



FLAAR  
MESOAMÉRICA



FLAAR

ENGLISH

*Documentation Project of  
the Biodiversity from Municipio de  
Livingston, Izabal*

Find it in Livingston

Palms

Session 6/8

Herbs, vines and epiphytes

2. Tropical trees and shrubs

3. Insects, amphibians and other creatures

4. Parks and Reserves in the Caribbean

5. Tropical Animals

6. Palms

7. Aquatic plants and ferns

8. Mushrooms and lichens

## CONTENT

- General introduction
- Specific data for this group of flora
- Location of species on the FLAAR Mesoamerica catalog

*Documentation Project of  
the Biodiversity from Municipio de  
Livingston, Izabal*



**FLAAR**  
MESOAMÉRICA



**FLAAR**



268  
records  
in our  
digital  
library



3 edible palm  
species

### Edible Wetlands Plants of Municipio de Livingston, Izabal

Wetland Series 1: from Swamps, Marshes and Seasonally Inundated Flatlands of Izabal



Wetland Series 2: plants that grow along the beach shore of Amatique Bay



Wetland Series 3: plants that grow alongside water: rivers, lagoons, swamps, or ocean



Wetland Series 2: plants that grow along the beach shore of Amatique Bay



Wetland Series 3: plants that grow alongside water: rivers, lagoons, swamps, or ocean





Resumen de reunión Sergio Jeréz (Research) & Andrea Bracamonte (MayanToons)

# Palmas de Guatemala

**Objetivo de la reunión:** revisar qué especies hay de palmas en Guatemala y comparar dentro del libro "Book of Palms" cuales cuentan con una ilustración.



## Cómo distinguir una especie de otra:

- 1) Altura de la planta
- 2) La forma de las hojas
- 3) La forma y el color de las inflorescencias
- 4) El hábito: (si crecen solas o en grupos.

Algunas especies se diferencian porque tienen hojas muy diferentes o porque tienen formas muy peculiares (p. ej. hay una especie trepadora).

Los géneros del taziste (*Acoelorrapphe*) y palmera de guano (*Sabal*) tienen hojas circulares en forma de abanico. Se puede encontrar fibra en el tallo de los dos, pero el taziste tiene fibra más gruesa y densa.

**Attalea:** tiene hojas compuestas extremadamente grandes (5 metros), largas.

**Bactris:** las hojas se parecen a las de las Chamaedoreas. Se diferencian porque tienen...

4) El hábito: (si crecen solas o en grupos). Algunas especies se diferencian porque tienen hojas muy diferentes o porque tienen formas muy peculiares (p. ej. hay una especie trepadora).



## Datos interesantes:

Muchas de las especies de palmas en Guatemala están amenazadas por su potencial ornamental.

El tazaste también tiene tallos delgados, mientras que el sabal tiene tallos gruesos. Uno crece en grupo y el otro, no (son plantas solitarias).

El coco tiene las bayas más grandes.

**Attalea:** tiene hojas compuestas extremadamente grandes (5 metros), largas.

**Bactris:** las hojas se parecen a las de las Chamaedorea. Se diferencian porque tienen espinas. Las espinas son finas y ralas. Una especie tiene frutos amarillos y la otra frutos de otro color.

**Chamaedorea:** en general tienen hojas compuestas (subhojas) y pueden tener el mismo número de subhojas.

**Desmoncus:** tiene espinas y las hojas se distribuyen a lo largo del tallo, no solo en la punta. Las espinas también son finas y ralas.

**Manicaria:** tiene hojas compuestas bastante grandes pero en lugar de ser subhojas, pareciera que hubieran rasgado una sola hoja.

**Reinhardtia gracilis:** tiene hojas compuestas (forma de mariposa).

**En la región tenemos 7 géneros de palmeras (40 especies. En Guatemala solo contamos con 5 especies nativas.**

# PALMS



# *Palms*

## *Areaceae Family*

---

Agronomist Diana Sandoval  
Researcher



# *Arecaceae Family*

- Monocots from the order Arecales
- They are woody plants (but no secondary trunk growth, only primary). Despite being monocotyledonous, many of them are arborescent, with large crown leaves at the end of the stem, generally pinnate (pinnatisect) or palmate (palmatisect). Its flowers have 3 sepals and 3 petals and are arranged in inflorescences provided with one or more spathes. The fruit is fleshy: a berry or a drupe.
- They are widely distributed in tropical to temperate regions, but mainly in warm regions.
- The extensive family has 185 genera, 2522 species.

# *Arecaceae family in Guatemala*

- Some 71 species grow in Guatemala, distributed in 21 genera, not including the introduced ones. The *Chamaedorea* genus is the most widely distributed in the country and its species have high potential as indoor ornamental plants, such as xate. These depend on a permanent vegetation cover, that is, on the conservation of the forests.

## PALMS

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
ARECACEAE	<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i> H. Wendl	Tasiste o pimientillo (Palmetto palm)
ARACEAE	<i>Astrocaryum mexicanum</i> Liebm. Ex Mart.	Lancetillo
ARECACEAE	<i>Attalea cohune</i> Mart.	Corozo (Cohune Nut)
ARECACEAE	<i>Bactris major</i> Jacq.	
ARECACEAE	<i>Bactris mexicana</i> Mart.	Huiscoyol
ARECACEAE	<i>Calyptroglyne ghiesbreghtiana</i> (Linden & H.Wendl.) H.Wendl.	Capuque, capuca
ARECACEAE	<i>Chamaedorea castillo-montii</i> Hodel	Pacaya endemica
ARECACEAE	<i>Chamaedorea</i> sp.	Xate jade
ARECACEAE	<i>Chamaedorea elegans</i> Mart.	Pacaya
ARECACEAE	<i>Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti</i> H.Wendl.	
ARECACEAE	<i>Chamaedorea tepejilote</i> Liebm.	Tepejilote
ARECACEAE	<i>Cryosophila stauracantha</i> (Heynh.) R.J.Evans	Escobo o escoba (rootspine palm)
ARECACEAE	<i>Gaussia maya</i> (O.F.Cook) H.J.Quero & Read	
ARECACEAE	<i>Geonoma interrupta</i> (Ruiz & Pav.) Mart.	Capuca grande
ARECACEAE	<i>Manicaria saccifera</i> Gaertn.	Confra
ARECACEAE	<i>Reinhardtia elegans</i> Liebm.	Capuque de montana
ARECACEAE	<i>Reinhardtia latisecta</i> (H.Wendl.) Burret	Pamak
ARECACEAE	<i>Roystonea regia</i> (Kunth) O.F.Cook.	Palma real (royal palm)
ARECACEAE	<i>Sabal mauritiformis</i> (H.Karst.) Griseb. & H.Wendl.	Guano

Source: (Mendoza, V. & Hurtado, V., FLAAR Mesoamérica, 2022)

# Documented species in Livingston

13 genera and 19 species

# *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*

- It is a small palm that grows in clumps up to 5-7 meters tall, rarely 9 meters tall, with slender stems less than 15 centimeters in diameter. The leaves are palmate (fan-shaped), with the segments joined together for about half their length, and are 1-2 m wide, light green above and silvery below.



# *Astrocaryum mexicanum*

- Adult palms reach 5 to 7 m in height and the trunk can be 5 to 20 cm in diameter. One of the main characteristics of this palm is that all its structures, from the roots to the flowers and fruits, are covered with flat spines. The spines on the trunk reach 5 cm long.





# *Attalea cohune*

- Common name: CorozoPalm
- 3 to 15 m tall, with solitary stems, 30 to 50 cm in diameter, without thorns. Compound leaves, alternate but grouped at the end of stems, 10–15 m long, apically recurved, pinnae up to 200 pairs, entire. Panicle inflorescences solitary, pendulous, 1 to 1.5 m long, with many tiny yellow flowers.



*Bactris major*  
*y Bactris mexicana*

- They are trees 4 to 30 m tall and 3 to 20 cm in diameter. The leaves are 1 to 5 m long, pinnate with numerous leaflets. Interfoliar inflorescence with flowers of both sexes arranged in triads, one female between two males. The fruit is a 2 to 6 cm long drupe with a fleshy mesocarp, edible in several species.





# *Calyptrogyne ghiesbreghtiana*

- It is a stemless or short-stemmed palm, with a trunk up to 2 m tall. The leaves are undivided, or pinnate with 3-9 leaflets, the terminal leaflet with a forked apex. The flowers are produced throughout the year, with upright monoecious inflorescences, with the temporary separation of the male and female phases.

# Genus

## *Chamaedorea*

- *Chamaedorea castillo-montii* Hodel
- *Chamaedorea* sp.
- *Chamaedorea elegans* Mart.
- *Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti* H.Wendl.
- *Chamaedorea tepejilote* Liebm



0N9A1754.jpg

# *Cryosophila stauracantha*

---

- It is a recognizable palm by its external roots based on stems, and by its branched spines. Silvery leaves, thin stem, long. Its palms were used by the Mayans to catch fish. Ornamental plant, also used for the roofs of rural houses and for brooms.





## *Gaussia maya*

- *Gaussia maya* reaches a size of 5 to 20 meters in height. The stems are gray in color, 10 to 15 (sometimes 30) centimeters in diameter. The trees have six to eight pinnately compound leaves. The fruits are red, 1 to 1.5 cm in diameter. The stems are used for construction.

# *Geonoma interrupta*

- They are small to medium sized monoecious palms. It has a solitary stipe or in groups, it is generally smooth and brown. The leaves are pinnate and arranged regularly or not depending on the species. The branched inflorescence arises from the leaves. The flowers are unisexual and form groups of one male flower and two female flowers.



# *Manicaria saccifera*

- It is a solitary palm with a stipe 5 to 10 m tall and a diameter of 15 to 30 cm.
- The crown is made up of 5 to 28 semi-erect leaves with a 1.2 to 1.8 m petiole and a 2.3 to 7 m long rachis and 40 leaflets on each side. The inflorescence is pendulous with a petiole up to 1 m long, wrapped in bracts. Globose fruit of 5 to 6 cm in diameter, with a surface formed by pyramidal woody protuberances and with one to three seeds of 3 to 4 cm in diameter.



# *Reinhardtia elegans* y *Reinhardtia latisecta*



- They are completely unarmed, medium-sized dwarf palms; with thin stems, solitary or in colonies; monoecious plants.

# *Roystonea regia*

- Tree with a stipe trunk that is usually up to 25 meters high, but in some cases, it can reach up to 40 m. Its trunk is smooth, light greyish in color, it has the appearance of an elegant column, slightly fusiform, which thickens slightly at mid-height, then thins again. The diameter of the trunk can reach 50 or 60 cm. It has a terminal plume of leaves that reach up to 6 meters in length.



# *Sabal mauritiiformis*

---



- It grows wild in forests and ravines of warm climate, in almost all tropical countries, being native to Africa, it is found in Latin America and its leaves are used for roofing or roofing of peasant houses and it has the great virtue of being insect repellent. Therefore, it does not allow pests to enter the houses such as the mosquito or anopheles mosquito, transmitter of malaria, nor does it allow scorpions and wasps, so common in these areas, to nest.



**FLAAR**  
MESOAMÉRICA

*Thank you!*

---

# Location of species on the FLAAR Mesoamerica catalogs

---



## FLAAR Mesoamerica 2022

Project: Documentation of the Biodiversity from  
Municipio de Livingston, Izabal  
Photographic record from FLAAR Mesoamerica

Project Manager: **Dr Nicholas Hellmuth**

Coordination of editorial and publications: **Ing Vivian Díaz de la Roca**

Field Coordinator: **María Alejandra Gutiérrez**

Presenters:

**Vivian Díaz de la Roca, Diana Sandoval**

Guatemala city,  
Guatemala  
Livingston Izabal,  
Guatemala