\*****Krantz Aloe**

The Krantz Aloe has the third largest distribution of the Aloes and readily hybridizes with other species. A succulent plant with large rosettes of foliage, individual stems can reach heights of 1.5 m. Flower spikes are slender, to about 50 cm and covered at the terminus of the spike with tubular, orange coloured florets.

**Native to:** South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

**Location in the Quinta:** North side of the main drive near Quinta bldgs.

***Aloe sp.*\*****Unknown Aloe**

Identification will be confirmed on a future visit to the Quinta.

**Native to:** ?

**Location in the Quinta:** Along the north edge of the main drive, just east of the Quinta buildings.

***Opuntia ficus-indica*\*****Indian Fig Opuntia**

A valuable economic plant the Indian Fig Opuntia has a multitude of uses. The fruit, which is grown commercially is often called tuna. Young stems can be eaten as a vegetable while it has also been used as a waterproofing agent in adobe construction. Growing to about 2 m it is a sexually promiscuous plant hence variation in species is evident. It is one of the most efficient plants in converting water to biomass.

**Native to:** South America, although naturalized throughout most of the arid world.

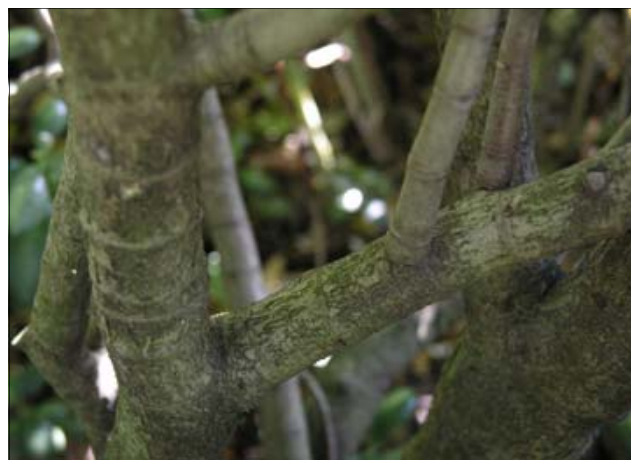
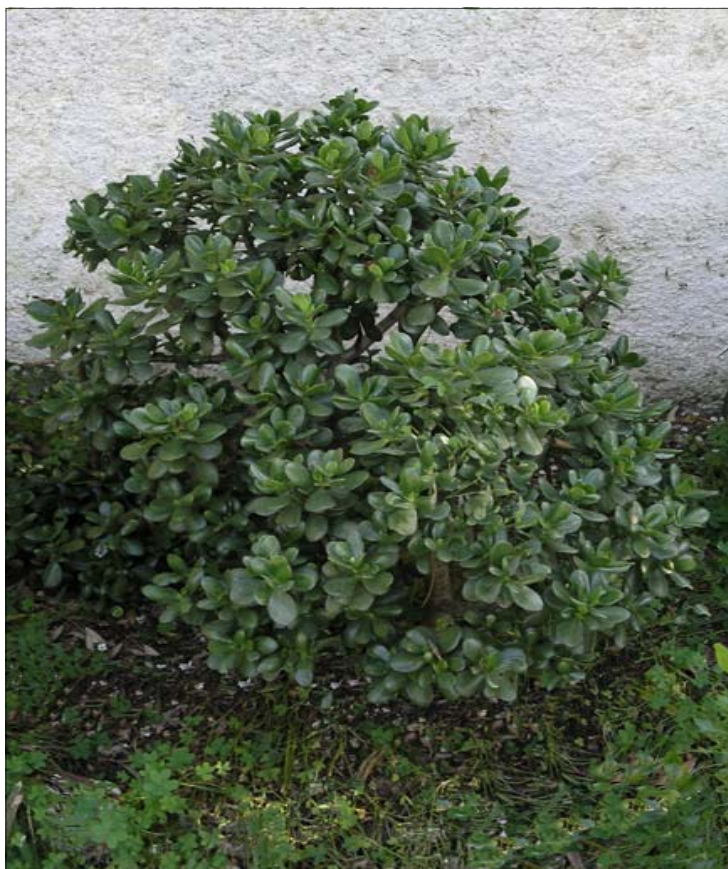
**Location in the Quinta:** In front of the main residence.

***Cereus uruguayensis*\*****Hedge or****Peruvian Cactus**

An unusual climber in that it is a cactus. Producing long, solitary stems, light spined that produce aerial roots to assist in adhesion. Often found growing amongst other plants which it needs for support. It flowers at night, flowered are white to pink. This plant is again listed in the vine section of this manual; page 24.

**Native to:** Southern Brazil, Uruguay and Northeastern Argentina.

**Location in the Quinta:** On the south wall, south of the main drive about 50 m east of Ben's house.

***Crassula argenta*****Jade Plant**

A succulent that is often seen in cultivation in the windows of Chinese restaurants, being a sign of good luck. It is recognized by its spatulate leaves that are very thick and fleshy. It can be propagated easily by rooting a leaf in the soil.

This plant was previously included in the shrub section (page 17) but is also featured here as a succulent.

**Native to:** South Africa.

**Location in the Quinta:** South side of the drive at the front gate and the south east corner of the main house just off the patio.



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