



**Seed Dispersal
Native, Natural Techniques**

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Digital-photography.org

Wind blown Dispersal
Tecomasuche
Cochlospermum vitifolium
Kapok, Silk-Cotton

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Tecomasuche seeds found on Carretera El Atlántico, Guatemala.

Tecomasuche is found blooming alongside many highways and roads in the Highlands of Guatemala. You can see lots of them around km. 40-60 along CA9 (Guatemala City to Puerto Barrios). Tecomasuche is also found in other parts of Guatemala. Of course you can also find it in many places of Mexico and elsewhere in Mesoamerica.

The flowers are a happy bright yellow. The flowers bloom during the dry season.

The seed pods are a brittle thin plant material filled with seeds and kapok-like fluff. The fluff is what allows the wind to disperse these seeds.

Tecomasuche is a small tree with thin trunk and thin branches. When young and in groves at first you might think it was a bunch of thin tall bushes.

Like most plants of Mesoamerica it has medicinal uses. I was very surprised to learn that this tree is related to achiote *Bixa orellana*.

The name for *Cochlospermum vitifolium* in English is Buttercup Tree (zipCodeZoo).



NIKON D800E, 100-400mm f/0, speed 1/25, f /16.0, ISO 800









Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III, 100-400mm f/0, speed 1/250, f/13.0, ISO 800



This is the flower of Tecomasuche, *Cochlospermum_vitifolium*, highway CA9, Departamento of Progreso, January 18, 2014. Photograph by Dr Nicholas Hellmuth, FLAAR Reports.

We hope you like the photographs that we undertake to preserve a visual record of the endangered eco-systems and plants of Guatemala. Please link to our www.maya-ethnobotany.org, or Instagram account and our /MayanToons account on Facebook

Bibliografía

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Comment: Information of C. vitifolium on pages 18-21.

Suggested webpages with photos and information on *Cochlospermum vitifolium*

www.conabio.gob.mx/conocimiento/info_especies/arboles/doctos/25-cochl1m.pdf
Information.

www.tropicos.org/name/08000014?projectid=7
Information and photos.

<http://eol.org/pages/488276/overview>
Photos and map location.

<http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/bioinformatics/sarigua/species/32>
Photos.

www.theplantlist.org/tpl/record/kew-44555
Synonyms.

<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Cochlospermum+vitifolium>
Photos and information.