

MANUEL A. LUJÁN PH.D.
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Botany. Claremont Graduate University / Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Advisor: Lucinda McDade Ph.D. August 2018
M.Sc. Neotropical Taxonomic Botany. Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela. Advisor: Ricarda Riina Ph.D. July 2012
B.S. Biology. Minor: Botany. Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela. Advisor: Juan Gaviria Ph.D. October 2009

POSITIONS HELD

Taxonomist. 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Herbarium, Identification and Naming, Americas Team.
Postdoctoral researcher. 2018-2020. California Academy of Sciences, Institute for Biodiversity Science and Sustainability, Botany. Advisor: Nathalie Nagalingum Ph.D.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Marinho, L.C.; **Luján, M.**; Fiaschi, P.; Amorim, A.M.; 2020. *Tovomita nebulosa* (Clusiaceae), a new species from Cerro de la Neblina, Venezuela. *Acta Amazonica* 50: 149-154.
Luján, M. 2019. Playing the taxonomic cupid: matching pistillate and staminate individuals in *Clusia* (Clusiaceae). *Systematic Botany* 44: 548-559
Luján, M., & J. Nascimiento. 2019. Comments on species nomenclature and taxonomy in *Clusia* section *Oedematopus* (Clusiaceae). *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*. 13: 155-156
Luján, M., J. Aranda, A. Virgo & K. Winter. 2018. *Clusia guabalensis* (Clusiaceae) a new hemiepiphyte species with floral resins from the Atlantic wet forest in Panama. *Brittonia* 70: 412-417

- Luján, M., A. Idárraga & B. Hammel.** 2018. *Clusia hirsuta*, a new species of *Clusia* sect. *Retinostemon* and the first description of trichomes in the genus. *Novon* 26: 154–158
- Luján, M.** 2016. *Clusia scariosepala* (Maguire) Luján a distinct species of *Clusia* sect. *Anandroyne* endemic to the Venezuelan Andes. *Harvard Papers in Botany* 21: 137–140
- Luján, M., Y. León & R. Riina.** 2015. Synopsis of *Croton* (Euphorbiaceae) in the Andes of Mérida, Venezuela. *Caldasia* 37: 73–90
- Luján, M., N. Gutiérrez & J. Gaviria Rincón.** 2012. *Asystasia gangetica* (L.) T. Anders. subsp. *micrantha* (Nees) Ensermu (Acanthaceae), a new record for Venezuela. *Ernstia* 21: 131–137
- Luján, M., N. Gutiérrez; J. Gaviria Rincón & A. Aranguren.** 2011. Preliminary floristic study of Mérida city, state of Mérida, Venezuela. *Pittieria* 35: 35–61

BOOKS

- Tripp, E., & **M. Luján.** 2018. Venezuelan *Ruellia* (Acanthaceae): A Monograph. *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* 119. New York, NY. NYBG Press

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Luján, M., & K. Winter.** Evolution of CAM: insights from genomics, leaf anatomy, biochemistry and climate. Submitted to *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*
- Luján, M. & L.C. Marinho.** A taxonomic account of the Clusiaceae from Chiapas, Mexico. To be submitted to *Botanical Sciences*.
- Luján, M.** Molecular systematics of *Clusia* (Clusiaceae) revisited. To be submitted to *Taxon*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Luján M., J. Liu & N. Nagalingum.** July 2019. Diversity, structure and demographics in Australian *Cycas*. *Botany 2019*. Tucson, AZ
- Luján M. & L. McDade.** June 2018. Evolution of CAM in Neotropical *Clusia* (Clusiaceae) insights from leaf anatomy and biochemistry. *Botany 2018*. Rochester, MN

- McDade L., C. Kiel, N. Medina, **M. Luján**, Y. Zhuang, M. Schreiber, H. Stone, E. Berbeo, E. Tripp. June 2018. How many ways are there to make a purple flower? Botany 2018. Rochester, MN
- Luján M.** & L. McDade. June 2017. Playing the taxonomic cupid, matching incomplete species of *Clusia* (Clusiaceae). Botany 2017. Fort Worth, TX
- Luján M.**, Y. León & R. Riina. May 2013. Nuevos reportes del género *Croton* L. (Euphorbiaceae) para los Andes de Venezuela. XX Venezuelan Botany meeting. San Cristóbal, Venezuela
- Luján, M.**, G. Bustos, D. Castillo, H. Tajan, F. Santiago, M. Castro, L. Ojeda, N. Santos, & F. Ely. May 2011. Análisis florístico y fisionómico en un fragmento de bosque nublado - pajonal preparamero en Mérida, Venezuela. XIX Venezuelan Botany meeting. Maracay, Venezuela
- Luján M.**, N. Gutiérrez, J. Gavidia. May 2010. Análisis Florístico y Descripción de la Vegetación en el Ecosistema Urbano de la Ciudad de Mérida, Venezuela. I Venezuelan Biodiversity meeting. Maracay, Venezuela

SEMINARS

- Population genomics on rare Australian *Cycas*. Bay Area Population Genetics Symposium. University of California Berkeley. November 2019.
- Systematics in plants with diverse sexual systems. San Francisco State University. Department of Biology. Colloquium in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation. October 2019
- Australian *Cycas* population size and diversity assessment. San Diego Zoo Global. Plant Conservation Genetics Workshop. September 2019
- Evolution of CAM in Neotropical *Clusia* (Clusiaceae). University of California Berkeley and Jepson Herbaria seminar series. November 2018

AWARDED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant 2017 (\$17,301)
- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Short Term Fellowship 2016 (\$2,000)
- Missouri Botanical Garden Alwyn H. Gentry Fellowship 2016 (\$2,500)
- Garden Club of America Award in Tropical Botany 2016 (\$5,500)

Claremont Graduate University. Graduate Student Council Travel Award 2015
(\$300)

Smithsonian Institution's Lyman B. & Ruth C. Smith Fellowship Award 2015
(\$2,500)

American Society of Plant Taxonomists Research Award 2015 (\$800)

Claremont Graduate University. Graduate Student Council Travel Award 2014
(\$300)

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden research grants 2013–2018 (\$9,850)

Universidad de Los Andes. Graduate research grant 2012 (\$300)

Organization for Tropical Studies Fellowship. Tropical Plant Systematics 2009
(\$2,000)

Fundacite Mérida. International Travel Grant 2009 (\$500)

Universidad de Los Andes. Undergraduate Research Grant 2008 (\$200)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate mentor. California Academy of Sciences. NSF-REU Summer Systematics Institute. Guided students in molecular and morphological data collection for phylogenetic analyses. June - August 2019, 2020

Teaching assistant. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Provided training on plant anatomical methods to five graduate students, one undergraduate student and one external auditor in the Plant Anatomy and Morphology class. January - May 2017

Teaching assistant. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Summer Research Institute. Provided training on field, molecular and anatomical methods for plant phylogenetic systematics to eight undergraduate students. July - August 2016

Adjunct instructor. Universidad Politécnica Territorial del Estado Mérida Kléber Ramírez. Prepared lectures on plant reproduction and general biology to undergraduate students. September 2011 - July 2013

Teaching assistant. Universidad de Los Andes. Designed and implemented laboratory activities for the General Biology course to undergraduate students. September 2005 - July 2006

SERVICE

Associate editor for Kew Bulletin. Subject editor for PhytoKeys
Society of Herbarium Curators Membership Committee 2020-2023
Council Member. The Systematics Association 2020-2023
Reviewer for scholarly journals. *Aliso*, *Brittonia*, *Journal of Pollination Ecology*,
Novon, *Phytotaxa*, *Plant Systematics and Evolution*, *Urban Forestry &
Urban Greening*, *Willdenowia*
Graduate student representative to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Editorial
and Library Committee. 2016–2018
Graduate student chair. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. 2015-2016
Volunteer. 25th Graduate Student Symposium California Botanical Society. April
2015
Volunteer. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Wild Flower Show (February 2015,
April 2016); Garden with a View (May 2015); Fall Planting Festival (October
2014)
Student representative to the faculty council. Biology Department, Universidad de
Los Andes, Venezuela. 2008–2009

OUTREACH

Letters to a Pre-Scientist. Participant as "pen pal" to correspond with middle school
students from low income communities. 2019-2020
California Academy of Sciences. Designed lab activities and talks for high school
students from communities traditionally underrepresented in STEM
participating in the Careers in Science Intern program
California Academy of Sciences. Displayed plant specimens on Tropical Night Life
(January 2019), Super Natural (October 2018, 2019) and Jurassic Night Life
(March 2019) events
American Society of Plant Biologists. Informational interview for Student Space
Network on Plantae.org. November 2018.
Bay Area Science Festival. Displayed plant exhibit. November 2018
San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers. Invited speaker. 2018, 2019
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Invited speaker. May 2017

HONORS

Best Contributed Paper. Tropical Biology Section. Botany 2017. Fort Worth, TX
Certificate of Recognition. Outstanding Biology Major 2007. ULA Mérida,
Venezuela

SOCIETIES AND AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Botanical Society of America,
International Association for Plant Taxonomy, Sociedad Latinoamericana de
Botánica, Sociedad Botánica de Venezuela

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Experience planning field expeditions, including working with national
collaborators to obtain necessary permits to collect an export plant material in
Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama,
Peru, **Venezuela** (bold indicates field trip participation)
Experience piloting unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for plant population surveys