

A lush garden scene with a large tree in the foreground and a building in the background. The tree has large, light-colored leaves. The background shows a building with a red facade and a green lawn in the foreground.

Colours of the Garden

*A pocket guide to the plants of the British
Ambassador's Residence in Bogotá*

Mauricio Diazgranados - Marina Piquer Doblás

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A pocket guide to the plants of the British Ambassador's Residence in Bogotá

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We wholeheartedly thank Dr Peter Tibber, HM Ambassador of the United Kingdom for Colombia, and his wife, Eve Tibber, for all their kindness and enthusiasm for allowing us to catalogue the plants of the beautiful gardens at their residence, and for establishing the basis for the largest collaboration with Britain in Colombia's history. Our most sincere acknowledgment to Luis Calzadilla for continuously supporting the work in Colombia of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and for leading the overall British collaboration in science, technology and innovation. We thank Richard Deverell, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the team of Kew Gardens for their continuous support of the Kew - Colombia Bio Programme and on all the projects and activities that have allowed us to advance the knowledge on Colombian biodiversity whilst supporting capacity building, networking and outreach. Special thanks to Dr Tiziana Ulian, leader of the Diversity & Livelihoods team at Kew, for her continuous support and collaboration in the projects in Colombia. Finally, we thank Emily Ambrose and Fabio Ávila for the review and comments on the manuscript of this guide.

Presentation

The garden in the residence of the British Ambassador in Bogota is a haven of green growth and diversity in a noisy, busy city. Generations of ambassadors and their staff have enjoyed its spaciousness, calm and beauty. They have used it as a unique and compelling asset to host many events promoting UK interests and activity in Colombia. Many Colombian guests arriving in the residence have admired and enjoyed the charms of the garden. Now Mauricio Diazgranados and Marina Piquer Doblás have catalogued the garden fully and scientifically for the first time, identifying the origins and characteristics of the 77 plant species to be found there. This labour of love will inform hosts and guests in the garden for many years to come. This catalogue is a wonderful by-product of the rich collaboration between the British Embassy, Kew Gardens and Colombia.

Colombia is rightly proud of, and famous for, its astonishing diversity which is second only to Brazil in the world rankings of biodiversity. However, it is a biodiversity under threat from environmental crime, irresponsible and often illegal development and from pressures from impoverished communities. Every day Colombia loses an area of forest equivalent to 40 football fields.

It is one of the UK's top priorities in Colombia to work with the Government to support the sustainable growth of Colombia's economy, to protect its biodiversity and its forests, and to foster the development of its bioeconomy through science, technology and innovation. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has become one of our main allies in this campaign. The Kew-Colombia Bio Programme, established in 2017, aims to: understand this country's plant diversity and resources; identify which species can be used for development, for example as new foods or medicines; and develop mechanisms to ensure that those species are used sustainably. Under the programme Kew has developed ten projects, ranging from basic taxonomy and systematics to conservation, research into useful plants, ecosystem services and bioinformatics.

This catalogue, and the garden itself, is a small illustration of Colombia's biodiversity and of the benefits that collaboration between the UK and Colombia can deliver.

My huge thanks to Richard Deverell, Director of Kew Gardens, to Mauricio and Marina, and to Luis Calzadilla Waldmann, who leads the embassy science team, for this wonderful catalogue.

Peter Tibber
British Ambassador to Colombia

Foreword

I was fortunate enough to visit Colombia earlier this year and to meet Peter Tibber, the British Ambassador, at his wonderful residence in Bogota. It was my first day in Colombia, and thus my first in-situ experience of the magnificent richness of Colombia's biodiversity was the Ambassador's garden. Colombia is the world's second most biodiverse country. It has for example, remarkably, more orchids than any other – approximately 4,300 have been scientifically described. This extraordinary species diversity arises from the huge variety of ecosystems within the country which range from tropical forest to desert, mangroves to mountains.

RBG Kew's most important mission is to research and document global plant and fungal diversity and its uses for humankind. Therefore, Colombia is, and will remain, a priority for Kew. Its natural riches are, I believe, the foundation to its long-term sustainable development. I hope this guide will provide all visitors to the Ambassador's Residence a rewarding introduction to the unique treasures of Colombia's botanical natural history.

Richard Deverell
Director
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Introduction

Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, is one of South America's largest cities. Its urban area, hosting over 8 million people, extends for more than 307 km² at an elevation of ~2,600 m. Despite its very high population density and the cold climate all year round (averaging 14.5 °C), its urban plant diversity is also impressive: more than 700 plant species have been recorded. Bogotá is also surrounded by natural areas, and the capital district has almost 3,000 plant species reported (almost double the native flora of Britain and Ireland). Just in Bogotá's Eastern Hills (*Cerros Orientales*) a total of 443 plant species have been identified.

However, the rapid development of the city poses an important urbanistic dilemma: simplifying the plant species richness of the urban green areas, to facilitate architectonic harmony and maintenance; or promoting richer urban green spaces, to take the most from the ecosystem services that plants can give us. The former approach has been the preferred one by most landscape architects, whilst the latter is promoted by conservationists and ecologists. Despite how the urban green spaces are established, the idea of developing 'urban forests' has been increasing in recent years, justified by the multiple benefits provided by plants, such as buffering the effect of heating waves, improving physical and mental health of citizens, and increasing resilience against the effects of climate change.

The gardens at the British Ambassador's residence are a clear example of a green spot of concentrated plant diversity surrounded by tall buildings, busy avenues and monospecific green corridors. Not only do we want to highlight the botanical richness of these gardens, but to promote its plant enrichment as a practical example of the beauty and magnificence of this country's diversity.

During a brief visit in March 2019, we carried out a preliminary survey of the plants of the gardens without counting the grass

species, weeds or small herbs growing in it, nor small epiphytes or parasitic plants on the tall trees and palms. The initial idea was to help the residence make appropriate labels for the most representative plants. Then we decided to use photographs taken during that short visit to make this pocket guide illustrating the main plants.

This guide presents 77 plant species found in the gardens of the British Ambassador's residence, belonging to 72 genera and 50 families. Most of the species shown are flowering plants, except for a couple of fern species and six conifers. These plants have multiple origins, including species from all the continents. Only four are endemic to Colombia, and 29 are native but found in other countries as well.

Besides their ornamental use in gardens, these species have reported uses as sources of medicine (34 species), materials (36), environmental use (18) or human food (18). With respect to the conservation status, seven species are threatened, including a critically endangered species (Paraná Pine) and two endangered species (Colombian walnut and an endemic magnolia).

The plants in this guide are sorted taxonomically, following the current classification system of APG IV and grouped in divisions, classes, families, genera and species. We have included common names in English (EN) and Spanish (ES), origin and global distribution of the species, general category of use, global conservation status (if evaluated), and a sentence with interesting facts. For additional information, we invite the readers to explore the species profiles in ColPlantA (www.colplanta.com) and Plants of the World Online (<http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/>), accessible through the QR codes provided.

Finally, we hope that this simple guide facilitates the appreciation of the beautiful flora we can host in urban gardens and inspire others to promote the greening of our cities whilst protecting and promoting our biodiversity.

Mauricio & Marina

Plant species



Lauraceae

Persea americana Mill.



Common names: Avocado (EN); aguacate, palta, cura (ES).

Origin: Central America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: The avocado is a **very popular fruit**, but it also has **medicinal properties**, helps to thicken hair and contains a high amount of beneficial fats.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, food.



Magnoliaceae

Magnolia grandiflora L.



Common names: Southern magnolia, bull blay (EN); magnolia blanca, magnolio (ES).

Origin: North America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: This evergreen tree can resist severe winters.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Magnoliaceae

Magnolia hernandezii (Lozano) Govaerts



Common names: Magnolia (EN); hojarasco, alpargato, cacaíto, apiorruncho, molinillo (ES).

Origin: Colombia. **In Colombia:** Native, **Endemic**.

Conservation status: Endangered.

Interesting fact: The central axis of the fruit is often used to make whisks ("molinillos") to stir the hot chocolate.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Acanthaceae

Thunbergia alata Bojer ex Sims



Common names: Black-eyed Susan vine (EN); ojo de poeta, susanita (ES).

Origin: Africa and Madagascar. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: **This species is an invasive plant worldwide.** In Colombia it is invading the Andean region.

Uses: Ornamental.



Adoxaceae

Sambucus peruviana Kunth



Common names: Elderberry (EN); saúco (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: The leaves, flowers and fruits have **medicinal properties**. The **flowers** are commonly used in **infusion to treat respiratory problems**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food.



Altingiaceae

Liquidambar styraciflua L.



Common names: American sweetgum (EN); estoraque, liquidámbar (ES).

Origin: North America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: The sweetgum is one of the most important commercial hardwoods in the Southeastern United States

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Schinus molle L.



Common names: Peruvian peppertree (EN); muelle, pimienta, falso pimienta (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Its **spicy fruits** can be used as a **pepper substitute**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food, environmental uses.



Apocynaceae

Vinca major L.



Common names: Bigleaf periwinkle (EN); cortejo, doncella, uinca, viudita (ES).

Origin: Mediterranean basin. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: This species **can be invasive** in some areas.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Aquifoliaceae

Ilex aquifolium L.



Common names: Common holly (EN); acebo, acebo inglés (ES).

Origin: Europe. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: *Ilex aquifolium* is the species of holly long associated with **Christmas**. Its leaves contain **caffeine** and can be used as a **tea substitute**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food.



Araliaceae

Oreopanax incisus (Willd. ex Schult.) Decne. & Planch.



Common names: Higuerón, mano de oso, manuelión (ES).

Origin: Northern South America.

In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: Small tree native from the **high-Andean forest**, visited by **insects and birds**, and used for **craftworks**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, food.



Asteraceae

Osteospermum jucundum (E.Phillips) Norl.



Common names: African daisy (EN); margarita africana (ES).

Origin: South Africa.

In Colombia: Exotic.

Interesting fact: It grows naturally in the **mountains of Southern Africa**, where its flowers are often visited by **butterflies**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Begoniaceae

Begonia cucullata Willd.



Common names: Wax begonia (EN); begonia, pichón verde (ES).

Origin: South America.

In Colombia: Cultivated.

Interesting fact: The specific epithet "**cucullata**" means "resembling a hood" or "**hooded**".

Uses: Ornamental.



Bignoniaceae

Tecoma stans (L.) Juss. ex Kunth



Common names: Yellow trumpetbush (EN); chicalá, chirlobirlo, floramarrillo (ES).

Origin: America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: This is the **official flower** of the **United States Virgin Islands** and the **floral emblem of The Bahamas**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Clusiaceae

Clusia orthoneura Standl.



Common names: Clusia (EN); gaque, clusia, cucharo (ES).

Origin: Colombia.

In Colombia: Native, **Endemic**.

Interesting fact: Really appreciated as an **ornamental tree**. It adapts easily to different climates.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Elaeocarpaceae

Vallea stipularis L.f.



Common names: Campano, chaque, rosolino, sanjuanito (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: Ornamental tree often used for **ecological restoration**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food, environmental uses.



Ericaceae

Rhododendron indicum (L.) Sweet



Common names: Satsuki azalea (EN); rododendro, azalea (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Because of its **high toxicity**, to receive a bouquet of Azalea flowers in a black vase was once a **well-known death threat**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Escalloniaceae

Escallonia pendula (Ruiz & Pau.) Pers.



Common names: Escallonia (EN); loqueto, mangle de tierra fría (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: Tree with **aromatic leaves**. The name "pendula" comes from its **hanging flowers**.

Uses: Ornamental, environmental uses.



Euphorbiaceae

Croton mutisianus Kunth



Common names: Rushfoil (EN); croto, drago, sangregado, sangrío (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: The wood is used to make **crafts**. Its **reddish sap** can be **used to heal skin scars**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Fabaceae

Acacia melanoxylon R.Br.



Common names: Australian blackwood (EN); acacia japonesa, acacia morada, acacia negra (ES).

Origin: Australia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: This **nitrogen-fixing species** is really useful for reforestation and **soil recovery**. However, it is an **invasive species**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Fabaceae

Calliandra medellinensis

Britton & Rose ex Britton & Killip



Common names: Powder-puff plant, fairy duster (EN); carbonero de pluma, árbol de Medellín (ES).

Origin: Colombia. **In Colombia:** Native, **Endemic**.

Interesting fact: *Calliandra* means beautiful ("kallos") men ("andros") in ancient Greek, because of the colourful statements of the flowers.

Uses: Ornamental.



Fabaceae

Calliandra trinervia Benth.



Common names: Powder-puff plant, fairy duster (EN); carbonero rojo (ES).

Origin: South America.

In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: It can be used on **restoration ecology**, and its roots help with **nitrogen fixation**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Quercus humboldtii Bonpl.



Common names: Andean oak, Colombian oak (EN); roble (ES).

Origin: Colombia and Panamá. **In Colombia:** Native.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Interesting fact: **Over-exploited timber-yielding species.** Its use is restricted to some parts of the country.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Juglandaceae

Juglans neotropica Diels



Common names: Colombian walnut (EN); cedro nogal, nogal negro (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Conservation status: Endangered.

Interesting fact: This is **Bogotá's insignia tree**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, environmental uses.



Lythraceae

Lafoensia acuminata (Ruiz & Pav.) DC.



Common names: Guayacán amarillo, guayacán de Manizales, pelincú (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: Tree with **big flowers** visited by bats, **hummingbirds** and **bees**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



Malvaceae

Abutilon insigne Planch.



Common names: Velvetleaf, Lantern-flower (EN); abutilón blanco, farolito (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Shrub with **red bellflowers**, which produces a very attractive nectar for **hummingbirds**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, environmental uses.



Malvaceae

Callianthe striata (G.F.Dicks. ex Lindl.) Donnell



Common names: Velvetleaf, Lantern-flower (EN); abutilón amarillo/rojo, farolito japonés (ES).

Origin: Brazil (endemic).

In Colombia: Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Often visited by **hummingbirds**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Malvaceae

***Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L.**



Common names: Chinese hibiscus (EN); cayena, copa de oro, resucitado, sanjoaquin (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: **Malaysia's national flower**, really popular as an **ornamental plant**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Malvaceae

Malvaviscus arboreus Cav.



Common names: Turkcap (EN); malvito (ES).

Origin: Central America - South America.

In Colombia: Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Its **flowers do not open fully** and help to **attract butterflies and hummingbirds**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Melastomataceae

Meriania nobilis Triana



Common names: Amarrabollos, amarrabollo, marrabollos (ES).

Origin: Colombia.

In Colombia: Native, **Endemic**.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Melastomataceae

Miconia squamulosa Triana



Common names: Tuno, tuno esmeraldo (ES).

Origin: Northern South America.

In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: Its **fruits** are **emerald green** and can be eaten.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, environmental uses.



Melastomataceae

Pleroma lepidotum Triana



Common names: Tibouchina (EN); sietecueros, mayo, peladillo (ES).

Origin: Northern South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: Tree with **purple edible flowers**. It **helps ecological restoration**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, food.



Melastomataceae

Tibouchina urvilleana Cogn.



Common names: Princess-flower, glorybush (EN); mayo, sietecueros brasileiro, sietecueros nazareno (ES).

Origin: Brazil (endemic). **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: It has been recognised with the **Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit**, based on plants' performance under UK growing conditions.

Uses: Ornamental.



Moraceae

Ficus elastica Roxb. ex Hornem.



Common names: Rubber fig, rubber tree (EN); caucho de la India (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: **Highly toxic latex** that can cause skin irritation and may be fatal if consumed.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Myrtaceae

Acca sellowiana (O.Berg) Burret



Common names: Feijoa, pineapple guava (EN); guayaba feijoa/ freijoa (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Its raw fruit is an excellent **source of vitamin C**, providing 40% of the daily value.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, food.



Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus globulus Labill.



Common names: Tasmanian bluegum (EN); eucalipto, ocal (ES).

Origin: Australia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

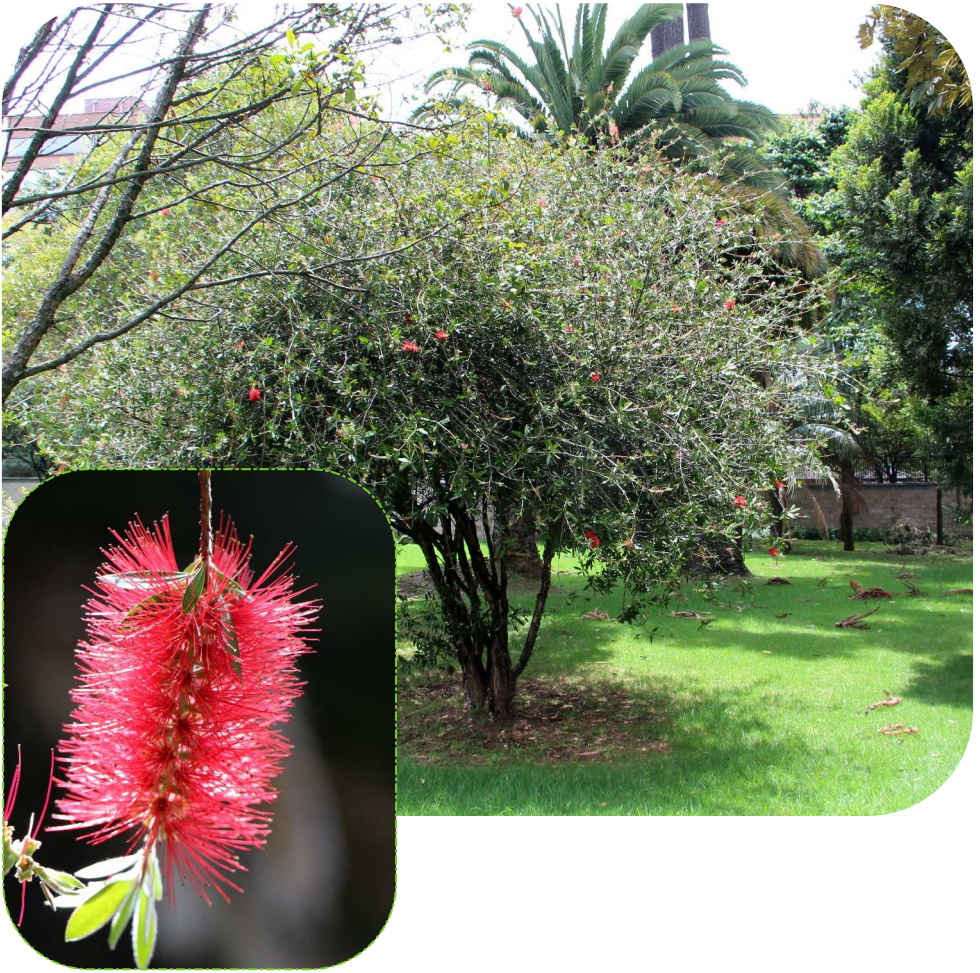
Interesting fact: **Timber-yielding** invasive species which causes **soil erosion**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Myrtaceae

Melaleuca citrina (Curtis) Dum.Cours.



Common names: Common red bottlebrush (EN); calistemo, churrusco, eucalipto de flor, eucalipto lavabotella (ES).

Origin: Australia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: It was **one of the first Australian plants to be grown outside the country**, having been taken to **England in 1770 by Joseph Banks**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Myrtaceae

Myrcianthes leucoxylo (Ortega) McVaugh



Common names: Arrayán blanco, guayabo de Castilla (ES).

Origin: Northern South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: Flowers visited by **insects** and fruits, which are eaten by **birds**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, environmental uses.



Myrtaceae

Syzygium paniculatum Gaertn.



Common names: Magenta cherry (EN); arrayán extranjero, eugenia (ES).

Origin: Australia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Well known as an **edible wild fruit** with a pleasantly sour, apple-like flavour. It is **eaten fresh or cooked into jams**.

Uses: Ornamental, food.



Oleaceae

Fraxinus uhdei (Wenz.) Lingelsh.



Common names: Shamel ash (EN); urapán (ES).

Origin: Central America.

In Colombia: Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: Its **leaves are febrifuge**. In Bogotá some trees **can be severerily affected by ash dieback**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Oleaceae

Jasminum officinale L.



Common names: Common jasmine (EN); jazmín (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Its **essential oil**, widely used in **aromatherapy**, is known as the 'King of Oils'.

Uses: Ornamental.



Oleaceae

Ligustrum lucidum W. T. Aiton



Common names: Broad-leaf privet, Chinese privet, glossy privet, wax-leaf privet (EN); aligustre, ligustro, alheña (ES).

Origin: Asia (China). **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Widely used **ornamental tree**, considered an **invasive species in many countries**. It is used in **traditional Chinese medicine** to nourish liver and kidney.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, environmental uses.



Onagraceae

***Fuchsia arborescens* Sims**



Common names: Tree fuchsia (EN); fucsia (ES).

Origin: Central America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Ornamental species with very **attractive flowers to the fauna.**

Uses: Ornamental, environmental uses.



Onagraceae

Fuchsia boliviana Carrière



Common names: Bolivian fuchsia (EN); coralina, fucsia, platanillo, zarcillejo (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Shrub with showy **hanging flowers**. Its **fruits** are **eaten by birds**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food.



Phytolaccaceae

Ledenbergia sequieroides Klotzsch ex Moq.



Common names: Milflores (ES).

Origin: Venezuela (endemic). **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: It can grow as a **tree up to 10 m. tall.**

Uses: Ornamental.



Pittosporaceae

Pittosporum undulatum Vent.



Common names: Sweet pittosporum (EN); blanquillo, jazmín australiano, laurel huesito (ES).

Origin: Australia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: **Potential invasive species.** Its flowers are aromatic and melliferous.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



Polygalaceae

***Polygala myrtifolia* L.**



Common names: Myrtle-leaf milkwort (EN); lechera del cabo (ES).

Origin: South Africa. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Known for its **antibacterial, antimicrobial and antimycotic** activity. The genus name '**Polygala**' means '**much milk**', because of the belief that these plants could stimulate milk production in European cows.

Uses: Ornamental.



Rosaceae

Cotoneaster pannosus Franch.



Common names: Silverleaf cotoneaster (EN); holly, holly liso, joli (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Originally from China, it is considered a **noxious weed in some places such as Hawai'i**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Rosaceae

Prunus serotina Ehrh.



Common names: Wild black cherry (EN); capulí, cerezo (ES).

Origin: North America - Central America.

In Colombia: Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: **Naturalized tree** in the Sabana of Bogotá, with **edible fruits**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food.



Citrus × limon (L.) Osbeck



Common names: Lemon tree (EN); limón (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Citrus tree with medicinal properties and a tasty and zesty fruit juice.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, food.



Solanaceae

Brunfelsia pauciflora (Cham. & Schltldl.) Benth.



Common names: yesterday-today-and-tomorrow, Brazil raintree (EN); jazmín lavanda, santahelena, chircaspi (ES).

Origin: Brazil (endemic). **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Its flowers change their colour from **purple** to **white** as they age.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Solanaceae

Solanum betaceum Cav.



Common names: Tamarillo, tree tomato (EN); tomate de árbol (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: **Edible fruits** rich in vitamin C.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, food.



Solanaceae

Solanum quitoense Lam.



Common names: Quito nightshade (EN); lulo, lulo lanoso, toronja silvestre (ES).

Origin: Northern South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: **Edible fruits** rich in vitamin C.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, food.



Solanaceae

Streptosolen jamesonii (Benth.) Miers



Common names: Marmalade bush (EN); campanilla, mermelada, mielecita, tamariz, trompetilla (ES).

Origin: Northern South America.

In Colombia: Cultivated.

Interesting fact: The flowers colour can vary from **yellow** to **red**, they and are really attractive to **hummingbirds**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Theaceae

***Camellia japonica* L.**



Common names: Common camellia (EN); camelia (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: Camellias are seen as **lucky symbols for the Chinese New Year and spring**, and have appeared in paintings and porcelain in China since the 11th century.

Uses: Ornamental.



Urticaceae

Cecropia telenitida Cuatrec.



Common names: Cecropia (EN); guarumo, yarumo (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: **Pioneer tree** used in **ecological restoration**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, environmental uses.



Verbenaceae

***Lantana camara* L.**



Common names: Lantana, wild-sage (EN); cinco negritos, yerba mora, lantana, sanguinaria (ES).

Origin: Central America - South America.

In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: Ornamental and **medicinal plant** since **pre-Columbian age**. Its **flowers** are **visited by butterflies**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, environmental uses.



Alstroemeriaceae

Alstroemeria aurea Graham



Common names: Peruvian lily (EN); astromelia (ES).

Origin: South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Also known as **'lily of the Incas'**, it has become a weed in Australia.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Amaryllidaceae

Hippeastrum vittatum (L'Hér.) Herb.



Common names: Hippeastrum, amaryllis (EN); lirio rojo, azucena listada (ES).

Origin: Southern South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Its **bulbs** are **toxic**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Araceae

Monstera deliciosa Liebm.



Common names: Windowleaf (EN); balazo (ES).

Origin: Central America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Interesting fact: Its name "deliciosa" comes from its **edible ripe fruit**, although it is **a bit toxic**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Areaceae

Acrocomia aculeata (Jacq.) Lodd. ex R.Keith



Common names: Coyol palm, grugru palm (EN); tamaco, corozo (ES).

Origin: Central America - South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: Its very hard **nuts can be sliced** into thin circles to be sanded **and worn as rings**, and can be used in the manufacture of **biodiesel**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Areaceae

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana

(H.Wendl.) H.Wendl. & Drude



Common names: Bangalow palm (EN); palma payanesa (ES).

Origin: Australia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: Ornamental palm, its **flowers are pollinated by insects** and its **fruits are eaten by birds**.

Uses: Ornamental.



Areaceae

Ceroxylon quindiuense (H.Karst.) H.Wendl.



Common names: Wax palm (EN); palma de cera, palma blanca (ES).

Origin: Northern South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Interesting fact: Colombia's national tree, native from the Quindío region.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



Areaceae

Parajubaea cocoides Burret



Common names: Quito palm (EN); palma coquito (ES).

Origin: Northern South America (Colombia & Ecuador).

In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: Its **seeds** are **edible**, and there are **no wild populations known**.

Uses: Ornamental, food.



Arecaceae

Phoenix canariensis H.Wildpret



Common names: Canary Islands date palm (EN); palma de Canarias, palma fénix (ES).

Origin: Canary Islands. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: **Palm honey** is made with its **sap**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food.



Phoenix roebelenii O'Brien



Common names: Pygmy date palm (EN); palma pasto, palma roebeleni (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: It has gained the **Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit**, based on the plants' performance under UK growing conditions.

Uses: Ornamental.



Asparagaceae

Cordyline australis (G.Forst.) Endl.



Common names: Cabbage tree (EN).

Origin: New Zealand. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: It provided **durable fibre** for textiles, anchor ropes, fishing lines, baskets, waterproof rain capes and cloaks, and sandals.

Uses: ornamental, materials.



Canna indica L.



Common names: Indian shot (EN); achira amarilla/roja, angélica, chisgua, sagú (ES).

Origin: South America - Central America
In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: From its **roots** a **flour** is extracted and **used to make 'achiras'**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials, food.



Cyperaceae

Cyperus alternifolius L.



Common names: Umbrella papyrus (EN); paragüita (ES).

Origin: Africa and Madagascar.

In Colombia: Exotic.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: To multiply, a short stem is extracted from the plant to the length of 10-20 cm. Then it is submerged in a container of water, and planted in the earth once the roots have developed.

Uses: Ornamental.



Poaceae

Phyllostachys aurea (André) Rivière & C.Rivière



Common names: Fishpole bamboo, golden bamboo (EN); bambú pequeño, guadilla (ES).

Origin: Asia. **In Colombia:** Exotic.

Interesting fact: This bamboo species **helps to maintain riverbeds.**

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



Araucariaceae

Araucaria angustifolia (Bertol.) Kuntze



Common names: Paraná pine (EN); araucaria crespá (ES).

Origin: Southern South America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

Interesting fact: Exotic giant tree with edible seeds.

Uses: Ornamental, food.



Cupressaceae

Hesperocyparis lusitanica (Mill.) Bartel



Common names: White cedar (EN); ciprés, pino ciprés, cedro blanco (ES).

Origin: Central America. **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: **Long-lived tree** which grows for centuries. It is an **invasive species in Colombia**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal, materials.



Pinaceae

Pinus patula Schiede ex Schltdl. & Cham.



Common names: Patula pine, Mexican weeping pine (EN); pino patula, pino candelabro, pino barba de chivo (ES).

Origin: Mexico (endemic). **In Colombia:** Cultivated.

Conservation status: Least Concern.

Interesting fact: 'Patula' means in Latin "spreading". It is considered an **invasive species in Colombia**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Podocarpaceae

Podocarpus oleifolius D.Don



Common names: Pino colombiano, chaquiro, pino chaquiro (ES).

Origin: Central America - South America.

In Colombia: Native.

Conservation status: Least Concern (global level).

Interesting fact: Conifer in **danger of extinction in Colombia.**

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



Podocarpaceae

Prumnopitys montana

(Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) de Laub.



Common names: Chaquiro, pino hayuelo (ES).

Origin: Northern South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

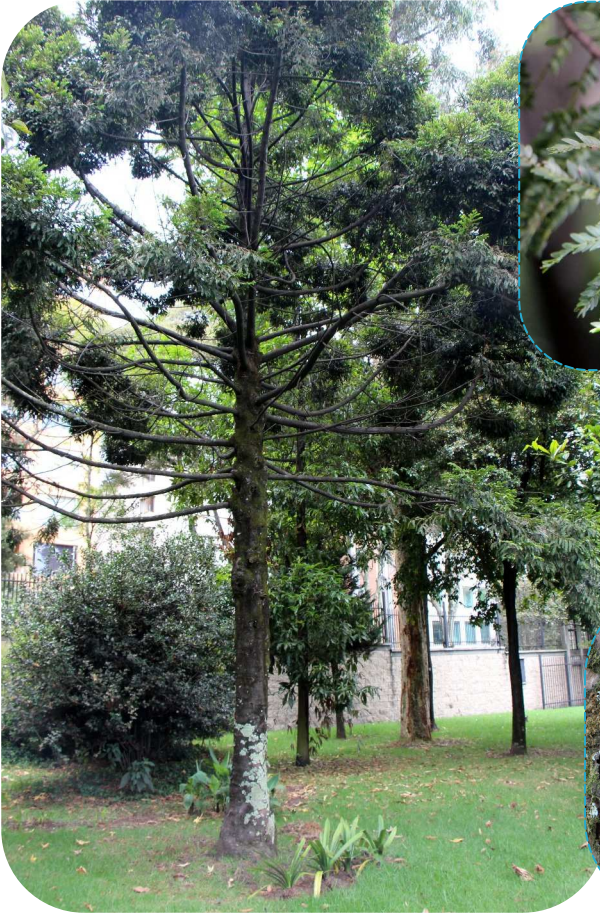
Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Interesting fact: **Timber-yielding** tree of the Andean forest **threatened with extinction**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials.



Retrophyllum rospigliosii (Pilg.) C.N.Page



Common names: Pino colombiano, pino de montaña, pino romerón (ES).

Origin: Northern South America. **In Colombia:** Native.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Interesting fact: Timber-yielding conifer **threatened with extinction**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



Dryopteridaceae

Dryopteris wallichiana (Spreng.) Hyl.



Common names: Alpine wood fern (EN); cabeza de chivo (ES).

Origin: America, Africa, Asia. **In Colombia:** Native.

Interesting fact: **Ornamental** fern, native from **wet and cold areas**.

Uses: Ornamental, medicinal.



Cyatheaceae

Cyathea caracasana (Klotzsch) Domin



Common names: Tree fern (EN); palma boba, helecho arbóreo (ES).

Origin: South America - Caribbean islands.

In Colombia: Native.

Interesting fact: A really useful species for **high mountain soil recovery**.

Uses: Ornamental, materials, environmental uses.



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