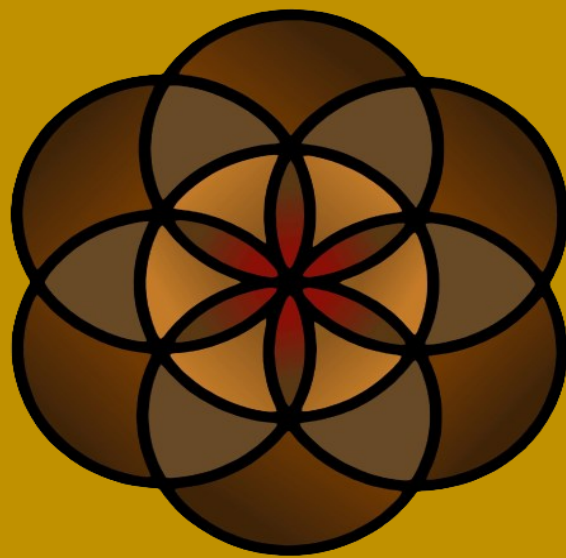


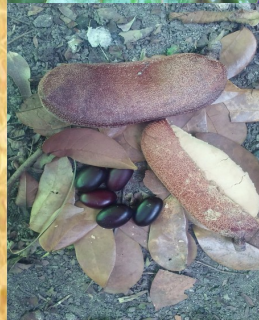
# NATURAL AYAY

SEEDS & SEED PODS  
OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS  
& PUERTO RICO



BOTANICAL COLORING BOOK

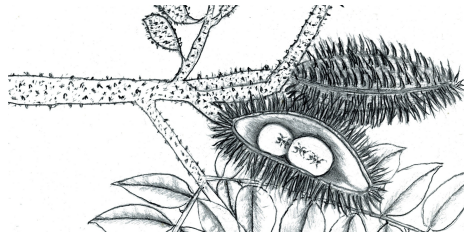
*Art By: Rosaura Perez Rivera  
aka "Sari"*





### **Special Thanks To:**

The Collective Consciousness of the Ancestors of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico,  
My Mother & Father; Rosaura Perez Rivera aka “Sari” & Guy B. Stiles, Oceana James, Dr. Chenzira Kahina,  
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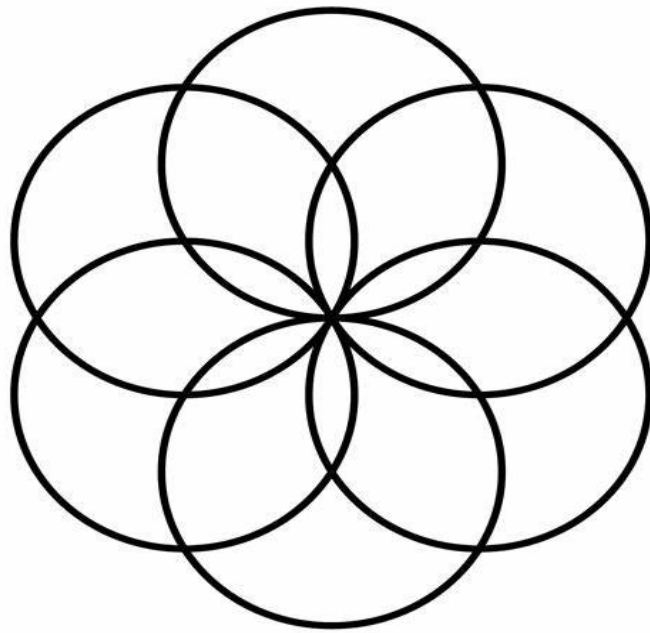
For information contact Maria Aurora Stiles @ [naturalayay@gmail.com](mailto:naturalayay@gmail.com)

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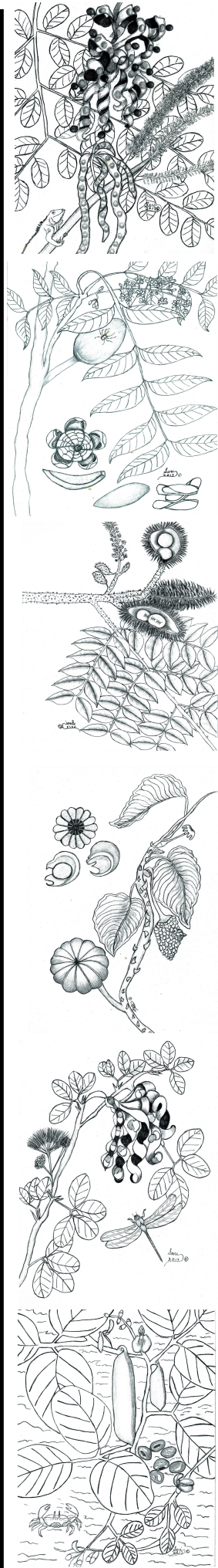
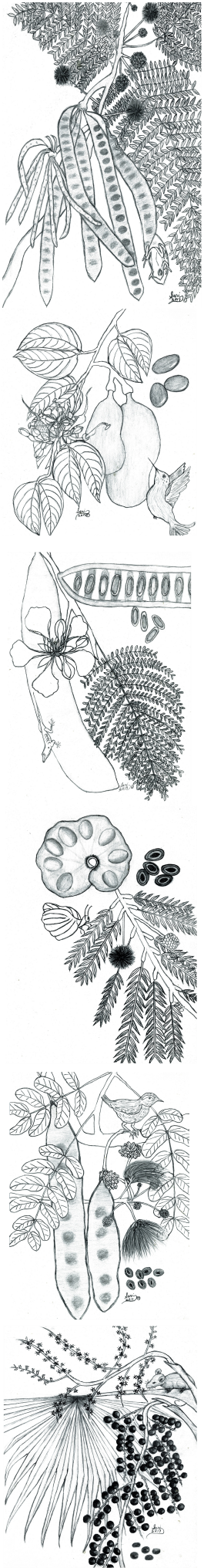
# NATURAL AYAY

## SEEDS & SEED PODS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS & PUERTO RICO



BOTANICAL COLORING BOOK

*Art By: Rosaura Perez Rivera  
aka "Sari"*





## INTRODUCTION

*Seeds and their pods were, are, and will always be, to the human family, a blueprint and symbol of the raw potential that dwells within us and our spirit. They represented hopes of a future harvest and the re-creation of a place called home. They tell the story of the journey of our Ancestors and the way they overcame adversity and saw the environment they lived in. They tell a story that spoke to the sense of responsibility they embodied as caretakers of the earth, each other and their commitment to honor their past with the understanding that it shaped their present and made a way for their future. It is our responsibility to bridge the gap that has severed the ties of our children from their ancestral link. Many of the problems we face are a result of a dis-connect from the mysteries, attitudes and behaviors of our ancestors and tradition bearers.*

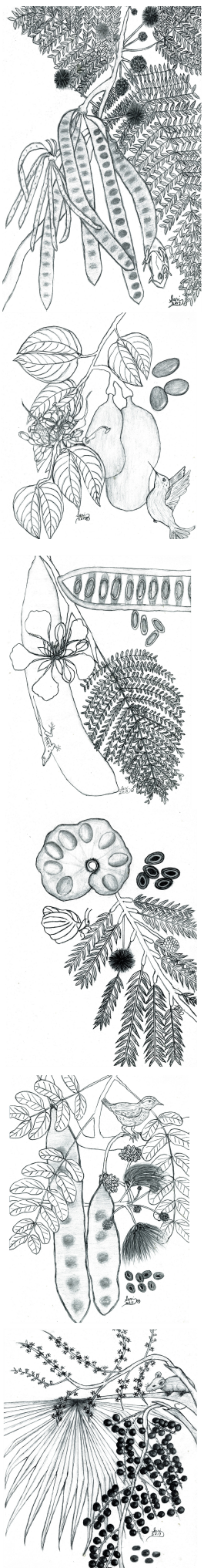
*Seeds, pods, shells and other natural resources were worn traditionally by the Africans and Indigenous peoples of these lands as status identification, jewelry for adornment and beauty, and sometimes even as amulets to ward off evil. They were also worn simply as a symbol of their connection and love for the earth mother and her forces in nature.*

*The **Natural AyAy Seeds & Seed Pods of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Coloring Book** highlights 15 of some of the most common trees, vines and bushes that bear seeds and seed pods that tell the story of our region. By learning to identify each one by their names we strengthen our sense of identity so that we are able to carry and transmit the torch of cultural excellence and pride for succeeding generations.*

*This has been such a special journey for me. It has been an honor to work side by side with my beautiful artistic Mother, my Queen and my creative muse. Her life like pencil drawings capture the spirit of nature herself. Also, each page features a bird, insect and other animals commonly found in this region. See if you can find them all. ENJOY!!!*

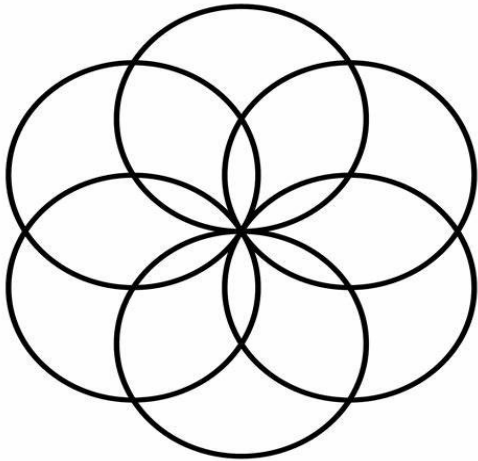
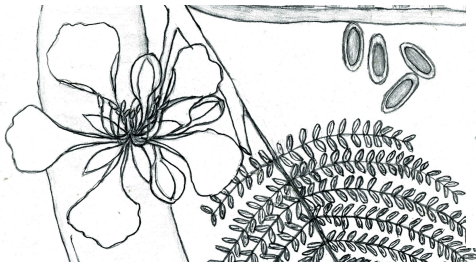
*Re-Connect, Relax & Create!!!*

*-Maria Aurora Stiles*





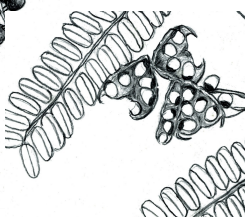
# NATURAL AYAY



" Share amongst yourselves plans for meeting the needs of our children, and help to bring to fruition our united hopes for a brighter and happier future for them.

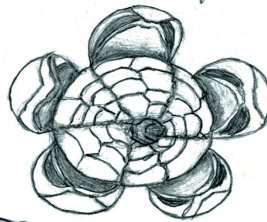
Since important responsibilities will be handed over tomorrow to the youth of today, everything possible must be done for their proper upbringing and development of their mind."

*HIM Haile Selassie I*





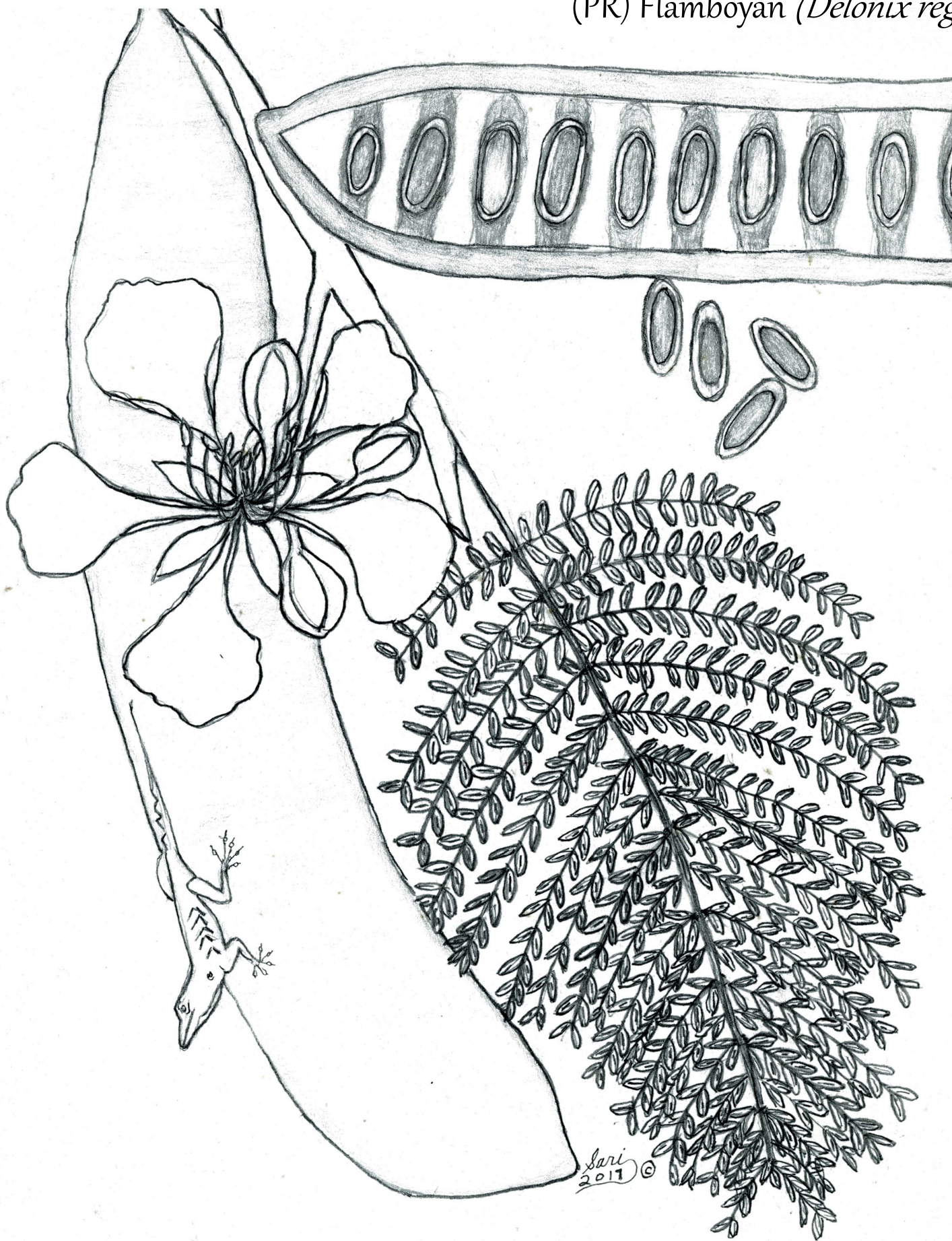
This coloring book is Livicated  
to to the Collective Consciousness  
of our African & Indigenious  
Ancestors. I am greatfull for your  
spirit of creativity, your presence  
and your relentless effort, then  
and even now from where you  
reside, to preserve our  
sacred way of life.



RE-CONNECT,  
RELAX & CREATE!



(VI) Flamboyant Tree/Flame Tree, Royal Poinciana  
(PR) Flamboyan (*Delonix regia*)

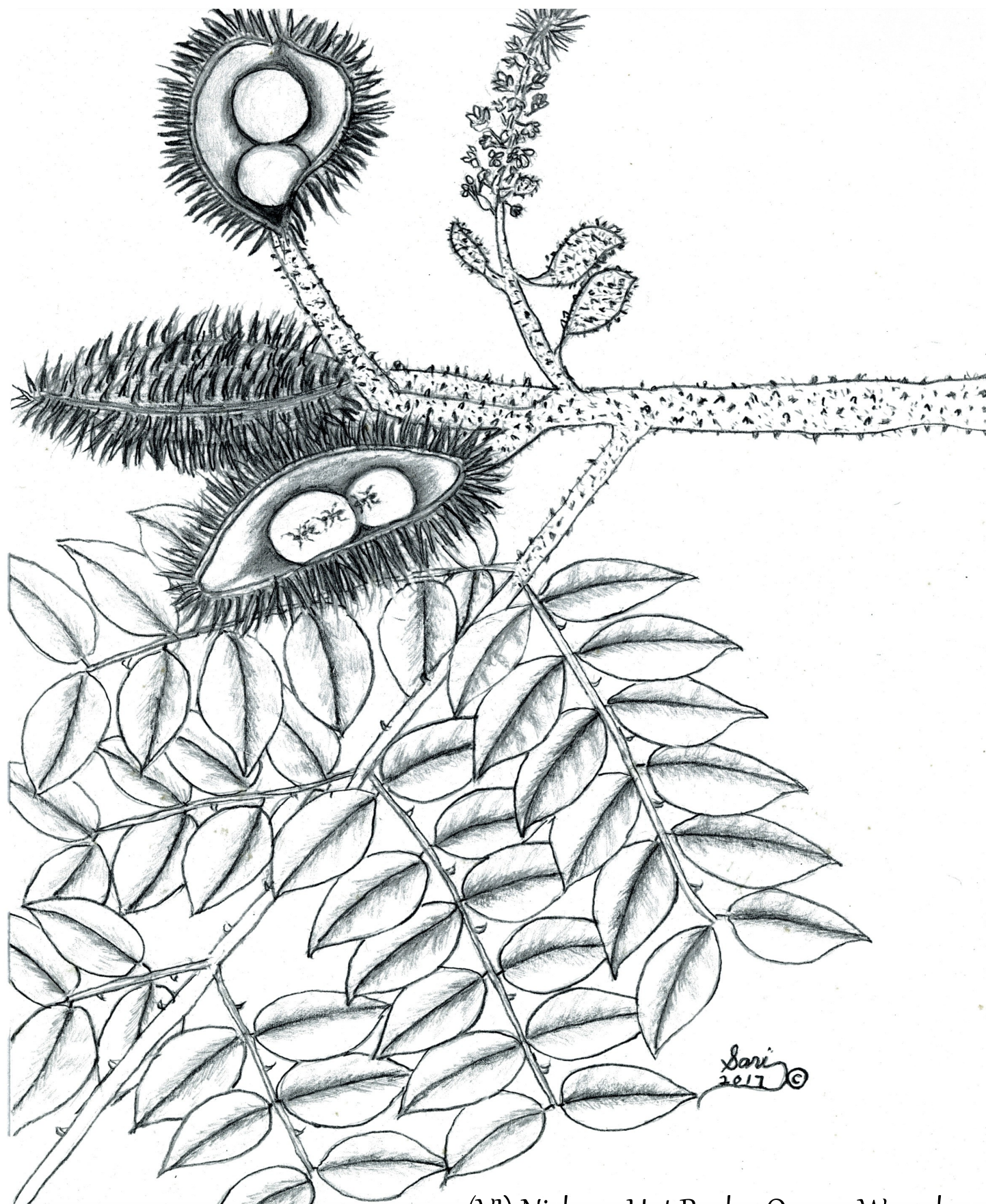






(VI) West Indian Mahogany, Small Leaf Mahogany,  
(PR) Coaba (*Swietenia mahagoni*)

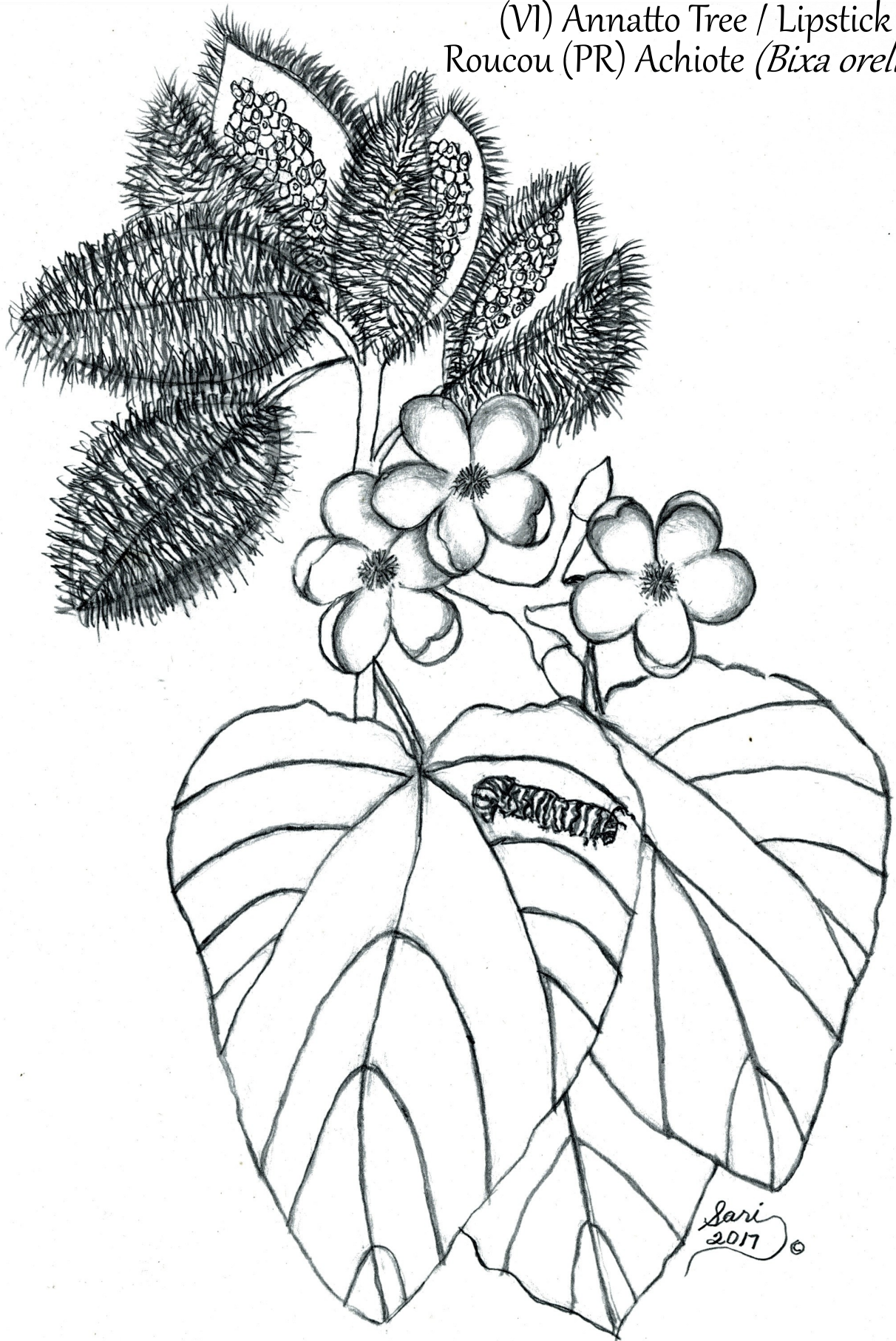




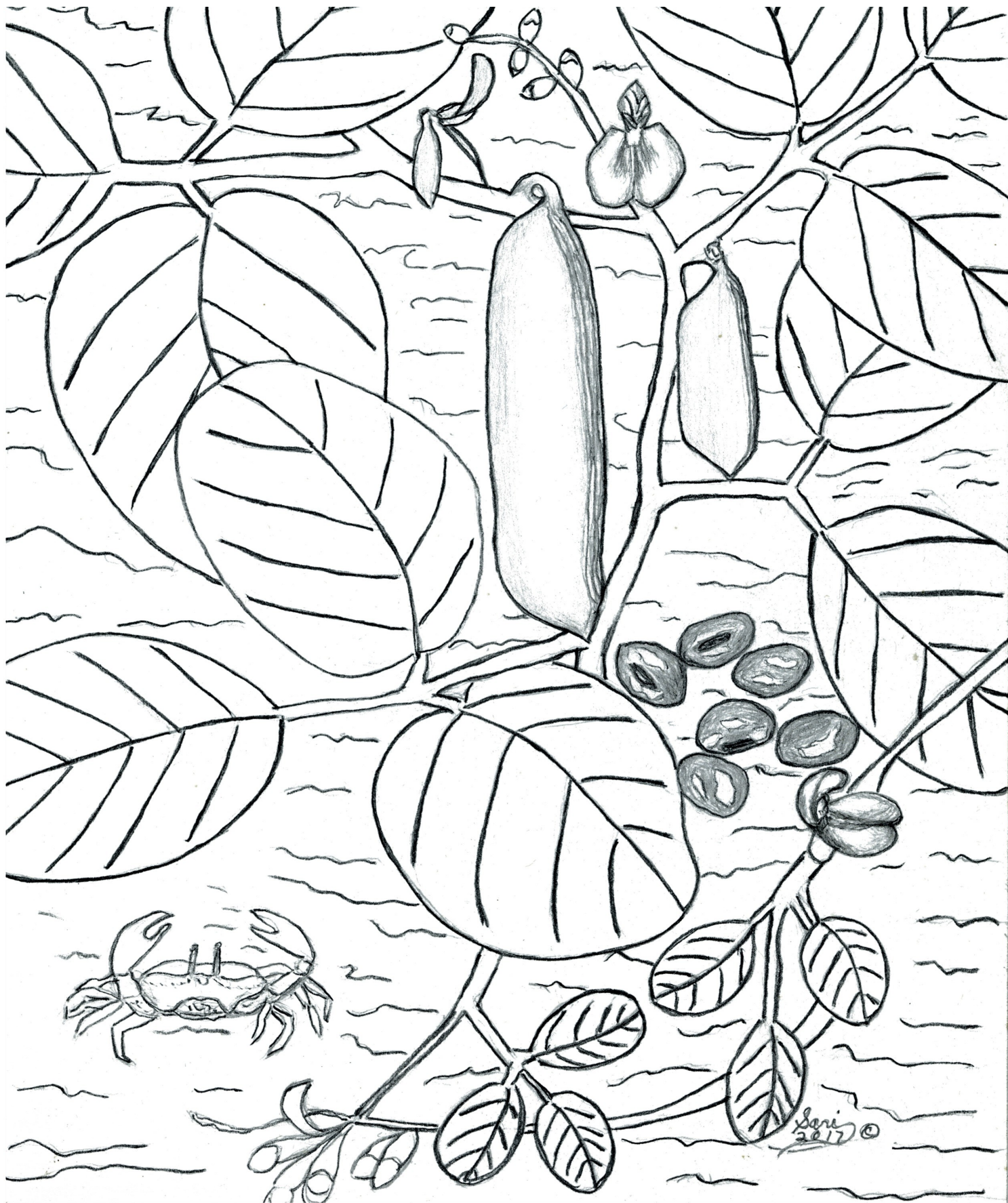
(VI) Nickers, Hot Rocks, Oware, Worrybeads  
(PR) Mato Marron, Mato Amarillo, Mato  
(*Caesalpinia bonduc*)



(VI) Annatto Tree / Lipstick Tree,  
Roucou (PR) Achiote (*Bixa orellana*)







(VI) Beach Bean /Morning Glory  
(PR) Haba de Playa (*Canavalia rosea*)









(VI ) Bread-n-Cheese, Cat's Claw (PR) Una de gato, Guama, Rolon escambron colorado



(VI) Elephant Ear / Earpod Tree  
(PR) Guanacaste, Oreja de mono  
(*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*)

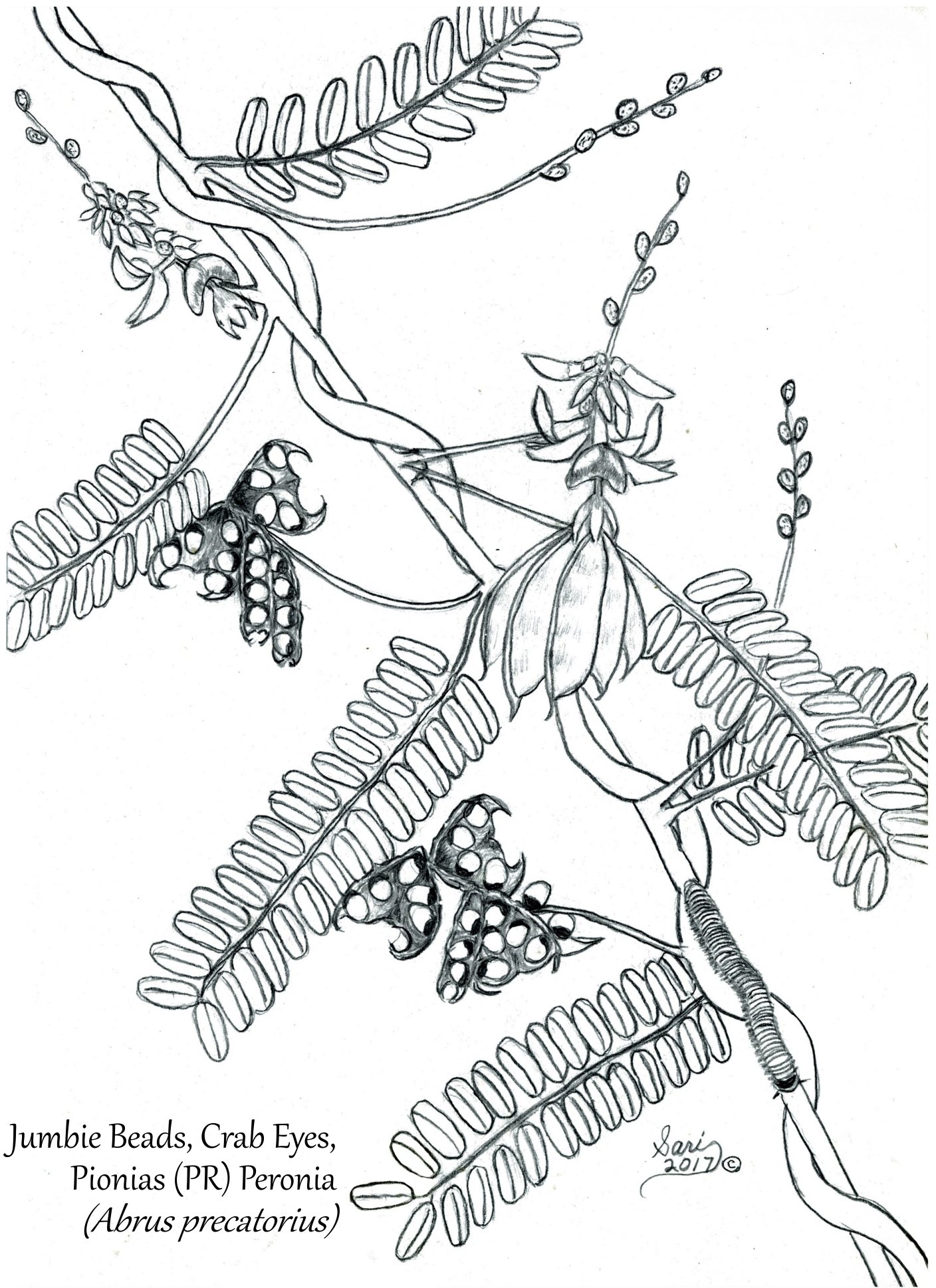






(VI) Coralwood, Red Sandalwood,  
Jumbie Bean (PR) Granate  
(*Adenanthera pavonine*)





(VI) Jumbie Beads, Crab Eyes,  
Pionias (PR) Peronia  
(*Abrus precatorius*)





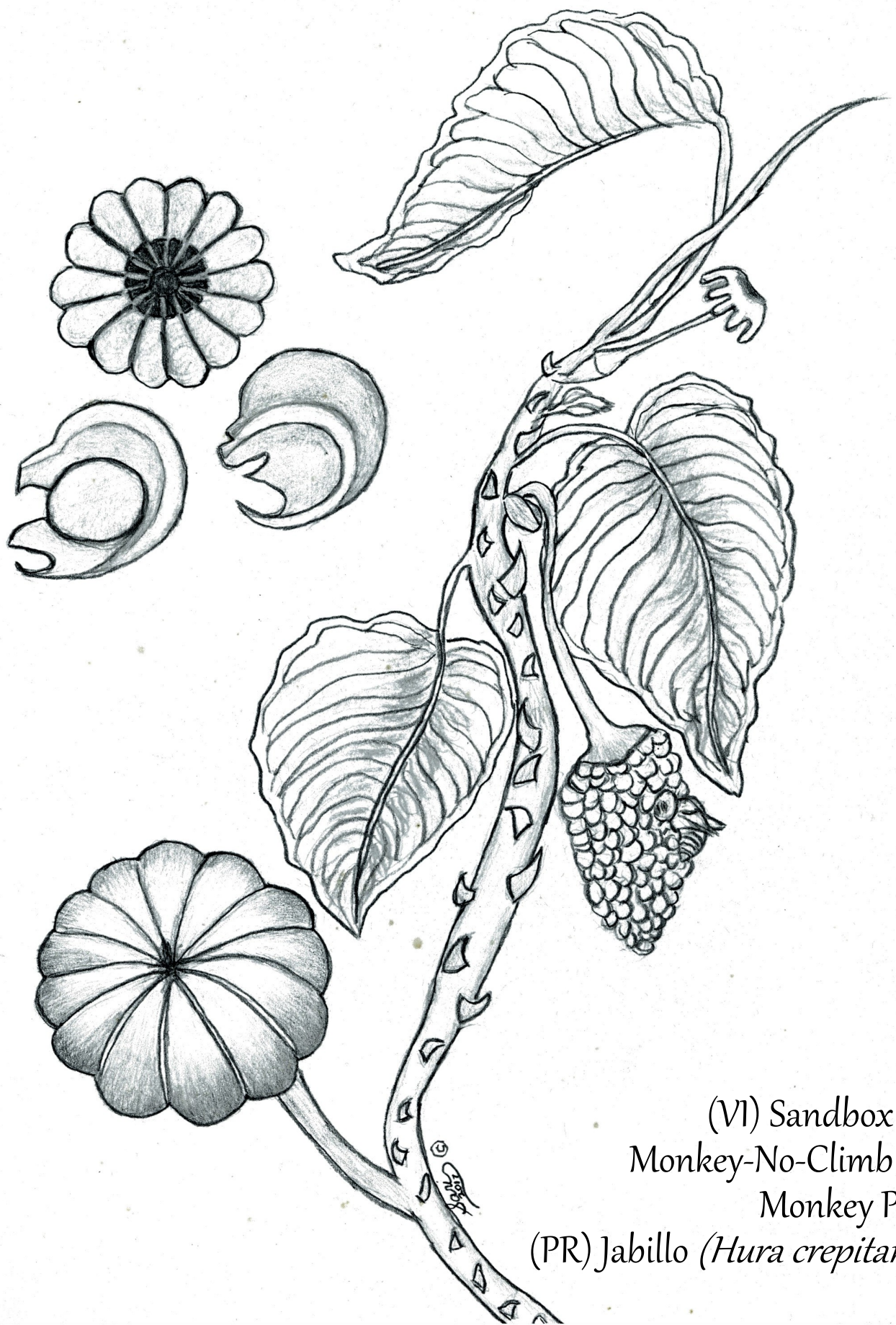
(VI) West Indian Locust Tree/ Stinkin' Toe  
(PR) Algarroba (*Hymenaea courbaril*)





(VI) Puerto Rican Hat Palm, Sabal Palm,  
(PR) Palma de Escoba, Palma de Sombrero  
(*Sabal causiarum*)





(VI) Sandbox Tree,  
Monkey-No-Climb Tree,  
Monkey Pistol,  
(PR) Jabillo (*Hura crepitans* L.)





(VI) Tan-Tan, Wild, Taman  
(PR) tamarindillo, hediondilla,  
*Acacia (Leucaena leucocephala)*

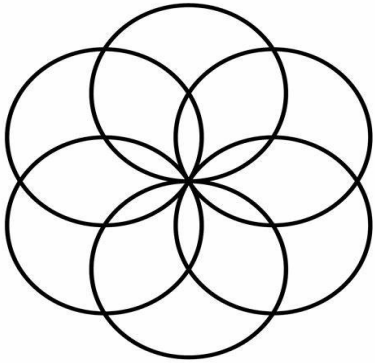


(VI) Tibet Tree/Mothers-n-Law Tongue,  
Rattle Bush(PR) Albizia (*Albizia lebbbeck*)





# Glossary



The **Seed of Life** symbolizes the interconnection of life on Earth and it also symbolizes that all life originated from a single source in a divine plan.

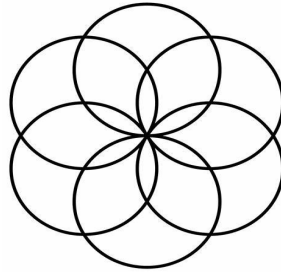


The **Sankofa** is a symbol used by the Akan people of Ghana, depicted as a bird with its head turned backward. It expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress.



**Atabey** is the supreme Goddess of the Indigenous, (native peoples at the pre-Columbian era). She is the female entity who represents the Earth Spirit and the Spirit of all horizontal water, lakes, streams, the sea, and the marine tides. This deity was one of the most important for various Indigenous tribes that inhabited the Caribbean islands known as Boriken / Land of the Valient Lord (Puerto Rico), AyAy (the river) & Cibuguiera (the stony ground) (St.Croix).





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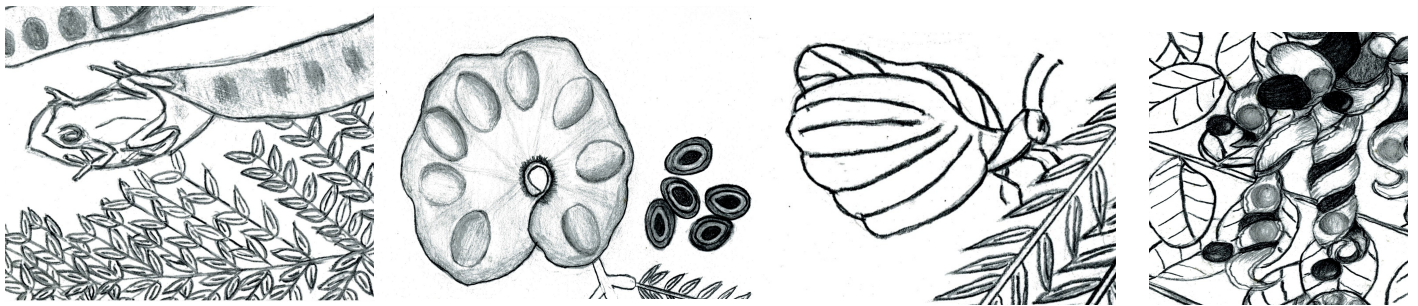
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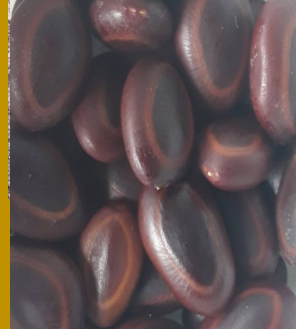
For more information regarding the Natural AyAy Seeds of the VI & PR Cultural Art Outreach Initiative contact Maria Aurora Stiles @ [iria\\_pat@yahoo.com](mailto:iria_pat@yahoo.com)

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ROSAURA PEREZ RIVERA DE STILES AKA "SARI" WAS BORN IN 1930 IN SALINAS, PUERTO RICO. SHE MOVED TO NEW YORK WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, WHERE SHE SPENT THE GREATER PART OF HER LIFE. IN NEW YORK, SHE MET HER HUSBAND, GUY B. STILES AND SHORTLY AFTER MOVED TO ST. CROIX WITH THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS, MARIA & ALMA.



THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, SARI STUDIED AT THE BETHLEHEM ART STUDIO IN N.Y., CVI (COLLEGE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS) AND THE ESCUELA DE ARTES PLASTICAS IN HER NATIVE HOME. SARI HAS EXPLORED VARIOUS VISUAL ART FORMS INCLUDING SCULPTURE, PRINTING, PAINTING WITH WATERCOLORS, OIL, ACRYLIC, PENCIL AND PASTEL DRAWING. AS AN ARTIST, SHE WAS INSPIRED BY FAMILY, CULTURE AND NATURE. HER "BANANA TREE" DRAWING WON IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE NATIONAL DRAWING COMPETITION WHERE IT TOURED THE UNITED STATES MAINLAND FOR TWO YEARS. SHE HAS HAD HER WORK EXHIBITED ON ST. CROIX, PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, FLORIDA, KENTUCKY, ILLINOIS, LOUISIANA, HAWAII AND PUERTO RICO.

ON APRIL 5, 2023, AT THE AGE OF 92, SURROUNDED BY HER FAMILY, ROSAURA TRANSITIONED TO THE ANCESTRAL REALM. HER LEGACY AND LIGHT CONTINUES TO LIVE ON THROUGH HER CHILDREN, THE BEAUTY THAT SHE CREATED AND THE LOVE SHE SHARED.



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