



NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF ORCHIDS (ORCHIDACEAE) IN SAMAR ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT – Samar Island’s climatic and edaphic conditions, geographic location, various habitat types and biogeographic history caters many native and endemic orchid species. However, botanical documentation on orchidaceous species on the island is still deficient. A series of orchid inventories from 2013 to 2016 in different forest types of Samar Island, Philippines revealed 23 new distribution records of orchidaceous species representing 16 genera in the island. The genus *Bulbophyllum* has four newly-recorded species, followed by *Dendrobium* and *Dendrochilum* with three species each, while the rest has one species each. Review of their geographic distribution and conservation status revealed that 17 of these species are endemic to the country and five are highly threatened.

Keywords: distribution, orchids, Philippines, Samar Island



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