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### Efforts to conserve endangered terrestrial orchids *in situ* and *ex situ* at two natural reserves within Central Mexico

The natural vegetation in and around Mexico City once harbored an unusually high number of plant and animal (insect) species, including endemics. The high diversity in this region has been attributed to the unusual topography resulting from a series of volcanic eruptions that ended ca. 1,800 years ago. In addition, two phyto-geographic regions overlap within Central Mexico that support diverse vegetation types (*e.g.*, shrubs, mature pine forests). Due to the rapid, uncontrolled growth of Mexico City's population, many of these habitats have been destroyed, prompting the establishment of several natural reserves, especially south of the city. Two reserves are the subject of this study: El Pedregal in Mexico City, and El Corredor Biológico Chichinautzin. Terrestrial orchid diversity has been documented, especially in the El Pedregal site where a total of 25 orchid species have been reported, including 5 species on the verge of extinction (*Bletia punctata*, *Cyrtopodium macrobulbon*, *Epidendrum anisatum*, *Habenaria strictissima*, *Liparis greenwoodiana*). We have conducted an extensive project aimed at monitoring, conserving germplasm, and isolating mycorrhizal fungi from orchids at both sites. Thus far, 11 different species from the El Pedregal site have been documented, and seeds from 75 capsules have been preserved in a seed bank. These species have also yielded 38 fungal isolates which have been identified to genus level and sequenced. In the El Corredor (Chichinautzin) site, 25 orchid species have been documented, seeds from 64 capsules preserved, and 17 fungal isolates have been recovered. This is the first Mexican report that utilizes a combination of strategies (*e.g.*, germplasm preservation, fungal isolation, database recording) to promote conservation both *in situ* and *ex situ*.