








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## New IUCN Species Survival Commission Colombia Fungal Specialist Group





The IUCN Species Survival Commission Colombia Fungal Specialist Group was launched on 19 April 2023. This national group aims to secure the conservation, management and, where necessary, the recovery of Colombian fungi by mobilizing technical and scientific expertise, building networks and partnerships, and raising awareness of the importance of fungi, their applications, and the benefits they bring to humanity, as well as the threats they currently face. This new Specialist Group comprises a diverse group of specialists who will act collectively for the conservation of fungi in Colombia, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making for preventing the extinction of species.

Colombia is home to 75,947 known species across the various Kingdoms and has two global biodiversity hotspots. With high rates of endemism, the country is a priority region for global biodiversity conservation, and it faces diverse anthropogenic transformations, including habitat fragmentation, loss and degradation, overexploitation, invasive species, pollution and climate change.

Although there has been an increase in the efforts of the Colombian mycological community to highlight the importance of fungal conservation, there is still a long way to go to ensure that fungi are included in conservation plans and actions. So far, 7,241 species of fungi have been reported for the country, but only 27 species have been assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. There is still no official national Red List assessment for fungi in Colombia, and there are no records of threatened species in the Colombian government's Conservation Action Plan.

The Colombia Fungal Specialist Group seeks to promote actions such as holding IUCN workshops to assess the

extinction risk of species, training specialists in the application of the criteria and categories, and disseminating the importance of fungal conservation in Colombia. We invite researchers, students, communities, stakeholders and practitioners to contact us with questions, requests for support or ideas for new collaborations.

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## Rediscovery of a tiny plant species reinforces the need to protect Serra do Padre Ângelo in south-east Brazil

Serra do Padre Ângelo, a quartzitic mountain complex in the Doce River valley, eastern Minas Gerais state in south-east Brazil, has recently attracted the attention of biologists as a result of the discovery of several new plant and animal species, many of them endemic to these mountains. These discoveries have mainly followed the description of the sundew *Drosera magnifica* (Droseraceae)—discovered through photographs posted on the social network Facebook—from these mountains. It is the largest sundew in the Americas, endemic to Serra do Padre Ângelo and categorized nationally as Critically Endangered (Gonella et al., 2015, *Phytotaxa*, 220, 257–267). These mountains nevertheless remain unprotected and are susceptible to wildfires and deforestation.

In the last 3 years, data have been collected to support the formal protection of Serra do Padre Ângelo, with > 4,000 plant specimens collected. Among these was a tiny plant of the family Eriocaulaceae, collected for the first time in June 2020. In May 2023 we identified it as *Paepalanthus minimus* after comparison with the type specimen in the herbarium of the National Museum, Rio de Janeiro. The species had previously been collected only once, over 100 years ago and nearly 250 km from the new record.

We assess the species as Critically Endangered, as it is likely to be locally extinct in the site where the type specimen was collected and, at the rediscovery site, the population is small, unprotected, and threatened by invasive grasses and