Understanding patterns of plant rarity in the northern Andean biodiversity hotspot on the ground

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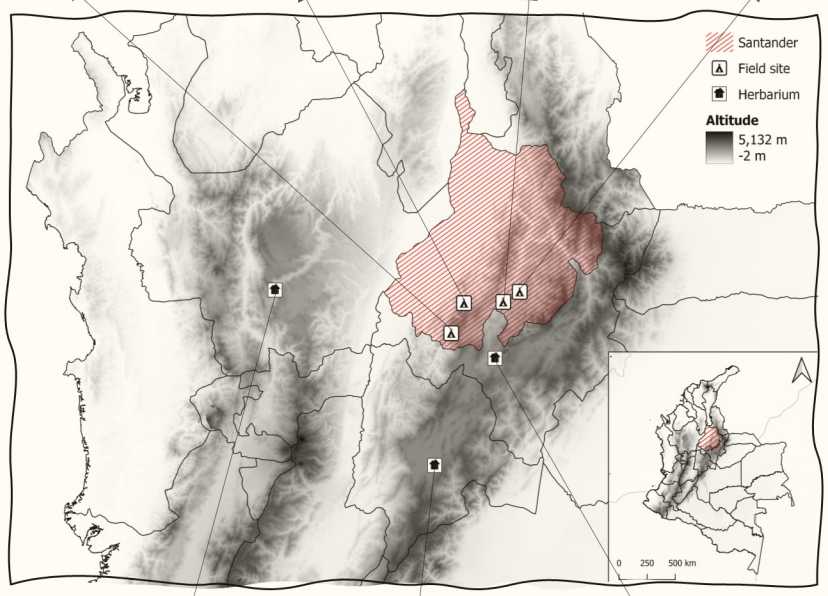
Field team 1

Field team 2





Aims

Due to the limited collection effort within northern South America, there are still important data gaps regarding the distribution of most plant species. Understanding distribution patterns is crucial to comprehend rarity and extinction risk and enable robust conservation prioritisation. *Begonia* and *Solanum* are two megadiverse plant genera and ideal study groups in this context.

Study genera

Project

With my fieldwork expedition to the lower and upper montane rainforests of the Department of Santander and my additional research stay at several herbaria in Colombia, I aimed to increase our knowledge of the geographic ranges of *Solanum* and *Begonia* species in a poorly collected area in the the northern Andes.

Outcomes

In total, I was able to add more than 400 new occurrence records to taxonomically verified databases. The fieldwork also allowed me to better understand environmental challenges plant species in the Andes face. The research stay helped me to recognise how I can better contribute to ongoing research and help conserve rare plant species in the Colombia remotely.

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