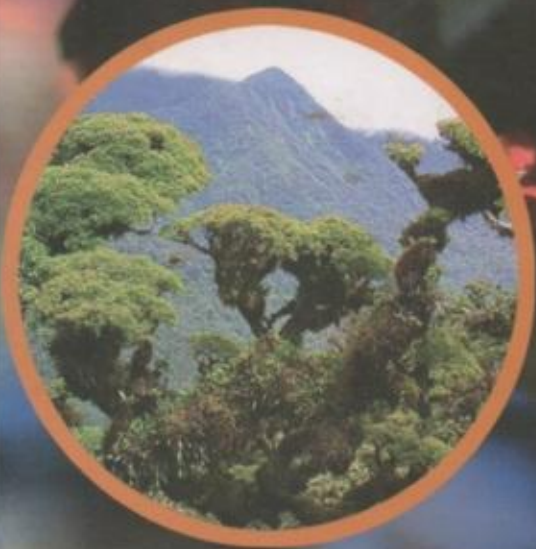


Biodiversity: The richness of Bolivia

State of knowledge and conservation



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3.2.4. Comparative considerations of inter-ecoregional patterns of species diversity and endemism

(P.L. Ibsch, B. Gerkmann, S. Kreft, S.G. Beck, S.K. Herzog, J. Köhler, R. Müller, S. Reichle & R. Vásquez¹)

It is crucial to have an idea of the spatial distribution of species within the national territory

Within the context of the need to analyze the negative impacts that certain activities have on biodiversity and to prioritize areas for conservation, it is crucial to have an idea of the spatial distribution of species within the national territory. Obviously the ideal would be to map the ranges of each species, overlay all these ranges and in doing so obtain a map of species diversity. Although there are efforts being made to do this, using computerized models and programs for predicting species ranges (Müller et al. 2003, Sommer et al. 2003), there are still no approximations of this type. For this reason we prefer to illustrate diversity patterns at a lesser resolution, based on data already available and considering the ecoregional limits defined previously in this book. To give a first approximation, we analyzed very heterogeneous data from very different sources, some as yet unpublished.

Seven taxa were selected, five families of angiosperms and two groups of fauna. Using the guide to Bolivian trees (Guía de árboles, Killeen et al. 1993) as a basis, we analyzed the **leguminous trees** which represent an important element in the lowland forests. The list of species from this publication was used to consult TROPICOS², the Missouri Botanical Garden database, locating the collection points within the different ecoregions. We added a few species according to recent publications (e.g., Atahuachi et al. 2001) (altogether 282 species, 86 endemics). In the case of the **Poaceae**, the work of Renvoize (1998) was the basis for the decision as to which species occur in which ecoregions, ignoring any exotic or invading species (altogether 636 species, 63 endemics). The analysis of the **Bromeliaceae** was carried out using the list of species published by Krömer et al. (1999) and Ibsch & Vásquez (2000), with the consideration of species described recently or still to be described (own data, unpublished), and also considering recent floristic lists such as that of López (2000) (altogether

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