



FRAUDULENT CAVALIER

Love swindler gained €9,000

In the second week of January, Guardia Civil officers arrested a 23-year-old man at Morro Jable in Fuerteventura.

He had a previous criminal record and is suspected of having cheated on two women from Tenerife through 'love fraud' thus gaining €9,000. The fraudulent gentleman did the same in both cases. First he con-

tacted the victims via social networks such as Instagram and Badoo. He pretended to live in Fuerteventura for professional reasons and to have come from a rich family who allegedly lived in the Balearic Islands. After he had gained the trust of the women, he suggested a meeting. He visited one woman in Tenerife, and the

other flew to Fuerteventura, thus strengthening the relationships even more. After the personal meetings, he began to ask the women for money. In doing so, he gave various flimsy reasons including family shortages, a robbery or loss of his wallet. He had the money transferred to his friends' bank accounts. After several such transfers

had been made, with which he gained a total of €9,000, the two women became suspicious. Both refused to make further payments, whereupon the contact broke off immediately. As a result, they both filed a complaint last November. On the basis of their description it was possible for the police to identify and arrest the perpetrator. ■

ENDEMIC PLANT SPECIES RECOVERED

Environmental commitment in La Palma

For about nine years now, the Environmental Protection Agency in La Palma has been working to recover two endemic botanic species that only exist on the island and were severely threatened with extinction.

These are the Firebill (*Lotus pyranthus*) and the Fire Horn Clover (*Lotus eremiticus*). Recently, Councillor for the Environment Juan Manuel González was able to announce that they had succeeded in spreading the plants further and regenerating the population. In April



last year, a first example was discovered in a fenced experimental field at Lomo de la



↑ The fire horn clover (*Lotus eremiticus*) tastes good to sheep, goats and rabbits

← Hikers who want to photograph the Firebill (*Lotus pyranthus*) should be aware of its specialness and not crush it

Monja near Santa Cruz de La Palma, and in November the fire horn clover bloomed again in Roque de la Viña and Villa de Garafía. The ambitious project began in 2009 when protected areas were established in which around 1,500 specimens of both species were sown and planted. The first

examples of these successes are now visible. "The result gives us hope that we can recover this species and that it will be able to spread naturally if we eliminate the primary threat to it," explained biologist Félix Manuel Medina, who is responsible for the project. The dangers are predators such as goats, sheep or rabbits. The pretty plants are ground cover specimens that delight the eye with their bright red flowers and at the same time protect the soil from erosion and dehydration. ■

AN EXPENSIVE FISHING TRIP

Illegal fishermen reported

Guardia Civil officers have caught ten men who were in the process of fishing illegally whilst apnea diving.

They were found at locations such as on the coast of Los Silos at Punta de Teno in Buenavista, Playa de Apio in Valle Guerra and Caleta de Jover in Tejina. A total of 28 kilograms of squid and ten kilograms of fish were confiscated. The men have committed several minor and serious offences. Among other things, they exceeded the private quota, had no licence or caught their prey in closed seasons or protected areas.

They also ignored their own safety by not marking the place where they dived. A total of 26 different complaints were issued. Minor offences can be punished with a warning or a fine of between €60 and €300. A fine of up to €60,000 can be imposed for serious offences. The confiscated catches are given to social kitchens. ■



Photos: Guardia Civil

↑ Illegal squid captured by an apnea diver
↓ Ten kilograms of illegally caught fish were confiscated



YOUNG MUSICIANS ON TOUR

Candelaria group on China trip

Three young musicians from Candelaria, Susana Rodríguez, Marianne Melián and Damián Martín, who belong to the Joven Orquesta de Canarias (Jocan), experienced last Christmas in a very special way.

They were invited to give around a dozen concerts in various Chinese cities, and on New Year's Eve they provided musical accompaniment, which was oriented to the taste of their Chinese hosts. Mayor María Concepción Brito congratulated the young musicians on their enthusiasm for music and their dedication. ■

