

GREEN TALK – 2

WEBINAR

“Exploration of La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica / Panama)”



Alex Monro is a Research Leader at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew where he specialises on the flowering plant family Urticaceae, the flora of La Amistad International Park and karst floras of SW China and Latin America. Together with a varied team of local botanists, entomologists and herpetologists Alex has led 13 expeditions to previously unexplored sectors of the Park, in both **COSTA RICA AND PANAMA**. This resulted in over 60 species of plant, amphibian and beetle new to science. Alex will give an overview of their exploration of the Park, of its flora and of some of the publications resulting from this work.

La Amistad International Park (PILA) comprises 401,000 ha of continuous natural vegetation that represents some of the most biodiversity-rich and beautiful landscape in the World and is an important component of the Gran Cordillera de Talamanca indigenous peoples' spiritual world (Borge 2004). PILA forms the eastern 40% of the Talamanca mountain range connecting the Pacific and Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica and Panama. The Park is divided equally between Costa Rica and Panama and $\frac{3}{4}$ of it is in the Caribbean watershed. At regional level PILA represents the second largest state-controlled park and forms the core of the third largest biosphere reserve in Central America. In 2017 they presented a first checklist of vascular plant diversity for the park and a brief discussion of how this diversity is distributed by elevation and vegetation type together with a superficial assessment of floristic affinities. The checklist recognised 3,046 vascular plant species, 26 of which are lycopods, 433 are ferns and 2,586 are seed plants. This included 73 species endemic to the Park or its buffer zone



Date: 23 February 2021; Time: 2.30 pm



Patron: DR. A.A. MAO
Director, BSI

Organizer: DR. RAJIB GOGOI
Scientist E & Head of Office, BSI-SHRC, Gangtok

Co-organizer: Dr. D.K. Agrawala,
Scientist D

Co-organizer: Dr. J.H. Franklin Benjamin,
Scientist C & Nodal Officer



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