

Zeitschrift: Boissiera : mémoires de botanique systématique
Herausgeber: Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève
Band: 24 (1975-1976)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Progress on the study of the flora and vegetation of Sierra Leone
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-895556>

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Progress report on the study of the flora and vegetation of Sierra Leone

N. H. A. COLE

1. The flora of Sierra Leone is incorporated in the *Flora of West Tropical Africa* (FWTA) by J. Hutchinson and J. M. Dalziel which has been revised between 1954 and 1972 by R. W. J. Keay and F. N. Hepper to cover 3 volumes.

2. It is my opinion that at least 90% of the species found in Sierra Leone have been covered by the above-mentioned flora. The areas in Sierra Leone where botanical exploration has been yielding new records are:

- (i) The Tingi Hills including Sankan Biriwa (6080 ft.);
- (ii) The Loma Mountains with highest peak Bintumane 6390 ft. (both in NE Sierra Leone);
- (iii) The Outamba and Kilimi Game Reserves in NW Sierra Leone.

3. The flora of the Tingi Hills and the Loma Mountains has been exhaustively explored within the last decade by P. Jaeger (about 5 treks), J. K. Morton, and D. Gledhill; N. H. A. Cole and P. W. Richards (Loma Mountains only). Beside cursory treks through the proposed game reserves, no detailed study of the flora has yet been undertaken.

4. A revised edition of *The Vegetation Map of Sierra Leone* is being prepared by the Geography Department of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, based on the map found in *The Vegetation of Sierra Leone* by N. H. A. Cole. The revised map will be published in *Sierra Leone in Maps* by J. I. Clarke (2nd ed.).

