

World Magnolia Adventures

Magnolia dixonii:

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Rediscovered in Chocó Biogeográfico, ECUADOR

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Critically Endangered

WORLD MAGNOLIA ASSOCIATION FOR CONSERVATION
"Helping save from extinction magnolias and their habitats"



A rediscovery of *Magnolia dixonii* "mamey" took place on November 2017 at Reserva Tesoro Escondido, a reserve conserving 2000 ha of primary rainforest at the highly threatened Ecuadorian Chocó. *Magnolia dixonii* had not been seen for over half a century since its discovery at Hoja Blanca-Gualpi.

A magnolia propagation workshop by Eduardo Calderón at Quito Botanical Garden (November 2017) led to Citlalli Morelos-Juárez, Director of the Reserve, to show coauthors, a picture of a smooth fruit. In less than two weeks, we were ready for the expedition involving a 2.5 hour trip in a 4-wheel drive vehicle from Pedro Vicente, including crossing Río Canandé on flatboat, "gabarra", plus a 1.5 hour walk through plantations, pasturelands and few tropical forest fragments, until reaching the rural ecotourism system unit at Tesoro Escondido and confirming in the field the rediscovery of this Critically Endangered species.

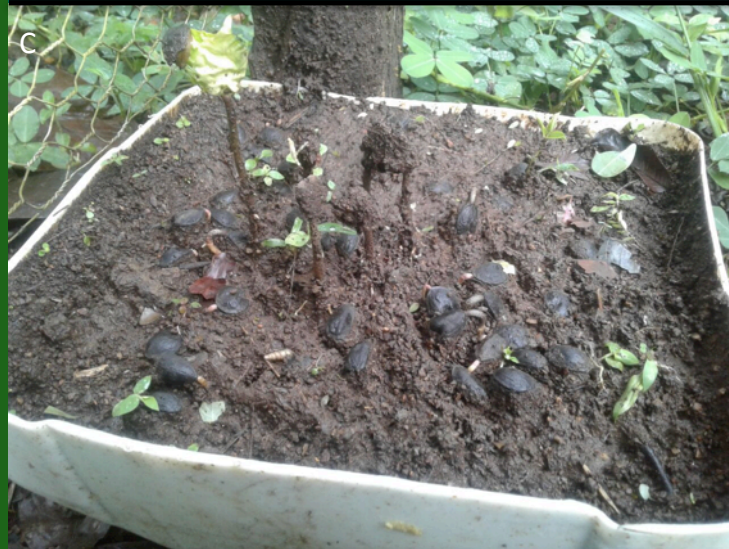
Magnolia dixonii is up to 40 m tall and 1 m in dbh. Five trees, no saplings, were observed in the area, but efforts of the Reserve have secured over 50 seedlings on their rustic nursery. Plans for demographic studies including georeferencing seed production, predation and dispersal are underway. Luckily, A adult tree was found producing over one hundred mature fruits that could be used as a great source of seeds.

The wood of *Magnolia dixonii* is heavy and has been selectively extracted from several areas, the heavy weight of its wood generates questions about its reported use for building canoes.



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Yadira Giler, Patricio Paredes (bottom left) is currently administering the communal scientific station at the Tesoro Escondido Reserve where *Magnolia dixonii* was rediscovered. She has rescued seedlings and is currently the guardian of this species.

Recently, a poster dealing with this finding was presented by Erika G. Romero González in the Consortium for the Conservation of Neotropical Magnolias (bottom right) early in July 2019. And is going to be formally published soon.

