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Data integration Flora of the Guianas and Flora of Suriname: *Campylopus* pilot study

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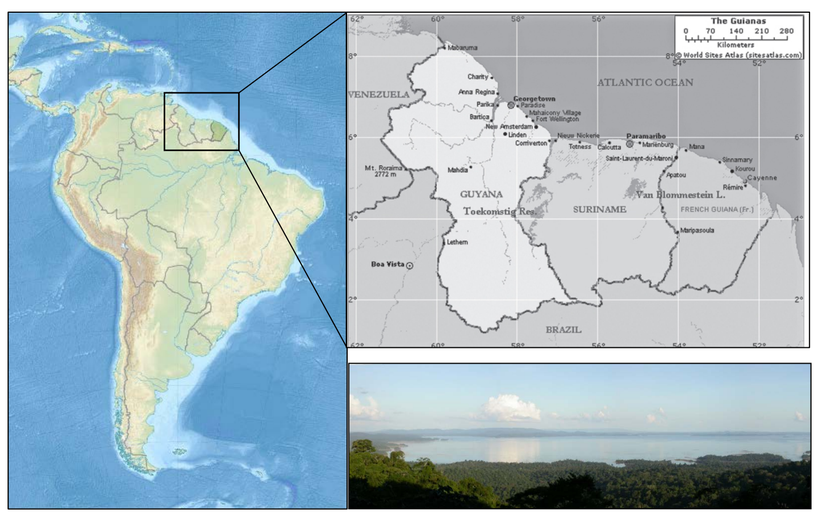
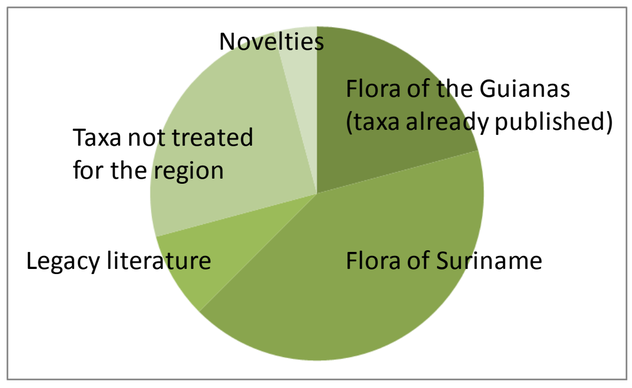
The region

The three countries forming the Guianas - Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana - have more than 80% of their political territories covered by pristine Amazon forest, ca. 50 million ha. It is estimated that between 15.000 and 18.000 plant species occur in the area. Biodiversity is approached at the extremes of both fundamental and applied research. While new plant species are still being described, the forest is already part of a business model: the Low Carbon Development Strategy, in Guyana, attracts international funding and investments in the form of payments for avoided deforestation.



The Floras

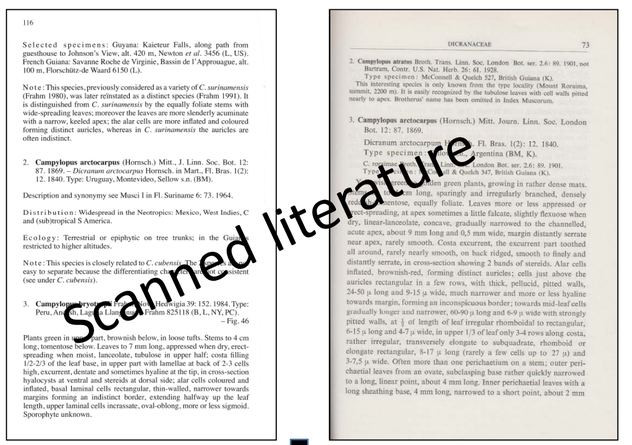
The Flora of the Guianas Programme was created in the 1980s as a follow up of Flora of Suriname, to generate and publish accurate taxonomic data of plant species occurring in the Guianas, by collecting, identifying, cataloguing and describing plant specimens. Currently, the published fascicles of the Flora of the Guianas cover around 25% of the species occurring in the region, after 30 years of work. We want to increase the rate of species described over time by recovering information from taxonomic treatments published in Flora of Suriname, in thesis and old publications. Most of this legacy literature is, however, out of print and no digitized text is available. Through a process of scan, OCR and mark-up of these texts, all basic elements of the taxonomic treatments – species descriptions, nomenclature, collections studied, etc. – can be properly merged within the new treatments being produced.



Treatments published in Flora of Suriname and other literature sources for the region can speed up completion of the Flora of the Guianas.

In this pilot,

we test the feasibility of data integration between the two Floras, using the treatment of the genus *Campylopus* (Dicranaceae, Bryophyta). Recently published in the Flora of the Guianas, some of the species descriptions contain only a reference to the Flora of Suriname. In this pilot we used the program GoldenGATE to markup the text files of both treatments and uploaded the enhanced files to PLAZI. Data will be imported from Plazi into the EDIT Platform for Cybertaxonomy to create a single complete treatment for *Campylopus* available online. Furthermore, because the treatment is available as enhanced text, it can be linked in the future to databases with related content, such as online databases of collection data, species protologues or molecular data.



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EDIT
Platform for Cybertaxonomy