

Biomes

Piltutli Savanna

Type: Subtropical Savanna

Climates: Am, Cwa, Cwb

Elevation: 0 - 1900 meters

Vegetation: Shrublands (Matorral), Savanna (Sabana), Marshland (Ciénega) (restricted to near the sea) & Woodland (Bosque) (500 m < X < 1600 m)

Central Grassland

Type: Subtropical Grassland

Climates: Cwa, Cwb, Cfa, Cfb

Elevation: 0 - 1700 meters

Vegetation: Shrublands (Matorral), Grasslands (Campos) & Woodland (Bosque) (near rivers)

Arauco Grassland

Type: Temperate Grassland

Climates: Cfa, Cfb, Csb

Elevation: 0 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Shrublands (Matorral), Grasslands (Campos) & Woodland (Bosque) (near rivers)



Low Pecori Forest

Type: Temperate Mixed Forest

Climates: Cfa, Cfb

Elevation: 0 - 1000 meters

Vegetation: Dense Forest (Jungla), Fog Forests (Bosque) and Open Fields (Campos)

High Pecori Forest

Type: Temperate Coniferous Forest

Climates: Cfa, Cfb

Elevation: 1000 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Dense Forest (Jungla), Fog Forests (Bosque) and Open Fields (Campos)

Atepi Forest

Type: Mediterranean Forest

Climates: Csb

Elevation: 0 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Forest (Bosque) and Open Fields (Campos)

Norteño Chaparral

Type: Mediterranean Shrubland

Climates: Csa, Csb

Elevation: 0 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Shrubland (Chaparral) and Open Fields (Campos)

Miguelero Chaparral

Type: Mediterranean Shrubland

Climates: Csa, Csb

Elevation: 0 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Shrubland (Chaparral) and Open Fields (Campos)

Insular Chaparral

Type: Xeric Shrubland

Climates: BWh, BWk, BSh, BSk, Cwa, Cwb

Elevation: 0 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Shrubland (Chaparral), Dunes (Dunas) and Open Fields (Campos)

Ézmitli Chaparral

Type: Xeric Shrubland

Climates: BWk, BSk, Csb

Elevation: 200 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Shrubland (Chaparral) and Open Fields (Campos)

Venturano Desert

Type: Desert

Climates: BWh, BWk, BSk

Elevation: 200 - 1500 meters

Vegetation: Dunes (Dunas) and Open Fields (Campos)

Montane Grasslands

Type: Montane

Climates: Cwb, Cwc, Cfb, Cfc, Csb, Csc, BSk

Elevation: 1500 - 3000 meters

Vegetation: Shrubland (Matorral), Woodland (Bosque (Only Bamboos and large shrubs)) and Open Fields (Campos)

Montane Tundra

Type: Montane

Climates: ET

Elevation: 3000 - 4000 meters

Vegetation: Open Fields (Campos) and Rock Fields

Montane Ice Cap

Type: Montane

Climates: ET

Elevation: 4000+ meters

Vegetation: Glacier (Glaciares)

Angiosperms

AngioTrees

Altingiaceae

Fire Liquidambar or Sicomoro Foguito

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Embryophytes

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Spermatophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

Order: Saxifragales

Family: Altingiaceae

Genus: Liquidambar

Species: L. pyrofolia

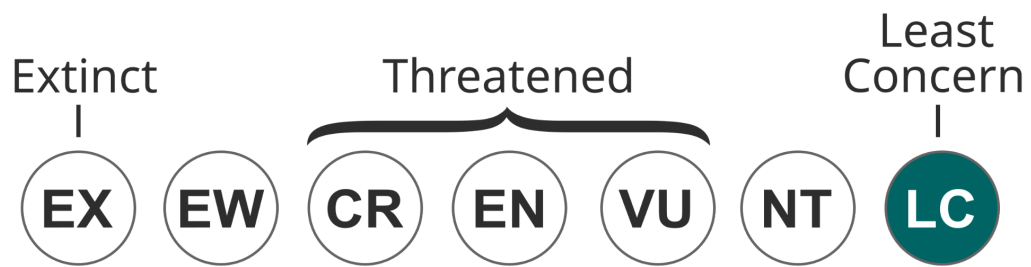
Fire Liquidambar, also known as **Sicomoro Foguito** (*Liquidambar pyrofolia*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Arauco Grasslands**, **Central Grasslands**, and **Piltutli Savanna**. It is a characteristic temperate species of open woodlands and grassland-forest transition zones, where it contributes strongly to seasonal landscape coloration.

The species typically grows between **9 and 18 meters** in height. It has **alternate, palmately lobed (simple), deciduous leaves** with **serrate margins**, forming a broad, rounded canopy during the growing season.

One of its most distinctive traits is its intense autumn coloration: as the leaves senesce and fall, they turn a vivid **deep red**, giving the species its common name and making it a prominent feature of seasonal landscapes.

Flowering occurs during the **summer**, and the flowers persist into **winter**. Fruiting follows, with distinctive **globose, hard, dry compound fruits** developing from early autumn into early winter. These fruits are composed of numerous small capsules, each containing **one to two seeds**. As they dry, the capsules open gradually, releasing the seeds for wind and gravity dispersal.

Due to its striking seasonal foliage, long fruiting period, and ecological adaptability, *Liquidambar pyrofolia* is both an important native component of Cali's grassland ecosystems and a widely valued ornamental tree.



Sicomoro Suleño

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Embryophytes

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Spermatophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

Order: Saxifragales

Family: Altingiaceae

Genus: Liquidambar

Species: L. cerroensis

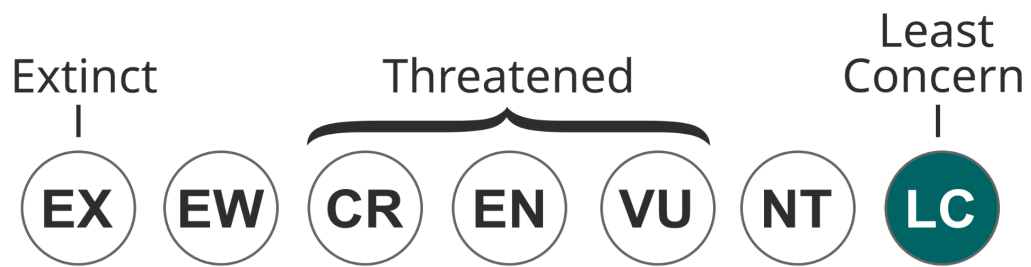
Sicomoro Suleño (*Liquidambar cerroensis*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Central Grasslands**, and **Piltutli Savanna**. It is a characteristic subtropical species of open woodlands and grassland-forest transition zones, where it contributes strongly to seasonal landscape coloration.

The species typically grows between **16 and 22 meters** in height. It has **alternate, palmately lobed (simple), deciduous leaves** with **serrate margins**, forming a broad, rounded canopy during the growing season.

One of its most distinctive traits is its intense autumn coloration: as the leaves senesce and fall, they turn a vivid **deep red/orange**.

Flowering occurs during the **summer**, and the flowers persist into **winter**. Fruiting follows, with distinctive **globose, hard, dry compound fruits** developing from early autumn into early winter. These fruits are composed of numerous small capsules, each containing **one to two seeds**. As they dry, the capsules open gradually, releasing the seeds for wind and gravity dispersal.

Due to its striking seasonal foliage, long fruiting period, and ecological adaptability, *Liquidambar cerroensis* is both an important native component of Cali's grassland ecosystems and a widely valued ornamental tree.



Arecaceae

Insular Palm (Ínsula, Cerros & Aradía)

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Monocots*

Clade: *Commelinids*

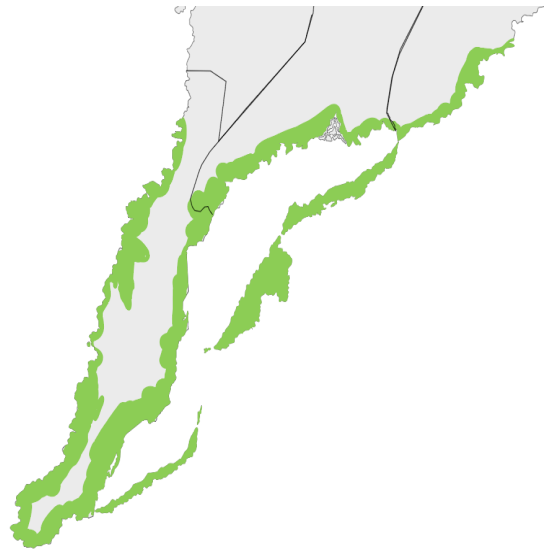
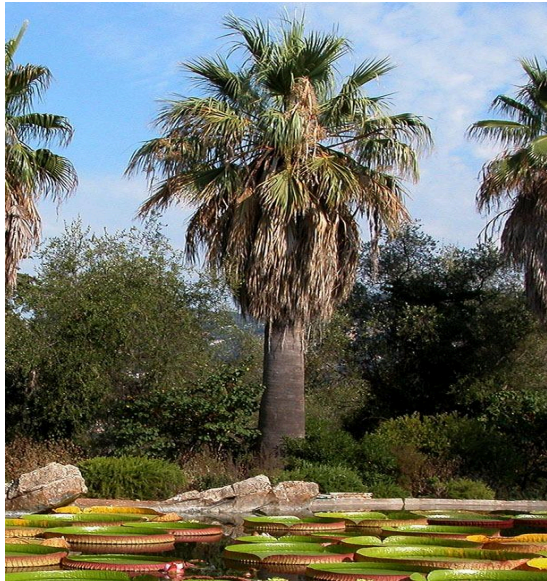
Order: *Arecales*

Family: *Arecaceae*

Tribe: *Trachycarpeae*

Genus: *Washingtonia*

Species: *W. insulensis*



Porto Palm (Valdivia & Ventura)

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Monocots

Clade: Commelinids

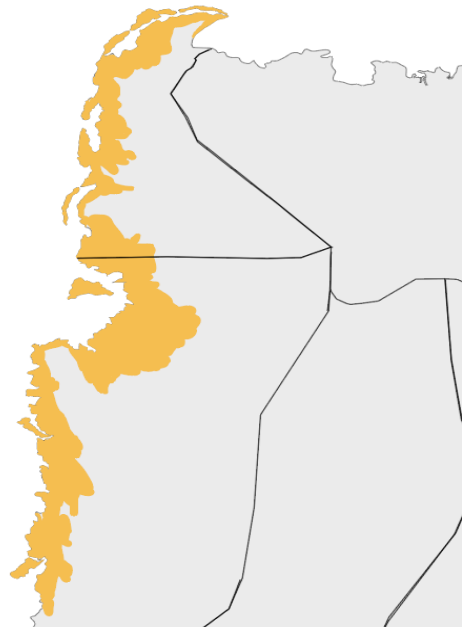
Order: Arecales

Family: Arecaceae

Tribe: Trachycarpeae

Genus: Washingtonia

Species: W. portensis



Asparagaceae

Ézmitli Tree

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Monocots*

Order: *Asparagales*

Family: *Asparagaceae*

Subfamily: *Agavoideae*

Genus: *Yucca*

Species: *Y. valdiviensis*

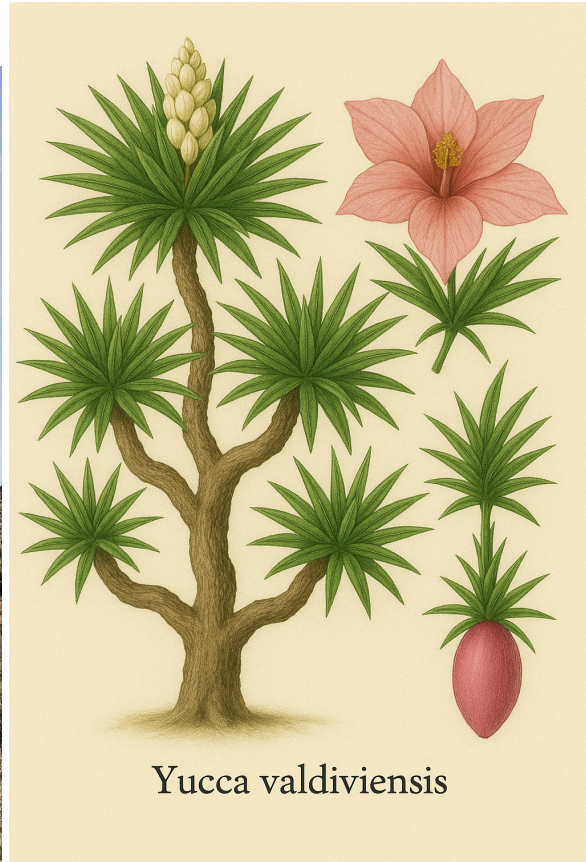
Ézmitli Tree (*Yucca valdiviensis*) is a small tree or arborescent shrub native to the northern Venturano Desert and the Ézmitli Chaparral, where it is commonly found near seasonal waterways, riverbanks, and the shores of **Lake Gatón**. It typically grows between **2 and 8 meters** in height, depending on moisture availability and local soil conditions.

The species has **rosette-arranged, simple, evergreen leaves** with margins that may be **entire, finely serrulate, or filamentous**, forming a compact and drought-adapted structure well suited to arid environments.

Flowering occurs during **wetter periods**, when the plant produces striking **pink blossoms** that emerge above the leaf rosette. These are followed shortly by the development of **pink fruits**, which mature under favorable moisture conditions.

The fruits contain **tiny seeds** that are easily dispersed by shifting desert winds and sand movement. Germination typically occurs only when environmental conditions become sufficiently moist, allowing the species to take advantage of episodic rainfall events.

Highly adapted to fluctuating aridity, *Yucca valdiviensis* thrives in desert–chaparral transition zones, where it plays an important ecological role in stabilizing soils and rapidly colonizing wetter microhabitats.



Betulaceae

Calenan Birch

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fagales*

Family: *Betulaceae*

Genus: *Betula*

Species: *B. verticrata*

The Calenan Birch, also known as **Abedul Inmenso**, is an impressive birch species native to the Low Pecori Forest, particularly thriving along ridge slopes and in areas approaching the transition to the High Pecori Forest. It is one of the most iconic and monumental trees of the Pecorinian landscape.

This species is renowned for its extraordinary size. While most individuals grow well over 40 meters, exceptional specimens have been reported reaching up to 100 meters, making *Betula verticrata* one of the tallest known birches in the region. Its trunk is equally massive, capable of expanding to 4 meters in diameter, and many trees live for over 500 years, forming ancient stands of ecological importance.

The Calenan Birch has **alternate, simple, and semideciduous leaves** with **singly or doubly serrate (toothed) margins**, producing a dense canopy that partially persists throughout the year. Although classified as semi-evergreen, it sheds part of its foliage seasonally while continuously replacing older leaves.

The Calenan Birch is specially adapted to the moist, fog-laden climate of the Pecorinian northern coast. It efficiently absorbs water from both frequent rainfall and persistent coastal fog, allowing it to thrive even on steep, well-drained slopes where other species might struggle.

Its sprouts are traditionally harvested and used in the preparation of spirit drinks, giving the species cultural and culinary significance. Due to its grandeur and long-standing presence in local history, the Calenan Birch is celebrated as the symbolic tree of the comune of Los Santos.

Majestic, long-lived, semi-evergreen, and deeply tied to regional identity, *Betula verticrata* stands as one of the great natural monuments of the Pecori region.



Bignoniaceae

Pecorinan Jacaranda or Jacarandá Azul

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Lamiales*

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

Genus: *Caliopsis*

Species: *C. caerula*

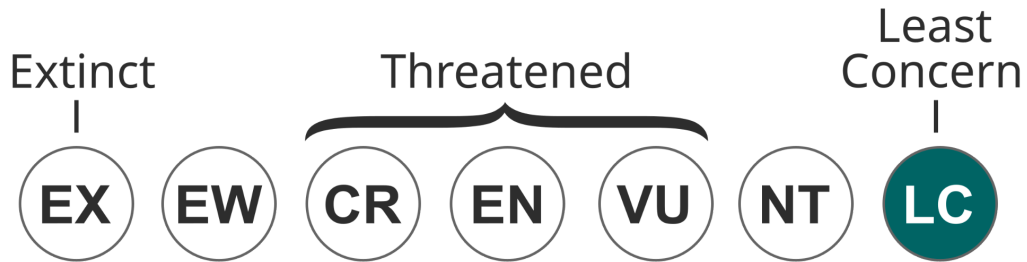
Pecorinan Jacaranda, also known as **Jacarandá Azul** (*Caliopsis caerula*), is a medium to large tree native to the **Low Pecori Forest**, **Arauco Grassland**, **Central Grasslands**, **Atepi Forest**, and the **Norteño Chaparral**. It is one of the most recognizable native trees of Cali, renowned for its spectacular blue flowering display.

The species typically grows between **12 and 30 meters** in height. It has **opposite, palmately compound, semideciduous leaves** with **entire or toothed leaflet margins**, forming a broad canopy that sheds part of its foliage during the cooler months.

Flowering occurs between **February and March**, when the tree produces abundant, relatively large blossoms of an intense **deep blue** color. The profuse blooms often cover much of the canopy, creating a striking display before the new foliage fully emerges. Fruiting begins shortly afterward, producing **woody pods** that contain numerous **winged seeds**, which are dispersed by the wind upon maturity.

The species reaches its greatest abundance along the **Iteri River**, particularly in the **Bosque Azul** region of Pecori, where it forms the dominant component of the forest canopy. During **late winter and early spring**, the synchronized flowering of thousands of trees transforms the landscape into a vivid sea of blue, creating one of Cali's most iconic natural spectacles.

Owing to its ornamental beauty, ecological importance, and spectacular seasonal blooms, *Caliopsis caerulea* is widely planted in parks, streets, and public gardens throughout Cali, while remaining a defining species of several natural ecosystems.



Calenan Trumpet Tree or Tronadora Real

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Lamiales*

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

Genus: *Tecoma*

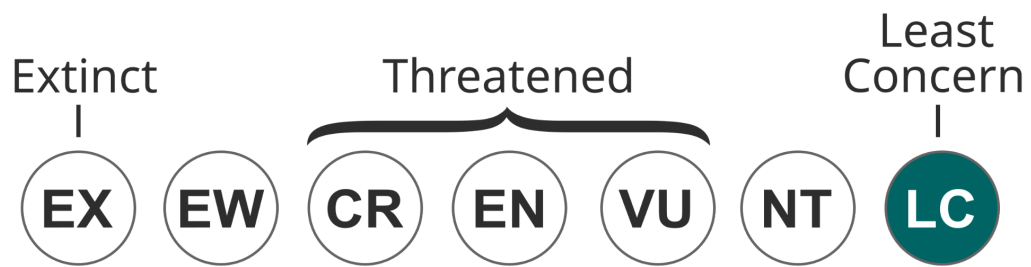
Species: *T. mimosifolia*

Calenan Trumpet Tree, also known as **Tronadora Real** (*Tecoma mimosifolia*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Miguelero Chaparral**, **Insular Chaparral**, **Piltutli Savanna**, and **Central Grasslands**. It is well adapted to the dry, seasonal climates of these biomes and is widely admired for its ornamental beauty and resilience.

The species typically grows between **6 and 16 meters** in height. It has **opposite, bipinnately compound, deciduous leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, shedding its foliage during the dry or cooler season before flowering.

Flowering occurs in **late winter and early spring**, when the bare or sparsely leafed branches become covered with abundant **bright yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers**. These nectar-rich blossoms attract a variety of pollinators, especially **bees**, and are followed by the development of elongated seed pods. As the pods mature, they split open to release numerous **winged seeds** that are dispersed by the wind.

Highly **drought-resistant** and capable of thriving in poor, well-drained soils, *Tecoma mimosifolia* is an important component of chaparral and savanna ecosystems. Its spectacular flowering display has also made it one of Cali's most popular ornamental trees, commonly planted along streets, in parks, and in gardens throughout regions with a Mediterranean or semi-arid climate.



Calenan Giant Trumpet Tree or Tronadora Gigante

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Lamiales*

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

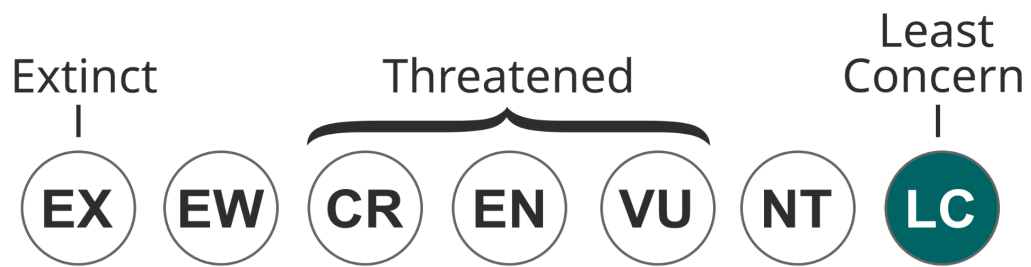
Genus: *Tecoma*

Species: *T. regia*

Calenan Giant Trumpet Tree, also known as **Tronadora Gigante** (*Tecoma regia*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Arauco Grasslands** and **Central Grasslands**. It is well adapted to the dry, seasonal climates of these biomes and is widely admired for its ornamental beauty and resilience.

The species typically grows between **20 and 30 meters** in height. It has **opposite, bipinnately compound, semi-deciduous leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, shedding part of its foliage during the dry or cooler season before flowering.

Flowering occurs in **late winter and early spring**, when the bare or sparsely leafed branches become covered with abundant **bright yellow and/or cream, trumpet-shaped flowers**. These nectar-rich blossoms attract a variety of pollinators, especially **bees**, and are followed by the development of elongated seed pods. As the pods mature, they split open to release numerous **winged seeds** that are dispersed by the wind.



New Year Tree or Natalera

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Lamiales*

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

Genus: *Caliopsis*

Species: *C. ceiba*

New Year Tree, also known as **Natalera** (*Caliopsis ceiba*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Arauco Grasslands**, **Central Grasslands**, and **Piltutli Savanna**. It is well adapted to the dry, seasonal climates of these biomes and is widely admired for its ornamental beauty and resilience.

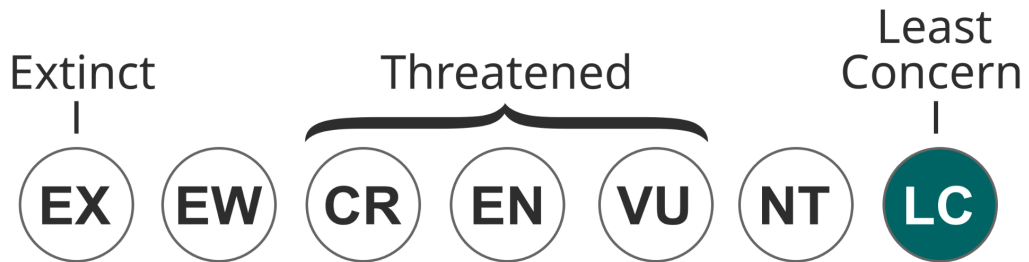
The species typically grows between **10 and 40 meters** in height. It has **alternate, palmately compound, deciduous leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, shedding its foliage during the dry or cooler season before flowering.

One of its most distinctive characteristics is its flowering season. The tree blooms during **Christmas and the New Year**, giving rise to its common name. At this time, the mostly leafless canopy becomes covered with abundant **trumpet-shaped flowers** of a **pinkish-yellow** color, creating a striking display across the grasslands and savannas.

Fruiting begins shortly afterward, producing **woody pods** that contain numerous **winged seeds**. As the pods mature and dry, they split open, allowing the seeds to be carried long distances by the wind.

Thanks to its spectacular seasonal flowering, drought tolerance, and graceful form, *Caliopsis ceiba* is one of Cali's most iconic ornamental trees. It is frequently planted in parks, gardens, and along roadsides, while in its native habitats it serves as a prominent component of open

woodland and savanna landscapes, where its colorful blooms mark the arrival of the holiday season.



Ericaceae

Calenan Azalea

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Ericales*

Family: *Ericaceae*

Genus: *Chaparralia*

Species: *C. glabra*

Calenan Azalea, or simply **Azalea** (*Chaparralia glabra*), is a small tree native to the **Atepi Forest**. It is a characteristic understory and forest-edge species, valued for its spectacular spring flowering and adaptability to a range of soil conditions.

The species typically grows up to **9 meters** in height, forming a dense, rounded canopy. It has **alternate, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, maintaining its foliage throughout the year.

Flowering occurs during **early spring**, when the tree becomes covered with abundant blossoms. The flowers vary in color from **blue to white**, depending on **soil chemistry**, making populations in different areas of the Atepi Forest visually distinct. The nectar-rich blooms are highly attractive to **bees and other native pollinating insects**.

Following flowering, the plant produces small dry capsules containing numerous tiny seeds, which are dispersed by the wind after the capsules split open.

Owing to its vibrant spring display and variable flower coloration, *Chaparralia glabra* is one of the most ornamental native trees of the Atepi Forest and is widely cultivated in parks and gardens throughout Cali's temperate regions.

Fabaceae

Bog Acacia

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

Clade: Rosids

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Subfamily: Caesalpinioideae

Clade: Mimosoid clade

Genus: Acacia

Species: A. cienagae

Distribution:

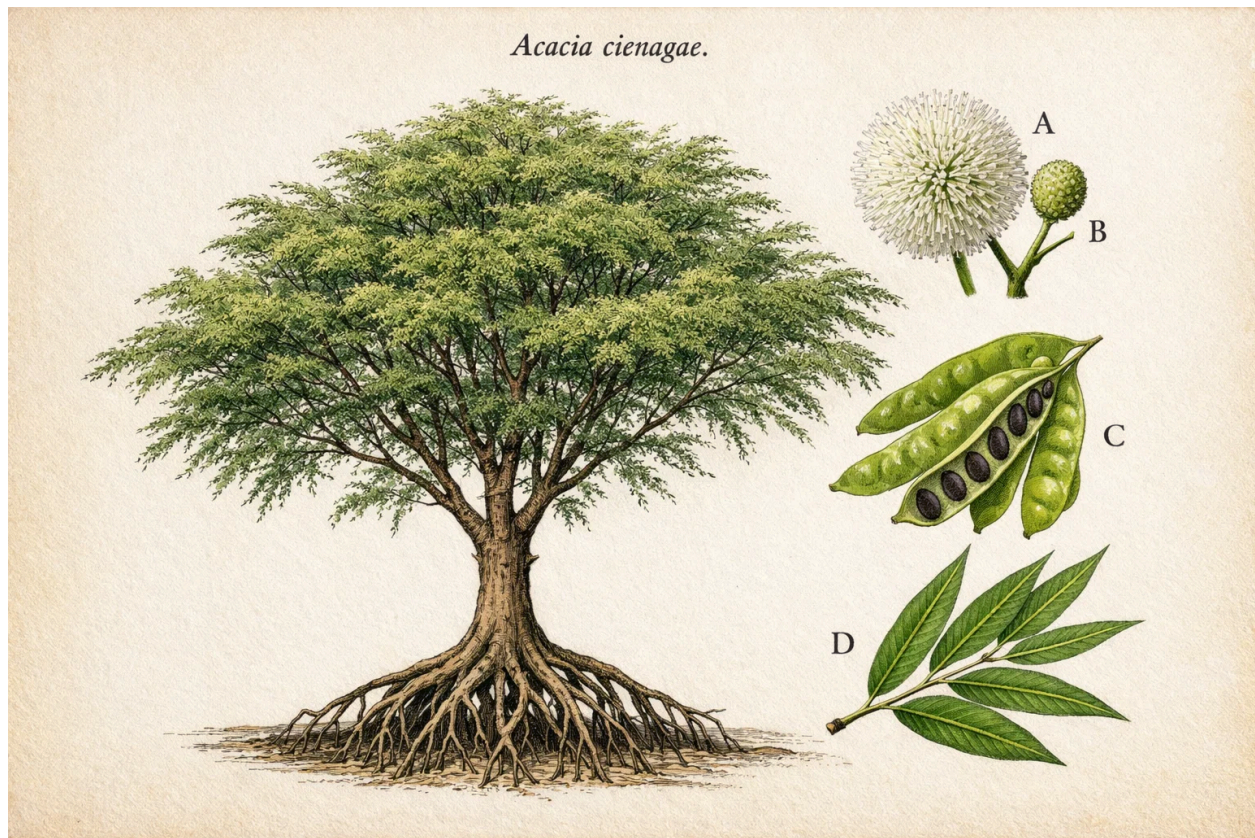
- ***Oro and Tacayanco marshlands and historically coastal areas of the Piltutli Savana and Central Grasslands***

Bog Acacia or Cieneguera (*Acacia cienagae*) is a medium to tall semi-deciduous tree that reaches its maximum height between 6 and 12 meters. It is a distinctive species adapted to wet, low-lying environments, forming an essential component of the marshland vegetation of the Oro and Tacayanco deltas.

The tree is easily recognized by its white, pompon-like flowers, which can appear at any time of the year without a fixed seasonal pattern. Shortly after flowering, elongated seed pods develop, contributing to the species' continuous reproductive presence in its habitat. This irregular flowering cycle ensures a steady food source for insects and other wetland fauna.

Historically, *Acacia cienagae* had a much broader distribution, extending along coastal areas from Venila to Piltutli. However, extensive human intervention—particularly drainage, agriculture, and urban expansion—has drastically reduced its range. Today, the species is largely confined to protected or semi-natural marshlands within the two major deltas.

Resilient yet increasingly localized, *Acacia cienagae* remains a vital tree of the delta ecosystems, playing an important role in soil stabilization, habitat formation, and the ecological identity of Cali's remaining wetlands.



Acacia Koa

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fabales*

Family: *Fabaceae*

Subfamily: *Caesalpinioideae*

Clade: *Mimosoid clade*

Genus: *Acacia*

Species: *A. koa*

Distribution:

- *Piltutli Savanna*
- *Central Grasslands*
- *Arauco Grasslands*

The **Acacia koa**, known simply as **Koa**, is a widespread native tree found across the **Piltutli Savanna, Central Grasslands, and Arauco Grasslands**. Although not endemic to the country, it has long been a natural component of these landscapes, thriving in open, sunny environments with well-drained soils.

Koa is a medium to large tree, typically reaching **15 to 25 meters** in height, with some individuals growing even taller under ideal conditions. Young trees display **bipinnate leaves**, while adults develop distinctive **crescent-shaped phyllodes**, a key characteristic of the species. Its flowers are small and pale yellow, forming spherical clusters typical of the acacia family.

As a **nitrogen-fixing** species, *Acacia koa* enriches the soil and plays an important ecological role, supporting grassland biodiversity and providing shade and habitat for numerous animals. Its wood is highly valued for its strength and beauty, widely used for fine carpentry, instruments, and traditional crafts.

Hardy, adaptable, and ecologically beneficial, **Acacia koa** is one of the most recognizable trees of the grassland regions, shaping the structure and character of the landscapes where it grows.



Mountain Leadtree or Lantoro

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fabales*

Family: *Fabaceae*

Subfamily: *Caesalpinioideae*

Clade: *Mimosoid clade*

Genus: *Leucaena*

Species: *L. lantorana*

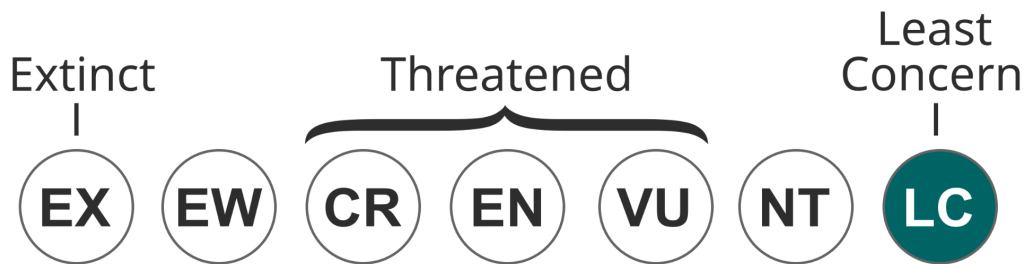
Mountain Leadtree, also known as **Lantoro** (*Leucaena lantorana*), is a medium-sized tree native to the **Piltutli Savanna** and the **Insular Chaparral**. It is especially well adapted to seasonally dry environments, where it commonly grows along rivers, streams, and other moist corridors that traverse otherwise arid landscapes.

The species typically grows between **6 and 12 meters** in height. It has **alternate, bipinnately compound, evergreen leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, forming a light, airy canopy that remains green throughout the year.

Flowering occurs **almost year-round**, producing numerous cream-white, spherical flower heads that provide a consistent source of nectar and pollen for a variety of insects, particularly **bees**. Although flowering is nearly continuous, the **seed pods** generally mature only during **late winter and early spring**. Once dry, the pods split open to release their seeds, which are dispersed primarily by gravity and flowing water, with some secondary dispersal by animals.

Leucaena lantorana shows a strong preference for **riverbanks and riparian woodlands**, where reliable soil moisture allows it to thrive. It is particularly abundant along the waterways of the **Insular Chaparral**, where it is among the dominant riparian tree species and plays an important role in stabilizing riverbanks, enriching soils through nitrogen fixation, and providing habitat for local wildlife.

Thanks to its evergreen foliage, extended flowering season, and ecological importance in riparian ecosystems, the Mountain Leadtree is considered one of the characteristic trees of Cali's seasonally dry landscapes.



Fagaceae

Calenan Red Oak

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fagales*

Family: *Fagaceae*

Genus: *Quercus*

Subgenus: *Quercus* subg. *Quercus*

Section: *Quercus* sect. *Lobatae*

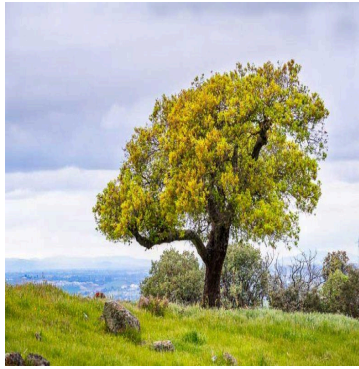
Species: *Q. nortenensis*

Calenan Red Oak, also known as **Roble Rojo** (*Quercus nortenensis*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Atepi Forest**, **Arauco Grassland**, **Low Pecori Forest**, and **Norteño Chaparral**. It is a widespread and ecologically important broadleaf species across northern and central Cali, contributing to both forest structure and seasonal dynamics in mixed woodland ecosystems.

The species typically grows between **10 and 30 meters** in height. It has **alternate, simple, deciduous leaves with lobed margins**, which are shed during cooler or drier seasons, revealing its branching structure during dormancy.

Flowering occurs between **March and May**, producing small **yellow flowers** that emerge alongside or shortly before leaf development. Fruiting takes place during the **summer**, when the tree produces acorns that mature and serve as an important food resource for wildlife, particularly birds and small mammals.

Through its seasonal leaf cycle, wide distribution, and role as a key mast-producing tree, *Quercus nortenensis* is an important ecological foundation species in multiple of Cali's forest and grassland biomes.



Calenan Southern Oak

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fagales*

Family: *Fagaceae*

Genus: *Quercus*

Subgenus: *Quercus subg. Quercus*

Section: *Quercus sect. Lobatae*

Species: *Q. sudenensis*

Calenan Southern Oak, also known as **Valparaíso Roble** (*Quercus sudenensis*), is a deciduous tree native to the **Central Grasslands**, **Arauco Grasslands**, and **Piltutli Forest**. It is a characteristic oak species of open temperate landscapes, where it often forms scattered groves or mixed woodland stands.

The species typically grows between **5 and 18 meters** in height, making it smaller than many of its northern relatives. It has **alternate, simple, deciduous leaves with lobed margins**, which are shed seasonally in response to cooler or drier conditions.

Flowering occurs between **March and May**, producing small **cream-colored flowers** that emerge alongside or shortly before leaf development. Fruiting takes place during the **summer**, when acorns mature and provide an important seasonal food source for wildlife, particularly birds and small mammals.

Adapted to more open and seasonally variable environments, *Quercus sudenensis* is an important structural and ecological component of Cali's southern grasslands and forest-edge ecosystems.

Calenan Chestnut or Castaña Azucarada

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fagales*

Family: *Fagaceae*

Genus: *Castanea*

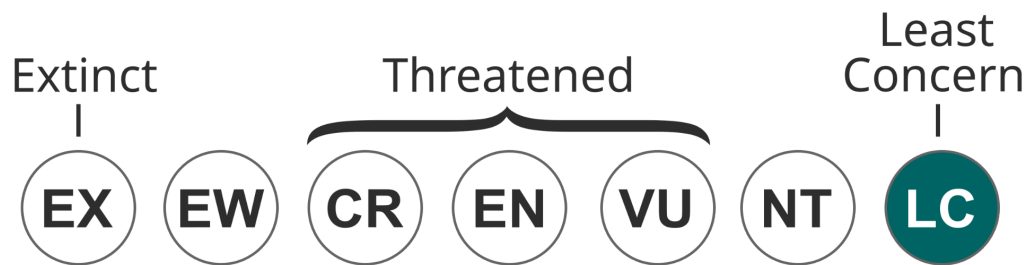
Species: *C. myrtifolia*

Calenan Chestnut, also known as **Castaña Azucarada** (*Castanea myrtifolia*), is a medium-sized tree native to the **Low Pecori Forest**, **Arauco Grassland**, and **Atepi Forest**. It is well known for its broad, spreading crown and exceptionally sweet edible nuts, making it an important species for both wildlife and people.

The species typically grows up to **12 meters** in height. Although relatively modest in stature, it develops an expansive canopy that can reach **20 meters in diameter**, supported by a stout trunk that may grow up to **2 meters** in diameter. This broad crown provides extensive shade and creates important habitat within the ecosystems where it occurs.

It has **alternate, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, maintaining a dense canopy throughout the year. Flowering occurs from **early June to late August**, after which the fruits begin to develop. The spiny burs mature later in the season, enclosing **sweet, edible nuts** that are highly prized by birds, mammals, and humans alike. Their rich, sugary flavor has made them a traditional seasonal food and an important resource for wildlife.

Owing to its wide-spreading form, long-lived evergreen foliage, and abundant production of sweet nuts, *Castanea myrtifolia* is considered one of the characteristic broad-canopied trees of the Low Pecori Forest and neighboring ecosystems, where it contributes significantly to both forest structure and food availability.



Lythraceae

Pecori Eucalyptus Tree

Kingdom: **Plantae**

Clade: **Embryophytes**

Clade: **Tracheophytes**

Clade: **Spermatophytes**

Clade: **Angiosperms**

Clade: **Eudicots**

Clade: **Rosids**

Order: **Myrtales**

Family: **Lythraceae**

Genus: ***Gomezia***

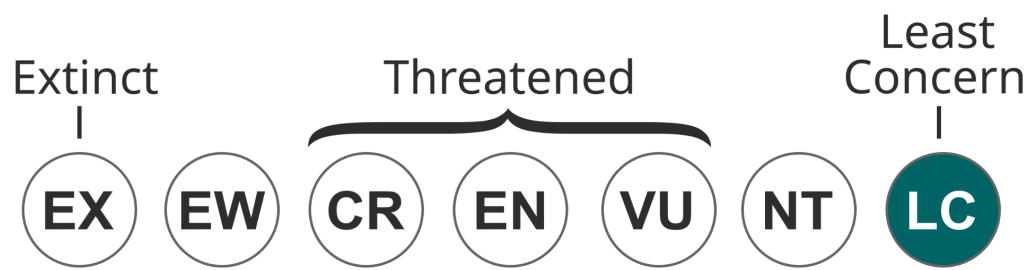
Species: ***G. speciosa***

Pecori Eucalyptus, also known as **Palo Rosado** (*Gomezia speciosa*), is a tree species native to the Low Pecori Forest. Its common English name comes from its resemblance to true eucalypts, although it belongs to the genus *Gomezia*, within the botanical family **Lythraceae**.

The species typically grows between **10 and 30 meters** in height. It has **opposite, simple, deciduous leaves with entire margins**, forming a seasonal canopy that sheds during cooler periods. It is well adapted to the humid temperate conditions of the Low Pecori Forest.

It flowers between **August and October**, producing large, striking red and/or pink blossoms that stand out prominently within the forest canopy. These flowers are frequently visited by **hummingbirds**, which act as important pollinators due to their attraction to the vivid coloration and nectar-rich blooms. Fruiting occurs from **December to January**, when the large green, mango-like fruits develop. As they mature, the fruits turn brown and split open, releasing a cotton-like pulp containing seeds that are dispersed by the wind.

Through its showy flowering, bird-pollinated reproduction, wind-assisted seed dispersal, and strong seasonal cycle, *Gomezia speciosa* represents an ecologically important and visually distinctive component of the Low Pecori Forest ecosystem.



Terata

Kingdom:	Plantae
Clade:	Embryophytes
Clade:	Tracheophytes
Clade:	Spermatophytes
Clade:	Angiosperms
Clade:	Eudicots
Clade:	Rosids
Order:	Myrtales
Family:	Lythraceae
Genus:	<i>Gomezia</i>
Species:	<i>G. terataea</i>

Terata (*Gomezia terataea*) is a medium-sized deciduous tree native to the **Insular Chaparral** and the **Miguelero Chaparral**. It is well adapted to the Mediterranean climate of these regions, where it grows in open woodlands, rocky slopes, and dry valleys. The species is particularly abundant on the **hills surrounding the city of Terata**, from which it takes its common name, and is considered one of the defining trees of the local landscape.

The species typically grows between **6 and 12 meters** in height. It has **opposite, simple, deciduous leaves with entire margins**, forming a broad canopy that sheds its foliage during the cooler or drier season.

Flowering occurs between **June and August**, when the tree produces large, striking **red blossoms** that stand out against the sparse seasonal foliage. The nectar-rich flowers are highly attractive to **hummingbirds**, which serve as the primary pollinators. Fruiting follows between **October and November**, when clusters of **bright yellow berries** develop. The fleshy fruits are readily consumed by birds, which disperse the seeds throughout the chaparral.

With its vivid seasonal flowers, colorful fruits, and adaptation to dry Mediterranean environments, *Gomezia terataea* is one of the characteristic flowering trees of Cali's chaparral ecosystems and is widely planted as an ornamental species in parks and gardens. Its

abundance around the city of **Terata** has made it a regional symbol and one of the area's most recognizable native plants.



Melastomataceae

Floranera Real

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Melastomataceae*

Genus: *Floranera*

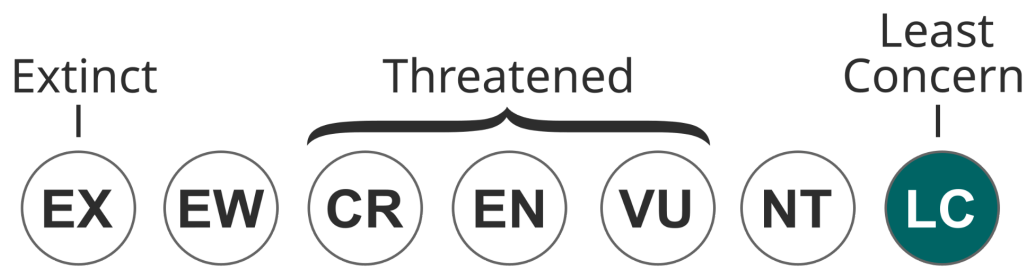
Species: *F. floranera*

Floranera Real (*Floranera floranera*) is an understory tree native to the Low Pecori Forest and belongs to the family **Melastomataceae**. It typically grows between **2 and 10 meters** in height, thriving in the humid, shaded conditions beneath the forest canopy.

The species has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, forming dense foliage throughout the year. It flowers between **April and August**, producing blooms that are highly attractive to pollinators, especially bees. Beekeepers and foraging insects alike are drawn to the species, and the honey produced from its nectar is notably distinctive, often described as having a **“fiery,” pepper-like warmth** in its flavor profile. After flowering, its fruits develop into dry capsules. Once mature, the capsules split open, releasing numerous tiny seeds that are easily dispersed by the wind.

One of the species' most distinctive characteristics is its **toxic sap**, which was traditionally used by the indigenous Pecori people to coat the tips of their arrows for hunting and warfare.

Adapted to the forest understory and notable for its wind-dispersed seeds, evergreen foliage, pollinator importance, and historical cultural significance, *Floranera floranera* is an important component of the Low Pecori Forest ecosystem.



Floranera Alta

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Melastomataceae*

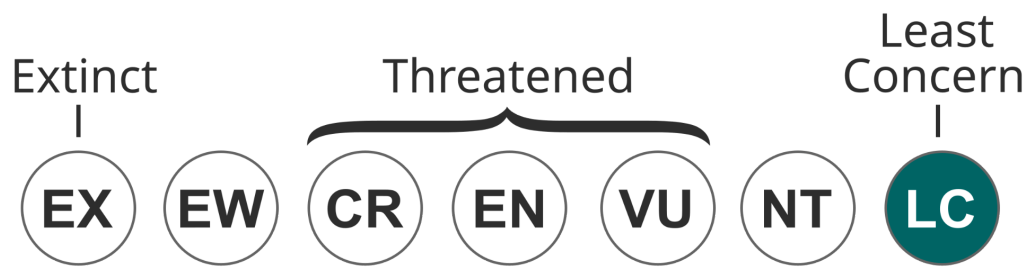
Genus: *Floranera*

Species: *F. antipagosa*

Floranera Alta (*Floranera antipagosa*) is an understory tree native to the High Pecori Forest and belongs to the family **Melastomataceae**. It is one of the few angiosperm tree species native to the High Pecori Forest biome. It typically grows between **2 and 8 meters** in height, thriving in the humid, shaded conditions beneath the forest canopy.

The species has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, forming dense foliage throughout the year. The leaves are notably **frost-resistant**, an important adaptation to the colder conditions of the High Pecori Forest.

It flowers between **June and July**, producing blooms that are highly attractive to pollinators, especially bees. These flowering periods play a key role in supporting the limited pollinator activity within the high-altitude forest ecosystem.



Opimi Tree

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Melastomataceae*

Genus: *Opimina*

Species: *O. gigaradia*

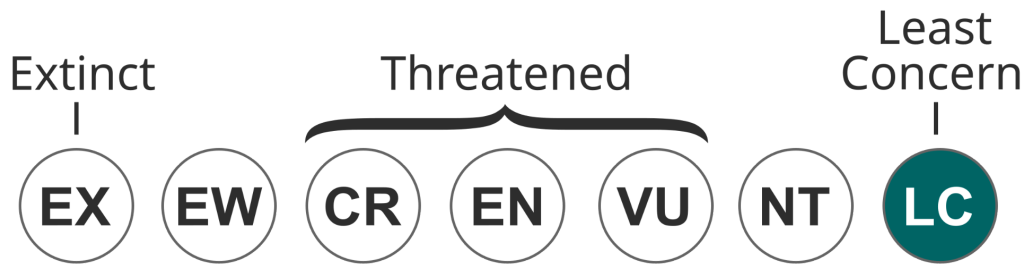
Opimi Tree (*Opimina gigaradia*) is a tree native to the Low Pecori Forest and belongs to the family **Melastomataceae**. It typically grows between **20 and 40 meters** in height, making it one of the largest representatives of its family in the region.

The species has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, forming dense foliage throughout the year. It flowers between **April and July**, producing blooms that are highly attractive to pollinators, especially bees. After flowering, its fruits develop into dry capsules. Once mature, the capsules split open, releasing numerous tiny seeds that are easily dispersed by the wind.

One of its most distinctive features is its massive **buttress root system**, which can extend and ramify up to **12 meters in diameter**, providing exceptional stability in the humid forest soils. Within regional botanical records of the Calenan system, it is considered the largest known Melastomataceae species, an extreme growth form for the family.

Opimina gigaradia is also notable for its longevity, commonly living for around **500 years**, with exceptional individuals reported to reach up to **1,200 years**. Its wood is highly valued, characterized by a distinctive **pinkish coloration**, making it both ecologically and economically significant.

Overall, the Opimi Tree stands as one of the Low Pecori Forest's most structurally dominant and ecologically important canopy species.



Orita

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Melastomataceae*

Genus: *Madriensis*

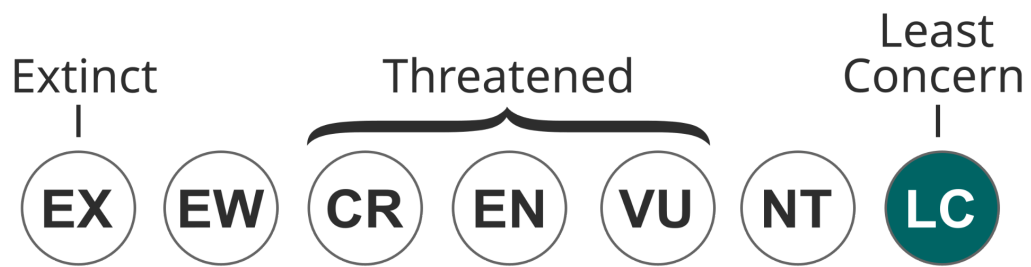
Species: *M. valdiviana*

Orita (*Madriensis valdiviana*) is a small to medium-sized tree native to the **Atepi Forest** and the **Norteño Chaparral**, belonging to the family **Melastomataceae**. It typically grows between **2 and 10 meters** in height, thriving in both humid forests and seasonally dry woodlands.

The species has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, forming dense foliage throughout the year. Flowering occurs between **February and March**, producing abundant blossoms that are highly attractive to pollinators, particularly **bees**.

Following the flowering season, the tree produces clusters of **bright yellow berries**, from which its common name "**Orita**" ("little golden one") is derived. The berries are **edible**, with a sweet, juicy pulp surrounding numerous **very small seeds**, and are readily consumed by birds and mammals, which act as the primary seed dispersers.

Thanks to its attractive evergreen foliage, bee-friendly flowers, and nutritious fruits, *Madriensis valdiviana* is an important component of the Atepi Forest and Norteño Chaparral, contributing to both the biodiversity and food resources of these ecosystems.



Myrtaceae

Calenan Eucalyptus Tree

<i>Kingdom:</i>	<i>Plantae</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Angiosperms</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Eudicots</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Rosids</i>
<i>Order:</i>	<i>Myrtales</i>
<i>Family:</i>	<i>Myrtaceae</i>
<i>Genus:</i>	<i>Calenia</i>
<i>Species:</i>	<i>C. liriata</i>

This is the species commonly known as **Calenan Eucalyptus** or **Liria**. Its popular English name comes from its resemblance to true eucalypts, although it belongs to the genus *Calenan*, within the same botanical family, Myrtaceae.

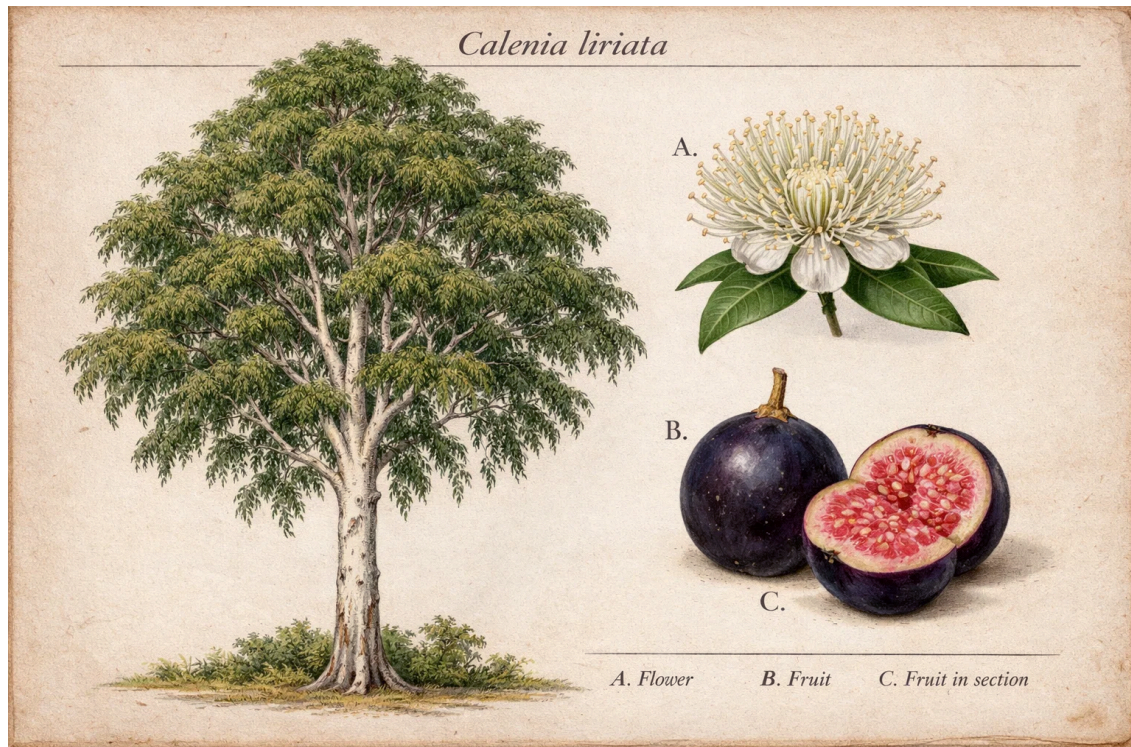
It is native to the Piltutli Savanna and the Central Grasslands, where it typically occupies the colder portions of these biomes. Because of this preference, the species is most commonly found on the slopes of ridges, where temperatures are lower and air circulation is stronger.

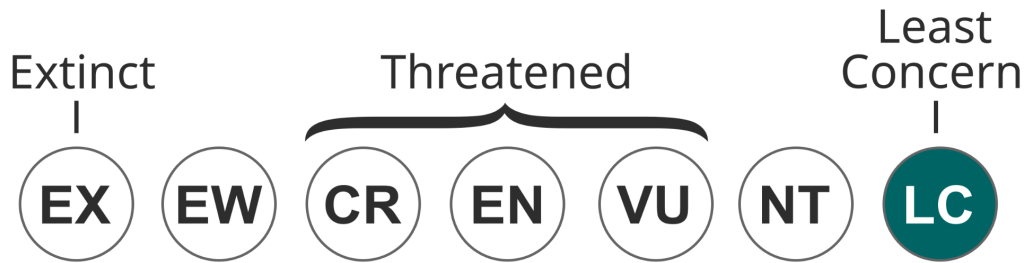
The Calenan Eucalyptus is an evergreen tree, retaining its foliage throughout the year. It has **opposite, compound (odd-pinnate), evergreen leaves with entire margins**, forming a dense, persistent canopy well adapted to the cool, windswept conditions of its native habitat. It is a robust, slow-growing species, often taking around 40 years to reach its full size. When mature, it reaches 25 to 40 meters in height, depending on climate and soil conditions. It is highly resilient and can live for over 100 years.

One of the most distinctive features of the species is its round, fig-like fruit, which turns a deep dark purple when ripe. The fruit is appreciated by both animals and humans, although its high rate of decomposition means it is rarely found in markets. Each fruit contains two to three seeds, which are oval and slightly flattened.

Its flowers are white and have a very sweet fragrance, appearing mainly during the spring months (March to June). Fruiting occurs from August to October, when ripe fruits release their seeds.

Due to its strong, dense wood—a result of its slow growth—the Calenan Eucalyptus is valued both for its durability and for its ornamental presence in natural and cultivated landscapes.





Piltutli Tree

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Myrtaceae*

Genus: *Calenia*

Species: *C. piltutlya*

Distribution:

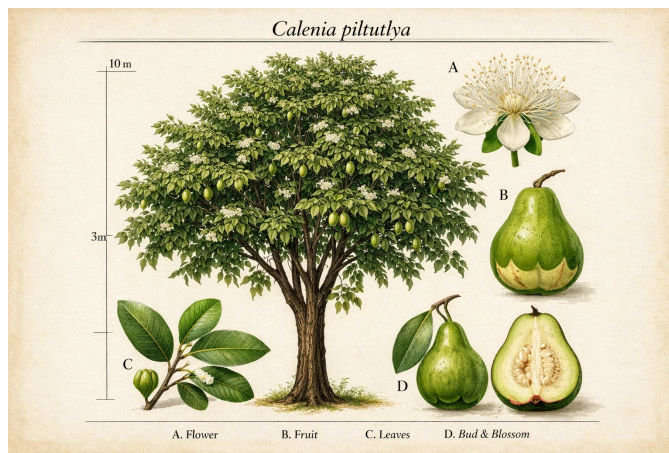
The ***Piltutli Tree***, commonly known simply as ***Piltutli***, is a characteristic species native to the vast Piltutli Savanna, where it stands as the most common and defining tree of the landscape. Its scientific name is *Calenia piltutlya*, a species perfectly adapted to the climatic rhythms and open expanses of this unique savanna ecosystem.

The Piltutli is a small to medium-sized tree, typically growing between 2 and 6 meters in height. It has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, forming a dense canopy that remains green throughout the year despite the seasonal conditions of the savanna. It flowers from June to August, producing delicate blossoms that mark the beginning of its reproductive cycle. The fruits develop slowly during the transitional seasons and finally ripen between late November and December. Remarkably, it is one of the only fruiting trees in the Piltutli Savanna to bear fruit in winter, giving it ecological importance for wildlife during the leaner months of the year.

Its fruits resemble green pears with a tough, protective skin. Inside, the flesh has a jelly-like texture, both sweet and acidic, and each fruit contains 2 to 4 seeds. Beyond their ecological role, the fruits hold significant cultural and culinary value. They are traditionally used in regional

desserts such as “**Marmellada**” and “**Tarta de Nueces**,” dishes cherished for their bright, fragrant flavor derived from the *Piltutli*’s distinctive pulp.

Resilient, abundant, and deeply tied to local cuisine, *Calenia piltutlya* is one of the botanical emblems of the *Piltutli Savanna*, shaping both its natural environment and its cultural traditions.



Oleaceae

Chaparral Ligustrum or Oliva de Darrena

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Lamiales*

Family: *Oleaceae*

Tribe: *Oleeae*

Subtribe: *Oleinae*

Genus: *Hesperelaea*

Species: *H. edulis*

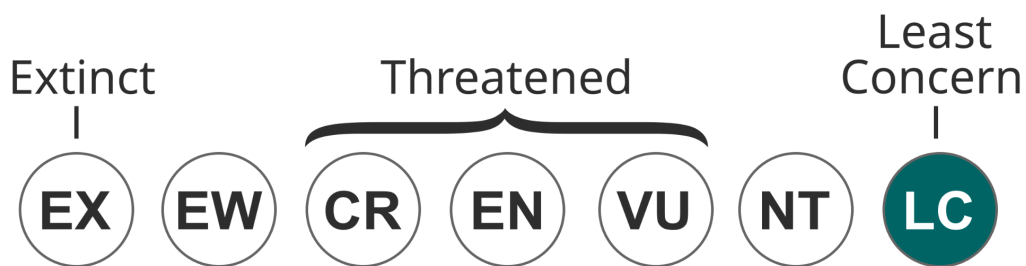
Chaparral Ligustrum, also known as **Oliva de Darrena** (*Hesperelaea edulis*), is a medium-sized tree native to the **Insular Chaparral**, **Miguelero Chaparral**, **Norteño Chaparral**, **Atepi Forest**, **Piltutli Savanna**, and, more rarely, the **Ézmitli Chaparral**. It is especially abundant in the Darrena region, where it has long been an important component of both the natural landscape and local cuisine.

The species typically grows between **12 and 25 meters** in height. It has **opposite, simple, semideciduous leaves** with **entire margins**, forming a dense canopy that retains much of its foliage throughout the year while shedding leaves during cooler or drier periods.

Flowering occurs between **October and December**, producing abundant clusters of small, fragrant white blossoms that attract a wide variety of insect pollinators, particularly bees. The fruits develop soon afterward and reach maturity by **February**. They are fleshy, edible drupes with a distinctly **bitter flavor**. Despite their taste, the fruits are highly valued because they yield an oil remarkably similar in both appearance and texture to **olive oil**. This resemblance inspired the Spanish common name "**Oliva de Darrena**."

The extracted oil has been a staple of **Insuleñan cuisine** for centuries, where it is widely used for frying and cooking. Archaeological evidence indicates that indigenous peoples of the Darrena region were already harvesting the fruits and producing the oil long before European colonization, making it one of Cali's oldest cultivated food resources.

Thanks to its adaptability to Mediterranean and drier climates, culinary importance, and historical significance, *Hesperelaea edulis* is regarded as one of the defining tree species of Cali's chaparral ecosystems and remains a symbol of the Darrena region's rich botanical and gastronomic heritage.



Poaceae

Zacal

Kingdom:	<i>Plantae</i>
Clade:	<i>Embryophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Spermatophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Angiosperms</i>
Clade:	<i>Monocots</i>
Clade:	<i>Commelinids</i>
Order:	<i>Poales</i>
Family:	<i>Poaceae</i>
Genus:	<i>Arundinaria</i>
Species:	<i>A. montana</i>

Zacal (*Arundinaria montana*) is a bamboo species native to the **Montane Grasslands** of the **Sierra Madre**, **Sierra Ventura**, and **Sierra del Sur**. It is the most widespread and tallest plant of this biome, dominating vast areas of the high-elevation grasslands and forming extensive bamboo stands across mountain slopes and valleys.

The species typically grows up to **12 meters** in height, producing dense, spreading clumps connected by underground rhizomes. It has **evergreen, lance-shaped leaves** arranged along slender, woody culms, creating thick stands that provide shelter for numerous species of wildlife and protection against soil erosion.

Like most bamboos, *Arundinaria montana* flowers only at long and irregular intervals, with entire populations often flowering simultaneously before producing abundant seeds. Following seed production, many culms die back, allowing a new generation to regenerate from seedlings and surviving rhizomes.

Owing to its rapid growth and strong, flexible culms, **Zacal** has long been used by local communities as a source of building material, fencing, baskets, tools, and handicrafts. Ecologically, it is the defining plant of Cali's montane grasslands, shaping the structure of the landscape and providing essential habitat and food for many mountain animals.

Rosaceae

Jupee Crabapple

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Rosales*

Family: *Rosaceae*

Subfamily: *Amygdaloideae*

Genus: *Malus*

Species: *M. jupee*

Jupee Crabapple, Jupy, or Manzana Fucsia (*Malus jupee*) is a medium to large deciduous fruiting tree that, at full maturity, reaches a height of **13 to 20 meters**. It is a widespread native tree found across the Atepi Forest. It is closely related in appearance to the common apple tree, particularly in its blossoms, which closely resemble traditional apple flowers in both shape and coloration. It is considered a regional symbol of the Extremo Norte region.

The tree has **alternate, simple, and deciduous leaves** with **toothed or sometimes lobed margins**, producing a broad canopy that remains lush through most of the growing season. Although primarily deciduous, some foliage may persist into the early winter before being shed completely.

The tree flowers between April and May, producing abundant, delicate blooms across its bare-to-newly-leafed branches. Fruit development follows soon after, with ripening occurring from August to October. The fruits are distinctive, resembling reddish-pink guavas, with smooth skin and a fleshy interior.

Seasonal leaf drop allows *Malus jupee* to endure cooler periods while enhancing its flowering display in spring. Combining ornamental beauty with productive fruiting, this species stands out as a notable deciduous tree in both natural and cultivated landscapes.



Sapindaceae

Pecori Grand Maple

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Sapindales*

Family: *Sapindaceae*

Subfamily: *Hippocastanoideae*

Genus: *Acer*

Species: *A. Bellavistensis*

Distribution:

- ***Low Pecori Forest***

The Pecori Grand Maple, also known regionally as **Arce Romeño**, is a deciduous maple species native to the Low Pecori Forest biome. It thrives in the humid, temperate conditions of this region and typically grows to 6–20 meters in height, forming a moderate to tall canopy depending on soil and moisture availability.

The tree has **opposite, simple, and semideciduous leaves** with **palmate-lobed, toothed, or entire margins**, giving it a distinctive yet variable appearance throughout the growing season. Although classified as a deciduous species, some individuals may retain a portion of their foliage during milder winters before shedding it completely.

One of its most distinctive traits is its round, pink fruit, reminiscent of a lychee in appearance. Each fruit contains a single seed, which only germinates once the fruit naturally dries and turns brown, a strategy that ensures successful sprouting during more favorable conditions.

The tree bears vibrant red flowers with five petals, which are not only striking but also traditionally used in medicinal teas. Blooming occurs during the spring months (March to June), adding rich color to the forest understory and canopy.

Fruiting follows from October to December, when the pink fruits mature and eventually fall as they dry. As a deciduous species, *Acer bellavistensis* sheds its foliage during the winter, entering dormancy before leafing out again in early spring.

With its vivid blossoms, distinctive foliage, unique fruit, and ecological significance, the Pecori Grand Maple is a defining species of the Low Pecori Forest landscape.



Mānele

Kingdom: *Plantae*
Clade: *Tracheophytes*
Clade: *Angiosperms*
Clade: *Eudicots*
Clade: *Rosids*
Order: *Sapindales*
Family: *Sapindaceae*
Genus: *Sapindus*
Species: *S. thurstonii*

Manele (*Sapindus thurstonii*), is a medium-sized deciduous to semi-evergreen tree native to Hawaii and widely distributed across Cali, where it occurs in the **Piltutli Savanna**, **Central Grasslands**, **Arauco Grassland**, and the **Low Pecori Forest**. Its broad ecological tolerance makes it one of the most widespread native tree species across Cali's temperate and subtropical transition zones.

The species typically grows between **8 and 18 meters** in height, forming a rounded to irregular canopy depending on local moisture conditions. In open grasslands it tends to remain smaller and more sparse, while in forested environments it develops a fuller crown.

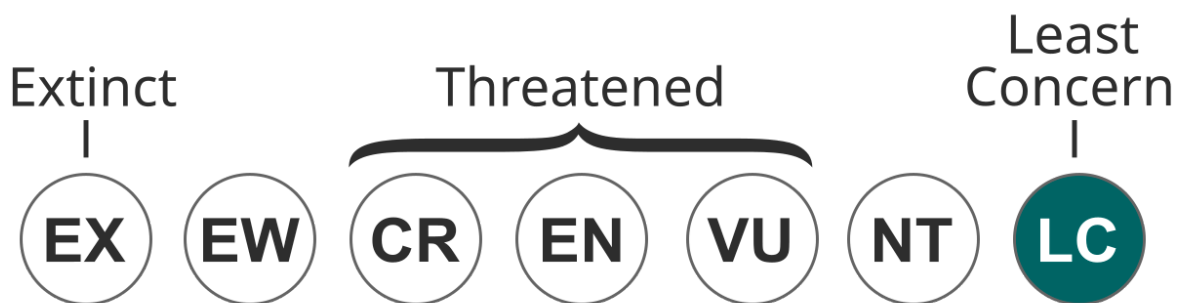
It has **alternate, pinnate compound leaves with entire leaflets**, producing a light and flexible canopy well suited to wind-exposed habitats. The species may behave as **deciduous or semi-evergreen**, shedding part of its foliage during cooler or drier seasons.

Flowering occurs mainly from **late spring through summer**, producing small greenish-white flowers that are highly attractive to insects, especially bees and other generalist pollinators. Fruiting follows in the warm season, forming clusters of round drupes that mature to yellow or amber tones.

The fruits contain high concentrations of **saponins**, producing a natural soap-like lather when crushed in water. This property has made *Sapindus thurstonii* culturally important across many regions of Cali, where it is traditionally used as a natural cleaning agent and occasionally in folk remedies.

Ecologically, the Cali Soapberry plays an important role in **grassland and forest-edge stabilization**, reducing erosion and providing seasonal resources for birds and insects. Its wide

distribution across multiple biomes reflects strong adaptability to varying rainfall, temperature, and soil conditions.



AngioBushes

Pelotito Bush

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

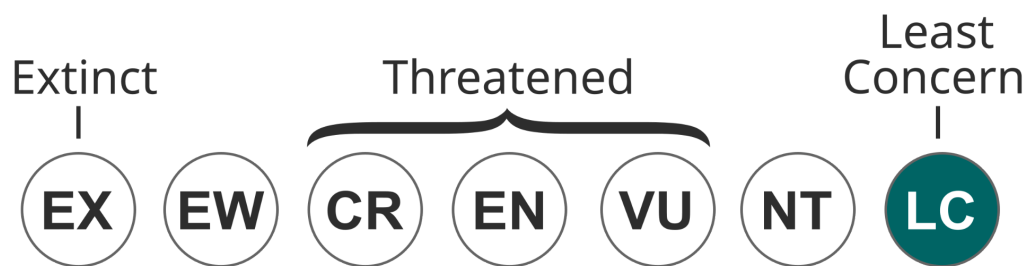
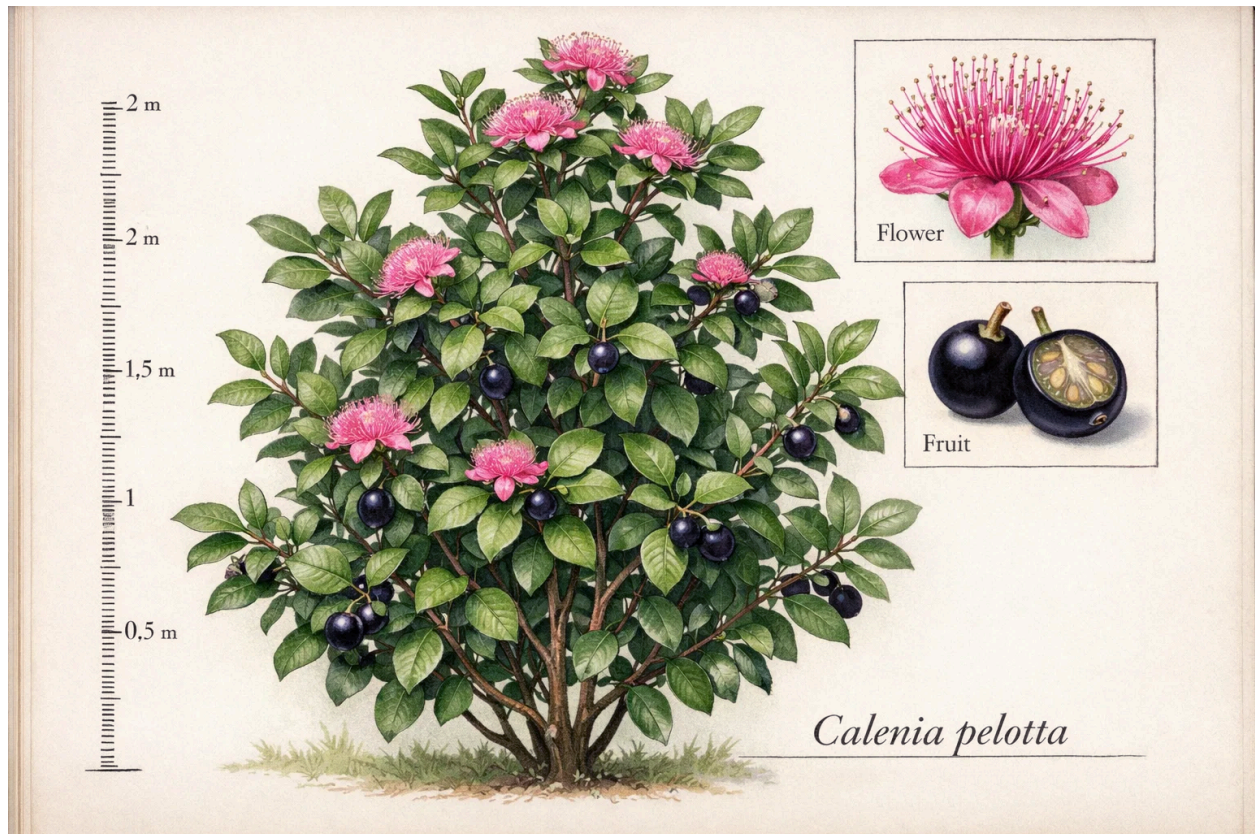
Clade: Rosids

Order: Myrtales

Family: Myrtaceae

Genus: Calenia

Species: C. pelotta



Asparagaceae (Bush)

Pacific Century Plant or Agave

<i>Kingdom:</i>	<i>Plantae</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Angiosperms</i>
<i>Clade:</i>	<i>Monocots</i>
<i>Order:</i>	<i>Asparagales</i>
<i>Family:</i>	<i>Asparagaceae</i>
<i>Subfamily:</i>	<i>Agavoideae</i>
<i>Genus:</i>	<i>Agave</i>
<i>Species:</i>	<i>A. pacifiensis</i>

Pacific Century Plant, or Agave (*Agave pacifiensis*), is a succulent species native to the **Insular Chaparral, Migueleño Chaparral, Venturano Desert, and Piltutli Savanna**. It typically grows up to **2 meters** in height, forming a large basal rosette of thick, fleshy leaves adapted to dry and semi-arid environments.

The species is monocarpic and flowers only once approximately every **13 years**. When it does, it produces a tall flowering stalk that can reach up to **8 meters**, bearing numerous **yellow flowers** along its upper branches. Flowering occurs in a single massive reproductive event, after which the plant invests all remaining energy into seed production before dying.

The flowers are visited by a wide range of pollinators, particularly insects and occasional nectar-feeding birds, which contribute to the fertilization of its abundant seeds. After pollination, dry capsules develop along the stalk, releasing lightweight seeds that are dispersed by wind and gravity.

It holds strong cultural importance in Cali, as it is traditionally used in the production of **Chusmeado**, the national spirit, derived from its fermented sap. Harvesting typically occurs just before the flowering event, when the plant's core is richest in sugars.



Cactaceae

Calenan Cactus or Nenepel

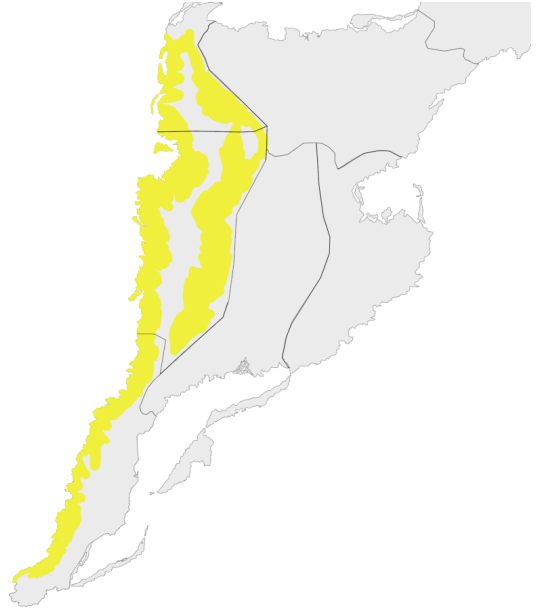
Kingdom: *Plantae*
Clade: *Tracheophytes*
Clade: *Angiosperms*
Clade: *Eudicots*
Order: *Caryophyllales*
Family: *Cactaceae*
Subfamily: *Opuntioideae*
Tribe: *Opuntieae*
Genus: *Opuntia*
Species: *O. venturensis*

Calenan Cactus, also known as **Nenepel** (*Opuntia venturensis*), is a cactus native to the **Ventura Desert**, **Ézmitli Chaparral**, **Norteño Chaparral**, **Miguelero Chaparral**, and **Insular Chaparral**. It is one of the most widespread succulent species of Cali's arid and semi-arid regions, thriving in rocky slopes, dry plains, and desert scrublands.

The species typically grows between **1 and 5 meters** in height, forming dense clumps of flattened, fleshy **cladodes (pads)** armed with spines and fine glochids, adaptations that allow it to thrive in dry environments.

Flowering occurs during **spring and early summer**, when the cactus produces large, showy **purple to pink flowers** that are highly attractive to **native bees** and other pollinating insects. The flowers are followed by the development of **fleshy, pear-shaped fruits**, which ripen from **summer to early autumn**. The fruits are edible, containing numerous hard seeds embedded in a sweet, juicy pulp, and are readily consumed by birds and mammals, which help disperse the seeds.

Exceptionally drought tolerant, *Opuntia venturensis* is an important component of Cali's desert and chaparral ecosystems. It provides food and shelter for wildlife, helps stabilize soils, and has long been valued by local communities for its edible fruits and young pads.



Viña del Diablo

Kingdom: *Plantae*
Clade: *Tracheophytes*
Clade: *Angiosperms*
Clade: *Eudicots*
Order: *Caryophyllales*
Family: *Cactaceae*
Subfamily: *Cactoideae*
Tribe: *Selenicereus*
Species: *S. daimonis*

Viña del Diablo (*Selenicereus daimonis*) is a climbing cactus native to the **Insular Chaparral**, **Miguelero Chaparral**, and **Norteño Chaparral**. Unlike most cacti, it is an epiphytic or semi-epiphytic species, growing on the trunks and major branches of trees, where it uses aerial roots to cling to the bark while obtaining support.

The species produces long, succulent, climbing stems that weave through the forest canopy and chaparral woodlands. It flowers during the **spring**, producing large, fragrant cream blooms that open at night and are pollinated by **nocturnal insects and bats**. Fruiting occurs during the **summer**, when the flowers develop into **yellow, spiny fruits** containing a sweet edible pulp filled with numerous small black seeds.

The common name, "**Viña del Diablo**" ("Devil's Vine"), originates from early settlers who often climbed trees to escape dangerous wildlife or attacks by hostile groups. Hidden among the branches, the cactus' sharp spines would unexpectedly pierce their hands and arms, making the plant infamous and giving rise to its enduring name.

Today, *Selenicereus daimonis* is recognized as a characteristic climbing cactus of Cali's Mediterranean woodlands, valued for its unusual growth habit, spectacular nocturnal flowers, and edible fruits.

Ericaceae (Bush)

Lampita

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Asterids*

Order: *Ericales*

Family: *Ericaceae*

Genus: *Chaparralia*

Species: *C. montana*

Lampita (*Chaparralia montana*) is a shrub native to the **Montane Grasslands** of the **Sierra Madre, Sierra Venturana, and Sierra del Sur**. It is well adapted to the cool, windswept conditions of Cali's high-elevation grasslands, where it commonly grows on rocky slopes and open hillsides.

The species typically grows up to **2 meters** in height, forming dense, rounded shrubs. It has **alternate, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, allowing it to withstand the cool mountain climate throughout the year.

Flowering occurs during **early spring**, when the shrub produces numerous **white, bell-shaped flowers** that resemble **small lamps**, giving rise to its common name, "**Lampita**." The flowers are rich in nectar and are visited by **bees and other native pollinating insects**. After flowering, the plant develops small dry capsules that release numerous tiny seeds when mature.

Thanks to its abundant spring blossoms, compact growth habit, and hardiness, *Chaparralia montana* is one of the characteristic flowering shrubs of Cali's montane grasslands. Its bright white blooms are among the first signs of spring in the high mountains, adding striking contrast to the surrounding alpine vegetation.

Fabaceae (Bush)

Palo Amarillo

Kingdom: *Plantae*
Clade: *Tracheophytes*
Clade: *Angiosperms*
Clade: *Eudicots*
Clade: *Rosids*
Order: *Fabales*
Family: *Fabaceae*
Subfamily *Caesalpinioideae*
Genus: *Parkinsonia*
Species: *P. alba*

Palo Amarillo (*Parkinsonia alba*) is a large shrub or small tree native to the western coast of Cali, occurring in the **Norteño Chaparral**, **Miguelero Chaparral**, **Insulero Chaparral**, and the southern portion of the **Piltutli Savanna**. It is well adapted to Mediterranean and semi-arid climates, where it is commonly found in open scrublands, dry river valleys, and rocky slopes.

The species typically grows up to **6 meters** in height, forming an open, spreading crown with slender green branches. It has **alternate, bipinnately compound, semideciduous leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, allowing it to conserve water during prolonged dry periods.

During the **dry season**, the foliage develops a striking **deep yellow coloration** before part of the leaves are shed, giving entire hillsides a golden appearance. Flowering occurs in the **spring**, when the plant produces abundant **white flowers** that contrast with its yellowing foliage and attract numerous **bees and other pollinating insects**. After flowering, slender seed pods develop and mature during the warmer months.

Thanks to its exceptional drought tolerance, distinctive seasonal coloration, and ornamental appearance, *Parkinsonia alba* is widely planted in parks, roadsides, and gardens throughout Cali's Mediterranean regions. It is also an important native species for stabilizing dry soils and providing nectar for pollinators during the spring flowering season.



Palo Verde

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Fabales*

Family: *Fabaceae*

Subfamily *Caesalpinioide*
: *ae*

Genus: *Parkinsonia*

Species: *P. oestensis*

Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia oestensis*) is a shrub native to the **Piltutli Savanna**, **Central Grasslands**, and **Arauco Grasslands**. It is well adapted to the open, seasonally dry environments of these biomes, where it commonly grows in grasslands, scattered woodlands, and along drainage corridors.

The species typically grows up to **4 meters** in height, forming a dense, rounded crown with slender green branches that remain photosynthetically active throughout the year. It has **alternate, bipinnately compound, evergreen leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, maintaining its foliage even during the dry season.

Flowering occurs during the **spring**, when the shrub becomes covered with numerous **white flowers** that are highly attractive to **bees and other native pollinating insects**. Following pollination, it produces slender seed pods that mature during the warmer months and split open to release their seeds.

Owing to its evergreen habit, drought tolerance, and abundant spring blossoms, *Parkinsonia oestensis* is an important component of Cali's temperate grassland ecosystems. It provides shelter for wildlife, nectar for pollinators, and contributes to soil stabilization in open landscapes.



Green Deerweed or Aburrido

Kingdom:	<i>Plantae</i>
Clade:	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Angiosperms</i>
Clade:	<i>Eudicots</i>
Clade:	<i>Rosids</i>
Order:	<i>Fabales</i>
Family:	<i>Fabaceae</i>
Subfamily:	<i>Faboideae</i>
Genus:	<i>Acmispon</i>
Species:	<i>A. viridensis</i>

Green Deerweed, also known as **Aburrido** (*Acmispon viridensis*), is a perennial shrub native to nearly every biome in Cali, occurring from coastal habitats to mountain forests. It is absent only from the **Montane Tundra** and **Montane Ice Cap**, making it one of the country's most widespread native plant species.

The species typically grows up to **3 meters** in height, forming dense, rounded shrubs that readily colonize disturbed areas, grasslands, forest edges, and chaparral. It has **alternate, trifoliate leaves** with **entire leaflet margins**, typical of many members of the legume family.

Flowering occurs during the **wet season** of each biome in which it grows, allowing populations across the country to bloom at different times of the year. The shrub produces abundant clusters of **bright yellow, pea-like flowers** that are highly attractive to **bees and other native pollinating insects**. These are followed by slender seed pods that dry and split open to disperse their seeds.

Its common name, "**Aburrido**" ("boring"), originated from early settlers, who found the shrub so common and widespread that it seemed to appear everywhere they traveled. Despite its unremarkable reputation, *Acmispon viridensis* plays an important ecological role by stabilizing soils, enriching them through **nitrogen fixation**, and providing nectar for pollinators across a wide variety of ecosystems.

Although often overlooked because of its abundance, the Green Deerweed is one of the most ecologically successful and adaptable shrubs in Cali, occurring in almost every terrestrial environment below the alpine zone.



Melastomataceae (Bush)

Pigeon's bark or Chile Seco

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Melastomataceae*

Genus: *Madriensis*

Species: *M. piperinea*

Pigeon's Bark, also known as **Chile Seco** (*Madriensis piperinea*), is a shrub native to the **Insular Chaparral** and the **Miguelero Chaparral**, belonging to the family **Melastomataceae**. It typically grows between **0.5 and 3 meters** in height, forming dense thickets in open woodlands and chaparral habitats.

The species has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, maintaining dense foliage throughout the year. Flowering occurs between **February and March**, producing abundant blossoms that are highly attractive to pollinators, particularly **bees**.

Following the flowering season, the plant produces clusters of **green berries** with a distinctly **bitter, pepper-like flavor**, giving rise to the common name "**Chile Seco**." Over the following weeks, the berries gradually turn **brown** and dry out. The dried outer layer becomes thin and papery, allowing it to be easily detached and carried away by the wind or by passing animals, thereby releasing and dispersing the numerous tiny seeds.

Adapted to the dry Mediterranean climate of Cali's chaparral ecosystems, *Madriensis piperinea* is valued for its resilience and unusual fruiting strategy, while its flowers provide an important seasonal nectar source for native pollinators.



Aguarilla

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Myrtales*

Family: *Melastomataceae*

Genus: *Madriensis*

Species: *M. springonia*

Aguarilla (*Madriensis springonia*) is a shrub native to the **Venturano Desert**, where it is especially common around natural springs and along the banks of the **Poltán River**. Unlike many desert plants, it is closely associated with permanent or seasonal sources of water, forming dense thickets in riparian habitats and oases.

The species typically grows between **1 and 4 meters** in height. It has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, maintaining dense foliage throughout most years. During exceptionally dry years, however, it may shed part of its leaves to reduce water loss.

Flowering occurs between **January and March**, producing abundant blossoms that are highly attractive to pollinators, particularly **bees**. Following the flowering season, the plant develops clusters of small berries containing numerous tiny seeds, which are dispersed by birds and flowing water along desert waterways.

Adapted to one of Cali's driest environments, *Madriensis springonia* is an important riparian species of the Venturano Desert. Its dense vegetation helps stabilize riverbanks and spring margins while providing food and shelter for insects, birds, and other wildlife in otherwise arid landscapes.



Lamiaceae (Bush)

Bitter Rosemary

Kingdom: *Plantae*
Clade: *Tracheophytes*
Clade: *Angiosperms*
Clade: *Eudicots*
Clade: *Asterids*
Order: *Lamiales*
Family: *Lamiaceae*
Genus: *Salvia*
Species: *S. amarus*

Bitter Rosemary, or simply **Romero** (*Salvia amarus*), is a perennial shrub native throughout Cali, occurring across an exceptionally wide range of habitats from sea level to elevations of approximately 2,400 meters. Its remarkable adaptability allows it to thrive in forests, grasslands, chaparral, savannas, and even the margins of arid environments, making it one of the country's most widespread native plants.

The species typically grows between **0.5 and 2 meters** in height. It has **opposite, simple, evergreen leaves** with **finely toothed to entire margins**, which release a strong aromatic scent when crushed. The foliage is notably **bitter in taste**, a defining characteristic of the species.

During **spring**, *Salvia amarus* produces abundant **bright red flowers**, arranged in typical salvia inflorescences. These flowers are highly attractive to **bees and other insect pollinators**, which are the primary agents of pollination.

The aromatic leaves are widely harvested throughout Cali for culinary and medicinal purposes. They are commonly used to prepare **herbal teas, bitters, and traditional beverages**, where their distinctive bitterness is valued for both flavor and perceived digestive benefits.

Due to its hardiness, ecological flexibility, and cultural importance, *Salvia amarus* is regarded as one of Cali's most emblematic native shrubs and is familiar across much of the country.



Lauraceae (Bush)

Laurel Azul (Everywhere except Ventura)

Kingdom: *Plantae*
Clade: *Tracheophytes*
Clade: *Angiosperms*
Clade: *Magnoliids*
Order: *Lurales*
Family: *Lauraceae*
Genus: *Aiuea*
Species: *A. caerulensis*

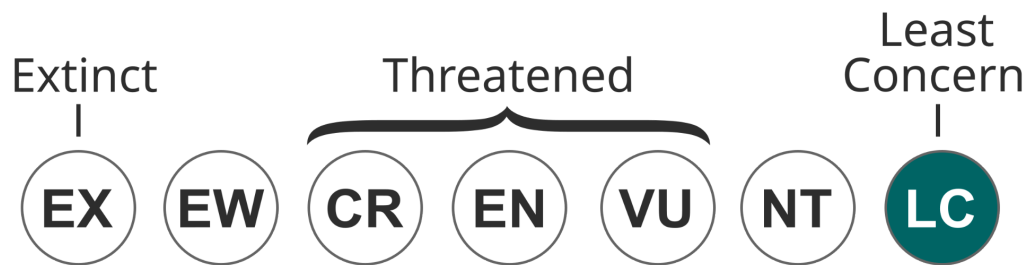
Laurel Azul (*Aiuea caerulensis*) is a shrub native to the **Low Pecori Forest**, **High Pecori Forest**, **Central Grasslands**, **Piltutli Savanna**, and **Atepi Forest**, where it is most commonly found in moist habitats. In the **Arauco Grasslands** and specially in the **Atepi Forest**, it is largely restricted to **riverbanks and other riparian areas**, where soil moisture remains consistently high.

The species typically grows up to **3 meters** in height, forming dense evergreen thickets in forest understories and along waterways. It has **alternate, simple, evergreen leaves with entire margins**, creating a lush canopy throughout the year.

One of its most distinctive characteristics is the foliage: when the leaves are crushed or broken, they release a strong **cinnamon-like aroma** due to the presence of aromatic oils. This fragrance has made the species popular in traditional cooking and herbal preparations, where the leaves are occasionally used as a seasoning or to flavor infusions.

Flowering occurs during the **spring**, producing clusters of small, pale yellow flowers that are highly attractive to **bees and other pollinating insects**. The flowers are followed by the development of small fleshy fruits, which are consumed by birds and help disperse the seeds.

Owing to its aromatic foliage, evergreen habit, and preference for moist habitats, *Aiuea caerulensis* is an important understory shrub in Cali's forests and riparian ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity while also holding cultural value as a native aromatic plant.



Poaceae (Bush)

Calenan Lemongrass or Cespedón

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Embryophytes*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Spermatophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Monocots*

Clade: *Commelinids*

Order: *Poales*

Family: *Poaceae*

Subfamily: *Panicoideae*

Genus: *Citronantis*

Species: *C. australis*

Calenan Lemongrass, also known as **Cespedón** (*Citronantis australis*), is a perennial grass in the family **Poaceae** endemic to the **Insular Chaparral**, where it grows in open clearings, dry slopes, and disturbed soils. It typically reaches up to **2 meters** in height, forming dense, upright tufts that can spread locally in favorable conditions.

The species has long, narrow **grass-like leaves** that are highly aromatic when crushed, releasing a fresh, citrus-mint fragrance. These leaves are traditionally harvested and widely used in local cuisine, particularly for **seasoning desserts and sauces**, where they impart a distinct **minty, lemon-like flavor**.

Flowering occurs in warm seasons, producing typical grass inflorescences that are wind-pollinated. While not showy, the reproductive structures produce abundant lightweight seeds that are dispersed by wind, allowing the species to maintain strong presence in its native chaparral habitats.

Rosaceae (Bush)

Manzanita

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Angiosperms*

Clade: *Eudicots*

Clade: *Rosids*

Order: *Rosales*

Family: *Rosaceae*

Subfamily: *Amygdaloideae*

Genus: *Malus*

Species: *M. cryona*

Manzanita (*Malus cryona*) is a shrub native to the **Montane Grasslands** of the **Sierra Madre** region, where it occurs in areas with **Csc**, **Cwc**, and **BSk** climates. Adapted to cool summers, cold winters, and frequent frosts, it is a characteristic component of high-elevation grasslands and open montane woodlands.

The species typically grows up to **3 meters** in height, forming a **dense, rounded canopy**. It has **alternate, simple, deciduous leaves with toothed margins**, which are shed each winter before new foliage emerges in spring.

Flowering occurs in **early summer**, producing abundant pale pink to white blossoms that are highly attractive to **insect pollinators**. Fruiting follows in **early autumn**, when the shrub develops clusters of **small, pink, apple-like pomes**. These sweet fruits are readily eaten by birds and small mammals, which serve as the primary seed dispersers.

Well adapted to the cool climates of the Sierra Madre, *Malus cryona* is valued for its dense growth, ornamental spring blossoms, and colorful autumn fruits. It is one of the characteristic shrubs of Cali's montane grasslands, where it provides both shelter and a valuable seasonal food source for wildlife.

Gymnosperms

GymnTrees

Pinaceae

Cali Pine (Ínsula, Cerros & Aradía)

Kingdom:	<i>Plantae</i>
Clade:	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Gymnospermae</i>
Division:	<i>Pinophyta</i>
Class:	<i>Pinopsida</i>
Order:	<i>Pinales</i>
Family:	<i>Pinaceae</i>
Genus:	<i>Pinus</i>
Species:	<i>P. caliensis</i>

The Cali Pine or Piño Caleno, scientifically known as *Pinus caliensis*, is a conifer native to the Piltutli Savanna, Insular Chaparral, and Migueleño Chaparral biomes. It visually resembles the Mediterranean stone pine, with a rounded canopy and a sturdy, drought-adapted trunk that thrives in dry, open landscapes. This species typically grows between 4 and 18 meters in height, depending on soil depth and rainfall.

The tree produces large, fleshy pine nuts—locally known as “piñoles”—which are highly prized in Cali’s regional cuisine. These edible seeds can be toasted or boiled and are considered a delicacy, commonly used in traditional dishes throughout the country.

Its reproductive cycle begins with the emergence of large, bulb-like flowers appearing from February to April. After pollination, the developing pinecones mature slowly through the year and eventually fall once they turn brown, indicating the seeds are ready for dispersal.

Pinus caliensis is dioecious, meaning each tree is distinctly male or female. Successful reproduction depends on cross-fertilization between separate individuals; hermaphroditic trees are extremely rare, and self-fertilization is virtually nonexistent.

Adaptable, productive, and culturally important, the Cali Pine remains one of the defining conifers of the country’s dryland ecosystems.



Pecori Pine (Pecori)

Kingdom:	<i>Plantae</i>
Clade:	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Gymnospermae</i>
Division:	<i>Pinophyta</i>
Class:	<i>Pinopsida</i>
Order:	<i>Pinales</i>
Family:	<i>Pinaceae</i>
Subfamily:	<i>Abietoideae</i>
Genus:	<i>Abies</i>
Species:	<i>A. pecorinensis</i>

This is the species commonly known as Pecori Pine or Pinolo. Its popular name comes from the region where it originates, and its scientific name is *Abies pecorinensis*.

It belongs to the botanical family Pinaceae.

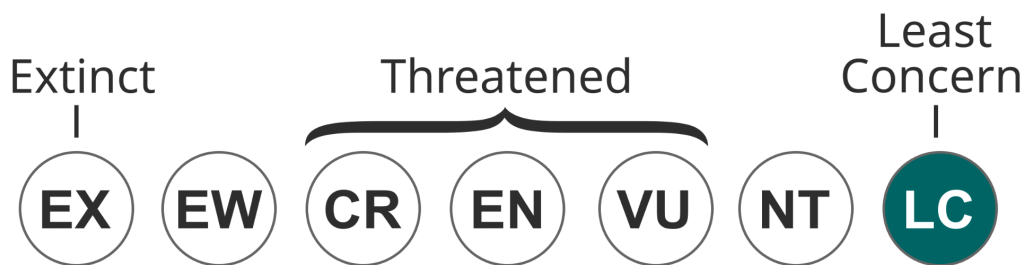
It is a tall, conifer-like tree that, when fully grown, reaches between 20 and 40 meters in height.

It is native to the Low Pecori Forest and the High Pecori Forest, the latter being a coniferous ecosystem almost exclusively composed of this species.

One interesting fact about this tree is that it is the official symbol of Pecori Province.

Its flowers, which are deep red and grouped in subtle inflorescences, appear in late August and September. Following flowering, its cones develop and later fall naturally once they become brown and dry.

Outside its native range, the species behaves invasively. It is considered invasive in regions such as southern Brazil—alongside *Pinus elliottii*—and in Australia, where it was introduced as an ornamental tree.



Ensenada Pine

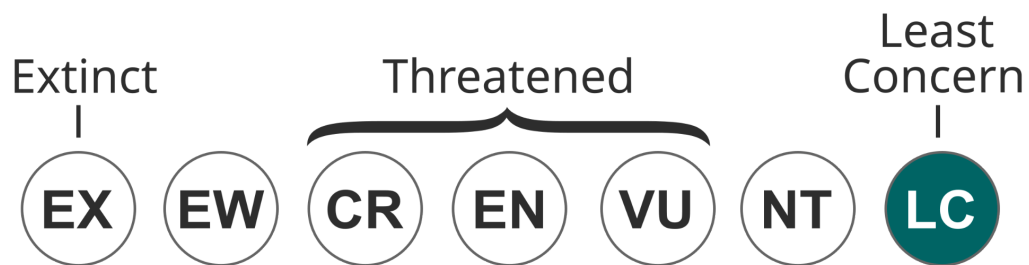
Kingdom:	<i>Plantae</i>
Clade:	<i>Tracheophytes</i>
Clade:	<i>Gymnospermae</i>
Division:	<i>Pinophyta</i>
Class:	<i>Pinopsida</i>
Order:	<i>Pinales</i>
Family:	<i>Pinaceae</i>
Genus:	<i>Pinus</i>
Species:	<i>P. ensenadus</i>

The Ensenada Pine, or Pino de Ensenada, scientifically known as *Pinus ensenadus*, is a distinctive pine species native to the Norteño Chaparral and the Atepi Forest, where it forms one of the characteristic silhouettes of these dry, shrub-dominated landscapes. Adapted to rocky soils, seasonal drought, and intense sunlight, it thrives in environments where few other conifers can persist.

This species is a small to medium-sized pine, typically growing between 6 and 12 meters in height. Its crown forms a rounded, compact “umbrella” shape, giving mature trees a dense and sculpted appearance. The Ensenada Pine flowers between April and June, producing discreet but abundant reproductive structures. The pinecones develop shortly afterward and continue maturing through the dry season, eventually falling once they turn fully brown.

Highly tolerant of heat, poor soils, and irregular rainfall, *Pinus ensenadus* plays an important role in stabilizing slopes and providing habitat and shade within its native ecosystems. Resilient, uniquely shaped, and emblematic of the northern drylands, the Ensenada Pine is a defining conifer of both the Norteño Chaparral and the Atepi Forest.

Pinus ensenadus is dioecious, meaning each tree is distinctly male or female. Successful reproduction depends on cross-fertilization between separate individuals; hermaphroditic trees are extremely rare, and self-fertilization is virtually nonexistent.



Cupressaceae

Atepi Cypress

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Gymnospermae*

Division: *Pinophyta*

Class: *Pinopsida*

Order: *Cupressales*

Family: *Cupressaceae*

Genus: *Cupressus*

Species: *C. atepinsis*

Atepi Cypress, commonly known as **Ciprésito** (*Cupressus atepinsis*), is a native conifer of the **Norteño Chaparral**, **Atepi Forest**, and **Arauco Grasslands**, where it stands as one of the most recognizable small trees of these dry and open landscapes. It is well adapted to drought, rocky soils, and the seasonal rhythms of the northern regions of Cali.

Ciprésito is a small to medium-sized cypress, typically reaching **2 to 9 meters** in height. It forms a dense, upright crown, often appearing as a compact column or rounded shrub-like tree depending on environmental conditions.

Its reproductive cycle begins with flowering between **late July and September**. Shortly afterward, the tree develops its characteristic **small, round cones**, which differ notably from the elongated cones of many other cypress species. These cones mature slowly, turning brown and woody before falling to the ground, where they release their seeds once fully dry.

Highly tolerant of heat, drought, and poor soils, *Cupressus atepinsis* plays an important ecological role in slope stabilization and in providing shelter for wildlife in arid habitats. Because of its elegant form, compact size, and resilience, it is widely used throughout Cali as an **ornamental tree**, especially in gardens, public plazas, and rural settlements.

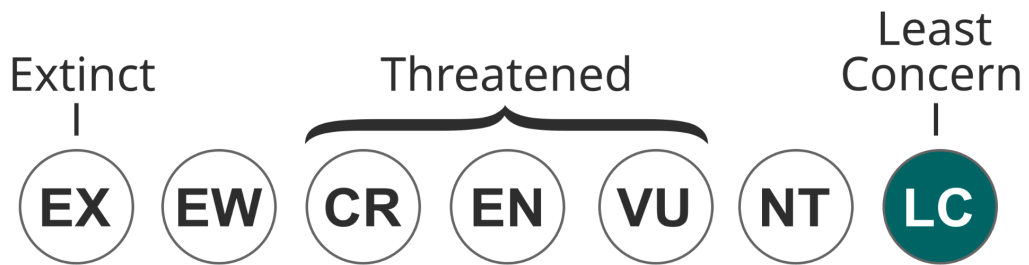
Adaptable, decorative, and deeply tied to the landscapes of the northern and central regions, the Atepi Cypress remains one of Cali's most valued native conifers.



CUPRESSUS ATEPINSIS



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Chaparral Cypress

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Gymnospermae

Division: Pinophyta

Class: Pinopsida

Order: Cupressales

Family: Cupressaceae

Genus: Cupressus

Species: C. chaparralensis

Distribution:

- ***Norteño Chaparral***
- ***Miguelero Chaparral***



Sword Cypress or Espadón

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Clade: *Gymnospermae*

Division: *Pinophyta*

Class: *Pinopsida*

Order: *Cupressales*

Family: *Cupressaceae*

Genus: *Cupressus*

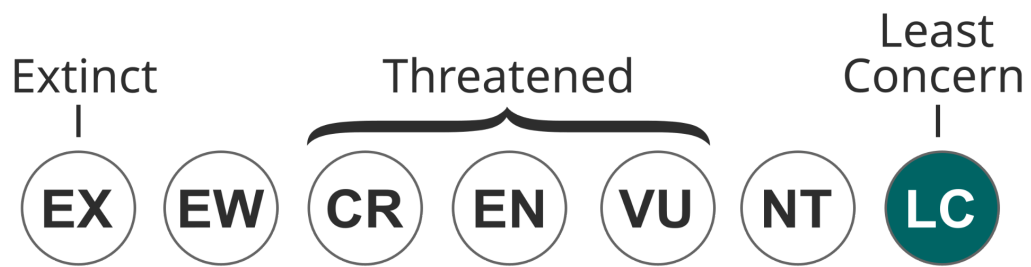
Species: *C. atepinsis*

Sword Cypress, commonly known as **Espadón** (*Cupressus platinum*), is a native conifer of the **Norteño Chaparral**, **Miguelero Chaparral**, **Atepi Forest**, and **Arauco Grasslands**. It is well adapted to dry, rocky landscapes and is one of the most distinctive conifers of northern Cali.

The species typically grows between **7 and 18 meters** in height. It forms a **narrow, sword-shaped canopy** that tapers to a sharp point at the top, giving the tree its common name. Its dense evergreen foliage and upright growth habit make it highly resistant to wind and drought.

Its reproductive cycle begins with flowering between **late July and September**. Shortly afterward, the tree develops its characteristic **small, rounded cones**, which differ noticeably from the elongated cones of many other cypress species. The cones mature slowly, becoming brown and woody before opening to release their seeds when fully dry.

Thanks to its slender silhouette, drought tolerance, and symmetrical form, *Cupressus platinum* is widely planted as an ornamental tree in parks, avenues, and gardens throughout Cali. In its native habitats, it contributes to slope stabilization and provides year-round shelter for birds and other wildlife, making it an important component of the country's Mediterranean and temperate woodland ecosystems.



Bushes

S

Polypodiophyta

PolyTrees

Great Pecori Fern (Pecori & Plana)

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Clade: *Tracheophytes*

Division: *Polypodiophyta*

Class: *Polypodiopsida*

Order: *Cyatheales*

Family: *Dicksoniaceae*

Genus: *Pacifica*

Species: *P. magnensis*

Distribution:

- ***Low Pecori Forest***
- ***High Pecori Forest***

The Great Pecori Fern, also known as Palmerilla, is a remarkable giant fern species native to both the Low Pecori Forest and the High Pecori Forest. Its scientific name is *Pacifica magnensis*, and it represents one of the most ancient botanical lineages still present in the Pecori region.

Though modest in its trunk—reaching a maximum of about 30 centimeters—this species grows to an impressive height of up to 4 meters, forming elegant, arching fronds that dominate the understory. It is the last surviving member of the Dicksoniaceae family in the entire country, and notably, the only one of its family adapted to colder, subpolar climates, a rare trait among tree ferns typically found in tropical and subtropical environments.

The Great Pecori Fern has faced severe pressures over the past century. It is almost extinct on the Pecori Plateau, where extensive agriculture has transformed and fragmented its native habitat. However, it remains relatively common along other sections of the Pecori ridge and continues to thrive in protected national parks, where conservation efforts have been particularly successful.

Recognizing its rarity and scientific value, the species has been heavily protected since the 1990s, with strict regulations put in place to preserve remaining populations and restore degraded environments.

Ancient in lineage, uniquely cold-adapted, and emblematic of Pecori's natural heritage, *Pacifica magnensis* stands as a living relic of the region's prehistoric forests and a symbol of ongoing efforts to safeguard its biodiversity.

