# Cataloguing the Plant Diversity of the Flora Malesiana Region

Daniel C. Thomas



#### **Article**

## New Guinea has the world's richest island flora

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New Guinea is the world's largest tropical island and has fascinated naturalists for centuries<sup>1,2</sup>. Home to some of the best-preserved ecosystems on the planet<sup>3</sup> and to intact ecological gradients—from mangroves to tropical alpine grasslands—that are unmatched in the Asia-Pacific region<sup>4,5</sup>, it is a globally recognized centre of biological and cultural diversity<sup>6,7</sup>. So far, however, there has been no attempt to critically catalogue the entire vascular plant diversity of New Guinea. Here we present the first, to our knowledge, expert-verified checklist of the vascular plants of mainland New Guinea and surrounding islands. Our publicly available checklist includes 13 634



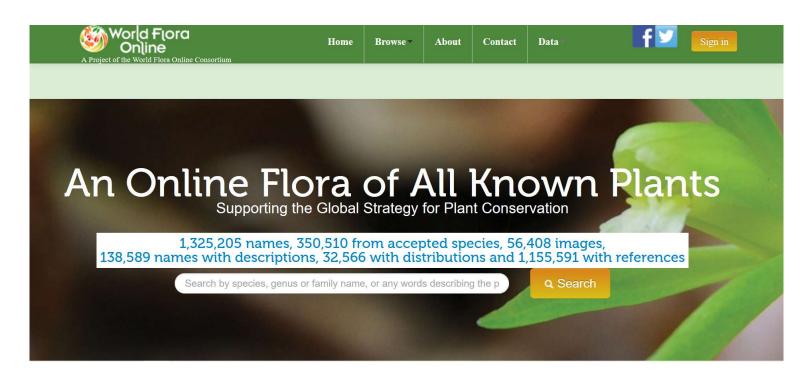
### Amazon plant diversity revealed by a taxonomically verified species list

Domingos Cardoso<sup>a,1,2</sup>, Tiina Särkinen<sup>b,1</sup>, Sara Alexander<sup>c</sup>, André M. Amorim<sup>d</sup>, Volker Bittrich<sup>e</sup>, Marcela Celis<sup>f,g</sup>, Douglas C. Daly<sup>h</sup>, Pedro Fiaschi<sup>i</sup>, Vicki A. Funk<sup>c</sup>, Leandro L. Giacomin<sup>j</sup>, Renato Goldenberg<sup>k</sup>, Gustavo Heiden<sup>l</sup>, João Iganci<sup>m</sup>, Carol L. Kelloff<sup>c</sup>, Sandra Knapp<sup>n</sup>, Haroldo Cavalcante de Lima<sup>o</sup>, Anderson F. P. Machado<sup>p</sup>, Rubens Manoel dos Santos<sup>q</sup>, Renato Mello-Silva<sup>r</sup>, Fabián A. Michelangeli<sup>h</sup>, John Mitchell<sup>h</sup>, Peter Moonlight<sup>b</sup>, Pedro Luís Rodrigues de Moraes<sup>s</sup>, Scott A. Mori<sup>h</sup>, Teonildes Sacramento Nunes<sup>p</sup>, Terry D. Pennington<sup>t</sup>, José Rubens Pirani<sup>r</sup>, Ghillean T. Prance<sup>t</sup>, Luciano Paganucci de Queiroz<sup>p</sup>, Alessandro Rapini<sup>p</sup>, Ricarda Riina<sup>u</sup>, Carlos Alberto Vargas Rincon<sup>v</sup>, Nádia Roque<sup>a</sup>, Gustavo Shimizu<sup>w</sup>, Marcos Sobral<sup>x</sup>, João Renato Stehmann<sup>y</sup>, Warren D. Stevens<sup>z</sup>, Charlotte M. Taylor<sup>z</sup>, Marcelo Trovó<sup>aa</sup>, Cássio van den Berg<sup>p</sup>, Henk van der Werff<sup>z</sup>, Pedro Lage Viana<sup>bb</sup>, Charles E. Zartman<sup>cc</sup>, and Rafaela Campostrini Forzza<sup>o</sup>



- Conservation Planning
- Red List Assessments
- Identification of new regional species records
- Identification of new species
- Accuracy of biogeographical studies, ecological studies ...

 Discrepancy between opportunistically compiled data and expert-verified data



 Discrepancy between opportunistically compiled data and expert-verified data

#### Flora of New Guinea

15723 spp. (Joyce et al., 2020)

13634 spp. (Camara-Leret et al., 2020)

13073 spp. (POWO, 2021) > 1714 spp. were identified as synonyms or non-native species

 Discrepancy between opportunistically compiled data and expert-verified data

#### **Orchids of New Guinea**

3037 spp. (Joyce et al., 2020)

2859 spp. (Camara-Leret et al., 2020)

2806 spp. (POWO, 2021)



 Discrepancy between opportunistically compiled data and expert-verified data

### Begoniaceae

1999 spp. (Begonia Resource

Center, 2021)

1892 spp. (POWO, 2021)

1808 spp. (WFO, 2021)



- Discrepancy between opportunistically compiled data and expert-verified data
- Sources of discrepancy

Underlying data

Synonymy

Non-native species

Erroneous presence/absence data

Delay between publication and inclusion in database

Taxa in the 'grey literature'

Substantial impact on downstream analyses

## Biodiversity hotspots house most undiscovered plant species

Lucas N. Joppa<sup>a,b,c</sup>, David L. Roberts<sup>b,c</sup>, Norman Myers<sup>d,1</sup>, and Stuart L. Pimm<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Microsoft Research, Cambridge CB3 0FB, United Kingdom; <sup>b</sup>Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, School of Anthropology and <sup>0</sup> University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NR, United Kingdom; <sup>c</sup>Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew TW9 3AB, United Kingdom; <sup>d</sup>Green College, Oxfo Oxford OX2 6HG, United Kingdom; and <sup>e</sup>Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708

Contributed by Norman Myers, June 10, 2011 (sent for review April 6, 2011)

For most organisms, the number of described species considerably underestimates how many exist. This is itself a problem and causes secondary complications given present high rates of species extinction. Known numbers of flowering plants form the basis of biodiversity "hotspots"—places where high levels of endemism and habitat loss coincide to produce high extinction rates. How different would conservation priorities be if the catalog were complete? Approximately 15% more species of flowering plant are likely still undiscovered. They are almost certainly rare, and depending on where they live, suffer high risks of extinction from habitat loss and global climate disruption. By using a model that incorporates taxonomic effort over time, regions predicted to contain large numbers of undiscovered species are already conservation priorities. Our results leave global conservation priorities more or less intact, but suggest considerably higher levels of species imperilment than previously acknowledged.

relative priorities change as taxonomists comple Will new priorities become apparent? Are the mi places where they are likely to be threatened, and discover them before they become extinct?

#### **Estimating Missing Species**

The original hotspots of Myers et al. (6) were number of vascular plants endemic to a region an regional habitat destruction. Currently, there are ~350,000 species of vascular plants, of which 96% plants (14). Working with only flowering plants, the vast majority of vascular plants, therefore our analysis in regard to the original impleme hotspots idea.

Estimates of the numbers of missing species enco problems. First, taxonomists inadvertently give dif

- Substantial impact on downstream analyses
- Joppa et al. (2011)

Relatively small number of undiscovered species in SE Asian biodiversity hotspots?

Floras of some tropical biodiversity hotspots very well known (e.g. New Guinea, the Philippines, Sulawesi, Sumatra)?

### Cataloguing the Plant Diversity of Malesia

# Checklist of the vascular flora of the Sunda-Sahul Convergence Zone

Elizabeth M. Joyce<sup>‡,§,I</sup>, Kevin R. Thiele<sup>¶</sup>, Ferry J.W. Slik<sup>#</sup>, Darren M. Crayn<sup>‡,§,I</sup>

- ‡ Australian Tropical Herbarium, James Cook University, Cairns, 4870, Australia
- § College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University, Cairns, 4870, Australia
- Centre for Tropical Environmental Sustainability Science, James Cook University, Cairns, 4870, Australia
- ¶ School of Biological Sciences, The University of Western Australia, Crawley, 6009, Australia
- # Faculty of Science, Department of Environmental and Life Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Gadong BE1410, Brunei

### Crucial first step in cataloguing the Malesian plant diversity

### **Next Steps**

- Implementation in dynamic, updatable framework
- Taxonomic specialist input
- Presentation of data online

# Checklist of the vascular flora of the Sunda-Sahul Convergence Zone

Elizabeth M. Joyce<sup>‡,§,I</sup>, Kevin R. Thiele<sup>¶</sup>, Ferry J.W. Slik<sup>#</sup>, Darren M. Crayn<sup>‡,§,I</sup>

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- ¶ School of Biological Sciences, The University of Western Australia, Crawley, 6009, Australia
- # Faculty of Science, Department of Environmental and Life Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Gadong BE1410, Brunei

### Steering Committee

Approach, development and implementation

Time-delimited partial goals

Funding proposals

 Institutional support from Singapore Botanic Gardens

**Source Integration** 

Published checklists POWO

Taxon databases

'Grey literature' and others



Editor Software
Expert input



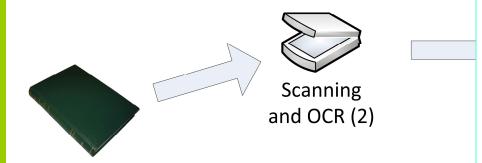
**Database Backbone** 



Dynamic Webpages

**Taxon Pages** 

Checklist



Printed Flora
Malesiana
volume (1) Hamann et al. 2014. D
semi-monographic lega
using FlorML. Taxor

Pior Malesian

Wiscon

FM e-Flora (EDIT CDMbased) (8)



Final correction of XML (7)

[...]

<feature class="description">
 Perennial, monoecious herb [...]
 </feature>

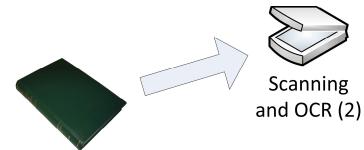
<feature class="distribution">
 Indonesia: Sumatra, Java, Lesser
 Sunda Isles (Bali), Sulawesi [...]
 </feature>

<feature class="habitat">

This species grows in the herb layer or on wet rock walls in lowland and upland primary rainforest [...]

</feature>

[...]









Printed Flora Malesiana volume (1)

e-FM Portal

Clean-up (MS Word)



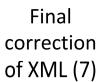
http://dev.etaxonomy.eu/dataportal/flora-malesiana/



FM e-Flora (EDIT CDMbased) (8)









Mark-up scripts (6)

text (3)



Clean-up scripts (5)

**Source Integration** 

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Expert input



**Database Backbone** 



Dynamic Webpages

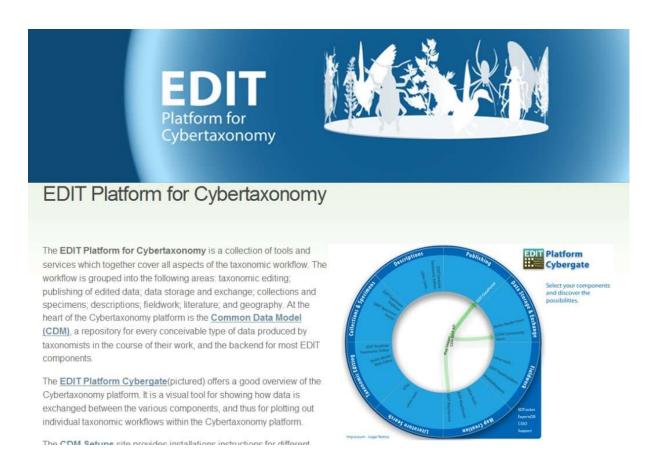
**Taxon Pages** 

Checklist

- Source integration and name resolution
- Database backbone
- Dynamically generated websites
- Dynamic links to other data sources
- Expert review of contents & annotation system
- Framework for remote collaboration and data management

- o Feasibility?
- Ouplication of work?
- o Importance in the wider FM framework?

# Database backbones + dynamically linked websites



### BGBM, Berlin

http://wp5.e-taxonomy.eu/



#### Sulawesi Begonia

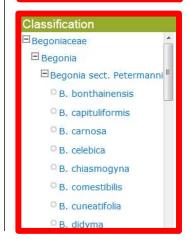
- 1 Leaves palmately compound
- 1' Leaves simple, sometimes lobed or pinnatisect

\*nob

Misapplied names

Search
Advanced Search

Identification Key
Polytomous
Sulawesi Begonia



2 Robust plants up to c.100 cm in height; moderately to densely hairy on all above-ground vegetative parts; female inflorescence 2-flowered; pedicel of the fruits long (16-19 mm); wings of the fruits unequal with one wing much larger than the other two

Begonia insueta D.C.Thomas & Ardi in Edinburgh J. Bot. 68(2): 230.
2011

2

3

4

2' Small, delicate plants, to c.40 cm in height; glabrous except for microscopic glandular hairs; female flowers solitary; pedicels of the fruits very short (c.1 mm); wings of the fruits subequal

Begonia rachmatii Tebbitt in Edinburgh J. Bot. 61(2-3): 101. 2005

3 Leaves pinnatisect to bipinnatisect

Begonia humilicaulis Irmsch. in Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 50(4): 356. 1914

- 3' Leaves entire or when lobed then maximally halfway to the midrib
- Leaves peltate (although a few leaves, especially the subtending leaves of the inflorescences, sometimes with basifixed laminas) 5
- Leaf laminas basifixed 7



#### Begonia Resources

Southeast Asian Begonia Database

User login

Haarmama

Perennial, monoecious herb, with erect stems, to c.25 cm tall, glabrous except for a sparse indumentum of microscopic, glandular trichomes, or sometimes exhibiting a sparse indumentum of multicellular, simple trichomes up to c.0.5 mm long on all above-ground vegetative parts. Stems branched; internodes c.2-7 cm long, reddish to brownish.

Leaves alternate; stipules caducous, 8-14 × 4-7 mm, ovate or oblong, with an

\*nob

Misapplied names

Search

Advanced Search

Identification Key

Sulawesi Begonia

Classification

Polytomous

**⊞** Begoniaceae

B. nobmanniae

Begonia Resources

Southeast Asian Begonia Database

User login

1-----

Begonia i Bot. 68(2):

General

Back to search

Content

Original Publicat
Diagnosis
Description
Habitat
Conservation
Distribution
Etymology
Notes
Molecular Syste

Original F

Bibliography

http://dx.d

Diagnosis

Begoniae infloresce est. A ha mm) diffe 03°18'51 (holo E; i

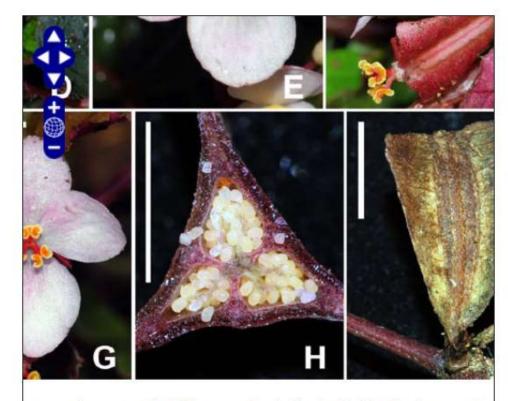
Description

Perennial sparse in sparse in above-gr to brown

Leaves a

Photo plate (© Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh/Edinburgh Journal of Botany)

Back to Images



onia nobmanniae D.C.Thomas & Ardi. A, habit; B, leaves; C, E, male flowers; F, female inflorescence; G, female flower, front view three-locular with axile, bilamellate placentae; I, fruit. A–I: D.C. Thomas Cale bars: B = 4 cm; C = 6 mm; D = 5 cm; E = 12 mm; F, G = 1

Photo plate (© Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh/Edinburgh Journal of Botany)



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*reni	
Misappli	ied names
Search	

#### Identification Key

#### Polytomous

Sulawesi Begonia

#### Classification

**⊞** Begoniaceae

B. aptera

#### Begonia aptera Blume, Enum. Pl. Javae 1: 97. 1827

General Synonymy Images Specimens

#### Back to search result

Begonia aptera Blume, Enum. Pl. Javae 1: 97. 1827

- Diploclinium apterum (Blume) Miq., Fl. Ned. Ind. 1(1): 691. 1856
   Lectotype (designated by Hughes, M. 2008)<sup>1</sup>: Indonesia, Sulawesi: Sulawesi: Tondano, Anon. s.n. (L Herb. Lugd. Bat. 898194-39).
  - 1. An annotated checklist of Southeast Asian Begonia. 2008
- = Begonia renifolia Irmsch. in Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 50(4): 379. 1913

Holotype: Indonesia, Sulawesi: Sulawesi: Minahassa: Bojong, Wallich, N. 15188 (B).

- = Begonia cristata Warb. ex L.B.Sm. & Wassh. in Phytologia 52(7): 442. 1983
  - Begonia cristata Warb. ex Koord. in Nutuurw. Tijdschr. Ned.-Indie 63: 90.
     1904, nom. nud.

Lectotype (designated by Smith, L.B. & Wasshausen, D.C. 1983)<sup>2</sup>: Indonesia, Sulawesi: Sulawesi: Minahassa: Tomohon, 4.1894, Sarasin, K.F. & Sarasin, P.B. 288 (K).

2. Smith, L.B. & Wasshausen, D.C., Notes on Begoniaceae in Phytologia 52. 1983

#### Distribution

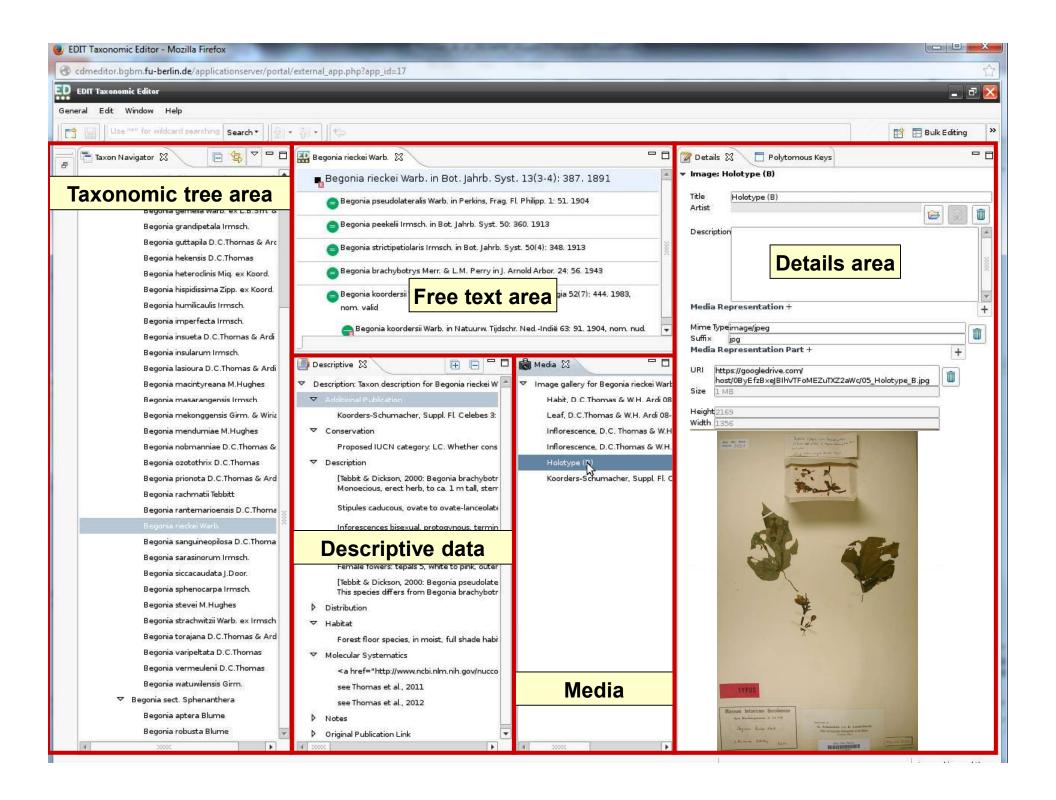


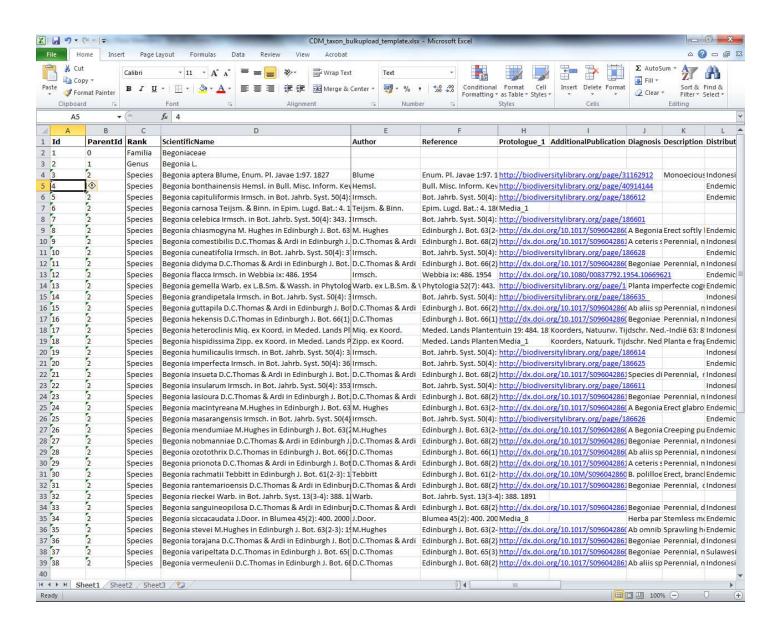
Asia-Tropical: Maluku; New Guinea (Irian Jaya ); Sulawesi.

Indonesia: Sulawesi, Maluku, and New Guinea.

Widespread on Sulawesi (all provinces), but apparently absent from Sulawesi Selatan south of the Latimojong mountains.

See specimen tab for map of point distribution data of georeferenced specimens.





### .csv files

**Source Integration** 

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Taxon databases

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Editor Software
Expert input



**Database Backbone** 



Dynamic Webpages

**Taxon Pages** 

Checklist

- Feasible? Absolutely!
- Duplication of work? Some, but...
- o Importance in the wider FM framework?

Volume 24 - 2020

Cornaceae - 2



#### Series I - Seed Plants

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