

Corozera, Botanal, from Nakum, PNYNN, towards El Tigre, RBM, Peten



Drone Pilot and Aerial Photos, May 2, 2025: Carlos Elgueta

Text: Nicholas Hellmuth

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Fig. 1. You can see the area of palms up and down the center, then no palms at the right. You can see the road going diagonally.

In this area there are not enough corozo palms en masse to name this a corozera but further on it evolves into a corozera.

This is along the dirt/mud road from Nakum to the Maya site of El Tigre. Then starts a limestone gravel road to El Caoba. Then paved road to Tikal.



Fig. 2. Now there are enough palms to name this a Corozera-Botanal (East of El Tigre, West of Nakum).

Very tall corozo palms. But the botan will still grow taller.

Lots of trees in addition to the two primary palm species.











Fig. 6. Here it's a Corozera with several botan palms, but not enough to name this area a botanal. Also LOTS of tree species besides the palms.





Several botan palms and a thicket of very tall corozo palms.

All these aerial photos are by drone pilot Carlos Elgueta. He is using the FLAAR drone, Mavic 3.

FLAAR Digital Photo Archive of Flora, Fauna and Biodiverse Ecosystems of Guatemala.



Fig. 9.

Although lots of trees here there are more palms: botan and corozo.

The botanical name for botan is *Sabal mauritiiformis*

The name for guano palm is *Sabal mexicana*.

The name for corozo is *Attalea cohune*.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11. Tall corozo palms, botan palms that will still grow taller, and lots of tall trees.



Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14. An area with lots more botan palms, surrounded across the top by tree forest (with no more thick clusters of palms visible).

Would help to know what is the topography — are the palms primarily on flat areas and the trees across the top on a low hill?

In the next photo you can see that all this is outside PNYNN. The hilltop has been denuded and the understory around the corozo seems to have been cleared away.



Fig. 15.





Fig. 17.

Additional Comments

What would help would be an internationally funded project to show the location of every corozera, every botanal, every guanal, and every escobal in the entire Reserva de la Biosfera Maya (RBM). Obviously that would require outside funding, but in the meantime our goal is to find as many palm areas as possible and to encourage universities and botanical gardens to accomplish even more.

Initial Suggested Reading on Maya Site of El Tigre

Since we needed to find a place to have lunch, and since we needed to get all the way to Uaxactun, there was not time to stop at the El Mirador pyramid of the Maya site of El Tigre, west from Nakum. We would have had to climb to the top, and then take drone photos from there. Tikal temples are visible on the far horizon from the top of this El Tigre pyramid. In past years the wooden steps had been repaired so it was easy to climb up to the top platform.

Do not confuse the site of El Tigre not far from Nakum with El Tigre structure of El Mirador far to the north. There is also a site named El Tigre in Campeche. There is also Parque Nacional Laguna de Tigre in the RBM. In Peten “tigre” means jaguar.

Not very much is available on the Internet for El Tigre west of Nakum. And what is in other bibliographies, I have not yet found on-line. This one report is not available on-line. It is stored in the office archives of IDAEH.

CHAN, Rosa María

1999 Programa de rescate: Sitios arqueológicos Naranjito y El Tigre, vol. II , El Tigre, *Reporte PRONAT-PROSIAPETEN*, Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala.

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.

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. Byron and Teco prepare the maps that show where the drone pilot accomplished photography each day.

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 Lopez 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.

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.