

2nd Corozera North of Uaxactun, 2nd Corozera Los Enamorados, Road from Uaxactun to El Biotopo Naachtún Dos Lagunas



Drone Pilot and Aerial Photos: Carlos Elgueta

Text: Nicholas Hellmuth

FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala), June 2025



Fig. 1. Cluster of tall mature corozo palms. All the aerial photos in this FLAAR Reports are by drone pilot aerial photographer Carlos Elgueta. In the future we may rename this Corozera Monos and the other Corozera Cruce El Bejucal, but Los Enamorados was the name for the overall area provided by our local guides.



Fig. 2. Cluster of tall mature corozo palms. Lots of tall thin-stem (thin trunk) botan palms. Surrounded by lots of different tree species, so not as “solid corozo” as the corozera north of Yaxha and south of Nakum. All the aerial photos in this FLAAR Reports are by drone pilot aerial photographer Carlos Elgueta.



Corozo palms, lots of tall botan palms above and at the right. But dozens of other tree species.



Fig. 3. Cropped by Hellmuth from aerial photo of Carlos Elgueta, so you can see the palm area more easily. One cluster of lots of corozo palms near each other, with many tall thin-stem (thin trunk) botan palms all over the place.



Fig
4

This part of this corozera has more “trees” than “palms” but is not a normal forest. This is a corozera, but the variety that also has LOTS of other tree species.

Cropped by Nicholas from aerial photo
by Carlos so you can see more of the
really tall corozo palms, plus the thin-
stem botan palms.

Fig. 5.





Fig. 6. Gorgeous aerial photo, with natural sunlight at wonderful angle to see Palm Paradise Peten, RBM.



Fig. 7. Cropped so you can see the tall thin stems (trunks) of the botan palms, *Sabal mauritiiformis*.



Crop by Hellmuth from the previous aerial photo by Carlos Elgueta so you can see the corozo palms lower left and right, and all the tall botan palms.

The fan leaves that are aged and brown is one way to distinguish a botan from a high escoba palm.

Fig. 9.



Two large single corozo palms. Lots of tall botan palms with thin off-white color stems (trunks).

Notice again that the lower palm fronds are golden-brown in color as they wither and die.

Fig. 10.







Fig. 12. Cropped so you can see that here there are more botan palms than corozo palms. That said, this is still a corozera but perhaps deserves the designation Corozera-Botanal-Mixed Forest. Ecologists can suggest their own preferred designation—but essential to visit these areas IN-PERSON, not dump a classification based on other parts of Latin America.





Fig. 14. Giant corozo tree surrounded by a dozen tall thin botan palms, Corozera Botonal Los Enamorados, 2nd north of Uaxactun

Lots More Field Work for Botanists, Ecologists, Soil Scientists and Archaeologists

Palm Paradise Peten is part of our 5-year project of coordination and cooperation with CONAP. We send our estimated schedule, focus, and team list to Mario Vásquez (CONAP for PNYNN area) and to Lester Ely García González, Parque Nacional Yaxha Nakum Naranjo, DGPCYN-IDAHE.

This palm project is to research botanical and ecological aspects and to show botanists, ecologists, and soil scientists where these palm areas are located so that they can initiate their own projects. For example, the two corozers between Yaxha and Nakum are each surrounded by seasonally inundated bajo vegetation. So what in the soil makes so many palms grow in these two “islands” and what is the difference between the soil of the two corozeras and the soil of the surrounding Bajo La Justa?

For ecologists, botanists and soil scientists, what about the corozeras that are on slightly hilly land, such as the one along the west side of the Maya ruins of Naranjo-Sa'al, and why does that corozera stop and a jimbál native bamboo then sawgrass band exist and then the Savanna at the North End of Bajo La Pita?

And a question for archaeologists—how many of these areas were manipulated or used by the Classic Maya for over a thousand years and thus resulted in different soil than surrounding areas—or is the soil difference just part of Mother Nature?

And what encourages some corozeras to be solid corozo palm with several other species and a few other trees—yet the corozeras north of Uaxactun have lots more trees.

A short bibliography is in the “1st Corozera North of Uaxactun” report. An even longer bibliography on palms is in another Hellmuth 2025 report.

Credits and Acknowledgements

We visited with Mario Vásquez (CONAP for PNYNN area) while passing through San Benito/Santa Elena en route to the corozera areas.

The field trip concept and initial itinerary was initiated by Nicholas Hellmuth. He also does pano photography and other photography from the ground with an iPhone 15 Pro Max.

Norma Estefany Cho and Byron Pacay, FLAAR Mesoamerica, prepare all the photography, drone, and camping equipment, plus assist every day the entire week of the field trip. Byron also drives the VW Amarok—he knows all the roads from years of experience.

Edwin Solares did video and ground photography. He is also very experienced in video editing.

Carlos Elgueta is a professional drone pilot, aerial photographer, and photographer with his Sony camera. He was recommended by Haniel when Haniel himself had other projects so was not available the first week of May.

Vivian Hurtado prepares the daily menu and oversees the organization of all field work and research projects. Since there is not space in the pickup trucks she works from her home office.

Teco, the nickname for Moises Daniel Perez Diaz, park ranger at PNYNN for 23 years so has impressive experience on flora, fauna and ecosystems of this part and also of surrounding areas.

Franklin Baudilio Perez Mendez helped as general assistant setting up camp at each base camp and helped as porter carrying needed things during each day's hike. He is the son of Teco.

Rubelsin Ariel Recinos Orellan, driver of the decades old Toyota 22r that survived all the ruts and gullies washed out across the roads because this Toyota was “raised” so the underside of the motor did not get scraped.

Perfecto Matus is a driver who transported our equipment to the camp of Naranjo Sa'al, in his Toyota 22r.

Daniel Ramirez Mendez, driver of the Ford Ranger.

Daniel Alexander Recinos Corrales, driver of the Izusu DMA.

Neria Virginia Herrera Pinelo, hospitable owner of nice place to overnight, Campamento Chiclero Uaxactun. She is also the founder of the Museo de Piezas Arqueológicas de Uaxactún.

Maria Isabel Jacome Franco has assisted as a cook on several FLAAR field trips. There are obviously no hotels or restaurants at Nakum or Naranjo, but there are cooking areas that the local park personnel make available to research teams who have permission from the park administrators to camp in those areas.

Jaime España assisted as corozera guide on our day heading north to the corozers on the road towards Dos Lagunas.

Ruben Edmundo Carreto Almaraz, park ranger in Naranjo-Sa'al provided helpful assistance in our camping at that site.



Fig. 15,a. The “area of botan palm” was an amazing cow pasture with dozens of very tall botan palms—but not many corozo palms. We show these botan palms in another FLAAR Reports.

I estimate the two corozeras are separate but in theory they could be continuous with each other. Need satellite photos which we lack. We would greatly appreciate a colleague sending us high-res satellite views.

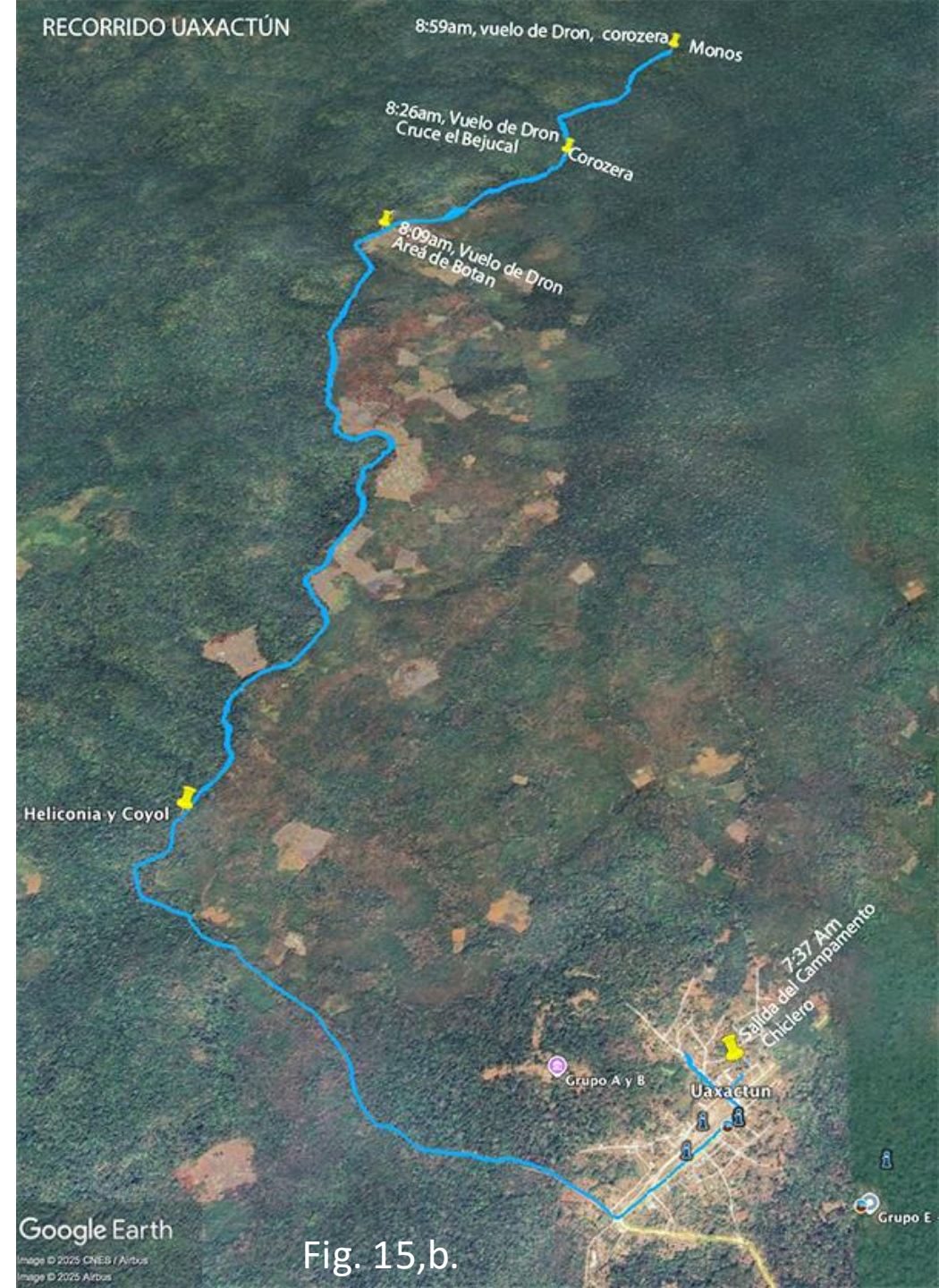


Fig. 15,b.