

Project Update: February 2014

The workshop “Assessing local knowledge diagnosis on vascular epiphytes”, Community La 23, Guamuhaya, Central Cuba (23rd to 26th January 2014).

In the workshop included 25 peasants from the communities: The 9, The 22, The 23 and Pitajones. It was structured as follows: Day 1. Interviews on knowledge and use of these plants and initial evaluation; Day 2. Introductory talks with preliminary results of the initial diagnosis, participative feedback and conversations with slide shows; Day 3. Visits to domestic gardens and informal interviews; Day 4 Visits to the Vascular Epiphyte Garden. The results verified that most of people consider them parasitic plants. Most women cultivate them in their gardens, prevailing orchids and cactus. The most frequent use is the ornamental, followed by the medicinal one (ferns) and the religious (bromeliads). The participants were interested in knowing the species, their growing requirements and propagation techniques. These topics will be developed in a next course workshop, now in preparation.

