



2020 Eagle Hill Institute
Online Natural History Seminars
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Ferns and Lycophytes of Central America

Weston Testo

December 5th – December 19th, 2020

Extending from southern Mexico to the northwestern corner of South America, Central America is one of Earth's foremost biodiversity hotspots. Together, ferns and lycophytes form a conspicuous part of the Central American flora, with more than 1500 species, of which about one-third are found nowhere else on earth. This seminar will explore the exceptional diversity of ferns and lycophytes in this hotspot, focusing on developing skills to identify Neotropical families and genera, understanding their evolution and ecology, and placing this diversity within the context of the ecosystems where they occur, from tropical dry forest to páramos. This seminar will be offered using Zoom and will combine Powerpoint presentations, on-screen study of fresh material and herbarium specimens, and other interactive learning activities. We will also delve into relevant scientific literature over the course of the seminar and incorporate discussion of this content into our meetings. This course is intended for anyone interested in learning more about ferns and lycophytes and those with a love of tropical biodiversity.

Scheduling Details

Dec. 5th, Dec. 6th, Dec. 12th,
Dec. 13th, and Dec. 19th
12:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:
<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

About the Instructor

Weston Testo (westontesto@gmail.com) is currently a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and an affiliated researcher at both the Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. His research focuses on numerous aspects of plant evolution, with a focus on ferns and lycophytes in tropical America. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in a dozen countries in tropical America and has published on the systematics and taxonomy of numerous groups of ferns and lycophytes, with a strong focus on the clubmoss family Lycopodiaceae.