

## The genus *Malanea* Aubl. (Rubiaceae, Guettardeae) in the Brazilian Amazon – species distribution and collection gaps

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The Brazilian Amazon is the largest and richest tropical forest in the world. However, its biodiversity is still underestimated and severely threatened by deforestation. *Malanea* Aubl. (Rubiaceae, Guettardeae) is a neotropical genus of about 40 species, 15 of which occur in Brazil. This study aims to present species distributions and gaps in collections of this genus in the Brazilian Amazon. We collected occurrence records in the online databases Herbário Virtual Re flora (<http://reflora.jbrj.gov.br/reflora/herbarioVirtual/>) and Herbário Virtual da Flora e Fungos do Brasil (<https://specieslink.net/>). After sorting and cleaning, data were plotted in QGIS 3.28 software to visualize the distribution of species and collection sites. 167 records of 11 species (*Malanea auyantepuiensis* Steyerem., *M. duckei* Standl., *M. egleri* Steyerem., *M. gabrielensis* Müll.Arg., *M. hypoleuca* Steyerem., *M. macrophylla* Bartl. ex Griseb., *M. microphylla* Standl. ex Steyerem., *M. obovata* Horch., *M. panurensis* Müll.Arg., *M. sarmentosa* Aubl., and *M. subtruncata* Steyerem.) were found in the Brazilian Amazon, with *Malanea auyantepuiensis* being a new record. *Malanea macrophylla*, *M. gabrielensis*, and *M. sarmentosa* have more than 30 records well distributed in the region. The other species have two to ten collections. The state of Amazonas, with seven species registered, can be considered the center of diversity of the genus in the Brazilian Amazon. The region bordering the Guiana Shield has six species, *M. egleri*, *M. hypoleuca*, *M. macrophylla*, *M. microphylla*, *M. obovata*, and *M. panurensis*. We highlight a concentration of collection points in regions close to urban centres. The low sampling of most species limits systematics and biogeographic studies of the genus. Therefore, we emphasize the need to expand the sampling of *Malanea* in the Brazilian Amazon. Understanding the mechanisms that influence the lineage diversification process in the Amazon may allow us to anticipate and/or mitigate the loss of biodiversity in this domain.