

**Gorgeous Yellow Masses of Flowers of
Haematoxylum campechianum
at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo**

Volume 14 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha,
Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth

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

October 2025



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**Introduction to the Beautiful Bright Yellow Flowers
of *Haematoxylum campechianum*
at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo**

We have photographed these flowers in bloom on Feb. 14, 2022, and in full bloom on March 15 and March 29 in 2020. Obviously flowering season varies by the climate change each year—whether it's a cloudy rainy year or a dry year with more sunshine. But the earliest that we have found the logwood tree blooming was Jan. 8, 2022 but in January those flowers were literally just starting to open.

So we suggest late February and March as the best months to ask local people in the Yaxha area as to when and where these trees are blooming.

The other question is, how long do the flowers stay open before they wither, loose their bright color, and fall off the tree?

Feb. 14, 2022, Most but not All
of the Flowers
are open







In February, most of the flowers are wide open, but lots were still just buds. Photos by Edwin Solares , Canon 100mm.



Same flowers as previous photo by Edwin Solares but this angle of view is by David Arrivillaga.

The first three photos were all by Edwin Solares. The previous and present photo and all the following in this chapter are by David Arrivillaga.

Each photographer has a different style so it helps to have at least two photographers on each field trip.

Feb. 14, 2022, same date as the previous photos.



February 14, 2022,
Lots of the
beautiful Yellow
Flowers are open
but not all of them.
Only the bottom
half are open.

Sony a1 (Alpha 1)
with Sony lens FE
90mm F2.8 Macro
G OSS.





Chapter 2

Fully-Opened Gorgeous Yellow Flowers of Palo de Tinto, Logwood

Helpful closeup of flowers of palo de tinto, logwood, by park ranger Teco (Moises Daniel Perez Diaz).

March 29, 2020.

It's essential to keep track of in what month we have achieved great photos of these flowers so in coming years we know in which month to return to get even more photos of these solid masses of bright yellow flowers.



In deep shade (below the tree canopy) it's tough to have enough sunlight. But at least you can see the size and shape of the series of flowers.

If you ask Google when the flowers bloom, if you ask in Spanish: A1 Overview tells you from April to August which is totally and completely ARTIFICIAL intelligence. So be wary of AI in its early development.

Then I asked in English and the error was even worse: "Flowering period; September though April."



Chapter 3

**Wider View of the Branches and Twigs
filled with Bright Yellow Flowers**





All three photos in this chapter are by Teco with Huawei P20 telephone camera on March 15th, 2020.



Chapter 4

**So far, the earliest Flowering
of *Haematoxylum campechianum*
that we have found was in 2nd week of January (2022)**

7:30am (yes, on field trips we start early and work all day).

Photo by David Arrivillaga with iPhone 13 Pro Max, which was the model we had in early 2022. Once the iPhone 15 Pro Max was available in a later year, we have used this for over two years since the model 16 didn't offer that many improvements. But we will be acquiring the iPhone 17 Pro Max as soon as it is available in Guatemala. We already have the latest Google Pixel 10 XL.

Since each field trip usually has between two and three photographers, it helps to provide as many alternatives as possible, so we also have Nikon, Canon, and Sony digital cameras.



Same flowers at a different angle.

Note that only a few have opened and not yet completely wide open. So January is a great month to be able to document the buds and the young flowers. Late February and March are better to photograph all the flowers fully opened.







Names of Photo Folders of *Haematoxylum campechianum* at PNYNN

Yaxha-Ecolodge-El-Sombrero-lake-front-trail-Haematoxylum-campechianum-Palo-de-Tinto-**Aug-19-2018**-NH

Yaxha-lake-shore-south-side-Haematoxylum-campechianum-tinto-area-pano-GOOGLE-Pixel-3XL-**Jan-22-2019**-Juan-Pablo

Hotel-Ecolodge-El-Sombrero-Haematoxylum-campechianum-palo-de-tinto-dye-colorant-**Jul-6-2019**-NH

Haematoxylum-campechianum-palo-de-campeche-yellow-flowers-Parque-Nacional-Yaxha-P20-Huawei-**Mar-15-2020**-TECO

Haematoxylum-campechianum-palo-de-campeche-yellow-flower-Parque-Nacional-Yaxha-P20-Huawei-**Mar-29-2020**-TECO

Yaxha-Lake-Haematoxylum-campechianum-palo-de-tinto-o-de-campeche-iPhone-13-Pro-Max-**Jan-8-2022**-DA

Yaxha-Rio-Ixtinto-Haematoxylum-campechanum-Palo-de-tinto-Leaf-tinto-Canon-R5-35mm-414pm-**Feb-14-2022**-EW

Yaxha-Rio-Ixtinto-Haematoxylum-campechanum-Palo-de-tinto-Flower-Tinto-Canon-R5-35mm-457pm-**Feb-14-2022**-EW

Yaxha-Lake-Haematoxylum-campechianum-palo-de-campeche-yellow-flowers-trunk-SonyA1-90mm-452pm-**Feb-14-2022**-DA

References Cited and Additional Suggested Reading on *Haematoxylum campechianum* are in the separate volume on the fluted and furrowed trunks of logwood trees.

Donations make our Field Trips and Research and Publications Possible

We appreciate a donation during November 2021 to help cover the costs of FLAAR research projects specifically to assist and support the current FLAAR project of flora and fauna in the Reserva de la Biosfera Maya (RBM). This donation also assisted the FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala) research project in the Municipio de Livingston area of the departamento of Izabal, Guatemala. In a subsequent year we received an additional helpful donation from this family to help fund the field work and research and publications on flora, fauna and biodiverse ecosystems of PNYNN and surrounding RBM of Peten, Guatemala.

These donations are from a family in Chicago in honor and memory of botanist Dr John D. Dwyer, who worked in many areas of Mesoamerica, including in the Yaxha area in the 1970's while the site was being mapped by FLAAR.

These donations are also in recognition of the urgency and need for conservation of both wildlife and rare plants in the bio-diverse ecosystems of the Reserva de la Biosfera Maya (RBM) of Guatemala. Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo (PNYNN) is one part of the over 5 million acres of the RBM.

FLAAR is tax exempt in USA.

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

FOR COOPERATION, HOSPITALITY, & ASSISTANCE AT PARQUE NACIONAL YAXHA, NAKUM AND NARANJO PROJECT (Aug. 2018 – Jul 2019)

Ing. Jorge Mario Vásquez Kilkán (CONAP, Santa Elena, Peten)

Arq. Jose Leonel Ziesse Altán (IDAEH, Santa Elena, Peten)

Biolg. Ana Lorena Lobos Morales (CONAP)

INITIATION AND COORDINATION OF THE PROJECT OF COOPERATION FOR 2021-2026

Licda. Merle Fernandez, CONAP

Marla Mercedes Bolvito Jerónimo, Unidad de Cooperación Nacional e Internacional de la Secretaría Ejecutiva de CONAP

Licda. Ana Luisa De León N., Directora de Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible, CONAP

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Lic. Lester Ely García González, Coordinador Administrativo de Yaxhá para el Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes

Lic. Apolinario Córdova, CONAP Petén (in initial years)

FOR COOPERATION, HOSPITALITY, AND ASSISTANCE AT PNYNN WE THANK

all the helpful and knowledgeable guides of IDAEH CONAP at PNYNN who accompanied us each day. It is essential to have either an IDAEH and/or CONAP guardabosque or comparable when doing flora and fauna research in a national park. Plus we appreciate the assistance of the military at the Yaxha park entrance to help us on field trips to find and document the far-away Savanna of 3 Fern Species at the west end of PNYNN.

ASSISTANCE FOR KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF PNYNN

Teco, Moises Daniel Perez Diaz, park ranger, PNYNN

We sincerely thank Juan Manuel Segovia of Lonas Segovia for donating several giant tarps that are essential for our field trips to remote areas.

TENTS AND COOKING EQUIPMENT AT NAKUM CAMP, PNYNN

Manola Margot Lima Diaz owner of Restaurante El Portal de Yaxha, La Maquina

FLAAR was formed in 1969 to map Yaxha (and nearby Topoxte Island and Nakum) and we worked with the then president of Guatemala and the head of FYDEP to initiate protection of this area as a national park. Other conservationists added the Naranjo segment. Recently we were asked to return for flora, fauna, and biosphere field work from August 2018 to July 2019. This project was successful and as a result we were asked by CONAP to return for five more years, 2021-2026, of coordination and cooperation with them, both in the Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo national park plus all the rest of the Reserva de la Biosfera Maya (RBM), Peten, Guatemala.

Base Camp Assistance at Naranjo-Sa'al

We thank Arqueologa Vilma Fialko and Arquitecto. Raul Noriega for hospitality and place to stay and kitchen while doing field work in flora, fauna and wetlands ecosystems in the Naranjo-Sa'al area of PNYNN. We thank Horacio Palacios who assisted as a guide for how to reach the amazing Savanna West of Naranjo-Sa'al.

Base Camp Assistance at Yaxha

We thank Biologist Ana Lorena Lobos Morales and both co-administrators of PNYNN (Arq. Jose Leonel Ziesse (IDAEH) and Lic. Jorge Mario Vazquez (CONAP) for providing a place to stay for the photographers, biologists, and assistants of the FLAAR Mesoamerica team of flora and fauna during the 1-week-a-month field trips August 2018 through July 2019.

In turn FLAAR purchased and donated a cooking stove when the original one no longer functioned, plus we have photographed and documented many tree and insect species that we found around this camp.

Ecolodge El Sombrero

I thank Gabriella Moretti, owner of Ecolodge El Sombrero, for providing hotel room and meals while we have been doing field work at Parque Nacional Yaxha Nakum Naranjo. We also appreciate the hospitality of her sons Sebastian de la Hoz and Juan Carlo de la Hoz. Every workday is exhausting because we are carrying and then using very heavy cameras, super-telephoto lenses, sturdy tripods, large gimbals or ball tripod heads. Thus it is crucial for my health to be able to rest and totally recuperate every night in order to be ready for the following day of botanical and zoological adventures in Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo.

Equally crucial is having a place to charge the batteries of the computers, or all the cameras, and of the cell phones. Solar power is great, but it lasts only an hour, or less, if you plug in multiple computers and cameras and flash batteries to charge. So a place with enough electricity to charge the entire mass of essential field work equipment is essential and thus very much appreciated.

In order to post photographs on botanical and zoological websites, you can't do this if there is either no Internet or weak Internet. Thus it is very helpful that when we are provided rooms and meals, that Internet is also provided by the Ecolodge El Sombrero.

Contact Info: +502 5460 2934, VentasElSombrero@gmail.com or WhatsApp.



HOW TO GET TO YAXHA?

MAP SYMBOLS



Archaeological sites



Airports



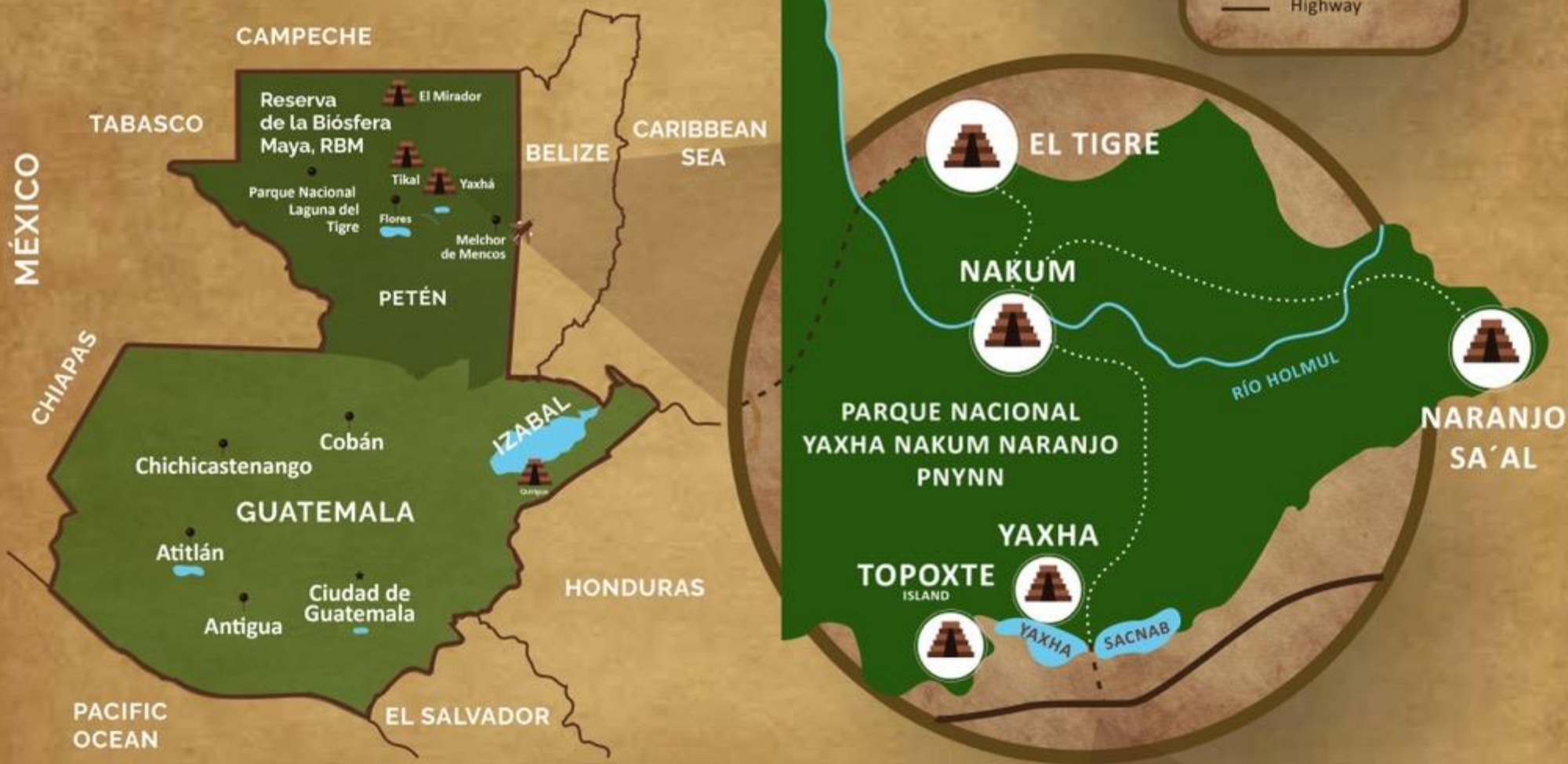
Dirt or gravel road



Road with deep ruts & mud



Highway





Go to the Mundo Maya airport in Santa Elena and then you will find a services of tourist vehicles to go to the archaeological site. If you want to go by car from Guatemala City, take the following route: Río Dulce - Poptún-Flores. At the junction further on you will find on the left the route to Tikal. Go straight on to the right towards Yaxha (towards Melchor de Mencos). In km. 521 at the village La Maquina, turn left to the site. Ecolodge El Sombrero is 50 meters before the entrance to National Park Yaxha - Nakum - Naranjo.

The following page is the front cover of the other volume of FLAAR photos of *Haematoxylum campechianum*. That other volume shows the fissured and furrowed trunk that is the logo of this logwood, palo de tinto tree.

After the *Haematoxylum campechianum* page, the next following four pages show the Front Covers of the first fifteen FLAAR Reports on *Flowers of PNYNN* worth Seeing and Learning About

The front covers are not yet hot links because we are still finishing these reports. But by end of October 2025, all fifteen will be on-line on www.Maya-ethnobotany.org and on other of our web sites.

What is immediately noticeable is that most of the flowers of so many species are bright yellow. Orange and red are also popular colors. But the wild native morning glory flowers are pink to purple.

We are also preparing FLAAR Reports on orchids and bromeliads of PNYNN.

FLAAR Reports on "How to Recognize which Tree Genus and Species by the Pattern, Color, or other Features of the Bark on their Trunk"

FLAAR Reports on edible insects of PNYNN. There are over 500 edible insects across Mexico, so we are looking for samples at PNYNN.

FLAAR Reports on waterbirds of PNYNN, published as part of a project of coordination and cooperation with FUNDAECO.

Trunk Shape of Palo de Tinto,
Haematoxylum
campechianum

Rio Ixtinto and South Shore of
Lake Yaxha

Series: How to Recognize a Tree
Species
by its Trunk Color or Texture

Vol. 1 for Sub-Series:
Trunks with Furrowed or
Fluted Trunks
(ridges and fissures)

**Parque Nacional
Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo,
PNYNN, RBM, Peten**

Nicholas Hellmuth
October 2025



Bright Orange Flowers of *Cordia dodecandra*, Nakum Area of PNYNN, Peten, Guatemala



Volume 1 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)
October 2025

4-Petalled Flowers of River Banks, Lake Shores, and Seasonally inundated Savannas

Ludwigia octovalvis



Volume 2 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Masses of Yellow Flowers, Genus *Combretum*, along road between Yaxha and Nakum, PNYNN



Volume 3 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Text and Photographs: Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)
October 2025

Flowers and bizarre Bracts of *Calathea lutea*,
relative of *Heliconia* and of Banana
Naranjo-Sa'al and Savanna of 3 Fern Species
areas of Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and
Naranjo (PNYNN)

Fresh Green Leaves of *Calathea lutea*
are a great Alternative to Plastic

Volume 4 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque
Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo,
PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten,
Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA)
and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala),
October 2025



Costus pictus, Medicinal Flowers,
Yaxha and Naranjo-Sa'al Areas of PNYNN



Volume 5 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM,
Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports,
FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica
(Guatemala), October 2025

Piscidia piscipula, Jabin, Dogwood, with Hummingbird Pollinator
Yaxha and Nakum areas of Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo



Volume 6 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala
Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala), October 2025

A beautiful Red Flower, a Hibiscus Relative, but the Petals and Sepals never open
Malvaviscus arboreus, Sleeping Hibiscus



Volume 7 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala), October 2025

Photogenic wild Morning Glory Flowers of Nakum and Yaxha areas of PNYNN



Volume 8 for Series:
Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala), October 2025

Photogenic Bright Yellow Morning Glory Flowers of Genus *Merremia*

Nakum and Yaxha areas of PNYNN



Volume 9 for Series:

Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

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Yellow Flower Paradise, Yellow Flowers Covering the Tree Canopy

Nakum, East of Savanna Bajo, PNYNN



Volume 10 for Series:

Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala), October 2025

Yellow Flowers & Fruits of Wild Undomesticated Squash Vines,

Cucurbita lundelliana

Along the Shores of Lakes and Rivers in Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo



Volume 11 for Series:

Flowers worth experiencing at
Parque Nacional Yaxha,
Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya,
RBM, Peten, Guatemala



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October 2025

Orange Masses of Flowers of Parasitic Vine (but does not kill the host)
Genus *Psittacanthus*, Yaxha, Blom Sacbe and adjacent Grupo Maler



Volume 12 for Series:

Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Text and Photographs: Nicholas Hellmuth
FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)
October 2025

**Yellow-Orange Flowers of Trees of the *Caesalpinia* species,
Fabaceae family**

Bajo La Justa, between Yaxha and Nakum, PNYNN



Volume 13 for Series:

Flowers worth experiencing at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo, PNYNN
Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, RBM, Peten, Guatemala

Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports, FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala), October 2025

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October 2025



**Flowers of
Orchids on Trees**
surrounding the Maya Ruins
of Yaxha, PNYNN

Vol 15 for Series:

**Flowers worth experiencing
at Parque Nacional
Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo
(PNYNN)**

Reserva de la Biosfera Maya
RBM
Peten, Guatemala

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October 2025



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