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Distribution and succession of vascular epiphytes in Colombian Amazonia

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Curriculum Vitae

Ana María Benavides Duque was born on November 6, 1977 in Medellín, Colombia. In 2002, she obtained her bachelor degree in Biology at the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín. For her undergraduate graduation thesis, she assisted in the PhD project “Plant diversity scaled by growth forms along spatial and environmental gradients”, conducted by Alvaro Duque, where she studied epiphytes for the first time. During her bachelor studies she participated in several botanical projects at the Herbarium of the University (HUA). After the completion of her studies she worked as a researcher at the HUA. At the end of 2002, she was awarded a scholarship to participate in the course “Ecologia da Floresta Amazônica” in Manaus, Brazil. A year later, in 2003, she started her master studies in Tropical Ecology at The Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA). She graduated from the UvA in September 2005 with a project on the recovery and succession of epiphytes. Back in Colombia she worked as researcher at The Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas (CIB) and started preparing her PhD project. At the beginning of 2007, she formulated and executed a research project on the distribution of orchids in Andean cloud forests with the financial aid of Orchid Conservation International. At the end of the same year she received a scholarship from The Programme Alban and additional financial aid from several Dutch research funds to accomplish the present doctoral thesis.



Ana María Benavides at the Amacayacu Amazon river port. Photography by Folkert van Dunné