

# Contribution to the knowledge of the bryophyte flora of Martinique, Lesser Antilles

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**Abstract** – Sixty two (62) bryophytes (one hornwort, 36 liverworts and 25 mosses) are added to the flora of Martinique. These include ten new generic records: *Phaeomegaceros*, *Bromeliophila*, *Monodactylopsis*, *Myriocoleopsis*, *Rectolejeunea*, *Anomobryum*, *Brymela*, *Bryohumbertia*, *Lepidopilidium* and *Microcampylopus*. *Campylopus anderssonii* and *C. heterostachys* are newly reported for the West Indies. *Drepanolejeunea fragilis* and *Anomobryum conicum* are new for the Lesser Antilles.

**Bryophytes/ Martinique/ New records/West Indies**

## INTRODUCTION

Martinique (1128 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Guadeloupe archipelago are the two Caribbean French overseas departments (Fig. 1). Both islands are 150 km distant, and separated by the island of Dominica. Martinique and Guadeloupe are an integral part of the world's biodiversity hotspots (Myers *et al.* 2000). Martinique is located between 14°23' and 14°53' North Latitude, and between 60°50' and 61°15' West Longitude, and its maximum width is 30 km. The island is subject to a tropical moist climate, with average annual rainfall varying between 970 mm on the Caribbean coast, the South and extreme East of the island to more than 6000 mm on the summit of Mount Pelée, an active volcano which with an elevation of 1397 m is the highest peak on the island (Météo France). The other important mountain areas are the five Pitons du Carbet, ancient volcanoes to the south of Mount Pelée: Piton Lacroix (1196 m), Morne Piquet (1160 m), Piton Dumauzé (1109 m), Piton de l'Alma (1105 m), Piton Boucher (1070 m) (Germa, 2008). The ecosystems vary from the coast to the volcanic summits, succeeding one another: dry forests, mangroves, mesophilous forests, rain forests, tall thickets above an altitude of 800 meters and altitudinal savannas with ferns and bromeliads above 1100 m. The great diversity of the bioclimatic, topographical and altitudinal conditions are favorable to many terrestrial ecosystems, especially forest ecosystems and a very rich flora, particularly given the small size of the island. To date, 1450 vascular plants of the native flora are recorded from Martinique and of these 2.5% are endemic to the island and 7.5% are endemic to the Lesser Antilles (Fournet, 2002). The native tropical rain forest occupies a great part of the North of the island, harboring a great richness of

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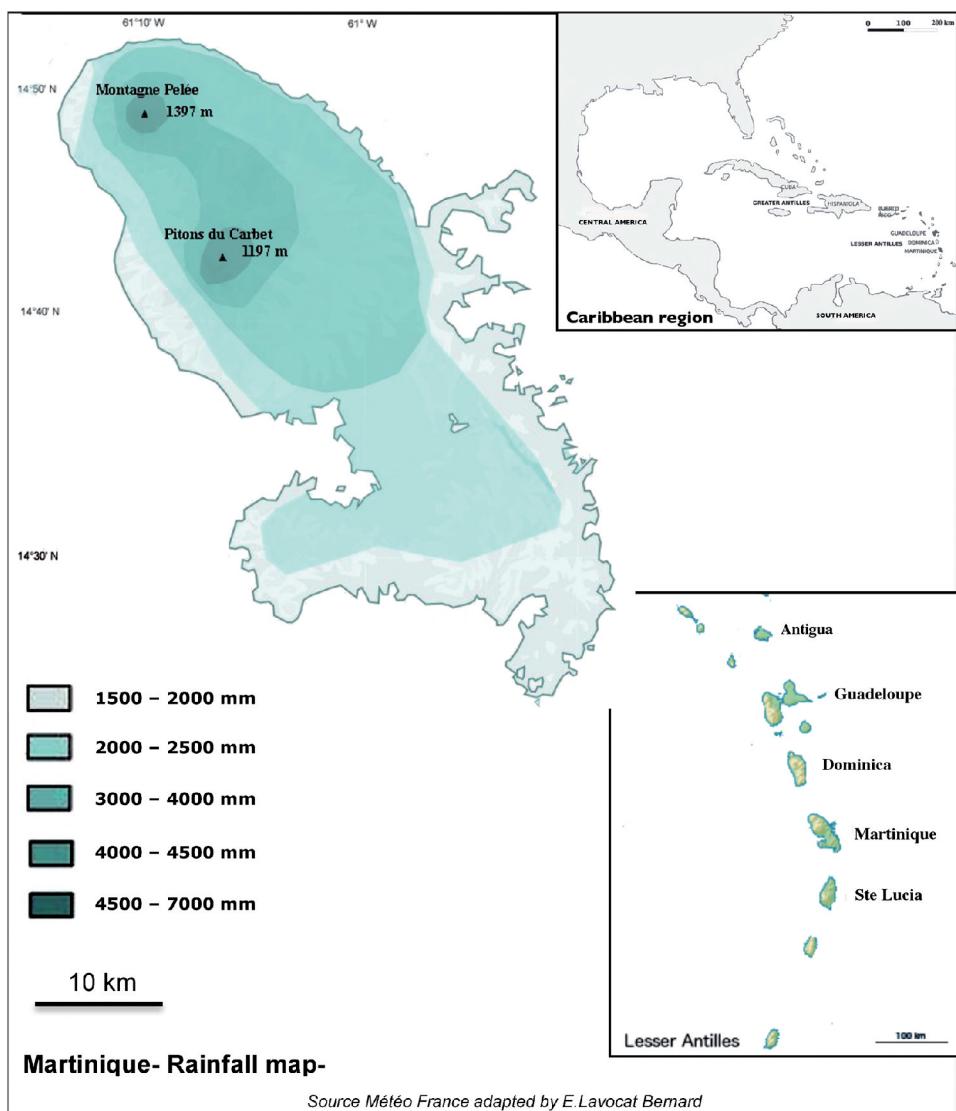
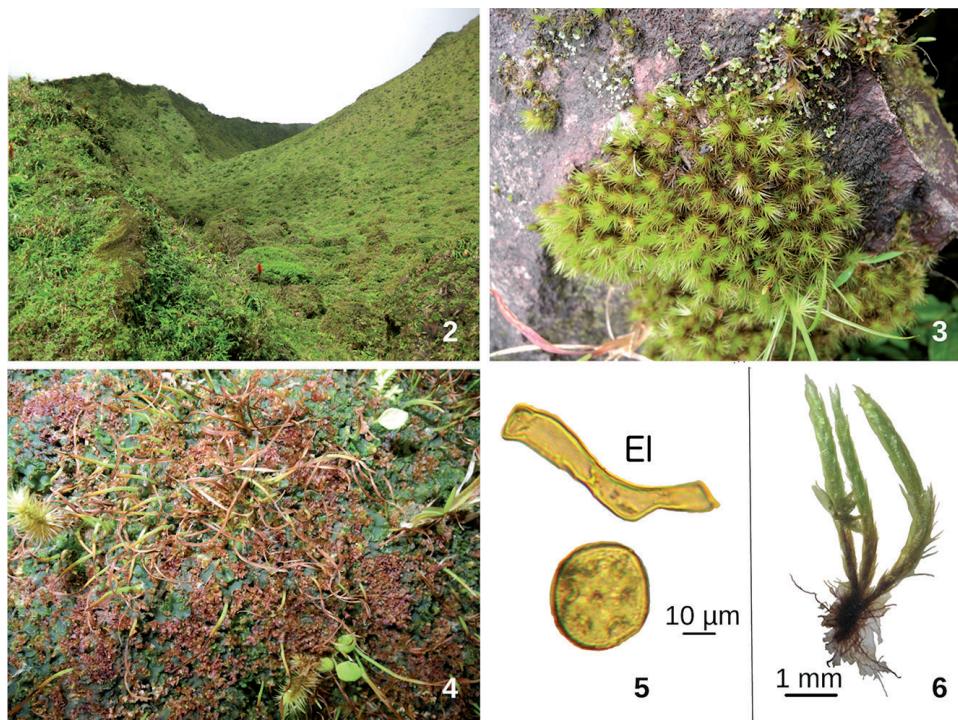


Fig. 1. Geographical map of Martinique.

bryophytes. Some relic rain forests occur also in the central and southern part of the island.

The bryophyte diversity of Martinique has been subject of a recent up-to-date checklist (Lavocat Bernard & Schäfer-Verwimp, 2011), recording 355 species (nine hornworts, 190 liverworts and 156 mosses). From recent studies, three *Plagiochila* and one *Bazzania* are now considered synonyms (Gradstein 2015, Gradstein 2017) and a total of 413 species of bryophytes are now known to occur in Martinique (10 hornworts, 222 liverworts and 181 mosses). Recent noteworthy





Figs 2-6. 2. Mount Pelée, the caldeira. 3. *Campylopus cygneus*. 4. *Phaeomegaceros fimbriatus* on the edge of the caldeira. 5. *Phaeomegaceros fimbriatus*, distal spore face with seven depressions and an elater (El). 6. *Anomobryum conicum*. (Photographs by E. Lavocat Bernard)

**Distribution:** Widespread in tropical America: Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Perú and SE Brazil (Alvaro, 2017); in the West Indies, previously known from Jamaica (Söderström *et al.* 2011), the Dominican Republic (Schäfer-Verwimp & Pócs, 2009) and Guadeloupe (Lavocat Bernard & Schäfer-Verwimp, 2011).

**\**Bazzania longistipula* (Lindenb.) Trevis.**

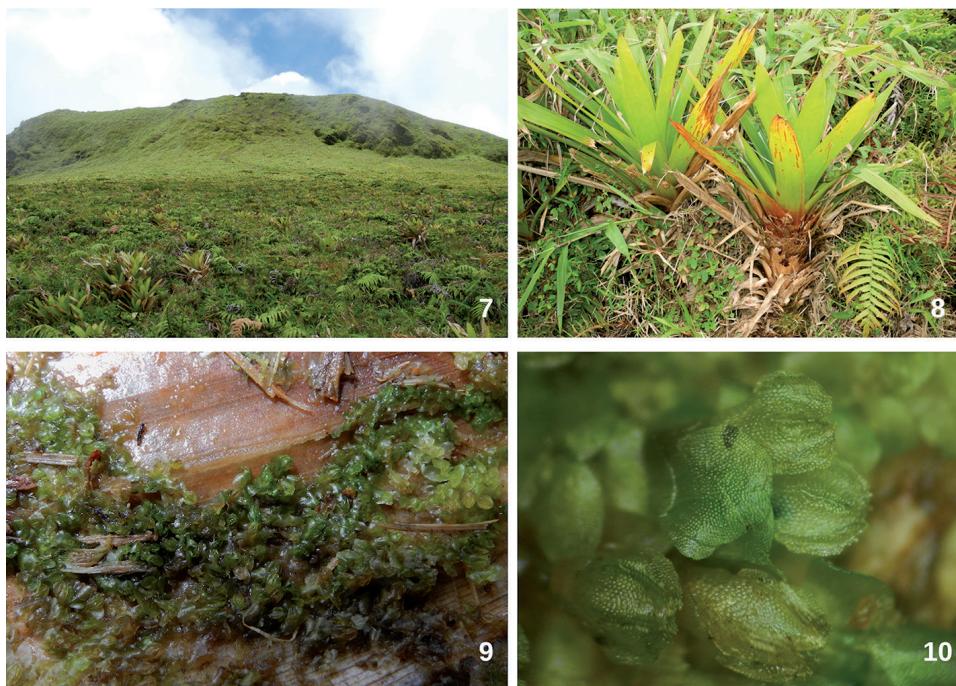
**Specimen examined:** Pitons du Carbet (Piton Lacroix): epiphyte, 14°41'53"N; 61°07'0"W, 930 m, 8 August 2017, ELB 17814.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread in tropical America (Gradstein, 2017). In the West Indies, previously known from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Dominica, St Vincent, and Guadeloupe (Gradstein, 1989; Schäfer-Verwimp & Pócs, 2009; Schäfer-Verwimp, 2010; Fulford, 1990, 1963).

**\**Bromeliophila helenae* Gradst.**

**Specimens examined:** Mount Pelée: trail of l'Aileron, epiphyllous on the lower leaves of a terrestrial bromeliad *Guzmania plumieri* (Griseb.) Mez., 14°48'33"N; 61°09'42"W, 1222 m, 8 December 2014, ELB 1412-5; 14°48'29"N, 61°09'35"W, 1113 m, 29 May 2016, ELB 16508.

**Figs 7-1**



Figs 7-10. **7.** Mount Pelée, altitudinal savannas with ferns and bromeliads. **8.** The bromeliad *Guzmania plumieri* (Griseb.) Mez. **9.** *Bromeliophila helenae* Gradst. on lower leaves of *Guzmania plumieri*. **10.** *Bromeliophila helenae*, perianths. (Photographs by E. Lavocat Bernard)

*Distribution:* Probably widespread but widely overlooked, currently known from Northern South America (Venezuela, Andes of Colombia), and in the West Indies, and previously only from Dominica (Gradstein 1997; Benavides & Callejas, 2004).  
*Note:* *Bromeliophila* is a neotropical genus comprising two species. It is unique by its habitat, as it is only known from water-filled leaf axils of bromeliads (Schuster, 1994).

\**Cephaloziella granatensis* (J.B. Jack) Fulford

*Specimen examined:* Mount Pelée: trail of l'Aileron, on soil with *Isotachis multiceps* and *Phaeomegaceros fimbriatus*, 14°48'26"N; 61°09'26"W, 1062 m, 7 July 2014, ELB 147-38.

*Distribution:* Widespread in tropical America; also known from Madeira and the Galapagos Islands (Gradstein & Ziemmeck, 2011).

\**Cheilolejeunea oncophylla* (Ångstr.) Grolle & M.E.Reiner

*Specimen examined:* Sainte-Luce: departmental state forest of Lépinay, a relict rain forest in the southern half of the island, epiphyte, 14°30'30"N, 60°55'25"W, 300 m, 4 April 2012, coll. JF Bernard, ELB 1629.

*Distribution:* Widespread in South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Costa Rica) and in the West Indies previously known from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe and Dominica; (Grolle & Reiner-Drehwald, 1997; Dauphin, 2005; Schäfer-Verwimp & Reiner-Drehwald, 2009; Schäfer-Verwimp & Pócs, 2009).

























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