



Fabricio Miranda Avilés* & Iván Jiménez Pérez

Instituto de Biología Molecular y Biotecnología, Campus Universitario
Calle 27 Cota Cota, La Paz, Bolivia

* Author for correspondence: suniruna@gmail.com • faepifitas@yahoo.com

Epiphyte orchid diversity in a montane forest of Yungas in the PN-ANMI COTAPATA, La Paz, Bolivia

Within the framework of the project: “Study of the potential of sustainable use of epiphytes in the Parque Nacional y Área Natural de Manejo Integrado (PN-ANMI) Cota-pata”, developed in the department of La Paz - Bolivia. A floristic inventory of epiphytes species of the Orchidaceae family was made. The field work was done in slopes of a little disturbed evergreen forest and in secondary vegetation in the edge of footpath throughout the pre-Columbian routes of Chojllapata, Sillutinkara and the inferior slope of the Hornuni hill, within an altitudinal range of 1,700 - 3,300 m. Two hundred and sixty species of orchids were registered; among them the most representative genera were *Stelis* (19%), *Epidendrum* (15%), *Pleurothallis* (14%) and *Maxillaria* (13%). Endemic species of other zones of Bolivia were also found, thus extending their distribution, in addition the species *Prostechea pulchra* is a new record for Bolivia and possibly new species of the genera: *Epidendrum*, *Maxillaria*, *Cyrtorchilum*, *Stelis* and *Masdevallia* could also be found. Compared with other studies in similar regions our results show a relatively low diversity which can be explained by the history of use of the forest in the region since pre-Columbian times to recent times besides the successional dynamics of the forest. The existence of new records and new species in the region gives account of the importance of the zone for the diversity of this family.