

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
