Diversity and Abundance of Plants with Flowers and Fruits from October 2001 to September 2002 in Paucarillo Reserve, Northeastern Amazon, Peru

Diversidad y abundancia de plantas con flores y frutos entre octubre 2001 y septiembre 2002 en la Reserva Paucarillo, en el noroeste de la Amazonia Peruana

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Abstract

We recorded the diversity of flowering and fruiting plants during one year of phenological study at Paucarillo Reserve located in the northeastern part of the Peruvian Amazon (3°41’ S, 72°24’ W). A total of 270 species from 59 families were recorded, of which 57% were represented by only one individual plant. Arecaceae and Rubiaceae were the dominant families in this site.

Keywords: flowering plants, diversity, terra firme forest, north western Peru, Amazon.

Introduction

This paper documents the species diversity of plants that were phenologically active (i.e. flowering and/or fruiting) during a one year period at a site in the Peruvian Amazon that is mostly unstudied. To date, most botanical studies in the Peruvian Amazon have been concentrated at a few established research sites in southern Peru, e.g. Manu (Foster 1990, Pitman et al. 2002). However, there has been detailed floristic surveys in northwestern Peruvian Amazon in two sites near Iquitos at Allpahuayo-Mishana (Gentry 1988, Malhi et al. 2002) and at the Explorama lodges (Vásquez Martínez 1997), which are located 122.7 km west and 77 km north-west of the study site described here. This project was part of a larger project to assess the productivity of vertebrate-dispersed fruit at Paucarillo. This paper adds to our growing pool of knowledge regarding the plant species diversity and distribution of Peru’s lowland Amazonian plants.

Study site description

Our study was carried out in Paucarillo Reserve (3°41’ S, 72°24’ W), located in the Department of Loreto on the Rio Orosa (a southern tributary of the Amazon) (Fig. 1). This 500 hectare reserve encompasses primary igapo (black-water inundated forest) and terra firme forest and is owned by Project Amazonas (http://www.projectamazonas.com/), a non-profit organization based in Florida. Surrounding this reserve is primary forest that extends to the Brazilian border, so that the contiguous forest in this area exceeds 100000 hectares (D. Graham pers. comm.).

Figure 1. Location of study site in Paucarillo Reserve (3°41’S, 72°24’W).
Climate data from the nearest meteorological station in Pebas (4° S, 73° W) managed by SENAMHI (Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología del Perú), 66,88 km northeast from the study site, recorded total precipitation of 3296.9 mm during the one year study period.

Materials and methods

The data presented here is part of a larger study of the birds and forest fruits in this area (Choo, 2005). Two study plots located in terra firme forest were established at the study site. In each plot, four parallel trails 90 m long and 50 m apart were established that served as mist-net lanes for capturing birds as part of another study, and were used for the phenological surveys described here. Each study plot consisted of 8 phenology lanes (each 90 × 10 m) flanking both sides of the net lanes. These phenology lanes covered an area of 7200 m² per study plot. The total area surveyed for 12 months at this site covered an area of 14400 m² or 1.44 ha.

Phenological data were collected from October 2001 to September 2002. Phenology surveys were conducted twice a month for 11 months and once for the month of December. During surveys, JC walked along net lanes to record the flowering and fruiting activity of all plants (herbs, shrubs, epiphytes, lianas and trees) found within the phenology belts. Two field assistants walked in tandem with her within the phenology belts to detect flowering and fruiting plants in the understory and to help detect flowering and fruiting canopy plants that she may have missed. When flowers or fruits were discovered on the forest floor, attempts were made to locate the source(s). Surveys were conducted visually and if necessary with the aid of binoculars (10×40 and 10×50).

All plants found flowering or fruiting were uniquely numbered with an aluminum tag. Plant habits were recorded as herb, shrub, epiphyte, treelet (subcanopy small trees), liana, tree (large canopy and subcanopy trees). Plants with easily recognized vegetative, floral and fruit characteristics were grouped in the field by JC into morphospecies and a representative voucher for each morphospecies was collected from those plants that subsequently produced fruit. All other plants that were not easily grouped were collected.

### Table 1. Summary of plants that flowered and produced fruits during the study period.

| Family            | No. of Genera | No. of Species | No. of Plants |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Annonaceae     | 9             | 12             | 16            |
| 2. Apocynaceae    | 2             | 2              | 3             |
| 3. Araceae        | 4             | 5              | 9             |
| 4. Arecaceae      | 11            | 19             | 236           |
| 5. Araliaceae     | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 6. Aristolochiace | 1             | 1              | 2             |
| 7. Asteraceae     | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 8. Bignoniaceae   | 2             | 2              | 2             |
| 9. Bombacaceae    | 3             | 3              | 8             |
| 10. Boraginaceae  | 1             | 2              | 3             |
| 11. Burseraceae   | 2             | 3              | 11            |
| 12. Cecropiaceae  | 3             | 12             | 26            |
| 13. Celastraceae  | 3             | 4              | 7             |
| 14. Chrysobalanaceae | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 15. Clusiaceae    | 3             | 6              | 7             |
| 16. Combretaceae  | 1             | 1              | 2             |
| 17. Connaraceae   | 3             | 5              | 5             |
| 18. Convolvulaceae | 2             | 3              | 17            |
| 19. Cyclanthaceae | 1             | 1              | 8             |
| 20. Dichapetalaceae | 1            | 2              | 3             |
| 21. Dilleniaceae  | 2             | 4              | 6             |
| 22. Elaeocarpaceae | 1             | 5              | 7             |
| 23. Euphorbiaceae | 12            | 15             | 42            |
| 24. Fabaceae      | 10            | 15             | 32            |
| 25. Flacourtiaceae | 4             | 6              | 21            |
| 26. Gesneriaceae  | 1             | 1              | 11            |
| 27. Heliconiaceae | 1             | 2              | 3             |
| 28. Icacinaceae   | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 29. Lauraceae     | 3             | 4              | 6             |
| 30. Lecythidaceae | 1             | 9              | 40            |
| 31. Linaceae      | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 32. Loranthaceae  | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 33. Malpighiaceae | 4             | 5              | 5             |
| 34. Malvaceae     | 1             | 2              | 7             |
| 35. Melastomaceae | 2             | 3              | 12            |
| 36. Meliaceae     | 2             | 4              | 5             |
| 37. Menispermaceae | 3             | 4              | 5             |
| 38. Moraceae      | 6             | 14             | 18            |
| 39. Myristicaceae | 4             | 17             | 76            |
| 40. Myrsinaceae   | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 41. Myrtaceae     | 3             | 5              | 6             |
| 42. Nyctaginaceae | 1             | 5              | 6             |
| 43. Ochnaceae     | 1             | 1              | 2             |
| 44. Piperaceae    | 1             | 2              | 3             |
| 45. Polygalaceae  | 1             | 1              | 2             |
| 46. Rhamnaceae    | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 47. Rhizophoraceae| 1             | 1              | 2             |
| 48. Rubiaceae     | 11            | 19             | 86            |
| 49. Sabiaceae     | 2             | 3              | 5             |
| 50. Sapindaceae   | 4             | 5              | 12            |
| 51. Sapotaceae    | 3             | 10             | 21            |
| 52. Simaroubaceae | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| 53. Siparunaceae  | 1             | 1              | 11            |
| 54. Solanaceae    | 2             | 2              | 2             |
| 55. Sterculiaceae | 1             | 3              | 3             |
| 56. Theophrastaceae | 1           | 2              | 2             |
| 57. Verbenaceae   | 2             | 3              | 3             |
| 58. Violaceae     | 3             | 4              | 10            |
| 59. Vitaceae      | 1             | 1              | 1             |
| **Total**         | **157**       | **270**        | **847**       |
Table 2. Checklist of plants that flowered and fruited during the one year duration of the study.

| Family Plants | Genus                   | Species                                      | N° |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Annonaceae    | Cremastosperma          | cauliflorum R.E. Fr. 1931                    | 1  |
|               | Duguetia                | cauliflora R.E. Fr. 1939                     | 1  |
|               | Ephedranthus            | guianensis R.E. Fr. 1931                    | 1  |
|               | Guatteria               | calophylla R.E. Fr. 1939                    | 1  |
|               |                        | recurvisepalala R.E. Fr. 1939               | 2  |
|               | Klarobelia              | cauliflora Chatrou 1998                     | 2  |
|               | Oxandra                 | xylopoides Diels 1927                      | 1  |
|               | Tetraneuranthus         | umbellatus Westra 1985                     | 1  |
|               | Unonopsis               | stipitata Diels 1905                       | 3  |
|               |                        | veneficiorum (Mart.) R.E. Fr. 1937         | 1  |
|               |                        | cuspidata Diels 1927                       | 1  |
|               |                        | frutescens Aubl. 1775                      | 1  |
|               |                        | speciosa Woodson 1949                      | 1  |
|               |                        | puncticuticulos (Rich.) Pulle 1906         | 2  |
| Araceae       | Anthurium              | eminens Schott 1855                        | 1  |
|               | Dieffenbachia           | parvifolia Engl. 1915                      | 1  |
|               |                        | obliqua Miq. 1844                          | 1  |
|               |                        | sp. nov.                                   | 2  |
|               |                        | wittianum Engl. 1905                       | 4  |
| Araliaceae    | Dendropanax             | umbellatus (Ruiz & Pav.) Decne. & Planch. 1854 | 1  |
|               | Aristolochiaceae        | Aristolochia ruziana (Klotzsch) Duch. 1864 | 2  |
|               | Asteraceae              | hookeriana DC. 1856                        | 1  |
|               | Bignonieae              | glabra (A.DC.) Bureau & K. Schum. 1897     | 1  |
|               | Massatia                | hyacinthine (Standl) Sandwith 1937         | 1  |
|               | Bombacaceae             | ochrocalyx K. Schum. 1886                  | 1  |
|               | Phragmotheca            | manunmosa W.S. Alverson 1991               | 1  |
|               | Scleronema              | praecox (Ducke) Ducke 1937                 | 6  |
| Boraginaceae  | Cordia                  | nodosa Lam. 1791                           | 2  |
|               |                        | ucayalensis (L.M. Johnst.) L.M. Johnst. 1935 | 1  |
|               |                        | opacam Swart 1942                          | 9  |
|               |                        | Trattinnickia aspera (Standl.) Swart 1942  | 1  |
|               |                        | engleriana Sneathl. 1923                   | 1  |
|               |                        | facifolia Warb. ex Sneathl. 1923           | 1  |
|               |                        | Coussapoa asperifolia Trécéul 1847        | 2  |
|               |                        | trinervia Spruce ex Mildbr. 1928           | 2  |
|               |                        | villosa Poepp. & Endl. 1838               | 1  |
|               |                        | Pourouna bicolor Mart. 1843               | 2  |
|               |                        | cf. tomentosa subsp. persecta Standl. ex C. C. Berg & Heusden 1988 | 2  |
|               |                        | guianensis Aubl. 1775                     | 1  |
|               |                        | melinonii Benoist 1922                    | 1  |
|               |                        | minor Benoist 1924                        | 1  |
|               |                        | tomentosa Mart. Ex Miq. 1853              | 10 |
|               | Celastraceae            | Cheiloclinium cognatum (Miers) A.C. Sm. 1940 | 1  |
|               |                        | hippocrateoides (Peyr.)J.A.C. Sm. 1940     | 1  |
|               |                        | Tontelea coriacea A.C. Sm. 1940           | 1  |
|               |                        | Anthodon decussatum Ruiz & Pav. 1798      | 1  |
|               |                        | Hirtella racemosa Lam. 1789               | 1  |
|               |                        | Chrysobalanaceae clusia amazonica Planch. & Triana 1860 | 1  |
|               |                        | Clusiaceae nemorosa G. Mey 1818           | 2  |
|               |                        | Garcia palmicida Rich. ex Planch. & Triana 1860 | 2  |
|               |                        | Tovomita macrophylla Mart. 1841          | 1  |
|               |                        | sp.                                        | 1  |
|               |                        | sp.                                        | 1  |
|               |                        | sp.                                        | 1  |
|               |                        | Convulvulaceae Dicranostyles ampla Ducke 1953 | 4  |
|               |                        | holostyla Ducke 1925                      | 1  |
|               |                        | Maripa axilliflora Mart. ex Meisn. 1869   | 12 |
|               |                        | Cyclanthaceae bisectus (Vell.) Harling 1958 | 8  |
|               |                        | Dichapetalaceae Tapura acreana (Ule) Rizzini 1952 | 1  |
|               |                        | Dilleniaceae Davilla nitida (Vahl) Kubitzki 1971 | 2  |
|               |                        | Doliocarpus novogranatensis Kubitzki 1971 | 1  |
|               |                        | Elaeocarpaceae Sloanea brachyplepa Ducke 1943 | 3  |
|               |                        | guianensis (Aubl.) Bentham 1861           | 3  |

continue...
| Family Plants    | Genus      | Species                                      | N° |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Elaeocarpaceae  | Sloanea    | terniflora (Moc. & Sessé ex DC.) Standl. 1944| 1  |
|                 |            | tuercchheimii Donn. Sm. 1914                  | 1  |
|                 |            | sp. nov. (aff. macrophylla Bent. ex Turcz 1858)| 1  |
| Euphorbiaceae   | Caryocar  | grandifolium (Müll. Arg.) Pax 1890           | 1  |
|                 | Condorea   | guianensis Aubl. 1775                        | 3  |
|                 | Croton     | panamensis Klotzsch 1843                     | 1  |
|                 | Drypetes   | gentryi Monach. 1948                        | 1  |
|                 | Hevea      | guianensis Aubl. 1775                        | 1  |
|                 | Heterocar  | alchorneoides Allemao 1848                   | 1  |
|                 | Mabea      | klugii Steyerl 1938                         | 5  |
|                 |           | pulcherina Müll. Arg. 1872                   | 10 |
|                 |           | standleyi Steyerl. 1938                     | 3  |
|                 | Neochoronea| yapuresis Huber 1913                         | 3  |
|                 | Pausandra  | sp.                                          | 2  |
|                 | Richeria   | grandis Vahl 1976                           | 2  |
|                 | Sagotia    | racemosus Baill. 1860-61                     | 7  |
|                 | Sapum      | marmimeri Huber 1902                        | 1  |
| Fabaceae        | Bauhinia   | pterocarya Duche 1922                       | 10 |
|                 | Dalbergia  | ecastaphyluum (L.) Taub. 1894                | 1  |
|                 | Dialium    | guianensis (Aubl.) Steud. 1840               | 1  |
|                 | Dimorphandra| mollis Benth. 1840                          | 1  |
|                 | Inga       | brachyrachis Harms 1907                      | 4  |
|                 |            | cf. cinnamomepr Spruce & Benth. 1875         | 2  |
|                 |            | semialata (Vell.) Mart. 1837                 | 1  |
|                 |            | tomentosa vel sp. aff. Benth. 1875           | 1  |
|                 | Mimosa     | rufescens Benth. 1875 var rufescens         | 1  |
|                 | Parkia     | nitida Miq. 1851                            | 2  |
|                 |            | sp.                                          | 2  |
|                 | Swartzia   | cardiosperma Spruce ex Benth. 1870           | 1  |
|                 |            | obscura Huber 1909                           | 1  |
|                 | Taccola    | bractosa (Harms) Zarucchi & Pipoly 1995      | 1  |
|                 | Vataireopsis| speciosum Duche 1932                        | 1  |
| Flacourtiaceae  | Carpotroche| longifolia (Poeppe.) Benth. 1861             | 9  |
|                 | Casearia   | fisculata Bojer 1837                        | 1  |
|                 |            | sylvestris Sw. 1798                         | 2  |
|                 |            | ileana Sleumer 1980                          | 1  |
|                 | Lindackeria| paludosa (Benth.) Gilg 1925                 | 7  |
|                 | Tetrathyllum| macropiphylhum Poeppe. 1843                 | 1  |
| Gesneriaceae    | Drymonia   | semicordata (Poeppe.) Wiehler 1973           | 11 |
| Heliconiaceae   | Heliconia  | sp.                                          | 1  |
|                 |            | velutina L. Andersson 1985                   | 2  |
| Icacinaceae     | Discophora | guianensis Miers 1852                       | 1  |
| Lauraceae       | Chlorocar  | venenosaum (Kosterm. & Pinkley) Rohwer, H.G. Richt. & van der Werff 1991 | 2 |
|                 | Endlicheria| tessmannii D. C. Schmidt 1928                | 1  |
|                 | Ocotea     | cf. leucoxytum (Sw.) Mez 1889               | 1  |
|                 |            | cf. longifolia Kunth 1817                   | 2  |
| Lecythisaceae   | Eschweileri| albiziflora (DC.) Miers 1874                 | 2  |
|                 |            | coriacea (DC.) S.A. Mori 1990               | 9  |
|                 |            | gigantea (R. Kunth) J.F. Macbr 1940          | 2  |
|                 |            | grandiflora (Aubl.) Sandwith 1955           | 1  |
|                 |            | nicrantha (O. Berg) Miers 1874               | 5  |
|                 |            | ovatiflora (DC.) Nied. 1892                 | 7  |
|                 |            | puriflora (Aubl.) Miers 1874                | 3  |
|                 |            | ruffiflora S.A. Mori 1990                   | 2  |
| Linaceae        | Heteptetalum| huminifolium (Planch.) Benth. 1862           | 1  |
| Loranthaceae    | Psittacanthus| cortecocephalus Eichler 1868                | 1  |
| Malpighiaceae   | Bunchosia  | argentea (Jaccy.) DC. 1824                   | 1  |
|                 | Byronima   | cowani W.R. Anderson 1981                    | 1  |
|                 | Mascagnia  | antivstpetala (A. Juss.) Griseb. 1858        | 1  |
|                 | Mezio      | psilophylhum (A. Juss.) Griseb. 1858         | 1  |
| Malvaceae       | Matisia    | bracteolosa Duche 1945                      | 1  |
| Melastomaceae   | Leandra    | ochrocalyx K. Schum. 1886                   | 6  |
|                 | Longicona  | longicona Cogn. 1886                        | 3  |
|                 | Miconia    | biglandulosa Gleason 1932                   | 8  |
| Meliaceae       | Guarea     | kunthiana A. Juss. 1830                     | 1  |
|                 |            | pterorachis Harms 1924                      | 1  |

Continue...
### Table 2.

| Family Plants | Genus     | Species                          | N°  |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----|
| **Menispermaceae** | **Abuta**  | grandifolia (Mart.) Sandwith 1937 | 1   |
| **Menispermaceae** | **Elephantomene** | *eburnea* Barneby & Krukoff 1974 | 1   |
| **Moraceae** | **Brosimum** | *acutifolium* Huber 1910 subsp. oboratum | 1   |
| **Moraceae** | **Ficus**  | americana Aubl. 1775              | 3   |
| **Menispermaceae** | **Menispermum** | *poeppigii* C. DC. 1878          | 2   |
| **Moraceae** | **Maquira** | *calophylla* (Poepp. & Endl.) C.C. Berg 1969 | 2   |
| **Naucleopsis** | **ulei** (Warb.) | *Duke 1922*                     | 1   |
| **Persea** | **guianensis** | *Aubl. 1775*                     | 1   |
| **Myristicaceae** | **Cybianthus** | *sp. 1*                          | 2   |
| **Myrtaceae** | **Cylistachys** | *sp.*                            | 1   |
| **Myrtaceae** | **Calyptranthes** | *densiflora* (O. Berg 1854(1855) | 1   |
| **Myrtaceae** | **Eugenia** | *egensis* DC. 1828               | 1   |
| **Nyctaginaceae** | **Nea**    | *calophylla* (Spruce) Warb. 1897 | 1   |
| **Nyctaginaceae** | **spirecia** | *A.C. Sm. 1937(1938)*            | 3   |
| **Nyctaginaceae** | **ventriculata** | *Ruiz & Pav. 1798*              | 1   |
| **Nyctaginaceae** | **vires** | *Poep. ex A. DC. Warb. 1897*     | 1   |
| **Nyctaginaceae** | **xanthochyma** | *H. Karst. 1862*                | 1   |
| **Ochnaceae** | **Cespedesia** | *spathulata* (Ruiz & Pav.) Planch. 1846 | 2   |
| **Arecales** | **Astrocaryum** | *chumbira* Burret 1934          | 7   |
| **Arecales** | **Maclura** | *murumurua* Mart. 1824          | 35  |
| **Arecales** | **Attalea** | *platerata* Mart. ex Spreng. 1816 | 3   |
| **Arecales** | **Bactris** | *tessmannii* Burret 1929         | 1   |
| **Arecales** | **Chamaedorea** | *pauiciflora* Mart. 1823       | 2   |
| **Arecales** | **Euterpe** | *precatoria* Mart. 1842         | 19  |
| **Arecales** | **Geonoma** | *cuneata* H. Wendl. ex Spruce 1869 | 2   |
| **Arecales** | **Hyospathe** | *elegans* Mart. 1823            | 11  |
| **Arecales** | **Iriartea** | *deltoidea* Ruiz & Pav. 1798    | 52  |
| **Arecales** | **Iriartella** | *stenocarpa* Burret 1931       | 1   |
| **Arecales** | **Manicaria** | *mapora* H. Karst. 1823        | 1   |
| **Arecales** | **Socratea** | *exorrhiza* (Mart.) H. Wendl. 1860 | 14  |
| **Piperaceae** | **Piper** | *augustum* Rudge 1805          | 2   |
| **Polygalaceae** | **Moutabea** | *aculeata* (Ruiz & Pav.) Poep. & Engl. 1838 | 2   |
| **Rhamnaceae** | **Amelopozzyphus** | *amazonicus* Duke 1935      | 1   |
| **Rhizophoraceae** | **Cassipourea** | *peruviana* Alston 1925        | 2   |
Table 2.

| Family Plants | Genus                | Species                                      | Nº  |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Rubiaceae     | Alibertia            | hispida Ducke 1932                           | 1   |
|               |                      | verrucosa S. Moore 1895                      | 2   |
|               |                      | sp.                                           | 1   |
| Rubiaceae     | Boroja               | claviflora (K. Schum.) Cuatrec. 1953         | 1   |
|               | Durioha              | hirsuta (Poeppl.) K. Schum. 1889             | 2   |
|               | Faramea              | axillaries Standl. 1930                      | 6   |
|               |                      | multiforma A. Rich. ex DC. 1830              | 2   |
|               | Geophila             | cordifolia Miq. 1850                        | 1   |
|               | Ixora                | peruviana (Spruce ex K. Schum.) Standl. 1931| 1   |
|               | Notopleura           | cf. congesta C.M. Taylor 2001               | 2   |
|               | Palicourea           | subspicata Huber 1906                        | 18  |
|               | Pseudaquatica       | latifolia (Lam.) Roem. & Schult 1819        | 2   |
|               | Psychotria           | bolitiana Standl. 1931                      | 1   |
|               |                      | deflexa DC. 1830                            | 8   |
|               |                      | microbotrys Ruiz ex Standl. 1930            | 6   |
|               |                      | poeppigiana Mull Arg. 1881                  | 18  |
|               |                      | stenostachya Standl. 1930                    | 2   |
|               | Warszewiczia         | cocinea (Vahl) Klotzsch 1853                 | 20  |
| Sabiaceae     | Meliosma             | hebertii Rolfe 1893                         | 1   |
|               |                      | vasquezii A.H. Gentry 1986                   | 1   |
| Sapindaceae   | Ophiocaryon          | heterophyllum (Benth.) Urb. 1895             | 3   |
|               | Matayba              | arborescens (Aubl.) Radl. 1879               | 1   |
|               | Paulinia             | cf. anodonta Radl. 1753                      | 1   |
|               |                      | pterocarpa Triana & Planch. 1862            | 7   |
|               | Serjania             | lethalis A. St. -Hil. 1824                   | 2   |
|               | Talisia              | cerasina (Benth.) Radl. 1878                 | 1   |
| Sapotaceae    | Chrysophyllum        | amazzonicum T.D. Penn. 1990                  | 1   |
|               |                      | bombyczinum T.D. Penn. 1990                 | 1   |
|               | Manilkara            | bilata Williams 1936                         | 1   |
|               | Pouteria             | bilocularis (H. Winkl.) Baehni 1942         | 1   |
|               |                      | caimito (Ruiz & Pav.) Radl. 1882            | 1   |
|               |                      | cuspidata (A. DC.) Baehni 1944              | 1   |
|               |                      | elegans (A. DC.) Baehni 1944                | 1   |
|               |                      | procera (Marti.) T.D. Penn. 1990            | 1   |
|               |                      | rostrata (Huber) Baehni 1942                | 4   |
|               | Simaroubaceae        | Simarouba anara Aubl. 1775                   | 1   |
|               | Siparuracea          | Siparuna bifida (Poepp. Endl.) A.DC. 1968   | 11  |
|               | Solanaceae           | Brunfelsia grandiflora D. Don 1829          | 1   |
|               |                      | Solanum grandiflora Ruiz & Pav. 1799        | 1   |
|               | Sterculiaceae        | Sterculia apetophylla Ducke 1945            | 1   |
|               |                      | killipiana Standl. ex E.L. Taylor 1989      | 1   |
|               | Theophrastaceae       | Clavija elliptica Mez 1905                   | 1   |
|               |                      | venosa B. Stahl 1990                        | 1   |
|               | Verbenaceae          | Aegiphila elegans Moldenke 1932             | 1   |
|               |                      | sp.                                           | 1   |
|               | Violaceae            | Petrea blanchetiana Scharer 1847            | 1   |
|               |                      | Gloeospermum sphacocarpum Triana & Planch. 1862| 1   |
|               |                      | Leonia cymosa Mart. 1826                    | 2   |
|               |                      | glycycarpa Ruiz & Pav. 1799                 | 2   |
|               | Vitaceae             | Rinorea flavescens (Aubl.) Kunze 1891       | 5   |
|               |                      | Cissus biformenta Standl. 1929              | 1   |

for identification. This method of identification meant that she was able to identify plants that flowered but failed to produce fruits based on the identity of their fruiting conspecifics.

Angiosperms and a few palms were identified at the Missouri Botanical Garden mostly by RV, with a few plants in Araceae, Menispermaceae and Rubiaceae identified by Thomas Croat, Rosa Ortiz-Gentry and Charlotte Taylor respectively. Most palms were identified at the New York Botanical Garden by Andrew Henderson. Vouchers were deposited in the institutions where they were identified, with duplicate vouchers deposited at AMAZ (Herbario Amazonense - Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana).

Results and discussion

Floristic description of study site

The canopy in this site is dense, with the majority of trees attaining heights of 15 -- 40 m. The highest emergents consisted of trees and canopy palms approximately 50 m tall. The most diverse plant groups in this site were the Arecaceae and Rubiaceae, both with 11 genera and 19 species that flowered and/or produced fruits. Palms were the most abundant group of flowering and/or fruiting plants with 156 fruiting palms/ha. The second most abundant group was the Myristicaceae (second most speciose group) from which 50 fruiting plants/ha were phenologically active.
The canopy of this forest is dominated by large canopy palms (Attalea, Astrocaryum, Euterpe, Socratea and Iriartea), and tree species from the genus Eschweilera (Lecythidaceae). The subcanopy was dominated by the palm Astrocaryum murumuru and medium sized trees from the genus Iryanthera (Myristicaceae). The understorey was dominated by palms in the genus Geonoma and shrubs in the genus Psychotria (Rubiaceae).

Species richness of flowering and fruiting plants

A summary of the diversity of flowering and fruiting plants in the study site is provided in Table 1, and a list of plants recorded flowering and fruiting in Paucaíllo during the one year study period is shown in Table 2. The diversity of flowering and fruiting plants in this site is high, with 270 species from 59 families recorded during the 12 month study period over an area of 1.44 hectares or 188 species/ha.

Proportion of all species that flowered and fruited during the study period

To compare the species richness of flowering and fruiting plants with total plant species richness in our study site, we examined data collected in a nearby site Madre Selva. In Madre Selva (3°37’ S, 72°14’W), 19 km east of our study site, 304 species/ha (trees > 10 cm dbh excluding lianas, epiphytes and herbs) were recorded (Davila et al. unpublished data). Madre Selva has a higher diversity of trees > 10 cm dbh than Manu National Park in Peru’s Madre de Dios region (174 species/ha) and Yasuni National Park in Ecuador (239 species/ha). To compare our results with the Madre Selva dataset, we excluded 61 species of lianas, epiphytes and herbs from our dataset, which reduced the number of flowering and fruiting tree species to 209 per 1.44 ha or approximately 145 species/ha. Assuming that our study site has the same total tree diversity as Madre Selva, this means that 48% of the total possible species richness (304 species) in this forest was recorded flowering and/or fruiting within our study site. Therefore 52% of plant species in our site were not flowering or fruiting because they were species (1) whose phenological activities were not recorded because they flowered and/or fruiting between phenology surveys, (2) represented by non-flowering and non-fruiting immature individuals and (3) represented by mature individuals of rare species that did not flower and fruit during our study period due to supra-annual phenological cycles. However, it is also possible that our assumption is not correct and our study site may have lower species richness than Madre Selva.

Proportion of rare species

To compare the proportion of rare species between our site and Madre Selva, we arbitrarily defined rare species as those represented by 1–3 plants within 1–1.44 ha of forest. At Madre Selva, rare species accounted for 63% of all species in one hectare (Davila et al. unpublished data). Whereas, in our site rare species accounted for 57% of flowering and fruiting plants in 1.44 hectares. The high representation of rare species in both sites is consistent with the approximately 50% of species represented by one individual/ha at sites located within other parts of the Amazon (Faber-Langendoen and Gentry 1991, Valencia et al. 1994, Pitman et al. 2001). For detailed review of the distribution and rarity of Amazonian plants, we refer readers to Pitman et al. (1999 and 2001).

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