

The Floristic Inventory of the Madidi Region: An Introduction

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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The Madidi Project is a collaboration between the Bolivian National Herbarium, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Royal Botanic Garden in Madrid (Spain), the Department of Systematic Botany, Aarhus University (Denmark), and the Noel Kempff Mercado of Natural History in Santa Cruz (Bolivia). Its goal is to make a floristic inventory of the Madidi Region.

The National Park of Madidi and the Madidi Integrated Management Area were established thanks to the persistence of the scientist involved in the Rapid Assessment Project's first report¹. It has since then been promoted as one of the most important protected areas in the world due to the immense biodiversity found there². The Madidi parks shares borders with the Indigenous Biosphere Reserve Pilón Lajas and the Apolobamba Integrated Management Area, these three reserves forms together with their surrounding buffer zones the area we call the Madidi Region with an area of 94.533 km².

The Madidi Region is considered an area of the highest conservation priority by the Global 200 Ecoregions³ and by the Biodiversity Hotspot⁴ initiative where it is a central part of the Vilcabamba–Amboro corridor. The geomorphological differences and the impressive climatic gradients found in the area makes it possible for an area of less than 10% of the Bolivian territory to house more than half the species found in the country⁵.

The project has been financed by various sources the National Science Foundation (DEB-0101775), the Taylor family donations, the National Geographic Society (Grants #7754-04 and #8047-06), and the Davidson family.

The objectives of the project were to increase the botanical knowledge of the area through general collecting and building research capacity in Bolivia through the education of students in field techniques, taxonomy, and ecology.



Map of the Madidi Region with indication of the protected areas.



Localities of quantitative and qualitative inventories within the Madidi Region.

All collection data is permanently stored in TROPICOS (Missouri Botanical Garden's database) and the National Herbarium's database. The database of permanent and non-permanent plots it's housed by SALVIAS at the University of Arizona a portal to numerous plots studies throughout the world. In addition the permanent plots are incorporated in the RAINFOR initiative for Andean permanent plots.





Localities of collection points within the Madidi Region

The project has employed 11 investigators, 21 students, and 35 volunteers. The project has published 43 publications, and 12 thesis reports.

Literature cited

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