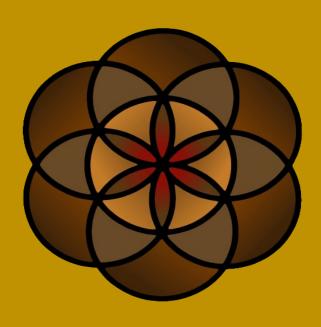


NATURAL AYAY

SEEDS & SEED PODS

OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

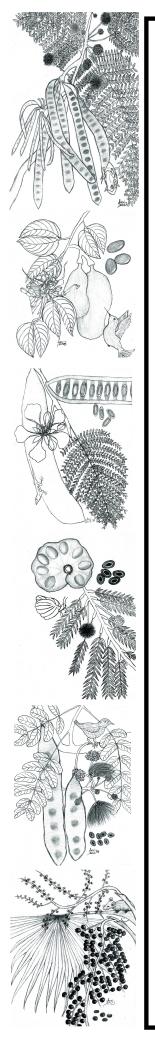
& PUERTO RICO



BOTANICAL COLORING BOOK

Art By: Rosaura Perez Rivera aka "Sari"



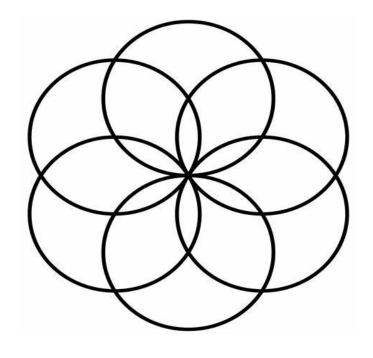


NATURAL AYAY

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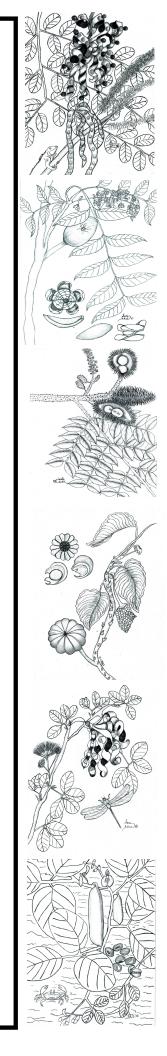
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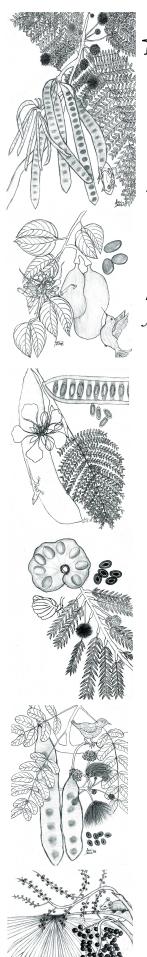
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BOTANICAL COLORING BOOK

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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.

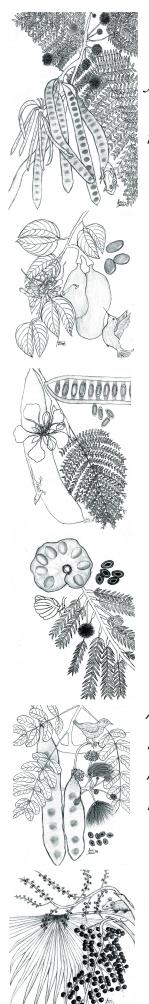
Seeds, pods, shells and other natural resources were worn traditionally by the Africans and Indigenous peoples of these lands as status identification, jewelry for adornment and beauty, and sometimes even as amulets to ward off evil. They were also worn simply as a symbol of their connection and love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





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.

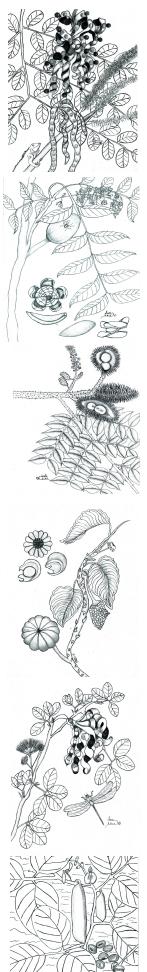
The Natural AyAy Seeds & Seed Pods of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Identification Starter Kit provides a sampling of 3 seeds, a seed pod & a page to color for each one. The seeds and pods featured in these kit are some of the most common trees, vines and bushes that tell the story of our region. 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.

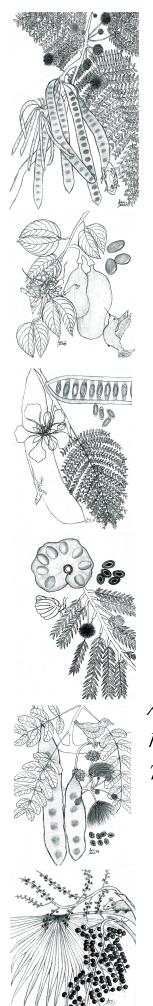
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Seeds and their pods were, are, and will always be, to the human family, a blueprint and symbol of the raw potential that dwells within us and our spirit. They represented hopes of a future harvest and the re-creation of a place called home. From ridge to reef, 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.

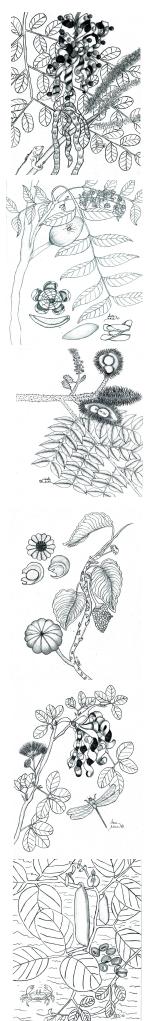
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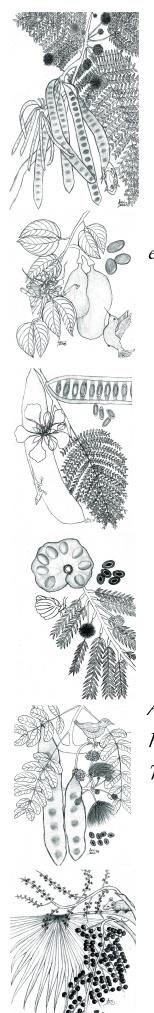
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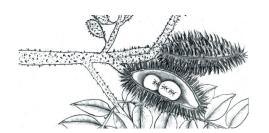
Re-Connect, Relax & Create!!!





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, DaraMonifah Cooper, Tysha St. Jules, Brian Simpson, Olassee Davis, Veronica Gordon, Zaely Caban, Barbara Knight, Jacqueline Ashe, Juliana Berry, Frandelle Gerard, Rudy O'Reilly, Ras Ital, Marty Campbell Elizabeth Irizarry, Ron Collins & Toni Thomas.



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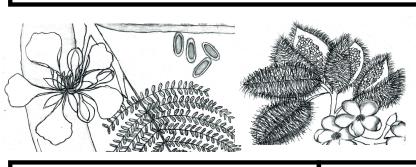
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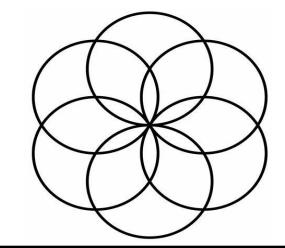
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NATURAL AYAY





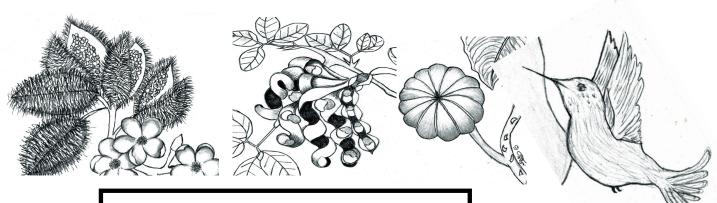


"Share amongst yourselves plans for meeting the needs of our children, and help to bring to fruition our united hopes for a brighter and happier future for them.

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 1

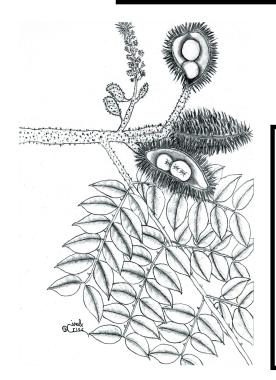




This coloring book is Livicated to to the Collective Consciousness of our African & Indigenious Ancestors. I am greatfull for your spirit of creativity, your presence and your relentless effort, then and even now from where you reside, to preserve our sacred way of life.

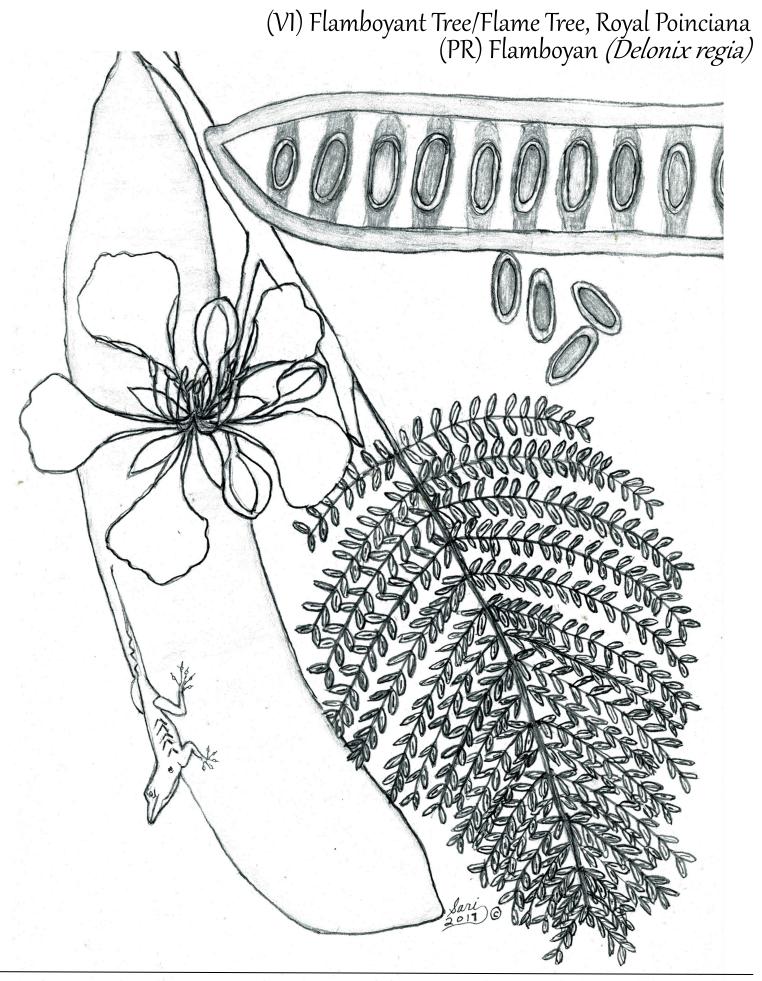










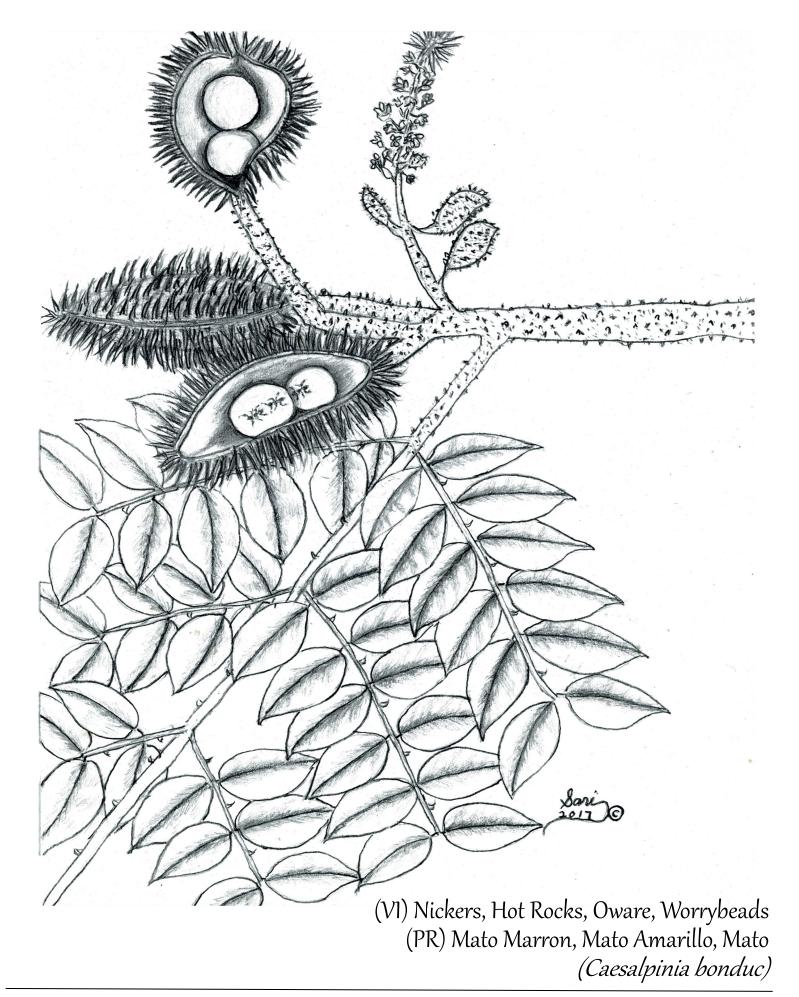


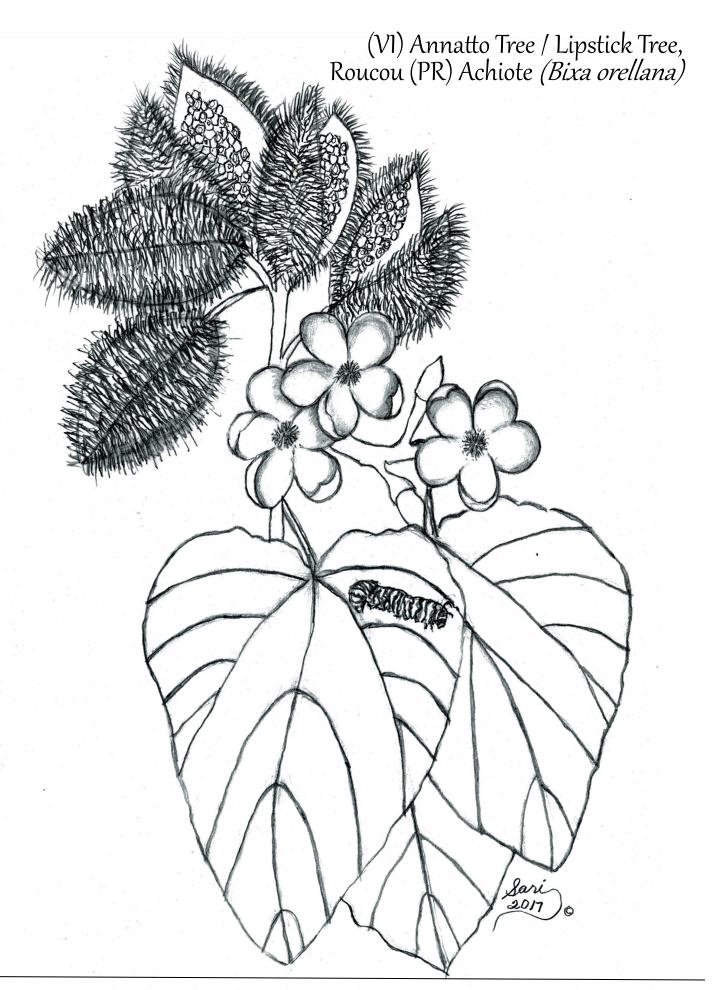
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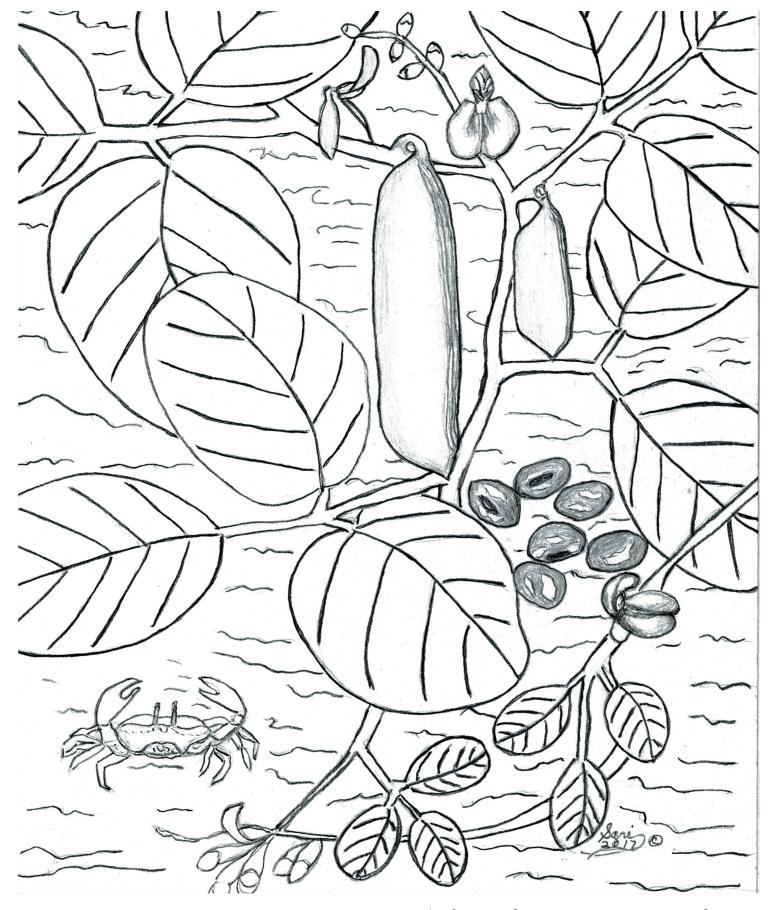
(PR) Coaba (Swietenia mahagoni)





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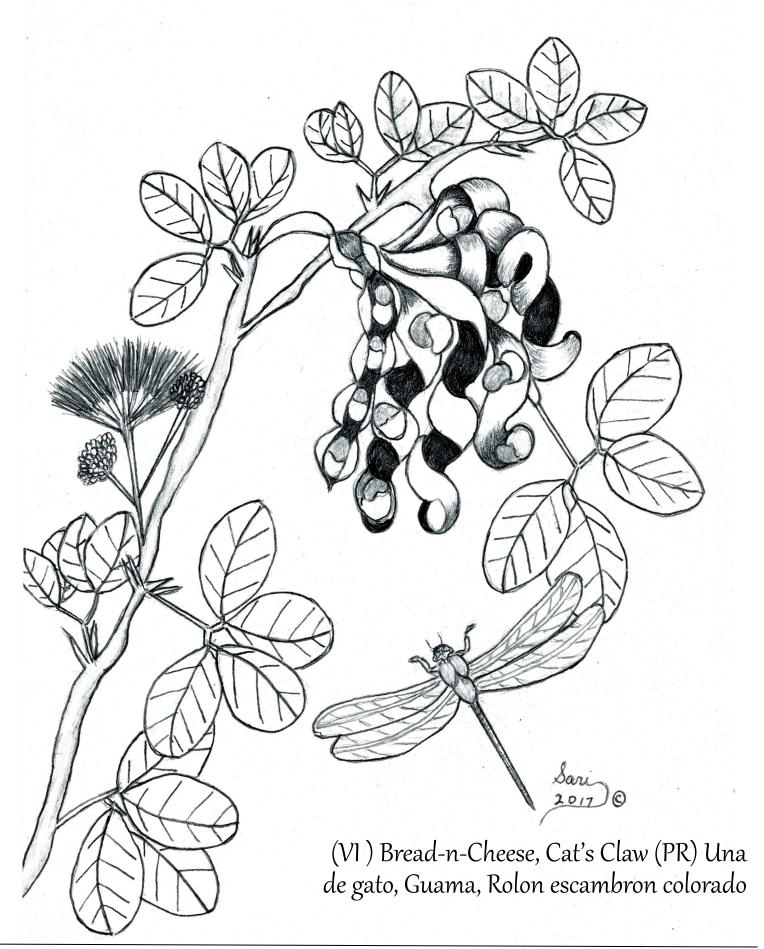
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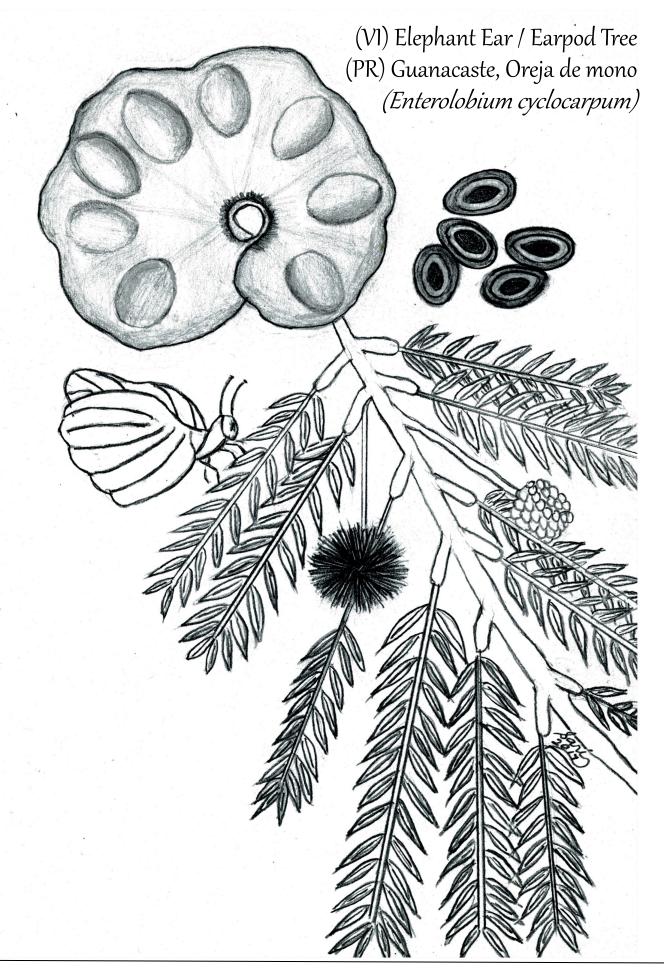


(VI) Beach Bean / Morning Glory (PR) Haba de Playa *(Canavalia rosea)*

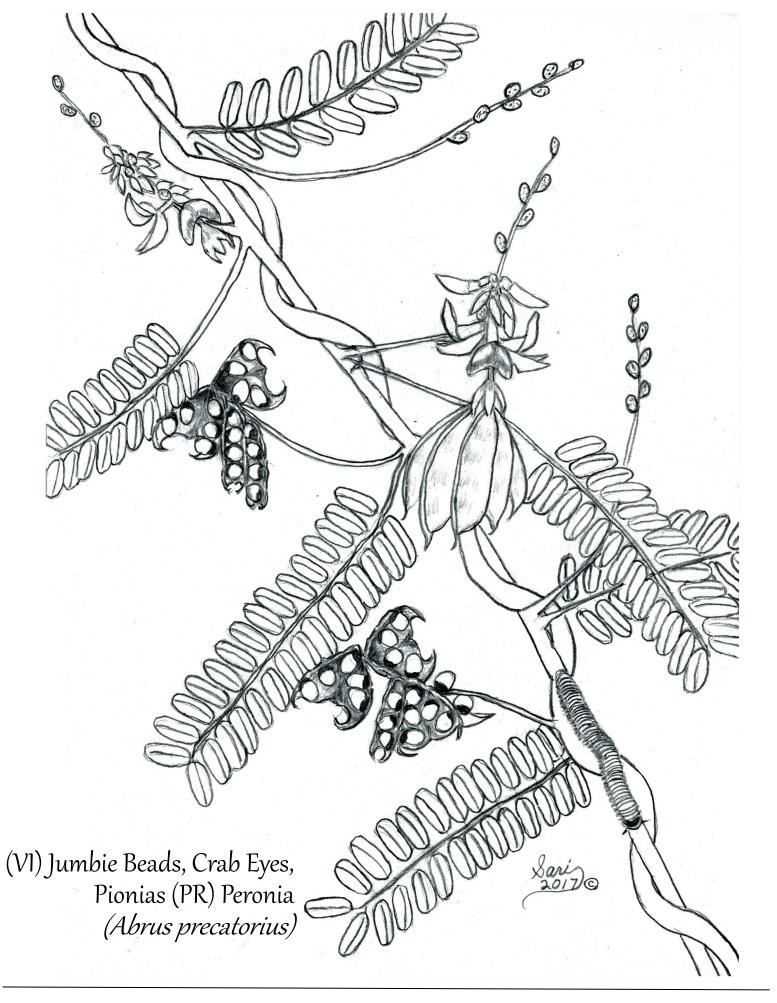


(VI) Baobab, Dead Rat Tree, Guinea Tamarind, Guinea Almond (PR) Baobab *(Adansonia digitate)*











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

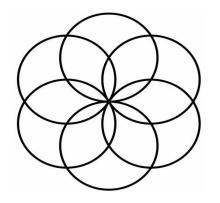
(VI) Tibet Tree/Mothers-n-Law Tongue, Rattle Bush(PR) Albizia *(Albizia lebbeck)*



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Glossary



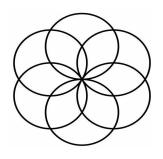
The **Seed of Life** symbolizes the interconnection of life on Earth and it also symbolizes that all life originated from a single source in a divine plan.



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 Taínos, (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 the indigenous tribes that inhabited the Caribbean islands known to them as Boriken / Land of the Valient Lord (Puerto Rico) & AyAy / Land of Many Rivers or Water Water (St.Croix).



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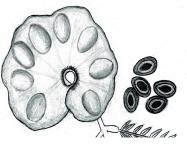
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For more information regarding the Natural AyAy Seeds of the V1 & PR Cultural Art OutReach Initiative contact Maria Aurora Stiles @ iria_pat@yahoo.com

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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.

THIS PUBLICATION IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ACADEMIC & CULTURAL AWARDS ENDOWMENT



