

Review Article

# Knowledge for a Better Conservation: Syntaxonomic Review of Caribbean Pine Forests (Cuba, Hispaniola)

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**Abstract:** A phytosociological review is carried out of the pine forest formations on the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola (Caribbean), due to the diversity of soils and environments. We collected 10 plant associations belonging to the class *Byrsonimo-Pinetea caribaea* growing on siliceous, calcareous and sandy substrates and 21 associations on special, serpentine and ophite substrates and on ultramafic rocks belonging to the class *Caseario crassinervis-Pinetea cubensis*, exclusive to Cuba; while the association of pine forests on serpentines in Hispaniola is included in the class *Phyllantho orbicularis-Neobracetea valenzuelanae* with a Caribbean distribution. The comparative phytosociological and statistical study reveals phytosociological anomalies in the inclusion of various syntaxa, and in the description of other syntaxa according to the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (ICPN). We therefore propose a change in status for several of the subassociations described: subass. *ilicetosum repandae*: syn. var. con *Ilex repanda*; subass. *schmidtottietosum shaferi*: syn. var. with *Schmidtottia shaferi*; subass. *acrosynanthetosum trachyphylli*: syn. var. with *Acrosynanthus trachyphyllus*; subass. *psychotrietosum grandis*: var. con *Psychotria grandis*; subass. *notodonetosum roigii*: syn. var. with *Notodon roigii*. We also propose a *nomen novum*: *jaquinietosum oxhyphyllae* Reyes & Acosta 2012 ex Cano et al. *hoc loco*.

**Keywords:** Association; Biodiversity; Endemisms; Pinewoods; *Pinus*; Phytosociology; Vegetation

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## 1. Introduction

From the bioclimatic standpoint, the thermotype in the Antilles ranges from the infratropical to the supratropical (the latter only in Hispaniola) [1]. The temperature in the supratropical thermotype drops to 0° C in winter. The dominant thermotypes are the infra- thermo- and mesotropical, and the ombrotype ranges between the semiarid and the hyperhumid. This study of Cuban pine forests is conducted in the infra-, thermo- and mesotropical thermotypes and in rainy environments with rainfalls of between 1300-2000 mm. The ombrotype ranges from the lower subhumid to the upper humid, in agreement with Rivas-Martínez et al. [2] and Cano et al. [3] on the island of Hispaniola, in sites with a dominance of broadleaved forest; however, in areas with steep slopes or special substrates where there is a water deficit, the pine forest should be considered edaphophrophilous [4-6].

Regarding biogeography, we have followed the work of Rivas-Martínez et al. [7], which establishes three biogeographical provinces: Florida, Cuba and the Antilles, all part of the Caribbean-Mesoamerican Region. When studying the distribution of Melastomataceae in Central America and the distribution of 2050 endemic species on the island of Hispaniola, Cano et al. [8-10] established the superprovince of the Western Antilles in which they include Cuba, Jamaica and the Florida peninsula. They maintain the biogeographical province of Florida with the sectors defined by Rivas-Martínez et al. [7] and the province of Cuba with two subprovinces: the Cuban subprovince, with three biogeographic sectors (Eastern, Central and Western), and the Jamaican subprovince, with the Jamaican sector. The superprovince of the Central-Eastern Antilles is established for the rest of the islands (Hispaniola, Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles) and the Eastern Antilles biogeographic province is created for Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles. The island of Hispaniola is considered a biogeographical province with two biogeographical subprovinces: the Central subprovince (Central sector) with acid substrates and over 500 endemic species, and the Caribbean-Atlantic subprovince with basic substrates and six biogeographic sectors with 19 district areas, which are subsequently studied by Cano Ortiz et al. [11]. For the biogeographic study we have taken into consideration several factors, the geology of the territory, endemic species, distribution and origin of the flora, as well as the existing plant communities and their catenal contacts. [8-10]

Solid knowledge about flora and vegetation provides a valuable basis for the implementation of biodiversity management and conservation measures [12-14]. The gaps of knowledge, both in native and alien species, are still today the subject of interest by numerous scholars around the world [15-18]. If flora checklists provide new, complete and updated information about the presence of plant taxa in a given geographic area at small or large scale, syntaxonomical studies allow to review, improve and update knowledge on species composition of different plant communities that occupy several habitats in the world.

Pine forests are habitats widespread in the world, very important for providing ecosystem services and for their ecological role [19]. If some of them are well known and studied under different points of view, others less. It is the case of the Caribbean pine forests of Cuba and Hispaniola

For the study of the pine forests in the Caribbean, the phytosociological method was used, since the existing studies in Hispaniola and Cuba are of this type. Thus we highlight the different plant associations, which constitute habitats of special protection due to the high rate of endemism.

On the northern or windward face of the mountains, there is a predominance of broadleaved or rainforest of *Magnolia*, *Prestoea*, *Ocotea*, *Podocarpus*, *Cyathea* (*Ocoteo-Cyrtolea racemiflorae* Borhidi 1996) [20], while the pine forest is on the Caribbean or leeward face at low altitudes above the sea of clouds. The genus *Pinus* comes from North America and reached the Greater Antilles via the Florida migratory route. Cuba is the location of *Pinus caribaea* Morelet, *P. tropicalis* Morelet [Syn: *Pinus cubensis* Griseb. & Carab. var. *terthrocarpa* Griseb.] and, according to some authors, *P. cubensis* Griseb. & Carab. (endemic) [Syn: *Pinus maestrensis* Bisce; *P. occidentalis* Sw. var. *cubensis* (Griseb.) Silva]. However, following the criterion of Borhidi [21,22] and López Almirall [23], we maintain the taxon *P. maestrensis* Bisce. Some authors also cite *P. occidentalis* var. *cubensis* in Cuba. In Hispaniola there is a dominance of *P. occidentalis* (endemic) and in a disperse manner *P. caribaea*. Only *P. caribaea* is located in Puerto Rico, where it forms different types of forest. Other plant communities developing exclusively in Hispaniola are the hemicryptophyte grass scrublands in the supratropical bioclimatic belt, dominated by *Danthonia domingensis* Hack. & Pilg., a plant that is endemic to the Cordillera Central and that coexists with the endemic plant *Deschampsia domingensis* Hitchcock & Ekman, occupying the open areas left by the pine forest of *P. occidentalis*, described by Cano et al. [24] as *Dendropemom phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis* Cano, Velázquez, & Cano-Ortiz 2011. Several researchers have studied the

flora and vegetation of the two largest islands in the Caribbean, Cuba and Hispaniola, in recent decades [25–35].

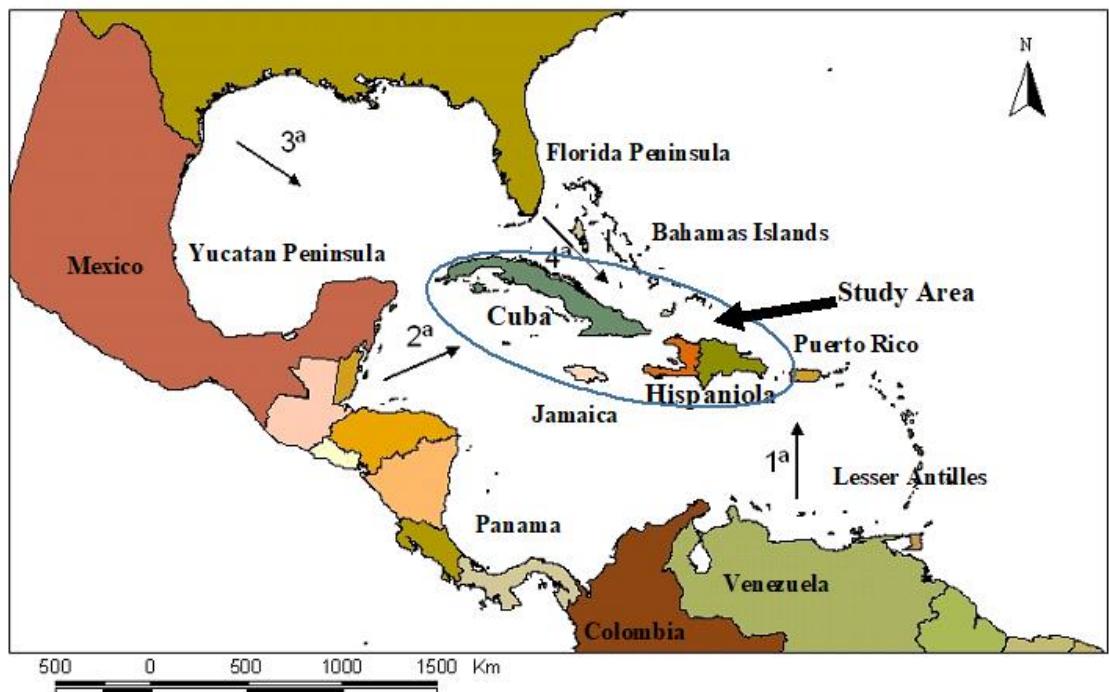
The statistical study of the several pine forest vegetation units with the rank of association, subassociation and variant reveals anomalies as to the veracity of the syntaxa according to the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (ICPN) [36]. Borhidi [21,22] proposed including the pine forests growing on sandy soils derived from andesites in rainy sites in the order *Pinetalia occidentalis-maestrensis* Borhidi 1991, and assigns this order to the class *Ocoteo-Cyrilletea racemiflorae* Borhidi 1996; whereas Cano et al. [37] includes the mixed pine forests on rainy sites in the order *Pinetalia tropicalis-caribaeae* Samek & Borhidi in Borhidi 1996. It is currently necessary to maintain the order *Pinetalia occidentalis-maestrensis* that contains the alliances *Pinion maestrensis* Borhidi 1996 and *Cyrillo nepensis-Pinion cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996. Both orders are included in the class *Byrsinimo crassifoliae-Pinetea caribaeae* Samek & Borhidi in Borhidi 1996, which represents the pure and mixed pine forests in the lower-lying regions and hills of Central America, Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Bahamas and Florida. These forests grow on acid to neutral soils, sometimes slightly basic, derived from white sands, slate, sandstone and occasionally limestone.

The aim of this study is to review the different syntaxa of pine forests on the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola, since most of these forests growth on special substrates, in which there is a high number of endemic plants. Thanks to this, it will be possible to act all the necessary actions to protect plants and habitats in these two islands.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The high mountains in Cuba that developed over millions of years were the Sierra Maestra, Sierra Escambray (Guamuhaya), Sierra Turquino at 1974 m a.s.l., and Pico Cuba at 1972 m a.s.l. The highest altitudes in Hispaniola are the Cordillera Central with Pico Duarte (3175 m a.s.l.), Pico del Yaque (3125 m a.s.l.), la Rosilla (2860 m a.s.l.), Cordillera Septentrional with Pico Diego de Ocampo (1229 m a.s.l.), and other mountain ranges such as Bahoruco, Hotte and La Selle, Cordillera Oriental. Finally, in Puerto Rico, the Cordillera Central with altitudes below 1500 m a.s.l. [21]. The Cordillera Central (Hispaniola) has a siliceous character and dates from the Cretaceous era period, and is the highest point in the whole Caribbean. The climate in all the Antilles is tropical with frequent and abundant rains on the oceanic face, sometimes exceeding 3,000 mm, and low rainfall on the Caribbean face, at up to 200 mm. The mean temperature is 24 °C, and all the islands are subjected to hurricane winds with speeds of over 200 km/h [21, 22].

We studied the plant associations in the pine forest on the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola (Figure 1), with 180 relevés corresponding to associations, subassociations, variants and subvariants. A statistical treatment was performed on 706 species distributed in the associations present on the two islands. The flora of these syntaxa is a consequence of the 4 migratory routes and of the speciation that has occurred throughout history due to the isolation of the species. The 181 relevés correspond to the associations and subassociations described. All the samples are located on the islands of Cuba and Dominican Republic.



**Figure 1.** Location of area of study. 1, 2, 3 and 4 migratory routes of the species. Cuba and Hispaniola [24].

Sampling plots and phytosociological inventories follow the sigmatist method of Zürich-Montpellier school of Braun-Blanquet [38] and collected in current works [39]. The plot size and the sampling method carried out by the different authors is correct, according to current phytosociology [38]. Regarding the syntaxonomic review, we have taken into account the main current phytosociology studies [40–42] and the ICPN [36]. To differentiate some syntaxa from others, a synthetic table was made, in which the floristic differences are clearly observed, likewise we established the Jaccard distance between the typus of the syntaxa to see their similarity / dissimilarity. Regarding the choice of characteristic species and companions, the concepts of current phytosociology are taken into consideration: for this we consider the ecological niche of the species, distribution area, bioclimate, status, plant dynamics as well as catenal contacts.

Ordination analyses are applied (cluster, DCA) to establish the syntaxonomical differences between associations, subassociations and ecological variants. The statistical packages PAST (PAleontological STatistics)® and CAP3 (Community Analysis Package III)® were used for this study. Special reference is made to the type relevés. The types for each association were selected out of the total relevés, and a comparative table was compiled to establish the floristic differences between them.

The cluster and DCA analysis helps us to establish the different groups, the use of the types of each association and subassociation allows us to see the proximity between the groups, and if there really are substantial differences to maintain these phytosociological groups, with the established statistical information, together with the phytosociological analysis and the use of the international code of nomenclature, we establish the proposed syntaxes.

The following plant associations have been described by us [16] for the island of Hispaniola, and by Borhidi [21,22] and Reyes & Acosta [27] for Cuba: *Clethro-Pinetum maestrensis* (CLP), *Paepalantho-Pinetum tropicalis* (PAP), *Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae* (BYP), *Querco-Pinetum caribaeae* (QUP), *Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis* (ACP), *Euphorbio helenae-Pinetum cubensis* (EHP), *Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* (ASP), *Dracaeno-*

*Pinetum cubensis* (DCP), *Dendropemon phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis* (DP), *Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis* (CP), *Leptogono buchi-Pinetum occidentalis* (LP), *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *typicum* var. *Evolvulus sericeus* (PP), *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *lyonetosum affinis* var. *Sida linifolia* (PP), *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *lyonetosum affinis* var. *Cecropia peltata-Baccharis shaferi* var. *Vaccinium cubense* (PP), *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *typicum* var. *Bonnetia cubensis* var. *Dicranopteris flexuosa* (CSP), *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *ilicetosum repandae* var. *de Cinnamomum elongatum* var. *de Suberanthus stellatus* and subass. *Schmidtottietosum shaferi* (CP), *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* var. *Guettarda monocarpa* subvar. *Euphorbia helenae* subvar. *Eugenia asperifolia* (SP), *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *shaferetosum platyphyllae* subass. *acrosynanthes-tosum trachyphylli* (SP), *Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *typicum* subass. *ossaeetosum shaferi* subass. *psychotrietus grandis* (AP), *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *myrcetosum* subass. *notodonetosum roigii* (PFP), *Anthaenantio-Pinetum cubensis* var. *tipica* var. *Baccharis scopariooides* (ANP), *Anthaenantio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *euphorbitosum* var. *tipica* var. *Aristolochia lindeniana-Rhynchospora crispa* (ANP), *Anthaenantio-Pinetum cubensis* var. *Ossaea pauciflora* subvar. *tipica* subvar. *Baccharis shaferi-Rajania nipensis* var. *Evolvulus sericeus-Polygala saginoides* subvar. *tipica* subvar., *Arthrostylidium capillifolium* (ANP), *Anthaenantio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *grisebachiathetosum nipensis* var. *Gochanatia shaferi* subvar. *Coccoloba refexa* subvar. *Clerodendrum nipense* (ANP), *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *typicum* var. *tipica* var. *Cynanchum brachystephanum*, subass. *annonetosum sclerophyllae* var. *tipica* var. *Eugenia mensurensis* subass. *xylosnetosum buxifolii* (ARP), *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* (PHP), *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *pitcairnietosum cubensis* (PHP) (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Material studied from the 34 associations.

Associations	No. of relevés
DP: <i>Dendropemon phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis</i> (1DP-4DP)	4
CLP: <i>Clethro-Pinetum maestrensis</i> (13CLP1-17CLP5)	5
PAP: <i>Paepalantho-Pinetum tropicalis</i> (18PAP1)	1
BYP: <i>Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae</i> (19BYP1-23BYP5)	5
QUP: <i>Querco-Pinetum caribaeae</i> (24QUP)	1
ACP: <i>Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis</i> (25ACP)	1
EHP: <i>Euphorbia helenae-Pinetum cubensis</i> (26EHP)	1
ASP: <i>Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis</i> (27ASP)	1
CP: <i>Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis</i> (5CP1-8CP4)	4
LP: <i>Leptogono buchi-Pinetum occidentalis</i> (9LP1-12LP4)	4
PP: <i>Panico-Pinetum cubensis</i> (29PP-67PP)	39
CSP: <i>Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis</i> (68CP-84CP)	17
SP: <i>Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis</i> (85SP-100SP)	16
AP: <i>Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis</i> (101AP-107AP)	7
PFP: <i>Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis</i> (108PFP-117PFP)	10
ANP: <i>Anthaenantio-Pinetum cubensis</i> (118ANP-160ANP)	43
ARP: <i>Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis</i> (161ARP-172ARP)	12
PHP: <i>Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis</i> (173PHP-181PHP)	9
<b>Total relevés</b>	<b>180</b>

### 3. Results

The study of Caribbean pine forests reveals two major groups. 1) Pine forest growing on ferritic, ophiolite, serpentine and pyroxenite soils, and included in the phytosociological class *Caseario crassinervis-Pinetea cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996; and 2) the

second group of pine forests growing on siliceous and limestone substrates, and calcareous sands, which must be included in the class *Byrsinimo crassifoliae-Pinetea caribaeae*. The cluster analysis perfectly separates the Cuban pine forests from the pine forests on the island of Hispaniola (DP, CP and LP); a certain number of syntaxa described by Reyes & Acosta [27] are very close to the group extracted from Borhidi [22] (Figure 2).

The dendrogram in Figure 2 shows the separation of the different types of pine forests, some being clearly separated, while others are close to each other. Several different groups appear in the cluster to which the inventories studied belong. The inventories of associations collected and described by Borhidi [22] belonging to: *Paepalantho seslerioididis-Pinetum tropicalis* (PAP), *Querco-Pinetum caribaeae* Borhidi & Capote in Borhidi (1991) (QUP), *Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis* (ACP), *Euphorbio helenae-Pinetum cubensis* (EHP), *Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* (ASP) and *Dracaeno-Pinetum cubensis* (DCP) comprise a single group, and *Clethro-Pinetum maestrensis* (CLP) and *Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicallis-caribaeae* (BYP) are separated and constitute separate groups. Concerning the associations, subassociations and variants described by Reyes & Acosta [27], some syntaxa are perfectly separated, whereas in others the separation is not clear. The association *Anthaenatio-Pinetum cubensis* (ANP) forms a homogeneous group in the cluster, and is very close to *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* (ARP). The group formed by this last syntaxon includes the *typus* for the association and for the subassociations *annonetosum sclerophyllae* and *xylosmetosum buxifolii*. Both associations are localized in Sierra de Nipe. ANP is in the south of Sierra de Nipe, with precipitations ranging 1300-1500 mm and on ferritic soils with high rainfall. ARP is located in the most highlands of the Sierra de Nipe between 600-995 m a.s.l. on an ultramafic rocky surface and steep slopes, with precipitations that oscillate over 1500 mm. To a large extent both associations share common floristic elements.

The association *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* (PP) constitutes a clearly differentiated group containing three subgroups, two of which correspond to the relevés in the association, and the subassociation *lynetosum affinis*. The third subgroup comprises the relevés (59-67) representing the variant with *Vaccinium cubense* Griseb.

This association is located in rainy areas of the northern area of the Sierra de Nipe on dark ferritic soils, with rainfall of 1500 mm, in north-northeast orientations with rainfall exceeding 1800 mm. It is enriched in *Lyonia affinis* Urb., which together other species acts as a differential against the type association: for this reason, the authors have established the *lynetosum affinis* subassociation.

The following associations belong to group in the cluster: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* (CP) and the two subassociations *ilecetosum repandae* and *schmidtottietosum shaferi*. In this case, both subassociations form a single group that is separated from the relevés in the association. The pine forest association CP is located in the west of Cubillas del Toa, between 400-740 m a.s.l. and consequently in a thermotropical environment, on ultramafic ferritic substrates and with high rainfall over 1800 mm, the upper subhumid ombrotype being.

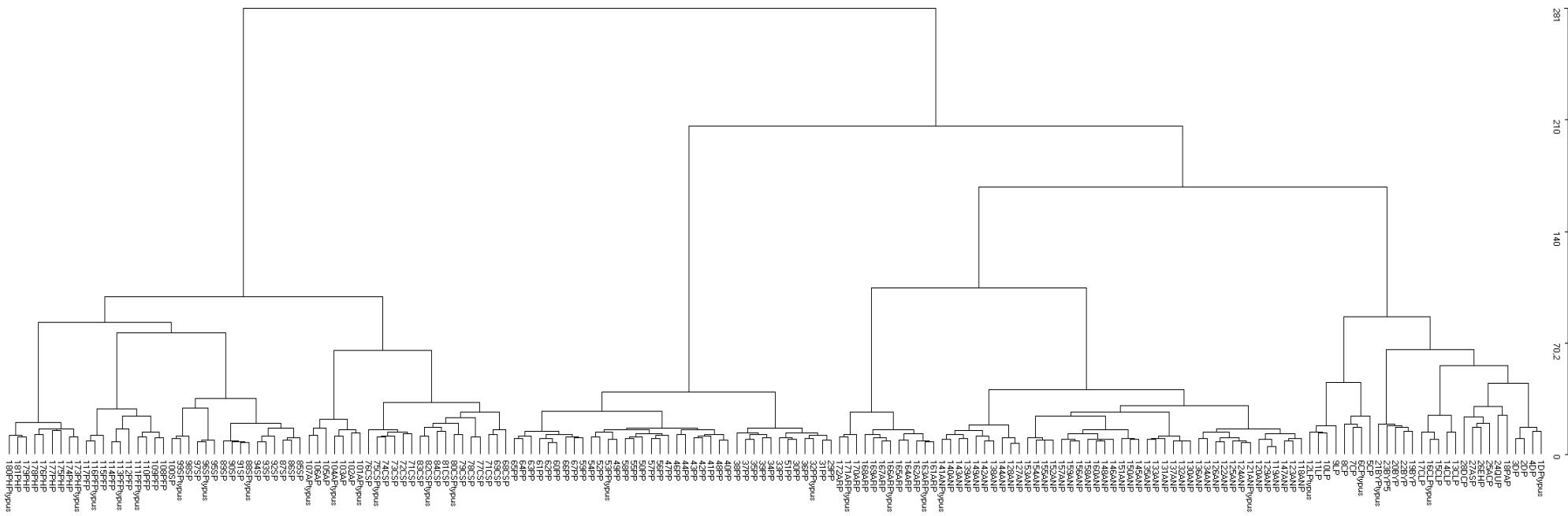
The same occurs with *Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* (AP) and its subassociations *annonetosum sclerophyllae* and *psychotriietosum grandis*, in which the three *typus* belong to the same group. AP is present on ophiolite rocks and red fetitus soils, between 400-600 m a.s.l. and with high precipitations, close to 3000 mm: bioclimatically it is found in the thermotropical and in the humid ombrotype.

This is also the case of the subassociations *shaferetosum platyphyllae* and *acrosynanthes tosum trachyphylli* in the association *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* (SP), *myricetosum* and *notodonetosum roigii* in *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* (PFP), and *pitcairnietosum cubensis* in *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* (PHP).

The associations SP, PFP and PHP constitute a group in the cluster. SP corresponds to the pine forests of the ophiolitic massif of Moa Baracao on ultramafic substrates, with red ferritic soils: a pine forests that growth between 600-700 m a.s.l. and in environments

with rainfall close to 1800 mm, being the upper subhumid thermotropical bioclimate. The association PFP is located at low altitude, below 300 m a.s.l., in ultramafic substrates, interacting above 300 m a.s.l. with the cloud forest. Rainfall is variable, but ranges between 1500-2000 mm. PFP bioclimatically is framed in the upper subhumid thermotropical. Finally, PHP it is a pine forest that also growth on ultramafic materials, in steep reliefs with slopes between 15-30%, and at altitudes between 600-700 m a.s.l., with rainfalls close to 1800 mm, being the upper subhumid thermotropical bioclimate.

All these associations are located on special substrates, have a common flora, but also present a high richness in endemic species, which act as differentiating species between them [15].

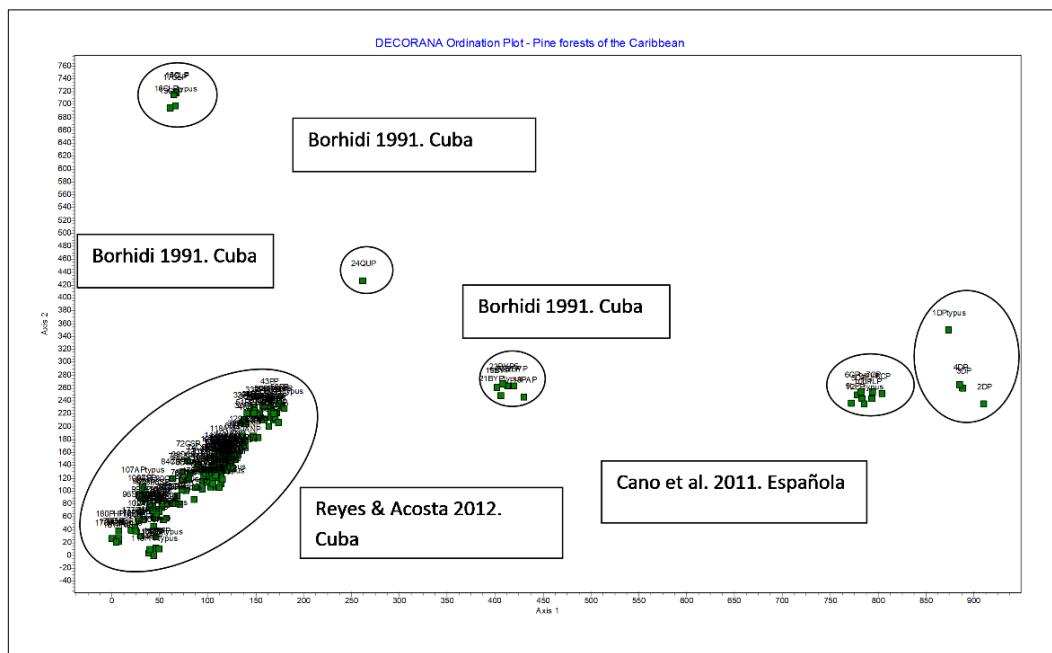


**Figure 2.** Dendrogram for pine forests on the islands of Cuba and Española. Typus inventories. 1DP1: *Dendropemon pycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis* (1DP1-4DP4). PAP: *Paepalantho-Pinetum tropicalis* (18PAP). QUP: *Querco-Pinetum caribaeae* (24QUP). ACP: *Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis* (25ACP). EHP: *Euphorbio helenae-Pinetum cubensis* (26EHP). ASP: *Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* (27ASP). DCP: *Dracaeno-Pinetum cubensis* (28DCP). 16CLP: *Clethro-Pinetum maestrensis* (13CLP-17CLP). 21BYP: *Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae* (19BYP-23BYP). 6CP2: *Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis* (5CP1-8CP4). 12LP4: *Leptogono buchi-Pinetum occidentalis* (9LP1-12LP4). 121ANP: *Anthraenantio-Pinetum cubensis* (118ANP-160ANP). 141ANP: *Anthraenantio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *grisebachianthetosum nipensis*. 163ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* (161ARP-172ARP). 166ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *annonetosum sclerophyllae*. 171ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *xylosmetosum buxifolii*. 32PP: *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* (29PP-67PP). 53PP: *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *lyonetossum affinis*. 75CSP: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* (68CP-84CP). 80CSP: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *ilectosum repandae*. 82CSP: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *schmidtottietosum shaferi*. 101AP: *Acrosynanthe trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* (101AP-107AP). 104AP: *Acrosynanthe trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *ossaetosum shaferi*. 107AP: *Acrosynanthe trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *psychotrietosum grandis*. 88SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* (85SP-100SP). 96SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *shaferetosum platyphyllae*. 99SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *acrosynanthesum trachyphylli*. 111PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* (108PFP-117PFP). 113PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *myricetosum*. 116PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *notodonetosum roigii*. 173PHP: *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* (173PHP-181PHP). 180PHP: *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *pitcairnietosum cubensis*.

In the syntaxonomic review carried out, we have taken into consideration the syntaxa described by various authors, with a range of association, subassociation, variants and subvariants. We started from 18 associations (180 inventories), for the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola. However, Reyes & Acosta [27] accept 21 syntaxa with association rank, 11 subassociations and 22 variants and subvariants, although they didn't provide inventories of all syntaxa. In this review, we accept for Cuba 31 associations described by various authors and that comply with the ICPN [36], 8 subassociations and 4 variants. For Hispaniola we only have 3 associations described by us in previous works.

In both cases, pine forests occupy large areas of Cuba and Hispaniola, with human actions that cause a decrease of these ecosystems in areas of the Caribbean and elsewhere on the planet [43, 44]. If we add to this phenomenon changes in rainfalls and temperatures due to climate change [45, 46], we obtain plant communities that substitute these forests, some of these being invasive communities. It is the case of *Prosopis juliflora* (Sw.) DC. that it is invasive in much of the world [47]. However, the resilience of *Pinus* species is high [48]. These pine forests located on different types of substrates, represent habitats of interest due to their high rate of endemic species, either because they are located on special substrates or because of the mountain effect, since the mountains present an increase in endemics when climbing in altitude [24, 49].

We include two orders and six alliances with ten plant associations in the class *Brysonimo crassifoliae-Pinetea caribaeae*. The forests of *Pinus occidentalis* on the island of Hispaniola have a different biogeographical distribution and floristic composition from that of the pine forests of Cuba; for this reason, they form separate groups in the DECORANA statistical analyses (Figure 3). In Hispaniola, Cano et al. [24] described three plant associations for three different environments. *Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis* (CP) growth on calcareous substrates in the Sierra de Bahoruco. *Dendropemon phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis* (DP) covers large extensions on siliceous substrates in the Cordillera Central, with both associations growing at altitudes above the sea of clouds. Finally, *Leptogono buchi-Pinetum occidentalis* (LP), located on serpentines in the northeast of the island of Hispaniola (Dajabón). The alliance *Rondeletio christii-Pinion occidentalis* was described for these pine forests on serpentines on the island of Hispaniola, and assigned to the order *Ariadno shaferi-Phyllanthesia orbicularis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996 and to the class *Phyllantho orbicularis-Neobracetea valenzuelanae* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996, representing sclerophyllous heaths in submontane areas in western Cuba. These plant communities on serpentines on the island of Hispaniola were not included by their authors in the class *Caseario crassinervis-Pinetea cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996, due to their marked floristic difference from Cuban serpentinicolous vegetation, as can be seen in the synthetic table we provide (Appendix A, Table A1). There are significant ecological, biogeographical and floristic differences between the three pine forest associations described for the island of Hispaniola, and which clearly separate the three syntaxa, as can be seen in the table prepared with the *typus* (Appendix A, Table A2).



**Figure 3.** DECORANA ordination analysis showing how the associations described by Reyes & Acosta form a compact group, which shows that the syntaxa described by these authors are very close from the floristic and ecological point of view, since they growth on special substrates Borhidi 1991 and Reyes & Acosta 2012: Cuban Pine Forests. Cano et al. 2011: Pine Forests of the Dominican Republic.

#### **4. Discussion**

Borhidi [13,14] includes the alliances *Acoelorrapho-Pinion tropicalis* Samek in Borhidi et al. 1979, *Blechno serrulati-Acoelorraphion wrightii* Hadac and Hadacová 1971, *Neomazaeo-Pinion caribaeae* Borhidi 1991, and for Hispaniola Cano et al. [24] propose the alliance *Ilici tuerckheimi-Pinion occidentalis* Cano et al. 2011, which contains two of the abovementioned associations CP and DP. The associations published by Samek [50,51] for the island of Pinos, (PAP) *Paepalantho seslerioides-Pinetum tropicalis* and *Roigello-Pinetum tropicalis* (Samek 1969) Borhidi 1996, were compiled by Borhidi [22,37] and included in the alliance *Acoelorrapho-Pinion tropicalis*. In our analysis the association *Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae* (BYP) published by Borhidi [22] is perfectly separated from the previous ones, which is to be expected as it was published for rainier sites in western Cuba and included in the alliance *Blechno serrulati-Acoelorraphion wrightii*. This same author published the alliance *Neomazaeo-Pinion caribaeae* for the pine forests on rocky serpentine substrates in the Sierra de Cajalbana, where he includes three associations published by Samek [51], although two of them with a new name. *Agavo cajalbanensi-Pinetum caribaeae*, *Guettardo-Pinetum caribaeae* and *Neomazeo-Pinetum caribaeae* are associations that are typified by Borhidi based on the relevés of Samek. Borhidi [22,37] published the alliance *Pachyantho poiretii-Pinion caribaeae* for the mixed forests of *Pinus caribaea* and *Quercus oleoides* subsp. *sagraeana*, subordinating it to the order *Pinetalia tropicalis-caribaeae*. He creates for this alliance the association *Querco-Pinetum caribaeae* for slates and sandstones in the Sierra de los Organos and the Sierra del Rosario. Due to its mixed forest characteristics, this alliance must be included in the order *Pinetalia occidentalis-maestrensis*. The alliance *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinion cubensis* described for rainy environments on ferritic soils and serpentines in north-east Cuba, with the association *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinetum cubensis* described in Toa River, Sierra de Maguey and Cupeyal, have been included in the order *Podocarpo-Sloanelatalia cratellifoliae* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996, which consists of epiphyte-rich vegetation in rainy environments. Based on its floristic and physiognomic characteristics, this alliance

should be in the order *Pinetalia occidentalis-maestrensis*, which also includes the alliance *Pinion maestrensis*, with the association *Clethro cubensis-Pinetum maestrensis* described for oligotrophic soils in the rainy mountains of the Sierra Maestra; this association is clearly differentiated from the rest of the syntaxa in the study due to its floristic, ecological and biogeographical composition. All the relevés, including the *typus*, are separated in an independent group, as can be seen in the general cluster in [Figure 2](#).

All the Cuban pine forests growing on ultramafic, serpentine, serpentised peridotites and ferritic acid soils were included by Borhidi et al. [35] and Borhidi [22,37] in the class *Caseario crassinervis-Pinetea cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996, representing pine forests growing on ferritic acid soils derived from serpentines and very rich in endemisms. The order *Pinetalia cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996 is created for this class, and includes the alliances *Andropogono-Pinion cubensis* to group the montane mesophilic pine forests growing on serpentine laterites, and *Guettardo ferrugineae-Pinion cubensis* to include the xeric pine forests on serpentines in eastern Cuba. The first alliance initially proposed by Borhidi comprised the associations *Rhynchosporo cernuae-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi 1996 for decapitated ferritic substrates in Sierra de Nipe, and *Shafero-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz 1996 for Sierra de Magüey. The following associations have been proposed for the second alliance *Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis* (ACP), *Euphorbio helenae-Pinetum cubensis* (EHP), (ASP): *Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* (ASP) and *Dracaeno-Pinetum cubensis* (DCP), which were typified by Borhidi [22]. In our analysis these last four associations are grouped in the cluster, separated from the rest of the associations published by Reyes & Acosta [27], which denotes the strength of this alliance. These last authors do not recognise the alliance *Andropogono-Pinion cubensis*, which is recognised by Galán de Mera & Orellana [52], but they do accept the alliance *Guettardo ferrugineae-Pinion cubensis*, for which they propose various suballiances: *Caseario crassinervis-Pinenion cubensis*, *Garcinio-Pinenion cubensis*, *Dracaeno cubensis-Pinenion*. They include in these suballiances several new associations and the four associations mentioned previously ACP, EHP, ASP, and DCP. The suballiance *Dracaeno cubensis-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012 is incorrect in virtue of article 27 [36], as it actually corresponds to a *status novo* under article 51 [36], and hence should be cited as *Dracaeno cubensis-Pinenion cubensis* (Borhidi 1991) Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012, with *Dracaeno-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi 1991 as the basionym. These same authors create the alliance *Bactri cubensis-Pinion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012, with two suballiances: *Panico-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012 and *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012 for the ultramafic substrates in the Sierras de Nipe, Cuchillas and Baracoa, overlooking the fact that Borhidi et al. [35] and Borhidi [22,37] had previously described the alliance *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinion cubensis* with the association *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz 1991 for the serpentine substrates in eastern Cuba. The suballiance proposed by Reyes and Acosta should be synonymized to the one described by Borhidi (art. 2b [36]).

Reyes & Acosta [27] include 21 syntaxa with association rank, for which they propose eight new pine forest associations, one new status, and one new combination, in addition to nine new subassociations and two new combinations. The statistical analysis and the synthetic tables for the 180 relevés corresponding to the associations and subassociations included in the different suballiances and alliances show no substantial differences in some cases. The relevés in the association *Anthrenantio-Pinetum cubensis* created as a new combination, and for which two new combinations are in turn created with the rank of subassociation *euphorbietosum* and subassociation *grisebachianthetosum nipensis*, form a clearly characterized and homogeneous group. In this case the association has been typified: Samek's relevé 39 [53,54] is adopted as the type for *euphorbietosum*, and for the subassociation *grisebachianthetosum nipensis*, the type relevé of the cluster (141ANP) is relevé 4 [Table 14](#) of Reyes & Acosta [27]. Unfortunately, this last subassociation is incorrectly named, as the taxon *Grisebachianthus nipensis* also belongs to the type relevé of the association ARP, which leads to misinterpretation according to articles 26, 36 and 39 of the ICPN

[36], as it is a syntaxon that only presents the endemisms *Lobelia oxyphylla* and *Jacquinia robusta* as differential in regard to the rest of the type. We therefore propose: *jaquinietosum robustae* subass. nova. The association *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* represents a homogeneous group in the cluster in Figure 2 together with the subassociations *annonetosum sclerophyllae* and *xylosnetosum buxifolii*, which does not occur in the DECORANA ordination analyses. An analysis of the synthetic table shows floristic differences between ANP and ARP; however, the Jaccard distance is similar between both associations. The type of the association ARP and the types of its two subassociations show a close Jaccard distance given the similarity between the three syntaxa, and particularly between the type for the association and the type for the subassociation *annonetosum sclerophyllae*; however floristic differences can be seen in the table of type relevés, which together with the different ecology they present allows us to maintain both subassociations. The association *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* (PP) has been described for the altiplano in the Sierra de Nipe. The cluster analysis for the relevés forms a very homogeneous group, in which the association is differentiated from the subassociation *lyonetosum affinis*. However, in the Detrended Correspondence Analysis (DCA) the relevés tend to be intermixed with those of ANP and ARP, which is to be expected as they have a certain floristic similarity with these associations, and the Jaccard distance is similar between them (Table 2).

**Table 2. Jaccard similarity analysis for the associations studied.**

	1DP	6CP	12LP	32PP	53PP	75CSP	80CSP	82CSP	88SP	96SP	99SP	101AP	104AP	107AP	111PFP	113PFP	116PFP	121ANP	163ARP	166ARP	171ARP	173PHP	180PHP
1DP																							
6CP	0,02																						
12LP	0,04	0,23																					
32PP	0	0,04	0																				
53PP	0,02	0,06	0,03	0,53																			
75CSP	0,02	0,03	0,04	0,18	0,22																		
80CSP	0,02	0,02	0,04	0,13	0,18	0,42																	
82CSP	0,02	0,02	0,04	0,08	0,11	0,4	0,53																
88SP	0,02	0,01	0,03	0,11	0,15	0,37	0,39	0,27															
96SP	0,02	0	0,02	0,1	0,13	0,28	0,32	0,3	0,51														
99SP	0,02	0,01	0,03	0,12	0,16	0,36	0,31	0,36	0,45	0,42													
101AP	0	0	0	0,09	0,06	0,22	0,3	0,25	0,34	0,29	0,31												
104AP	0,02	0	0,02	0,05	0,08	0,2	0,25	0,28	0,19	0,16	0,23	0,43											
107AP	0	0,01	0,02	0,07	0,08	0,23	0,2	0,25	0,2	0,17	0,26	0,35	0,47										
111PFP	0	0,01	0,02	0,12	0,13	0,35	0,4	0,38	0,46	0,35	0,33	0,33	0,2	0,17									
113PFP	0	0,01	0,01	0,08	0,12	0,3	0,3	0,26	0,41	0,29	0,31	0,23	0,15	0,12	0,58								
116PFP	0	0,01	0,02	0,09	0,12	0,26	0,3	0,24	0,48	0,23	0,32	0,33	0,22	0,18	0,49	0,57							
121ANP	0	0,04	0,02	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,12	0,08	0,2	0,14	0,13	0,09	0,04	0,04	0,16	0,17	0,18						
163ARP	0	0,03	0,04	0,12	0,15	0,16	0,18	0,12	0,25	0,14	0,14	0,13	0,08	0,08	0,21	0,19	0,21	0,32					
166ARP	0	0,02	0,03	0,2	0,15	0,13	0,16	0,11	0,17	0,1	0,12	0,09	0,07	0,07	0,19	0,15	0,16	0,34	0,59				
171ARP	0	0,03	0,03	0,1	0,09	0,16	0,2	0,16	0,21	0,13	0,11	0,15	0,11	0,12	0,26	0,19	0,2	0,27	0,56	0,51			
173PHP	0	0	0	0,07	0,08	0,19	0,23	0,13	0,3	0,17	0,16	0,17	0,09	0,09	0,22	0,2	0,24	0,15	0,29	0,18	0,22		

*Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* is an association described by its authors for the territories in Cuchillas de Toa at an altitude of 400-700 m asl – and therefore with a thermotropical character – growing on ultramafic substrates and dark red ferritic soils. For this association, its authors describe two subassociations in addition to the type subassociation: *ilicetosum repandae* and *schmidtottietosum shaferi*. The ordination analysis for the general cluster in Figure 2 shows a group with all the relevés corresponding to CSP, with two subgroups, one of which contains the *typus* relevé of the association (75CSP) corresponding to relevé 8 Table 4 Reyes & Acosta [27]; the other subgroup contains the *typus* for the two subassociations. Both type relevés are floristically and ecologically very close, and appear to be more a case of ecotones with neighboring associations, as stated by their authors for the subassociation *ilicetosum repandae* in regard to the contact with the submontane tropical and subtropical moist forest, as it happens in Hispaniola [20]. *Schmidtottietosum shaferi* has been characterized by species with a broad distribution, all of which are native, and which have even been used as characteristic plants for both subassociations with the rank of genus, without specifying the species. *Schmidtottia shaferi* has been used as a characteristic for the suballiance *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinenion cubensis*, and also gives the name to the subassociation. *Schmidtottia shaferi* belongs to various associations (Tables A1 and A2), and has been used to name *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis*, an association that is very close to the previous one in terms of its floristic similarity, as can be seen in the various ordinations we performed and in the table of *typus*. For this last association, *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis*, the authors propose the subassociations *shaferetosum platyphyllae* and *acrosynanthetosum trachyphylli*; both form a compact subgroup separated from the type association. It is evident that the subassociation *acrosynanthetosum trachyphylli* represents an ecotone contact with *Acrosynanthro trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis*, an association described in the ophiolitic complex in western Cuba and with high rainfall, for which, in addition to the type subassociation, its authors describe the subassociations *osaeetosum shaferi* and *psychotrietosum grandis*. Both subassociations form a subgroup separated from the *typus* of the association (see table on the comparative analysis of *typus*); the subassociation *osaeetosum shaferi* is characterised by the endemisms *Gesneria wrightii* Urb., *Ilex hypaneura* Loes. and *Ossaea shaferi* Britton & P.Wils. (syn.= *Miconia jashaferi* Majure & Judd.) However, the subassociation *psychotrietosum grandis* presents the following species as differentials of the association of native species with a broad distribution: *Palicourea dominguensis*, *Pimenta odiolens*, *Psichotria grandis*, *Purdiae parvifolia* and *Vanilla bicolor*. This subassociation is really a catenal contact with the broadleaved forests and should therefore have been treated as a variant. In the case of *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* described for the extreme northwest of the municipality of Baracoa, this is a pine forest whose authors claim is located at low altitudes in islands of ultramafic substrates, contacting at higher altitudes with the tropical and subtropical moist forest. This is therefore an edaphoxeric and thermotropical pine forest located on sites with steep slopes. The general cluster shows that the association (type relevé 111PFP), corresponding to relevé 4 Table 111 Reyes & Acosta [27], forms a subgroup with the subassociation *myricetosum*, whereas the subassociation *notodonetosum roigii* constitutes an independent subgroup. However, *Notodon roigii* has been used exclusively as a differential species; this is a native plant with a broad distribution. The subassociation *myricetosum* presents the following endemisms as differential species for the type of the association: *Calycogonium cristalensis* Urb., *Chiococca cubensis* Urb., *Purdiae ekmani* Vict. and *P. stenopetala* Griseb. Finally, as in previous cases the relevés for the association *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* represent a homogeneous group in the general cluster, separating into subgroups the relevés corresponding to the association from those of the subassociation *pitcairnietosum cubensis*; this separation can be observed in the comparative analysis of the *typus* for the syntaxa.

Therefore, to avoid confusion we propose a change of status for the following subassociations: we propose a change from the subassociation to variant rank for subass. *ilicetosum repandae* Reyes & Acosta 2012: syn. var. with *Ilex repanda*; subass. *schmidtottietosum shaferi* Reyes & Acosta 2012: syn. var. with *Schmidtottia shaferi*; subass. *acrosynanthetosum*

*trachyphylli* Reyes & Acosta 2012: syn. var. with *Acrosynanthus trachyphyllus*; subass. *psychochrietosum grandis* Reyes & Acosta 2012: var. with *Psychotria grandis*; subass. *notodoneto-sum roigii* Reyes & Acosta 2012: syn. var. with *Notodon roigii* (article 27 [36]).

## 5. Conclusions

All the Caribbean pine forests are included in 4 orders and 12 alliances, with a total of 34 plant associations. The high diversity of syntaxa is due to the special characteristics of the territory, as these are islands with a high rate of endemisms and numerous different substrates. Siliceous, basic, and neutral substrates, and ophite, andesite and serpentine rocks are very frequent, leading to a wide range of different soil types. All this is favoured by the special orography of the islands, as there are steep slopes with gradients between 30 and 60°. The analysis of the studies by several authors and by ourselves reveals a high number of syntaxa with the rank of association and subassociation, and ecological and geographic variants. In this work we update several syntaxa based on the nomenclature of the ICPN [36] in order to avoid possible nomenclatural conflicts, and we include all the associations described until now. Finally, we propose the following syntaxonomic checklist for all the Caribbean pine forests.

### Syntaxonomic Checklist

**BYRSONIMO CRASSIFOLIAE-PINETEA CARIBAEAE** Samek & Borhidi in Borhidi 1996

*Pinetalia tropicalis-caribaeae* Samek & Borhidi in Borhidi 1996

*Acoelorrapho-Pinion tropicalis* Samek in Borhidi 1996

*Paepalantho seslerioidis-Pinetum tropicalis* Sameck 1969

*Roigello-Pinetum tropicalis* (Samek 1969) Borhidi 1996

*Blechno serrulati-Acoelorrappion wrightii* Hadac & Hadacová 1971

*Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae* Borhidi & Capote 1991

*Neomazaeo-Pinion caribaeae* Borhidi 1991

*Neomazeo-Pinetum caribaeae* (Samek 1973) Borhidi 1991

*Guettardo valenzuelanae-Pinetum caribaeae* Borhidi 1996

*Agavo cajalbanensi-Pinetum caribaeae* Sameck 1973 corr. Borhidi 1991

*Ilici tuerckheimi-Pinion occidentalis* Cano, Veloz & Cano-Ortiz 2011

*Dendropemon phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis* Cano, Veloz & Cano-Ortiz 2011

*Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis* Cano, Veloz & Cano-Ortiz 2011

***Pinetalia occidentalis-maestrensis*** Borhidi 1991

*Pinion maestrensis* Borhidi 1996

*Clethro cubensis-Pinetum maestrensis* Borhidi 1991

*Pachyantho poiretii-Pinion caribaeae* Borhidi & Capote in Borhidi 1991

*Querco-Pinetum caribaeae* Borhidi & Capote in Borhidi 1991

**CASEARIO CRASSINERVIS-PINETEA CUBENSIS** Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996

***Pinetalia cubensis*** Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996

*Andropogono reinoldii-Pinion cubensis* Borhidi 1996

*Shafero-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz 1996

*Rhynchosporo cernuae-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi 1996

*Guettardo ferruginea-Pinion cubensis* Borhidi 1996

*Caseario crassinervis-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012

- Anthaenantio-Pinetum cubensis* (Samek 1973) Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*jaquinietosum oxhypphyllae* Reyes & Acosta 2012 ex Cano et al. *hoc loco*  
*euphorbietosum* Reyes & Acosta 2012
- Eugenio-Pinetum cubensis* Del Risco, Samek & Reyes 1996
- Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis* (Samek 1973) Borhidi 1991
- Garcinio-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012
- Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*annonetosum sclerophyllae* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*xylosnetosum buxifolii* Reyes & Acosta 2012
- Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes & Acosta 2012
- Scaevelo-Pinetum cubensis* Del Risco, Samek & Reyes 1996
- Euphorbio helenae-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi 1996
- Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi 1996
- Vernonio-Pinetum cubensis* Samek, Del Risco & Reyes 1996
- Dracaeno cubensis-Pinenion cubensis* (Borhidi 1991) Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*Dracaeno-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi 1991
- Bactri cubensis-Pinion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012
- Panico-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*Panico-Pinetum cubensis* (Samek 1973) Reyes *stat. nov.* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*lyonetosum affinis* Reyes & Acosta 2012
- Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
var. with *Ilex repanda*  
var. with *Schmidtottia shaferi*
- Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*shaferetosum platyphyllae* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
var. with *Acrosanthus trachyphyllus*
- Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*ossaeetosum shaferi* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
var. with *Psychotria grandis*
- Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*myricetosum* Reyes & Acosta 2012  
var. with *Notodon roigii*
- Clidemio rubrinervis-Pinetum cubensis* Del Risco, Samek & Reyes 1996
- Gundlachio-Pinetum cubensis* Samek, Del Risco & Reyes 1996
- Ilici-Pinetum cubensis* Reyes, Samek & Del Risco 1996
- Agavo albescens-Pinion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012  
*Alvarado-Pinetum cubensis* Samek, del Risco & Reyes 1996
- Cyrillo nipensis-Pinion cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996 (Syn.: *Cyrillo nipensis-Pinenion cubensis* Reyes in Reyes & Acosta 2012, art. 2b ICPN)
- Cyrillo nipensis-Pinetum cubensis* Borhidi & Muñiz 1991

**PHYLLANTHO ORBICULARIS-NEOBRACETEA VALENZUELANAE** Borhidi & Muñiz  
in Borhidi 1996

**Ariadno shaferi-Phyllanthetalia myrtillois** Borhidi & Muñiz in Borhidi 1996

**Rondeletio christii-Pinion occidentalis** Cano, Cano-Ortiz, Del Río, Veloz & Esteban 2014

**Leptogono buchii-Pinetum occidentalis** Cano, Veloz & Cano Ortiz 2011

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#### Appendix A: supplementary material

**Table A1** | Synthetic analysis of the syntaxa studied.

**Table A2** | Comparative analysis of the *typus* of the syntaxa studied.

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**Appendix A: supplementary material**
**Table A1. Synthetic analysis of the syntaxa studied.**

DP: *Dendropemon phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis*. CP: *Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis*. LP: *Leptogono buchi-Pinetum occidentalis*. CLP: *Clethro-Pinetum maestrensis*. PAP: *Paepalantho-Pinetum tropicalis*. BYP: *Pyrsonimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae*. QUP: *Querco-Pinetum caribaeae*. ACP: *Anemio coriaceae-Pinetum cubensis*. EHP: *Euphorbio helenae-Pinetum cubensis*. ASP: *Agavo shaferi-Pinetum cubensis*. DCP: *Dracaeno-Pinetum cubensis*. PP: *Panico-Pinetum cubensis*. CSP: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis*. SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis*. AP: *Acrosynanthe trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis*. PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis*. ANP: *Anthaeantio-Pinetum cubensis*. ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis*. HP: *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis*. Status. E: Endemic; N: Native.

Taxon	Status	DP	CP	LP	CLP	PAP	BYP	QUP	ACP	EHP	ASP	DCP	PP	CSP	SP	AP	PFP	ANP	ARP	PHP
<i>Pinus cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	V	.	.	.	4	4	2	4	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	
<i>Pteridium caudatum</i>	N	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	IV	V	V	V	III	III	I	.
<i>Odontosoria aculeata</i>	N	.	.	.	IV	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	III	V	III	.	I	I	I	.
<i>Clusia rosea</i>	N	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	V	I	III	.	.	.	I
<i>Ilex macfadyenii</i>	N	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	V	V	II	.	.	III
<i>Miconia dodecandra</i>	N	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	II	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Clusia tetrastigma</i>	E	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	.	II	.	III	IV
<i>Cyrilla nipensis</i>	N	.	.	.	V	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	V	IV	.	.	.	.
<i>Dicranopteris flexuosa</i>	N	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	I	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Coccocypselum herbaceum</i>	N	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	I	.	II	.	.	.
<i>Aristida refracta</i>	N	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	+	1	1	IV	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.
<i>Andropogon gracilis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	+	III	.	3	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Coccotrinax orientalis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	IV	.	1	2	1	2	IV	II	I	.	V	IV	V	III
<i>Ichnanthus mayarensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	1	1	+	1	I	V	V	II	V	II	V	III
<i>Rhynchospora tenuis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	V	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	V	V	V	.
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	II	II	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Panicum aciculare</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	I	+	+	.	.	1	V	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	IV	IV	II	I	.	III	.	II	
<i>Psychotria revoluta</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	+	.	II	IV	IV	IV	III	I	III	V
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	I	III	III	.	III	I	IV	II	
<i>Ossaea pauciflora</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	II	V	V	.	V	.	.	III	
<i>Panicum xalapense</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	2	IV	II	.	.	.	.	.	
<i>Baccharis scoparioides</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	V	V	V	III	.	III	II	IV	
<i>Andropogon bicornis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	IV	III	I	.	.	.	II	.	
<i>Bactris cubensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	IV	V	.	V	II	I	.	II	
<i>Bletia purpurea</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	IV	III	.	V	.	.	IV	.	
<i>Eugenia pinetorum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	IV	V	II	III	.	II	IV	IV	
<i>Vernonia urbaniana</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	+	.	V	.	.	.	.	IV	V	.	
<i>Casearia crassinervis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2	.	III	.	.	.	.	V	.	.	
<i>Clerodendrum niphense</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	.	.	IV	V	V	IV	III	III	.	.	
<i>Vaccinium cubense</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	1	.	II	II	IV	.	I	.	.	.	
<i>Bisgoeppertia scandens</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	1	1	IV	.	III	.	.	III	II	I	
<i>Angadenia cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	IV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
<i>Andropogon reinoldii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
<i>Stigmaphylloides sagittatum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	+	V	IV	II	II	I	V	IV	.	
<i>Euphorbia helenae</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	+	.	.	I	.	I	.	.	IV	
<i>Baccharis shaferi</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	I	.	.	II	.	II	II	.	
<i>Ariadne shaferi</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	III	IV	IV	
<i>Guettarda ferruginea</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	I	I	IV	.	II	IV	III	V	
<i>Guettarda monocarpa</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	I	IV	II	V	III	II	II	III	
<i>Chaptalia pumila</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	II	.	
<i>Scaevola wrightii</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	II	IV	.	I	.	.	V	.	
<i>Senecio plumbeus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	II	I	.	.	I	.	.	.	
<i>Koanophyllum polystictum</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	V	V	V	I	IV	IV	III	IV	

<i>Anemia coriacea</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	I	III	.	V	IV	V	IV
<i>Ouratea striata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	I	IV	IV	I	V	I	I	V
<i>Lyonia glandulosa</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	.	I	I	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	II	III	I	.	I	.	V
<i>Paspalum breve</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	III	.	.	.	.	II	V	.
<i>Epidendrum nocturnum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	III	I	I	I	.	II	.
<i>Schmidtiottia shaferi</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	I	V	III	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Spirotecoma apiculata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	I	I	II	III	.	.	IV	.
<i>Chaetocarpus oblongatus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	I	V	III	V	.	.	.	.
<i>Dracaena cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	I	I	V	.	.	.	.
<i>Galactia revoluta</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	IV	V	.	V	.	IV	IV	.
<i>Antirhea shaferi</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	I	I	III	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Schizachyrium gracile</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	II	I	III	.	V	II	II	.	.
<i>Lyonia macrophylla</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	V	V	.	V	IV	.	II	.	.
<i>Cyathea parvula</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	V	IV	V	II	.	.	I	.	.
<i>Guettarda valenzuelana</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	III	I	.	III	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ipomoea carolina</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	III	IV	II	IV	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Jacaranda arborea</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	II	V	V	.	II	IV	.	.	.
<i>Linodendron aronifolium</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	IV	.	II	.	I	III	.	.	.
<i>Machaerina cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	I	IV	.	.	.	.	I	.	.
<i>Metopium venosa</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	I	II	V	.	I	II	.	.	.
<i>Miconia baracoensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	V	V	V	.	.	.	II	.	.
<i>Neobracea valenzuelana</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	V	V	V	.	I	V	.	.	.
<i>Plumeria clusioides</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	I	II	II	V	V	II	.	.
<i>Suberanthus stellatus</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	III	.	III	.	.	.	IV	.	.
<i>Vernonia hieracioides</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	I	.	II	I	I	I	.	.	.
<i>Vernonia pineticola</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	IV	IV	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.

















<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>
<i>Odontosoria uncinella</i>
<i>Ossaea muricata</i>
<i>Palicourea alpina</i>
<i>Myrica punctata</i>
<i>Myrcia splendens</i>
<i>Rondeletia naguensis</i>
<i>Eugenia rigida</i>
<i>Gesneria viridiflora</i>
<i>Graffenrieda refescens</i>
<i>Hedyosmum grisebachii</i>
<i>Sauvagesia browniei</i>
<i>Buchnera elongata</i>
<i>Tetramicra euplophiae</i>
<i>Trachypogon filifolius</i>
<i>Acoelorrhapte wrightii</i>
<i>Eugenia punicifolia</i>
<i>Tabebuia lepidophylla</i>
<i>Pinus tropicalis</i>
<i>Roigella correifolia</i>
<i>Coccothrinax miraguama</i> subsp. <i>arenicola</i>
<i>Croton cerinus</i>
<i>Croton crasspedotrichus</i>
<i>Calyptranthes pinetorum</i>
<i>Phyllanthus junceus</i>
<i>Chaetolepis cubensis</i>
<i>Evolvulus grisebachii</i>

















<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Spermacoce laevis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hypericum nitidum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Desmodium incanum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Angadenia lindeniana</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Panicum pilosum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Malpighia martiana</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	II	.	.	.	.	V	.
<i>Gundlachia apiculata</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.	.	V	.
<i>Eupatorium sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	.	.	.	.	II	.
<i>Guapira rufescens</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	IV	.	.	.	IV	.
<i>Chaetocarpus acutifolius</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	I	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Calophyllum utile</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	III	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Pera bumeliaefolia</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Pera bumeliaefolia</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Tabebuia dubia</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	III	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Sloanea curatellifolia</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	II	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Smilax lanceolata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	IV	.	.	.	.
<i>Platygyna leonis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Chiococca cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Ilex repanda</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Erythroxylum rotundifolium</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	II	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Acrosanthus trachyphyllus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	V	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Arthrostylidium fimbriatum</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	II	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Chionanthus domingensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	III	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Guzmania monostachya</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	II	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hieronyma nipensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	II	.	.	.	.	.

<i>Alvaradoa arborescens</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Byrsinima biflora</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	IV	.	.	.	.
<i>Clusia tetrastigma</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	IV	.	.	.	.
<i>Schefflera morotononii</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Rajania ovata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	II	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Salacia nipensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	I	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Exostema purpureum</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	I	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Gesneria norlindii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	I	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Terminalia sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Clidemia capituliflora</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Koanophyllum ayapanoides</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lygodium volubile</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Calyptromoma plumeriana</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pentalinom luteum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Casearia sylvestris</i> var. <i>sylvestris</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Panicum glutinosum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rhytidophyllum villosulum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rhynchospora scaberrata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lyonia sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Erithalis fruticosa</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Guapira obtusata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hyperbaena sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Adiantum pyramidale</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Alectoria sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Beilschmiedia pendula</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Bonnetia cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Buchenavia capitata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.

<i>Campyloneurum phyllitidis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cinnamomum elongatum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cojoba arborea</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Colubrina nipensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Passiflora penduliflora</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Passiflora sexflora</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Oplismenus sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Polypodium aureum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Protium cubense</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Calycogonium moanum</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	IV	.
<i>Psychotria sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	IV	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Shafera platyphylla</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	II	.
<i>Phyllanthus myrtilloides</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	I	.	.
<i>Lyonia glandulosa</i> var. <i>toensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Guandlachia apiculata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Loranthaceae</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Eugenia asperifolia</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Gerascanthus ellipticus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Epidendrum sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Laplacea maoensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cocoloba nipensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tillandsia valenzuelana</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Spathelia splendens</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.	.	.	II	.
<i>Erythroxylum longipes</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.	II	.
<i>Senecio polyphebius</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.	I	.
<i>Grisebachianthus lantanifolius</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	I	.	.	.	.	.

<i>Protium fragans</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	V	.	.	.
<i>Sympphia alainii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	II	.	.	.
<i>Rhynchospora sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Simarouba laevis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Sticherus remotus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Rajania sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Calycogonium grisebachii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.
<i>Guzmania lingulata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Vanilla bicolor</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Ossaea shaferi</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Pimenta odiolens</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Psychotria grandis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Gesneria wrightii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Sideroxylon jubilla</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Callicarpa resinosa</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Ilex hypomeura</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Marcgravia evenia</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Palicourea domingensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Psylotum nudum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Purdiae parvifolia</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	.
<i>Tabebuia sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	.	IV	.
<i>Dendrophthora tetrastachya</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	II	.
<i>Purdiae ekmanii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	I	.
<i>Notodon roigii</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	I	.	.	.
<i>Cyathea nipensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	.	.	.	.
<i>Rajania angustifolia</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV	.	.	.	.
<i>Pera ekmanii</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	.	.	.



<i>Myrtus</i> sp.	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.
<i>Scleria</i> sp.	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.
<i>Vanilla dilloniana</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	III	
<i>Euphorbia podocarpifolia</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	.	
<i>Bourreria pauciflora</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	.	
<i>Zanthoxylum dumosum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	
<i>Rondeletia plicatula</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	
<i>Bumelia conferta</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	.	
<i>Salvia cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Senna benitoensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Spathelia cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Tabebuia pulverulenta</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Encyclia phoenicia</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Harnackia bisecta</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Rhynchospora cernua</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Ipomoea</i> sp.	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	
<i>Garcinia revoluta</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV		
<i>Mosiera ophiticola</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV		
<i>Oplonia spinosa</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV		
<i>Phyllanthus mirificus</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV		
<i>Tabebuia brooksiana</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		
<i>Zanthoxylum cubense</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		
<i>Cyrilla nitidissima</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		
<i>Harpalyce cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		
<i>Lyonia longipes</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		
<i>Amyris</i> sp.	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		
<i>Arthrostylidium</i> sp.	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II		



**Table A2. Comparative analysis of the typus of the syntaxa studied.** 1DP: *Dendropemon phycnophylli-Pinetum occidentalis*. 6CP: *Coccotriño scopari-Pinetum occidentalis*. 12LP: *Leptogono buchi-Pinetum occidentalis*. 16CLP: *Clethro-Pinetum maestrensis*. 21BYP: *Byrsinimo pinetorum-Pinetum tropicalis-caribaeae*. 32PP: *Panico-Pinetum cubensis*. 53PP: *Panico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *lyonetosum affinis*. 75CSP: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis*. 80CSP: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *ilicetosum repandae*. 82: *Coccocypselo herbacei-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *Schmidtottietosum shaferi*. 88SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis*. 96SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *shaferetosum platyphyllae*. 99SP: *Schmidtottio shaferi-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *acrosynanthetosum trachyphylli*. 101AP: *Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis*. 104AP: *Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *ossaetosum shaferi*. 107AP: *Acrosynantho trachyphylli-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *psychotrietosum grandis*. 111PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis*. 113PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *Myrcetosum*. 116PFP: *Protio fraganti-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *notodonetosum roigii*. 121ANP: *Anthaenatio-Pinetum cubensis*. 141ANP: *Anthaenatio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *grisebachiaibhetosum*. 163ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis*. 166ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *annonetosum sclerophyllae*. 171ARP: *Arthrostylidio-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *xylosnetosum buxifolii*. 173PHP: *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis*. 180 PHP: *Phyllantho mirifico-Pinetum cubensis* subass. *pitcairnietosum cubensis*. The abundance values of the species correspond to the phytosociological values transformed to Van der Maarel. + = 2; 1 = 3; 2 = 4; 3 = 5; 4 = 6; 5 = 7.

Inventories number typus	1	6	12	16	21	32	53	75	80	82	88	96	99	101	104	107	111	113	116	121	141	163	166	171	173	180	
Association	DP	CP	LP	CLP	BYP	PP	PP	CSP	CSP	CSP	SP	SP	SP	AP	AP	AP	PFP	PFP	PFP	ANP	ANP	ARP	ARP	ARP	PHP	PHP	
Taxon	Status																										
<i>Pinus cubensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	4	4	6	6	5	5	6	5	6	6	5	5	5	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	
<i>Ichnanthus mayarensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	.	5	5	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	.	
<i>Koanophyllum polystictum</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	3	3	4	3	.	3	3	2	.	.	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	
<i>Psychotria revoluta</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	3	
<i>Smilax havanensis</i>	N	.	3	3	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	2	.	2	.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	.	.	
<i>Neobracea valenzuelana</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	2	3	4
<i>Baccharis scoparioides</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	4	5	5	3	.	4	3	4	2	2	.	.	.	3	2	2	.	3	2	2	
<i>Galactia revoluta</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	2	.	.	2	2	2	.	.	2	3	3	3	2	
<i>Jacaranda arborea</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	.	2	5	4	3	3	3	.	.	2	.	2	2	2	
<i>Pteridium caudatum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	.	3	2	3	.	.	3	.	.	
<i>Ouratea striata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	.	2	5	3	.	2	2	.	.	2	2	
<i>Lyonia macrophylla</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	2	3	5	3	2	3	2	4	.	.	3	2	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	
<i>Anemia coriacea</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	2	5	4	2	3	3	4	3	2	5		
<i>Clerodendrum niphense</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	2	.	2	2	2	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	
<i>Coccotrinax orientalis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	.	2	.	

<i>Cyathea parvula</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	3	4	4	2	3	2	3	5	5	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Eugenia pinetorum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
<i>Guettarda monocarpa</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	3	2	.	.	4	4	4	4	2	.	2	.	2	2	2	.	2
<i>Ilex macfadyenii</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Ossaea pauciflora</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	.	.	4	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Schizachyrium gracile</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	4	4	2	.	.	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	5	3	2	2	2	.	4	
<i>Stigmaphyllum sagraeanum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	.	.	
<i>Bactris cubensis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	4	4	2	.	.	2	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Bletia purpurea</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	.	2	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
<i>Cyrilla nipensis</i>	N	.	.	.	6	.	.	2	3	2	4	4	4	4	3	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Guettarda ferruginea</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	3	2	2	.	.	.	2	.	2	2	2	2	.	3	4		
<i>Ipomoea carolina</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	.	2	.	2	2	.	2	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	
<i>Miconia baracoensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Myrsine coriacea</i>	N	4	.	2	.	.	2	2	4	4	2	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	2	2	.	.	2	.	.	2	2	.	.	2	2	2	2	.	.
<i>Vernonia pineticola</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	3	2	2	3	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	
<i>Clusia rosea</i>	N	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	2	2	2	.	.	2	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Catopsis sp.</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	2	3	
<i>Chaetocarpus oblongatus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	4	2	3	4	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Odontosoria aculeata</i>	N	.	.	.	2	.	2	2	2	4	2	.	2	2	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	N	.	.	.	.	3	2	3	2	.	.	.	2	.	2	2	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	
<i>Casearia aquifolia</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	2	.	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	5	3	
<i>Rhynchospora tenuis</i>	N	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	4	2	3	2	4	3	3	.	.	
<i>Scleria havanensis</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	2	.	3	3	2	
<i>Suberanthus stellatus</i>	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	2	2	.	.	.	2	2	3	.	.	.	.	5	3	
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	N	.	2	.	.	.	3	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2	3	.	.	
<i>Epidendrum nocturnum</i>	N	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	































