

Announcement

Montgomery Botanical Center and *Centro Studi Erbario Tropicale, Università di Firenze* develop research and academic ties in Tropical Botany

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Dr. Riccardo M. Baldini, Editor in Chief of *Webbia*, and researcher at the *Centro Studi Erbario Tropicale* of the University of Florence, Italy, was invited by Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC), Coral Gables, Miami-Dade, Florida to deliver a talk entitled “*The naturalistic explorations in the Caribbean and Neotropics: Understanding Plant Taxonomy of the New World.*” The lecture was very well attended, and took place on June 15 at MBC. The venue was also part of the undergraduate course “Biodiversity on the Caribbean Islands” that Prof. Francisco-Ortega delivers regularly in Florida International University (FIU). Montgomery Botanical Center is the premier botanic garden in palm and cycad research

and conservation of the United States. This garden was established by Col. Robert Montgomery, who was also the founding and first president of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Dr. Baldini’s visit spanned between June 12 and 17, and plans were outlined for future initiatives between MBC, FIU, and Dr. Baldini centered in plant exploration and botanical history of palms and cycads as well as graduate student teaching.

This visit was jointly sponsored by MBC, and it is anticipated future additional academic developments with the participation of the Graduate Program of Florida International University and the International Center for Tropical Botany to which Prof. Francisco-Ortega is formally affiliated to.



Participants in R.M. Baldini’s lecture at Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami, FL, USA.