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Confirmation of the New Genus *Pseudodiastema*

Pseudodiastema is a genus of plants within the subtribe *Gloxiniinae* (*Gesneriaceae*). Some of the characteristics of *Pseudodiastema* are decumbent herbs, leaf-like bracts, reduced inflorescence. I am currently collecting morphological and molecular data to complete field studies of the genus *Pseudodiastema*. Morphological studies will focus on taxonomically useful vegetative and reproductive characteristics. Field work will be carried out in northern Panama. I will be observing the ecology and population structure of the local species. Field studies will provide an opportunity to obtain data that is not easily observed on herbarium specimens. The outcomes of this research will provide a baseline for conservation and governmental agencies to work from to protect the habitat where these species exist. Evolutionary studies will be completed following the field study to ascertain the relationships between the species present. My research will be a more comprehensive study of the subtribe and genus.