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Botanical Garden La Laguna, San Salvador

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Botanical Garden La Laguna San Salvador

Comparing the gardens of Guatemala City, San Salvador, and Sao Paulo

In San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, Central America, there is a natural history museum, which evidently also has a garden; and the "botanical garden." We had time only to go to the Jardin Botanico La Laguna.

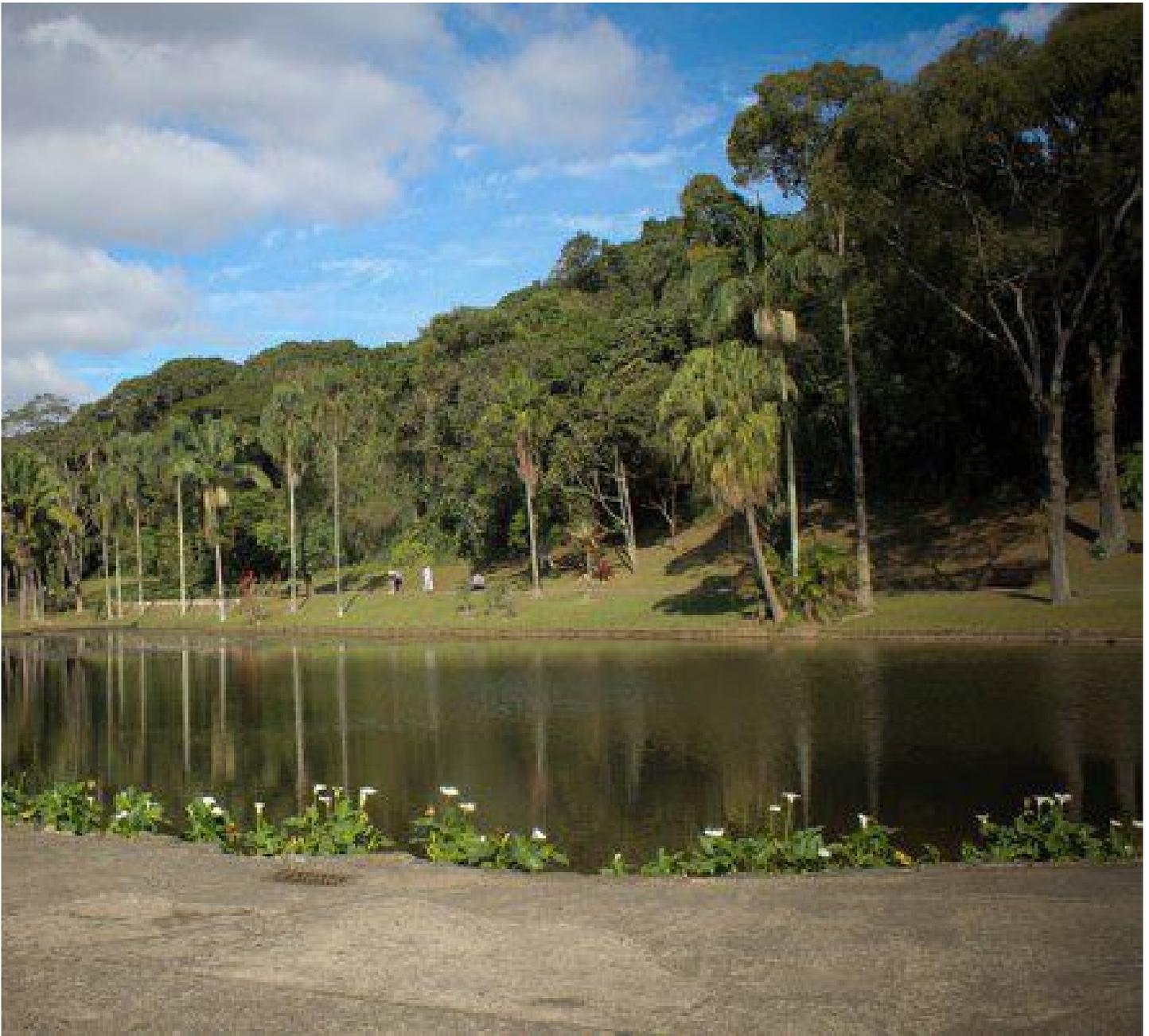
In size it is a fraction of the size of the extensive botanical garden of Sao Paulo; but the botanical garden of San Salvador is significantly more interest for a botanist. The Sao Paulo place was simply a public park: there was not that much of interest to me as a botanist. Most of Sao Paulo was a lawn, not a forest, for example. In other words, I found the visit to Sao Paulo a total disappointment. But I was very happy to have made the trip to the garden in San Salvador.



Green house of boranical garden of Sao Paulo, Brazil.



The botanical garden of San Salvador is larger than that of Guatemala City, but the Guatemala garden is almost exclusively native Guatemalan plants. In the El Salvador garden, probably 50% of the plants are from Asia, Africa, Oceania, or Europe. If you skipped all these, you would have about the same number of native plants in each of the two gardens. But the Guatemala garden is more efficient for doing Maya ethnobotanical research. In the Salvador garden you have to wander around to see if you can spot the native plants that are surrounded by plants from elsewhere in the world.



Botanical garden of Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Location of the botanical garden, Jardín Botánico La Laguna

It took only about 10 to 15 minutes to be driven in a cab from the anthropology museum to the botanical garden. The garden is surrounded by one side by high forested hills; but all what is in the front is a flour mill: pure industrial area with lots of industrial noise. But once you are inside the botanical garden you can ignore the industrial reality outside.

Taxi cost was \$6, or \$12 round trip.

Entry cost

Everything in El Salvador is reasonable cost when compared with other parts of Latin America. Entry is \$1 per person. In El Salvador you use only dollars; there is no longer any local currency.



Main entrance of the botanical garden La laguna, San Salvador.



Botanical garden La laguna, San Salvador.



Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth and Lic. Dagoberto Rodríguez of Scientific Section of the garden.



Botanical garden La laguna, San Salvador.



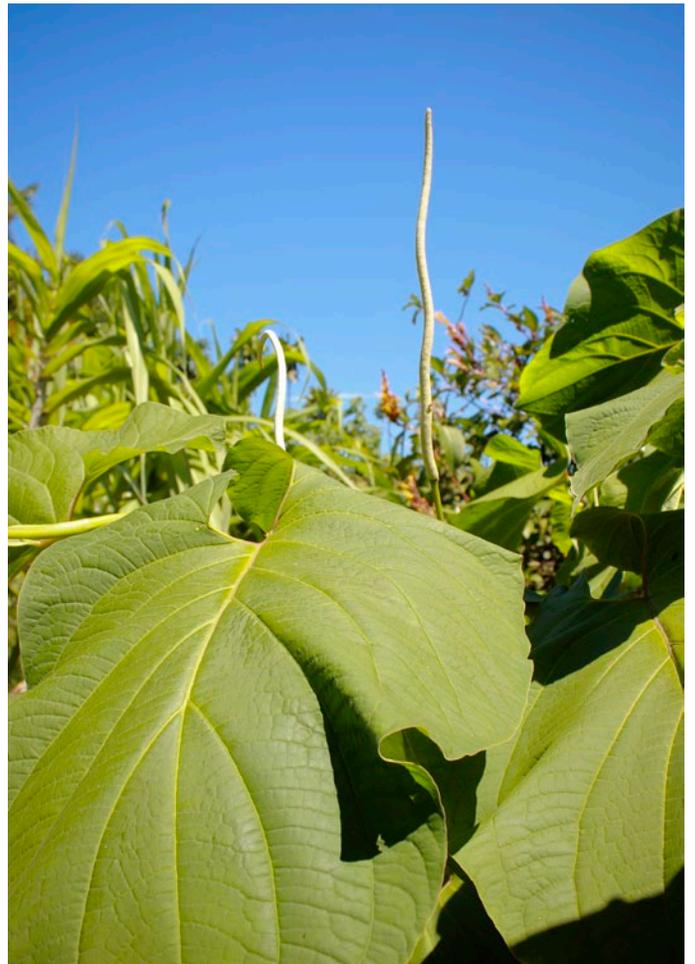
Nopal *Opuntia ficus-indica*



Oregano silvestre *ippia graveolens kunth*



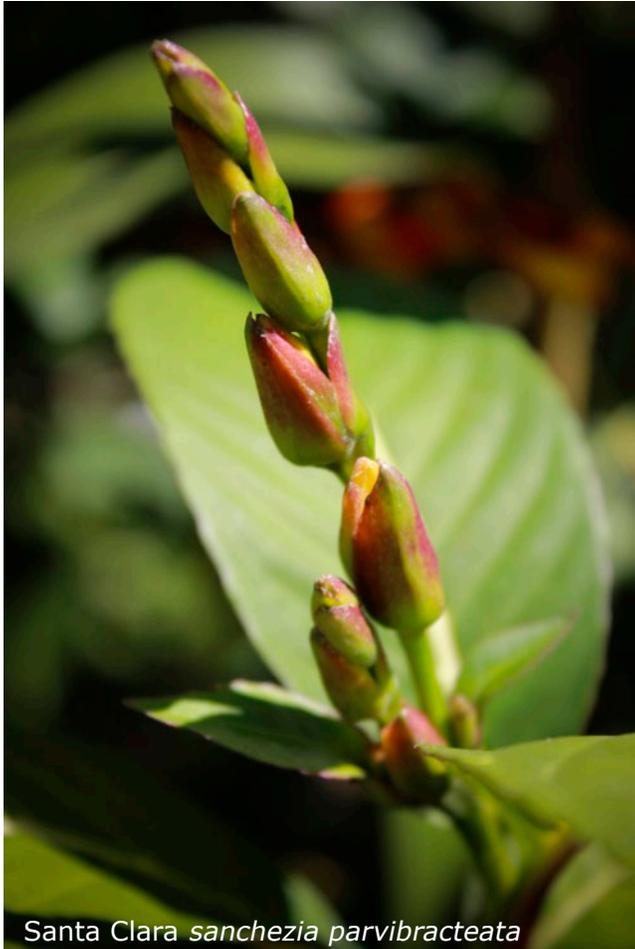
Pasiflora



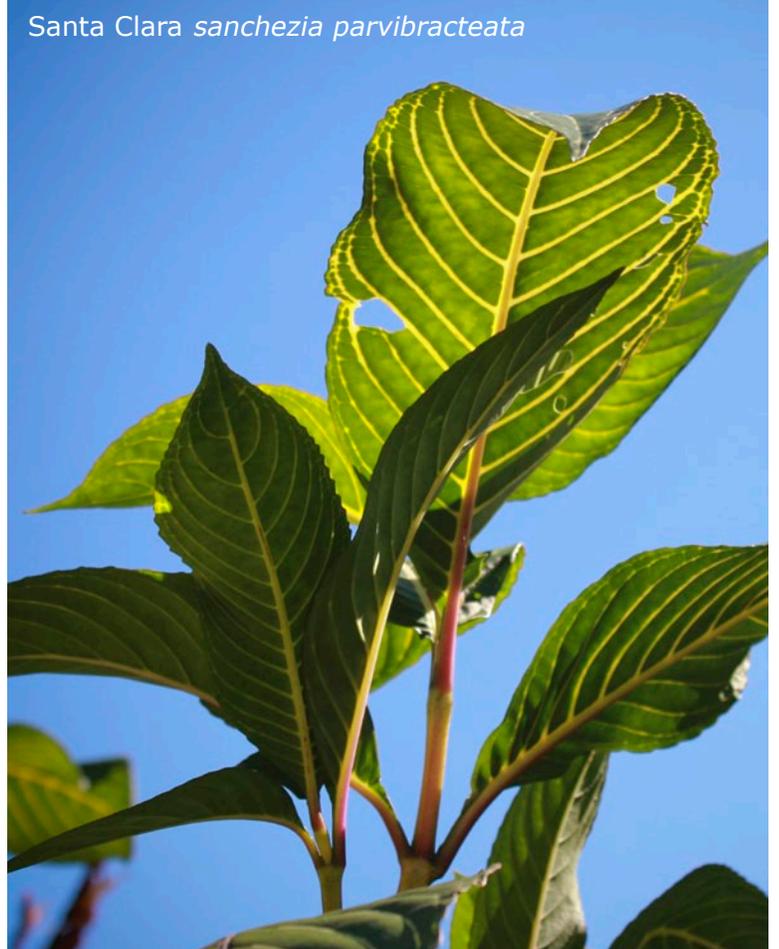
Ruibarbo atropa podagrica hook



Huevos de iguana *senna alata*



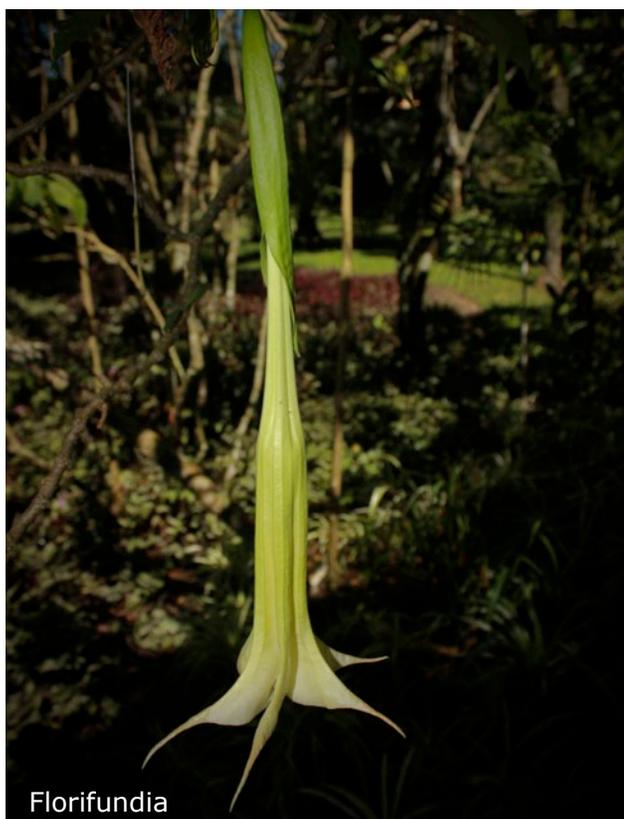
Santa Clara *sanchezia parvibracteata*



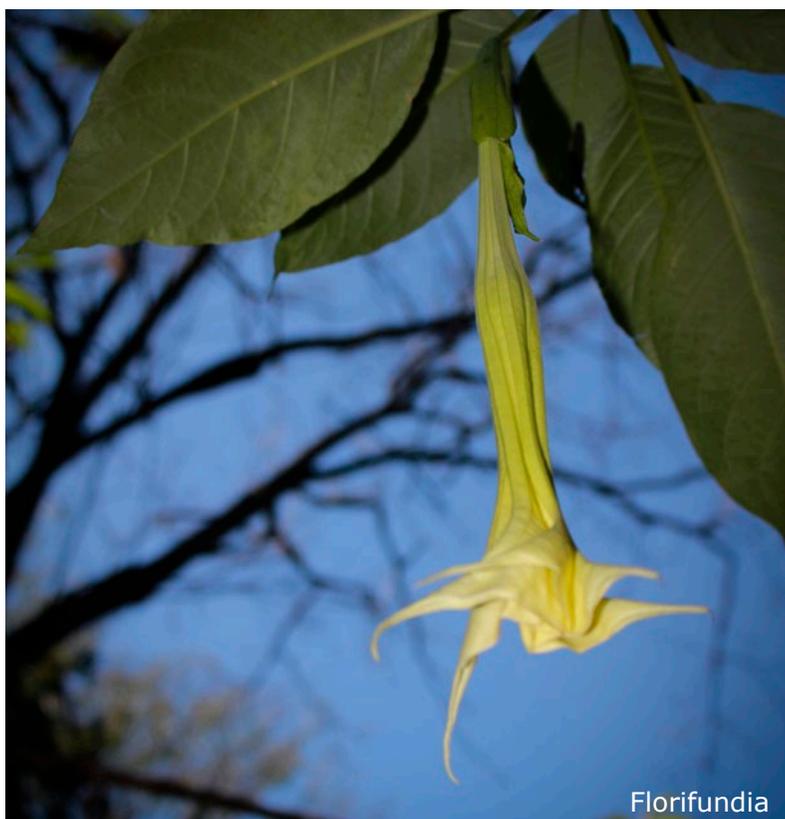
Santa Clara *sanchezia parvibracteata*



Cacao, notice that it is not heavily ribbed. Cacao effigies in Classic Maya ceramics often have flute-like ridges. Be careful, as there are several other non-cacao fruits that have flute-like ridges. But there are also varieties of cacao that also have ridges. This was the subject of my lecture at the 2011 archaeology symposium here in San Salvador. Being here for the lecture is what provided the opportunity to visit the botanical garden.



Florifundia



Florifundia