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MESOAMERICA



Native Guatemalan Flowers Worth Seeing



at **Posada de Santiago**
Hotel & Restaurant
Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala

NEW SERIES: Search for Hotels with Indigenous Maya Flowers in their Gardens



For 2013 onward we will have a new series of FLAAR Reports on hotels where you can enjoy lots of indigenous Maya flowers in their gardens. We can understand that most hotels in Mesoamerica have flowers from Asia, Africa and elsewhere, but for tourists visiting Guatemala it would be great if INGUAT could promote local Maya flowers and trees.

Comparable for Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico: we will be looking for hotels which understand the value of making the effort to feature local indigenous flowers and plants.

This idea occurred to me late in 2012 while I was visiting the Posada de Santiago, a pleasant hotel and restaurant in Santiago Atitlan, overlooking the lake.

Anthurium salvinii, Tabacon,
photo by Nicholas Hellmuth
with a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III



Spathiphyllum blandum,
photo by Nicholas Hellmuth
with a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III





You can stop at the hotel for lunch or dinner, or reserve to stay overnight. We enjoyed our stay. I would rate the waitresses and restaurant staff as definitely better (friendly, patient, pleasant) than hotels in other countries. It is also nice to see the local Maya woven clothing being worn in the hotel, but in a natural way (not as a costume for tourists).



Aloe arborescens, Krantz aloe, photo by Nicholas Hellmuth with a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III



Canna tuerckheimii, Cox,
photo by Nicholas Hellmuth
with a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III





The hotel is peaceful; the guests are harmonious with what you would expect: so no loud music coming out of rooms (they are all separate bungalows). No intoxicated clients in the restaurant. Most people that I saw were from USA, Europe, and naturally from Guatemala, since local people also enjoy a weekend overlooking the beautiful volcano-rimmed lake.

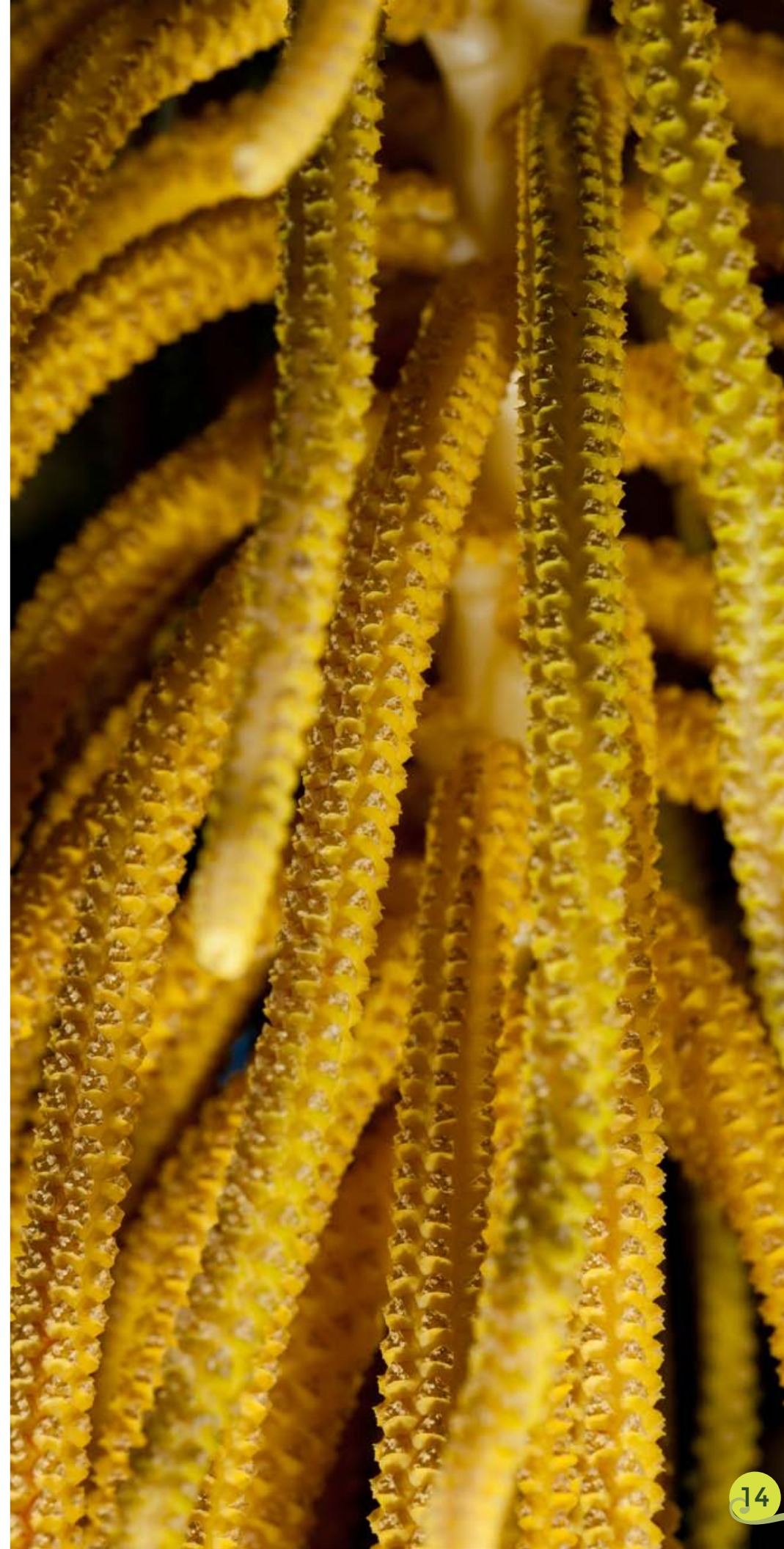


Chamaedorea tepejilote, Pacaya seeds
photo by Nicholas Hellmuth
with a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III





Chamaedorea tepejilote, Pacaya flower
photo by Nicholas Hellmuth
with a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III



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