

## Biodiversity

The once-tropical climate at Sexi became cooler and drier with the formation of the Andes Mountains. Consequently, unlike the tropical vegetation represented in the fossil record, the modern plants in Sexi are well-suited to seasonally dry, high-elevation conditions. Many of the trees and shrubs are evergreen and have thick, hard leaves. The following images exemplify a few of the 119 plant species currently known in the district (Aragón et al., 2006).



The Chamana, *Dodonea viscosa*, is an evergreen shrub from which the petrified forest takes its name.



The Alamacha, *Oreocallis grandiflora*, produces a large and impressive flower.



*Odontoglossum angustatum* is one of nine orchid species found in Sexi.



Despite the seasonally dry climate at Sexi, water contained in fog makes life for some plants possible. The leaves of Bromeliads (*Bromelia* spp.) are specially adapted to funnel condensed water toward the plant.



A patchwork of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants dot the landscape near the town.

## Environment

Sexi's location between the Pacific Ocean and Amazon River basin, combined with its elevation, influences the plateau's climate. Fog is an important source of water for the local flora, which has been described as a "dry cloud forest" (Aragón et al., 2006).

**To learn more, visit:**

**Plants of the District of Sexi: A Photographic Guide**

Aragón, S., Rimarachín, L., Ayasta, J., and Woodcock, D., 2006, Inventario Preliminar de la Flora del Distrito de Sexi, Cajamarca: Arnaldoa, v. 13, no. 2., p. 360-369.