Abstract: Dry and humid forests around wetlands at the department of Córdoba, Caribbean region of Colombia. Fragment forests around swamp complexes in several localities at the department of Córdoba were sampled with 77 plots. In each plot all individuals with height up to 1.5 m were censused, measuring their diameter at breast height, coverage and individual height. Inside each area, the herbaceous layer was inventoried with 5 plots of 2x2 m. Observations about disturbance (intervention class, grade, matrix and contrast type) were taken and physical-chemical soil conditions were characterized to complement the characterization with basis on floristic composition and structure. Using the Twinspan program (PC Ord ver. 4) global tables of group segregation were obtained with which a group differentiation was found. These groups showed a floristic composition closely related with the patterns observed on the field. Around the swamps, vegetation is grouped in the class *Cravoeto tapiae-Astronietea guianensis*, order *Bursero simaroubae-Cavanillesietalia platanifoliae* characterized by the dominance of *Cavanillesia platanifolia*. In this humid forest formation (26 Lev), characterized by large-size individuals of *Cavanillesia platanifolia*, are included the association of *Cravoeto tapiae-Cavanillesion* *platanifoliae* alliance like forests of *Dordietum protaeco-pananensis*, *Cappari odoratissimatis-Cavanillesetum platanifoliae* and the mixed palm *Sabali mauritiformis-Cavanillesietum platanifoliae*. There are also other plant communities that can be assigned to the dry forest formation (51 Lev) characterized by the dominance of tree or shrub size individuals principally *Cochlospermo vitifolium*, *Apeiba aspera*, *Trichilia acuminata*, *Atuela butyraeae* and *Guazuma ulmifolia*. Among the characterized associations are *Cinnamomo trilinervis-Apeibetum asperae*, *Cochlospermo-vitifoli-Ataleetum butyraeae*, *Cordia alliodorae-Ataleetum butyraeae* and *Adenocalymno inundati-Astronietum graveolentis*. In this group, forests around the swamps in flooded and non-flooded areas (related to the tropical dry forest formation) have two formation types, one with vigorous elements, height up to 18 meters and the forests of the *Diario guainensis-Matsyabion elegantis* alliance that include the mixed palm *Vitici capitatae-Acrocomietum aculeatae* and the *Xilopio aromatica-Tapiretum guianensis*. The *Philantto elsiae-Tabebuition roseae* alliance includes low rise vegetation, woods and residual forests, as the *Annono punicifoliae-Pithecellobietum lanceolati* and the shoreline *Symmerrio paniculatae-Bactrietum guianensis* mangrove thickets in flooded areas. Another forest and thicket in flooded areas (5 Lev) are the “campanales” of *Caseario tremulae-Samaneetum samanensis* and the forests of the *Coccolobo costatae-Acaciaetum hulianeae* association and the thicket dominated by *Montrichardia arborescens*. The structural arrangement, particularly classes distribution is related with type and degree of perturbation of the characterized communities; logging and grazing distort the disetaneo behaviour of natural forests where the higher’ percentage of individuals should be distributed in the first classes. The *Caseario tremulae-Samaneetum samanensis* association is a representative case where the intensive grazing has driven this flooded forest to degradation; this is observable in the height classes’ distribution, with the higher individuals’ percentage (31%) in class III. The intervention grade of the humid and dry tropical forests characterized in this study can be classified from low (26%) to high (13%) predominating the mid degree (61%) making evident the current pressure to which this ecosystems are subjected mainly due to land use change for animal breeding, agriculture or mining. However there are still fragmented forests with acceptable characteristics for conservation which will be a starting point for the formulation of ecological restoration models. This report describes the available content in the Vegetation Database of the Colombian Caribbean Region (GIVD ID SA-CO-002).

Keywords: dry forest; humid forest; wetland vegetation.

<table>
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<th>GIVD Database ID: SA-CO-002</th>
<th>Last update: 2012-07-11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vegetation Database of the Colombian Caribbean Region</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope:</strong> The Colombian Caribbean Region database compiles information about relevés of different vegetation types growing from estuarine landscapes to isolated mountain massifs above 3,000 m.a.s.l., including inventories of all plant species according to their stratification.</td>
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<td><strong>Status:</strong> emerging</td>
<td><strong>Period:</strong> 1976-2009</td>
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<td><strong>Database manager(s):</strong> Jesús Orlando Rangel-Churio (<a href="mailto:orangelc@gmail.com">orangelc@gmail.com</a>); Edgar Andrés Avella-Muñoz (<a href="mailto:eaavella@yahoo.com">eaavella@yahoo.com</a>)</td>
<td><strong>Owner:</strong> Jesús Orlando Rangel-Churio</td>
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<td><strong>Web address:</strong> [NA]</td>
<td><strong>Availability:</strong> not yet available</td>
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<td><strong>Database format(s):</strong> Excel</td>
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<td><strong>Publication:</strong> [NA]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plot type(s):</strong> normal plots</td>
<td><strong>Plot-size range:</strong> 20-1,200 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-overlapping plots:</strong> 320</td>
<td><strong>Estimate of existing plots:</strong> 500 <strong>Completeness:</strong> 64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total plot observations: 320  Number of sources: 12  Valid taxa: 1,000

Countries: CO: 100.0%

Forest: [NA] — Non-forest: [NA]

Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%; bryophytes (terricolous or aquatic): 100%; lichens (terricolous or aquatic): 100%; non-terricolous taxa (epiphytic, saxicolous, lignicolous): 100%

Environmental data: altitude: 95%; slope aspect: 50%; slope inclination: 90%; soil depth: 80%; surface cover other than plants (open soil, litter, bare rock etc.): 30%; soil pH: 40%; other soil attributes: 30%

Performance measure(s): presence/absence only: 100%; cover: 70%; number of individuals: 60%; measurements like diameter or height of trees: 60%

Geographic localisation: GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 20%; point coordinates less precise than GPS, up to 1 km: 60%; small grid (not coarser than 10 km): 10%; political units or only on a coarser scale (>10 km): 10%


Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/SA-CO-002

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