



FLAAR Reports

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On weekends I often go to remote areas of Central America to study underutilized plants. This means edible or otherwise usable plants which were used 2000 years ago by the Mayan civilization.

The photographs in this PDF were taken while we were photographing a local house made of bajareque (wattle and daub). This style of architecture was used for thousands of years, but is rarely used today (today people use concrete blocks or sawn planks of wood).





While we were photographing this interesting Mayan architecture, we noticed several groups of local people bringing plants back to their houses to make brooms. There is no need to pay money for a plastic broom if you can use local plants. Indeed we know of two species of local plants whose names, in Spanish, mean “plant for making brooms.”

Whenever we find underutilized plants, we ask permission to photograph them, and we prefer to give them a present which they can take back to their homes to use. We have found that the logo bags handed out at printer trade shows are much appreciated by local people.

We learned this in several locations when we returned to the same place, and the first thing the people asked is whether we could provide some more of these bags for them.

So at trade shows during 2017 we look forward to collecting more bags to bring back to give to local people with whom we work on botanical research projects.

We thank Mimaki for providing these bags.





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