

# Another Milestone for the Sky Islands

by Tom Van Devender, *GreaterGood.org*

Jesús Sánchez at the Herbario Universidad de Sonora (UNISON) has long led the interest in the flora of the Sierra de Mazatán. This is the southwestern-most Sky Island, 80 km from Hermosillo on the edge of the Plains of Sonora subdivision of the Sonoran Desert. It is a unique flat-topped granite mountain with oak woodland on top and foothills thornscrub on the lower north slopes. The northernmost cycads in the world, *Dioon sonorensis*, are there as are the endemic *Diospyros reinana* and *Perityle reinana*. Howard Gentry collected the *Dioon* in May 1957 long before it was recognized as a separate species. A new species of *Bursera* is in the process of description. The range is a candidate CONANP protected natural area as the Sierra Huérfana. In 2014 *GreaterGood.org* funded an Expedition to inventory the area. All of the observations are in the MABA-MDE-USON databases, and were provided as documentation for the CONANP proposal. (See the annotated checklist at: [www.phytoneuron.net/2017Phytoneuron/35PhytoN-MazatanFlora.pdf](http://www.phytoneuron.net/2017Phytoneuron/35PhytoN-MazatanFlora.pdf)).



## The Plant List

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TreeFlow, a project of regional integrated sciences and assessment (RISA) programs, Climate assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) at the University of Arizona, and Western Water Assessment (WWA) at the University of Colorado, [www.treeflow.info](http://www.treeflow.info)

WestMap, a project of University of Arizona, the Western Regional Climate Center/Desert Research Institute, and the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [www.cefa.dri.edu/Westmap](http://www.cefa.dri.edu/Westmap)