Another Milestone for the Sky Islands

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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 southwesternmost 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 sonorense*, are there as are the endemic *Diospyros reinæ* 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 Huérflana. 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).

The Plant List


Web Page References

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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