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## Melastomataceae of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Colombia): floristic affinities and annotated catalogue

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### Abstract

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (SNSM), the world's highest coastal mountain range, has long been recognized for its high levels of biological diversity and endemism but no exhaustive inventory of the flora exists today. Here we present an annotated catalogue of the angiosperm family Melastomataceae from this diverse massif. The annotated species list is based largely on the treatment of Melastomataceae for the forthcoming Catalogue of the Plants of Colombia together with several floristic data sources, confirmed specimen records held in different herbaria, and recent field work. The catalogue of Melastomataceae presented here includes 20 genera and 86 species, 21 of which are endemic to Colombia and 15 of those are endemic to the SNSM. We also include floristic similarity analyses to compare the species of Melastomataceae from the SNSM with those from other Colombian biogeographic regions and other Neotropical countries or regions.

**Key words:** biodiversity hotspots, endemism, neotropics, similarity indices, South America, Tropical Andes

### Resumen

La Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (SNSM), la cordillera costera más alta del mundo, ha sido ampliamente reconocida por sus altos niveles de diversidad biológica y endemismo, sin embargo en la actualidad no existe un inventario exhaustivo de su flora. Aquí presentamos un catálogo comentado de la familia de angiospermas Melastomataceae de este macizo diverso. El listado anotado de las especies se basa principalmente en el tratamiento de la familia Melastomataceae para el Catálogo de las Plantas de Colombia junto con varias fuentes de datos florísticos, registros de especímenes confirmados depositados en diferentes herbarios y en trabajo de campo reciente. El catálogo de Melastomataceae aquí presentado incluye 20 géneros y 86 especies, 21 de las cuales son endémicas de Colombia y 15 de éstas son endémicas específicamente de la SNSM. También incluimos análisis de similitud florística para comparar las especies de Melastomataceae de la SNSM con las de otras regiones biogeográficas de Colombia y con otros países o regiones neotropicales.

### Introduction

The Melastomataceae (including Memecylaceae), with 5,400 + species, is one of the world's ten largest families of flowering plants. Members of the family may be annual or perennials herbs, shrubs, trees, vines, epiphytes, or hemiepiphytes and are distributed throughout tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. The family has about 170 genera with over 3,500 species in the neotropics, 1000 in tropical Asia, 240 in Africa, and 225 in Madagascar (Clausing and Renner 2001, Almeda *et al.* 2013). Within the neotropics, Colombia stands out as a major center of diversity for Melastomataceae with 58 genera and 982 species (excluding cultivated taxa). Three genera (*Allomaieta*, *Catocoryne*, *Kirkbridea*) and about 35% of the species are endemic to the country (Almeda *et al.* 2013, Almeda *et al.* in press).

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