

**Table 1. Species richness estimates for the tropics and the three main tropical subregions**

Region	Species observed	Stems observed	Unidentified stems, %	Fisher's alpha minimum	Fisher's alpha maximum	Stems estimated	Species minimum	Species maximum
Africa	1,376	117,902	8.4	218.7	286.6	$3.4 \times 10^{11}$	4,626	5,984
America	4,375	116,754	13.5	897.2	1,203.4	$8.9 \times 10^{11}$	18,589	24,580
Indo-Pacific	5,672	422,974	9.6	925.8	1,225.2	$7.7 \times 10^{11}$	19,014	24,819
Pantropical	11,371	657,630	10.1	1953.0	2,607.7	$2.0 \times 10^{12}$	40,517	53,345

Observed values represent the numbers in the original dataset. Unidentified stems were excluded from estimation of minimum Fisher's alpha, but used to calculate maximum Fisher's alpha. Estimated stems represent the number of stems predicted to occur within 500 km of each of the 207 sample locations.