

**Stenospermatum (Araceae) of the Lita-San Lorenzo Region, Esmeraldas Province
(Ecuador)**

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ABSTRACT

A total of thirty-two species of *Stenospermatum* are treated for the Lita-San Lorenzo region in NW Ecuador (Esmeraldas Province). In all sixteen species are being published as new to science. An additional five species were already published species which are being completely redescribed here. Finally an additional eleven species which are infertile or otherwise inadequate and are not being published as new species are fully described and include in the dichotomous key for species from the region to alert other collectors in the region that they should be collected when found in fertile condition. The area studied is the richest region in Ecuador, especially for aroids, and seemingly a major center of diversity for *Stenospermatum* owing to the fact that such a high percentage of the species are known from a single collection and that such a high percentage of the total species treated are new to science. This result also suggests that many more undescribed species of *Stenospermatum* are found within this area as well. It is hoped that this study and others that we are publishing from the same geographical region will induce authorities to establish more reserves in the region that are not already a part of the Reserva Ecológica Cotacachi-Cayapas.