

Comparative Seed Manual: APOCYNACEAE

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This seed manual consists of photos and relevant information on plant species housed in the Integrative Subsistence Laboratory at the Anthropology Department, University of California, Santa Barbara. The impetus for the creation of this manual was to enable UCSB graduate students to have access to comparative materials when making in-field identifications. Most of the plant species included in the manual come from New World locales with an emphasis on Eastern North America, California, Mexico, Central America, and the South American Andes.

Published references consulted¹:

1998. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American ethnobotany*. Vol. 879. Portland, OR: Timber press.

2009. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American medicinal plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

2010. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American food plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

Species included herein:

Apocynum cannabinum

Thevetia ahouai

Tabernaemontana alba

¹ **Disclaimer:** Information on relevant edible and medicinal uses comes from a variety of sources, both published and internet-based; this manual does **NOT** recommend using any plants as food or medicine without first consulting a medical professional.

Apocynum cannabinum



Family: Apocynaceae

Common Names: Dogbane, Wild cotton, Indian hemp, Amy root, Prairie dogbone

Habitat and Growth Habit: Can be found in North America. This plant grows in forests, chaparral, and woodlands.

Human Uses: *Apocynum cannabinum* is used medically in a variety of contexts including: hair loss prevention, laxative uses, pox, treatment for whopping cough, chewed leaves and bark on top of skin breakage wounds, and more. In addition to the medical usages of this variety, it is used a food, chewing gum, and fiber used to make garments and rope.

Sources Consulted:

Moerman 1998

https://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=426, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j360>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?LatinName=Apocynum+cannabinum>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Thevetia ahouai



Family: Apocynaceae

Common Names: Broadleaf thevetia, Cascabel

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species can be found in Southern Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, and China. As well, it can be located in pine forests and tropical forests. The flowers have been documented to exist throughout the year.

Human Uses: The fruit is used medically as a purgative for rheumatism and dropsy and as an antiseptic on wounds. Another use of the fruit entails it being mixed with stem-bark for a febrifuge.

Sources Consulted:

<http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=43394>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://eol.org/pages/2892888/details>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Thevetia+ahouai>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxonomydetail.aspx?id=313005>, accessed February 8, 2019.

http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=2&taxon_id=200018472, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/bioinformatics/croat/specie/Thevetia%20ahouai.e.n>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:82440-1>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.theplantlist.org/tpl1.1/record/kew-203878>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Tabernaemontana alba



Family: Apocynaceae

Common Names: Flore pleno, White milkwood

Habitat and Growth Habit: Found on Oceanic islands, parts of Central America, and Florida. This species is usually growing at elevations near sea level.

Human Uses: Used for adulterating chicle or the creation of chewing gum. *Tabernaemontana alba* has other human uses including latex creation and lumber usages.

Sources Consulted:

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=TAAL4>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Tabernaemontana+alba>, accessed February 8, 2019.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/40597463?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents, accessed February 8, 2019.