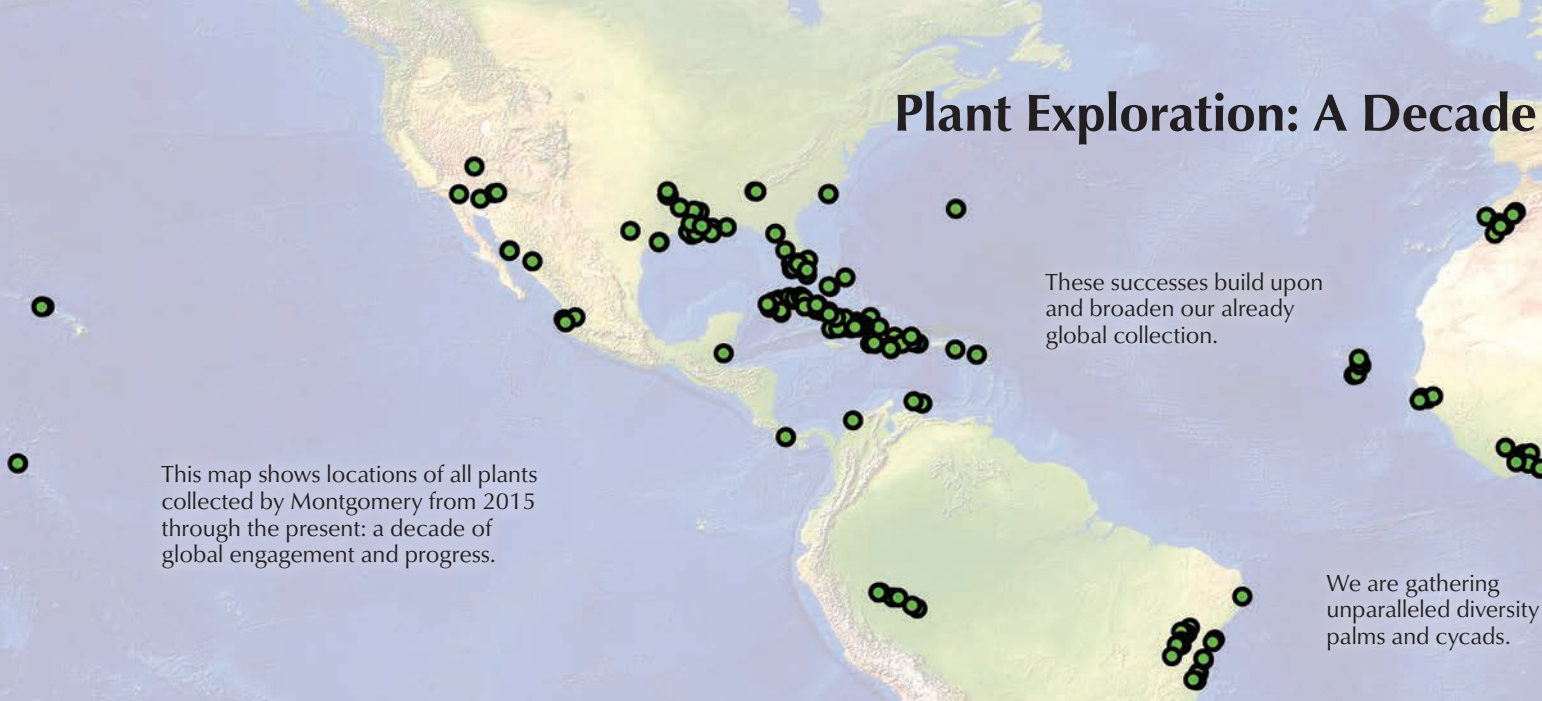


Plant Exploration: A Decade



This map shows locations of all plants collected by Montgomery from 2015 through the present: a decade of global engagement and progress.

These successes build upon and broaden our already global collection.

We are gathering unparalleled diversity palms and cycads.



Michael Calonje in Colombia in 2017, describing new cycad species.



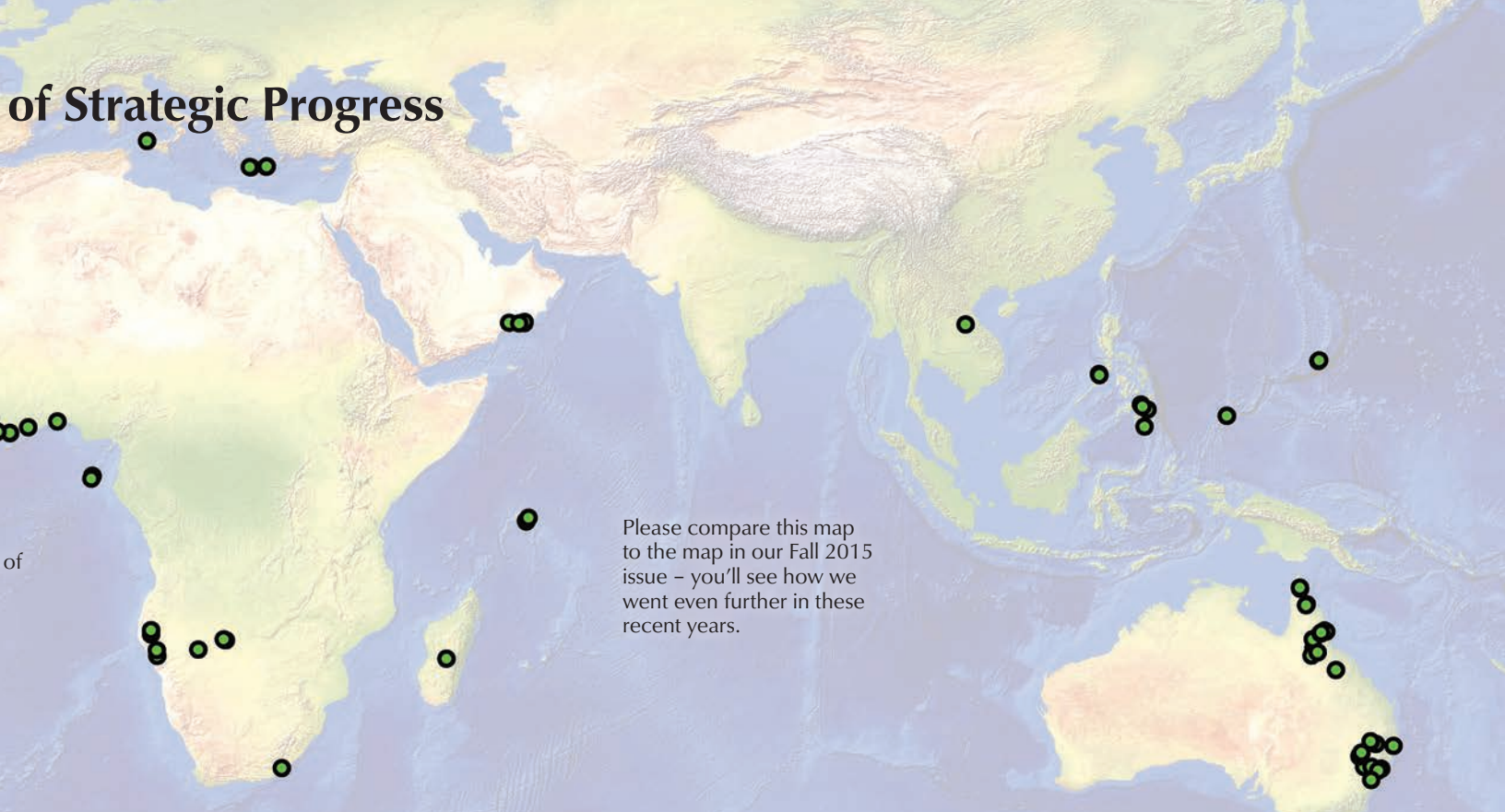
Xavier Gratacos in the Dominican Republic in 2022, collecting new palms for Montgomery.

Last year we completed 10 years of Plant Exploration guided by two **AMBITIOUS** five-year strategic plans – a tremendous, long term campaign to diversify our garden, conserve plants, and gain new botanical insights. Over the course of that decade our team sought palms and cycads on every continent save Antarctica, and numerous islands off many shores. Through 73 separate field projects, we described 18 new palm and cycad species, brought new diversity into cultivation – over 30,000 seeds, each one with voluminous data – and built new partnerships to save palms and cycads. Montgomery has more plants than ever thriving in our landscape (see page 9), our collection is ‘wilder’ than ever, and our explorations are even more tightly linked to science and research.

These statistics show that we are just starting our new age of discovery! Our plant enthusiasm keeps growing, along with our network of international colleagues, collaborators and friends. Beyond the numbers, the quality and focus resulting from our efforts is tangible – Montgomery is on an entirely different level than it was ten years ago, something you can sense instantly when you step through the gates.

Your support moved us amazingly far in the last decade – and we are well positioned for even more success. As we look forward and develop our next plans, we also look back on this broad achievement resulting from a decade of diligent, strategic effort, productive partnerships, and a guiding passion for compelling plants.

of Strategic Progress



Larry Noblick in Cabo Verde in 2024, collecting the enigmatic *Phoenix atlantica*.



Joanna Tucker Lima in Acre, Brazil in 2024, as presented in the most recent newsletter.



Ben Deloso and Patrick Griffith in Guam in 2023, collecting native palms.

Foremost in making this decade of achievement possible is the amazing generosity of our donors. An exciting challenge from Dr. Lin Lougheed to match \$150,000 in donations for Montgomery's PLANT EXPLORATION FUND in 2024 was met with great enthusiasm. We achieved our \$150,000 goal in December (see page 10), and at the same time hit an important milestone: OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS contributed to the Plant Exploration Fund since its recent inception! I am deeply grateful for all of the support, encouragement, and engagement our supporters have shown for this critical facet of Montgomery's mission – **thank you!**

M. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director
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