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SOME NEW, CHARACTERISTIC OR REMARKABLE SPECIES

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The recent botanical inventory work done on Santo has brought to light a number of previously undiscovered taxa. These include two new species of *Schefflera* (see "Focus on Araliaceae") and probable novelties in the following genera: *Alangium* (Alangiaceae), *Alphitonia* (Rhamnaceae), *Citronella* (Cardiopteridaceae), *Cyrtandra* (Gesneriaceae), *Elaeocarpus* (Elaeocarpaceae), *Eugenia* (Myrtaceae), *Ficus* (Moraceae), *Freycinetia* (Pandanaceae), *Ilex* (Aquifoliaceae), *Parsonsia* (Apocynaceae), *Sciaphila* (Triuridaceae), *Semecarpus* (Anacardiaceae), *Tapeinosperma* (Myrsinaceae), *Terminalia* (Combretaceae), and in three genera of Rubiaceae (*Guettardella*, *Ixora* and *Psychotria*), all of which are now in various stages of closer study or preparation for publication. Some of these potential novelties are discussed in more detail below.

• • • *Alangium*

Prior to the Santo 2006 expedition, one member of this genus, *A. vitiense*, had been reported from Vanuatu by Guillaumin, although Smith, in his *Flora Vitiensis Nova,* later indicated that this species was restricted to Fiji and that Guillaumin's identification was incorrect. The original description of *A. vitiense* indeed refers to a plant that differs from the material collected on Santo (Fig. 96), whose calyx has long teeth and whose leaves have evident domatia and a very acuminate apex. Moreover, the species of *Alangium* occurring in Vanuatu does not match anything from New Caledonia, and thus appears to be new.

Figure 96: Flowers of a probably new species of *Alangium.*

• • • *Cyrtandra*

We identified several species of this genus on Santo: *C. efatensis, C. vesiculata, C. neohebridensis* and *C. schizocalyx*. Several specimens couldn't be related to any of these species (Fig. 97), so we suspect novelties in the genus.

• • • *Elaeocarpus*

Four species were observed during the mission, *E. floridanus, E. hortensis, E. hebridarum* (this latter considered by some authors as conspecific with *E. angustifolius*), and an unidentified taxon (Fig. 98), which might be new.

Figure 97: Flowers of a *Cyrtandra* species, which is suspected as being undescribed.

Figure 98: A species of *Elaeocarpus* in fruit, which might represent a novelty.

Gmelina

A tree belonging to this genus was collected in the Penaoru valley, representing the first record ever from Vanuatu. The plant on Santo appears to be close to *Gmelina vitiensis* from Fiji, but it is not identical, differing in several characters, which suggests that it may be a new species.

Parsonsia

Several lianescent genera of Apocynaceae were collected, including *Alyxia* and *Hoya*, and the specimens are thought to be closely comparable to already described species. However, a liana collected at 1 200 m (Fig. 99) in dense primary forest was with difficulty assigned to *Parsonsia* cf. *laevis*, and this plant might be new and in need of description.

Sciaphila

This genus in the family Triuridaceae was previously unknown from Santo, although one species, *S. aneityensis*, had been recorded elsewhere in the archipelago. Material of two distinct species was collected during the Santo 2006 expedition, one of which appears to be new to science.

Figure 99: A liana belonging to family Apocynaceae, initially identified as *Parsonsia* cf. *laevis* with doubt, might be a novelty.