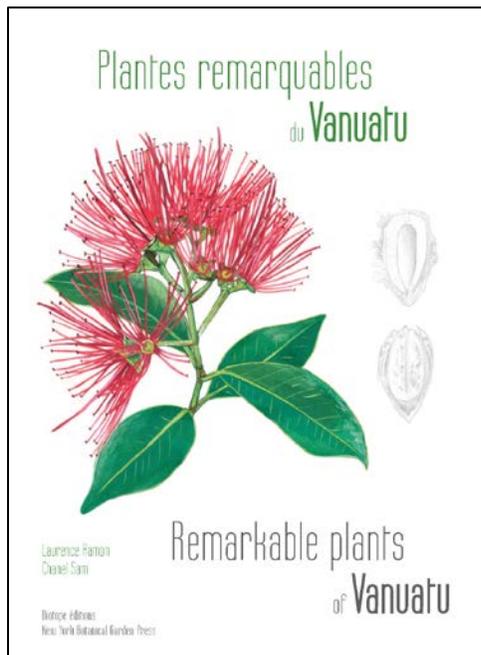


# NYBG/125

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2016

## ***Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu* Provides Comprehensive, Accessible Information about a Pacific Island Nation's Rich and Original Plant Life**

Now Available from NYBG Press and French Publisher Biotope in a Bilingual Edition, *Remarkable Plants* Includes Beautiful Color Illustrations of More Than 200 Species



**Bronx, NY**—Occupying about 80 islands in the South Pacific Ocean, the nation of Vanuatu lies at the crossroads of regional groups of islands boasting a rich and original assortment of plant life, including species from Australia and Asia that were brought to these volcanic islands by wind, marine currents, and animals.

Comprehensive, accessible information about many of Vanuatu's most noteworthy plant species is now available in one convenient volume, ***Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu***, by Laurence Ramon and Chanel Sam, which is newly published by The New York Botanical Garden Press and Biotope, a French publisher. The text is in English and French.

This guide is intended to raise awareness of Vanuatu's plant diversity among the general public and aid conservation efforts in the country, whose residents are largely rural and depend on plants for food, firewood, timber, medicine, and handmade goods.

“It is not always easy to connect the dots between the local name of a plant and its scientific name,” Hanington Tate, Director of the Forestry Department of Vanuatu, writes in the book’s foreword. “This guide is therefore meant to facilitate the dialogue between the rural population and other forestry stakeholders, such as foresters, agronomists, botanists, ethnologists, etc. It will thus help improve the management and the preservation of natural resources in Vanuatu and the culture that goes along with them.”

The 236 plants described in the book have been included for their unusual qualities such as high abundance, distinctive features (for example, large fruit, beautiful flowers, or stinging hairs), or noteworthy properties (medicinal, ornamental, or other uses). Some rarer and less commonly encountered species are included because of their vulnerable conservation status or because they are found nowhere other than Vanuatu.

All species are illustrated with beautiful color drawings that allow for easy identification, and the accompanying text provides additional identifying characteristics. Descriptive notes are supplemented with information about the uses of various plant species and their global distribution.

In addition to plant descriptions, *Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu* provides common names in Bislama (Vanuatu’s national language), French, and English. Vernacular names in Vanuatu’s many local languages are included in a separate section.

*Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu* is part of a broader effort to preserve the country’s botanical knowledge, which includes the 2014 opening of a renovated herbarium and the creation of an online database of information about the flora of Vanuatu.

### **About the Authors of *Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu***

Laurence Ramon is an agronomist and illustrator. After drawing tropical flora and fauna in French Guiana and New Caledonia, she lived in Vanuatu from 2010 to 2014 and was closely involved with the effort to renovate the country’s herbarium and create an online database of information about the flora of Vanuatu.

Chanel Sam was born on Malekula, Vanuatu’s second-largest island, and has studied the plants of Vanuatu for more than 30 years. He is a botanist for the Vanuatu Forestry Department and curator of its herbarium. He has participated in all major botanical expeditions in Vanuatu for at least the last 20 years.

## About The New York Botanical Garden Press

Since 1896 The New York Botanical Garden Press ([nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org)) has been publishing books and journals based on original research by plant scientists from around the world. Its mission is to put information in the hands of those engaged in exploring, understanding, and conserving plants and fungi. Areas of focus include floristics, systematics, economic botany, ecology, evolution, conservation, and ethnobotany. A growing list of books for general readers includes field guides and botanical history.

## About Biotope

A major player in environmental engineering and nature conservation, Biotope was created in 1973 by a team of nature enthusiasts. Biotope brings together several complementary activities—engineering, research and development, a communications agency, and a publishing house—serving the protection of biodiversity, sustainable development, and the dissemination of knowledge about nature. To follow publishing developments, go to [www.biotope-editions.com](http://www.biotope-editions.com)

**Ordering Information:** *Remarkable Plants of Vanuatu* (\$35 paperback) is available through NYBG Press. To order, go to [nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org) or call 718.817.8721.

###

**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and science. Learn more: [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)**

**The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

**Media contact:** Stevenson Swanson at 718.817.8512, [sswanson@nybg.org](mailto:sswanson@nybg.org)