

Taxonomy and conservation of *Dalbergia* (palisander, rosewood) in Madagascar: progress and prospects

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Introduction

Dalbergia: 48 published, > 60 estimated species in Madagascar

Numerous spp. are renowned for their high quality precious wood, known as "Bois de rose" (Rosewood) or "Palissandre" (Palisander)

Dalbergia is a genus of Fabaceae, the 3rd largest Malagasy plant family

Dalbergia species are insufficiently known and difficult to identify

Although... Many spp. are threatened by over-exploitation and illegal logging

Objectives

- To contribute to the development of a refined species-level taxonomy by finding new morphological characters
- To produce practical tools for identification of even sterile trees

Methodology

Bark characters

All collected specimens

Aspect
Structure
Color...

Leaf characters

Morphometry
Venation...

All measurable characters will be treated by statistical analysis

Eco-biogeographical characters

Bioclimate (after Comets, 1974)

Species distribution

Expected Results

Morphological characters

All specimens studied

Bark: Color, aspect...

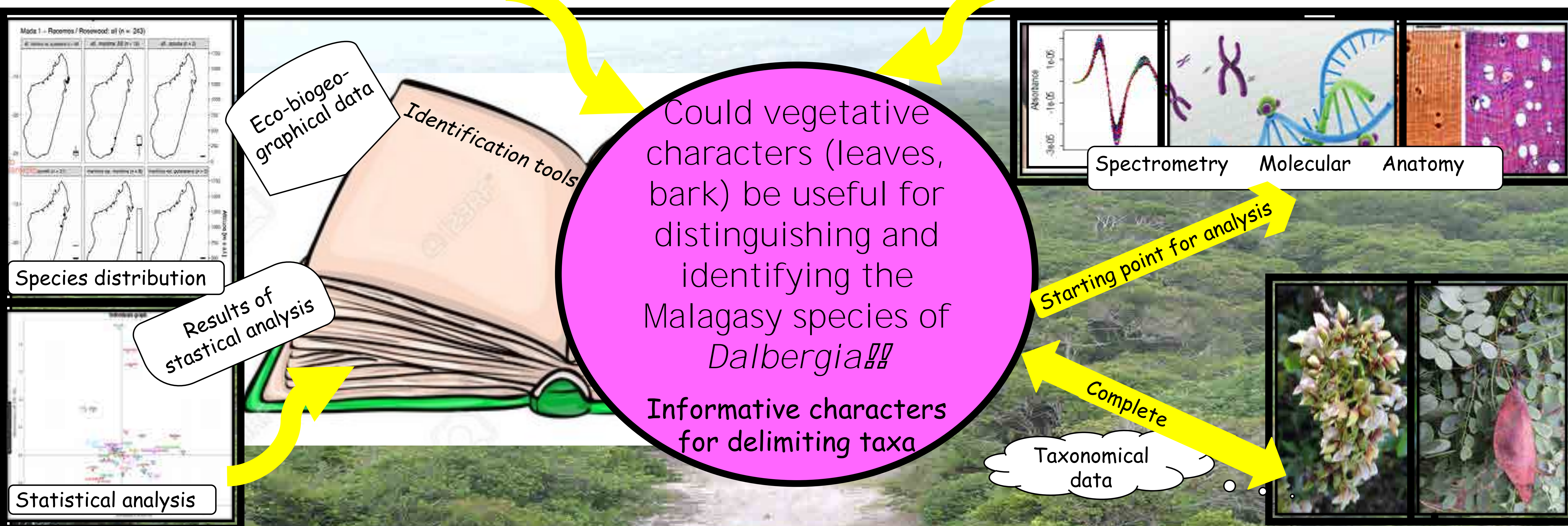
LEAF BASES

entire serrate crenate lacinate cordate rounded squared sagittate cuneate

LEAF SHAPES

oblong elliptic lanceolate ovate obovate reniform spatulate orbicular

Leaf: shape, base, apex, venation...



References:
 Bosser, J., and Rabevohitra, R. 2002. Tribe Dalbergieae, pp. 321-361 in J. M. Lock and R. Linklater, eds. The Leguminosae of Madagascar. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
 Bosser, J., and Rabevohitra, R. 2005. Espèces nouvelles dans le genre *Dalbergia* (Fabaceae, Papilionoideae) à Madagascar. Adansonia, ser. 3, 27: 209-216.
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