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Plant Diversity and Endemism in Cuba- Lecture by Ramona Oviedo Prieto

The Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University

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Cuban Research Institute

School of International and Public Affairs



Plant Diversity and Endemism in Cuba

Lecture by Ramona Oviedo Prieto

April 9, 2015 | 6:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library 220

Cuban flora is considered the richest in the insular Caribbean and one of the ten richest in island ecosystems in the world. Cuban flora has between 6,500 and 7,000 species, with 50-53% endemism, and more than 30% of these species are under some degree of threat. The island's origins, evolution, geological mosaic, and geographic position among other factors favor its biological richness and diversity. Its location at the crossroads of migratory flows of plants and important corridors of birds, and the repeated actions of extreme weather events, like hurricanes, also contribute to the presence of particular elements. Meanwhile, Cuba's ecosystems are considered highly fragile and vulnerable due to their insular, long, and narrow condition.

In this lecture, Dr. Ramona Oviedo Prieto will examine the probable continental origins of Cuban flora and the wide diversity of its endemic species, represented by scarce populations in various habitats. She will also discuss various families with the largest number of representatives in Cuba.

Dr. Ramona Oviedo Prieto is a Nature Curator at the National Herbarium of Cuba. She specializes in botany, taxonomy, and systematics, emphasizing species under threat and invasive plants. She has completed numerous quantitative and qualitative evaluations of botanical aspects of Cuba's flora and vegetation. She holds a Ph.D. in Forest and Tourist Management from the University of Alicante in Spain and a master's degree in Botany from the University of Havana.

This lecture, to be conducted in Spanish, is free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please call (305) 348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu.

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