



JSTOR Plant Science: A vehicle for environmental stewardship

The materials on JSTOR and JSTOR Plant Science are used by plant scientists worldwide to identify and classify plant species at an accelerated rate and drive preservation efforts at national levels.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (191 signatories) is looking to JSTOR Plant Science and national agencies that safeguard plant biodiversity to assist in plant classification and preservation efforts. Beginning with the African Plants Initiative in 2005, JSTOR Plant Science coordinated the digitization efforts of 200+ participating botanical organizations worldwide—developing a resource with more than one million type specimens. Twenty-two percent of all known plant species are classified as at risk of extinction. Presumably, that number is even greater among unknown species that have yet to be identified or classified. We are racing against the clock in an effort to preserve the world's rich plant biodiversity.

JSTOR Plant Science provides an online environment to explore plant preservation efforts and facilitate the scientific process of plant identification and classification for both teachers and students. Learners can explore plant specimens, learn how plants impact medicine and the economy, and unpack the biodiversity of particular regions through a wide variety of multimedia. This resource also offers a unique opportunity for students to understand environment stewardship and accepted scientific processes.

JSTOR (jstor.org) and JSTOR Plant Science are offered free of charge to all not-for-profit institutions in Africa and are being used extensively throughout the continent for research, teaching, and learning. To learn more, visit us at plants.jstor.org or contact us at plants@jstor.org.

Learn more

- Video: <http://www.vimeo.com/11745124>
Dr. Ensermu Kelbessa of Addis Ababa University explains the importance of resources like JSTOR Plant Science for scientific discovery.
 - Video: <http://www.vimeo.com/13879809>
Dr. Frank Almeda of the California Academy of Sciences discusses how JSTOR Plant Science is used for the rapid identification of plants by scientists.
 - Article: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1554974>
Lopper, R.; Smith, G.F. & Chikuni, A.C. (2002). The Global Taxonomy Initiative in Africa. *Taxon*, 51: pp. 159-165.
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