



FLAAR



FLAAR
MESOAMÉRICA



Yellow Flor de Mayo across Guatemala

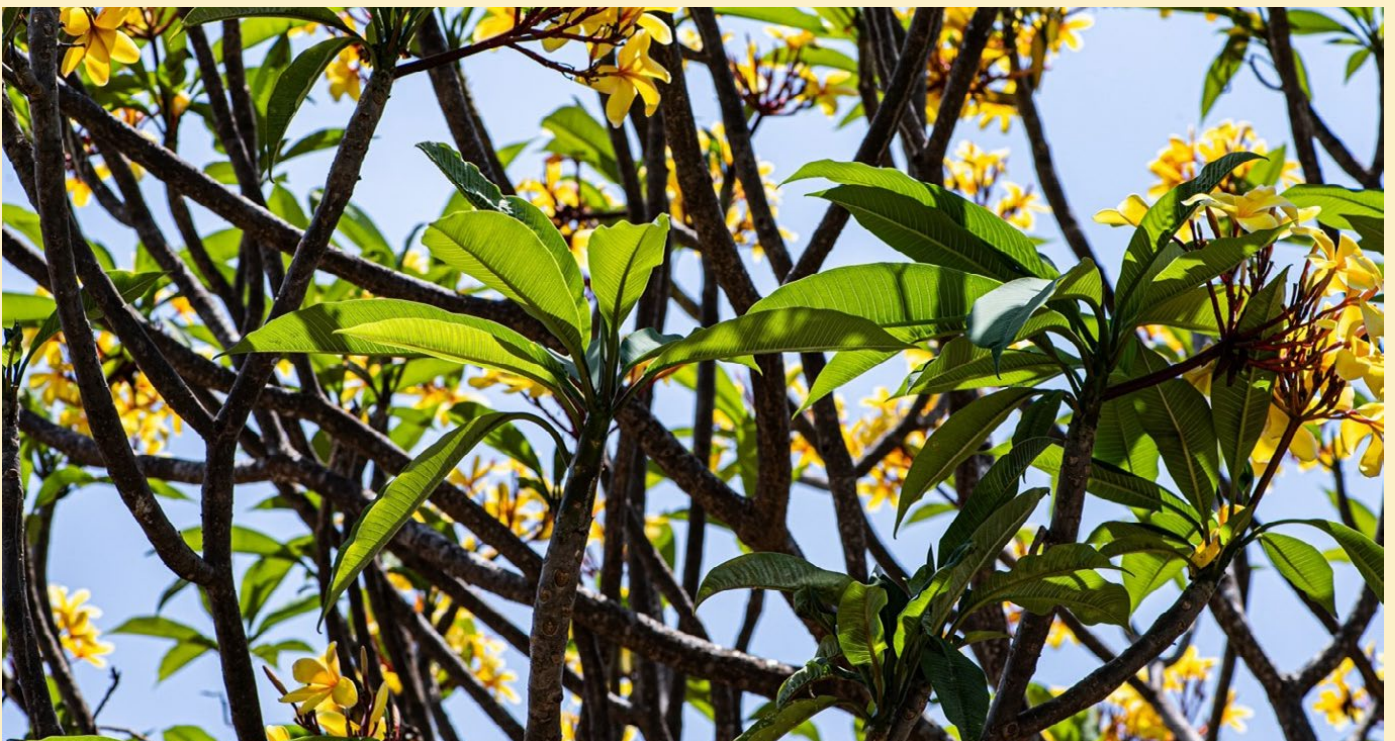
**Yellow *Plumeria rubra* can be Native but in Gardens,
not growing outside a Garden in the Wild**

Nicholas Hellmuth
March 2024

Chapter 1, Yellow *Plumeria rubra* in Garden



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.

Chapter 2,

Yellow *Plumeria rubra* next to Church Aldea
Estancia de la Virgen Highway CA9, Kilometer 100-101



10:39am, July 5, 2013. It is common for Flor de Mayo to bloom for many months. We drive by this church (on the north side of Highway CA9) a dozen times a year and most of the months the tree is flowering yellow. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



There are several different *Plumaria rubra* trees in gardens near the church. Note that the yellow flowers are much larger than any of the others. The maroon colored flowers are also larger than the white flowers. This is because the colored flowers have been selected for generations by gardeners, selecting for color and size. The white flowers just live out in the wild and no one selects which ones they want to encourage to grow.

This is the crossroads at Aldea Estancia de la Virgen, with the turnoff to the north towards San Cristobal Acasaguastlan, El Progreso. Wild white *Plumeria rubra* grows in the surrounding hills (our report on kilometer 96 flowers is based on a wild white flor de Mayo just a few minutes away).

Chapter 3,

Yellow *Plumeria rubra*

Bosque Seco area, Sacapulas

There is a separate FLAAR Reports on yellow Flor de Mayo flowers in the bosque seco area along Rio Sacapulas. Lots of houses of wood have been abandoned and the houses are no more, but the yellow-flowered *Plumeria rubra* are still growing in that area (even with no formal garden remaining). But these were originally in a garden surrounding a wooden house of the local Maya people.





Plumera rubra, yellow flor de Mayo. Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth, 12:40pm, May 15, 2015. Sacapulas bosque seco area, but escaped from a garden; not wild species or sub-species.

Chapter 4, Yellow *Plumeria rubra*



The trunk and lower branches of this *Plumera rubra* tree are thicker than 75% of wild flor de Mayo. The presence of water below definitely played a role. As usual, this tree is on a hillside; not in a flat area. This tree has yellow flowers in at least six locations. Question is, is this a wild white *Plumeria rubra* where the yellow has evolved to be 90% a yellow flower? Or is this planted decades ago in a cerco vivo (living fence) or is it escaped from a Maya house garden of the past century (since the trunk is quite old)? Rabinal area, May 3, 2016. All photographs by Erick Flores, FLAAR Mesoamerica, FLAAR Photo Archive.



We bring a complete portable photo studio on all field trips: tripod, lighting, light stands, black backdrops, etc. Photography by Erick Flores, 11:38am, May 3, 2016. Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF100mm f/2.8 Macro USM lens.

Is this a wild "white" Flor de Mayo flower with yellow on steroids?



Flowering on a hillside, Rabinal, Guatemala. This is one of the oldest flor de Mayo trees other than the ones in cemeteries, whose trunks can be over 30 cm. wide. The trunk here is less but thicker than 75% of wild white-flowering *Plumeria rubra*.

Chapter 5,

Yellow Plumeria rubra

Growing in garden adjacent to rural Maya House, Jutiapa



More than half of the yellow-flowering flor de Mayo trees are growing near a house. Here the yellow frangipani tree is in a garden surrounding a Maya home in a rural area, Jutiapa.

Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth, Nikon Coolpix B700, 10:06am, April 30, 2017.



Lots of other flowering garden plants visible in the same Maya garden.



Pure yellow flowers; no white on the outer part of the petals. This frangipani tree is in a garden surrounding a Maya home in a rural area, Jutiapa. Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth, Nikon Coolpix B700, 10:06am, April 30, 2017.

Chapter 6,

Yellow *Plumeria rubra*
Growing near Rio Blanco, Quiche



More than half of the yellow-flowering flor de Mayo trees are growing near a house. Here the yellow frangipani tree is in a garden surrounding a Maya home in a rural area, Jutiapa. Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth, Nikon Coolpix B700, 10:06am, April 30, 2017.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth.
Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm
tele-macro Canon, lens.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth. Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm tele-macro Canon, lens.



Lots of other flowering garden plants visible in the same Maya garden.



Pure yellow flowers; no white on the outer part of the petals. This frangipani tree is in a garden surrounding a Maya home in a rural area, Jutiapa. Photo by Nicholas Hellmuth, Nikon Coolpix B700, 10:06am, April 30, 2017.



Typical garden along a highway; not every garden has *Plumeria rubra*, but when it does, and when the plant is easily accessible, we stop and ask permission to photograph the flowers. Near Rio Blanco, Quiche, May 10, 2015.

Chapter 7, Pale Yellow *Plumeria rubra* Flowers, Not Deep Yellow/Orange



Are these white flor de Mayo flowers with more yellow than usual? Or are these light-yellow *Plumeria rubra* flowers? They were not out in the wild. If your database has hundreds of frangipani flowers you will get every mixture of color you can imagine.

Photographed by Nicholas Hellmuth in photo studio with Westcott fluorescent lights plus a ring flash.



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth.
Canon EOS 1Ds Mark III, 180mm
tele-macro Canon, lens.

Chapter 8,
Yellow-Centered “White” *Plumeria rubra* flowers
in hotel garden, Tikal, Peten, Guatemala



Photography by Nicholas Hellmuth in photo studio with Westcott fluorescent lights plus a ring flash.



Yellow flowers with 20% white? Or white flor de Mayo flowers with 80% yellow? Hotel garden at Tikal,



Yellow *Plumeria rubra* flowers with 60% white? Or white flor de Mayo flowers with 40% yellow? Hotel garden at Tikal, Peten, Guatemala; June 10, 2011. Canon EOS 1Dx Mark III with Canon 180mm macro-telephoto lens.