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Pl@ntNet

Pl@ntNet, the application that helps people identify plants thanks to automated recognition, is expanding. Until now, the covered flora was restricted to 4 geographical areas: Western Europe, North Africa, Reunion Island and French Guiana.

In 2017, the number of projects has been multiplied by 3 with the addition of 8 new checklists:

- United States: 7,618 species
- Canada: 2,795 species
- Hawaii: 765 species
- Caribs, Guadeloupe plants: 1,169 species
- Tropical Andes, plants of the La Paz valley, Bolivia: 548 species
- Mauritius Island: 1,001 species
- Eastern Mediterranean: 1,037 species for the first project of the Asian continent
- Useful plants: 2,542 species. This project is the first thematic checklist integrated in the application. It focuses on cultivated and ornamental plants and is used as the default one for non-geolocalized users (or users in regions of the world not covered by the application).

Moreover, thanks to a partnership with Encyclopedia Of Life (EOL), the image bank of Pl@ntNet has been considerably enriched, reaching 586,000 images. As a result, the number of species recognized by the app also increased significantly, from 8,200 to more than 13,000 species.

Besides this massive addition of projects and data, a new feature of the app entitled "microprojects" has been released. It allows integrating smaller scale checklists of plants, related to a specific topic or place. As an illustration, the first microproject is related to a book on Western Mediterranean wild salads edited by “Les écologistes de l’Euzière” (covering 245 species of wild salads and their confusions). In the future, we wish to integrate many other microprojects, covering various geographical and thematic scales, such as parks or particular ecosystems. Pl@ntNet users will then be able to access to the most appropriate project and to the fine knowledge of the species that surround them. For instance, the microproject of a park in a town center will give access to the restricted list of plants observable in this park. This will consequently increase the quality of the automated identification as well as the user experience.

The community of Pl@ntNet users has now exceeded 3.5 million people all around the world. The application is used by 30,000 users everyday in a growing number of contexts such as education, trekking, gardening, agriculture, research in ecology, biodiversity preservation, etc.

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