

The weekly newsletter from the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin

News

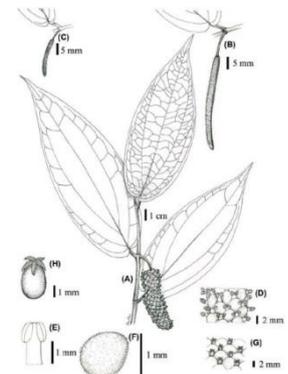
▪ **Daniel Kelly, Conor Owens, Maria Long and Sven Batke** shared their memories of the 2016 botanical expedition to Honduras with a fascinated audience last Thursday, as part of the **TCD Botany Department & TCD Botany Society's** End-of-year colloquium entitled *River deep, mountain high: Irish botanists explore the Honduran rainforest*.

In addition to beautiful pictures, the speakers offered tales of their adventures and discoveries in Cusuco National Park and Tegucigalpa and described the conditions in which they lived and worked, how the collecting expeditions were organized between the "ground team" and the "tree climbing team", how the collected plants were dried, brought back to Tegucigalpa and processed with the invaluable help of the local staff. An account of the results up to date was then given by Daniel, demonstrating how valuable this expedition was for the advancement of the knowledge of Honduran Flora. Since this project was started by Daniel in 2004, 843 different species were collected. Of the 396 species of trees and shrubs, about 280 were identified to a species level, two new species and a new genus have been published, and a few more unknown species appear promising. To complete the presentations, a selection of herbarium specimens was displayed and **Colin Kelleher** brought young plants of twelve different species that were successfully germinated in the National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin from seeds collected during the 2016 expedition. Thank you all for this memorable and inspiring evening!

Publications

▪ **Chalermpol Suwanphakdee, Trevor Hodgkinson and others** publish sixteen lectotypifications of Asian *Piper* species (the pepper genus).

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/njb.01114/full>



Conferences



▪ **Conor Owens** is giving a talk on 'Biodiversity in willow evapotranspiration systems for wastewater treatment' at the [British Ecological Society Annual meeting](#) in Liverpool today.

Grants

▪ **Matt Saunders** is part of a team that has been awarded a DAFM RSF Grant: "Manipulation and Integration of Nitrogen Emissions (MINE)" led by Teagasc, with partners in NUI Galway and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Northern Ireland (Total grant €1.1 million, TCD €146k).

PHYTOBYTES needs your input, yes you!

Whether you are student or staff, please send any news you have, big or small, to Anne (dubearna@tcd.ie) with the subject heading Phytobytes. Let's share the latest news and always be aware of what is happening at Botany!