An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the Mason River Protected Area, Game Sanctuary and Ramsar Site, Jamaica

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Abstract: The Mason River Protected Area, Game Sanctuary and Ramsar Site, Clarendon, Jamaica has been botanized since the 1950’s by several botanists. A search of the National Herbarium housed in the Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica accompanied by fieldwork and intensive literature review resulted in a list of 431 taxa of native and non-native species comprised of 108 families and 376 genera. The five families with the largest amount of species are Asteraceae, Cyperaceae, Melastomataceae, Orchidaceae and Poaceae. Rhynchospora, Miconia, Thelypteris, Paspalum and Scleria are the largest genera with 16, 9, 9, 8 and 6 species respectively. The checklist identifies 383 species of angiosperms, one species of gymnosperms, 47 species of vascular cryptogams as well as six mosses.

Key words: Flora, Mason River, Reserve, Protected Area, Game Sanctuary, Ramsar Site, Jamaica