The first comprehensive inventory of the terrestrial vascular plants in Cherangani Hills has been compiled to help in the identification of plants of this region. The annotated checklist is to provide the basis for ecological research and conservation of this forest ecosystem facing escalating threats of forest loss caused by anthropogenic activities, and has similarly received little attention pertaining to its plant diversity.

A checklist of the vascular plants of Cherangani Hills obtained through exhaustive field investigations and matching of herbarium specimen has been collated. It contains over 1296 species, including 17 endemic species, belonging to 130 families and 608 genera.

Within the checklist, species are organized alphabetically in each family. The families are divided into lycophytes, monilophytes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms, whereby, lycophytes and monilophytes are organized based on the PPG I system (PPG I 2016), gymnosperms according to Christenhusz et al. (2011), and angiosperms as to the APG IV system (APG IV 2016). The habit, habitat, voucher specimens, and brief notes on the distribution of each taxon recorded are also presented herein. This flora represents 18.50%, 43.83% and 54.17% of the Kenyan species, genera, and families, respectively.
Focus and Scope

PhytoKeys is a peer-reviewed, open-access, rapidly disseminated journal launched to accelerate research and free information exchange in taxonomy, phylogeny, biogeography and evolution of angiosperms, gymnosperms, monilophytes, bryophytes, and algae. PhytoKeys aims to apply the latest trends and methodologies in publishing and preservation of digital materials to meet the highest possible standards of the cybertaxonomy era. PhytoKeys will publish papers in systematic botany containing taxonomic/floristic data on any taxon of any geological age from any part of the world with no limit to manuscript size.

PhytoKeys will consider for publishing works on the following topics:

- descriptions of new taxa, if they are accompanied with proper diagnoses, keys and/or distinction from close relatives or similar taxa
- taxonomic revisions of extant (or "recent") and fossil plant groups
- checklists and catalogues
- phylogenetic and evolutionary analyses
- papers in descriptive and/or historical biogeography
- methodology papers
- data mining and literature surveys
- monographs, conspecti, atlases
- collections of papers, Festschrift volumes, conference proceedings

Papers containing identification keys will be accepted with priority. Extensive manuscripts consisting mostly of keys will be considered for publishing as well. ISBN numbers will be assigned to large monographic papers (i.e., major revisions of taxa), monographs, collections of papers, Festschrift volumes, atlases, checklists, conspecti. All content is Open Access distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. Authors are thus encouraged to post the pdf files of published papers on their homepages or elsewhere to expedite distribution.

EDITORIAL BOARD

http://phytokeys.pensoft.net/board

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

Authors are kindly requested to submit their manuscript only through the online submission module at www.phytokeys.com. In case of difficulties with the submission procedure, please contact phytokeys@pensoft.net. Full text of author guidelines is available at: http://phytokeys.pensoft.net/about/AuthorGuidelines

EXCERPTS FROM THE GUIDELINES

BODY TEXT

All papers must be in English, checked by a native English-speaking colleague (if author(s) is/are not native English speaker(s)). Write with precision, clarity, and economy: use the active voice and first person whenever appropriate.

WEB (HTML) LINKS

Authors may include links to other Internet resources in their article. This is especially encouraged in the reference section. When inserting a reference to a web-page, please include the http:// portion of the address.

CITATIONS WITHIN THE TEXT: Citations within the text: Before submitting the manuscript, please check each citation in the text against the References and vice-versa to ensure that they match exactly. Citations in the text should be formatted as follows: Smith (1990) or (Smith 1990), Smith et al. (1998) or (Smith et al. 1998) and (Smith et al. 1998, 2000), Brock and Gunderson 2001, Feb 2006.

REFERENCES

It is important to format the references properly, because all references will be linked electronically as completely as possible to the papers cited. It is desirable to add a DOI (digital object identifier) number for either the full-text or title and abstract of the article as an addition to traditional volume and page numbers. If a DOI is lacking, it is recommended to add a link to any online source of an article. Please use the following style for the reference list:


Accepted Papers: Same as above, but "in press" appears instead of the year in parentheses.


CITATIONS OF PUBLIC RESOUrcES DATABASES:

It is highly recommended to use all appropriate databases, images, data mining, all information to be deposited in public resources. Please provide the relevant accession numbers (and version numbers, if appropriate). Examples of such databases include, but are not limited to:

- IPNI (www.ipni.org)
- Morphbank (www.morphbank.net)
- BOLD (www.barcodinglife.org)

Providing accession numbers to data records stored in global data aggregators allows us to link your article to established databases, thus integrating it with a broader collection of scientific information. Please hyperlink all accession numbers through the text or list them directly after the References in the online submission manuscript.

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE, PhytoKeys will publish papers that strictly adhere the rules of the latest edition of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Descriptions of new taxa (species and below) should include the following:

1) a short Latin diagnosis followed by a full description in English, 2) an illustration (line drawing or photograph) clearly showing the diagnostic characters, 2) a comparison of the new taxon with related taxa, a diagnostic key to identification of species-group members, or at least to the closest relatives is highly desirable and may be requested by the editors 3) a discussion of the distinctive morphological characteristics, ecology, geography, and/or reproductive biology, and 4) a statement on preliminary conservation status for the taxon being described.

OPEN ACCESS FEES. Publication fees in open access journals ensure a barrier-free distribution of your paper at no charge for the readers and include costs involved in processing, formatting, publishing, indexing and archiving your paper.

The journal charges Open Access Publication Fee. Please visit the "Article Processing Charges" section at http://phytokeys.pensoft.net/about#ArticleProcessingCharges to learn more about our discount and waiver policies.

PRINTED VERSION. Offprints and issues of the journal can be purchased additionally (see journal’s website). For standing orders/subscriptions please contact the Managing Editor.