



ASOCIACION
FLAAR
MESOAMERICA
MESOAMERICA
E F A A R
M E S O A M E R I C A

Pseudobombax
ellipticum
flower buds

Pseudobombax *ellipticum* flower buds

Photographed in the [FLAAR photo studio](#)

During Spring 2012 we had the good luck to find a *Pseudobombax ellipticum* with flowers and buds. Since the wind was blowing in the area of the tree it was tough to get photographs of the flowers in sharp focus. Yes, we are fully aware of putting high ISO and high speed. But even with that, and even with flash, the flowers were still moving.

In our photos studio there is no wind, so we can do a more professional job.

One of the buds opened while driving from Antigua Guatemala back to our office in the city (one hour drive). So we had one freshly opened flower. So I spent an hour photographing the flowers in the studio.

The present FLAAR Report is on the buds that we brought back. Since they were obviously no longer receiving sap from the mother tree, they bloomed prematurely. After a day or so (in water) they simply popped open.

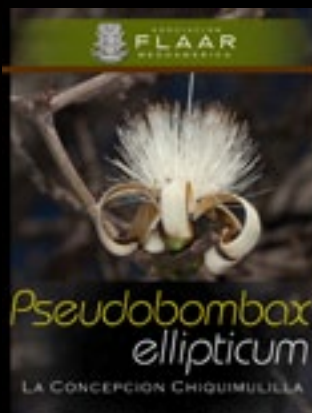
Since the Maya would also have harvested buds (if they wanted to) we want to show all potentially sacred Maya flowers in every situation that would have been possible.

Plus our FLAAR Reports are intended to assist botanists as well as people around the world who are interested in how to improve their photography of flowers.





Separate reports



Pseudobombax
ellipticum flower buds

Once the flower dries, it falls off.







Pseudobombax
ellipticum flower buds



Here the bud is nowhere near mature, but since it is no longer on the tree it will pop open within one or two days.



This bud was several days immature, but opened by itself. We had the stalks in water within one hour after returning back to the office.

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This was a fully mature bud. Once I picked it, it began to start to open within 30 minutes and was fully opened by the time I was back in the photo studio (one hour after picking it).

So we had the rare opportunity to photograph a complete flower. It would be tough in nature to get a photo of this quality (because of the wind).




Pseudobombax
ellipticum flower buds





We thank Savage Universal Corporation for providing their Savage Widetone® Seamless Background Paper.

We thank F. J. Westcott company for providing the digital fluorescent lighting. You need soft non-hot lighting to photograph fragile flowers. They now have newer models of their Spiderlite series.



We appreciate the tripods from Manfrotto Distribution. We use their Manfrotto heads and their Gitzo tripods because we have found that their professional level models last full-time use both in the studio and out on location photography in the field.

We thank Greg Lamb for providing the Phase One P25+ digital back for our 30-year old Hasselblad. The Zeiss lenses which in those years were Made in Germany, on this camera, beat anything produced by Nikon or Canon today.

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On the other pages you see the flower buds; here you see immature seed pods.

On these pods you can see the lines towards the top. These lines are the edges of the parts which will flip down a week or so later, which the pod is dry and mature (which will open up the seed pod) to let the kapok out.





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ellipticum flower buds

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