

Cayman Islands Red-Listed endemic plants: rediscovery and research furthers conservation goals

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The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2009, the National Conservation law 2013, and the IUCN Red List provide, respectively, for species action plans, conservation plans, and conservation needs for threatened plants of the Cayman Islands. We illustrate some of the recent progress towards achieving the objectives of these mandates for three critically endangered single-island endemic flowering plants.



Aegiphila finds span Grand Cayman

A – *Aegiphila caymanensis* 2014 East End, Joanne Mercille

B – *A. caymanensis* April 2020 West Bay, Hannah Reid

C – *A. alata* March 2020 Bodden Town, Stuart Mailer

Another plant found by Ann Stafford in 2006 was bulldozed

D – potential pollinator, *Empyruema pugione*, Spotted Oleander Caterpillar Moth (Arctiinae)

E – herbivore, *Omophoita cyanipennis*, flea beetle (Chrysomelidae)



Dendropemon caymanensis

F – known from only two prior collections, rediscovery 2018 in Little Cayman, Stuart Mailer

G – a hemiparasitic mistletoe *Dendropemon* grows from haustoria in the tissues of the host *Capparis cynophallophora*, Headache Bush

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Project Seeding

Out of Flask, Outcrossed, and Out of Danger:
Ensuring the Survival of *Dendrophylax fawcettii*
Grand Cayman's Endemic Ghost Orchid

23rd World Orchid Conference 2021, Taichung, Taiwan

Dendrophylax fawcettii

22 months from hand pollination through outplanting – a project by Verdant Isle Orchid Research with Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, National Trust for the Cayman Islands, with support from World Orchid Conference sponsors

