

Project Update: November 2011

The preliminary inventory of vascular epiphytes in Guamuhaya Massif, based on different bibliography sources, herbaria materials and field expedition data, recorded 270 species. Ferns are represented by 14 families, being Polypodiaceae (22), Hymenophyllaceae (17) and Aspleniaceae (13), the best represented. Most of the species are casual epiphytes and occurs in the first middle of the tree trunks (less than 1m). The flowering plants are showed by nine families being Orchidaceae (98), Bromeliaceae (32) and Piperaceae (17) the most diverse and abundant. Mainly are true epiphytes (Holo-epiphytes) and cover all the tree zones. The gallery forests and the Mogotes (carsick heights) are the natural ecosystems with biggest species richness. The Coffee agro-ecosystem is the best represented in Guamuhaya, where vascular epiphytes colonize the trees used as shadow for the coffee, as *Samanea samans* (Leguminosae) that provide a suitable environment for epiphytes and is commonly used by the farmers.



Left: Gallery Forest Maria Antonia at RE Alturas de Banao copia; Right: Guamuhaya-Hanabanilla copia & Middle: Tillandsia pruinosa at Samanea saman trunk copia.