



**The Ceiba Trees
of Puerto Rico,
A cultural geography.**

William V. Davidson

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A Cultural Geography.**

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The Ceibas of Puerto Rico

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Dedication

For Kit Anderson and Paul Niell

Bright scholars, critical thinkers, and great writers

Who have added so much to the study of ceibas.

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PROLOGUE

Christopher Columbus explored the islands and rimlands of the Middle American Sea for almost two decades before the island known as Boriquén or San Juan was colonized. In 1508, the first governor of Puerto Rico, Juan Ponce de León, began that process. One of the governor's earliest observations was of a tree so impressive in size that comment was required.

"hay otro río caudaloso . . . que se llama Toa, cuya boca sale a la mar legua media de la cibdad de San Juan . . . y en su ribera está un árbol que se llaman *seyba* en lengua de yndios el qual les tan grande que la sombra que hace al medio día no hay ningún hombre que con una bola, como una naranja poco más, pueda pasaría de una parte a otra; y un brazo de ella atrabiesa todo el río de la otra parte que será el río tan ancho por allí, con lo que está al pie del árbol apartado del río como ciento y veinte pasos; y hubo un carpintero llamado Pantaleon que hizo hacer y lo empezó en el gueco del árbol, socabándole, una capilla y poner altar en que se dijese misa; tendrá de ancho por el pie abajo, tanto en contorno que quince hombres no lo alcanzan a abarcar y hay hombres de fe y crédito, que dijo con juramento que hizo, que la había medido en compañía de otro y que hallo tener de siete brazas el contorno; no da fruto; fue en tiempo antiguo habitación de yndios y aún se halla alrededor dellos algunos zemies, pintados en piedras allí cercanas, que son ydolos de los yndios, que entonces adoraban en este río."

"There is another mighty river . . . which is called *Toa*, whose mouth enters the sea a league [west] of the city of San Juan . . . and on its bank is a tree, called *seyba* in the language of the Indians. The shadow that the tree makes at noon is so large that no man could throw a ball, more or less the size of an orange, from one side of the shade to the other. One branch of the tree stretches across the whole river to the other side and the trunk of the tree is about a hundred and twenty steps from the river bank. A carpenter named Pantaleon started with the hollow in the tree and built a chapel in which he placed an altar where mass was said . . . The tree bears no fruit. In ancient times the area was occupied by the Indians and there are still nearby some *zemies*, painted on nearby stones, which are idols of the Indians, who at the time worshipped at this river."

(Juan Ponce de León, governor of Puerto Rico, 1508-1511, see Melgaraje 1582)

INTRODUCTION

Early historical reports of ceibas in the Antilles.

Upon arrival in the West Indies in 1492, Europeans were introduced, indeed, to a “New World.” That world included “new” peoples, cultures, languages, religions, landscapes, fauna, and flora. Among the trees unknown to the intruders in their European homeland was one that stood out because of its size. The Europeans were greatly impressed by the largest tree of the American Tropics -- known in the Arawak/Taino language of Puerto Rico and the other Greater Antilles, as “seyba,” also written as “ceyba” (Andión H. 2004: 165). “Ceiba” was only one of many other island words incorporated into Spanish and then some later into English. The colonizers then spread the word wherever they saw the giant tree throughout much of Latin America. Of course, local groups also continued to use their own terms for the tree – *yaxche*, *pochote*, *kumaga*, etc.

Other American words from the islands incorporated into English include barbecue, caiman, canoe, cassava, cay, guava, hammock, hurricane, hutia, iguana, macana, maize, manatee, mangrove, maroon, potato, savanna, and tobacco. Additional Taíno loanwords also in Spanish include: agutí, ají, auyama, batea, bejuco, bohío, cabuya, cacique, caoba, coa, conuco, guacamayo, guanabana, hamaca, hobo, jaguar, jaiba, loro, maní, maguey, tuna, and yuca.

From the log of the first voyage of Columbus in 1492 about 250 botanically-related entries can be found, including the ceiba (Kingsbury 1992: 11). On the fourth of November, 1492, while on the north coast of Cuba, after hiking a while to the interior, the Admiral recorded that “They have . . . much cotton, which they do not sow, and it grows wild in great trees. I believe that the season for gathering it is all year round, because I saw bolls open and others about to open and flowers, all on one tree . . .” (Jane 1960: 53; also Navarrete 1853: I, 200). This was the first written notice of the ceiba by the Europeans.

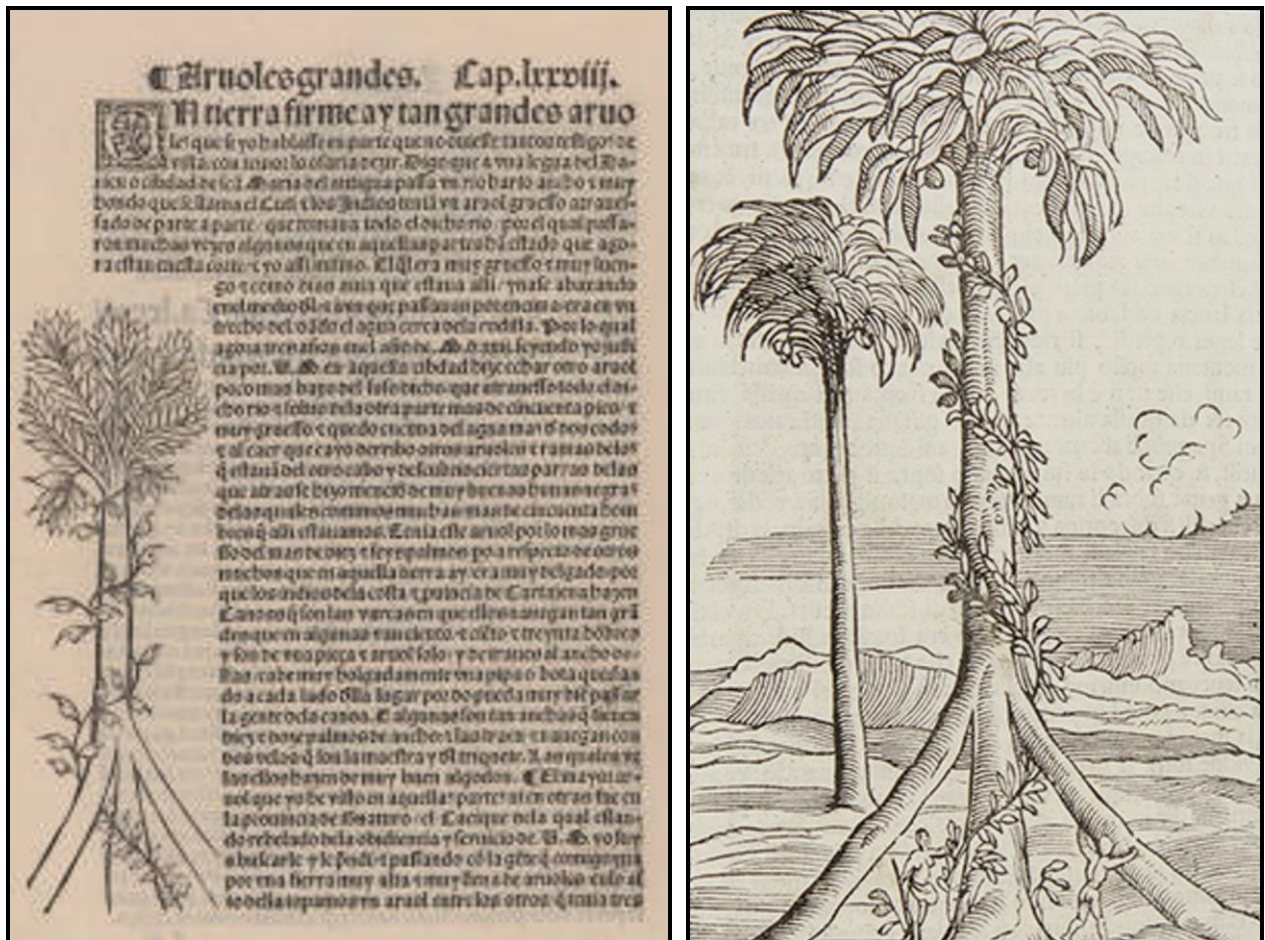
The second mention, during the second Columbian voyage and while on Hispaniola, was by the trip physician, Dr Diego Alvarez Chanca. He wrote that “We have met with trees bearing wool, of a sufficiently fine quality to be woven into good cloth; there are so many of these trees that we might load the caravels with the wool, although it is troublesome to collect, for the trees are very thorny.” (Chanca (2003: 310). It was during this voyage, on November 12 and 13, 1493, that the fleet rested out of the Trade Winds for two days in the lee of “Burenquen” at “Ensenada de Mayagues” (Navarrete 1853: I, 357).

Other early notices come from the most important historians, such as Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas (1484-1566) and Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés (1478-1557), Peter Martyr (1457-1526), and el hijo, Ferdinand Colón (1488-1539). Except for court historian Martyr, all were in the Indies during the first couple of decades and roamed widely over the islands and mainland. They wrote enhanced descriptions of the ceiba derived from the original historical sources and from their own experiences.

From Las Casas (1876: 322-3) we learn that on Hispaniola and the other islands the trees called “*ceybas*” by the Indians “. . . are commonly so great . . . that they will give shade for 500 horses, and some will cover much more. It is a very magnificent, showy, and graceful tree. Its

principal trunk has a thickness of more than three and four oxen, and some are found . . . on the island of Guadeloupe that 10 or 12 men with opened arms and even with two pairs of breeches out-stretched could not encompass . . . The principal trunk before the branches commence is two to three lances. The first branches commence not from below upward as in other trees, but extend very straight out for such a distance that it seems marvelous that they do not break with the weight that they carry, and it is on this account that they are so capacious and make so much shade; these branches are commonly as thick as a man's body. The leaves are dark-green, delicate and toothed . . . I do not know that there is in Castile anything to which to compare them, unless it may be, if I am not mistaken, those of what we call the tree of paradise." Las Casas also wrote that at Matanzas, Cuba, in 1510, a cacique captured Spanish invaders and hung them from a ceiba (MacNutt 1909: 50).

Cronista de Indias Fernández de Oviedo y Valdéz made even more detailed observations of the tree. He visited The New World six times between 1514 and 1556 and published the first illustration of the tree. (Oviedo 1977: vol. 4: 8; Esteve Barba 1964: 59-75).



Figures 1, 2. Earliest illustrations of the ceiba. (left) Oviedo 1526: cap. lxxviii; (right) In a second version, enhanced by Venetian editors, two people have been added for perspective and the climbing vine has been reversed on the trunk (Martyr *et al* 1534: libro II, p. 49). For a comparison of the differences in the representations see Thompson (2010: 120-21).

In the ninth book of the first part of his *Natural y General Historia de las Indias, Islas é Tierra-Firme del Mar Océano* [1535] Capitulo XI (“Del árbol llamado ceyba, en especial; é otros árboles grandes”) Oviedo (1535: lxxxix) claims that in all of the Indies “El Ceyba es el mayor árbol de todas los que hay en las indias y las de tierra firme.” He noted two types: one that lost its leaves, the other was always green. After admiring the large ceibas in Hispaniola and Darién, he turns to his experiences in Nicaragua where the ceibas “son los mayores árboles que yo he visto hasta agora.” During his third trip to America, in January 1528, one-half a league from the home of the famous cacique of Tecoaitega [modern La Vieja, Chinandega] Oviedo measured the base circumference of a ceiba that was 33 *varas* or 132 *palmos* [about 90 feet]. Another was 36 *varas* or 144 *palmos* [almost 100 feet].

He reported that the wood was not used for woodworking because it is light and soft. But it produces a fine wool fiber used for pillows and mattresses. The shade of the tree was prized because it was “not heavy” like the other trees. Their plazas or markets (*tianguetz*) might be **planted** with up to four ceibas if they needed so many to shade up to 2,000 people during their fiestas and trading. Oviedo recognized that in the West Indies the tree was called ceiba, but in Nicaragua it is called *poxot* [from the nahuatl, *pochotl*] and in other places it has different names.

When the Europeans saw the tree farther south in the Lesser Antilles, the smaller islands occupied by Carib-speakers, they might have heard the term “*ku.ma.ka*.” The Caribs were quite involved with the ceiba. The Wayana Caribs of South America believed that the gods burned down a ceiba and the ashes remained in the sky as the Milky Way (Magaña and Jara 1982: 117). **The earliest ethnographical observer and myth collector of the Taino of the Greater Antilles, Fray Ramón Pané (1980), who was tasked by Columbus to study aboriginal cultures on Hispaniola (1494-97), does not mention the ceiba. However, fans of Pané have novelized what they believe ancient Tainos might have imagined: “On top of Cemi Mountain grew a gigantic Ceiba tree that held up the sky and stars. From its sturdy branches grew magical species of fruits that fed the great gods” (García-Goyco 2010). However, no primary evidence suggests such was a Taino myth. Except for the original statement by Ponce de León, above, “ceiba” is not prominent in the primary sources of the island. Modern historians of the island, such as Brau (1907), Fernández M. (1971), and Castellanos (1857) rarely mention the ceiba. Brau notes, without citation, that the large trunk of the tree was used to make watercraft (p. 21) and the wooden *bateas* for washing gold (p. 135).**

Shearn (2020:7) concluded that given the physical characteristics of the ceiba it is “unlikely” it was used as a canoe. On the other hand, Saunders and Gray (1996) are surprisingly speculative in their support for the ceiba as a “spiritual” tree of the Taino that was used as a wood for cemis.

While it is clear that “ceiba”(seyba, ceyba, etc.) is the Taino term for the tree, a few times it has seeped into the literature that ceiba has a different meaning. Fenney (2003: 17) and Little and Wadsworth (1964: 334) have assumed that “ceiba” refers to a dugout watercraft. However, the Antillian term for boat is “*canoa*” (canoe). To the author of the section on “*Leyendas y relatos historicos*” in Centro de Mejoramiento (1977: 14), “ceiba” refers to bitter manioc, but “*yuca*” is the Taino word for manioc. And, Sotomayor II (2022: 11) wrote that the banyan tree is called “ceiba.”

The ceibas of 21st century Puerto Rico

This report on the current cultural context of *Ceiba pentandra* in Puerto Rico employs three major sources of information: the “preliminary inventory” undertaken in 1977 by the Centro de Mejoramiento (CM), the photographic records of iNaturalist (until May 1, 2023), and street view searches from Google Earth.

1977 Inventorio

Fifty-five of the 78 municipios reported and located (often without detail) a total of 194 ceibas in 1977. The so-called “preliminary” survey, to my knowledge, was never made more complete. It is, however, the best record of ceibas for the period. Perhaps only 47 of these trees could be located today with any degree of certainty. However, this is not surprising given the almost last half century that has passed, with the natural aging of the trees and devastation by hurricanes -- especially María (Sept 20, 2017) and Fiona (Sept 18, 2020) -- and the limitations on data gatherings from iNaturalist and Google Earth.

iNaturalist, 2011 – 2023

Since 2011 -- some 256 photographs of ceibas have been photographed in Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, iNaturalist contributions often lack precision and frequently misplace photographs on their maps.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View [GESV]

For the last decade or so Google Earth has provided photography from major roads throughout the island. Of course, the coverage is not complete, but many trees can be found by “driving” along available highways. For example, from GESV alone, 52 ceibas were revealed in relatively recent intersection plantings. Google Earth also was useful in finding “ceiba” toponyms. “Ceiba” toponyms are occasionally indicators of the presence of a prominent tree, but this is not always the case because subdivision streets are often named for groups of trees.

Previous Research/Comment on Puerto Rican Ceibas

With the exception of Mari Mut’s wonderful book on Puerto Rican ceibas, the tree has received little attention from naturalists as a “special” tree in Puerto Rico. Botanists and foresters have noticed it, but without much ado. Fernández y García (1923: 37, 48) claimed that botanist Nathaniel Britton, who documented the island’s flora for the New York Botanical Garden (1913-2/), called the giant ceiba next to the río Portugués in Ponce “the most spreading ceiba in North America” and that it “is the largest ceiba known.”

Britton’s (1924: 569) published general description of *Ceiba pentandra* on Puerto Rico was: **“A tree, reaching a maximum height of 60 m, or more, the trunk above the often immense buttresses sometimes 3 m. in diameter . . . Forests, hillsides, and river banks at lower elevations, Porto Rico, largest and most abundant in the dry southern districts . . . Often planted for shade; the woolly seeds are used for stuffing pillows. The wood is soft, light brown, weak, light in weight, not durable. It is used for boats, canoes, tubs, basins, and in construction.”**

A typical, often repeated, mention is from Little and Wadsworth (1964: 332, 334): **“Ceibas are scattered and widely distributed in Puerto Rico along river banks and open hillsides on the coastal plain and in lower mountain regions and is commonest in the drier southern areas.”**

Anthropologists and ethnohistorians have written little on the ceibas of Puerto Rico. The major ethnographical scholars, including Rouse (1941), and Loven (1933), have essentially

overlooked ceibas in their publications. Reports of the early archeological surveys of the major Taino sites never mention ceibas and they are not seen in the published photographs of the sites (Fewkes 1922, Reiney 1940, Mason 1941, Rouse 1941).

“Ceiba” Toponyms

Over the island, many places are named after the tree. Prominently, one municipio, founded in 1838, is named “Ceiba.” No other tree is so honored.

The obvious political unit of data gathering in Puerto Rico is the municipio (or municipales), the second order territory in the political geography of the island. Below the municipio level, which is comprised of a central urban place and its surrounding mostly rural territory, are numerous barrios, sectors, calles, businesses, and buildings, as well as physical features – such as quebradas, that carry the designation “ceiba.”

Municipio place names reflect the island’s history – aboriginal, colonial, and modern. Names of the 78 municipios are derived from indigenous terminology 35 times (45%), with 43 examples (55%) from Spanish words. Aboriginal leaders (19) are represented more than Spanish colonial figures (13). Features from physical geography, especially rivers, are also important (25). As many as sixteen of the municipios are named for an ancient toponym, such as the rivers mentioned by Governor Ponce de Leon (1511) and which remained prominent as shown on the map of Joan Lingboons in 1639.

Figure 3. Map of Puerto Rico by Joan Lingboons, 1639.



Table 1. Inventory of ceibas in Puerto Rico, by municipio, 1977 and 2020s.

Municipalidad (78)	Ceibas 1977	Ceibas iNat 2020s	Photos	Rural Reserves	Urban Parks	Urban Other	Roadside, Intersection	“Special” Ceibas
Adjuntas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aguada	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Aguadilla	2	11	7	3	1	7	0	0
Aguas Buenas	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0
Aibonito	4	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Añasco	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	0
Arecibo	2	9	3	3	0	0	6	0
Arroyo	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
Barceloneta	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
Barranquitas	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Bayamón	2	18	3	0	18	0	0	0
Cabo Rojo	6	7	3	4	1	1	1	0
Caguas	4	20	3	0	17	0	3	0
Camuy	6	8	0	0	0	0	8	0
Canovanas	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Carolina	1	7	2	3	0	2	2	0
Cataño	0	5	0	0	0	3	2	0
Cayey	7	6	4	1	0	5	0	0
Ceiba	1	10	6	4	1	1	4	0
Ciales	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cidra	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Coamo	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Comerío	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Corozal	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Culebra	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Dorado	0	20	5	0	10	10	0	0
Fajardo	0	8	5	6	1	1	0	0
Florida	1	5	1	1	4	0	0	0
Guánica	3	4	2	1	0	0	2	1 “Elefante”
Guayama	3	3	3	2	0	0	1	0
Guayamilla	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	0
Guaynabo	3	4	3	3	0	1	0	0
Gurabo	3	8	7	4	0	4	0	0
Hatillo	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
Hormigueros	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humacao	2	16	12	7	2	6	1	0
Isabela	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Jayuya	5	6	3	2	4	0	0	0

Municipalidad (78)	Ceibas 1977	Ceibas 2020s	iNat Photos	Rural Reserves	Urban Parks	Urban Other	Roadside Intersection	“Special” Ceibas
Juana Díaz	5	3	1	1	0	0	2	0
Juncos	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lajas	6	13	6	5	2	0	5	1 “Acostado”
Lares	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Las Marías	2	4	0	3	0	0	1	0
Las Piedras	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Loiza	1	7	5	3	2	1	1	0
Luquillo	1	15	6	4	0	0	11	0
Manatí	0	11	7	11	0	0	0	0
Maricao	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
Maunabo	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0
Mayaguez	3	17	5	1	5	9	1	1 “Columbus Landing”
Moca	4	11	0	6	0	3	2	0
Morovis	4	3	2	0	0	0	3	0
Naguabo	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Naranjito	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Orocovis	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Patillas	4	6	6	1	0	3	1	1 “Atabey”
Peñuelas	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1 “Peñuelas”
Ponce	11	23	6	10	3	5	4	1 “Centenario”
Quebradillas	5	6	6	0	0	0	4	2 “median ceibas”
Rincón	1	8	4	3	0	5	0	0
Río Grande	0	15	16	10	3	0	2	0
Sabana Grande	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Salinas	7	17	3	0	2	1	14	0
San Germán	6	6	3	0	1	4	0	1 “Ceiba de la Libertad”
San Juan	17	86	31	0	58	16	12	0
San Lorenzo	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
San Sebastián	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
Santa Isabel	1	10	5	2	0	5	2	1 “Estabani”
Toa Alta	2	2	2	1	0	1	0	0
Toa Baja	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Trujillo Alto	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Utua	6	5	11	5	0	0	0	0
Vega Alta	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Vega Baja	0	6	2	0	1	1	4	0
Vieques	6	8	25	6	0	1	0	1 “Centenario”
Villalba	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yabucoa	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Yauco	1	9	4	3	1	5	0	0
Puerto Rico	194	513	256	149	139	105	120	11

Ceibas in Puerto Rico: Categories of Their Cultural Settings

The seventy-eight municipios (municipalidades) of Puerto Rico were surveyed for ceiba trees using primarily the photographs of iNaturalist (until May 1, 2023) and Google Earth's Street Views. A few trees were found using Facebook and web pages. The 513 ceibas located were organized into four grand categories, according to municipio. (See table 1 above). Components of each major category are noted below.

Ceibas in Rural Settings– 149 (29.0%)

Forest reserves, nature reserves, national parks, indigenous parks, fields, “haciendas” [former agricultural settings, mostly sugar and coffee plantations, now organized for modern tourism, historical buildings, wedding venues, etc. Apparently, the usual distinction between “haciendas” (a mainland land use organization) and “plantation” (a West Indies, rimland feature) is not followed in modern Puerto Rico, see West and Augelli 1989: 15-17).

Ceibas in Urban Parks – 139 (27.1%)

Parks, plazas, botanical gardens, golf courses, at monuments

Urban, other settings – 105 (20.5%)

Government, educational institutions, businesses, private houses

Roadsides, Highway Intersections – 120 (23.4%)

Special, Old, Legendary Ceibas – 11

Ceiba Distribution

Ceibas are fairly-well distributed over the island. It is clear that population density and ceibas are well- correlated. The most-populated municipios almost always have the most ceibas. Of the five municipios that have over 100,000 residents, four are municipios with the most ceibas. San Juan, with 85 trees, is by far the largest in population and has, by far, the most ceibas. Ponce, Caguas, and Bayamón, the other most-heavily-populated municipios, also have top-five numbers of ceibas.

I have no evidence of ceibas in two municipios – Adjuntas and Hormigueros. Such absence probably reflects flaws in data gathering. iNaturalist has not posted any photographs from these municipios and Google Earth Street Views has weak coverage. Adjuntas is in the mountainous interior core and Hormigueros is tiny in area and population. At best, one major highway passes through the municipio. Undoubtedly, field observations will discover ceibas in these municipios.

Ceibas at Puerto Rican Monuments

Puerto Ricans seem to enjoy their monuments. According to the public arts community (<http://artepublicopr.blogspot.com/>) for 2016, there were 230 structures in 47 municipios (and, they missed some). Seventy-two of these are sculptures, works of art, without reference to a person or event. The other 158 features memorialize important figures in Puerto Rican history, either groups or individuals. For example, 85 monuments (or 54%) recognize specific groups, such as fishermen, soldiers, veterans, cane cutters, etc. (34, or 22%),

Further, five statues are of sports figures, such as Roberto Clemente, and 5 others are of Columbus or Ponce de León, earliest European explorers. Another seven recognize indigenous heritage. Statues have been erected for seven specific Taino leaders: Canovanax (Canovanas), Jumacao (Humacao), Hayuya (Jayuya), Loquillo (Luquillo), Yagueca Urayoán (Mayaguez), Guay (Peñuelas), and Alonso de Juan Nunez Cruz (Utado). In addition, four monuments representing the Taino as a group, have been placed in Aguada, Caguas, Dorado, and Jayuya (the large cemi). **The list did not include the important statue of cacique Aguaybaná II, with its ceiba, in Ponce.**

A few of these sites have ceibas. The most impressive are at Humacao (cacique), Ponce (cacique), and Bayamón (Soldados).

Ceibas at Centros Ceremoniales Indígenas

In addition to the individual monuments recognizing the indigenous heritage of los de Boriquén, several large aboriginal sites with *bateys* (ceremonial ball courts) in Taino territory, have been developed as tourist destinations. Of the numerous locations identified by archeologists, the major sites include Caguana (Utado), Tibes (Ponce), and Jayuya and they all have a significant ceibas presence within the ruin complex.

The Older, Legendary Ceibas of Puerto Rico

As is the case with large, old trees elsewhere (oaks, elms, banyans, etc.), see Anderson 2003, Frazer 1922, Parker and Lewington 2012), specific ceibas have contributed to Puerto Rico's mysticism and folklore. Modern writers have placed the tree among the traditions of Taino, Afro-Caribbean, and Hispanic cultures that make the island such a "melting pot." **See the appendix for examples** of Puerto Rican paintings, folktales, and fantasies that find their inspiration in the ceiba.

**"Over the years [ceibas] gather stories and legends about them"
(Anderson 2003: 149)**

Under the heading "Leyendas y relatos historicos" the 1977 **inventario** mentions ten trees. Among those are the following:

In Aguada, barrio Guanábanas, sector Parcelas Corozo: pirate Robert Cofresí buried his treasure in the trunk of a ceiba tree. Residents living nearby tell that at certain times of the year a blue light can be seen coming from the tree. They believe the light guards the treasure.

In Aguadilla, barrio Guerrero, PR-465, km 2.3: Neighbors say that at night enanitos and witches leave the trunk of the tree. (See also Mari M. 2015: 2/3).

In Lajas, barrio Sábana Yequés, sector Cañitas, callejón Cañitas, PR-116, near old school: At the moment hurricane San Felipe pushed over the large ceiba, a passing man discovered two botijuelas of gold. He gave the gold to a farmer nearby and nothing was ever heard of him or the gold again. (See also Mari M. 2015:

In Las Marías, barrio Maravilla Este: local folk used to get their drinking water from a pozo beneath the trunk of a ceiba.

In Mayaguez, barrio Marina Meridional, sector Guanajibo, urbanización Pública Columbus Landing: According to local legend, Christopher Columbus tied off one of his ships to the ceiba during his second voyage. (see also Mari M. 2015:

In Quebradillas, barrio Cocos, PR-2, km 99.2: In 1868, beneath this known ceiba the first opposition to Spain was pronounced – leading to the revolt “Grito de Lares.” Two rusty rings that held Spanish telegraph lines are still visible.

When Spain demanded the region around Arecibo and Aguada to be populated, residents led by Capitan Sebastian de Morfi left for Utuado where he lived with his family under a giant ceiba, now extinct, but in the location of the modern Catholic Church.

In Utuado, barrio Río Abajo: The “cave of the ceiba” is so-called because, according to the author, “*yuca brava*” in Taino language is “seiba.” The cave is also called “de los muertos” because the indigenous fleeing slavery went there to commit suicide by consuming the poisonous manioc.

Isla Vieques, barrio Destino, km 10: Residents say that often at night a man in work clothes appears with a white-headed turkey and sits beneath the tree.

Isla Vieques, barrio La Mina, km 2: A ceiba next to the sea was so formed that shrimpers and clothes washers used it in their activities.

In Villalba, at Hacienda Limón, an old ceiba serves as host of the burial ashes of the well-known owner, Walter McKowen Jones.

In his book entitled simply *El árbol de Ceiba* (2015) Professor José A. Mari Mut, in addition to three of the above trees (Lajas (Ba Sabana Yequas) la ceiba acostada; carr 465, kn 2.3; and Mayaguez coastal), selects nine more for special attention: the ancient iconic tree of Ponce, San Germán’s Ceiba de la Libertad, Guánica’s highway tree near the quarry, Patillas, Peñuelas’ Atabey ceiba (Cerro de los Cabros), Quebrillas (2 trees in the median) on road to Camuy, Guaynabo Ft Buchanan, calles Christmas.South Gates), Mayaguez university, Aguadilla, El Viejo de Vieques, at Mosquito.

To these, it seems appropriate to add La Ceiba Estabani, which can be seen along highway 53 at marker 76.6 and La Ceiba Elefante located near the puente hamaca in sector Fuig, barrio Cienaga, in Guánica.

As a clear indication of the appreciation Puerto Ricans have for the ceibas observed in their landscape, the tree has inspired expressions in art and literature that have deepened the meaning of the ceiba in the island. See the appendix for examples of non-landscape expressions.

Ceibas, by the 78 Municipios, in alphabetical order

ADJUNTAS

This interior municipio is bound on the north by Utuado, on the west by Lares, on the east by Lajas, and to the south by Guayanilla and Peñuelas. This is one of the few municipios that does not have a ceiba recorded.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported for the municipio.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

nada

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

nada

AGUADA

This northwest coastal municipio, as yet, has no identifiable ceiba in location. It does have a “calle ceiba,” but no tree was seen in the neighborhood. Also, a historic landmark known as “Pozo de Comunidad La Ceiba” can be seen in the southern sector of the municipio, off PR-417, at km 10.7. Parque La Ceiba shown on Google Earth in Aguada is advertized as being in Moca municipio to the east.

1977 Inventario

Seven trees were located during the 1977 search, but none could be confirmed with Google searches.

Barrio Malpaso, Parcelas Cornelias, PR-417, at km 1.4 and km 2 (two trees)

Barrio Guanábanas, Parcelas Corozo

Barrio Naranjo, PR-2, km 136

Barrio Mamey (3 trees)

iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist record has a lone photograph of a very young ceiba, for 3/23/2021, but it could not be located in Sector Casualidad.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A Google Earth survey produced no ceibas.

Photographs

Figure 5. The iNat ceiba is without known location except that it is apparently in a field in Sector Casualidad.



AGUADILLA

This municipio occupies the extreme northwest corner of Puerto Rico. Two of its barrios are named “Ceiba Alta” and “Ceiba Baja.” A street off PR-117, near the sea, also carries the name. Two bakeries are named “Ceiba Bakery” and both probably had trees nearby. Retired university Botany professor José A. Mari Mut lives here and about 1990 planted a ceiba in his backyard. In 2015 he published *El árbol de ceiba*, a wonderful digital book about Puerto Rico’s most prominent ceibas. The municipio has a nice combination of historic trees and ceibas in forests and urban settings.

1977 Inventario

In 1977 two ceibas were located in the municipio. One was in barrio Boriquén, in sector Residential Villanueva. The other was in barrio Guerrero, along PR-465, at km 2.3. It is probable that both trees can be seen today.

iNaturalist, 2011-2023

The iNaturalist record includes probably seven trees – from 5/26/2017; 9/16/2018; 5/24/2021; 2/21/2022; 7/12/2022; 4/2023 -- all are young, except one upslope off Punta Boriquén in forest near golf course. At least two of these can be found via Google Earth Street View.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

GESV allows several ceibas views.

Figures 6, 7. Two ceibas near PR-110: just west of Harrison Drive; Q street green space south (GESV 5/ 2016).



Figures 8, 9, 10. Ceibas near Calles W @ Q: (2 from iNat July 12, 2022; GESV May 2016).



Figures 11, 12. Adult in forest of far northwest (iNaturalist 2/21/2022 and 5/24/2021).



Figures 13, 14. Adult ceiba in forest of golf course near Punta Borinquen (iNat 5/26/2017 and 9/16/2018).



Figure 15. Large ceiba, east off of PR-107 and south of East Street (GESV May 2016). Just behind the tree are the La Ceiba Suites. To the left in the photograph is the Capilla de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria. Possibly, this is the tree, from the 1977 inventory, noted in Barrio Borinquen. Further, the capilla might be the structure mistakenly known as “El Templo de la Ceiba” in some local literature and mislocated on some internet maps.



Figures 16, 17. Ceiba Bakery, PR-110, km 23.7. No ceiba is currently in this neighborhood. Park, intersection ceiba, PR-111 x 1107 (GESV 5/2016).



Figures 18, 19. Ceiba Bakery on PR-465/466, showing namesake tree during dry and wet seasons (Google Earth: May 2018 and January 2022). This might be the tree noted for Barrio Guerrero, on PR-465, in the 1977 inventory.



Figures 20, 21. Civic center ceibas: Parque El Parterre; in front of cabildo (GESV 5/2016).



Figures 22, 23. Highway ceibas near Aguadilla: the legendary “tree of brujos” at PR-465, km 2.3 (Mari Mut 2015: 33); PR-111@PR-4443 (GESV May 2016).

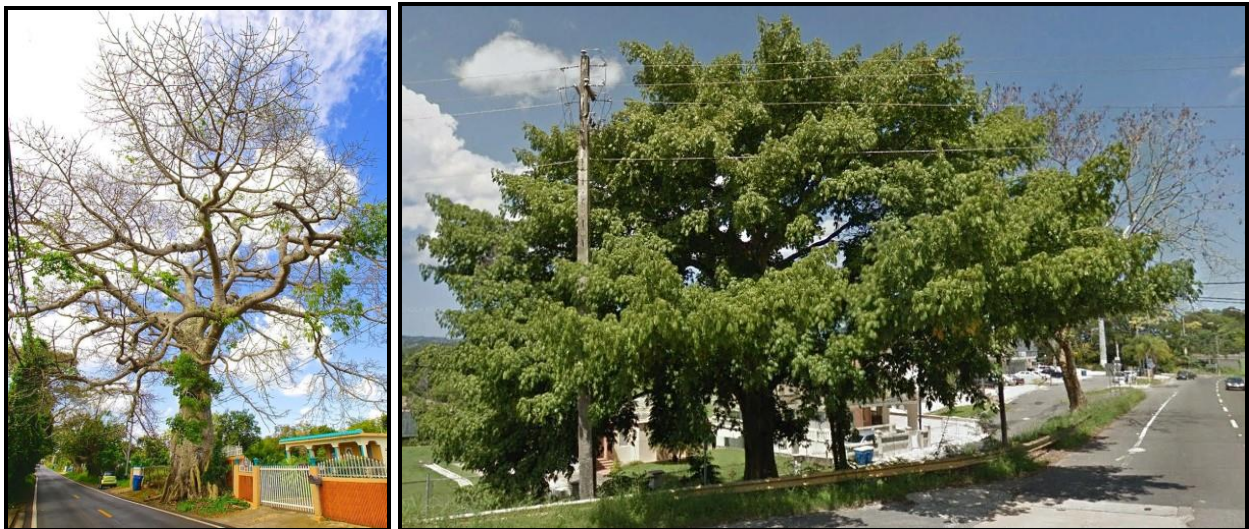


Figure 24. *Ceiba* planted in his backyard by Professor Mari Mut *ca.* 1990 (2015: ii). At PR-467, km 1.8 (GESV May 2016).



Figure 25. Seedling in forest 2,000 m east of centro (iNat 4/2023).

AGUAS BUENAS

This interior municipio is located in east central Puerto Rico. In the far north of the municipio can be seen “Quebrada Ceiba.”

1977 Inventario

The publication notes only one ceiba in the municipio -- in Barrio Caguitas, Sector Perico (Piedra Gorda), along PR-156, km 55.5). Not confirmed by Google Earth searches.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record include two trees – photographs of 10/23/2019 and 4/1/2023. The first location appears to be near Hacienda Bayoán, in the far south of the municipio off PR-173, but the site is not confirmed. The second was mislocated in Caguas, but actually in Aguas Buenas.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

No additional ceibas were seen via Google earth.

Figure 26. Ceiba off PR-173, near Hacienda Bayoán (iNat 10/23/2019).



Figure 27. Mislocated in Caguas. Actually placed in Aguas Buenas, west of PR-797, in a backyard (iNat 4/1/2023).



AIBONITO

This centrally located municipio is blocked from the south coast by Salinas. It has very few identifiable ceibas in location. However, two businesses carry the name: “La Ceiba Bar and Resturant” on PR-153 and Jardin La Ceiba on 775 km 2.0. The webpage of Finca Los Llanos has a few photographs.

1977 Inventario

Four trees were located during the search of 1977, all in a cluster in the eastern barrio Plata, at the entrance of the finca of Augusto Santiago, PR-173, km 2.5. This site could not be confirmed with Google Earth searches.

iNaturalist, 2011

The iNaturalist record has a few entries, for 3-18-2019, 4-4-2023, and 4-5-2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Nada

Photographs

Figures 28, 29, 30. Same tree ? Calle Damasco 45-99 (mislocated?): iNat 3/18/2019;

Next two from Finca Los Llano webpage (2).



Figures 31, 32. Two Ceibas on Finca Los Llanos para la Naturaleza (iNat 4/4/2023 and 4/5/2023).



ANASCO

This west coast municipio is located just north of Mayaguez.

1977 Inventario

A single ceiba was found in barrio Espino, along PR-109, east of the town. Perhaps, it is the tree on the south side of 109 at the Parque de Pelota de Espino.

iNaturalist, 2020

The iNaturalist record has two entries: on calle Sagrado Corazón (2-8-2020) and another from April 13, 2020. The first is a very young sapling, well spiked, but without exactness in location, apparently just south of the street west of PR-404.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The other tree, an adult, can be seen on Google Earth in the northwest corner of Urbanización Rocio del Valle, north of PR-405.

Figures 33, 34. Baby ceiba, calle Sagrado Corazón, west of PR 404, north of the pueblo (iNat 2/8/2020); Adult tree in Urbanización Rocio del Valle, north of PR-405 (iNat 4/13/2020).



ARECIBO

This north central coastal municipio is the largest in Puerto Rico. The municipio has four streets named “calle Ceiba”: three are east of the city, one is south. Only one MIGHT have a ceiba nearby – in Jardin de Betania. The others are in subdivisions that use trees as street names.

1977 Inventario

Two ceibas were noted during the search of 1977. Barrio Hato Arriba, Sector El Paraiso, PR-129 km 37.8 and Barrio Dominguito, Sector Mata de Plátano, camino del Tayconal. Neither of these could be confirmed with Google Earth searches.

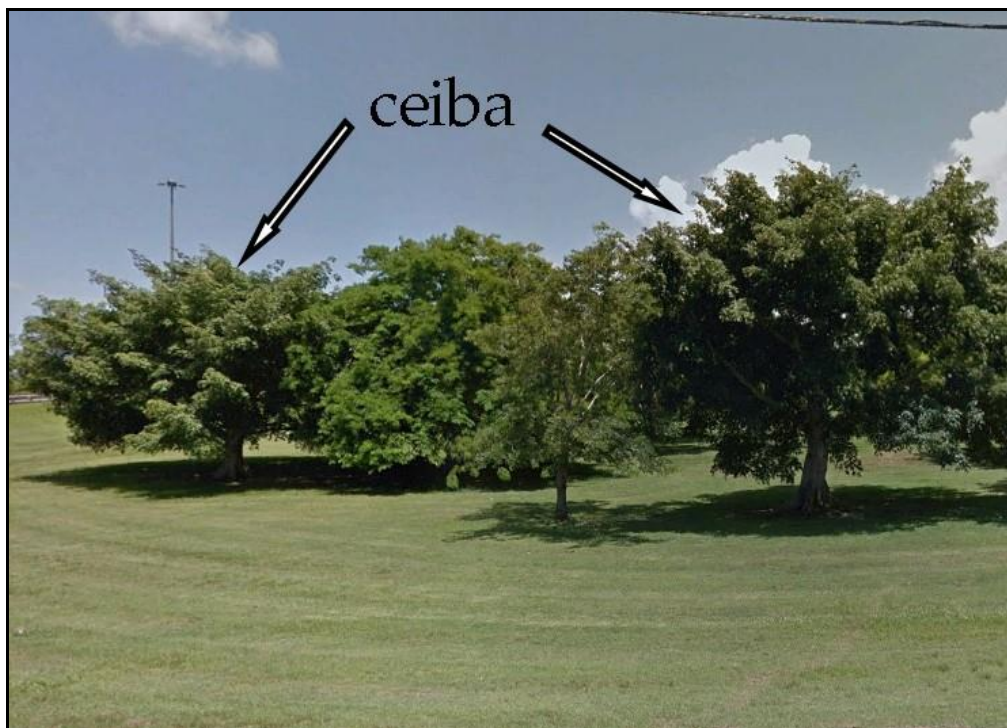
iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has three photographs – from 3/7/2022, 7/2/2022, and 12/31/2022 -- all of poor quality for identification. The locations are problematic, but perhaps the young trees are in the Bosque Estatal Cambalache.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Several ceibas can be seen from major highways in Arecibo. Two ceibas were sighted on the northeast sector of the highway intersection of PR-22@PR-129, south of town.

Figure 35. Two young ceibas at I-22 and PR-129, northeast corner (GESV May 2016).



Other trees have been planted along PR-2 east of town, between km 70 and 72.2.

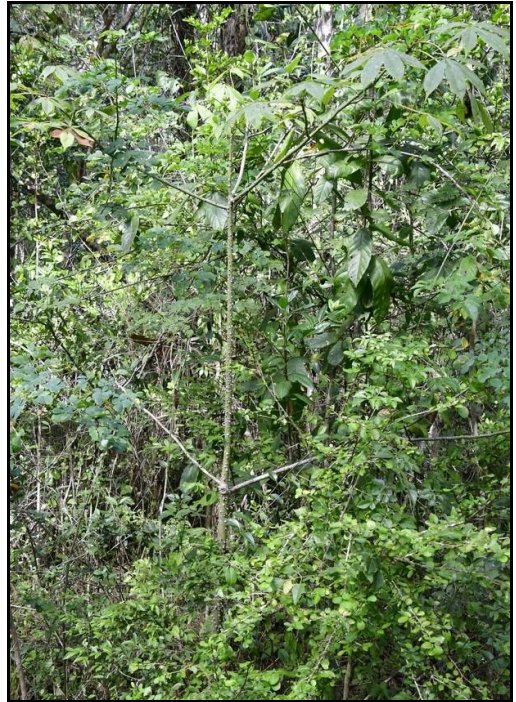
Figures 36, 37. Near Post Office (km 70); three ceibas at km 72.2, perhaps on property of Jardin Landesign (GESV May 2020).



Figure 38. A sapling at PR-22 @ 129, northwest corner (GESV May 2016).



Figures 39, 40, 41. One young ceiba and two saplings, perhaps in the Bosque de Cambalache (iNat 3/7/2022; 12/31/2022; 7/2/2022).



ARROYO

Arroyo is a very small municipio on the southeastern coast of the island. “Calle Ceiba” is in the far southwest corner of the municipio, but no tree can be seen nearby. I have seen only four young median trees in the municipio.

1977 Inventorio

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record has no tree from Arroyo.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A May 2016 street view found four young trees in the median on PR-3 at km 128.3.

Figure 41a. Two of the four ceibas on PR-3 northeast of Arroyo town, in barrio Las Palmas.



BARCELONETA

This north central coast municipio lies between Arecibo and Manatí. The town does have a “calle Ceiba,” but no tree is nearby.

1977 Inventario

A single ceiba was found in barrio Angostura, near Río Manatí, just north of the town. Undoubtedly, this is the large namesake tree at Hacienda Recreativa La Ceiba found today in that location. The hacienda opened in 2017.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has no entries for the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The ceiba of the hacienda can be seen on Google Earth with the address PR-684 km 1, Av. Boca. PR-22, km 55.2, southwest side has a young ceiba.

Figures 42, 43. The ceiba of Hacienda Recreativa La Ceiba, Barceloneta (Facebook).



Figures 44, 45. Entry sign at the hacienda La Ceiba; ceiba PR-22, km 55.2. (GESV 5/2016).



BARRANQUITAS

This northwest coastal municipio, as yet, has no identifiable ceiba in location.

The municipio does have a “Sector La Ceiba” in the northeast, two streets named “calle Ceiba” and a “La Ceiba Corporation” at PR-156, km 17.7, but in none of these places are ceibas indicated. One ceiba in Cañon Las Bocas, a nature reserve on the Río Frio, has some reputation as una “ceiba acostado.” Another photograph shows an enormous buttressed ceiba, but I am suspicious of its location.

1977 Inventario

One ceiba was noted during the search of 1977: “Barrio Barrancas, Sector Maná, along PR-771 km 9.3,” well north of town. This site could not be confirmed with Google Earth searches, but the tree is probably at the site known as “Area Recreativa La Ceiba-Holly.” Holly is a well-known pizza restaurant in the location. The municipio is also home to La Ceiba Corporation, Barrio Honduras, PR-156

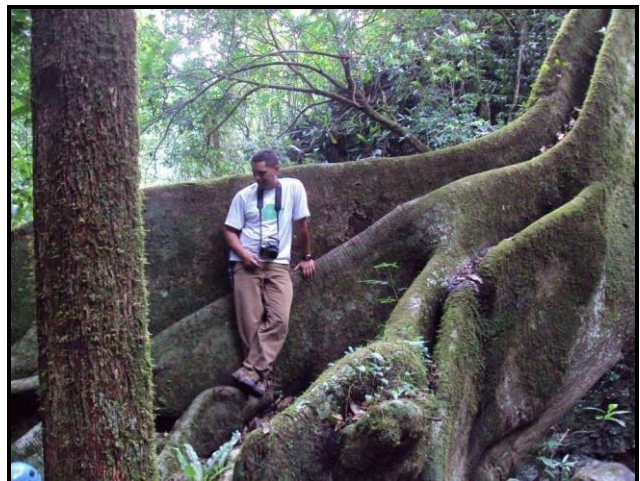
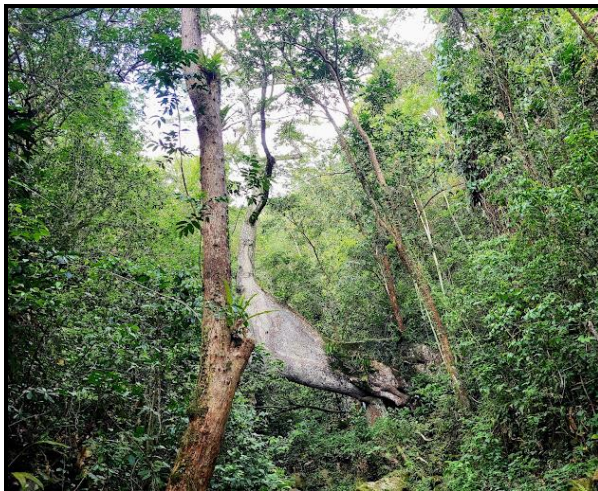
iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist has no record of ceibas from this municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Nada

Figures 46, 47. Ceibas of Cañon Las Bocas: “Ceiba acostado” and roots of another (Out of place ?).



BAYAMON

This north coast municipio is blocked from the sea by Cataño municipio. After San Juan, it is the most populous municipio. Most ceibas of Bayamón are apparently in the urban parks: at least four in Parque Central de los Niños and perhaps 13 in Parque Nacional Julio E. Mongas.

1977 Inventorio

The publication notes two ceibas in the municipio, neither of them could be confirmed.

Barrio Santa Olaya

On PR-2, in front of Centro Comercial de Bayamón

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist records a tree in the parking lot of Parque Nacional Julio Enrique Monagas (1/28/2023). Another may be located across the street (11/12/2022); with another in the nearby forest to the east (4/14/2023).

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The ceiba at Monumento al Soldado is visible.

Figure 48. Monumento al Soldado, av. Nelson Martinez @ PR-174 (GESV 4/2016).



Figures 49, 50. iNat ceibas in Julio Enrique Mongas Park.



Figures 51, 52, 53. Ceibas of Parque Julio Enrique Mongas, from its webpage. Young spiked trunks Webpage entries from 1/2023, 2/2021, and 7/2019.



Figures 54, 55, 56, 57. Large ceibas along the Ceiba trail of Julio Mongas: Webpage photographs 2/2021; 2/ 2017; 5/2017.



Figures 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63. Ceibas in the grass areas near entrance: Webpage photographs 11/17/2019; 9/19/2021; 12/29/2020; 1/4/2023; 7/8/2022, and in east forest (iNat 4/14/2023).



Figures 64, 65. Ceibas of Parque Central de los Niños (GESV 3/20/2016; Webpage 2/16/2020).



Figures 66, 67. Two more from the park, GESV 3/2016.



CABO ROJO

The municipio occupies the extreme southwest corner of Puerto Rico.

1977 Inventario

Six trees were located during the search of 1977.

Barrio Llanos Costas, Sector Las Guanábana, Camino de La Guanábana (2 trees).

Barrio Pedernales, Sector Guaniuilla, PR-307, km 5.7 and km 7.1 (two trees).

PR-101, km 19.5

PR-100, near bridge and PR-114

iNaturalist, 2011-2023

The iNaturalist record includes three trees – from 10/1/2016; 4/23/2020; and 1/4/2022 -- see below.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The tree mentioned in 1977 at PR-307, km 7.1 is prominent on Google Earth. Also are available are ceibas in the wildlife reserve and the llanos costas.

Figure 68. Two ceibas on PR-307 at km 7.1 (GESV May 2016).



Figures 69, 70. Ceibas at entrance to the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge, iNat Oct 1, 2016; GESV May, 2016.



Figures 71, 72. Cabo Rojo ceibas: on golf course, Club Deportivo del Oeste (iNat 4/23/2020; Llano Costas (iNat 1/4/2022).

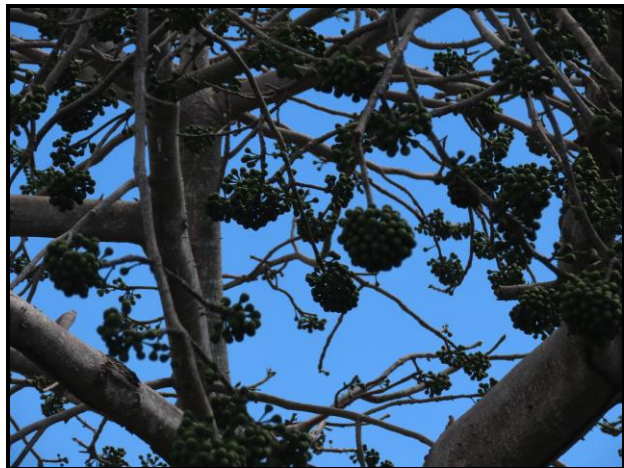


Figure 73. A sickly, uncared for ceiba in Combate, unknown location (Facebook 7/17/2019).



CAGUAS

This east central interior municipio has the fourth largest population. The greatest concentration of ceibas is west of the city in the Jardín Botánico y Cultural William Miranda Marín where at least 17 ceibas have been planted with statuary, along the artificial lakes, and along paths.

1977 Inventario

The publication lists four ceibas in the municipio.

Barrio Turabo, PR-1, km 40.4.

Barrio Borinquen, PR-763, km 2.5 and 6.0, and 6.7.

None of these were confirmed by Google Earth searches.

iNaturalist, 2020-2021

The iNaturalist record includes three trees, from 4/20/2020, 1/15/2021, and 4/30/2023. The first is of leaves only along the Río Cañas near the border with Gurabo, the second is near PR-156 @ PR-196, in the botanical garden, and the third is at the southern end of the garden. The garden's web page has ceibas classified as "cultivated plants."

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Three ceibas have been planted along PR-52, in the clover leaf @ PR-1 intersect and at km 21.9.

Figures 74, 75, 76. The ceibas at PR-52, km 16 @ PR-1: northeast and southwest corners, and east side of PR-52, km 21.9 (GESV April 2016).



Figures 77, 78. Single adult, two views, in the Miranda Marín Garden (iNat 1/15/2021, Nydra Tirado 9/27/2019).



Figures 79, 80. Ceibas, with statuaries, in the Miranda Marín Garden.



Figure 81. Five adult ceibas in Miranda Garden (Carlos Calzada 8/24/2016).



Figures 82, 83. South end ceiba (iNat 4/30/2023)



CAMUY

This northwest coastal municipio is wedged between Quebradillas on the west and Hatillo to the east. All eight known ceibas are roadside or in highway medians. Calle de la Ceiba enters from south to PR-2 at km 92.2 at a large ceiba. Others are along PR-2 and at intersections. Ceibas are probably present near intersection of PR-119 and 4491, near La Ceiba Tire Center (not confirmed).

1977 Inventorio

Six trees were located during the search of 1977, all along major roads. Four were on PR-2: two in the median of a divided highway, one on the south side, and another is not located. Two were on PR-119, south from PR-2. The latter could not be confirmed with Google searches.

Barrio Puentes, PR-2, km 92.2, prop: Obras Públicas (GESV confirmed, Fig. 87)

PR-2, km 90.0 (unconfirmed)

PR-2, km 93.5 (GESV confirmed, Figs. 85, 86)

PR-2, km 93.6 (GESV confirmed, Fig. 84)

PR-119, km 4.3, west side, in front of business "La Ceiba," near the bridge (unconfirmed)

PR-119, km 4.5, east side, in front of r tula "se venden solares" (unconfirmed)

iNaturalist

The iNaturalist record has one photograph of the tree at PR-2, km 93.6 (iNat 4/28/2023).

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Three of the 1977 trees can be confirmed with GESV, for May 2016: the ceibas on PR-2 in the median at kms 93.5 and 93.6 and on the south side at km 92.2 Figures 84, 85, 86, 87.

Further, five ceibas planted within the last ten years can be seen where PR-4491 meets PR-2, from the north, at km 91.6 -- three trees to the west (Fig. 88), two to the east (Fig. 89).

Figure 84. Median ceibas, PR-2, km 93.6-7 (GESV May 2016).



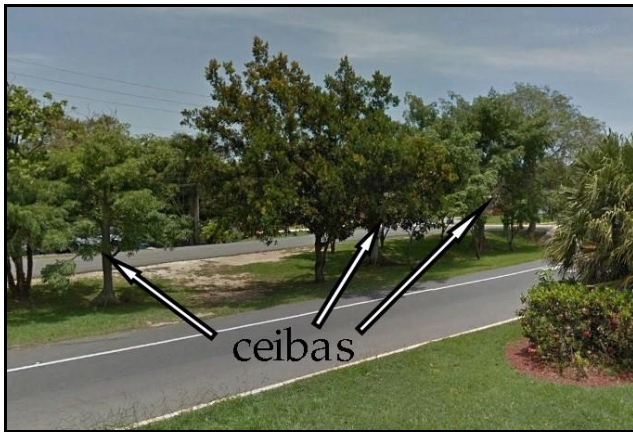
Figures 85, 86. Details of east (b) and west (c) trees.



Figure 87. Ceiba at PR-2, km 92.2 – entrance to Calle de la Ceiba (GESV May 2016).



Figures 88, 89. Ceibas at PR-2 @ PR-4491 -- west and east.



CANOVANAS

This near north coast municipio is landlocked by Loiza. “Calle Ceiba” is a subdivision street just east of the centro, but is without a tree.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from Canóvanas in 1977.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record includes only one tree – from Jan. 2, 2019 – located imprecisely off PR-186, east of Cerrado.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

No ceibas were seen via Google Earth searches.

Figure 90. The ceiba located near PR-186, east of Cerrado (iNat 2/2/2019).



CAROLINA

This north coast municipio just east of San Juan metro. It is the third most-populated municipio. Hacienda Campo Rico, an upscale recreational venue, has a very large ceiba, with statuary of Christ beneath.

1977 Inventario

The publication notes only one ceiba -- in Barrio San Antón, Sector Cuesta Quiles, on the old road to Carolina at Calle Clemente Ferrer. Fortunately, the large tree was found along PR-887, km 0.1 (GESV March 2016).

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record includes two trees -- photographs of November 2 and 8, 2020.

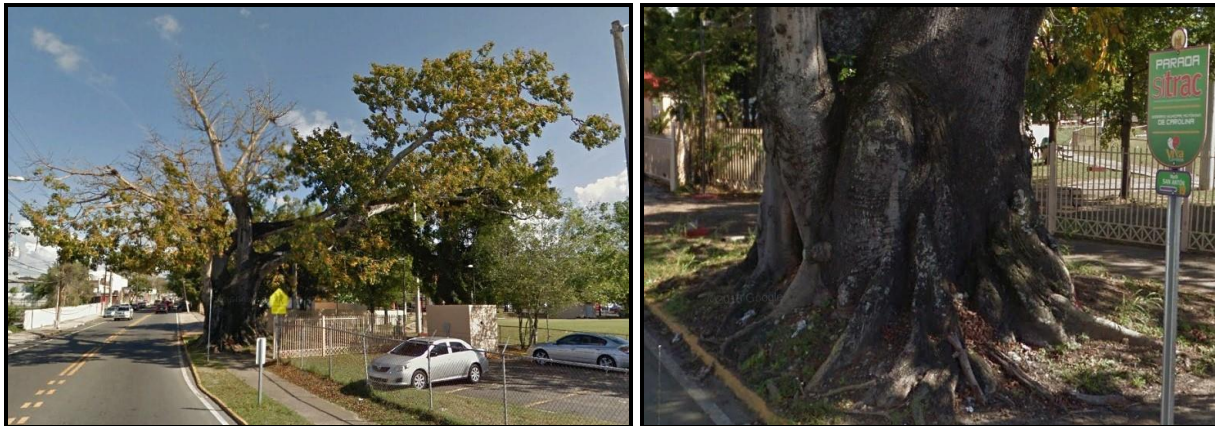
Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Google Earth confirmed the iNat Nov. 2 ceiba is in the park of the Cooperativa de Vivienda Rolling Hills, between Calles México and Perú. Several Facebook photographs verify residents' affection for the large shade-providing tree. The Nov. 8 ceiba, supposedly near the airport, could not be confirmed.

GESV confirmed the 1977 tree, which serves a shade for a bus stop.

Callejón Ceiba is entered past a large ceiba on PR-190, in Sabana Abajo. Nearby, at the end of Calle Ceiba a tree has recently been planted in front of the Executive Hotel Fantasy.

Figures 91, 92. The 1977 ceiba, now a bus stop, on PR-887 at km 0.1.



Figures 93, 94. iNat photographs from 11/8/2020 near the airport and 11/2/2020 in park of Rolling Hills housing in San Anton.



Figures 95, 96. Locating the Rolling Hills ceiba (GE); earlier photograph (FBk, 2/ 27/2013).



Figure 97. The landmark tree of Callejón Ceiba on PR-190 (GESV March 2016).



Figures 98, 99. The adult ceiba at Hacienda Campo Rico (Webpage July 2021); east of hacienda (iNat 4/14/2023).



CATANO

This municipio, the smallest of Puerto Rico, is adjacent to the west of San Juan, across the bay from Old San Juan. It is famous for its Bacardi Rum Plant.

1977 Inventario

The publication notes no ceibas.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record has no ceiba from this municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

By lone accident, a search along a few streets in Cataño found a sapling planted in the median on PR-5, km 2.3, near the Capilla Católica San José Obrero, and an adult ceiba at PR-5 and PR-165, southeast corner. Also, ceibas have been planted near the entrance to the Bacardi Plant.

Figures 100, 101. Ceibas along PR-5 in Cataño, sapling in median and adult (GESV March 2016).



Figure 102. Three ceibas at entrance to Bacaradi plant, Bacardi Road (west side) and PR-888 (GESV 11/2022).



CAYEY

This southern interior municipio is kept from the sea by Guayama. At least four ceibas have been planted on the campus of University of Puerto Rico-Cayey.

1977 Inventario

The publication notes seven ceibas in the municipio. None have been confirmed with Google Earth searches.

Barrio Jájome Alto, PR-708, km 13.7; PR-15, km 15.4; and one without location

Barrio Guavate, PR-184, km 1

Sector Quebrada Arriba, calle Cordero, PR-1

Sector Cedro, km 32

PR-1, km 68.7

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record includes five photographs, of probably four trees. At least three are on the UPR-Cayey campus, on Calle Quenepo, and on PR-708.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One ceiba was seen behind the Wendy's on PR-1.

Figures 103, 104, 105. UPR-Cayey, Edificio Miguel Meléndez M. iNat 2/6/23, 9/30/21, 1/19/22.

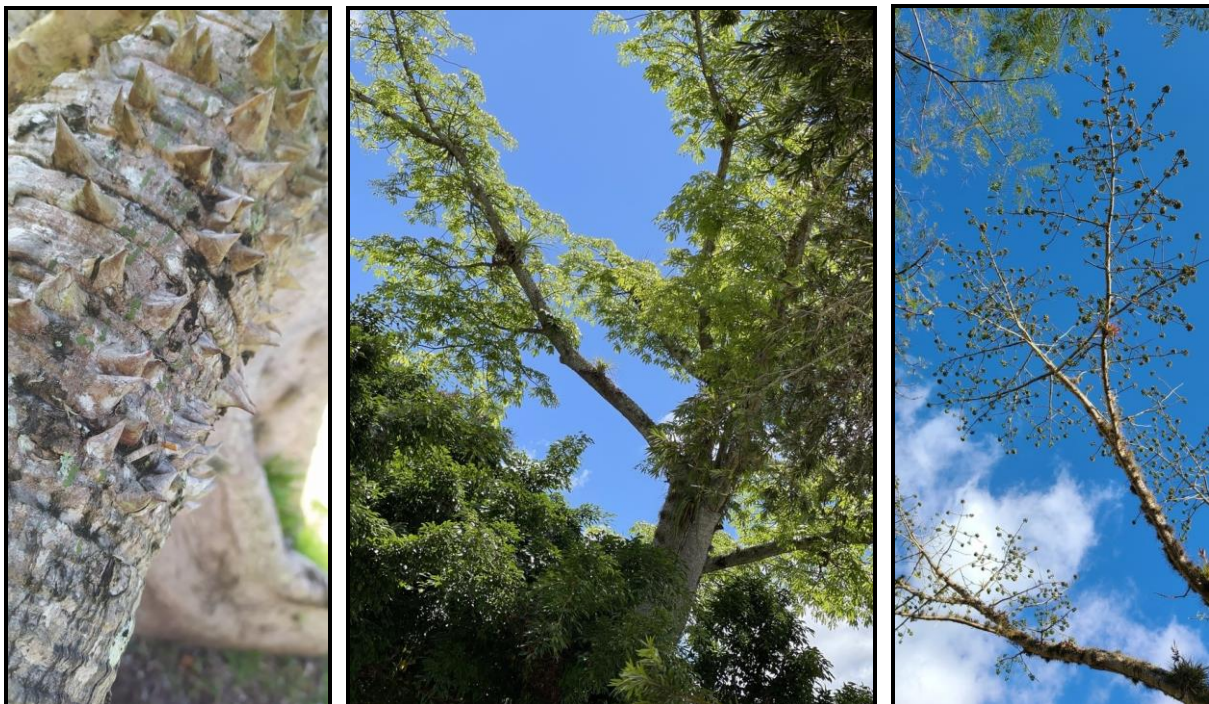


Figure 106. URP-Cayey (WP 3/12/2021).



Figures 107, 108. Ceibas on Calle Quenepo (iNat 11-26-20) and on PR-708, near southwest corner of municipio (iNat 12/17/22).

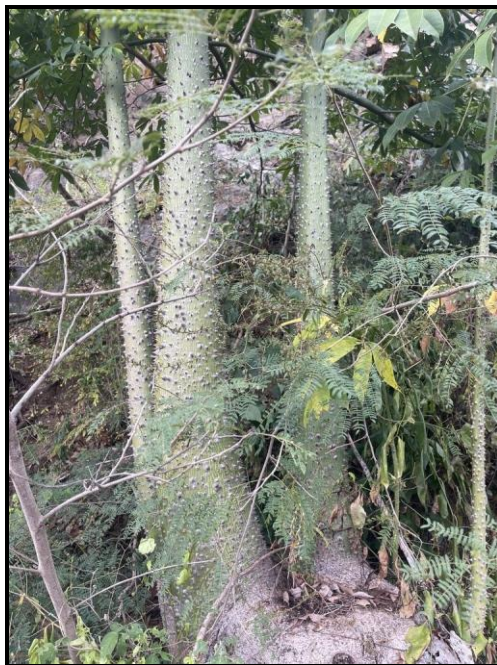


Figure 109. Behind Wendy's off PR-1 (GESV May 2016).



CEIBA

The namesake municipio surely must have been so-called because of a prominent tree in, or near, the town during its early days. Ceiba was proclaimed a municipio in 1838. It is the only municipio that displays a ceiba on its escudo. Of course, throughout the municipio “Ceiba” is seen as a name for businesses. Recently, the trees have been planted at highway entrances and in the central plaza near the church.



1977 Inventario

The 1977 publication notes only that a ceiba is known in the municipio, but its location was not been determined in this publication.

iNaturalist, 2011-2023

The iNaturalist record includes ten photographs, of probably six trees – from 5/1/2021; 7/15/2021; 7/28/2021; 10/30/2021; 4/14/2022; 6/29/2022 (2); 12/26/2022; and 1/17/2023 (2). Four are very young, located mostly near a road perhaps in the southern Reserva Medio Mundo y Daguao. The others are near the central plaza and upslope off highway 977, in Saco.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Three entries into town have been marked recently with ceiba plants. Also, a tree was planted at the plaza pública about 2010 – a rare example of ceiba being planted in the central plaza and in front of the main church.

Figures 110, 111. Ceibas at church and plaza (GESV May 2016) and nearby (iNat 5/1/2021).



Figures 112, 113. Entries into Ceiba city, at PR-53 @ 975 and PR-3, north entry (GESV March 2016).



Figures 114, 115. Tree at PR-53, km 6.9; double trunk ceiba at PR-3@974, near PR-53, km 9.2 (GESV March 2016)



Figures 116, 117, 118, 119. Saco, and Reserva Saco (iNat 4/14/22, 7/28/21; 6/29/22; 1/27/23).



CIALES

Ciales is a core interior municipio south of Manatí and Barceloneta. The town does have a “calle Ceiba,” but it is in a subdivision and apparently is not associated with a tree.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

One ceiba has been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio – from 12/19/2018.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

nada

Figure 120. Young ceiba along Camino Vereda Las Cruces, off PR-6614 (iNat 12/19/2018).



CIDRA

Cidra is an interior municipio in the east central sector of the island. North of the town is a large barrio called "Ceiba." Residents there have a Comunidad Ceiba Carrasquilla, Inc. with rural water tower and system. South of town, in barrio Sud, a sector is known as "La Ceiba." The town does have a "calle Ceiba," but it is in a subdivision and apparently not associated with a tree. "Quebrada Ceiba" is also so-named.

1977 Inventario

Six ceibas were reported from this municipio, but none can be confirmed by Google Earth searches.

Barrio Sud, Sector La Ceiba, PR-171. Km 1

Barrio Salto, PR-173, km 3.8

Barrio Beatriz, Las Cruces road to Cidra (2 trees)

Barrio Areanas, PR-734, km 2.8, entrada al vertedero

Barrio Rabanal, Sector Parroquia Católica, PR-173, km 7.1

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceiba has been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Only the photographs below were found.

Figures 121, 122. Capilla Barrio Ceiba, PR-782, Cidra (GESV 2018; PR-733, km 1.9, GESV 9/2019).



COAMO

This south central municipio is blocked from the sea by Santa Isabel. Calle Ceiba, in a subdivision west of downtown, does not have a tree nearby. The well-known La Ceiba Bar and Restaurant at PR-153, km 13 was named for the large ceiba at the site.

1977 Inventorio

The 1977 survey recognized that ceibas were known in the municipio, but no locations were given.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has no photograph.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Figure 123. One landmark ceiba was located where PR-138 dead ends at PR-153 about 3.5 km south of el centro (GESV November 2019).



COMERIO

This core interior municipio is just below the San Juan metropolitan zone and slightly populated.

1977 Inventorio

No locations for ceibas were given.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has no photograph.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A random street search along PR-778 just east of Comerío centro found two trees. One in front of the municipal police station; another at the bridge, stripped of limbs because of utility lines.

Figure 124, 125. Ceibas along PR-778 east of el centro (GESV June 2022).



COROZAL

This north central municipio is blocked from the sea by Vega Alta. At least three ceibas can be seen in the Monte Choca State Forest in the southeastern sector of the municipio. One path is named “vereda árbol de ceiba.”

1977 Inventario

Three trees were located during the search of 1977:

Barrio Padilla, Sector Ermita, PR-159, km 7.6

Barrio Magueyes, salida para Orocovis

Barrio Palos Blancos

None of these could be confirmed with Google searches.

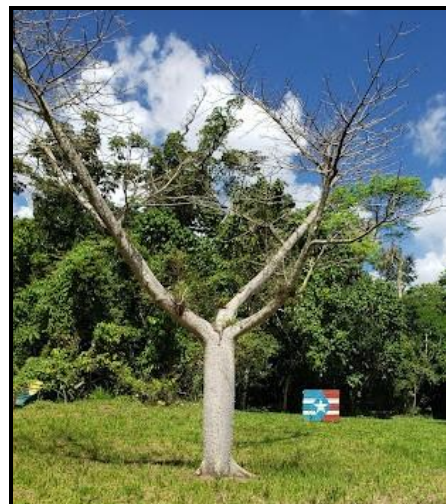
iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist has no photographs from this municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

No ceibas were discovered from Google Earth searches.

Figures 126 127. Ceiba signage and entry tree at Monte Choca State Park, a national forest (Facebook)



Figures 128, 129. Ceibas in the national forest (Facebook, or park webpage)



CULEBRA

Introduction

This small island is east of Puerto Rico about 32 kilometers.

1977 Inventario

The publication reports no ceibas in the municipio.

iNaturalist, 2020

The iNaturalist records photographs from 5/4/2020 and 5/11/2020 and probably includes three trees, two adults and one sapling. Perhaps all from the Wildlife refuge. (iNat 3/11/2020).

Figures 130, 131, 132. iNat photographs from 2020: March 11, May 4, and May 11, 2020.



DORADO

This north coast municipio is bounded by Toa Baja on the east and on the west by Vega Alta. The greatest concentration of ceibas in the municipio – probably more than twenty trees – can be seen on the property of the Dorado Beach Plantation and Golf Course, and on nearby streets. Also, there is one “Calle Ceiba” with out a ceiba nearby.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported for the municipio.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record includes probably five trees. Two are along the south side of Av. Corredor de los Papiros, two are nearby on Av Sabanera Dorado, and another is a large ceiba between Lauren and Golf View.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Several ceibas have been planted in the vicinity of the Dorado Beach Plantation. Five trees are in the roundabout entry on PR-693 at km 11 and at least six others are on the golf course. Three young ceibas have been planted near the club house.

Figures 133, 134. Ceiba at Golf View x Lauren and two trees along Av Sabanera Dorado (iNat 11/26/2020; 10/21/2020).



Figures 135, 136. Ceibas along Av Corredor de los Papiros (iNat 4/9/2020; 8/26/2021).



Figure 137. Five ceibas in rotunda at Dorado Beach Plantation (GESV march 2016).



FAJARDO

This municipio is the absolutely northeastern-most location of Puerto Rico. Ceiba municipio is to the south and Luquillo bounds on the west. A “Calle Ceiba” is in the Fajardo Gardens Sector.

1977 Inventorio

No trees were noted during the search of 1977.

iNaturalist, 2011

The iNaturalist record has several photographs –The earliest item, from April 9, 2016 is a young tree near the faro at Cabezas de San Juan. Others are from 4/22/2016; 10/22/2016; 2/23/2020; 11/27/2021; 1/?/2022; 7/1/2022.

Google Earth Street View

The Las Cabezas de San Juan National Park that occupies the extreme northeast of the island has ceibas at beginning and end of the park. A large tree probably preceded construction of the park headquarters in the southwest; three ceibas announce the entryway to the lighthouse. Another young tree has been planted next to the faro museo. The Inter-American University also has major ceiba.

Figures 138, 139. Ceiba near cafeteria, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Fajardo campus, calle Union (PR-195).

iNat October 22, 2016

GESV May 2016



Figures 140, 141, 142. Old ceiba at entrance to headquarters building and very young sapling, Las Cabezas de San Juan National Park (iNat 4/22/2016; GESV; iNat 2/23/2020).



Fajardo fotos

Three ceibas have been planted at the entrance to the road approaching the beautiful lighthouse at Las Cabezas de San Juan. One is the iNaturalist tree photographed on April 9, 2016 and two others were found via Google Earth Street View, from May 2016.

Figures 143, 144. The faro at Cabezas de San Juan, 2016.



iNat, April 9, 2016.

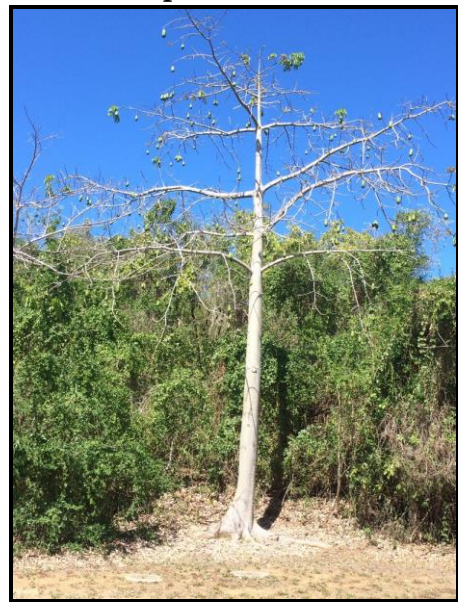


Figure 145. Entry ceibas at el faro (GESV, May 2016).



Figure 146. The largest of three entry ceibas at the lighthouse (GESV May 2016).



Figure 147. In subdivision west of Parque de Ninos Activos (iNat 11/27/2021)



FLORIDA

This is a central interior municipio. It does have a “Sector La Ceiba” in the southeastern area of the town. Also, PR-631, which runs east-west across the entire municipio, is known as “Camino. La Ceiba.” Ceibas were not detected by Google Earth searches in the municipio, but the webpage of Parque Pasivo Jannette González Sánchez has several photographs of ceibas.

1977 Inventario

One ceiba was reported along PR-140 halfway to the border with Jayuya. No confirmation with Google Earth.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

One photograph was taken on November 16, 2021 in a forest east of town.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

No Google Earth Street View is available in the municipio.

Figure 148. Trunk of tree imprecisely located east of town (iNat 11/16/2021).



Figures 149, 150, 151, 152, 153. Ceibas in the Janet González Park (WP photos).



GUANICA

This south coastal municipio is bounded along the Caribbean by Lajas to the west and by Yauco on the east. Calle Ceiba is in a subdivision without a tree, in Barrio Susua Baja, north of the city. A ceiba near the puente hamaca in Sector Fuig, Barrio Cienaga, has some reputation for looking like an elephant (Anon. 2021).

1977 Inventario

The 1977 survey recognized three ceibas known in the municipio.

On PR-2, in front of Cantera de Gúanica, south of viaducto that connects with PR-116

Barrio Ensenada, intersection of PR-116 and 331, near river

Southeast corner, intersection of PR-2 and Río Loco

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has three photographs, apparently of two trees – 4/25/2011 at “Carenero,” and 7/6/2022 in the state forest, perhaps among a few houses just south of intersection of PR-333@Punta Bellena road. The other is a very young tree south of PR-2.

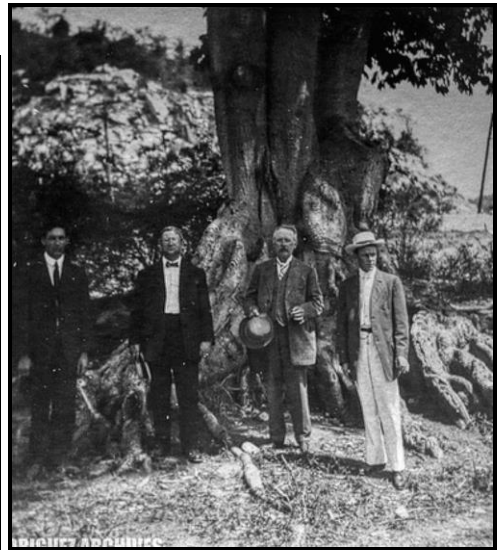
Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The 1977 ceiba in Barrio Ensenada was found at PR-116, km 21.2, south side.

Figures 154, 155. Two views of the same ceiba, mislocated by iNaturalist photographers, described as [Barrio] “Carenero” and “Gúanica State Forest” (iNat 7/6/2022 and 4/25/2011).



Figures 156, 157. Two views of the 1977 ceiba (with quarry in the background), at PR-116@PR-331, from 1910 and 2015 (Muti M. 2015: 28).

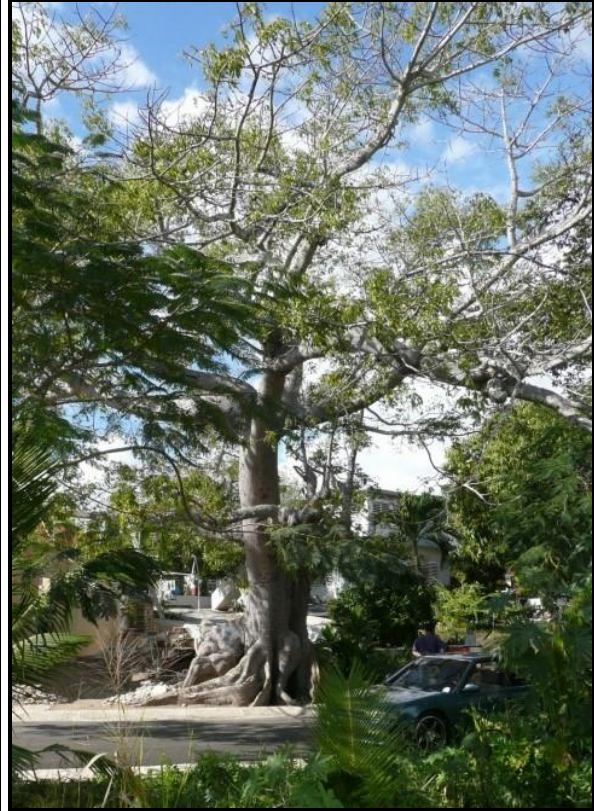


Figures 158, 159. Views from the north via Google Earth Street View, Nov. 2021 and from the south from El Tinglao bar (webpage: March 1, 2021).



Figure 160. Young ceiba south off PR-2 at crossroads (iNat 4/17/2023).

Figures 161, 162. "Elephant" Ceiba in Sector Fuig, Barrio Cienaga (Rodríguez Photograph Archive).



GUAYAMA

This southeast coastal municipio sits between Salinas and Arroyo municipios. In Sector Corazón, there is a Calle Ceiba, in a subdivision north of the town, without ceibas nearby.

1977 Inventario

The 1977 survey recognized three ceibas known in the municipio.
Bosque estatal de Carite, sector Guavate, recreational area.
Sector Carite, "Los Cubanos." (2 trees)
None have been confirmed.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has four photographs – 11/6/2020, 11/18/2020, 9/27/2022 and 3/23/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Nada.

Figures 163, 164. Parque de Pequeñas Ligas de Guayama: ceiba in roundabout from different views (iNat fotos of Nov 6, 2020 and Nov 18, 2020).



Figures 165, 166. iNaturalist photography of unknown locations off PR 713, Barrio Pozo Hondo, north of city (iNat 9/27/2022; 3/23/2023).



GUAYANILLA

This south coastal municipio is bordered on the east by Peñuelas and to the west by Yauco. “Calle Ceiba” is in a subdivision north of town, but no tree is visible.

1977 Inventario

The 1977 survey recognized two ceibas in the municipio.

Barrio Macaná, Sector Cotuis

Barrio Boca, Sector La Uva, PR-335, km 4.5 (This might be the tree at 8.2 km on PR-335).

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist recorded two photographs, of one young tree, off PR-3131 north of town and near border with Peñuelas – from 12/16/2018.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One large tree can be seen on PR-2, at km 207.

Figures 167, 168. Young ceiba off PR-3131, north of town (iNat 12/16/2018).



Figures 169, 170. Old ceiba between Bar/Restaurant Aqui me Quedo and Ferreteria González, on PR-335, km 8.2 (FB 2 /2021).

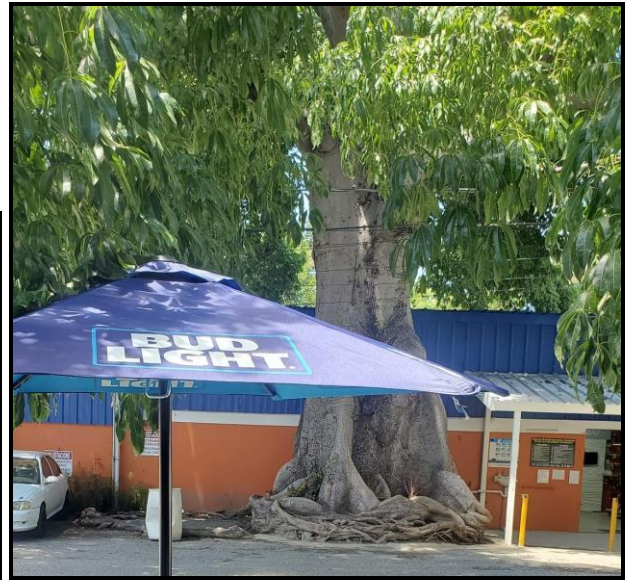


Figure 171. PR-2, km 207 (GESV 10/2021).



GUAYNABO

This interior municipio is a southwestern area of metropolitan San Juan. There is a “Calle Ceiba” northwest of Guaynabo centro, but no tree is nearby. Mari M. (2015:31) published a photograph by Joe Ralat of a large ceiba that he located at Fort Buchanan at “Christmas and South Gates.”

1977 Inventario

Three ceibas were reported for the municipio.

Two in Barrio Rosa, along PR-183 at km 1.1 and km 2.8.

Fuerte Buchanan, at west corner of the Household Building, Av Principal toward the P.X.

None were confirmed with Google Earth.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has three trees photographed -- two at one site on November 5, 2020 and another on September 17, 2021. Neither location could be confirmed after Google Earth searches.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Nothing found.

Figures 172, 173. Ceiba photographs of Guaynabo reported by iNat: 11/5/2020 and 9/17/2021. Neither location can be confirmed with Google Earth searches.



Figure 174. The Fort Buchanan ceiba (Mari M. 2015: 31).



GURABO

This interior municipio has a surprising variety of ceiba distributions. A recreational hacienda and a quebrada have “ceiba” names, and ceibas have been planted at the university, at the site of hacienda ruins, along roadsides, and one each on two neighborhood streets.

1977 Inventario

Three trees were located during the search of 1977.

Barrio Jaguar, road to San Lorenzo (perhaps confirmed, GESV 5/2020)

Barrio Celada, Sector Quebrada La Ceiba, PR-943, km 1.8 (not seen)

Sector Vivero, Estación Experimental Agrícola, roadway Caguas to Gurabo (not seen)

None of these could be definitely confirmed with Google Earth searches.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has numerous photographs, but they are of only seven trees. Two are at Ana E. Méndez University (library/museum and east parking lot), two at the old Hacienda Felicidad on Sabanera del Río in Barrio Navarro, one on Av. Cohitre, one west off calle Prinicpal, and one on calle three in Barrio Rincon. The latter is of leaves only and therefore has no photograph below.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A Barrio Jaquar ceiba along PR-181, km 40.3 (GESV May 2020) was the only ceiba found.

Figures 175, 176. Ceibas of University Ana E. Méndez, at library/museum and parking lot east (iNat 2/3 /0 and 2/6/20).



Figures 177, 178. Two ceibas at ruins of Hacienda Felicidad property, Barrio Navarro, Gurabo (iNat 11/29/2020); tree on Av. Cohitre (iNat 11/4/2020).



Figures 179, 180. Adult ceibas: on PR-181, km 40.3 (GESV May 2020), probably 1977 tree of Barrio Jaguar, off calle Principal (iNat 12/18/2022).

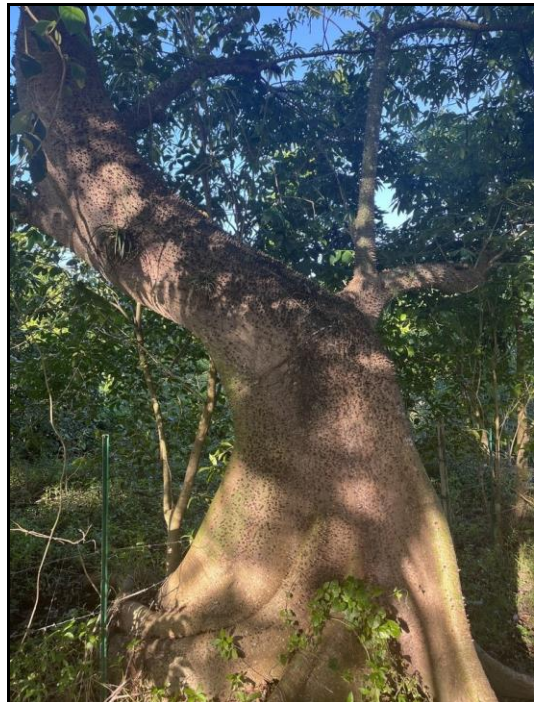
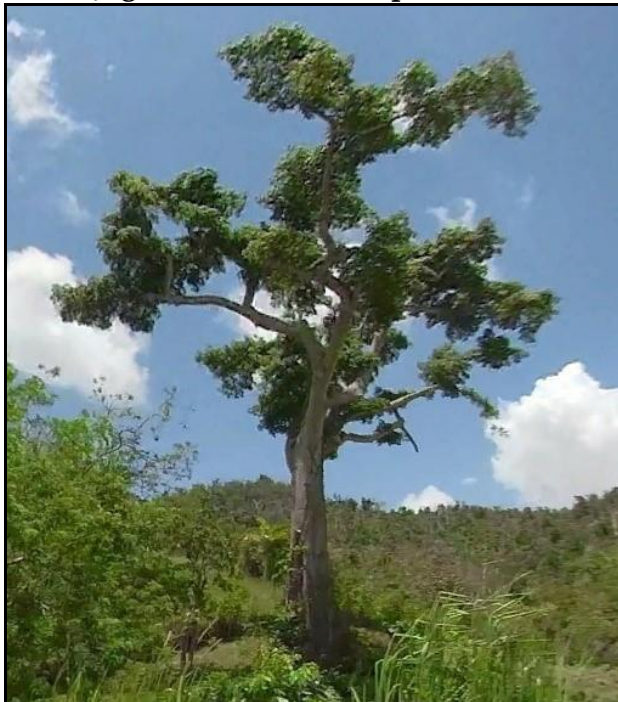


Figure 181. Entry sign at Hacienda La Ceiba, calle Bettancourt, Barrio Masa (Facebook).



Figure 182. Ceiba at entry to Hacienda La Ceiba (GESV 5/2020).



HATILLO

This coastal municipio is located just west of Arecibo. It does have a “Calle La Ceiba” in a subdivision south of PR-2, but no tree is nearby.

1977 Inventario

One ceiba was reported for the municipio.
Barrio Bayaney, Sector Díez y Nueva, PR-129, km 19.
It was confirmed with GESV.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has a beautiful double-trunked ceiba photographed on April 10, 2020 in Barrio Corcovado, but with location in Sector Quinto Soto, east of PR-6148. Therefore, its location cannot be confirmed with Google Earth.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

GESV for May 2016 does confirm the 1977 tree on PR-129 at km 19. This large tree is directly across the highway from the entrance into Parque Nacional de las Cuevas del Río Camuy.

Figures 183, 184. Double-trunked ceiba reported by iNat April 10, 2020 and GESV May 2016 confirmation of 1977 ceiba on PR-129, km 19.



HORMIGUEROS

This small west coast municipio is located just north of Cabo Rojo and south of Mayaguez. It does have a “Calle La Ceiba” (also, “Calle de las Ceibas”) northwest of centro and east of PR-2, but no tree is nearby. Subdivision “Paseo la Ceiba” is south of town off PR-2, but also without a visible ceiba.

This is one of only two municipios of the island that does not have a verifiable ceiba.

1977 Inventario

nada

iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist no record of ceibas in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Figure184a. Entrance to subdivision Paseo la Ceiba (GESV 5, 2016).



HUMACAO

This eastern coastal municipio is wedged between Naguabo on the north and Yabucoa to the south. For the most part, known ceibas are in the Reserva Natural de Humacao along the east coast and around the university.

1977 Inventario

Two ceibas were reported from this municipio.
Barrio Collares, PR-924, km 2, next to Intermedia School and Sector Pitahaya, km 2.2
(latter confirmed by GESV)

iNaturalist, 2021

Numerous ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio – from 10/8/2016; 12/3/2016; 9/30/2019 (2); 10/12/2019; 10/23/2019 (2); 12/7/2019 (3); 5/1/2021; 2/19/2022; 12/18/2022; 12/22/2022; 1/29/2023.

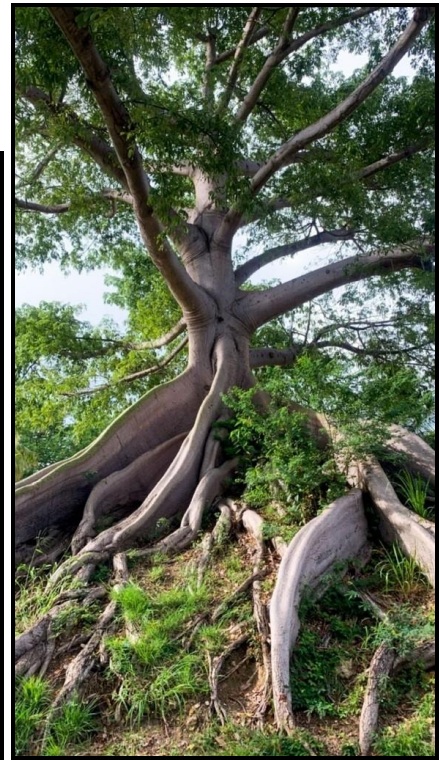
Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The 1977 tree at PR-924, km 2.2 is confirmed with GESV 3/2021. Another GE confirmation at headquarters of park. The monument ceiba for cacique Jumacao is also available via GE.

Figures 185, 186. Ceibas in town: at the UPR library; three trees nearby 86-99 Victoria Street (iNat 10/23/2019 and 10/8/2016).



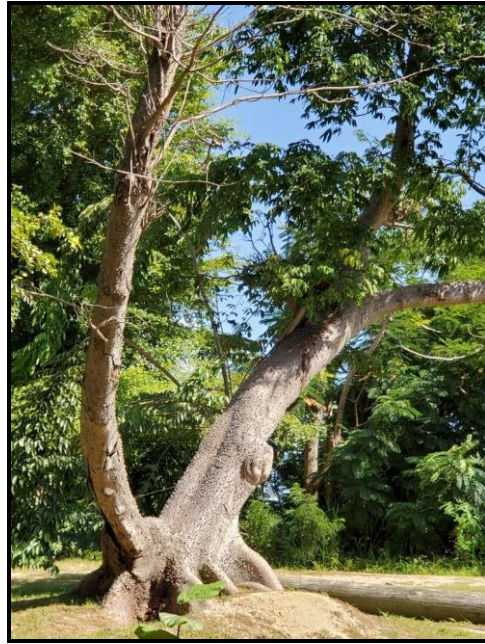
Figures 187, 188. Tree on Antonio Lopez (iNat 10/23/2019), another near Ryder Hospital (iNat 2/12/2023).



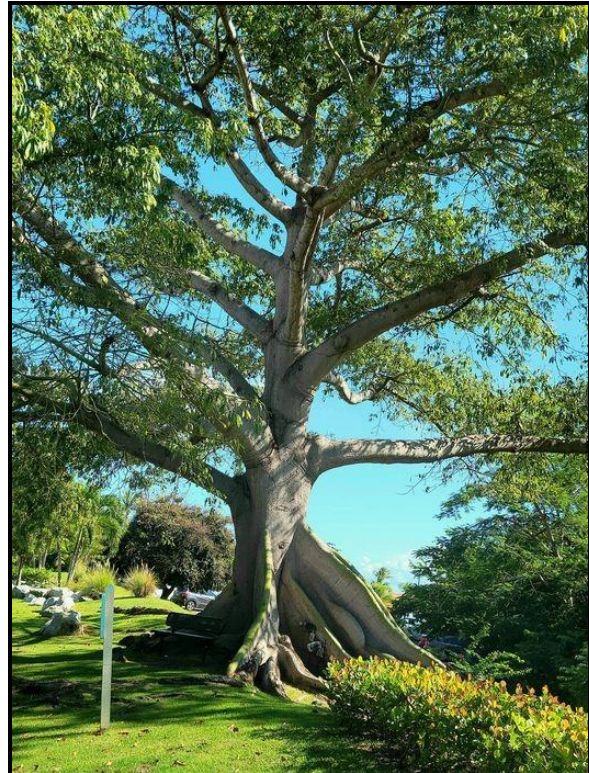
Figures 189, 190. 1977 tree at PR-924, km 2.2 (GESV 3/2021); ceiba at monument to cacique Jumacao (GESV 4/2020 and web, by drone).



Figures 191, 192. Ceibas of the Humacao reserve: at headquarters (GESV); at Candelario (iNat 10/12/2019).



Figures 193a, 193b. Same tree (?) along Palmas Inn Rd (iNat 9/30/2019); web 2021.



Figures 194, 195, 196. Reserve ceibas, all iNat (12/3/2016; 12/22/2022; and 5/1/2021).



Figure 197. A ceiba in the reserve at Punta Santiago (iNat 1/29/2023).



Figures 198a, 198b. Ceiba at walking trail in Bosque de la Ceiba, barrio Junquito, PR53 x 925 intersection (GESV 3/2016).



ISABELA

Introduction

Isabela is a northwest coast municipio wedged between Aguadilla on the west and Quebradilla to the east. “Calle la Ceiba” is in a small subdivision southwest of town and south of PR-471. No ceiba is nearby.

Inventory of 1977

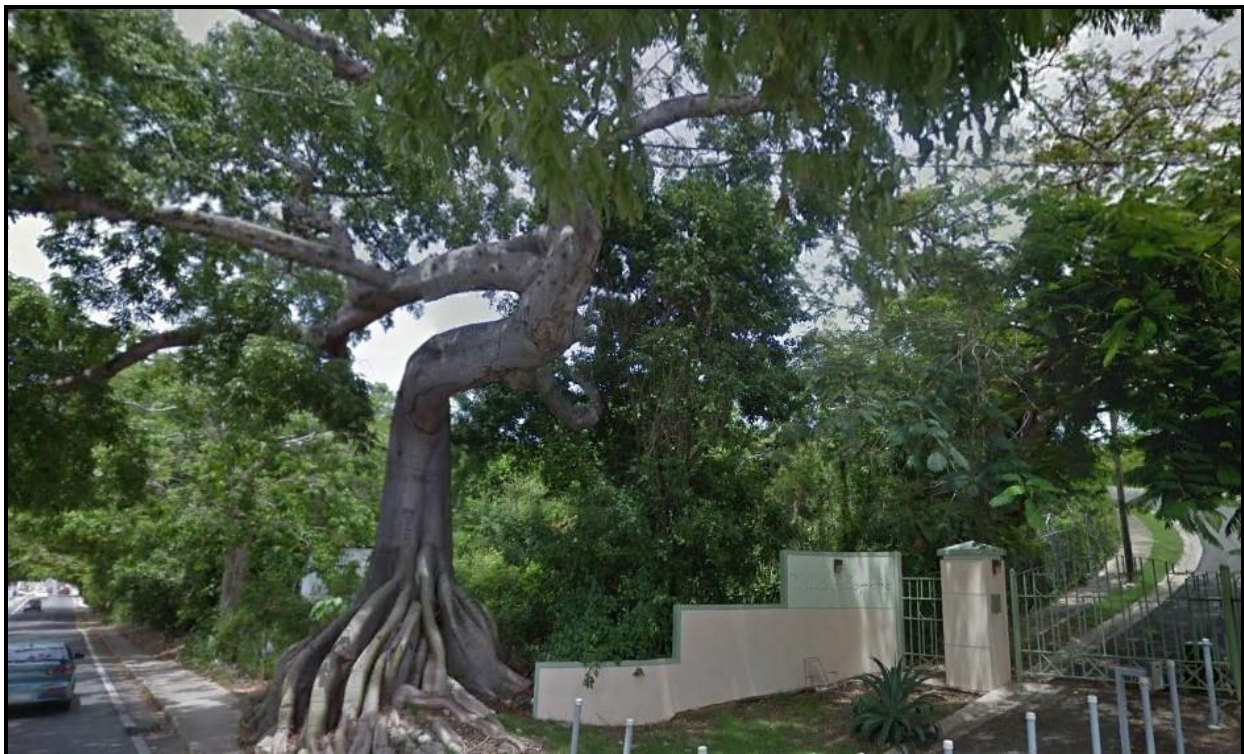
Two entries appear: Barrio Bejucos, PR-459, km 1.9 and Bosque de Guajataca, camino Elías Perez. Neither location could be confirmed with Google Earth searches.

iNaturalist

Several photographs of only one site appear in the records of iNat, from 8/27/2021 and 1/3/2023).

Google Earth

Figure 199a. Ceiba at entry of gated subdivision PR-112, km.0.6 (GESV May 2018).



Figures 199b, 200. iNaturalist versions of tree at PR-112 (Av. Agustin Ramos C.) @ Calle Villa Espanol (iNat 8/27/2021 and 1/3/2023).



JAYUYA

This small central interior municipio is just north of Ponce. It does have a “Calle La Ceiba” (also, “Calle de las Ceibas”) northeast of centro and immediately east of the cemetery. Jayuya is a center to display indigenous heritage. The museo in town has a nice mural depicting a ceiba. About 3.5 km south of town, along PR-144 in Coabey, at least three ceibas have been planted at the Museo Nemesio Rosario and in the adjacent Parque Cemi.

1977 Inventario

Five trees made the 1977 inventory from this municipio.
Barrio Hoyo Planes, PR-531, km 2.0, Fince Antonio Pérez
Barrio Río Grande, Sector Caricaboa, PR-144
Barrio Río Grande, Sector Cementerio
Barrio Saliente, PR-144 Contil, (derecha)
Barrio Coabey, PR-144, 4.0, Fomento Cooperativo

iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist records three photographs of “ceibas” in the municipio – from 12/28/2021, 5/13/2022, and 10/31/2007 [posted 3/6/2023]. The 12/28/21 photograph is not of a ceiba!

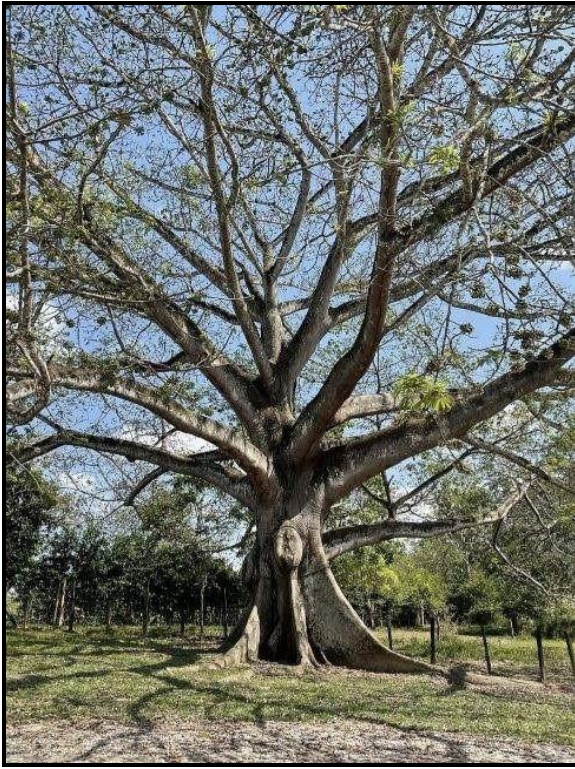
Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

No Google Earth Street View is available in municipio.

Figure 201. Mural in Museo del Tumba del Taino, Jayuya centro, depicting ceiba in Taino village (Feliz González 2020).



Figures 202, 203. iNat photographs (5/13/2022) taken southwest of town and (10/31/2007) near Hoyo Frio x PR-141, both are without precision in location.



Figures 204, 205. Museo Nemesio Rosario Canales, Coabey, with ceiba (WP 2021).



Figures 206, 207. Young ceibas in Cemi Park, with ballcourt, next to museo (WP 2020).



Juana Diaz

This south coastal municipio is located just east of Ponce. The town does have a "Calle La Ceiba," south off PR-14, but no ceiba is nearby.

1977 Inventorio

Five ceibas, in two locations, were noted.

Two beside the cemetery civil, PR-14, km 12.8

Three in Barrio Sabana Llana, PR-510, 3.3

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record includes a lone tree, apparently located on the north side of highway 5512 at the end of the road east of PR-512 -- from 1/27/2021.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One of the cemetery ceibas from 1977 can be seen on PR-14.

Figure 208. Large ceiba at eastern end of PR-5512 (iNat, Jan 27, 2021).



Figures 209, 210. Old ceiba at cemetery on PR-14 at km 12.8 (GESV 5/2021).



Figures 211, 212. An old ceiba on PR-14 at km 15.8 (GESV 5/2021).



JUNCOS

This east central interior northeastern municipio is bound with Las Piedras to the east. Several place names use “ceiba” – a quebrada (which might have a ceiba where it crosses PR-31), urbanización Paseo de la Ceiba, and Praderas de Ceiba Norte.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One find along PR-31 east of town.

Figure 213. Roadside ceiba at PR-31, km 20.1 (GESV 10/2019).



LAJAS

This southwest coastal municipio, just east of Cabo Rojo, is rich in ceiba sites. Several trees are in the wildlife refuge, near Laguna Cartagena and in the llanos adjacent. It does have a “Parada La Ceiba” restaurant, the famous “Ceiba Acostada” from the 1928 Hurricane San Felipe, and “Ceiba,” a villa in La Parguera, to the south of the town.

1977 Inventario

From this municipio six trees made the 1977 inventory. None have been confirmed.

Barrio Costa, Sector Cuesta Blanca, PR-116, km 14

Barrio Costa, Sector Finca Miguel Carlo, PR-116 and 323

Barrio Palmarejo, Sector Grant, PR-101, to Boquerón

Barrio Palmarejo, Est. Exp. Agrícola

Barrio Sabana Yegues, Sector Cañitas, Callejón Cañitas, PR-116, near old school

Barrio Sabana Yegues, Sector Cañitas, PR-116

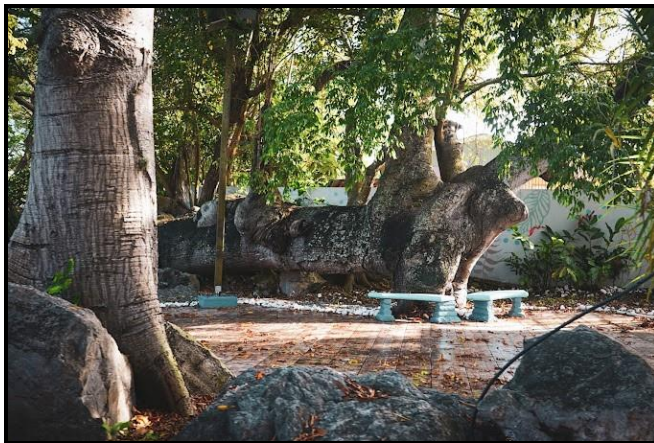
iNaturalist, 2021

Several sites near the southern coast are photographed for iNaturalist records, from 6/14/2013; 3/4/2019; 3/8/2019; 4/11/2020; 10/6/2021; 1/17/2022; 3/16/2022; and 1/15/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Google Earth Street View was useful in finding other ceibas, such as at Plaza Ceiba Acostado and along PR-101 at km 10.

Figures 214, 215. Often-photographed famous “Ceiba Acostado”/explanatory plaque (WP 2022-3).



Figures 216, 217, 218. Ceibas of the llano, south of Laguna Cartagena (iNat 3/8/19; 6/14/13; 3/4/19).



Figures 219, 220, 221. Ceibas of the llano, south of Laguna Cartagena (iNat 10/6/21; 3/16/22; 4/11/2020).



Figures 222, 223. Ceibas along PR-101, near km 10 (GESV 10/2021).

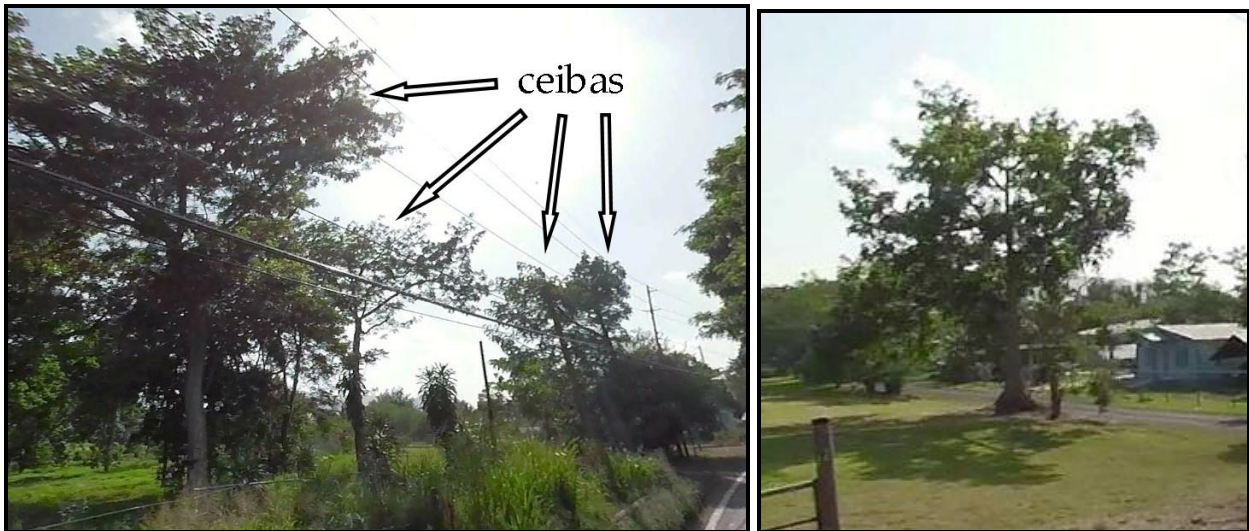


Figure 224. Parada La Ceiba, a restaurant on PR-101 at km 9.9, just east of the ceibas above (GESV 10/2021).



LARES

This interior municipio is blocked from the north sea by Camuy. South of town “Calle Ceiba” is a part of PR-436.

1977 Inventario

Four ceibas were reported for the municipio in 1977. None could be confirmed by Google Earth.

Barrio Bartolo, PR-431, km 0.8

Barrio La Torre, Sector Vega de Calcerrada, PR-128, km 50.5

Barrio Bartolo, cerca Hacienda Vilella, PR-128, km 54.0

Barrio Bartolo, Sector Los Millonarios, PR-135, km 64.5

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist records one tree: for 1/12/2023. The photograph seems to have been taken near Calle La Balear, on Lago Guayo, very near to the border with Adjuntas. The location is quite imprecise.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

none

Figure 225. Ceiba near Lago Guyo ? (iNat 1/12/23).



LAS MARIAS

This west central interior municipio is blocked from the sea by Añasco and Mayaguez. Ceibas apparently are rare here. Along the river of Hacienda El Porvenir three trees can be seen.

1977 Inventario

The two ceibas reported in 1977 were at Barrio Maravilla Este, PR-119 and Barrio Naranjales, Sector Finca Las Delicias, PR-120, km 5.6. Neither could be confirmed by Google Earth.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

no entries.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Rancho La Ceiba, a cockfighting and playground venue on PR-119, has a large ceiba along the highway just to the south. It is possible that this tree is the one noted in the 1977 listing.

Figures 226, 227, 228. The ceibas of Hacienda El Porvenir (Facebook): campgrounds, river trees.



LAS PIEDRAS

This east central interior municipio is blocked from the sea by Naguabo and Humacao. While no confirmed ceiba exists, the municipio does have a barrio “Ceiba.”

1977 Inventorio

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

nada

Figure 229. Photograph of large ceiba on Facebook of Hacienda El Paraiso, Las Piedras, 2021. [needs confirmation]



LOIZA

This north coast municipio is bounded on east by Río Grande and on the west by Carolina.

1977 Inventario

The publication notes only one ceiba in the municipio. It was along the road (PR-187) towards Talega about 0.5 km from the Ancon del Río Loiza. Not confirmed.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record includes probably five trees. Two are at the back of the property of the Parque Historico Cueva María de la Cruz (one mature, one seedling), two are in the Reserva Natural Bosques de Piñones, and a final can be seen aside el Paseo Vereda de Casuarina, Campamento Piñones.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Google searches found two more trees along PR-188: at the Ricky Martin Foundation and immediately across the street.

Figures 230, 231. Ceibas at Parque Historico Cueva María de la Cruz (iNat 12/1/2022); 1/18.2023).



Figures 232, 233. Ceibas near Ricky Martin Foundation, PR-188, km 5.6 (GESV April 2016).



Figures 234, 235. Reserva Natural Bosque de Piñones (iNat 11/3/2021; 4/24/2021).



Figure 236. Paseo Veredad la Casuarina, Campamento Piñones (iNat 3/16/2022).



LUQUILLO

This municipio lies along the northeast coast between Fajardo to the east and Rio Grande on the west.

1977 Inventario

A lone ceiba was reported from this municipio.

Región de Palmar, near the YMCA, next to the Río Mameyes. Unconfirmed.

iNaturalist, 2021

Several ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio – from 8/15/2018; 4/12/2019; 1/9/2020; 3/30/2021; 4/9/2022; and 1/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Several locations are available from Google Earth searches.

Figures 237, 238, 239, 240. Six ceibas along PR-193, near km 0.8 (GESV 1/2020)



Figures 241, 242, 243, 244. Four ceibas along PR-3, near km 36 – 36.7 (GESV 1/2020).



Figure 245. Intersection PR-3 x PR Int 3 (iNat 8/15/2018).



Figures 246, 247. Rural ceibas at Yunque National Forest Park (iNat 1/9/2020); Pitahaya, Corredo Ecológico del Noreste (iNat 3/30/2021);



Figures 248, 249. Coco Río (webpage 6/6/2018); Paseo Soliman (iNat 4/9/2022).



MANATI

The ceibas of this north central coastal municipio primarily come from the Reserva Natural Hacienda de la Esperanza, a former sugar plantation. The municipio does have a street named “calle Ceiba” in a subdivision on the border with Vega Baja, but no tree is nearby.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas are recorded for the search of 1977.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist has seven sites noted for this municipio – from 5/6/2017; 9/6/2021; 9/10/2021; 3/3/2022; 5/22/2020; 7/16/2022; and 4/27/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Searches confirmed ceibas at Hacienda La Esperanza, a natural reserve up the Río Manatí.

Figures 250, 251, 252. Young rural ceibas just southeast of la boca del Río Manatí (iNat 9/10/2021; 3/3/2022), and at Manatí de Guayaney (iNat 7/6/2022).



Figures 253, 254, 255. Older ceibas at Hacienda La Esperanza (iNat 5/6/2017; 9/6/2021; 5/22/2020).



Figures 256, 257, 258. Younger ceibas at Hacienda Esperanza (GE).



Figure 259. Adult ceiba in forest 1500 m east of Hacienda de la Esperanza (iNat 4/27/2023).



MARICAO

This western central interior municipio is landlocked because of Mayaguez.

1977 Inventorio

The publication reports no ceibas in the municipio.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist records one tree – flowers only – from 5/7/2021. Apparently, the ceiba is near the entrance to Hacienda Juanita on PR-105, km 22.5. The hacienda is portrayed as “a laid back hotel in the rainforest.” Additionally, a large ceiba is located about 150 meters behind the hotel in an open field.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

No ceibas revealed from Google Earth searches.

Figures 260, 261. Young ceiba planted at Montoso Gardens, PR-120, km 18.9, in June 2019 (Tomek K.); fresh leaves at Hacienda Juanita, PR-105, km 22.5 (Robert Siegel, iNat 5/7/2021).



MAUNABO

Introduction

This small coastal municipio occupies the absolute southeastern edge of the island. The town has a “calle Ceiba” among a subdivision with tree-named streets. No ceiba seems present.

1977 Inventory

Two ceibas were reported from Barrio Quebrada Arenas, Sector Los Ruises, PR-939. In Google Earth searches, these trees were not seen.

iNaturalist

Three trees from two sites were photographed – from 5/1/2021 and 9/6/2021.

Google Earth revealed no ceibas.

Figures 262, 263. Photographs of ceibas in the Reserva Natural Humedal Punta Tuna (iNat 5/1/2021). (same tree ?)

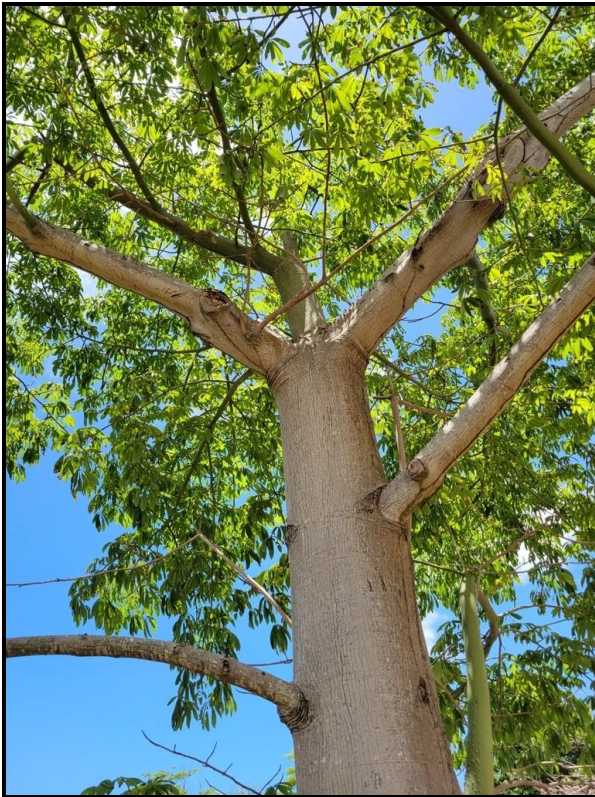


Figure 264. In Emajagua, in the Reserva Humedal, just east off PR-7760 (iNat 9/6/2021).



MAYAGUEZ

Introduction

Mayaguez is an important central west coast municipio. Ceibas can be found in several different settings and even contribute to the legend of a Columbus landing site in 1493. “Calle Ceiba” can be found in a subdivision just west of the Catholic university and the UPR-Mayaguez campus has trees as well as a center known as CEIBA (Centro para la Investigación del Bilinguismo y Apredizaje). The UPR’s Ceiba Foundation offers financial support for students.

1977 Inventario

The 1977 publication notes that three ceibas are known in the municipio.
PR-102 (calle Comercio) x av. José González C. [Columbus Landing]
Sector Miradero, PR-108, km 2.4
Inmediaciones Calle Liceo #76

iNaturalist, 2011-2023

The iNaturalist record includes probably five trees – from 4/7/2013; 11/22/2020; 12/5/2022; 1/28/2023, 3/6/2023, and 3/15/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

GE is helpful in many cases.

Figures 265, 266, 267. Views of the famous legendary ceiba at Columbus Landing (iNat 4/7/2013; GESV 5/2016; iNat 12/5/2022)



Figures 268, 269. Two ceibas, aligned with tree above, in adjacent subdivision. Two photographs of tree at Av. E. M. Hostos at Columbus Landing (GESV May 2016; iNat 3-15-2023).



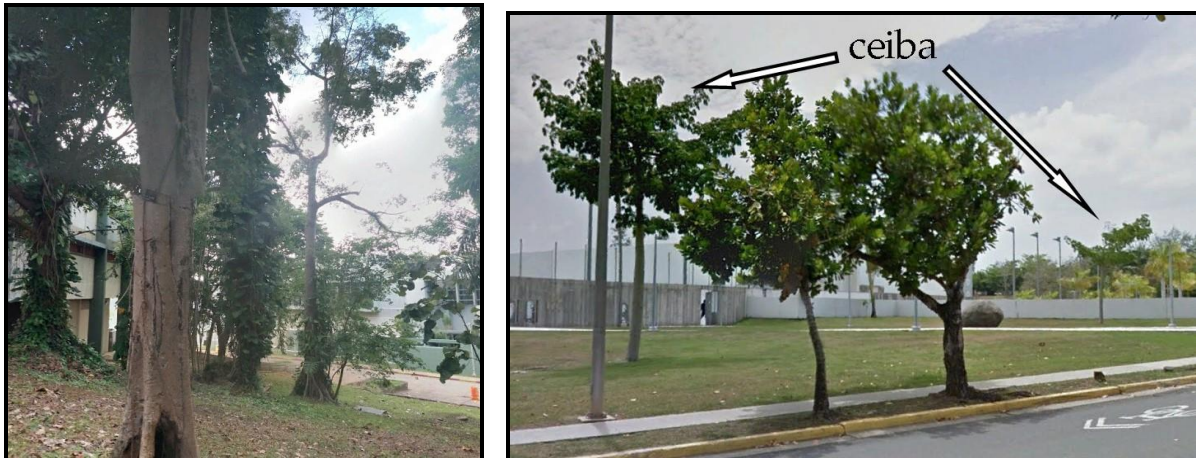
Figure270. Tree on calle M, Columbus Landing Residential Subdivision (GESV May 2016).



Figures 271, 272. UPR-Mayaguez ceibas: “La Gran Ceiba” (GESV May 2016; Webpage)



Figures 273, 274. UPR-M ceibas: Medical/Student Center and at natatorium (2) (GESV 5/2018).



Figures 275, 276. UPR-M ceiba: same tree, on PR-108 at Ing. Quimica (GESV 5/2016; iNat 3/6/2023).



Figures 277, 278. Ceibas of 134 and 482 calle Liceo, also PR-349 (GESV 5/2016).



Figures 279, 280. Namesake ceiba in undeveloped suburbanización La Ceiba (WP) and five seedlings at zoo (GESV 4/2016).



Figures 281, 282. Ceiba aside PR-2, km 147.1, 5 km north of Mayaguez, permanent site of El Viajero Food Truck (GESV May 2016); tree in unspecified "Rosario" (iNat 11/22/2020).



MOCA

This northwestern interior municipio is blocked from the sea by Aguada and Aguadilla. Perhaps the greatest concentration of ceibas can be seen at the so-called Castillo Labadie, also known as Palacete Los Moreau, a former sugar/coffee plantation north of town. For tourism, the municipal government has restored the beautiful casa grande, which is surrounded by at least six mature ceibas. Another “hacienda,” La Enriqueta,” a non-profit organization that promotes the local museum, has another 3-4 ceibas (see Overman 2000). Just west of the municipal cemetery is a “Calle Ceiba,” in a small subdivision with streets named for other trees (cedro, almendro, roble, and flamboyán). No ceibas are nearby.

1977 Inventario

Four ceibas were reported from this municipio, none confirmed with Google Earth.
Barrio Centro, on government property near finca Rodríguez, PR-110, km 18
Barrio Centro, Sector Velez, PR-110, km 5
PR-110, km 17.3
Barrio Voladoras, Sector Voladores, PR-111, km 8.6

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Searches along PR-111 found trees at km.7.5 and on calle Amapola, just north off 111 at km 3.7. **Figures 283, 284. Adult ceibas along PR-111, at km 3.7 and km 7.5 (GESV May 2016).**



Figures 285-292. The ceibas of Palacete Los Moreau, Moca (webpage entries 2018-2022).



Figure 293. Three saplings recently propagated at the office of Hacienda La Enriqueta (WP 10/25/2021).



MOROVIS

This central interior municipio is landlocked because of Vega Baja to the north. A “Calle Ceiba” is located in Sector Buena Vista north of town. No ceiba is seen nearby.

1977 Inventorio

From this municipio four trees made the 1977 inventory:

Barrio Montellano, Finca de F. Rivera

Barrio Unibón, Finca C. Ortiz

PR-155, km 48 [probably still there]

Finca F. del Río, salida del pueblo, por Bar El Flamboyán

None of these locations could be confirmed by Google Earth searches.

iNaturalist, 2021

Two sites have been photographed for iNaturalist records, from 10/26/2017 (PR-155) and 9/25/2021 (nearby on PR-155, unspecified).

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

GESV of February 2020 indicates an adult ceiba on the northeast corner of intersection of PR-155 and 137.

Figures 294, 295. iNat photographs along PR-155 (9/25/2021; 10/26/2017).

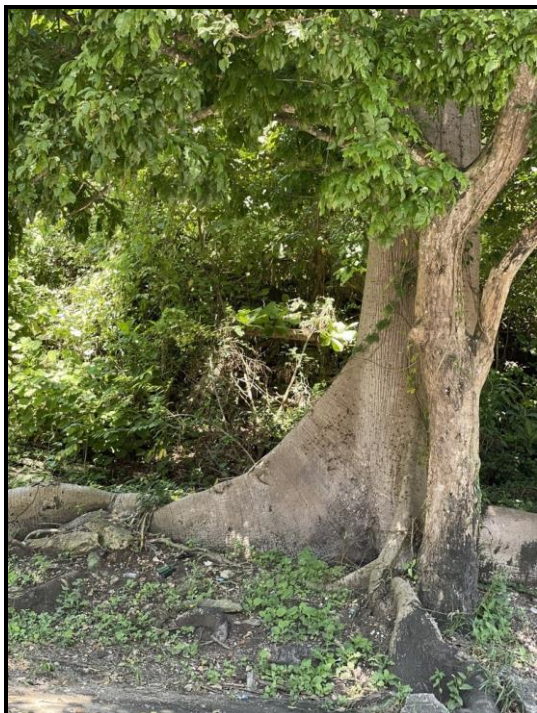


Figure 296. Adult at intersection of PR-155 and 137 (GESV February 2020).



NAGUABO

This northeastern coastal municipio is wedged between Ceiba on the north and Humacao to the south.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

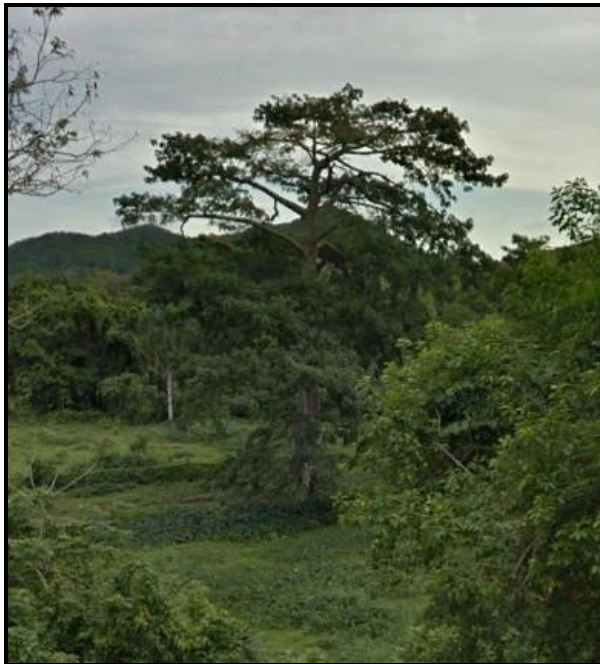
iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One tree was seen at PR-53, km 21.7.

Figure 297. Adult ceiba in field south off PR-53 at km 21.7 (GESV 5/2016).



NARANJITO

This north central interior municipio is south of Toa Alta and southwest of the San Juan metro region.

1977 Inventorio

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One ceiba was seen at the eastern entrance into Naranjito at PR-5, km 23.7 (GESV 4/2016).

Figure 298.



OROCOVIS

Orocovis is the absolutely most central municipio in the country -- equidistance from the sea in all directions.

1977 Inventorio

Two ceibas were reported from this municipio.

Barrio Botijas II, PR-154, 4.2

Barrio Demián Arriba, PR-157, km 16.8

iNaturalist, 2021

Two ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio – both from 2/3/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

This municipio has no ceibas seen via GESV.

Figures 299, 300. Two ceibas, probably along east bank of Río Toro Negro near the Ciales border (iNat 2/3/2023).



PATILLAS

Introduction

This municipio, located along the southern coast between Arroyo and Maunabo, is home to one of the ancient ceibas of the island – the famous “Ceiba Atebay.”

Inventory of 1977

Four trees in three locations were listed in the 1977 inventory.

Barrio Marín, PR-7759

PR-184, km 10.6

Sector Guardarraya, next to the highway on government property PR-3, km 11.3 (two trees here)

Only the famous ceiba – Atebay – on 7759 in Barrio Marín was confirmed with Google Earth.

iNaturalist

Several photographs from the municipio have been posted:

4/12/2020; 4/20/2020; 4/22/2020; 3/16/2021; 4/18/2022; and 11/25/2022.

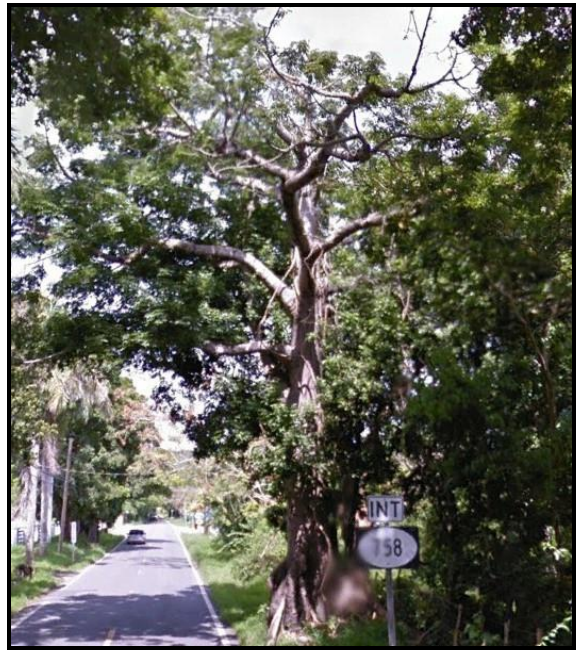
Google Earth Street View

Hacienda San Isidro, PR-3, km 118.6 (GESV May 2016. GESV from April 2022 by Frances Rivera, 2.5 km from PR-181 onto PR 7759.

Figures 301, 302. The famous “ceiba Atebay” on PR-7759, north of Patillas (GESV April 2022; iNat 11/25/2022).



Figures 303, 304. Adult ceiba east off PR-184 north (iNat 3/16/2021); at Hacienda San Isidro, PR-3, km 118.6 (GESV May 2016).



Figures 305, 306, 307. The young ceibas of Barrio Lamboglia, calle 1 @ calle 7 (iNat 4/12/20; 4/20/20; 4/22/22).



PENUELAS

This municipio occupies a south central coastal position between Ponce to the east and Guayanilla on the west.

1977 Inventario

It is surprising that the 1977 survey did not report any ceibas for the municipio. It is probable that at least two ceibas were present. One of the “special” ceibas of the country, “La Ceiba de Peñuela” is here and, also, a barrio “Quebrada de Ceiba,” which undoubtedly signifies the presence of a ceiba where the stream flows into the Río Tallaboa in the eastern sector of town.

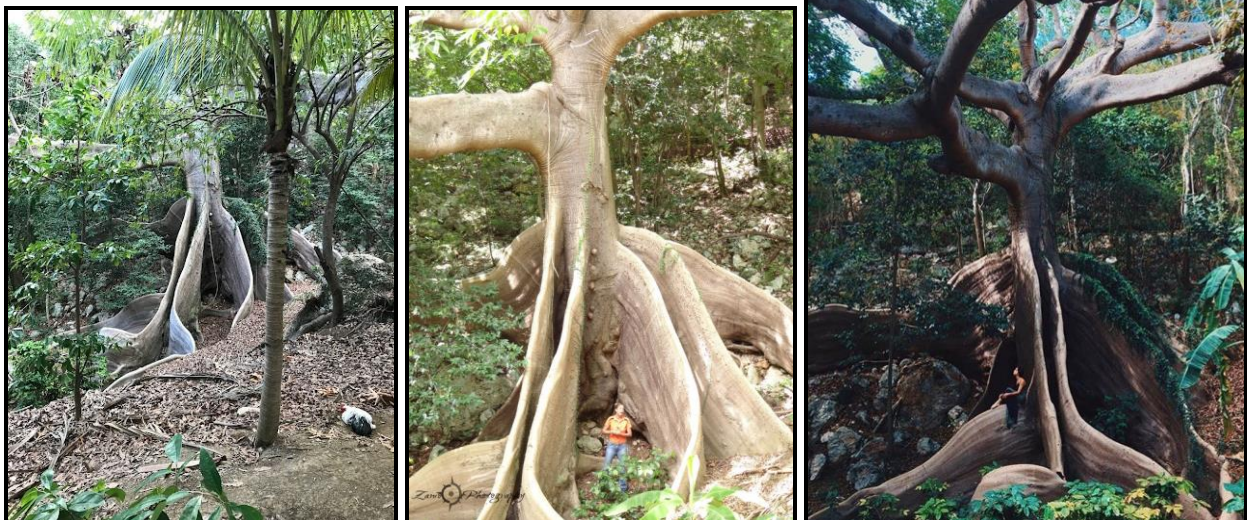
iNaturalist, 2011

iNaturalist has not recorded a ceiba in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Google Earth has a lone photograph of the same well-known tree, which goes by two names -- “La Ceiba de Peñuelas” and “Arbol de Ceiba del Cerro los Cabros.” Many photographs illustrate the large tree, which is located 1.4 km south of town on PR-132, just west of the Río Tallaboa.

Figures 308, 309, 310. La Ceiba de Peñuelas (GE 1/2022; others ??)



PONCE

This south central coastal municipio has been associated with ceibas for centuries. It is a large municipio in area and has the third largest population. Ponce probably has the most-photographed ceiba in Puerto Rico and, perhaps, the oldest tree on the island. It is often offered as a 500 yr old. The park surrounding has been known as the “Centennial Ceiba Tree Park.” As of January 2023 the icon of Ponce was declared dead and the park closed (Tillman 2023). Just to the south on PR-133 two younger trees can be seen in Parque de la Ceiba. Perhaps because of the old tree, “ceiba” is widely used as a place name. Nearby is a public housing area, “Residencial La Ceiba,” which has a prominent tree and a large ceiba behind center field of their baseball park. Also, the Catholic U has a research institute known as C.E.I.B.A. (Centro de Enseñanza e Investigación en Biotecnología y Agribiotecnología. The old coffee plantation, now known as Hacienda Buena Vista Para La Naturaleza, has a ceiba “acostada,” but not as grandiose as the one in Lajas. Ceibas have also been planted in the indigenous ceremonial center at Tibes.

1977 Inventorio

Eleven trees were located during the search of 1977 – the most of any municipio except San Juan. A few can be confirmed: Barrio Carrillos, PR-14, km 4.6 and km 6.2 (Colegio Ponceño de Varones) confirmed GESV April 2016). Barrio Bélgica, sector Cuatro Calles, PR-133; intersection Hostos x PR-2; Barrio Magueyes, in front of cemetery La Piedad PR-10; Lomas de Sabaneta No. 29, banks of Río Bucaná (3 trees); pueblo, Calle Villa No. 169 (confirmed GESV); PR-10; PR-10, Barrio Magueyes. Two placed north along PR-10 were not seen on GESV.

iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record has a five entries:

- 1/15/2019 – at Mercedita, Ponce south of I-52 ? , confirmed ?
- 10/15/2020 – spiked trunk only, see hacienda/restaurant “Los Caobas” ?
- 1/2/2021 – the famous tree
- 7/22/2022 – Hacienda Buena Vista, PR-133, north of Corral Viejo, confirmed GESV
- 3/15/2023 – Tibes ceremonial center, GESV confirmed.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

At the northern head of calle Paseo Real
PR-12 @ Av. Cordero, NE and NW corners.
I-52 at PR-506, southwest corner, two trees.
pueblo, Calle Villa No. 169
Parque de la Ceiba: 3 trees, the ancient and 2 younger

YouTube of Feb. 1, 2020: Residencial La Ceiba, a public housing area

Figure 311. Ceibas of Parque de La Ceiba, north off PR-133 (GESV May 2016).



Figure 312. The iconic ceiba of Ponce, over the years (foto from 1900).



Figures 313, 314, 315, 316.



Figure 316a. The final photograph, sadly, in an abandoned setting (foto: Ben Tillman, January 18, 2023).



Ceibas in neighborhood nearby to the iconic tree –

Figure 317. Northern end of Paseo Real (GESV May 2016).



Figures 318, 319. Calle Roberto Clemente, Villa Campo Alegre (foto: Ben Tillman, Jan. 2023); calle Villa 169 (GESV).



Figures 320, 321. Residencial La Ceiba: tree behind center field of baseball field; namesake tree for subdivision (source: YouTube, Feb. 1, 2020).



Figure 322. Roadways/ PR-14, km 6.2 (GESV April 2016).



Ceibas at intersection PR-52 and 506: Southwest corner, 2 trees.

Figure 323. Facing northwest, leaves still present (GESV April 2016).



Figure 324. Facing south, after leaf drop (GESV May 2016).



Figures 325, 326. Ceibas at PR-12 and Cordero, Ponce (GESV April 2016), northwest and northeast.



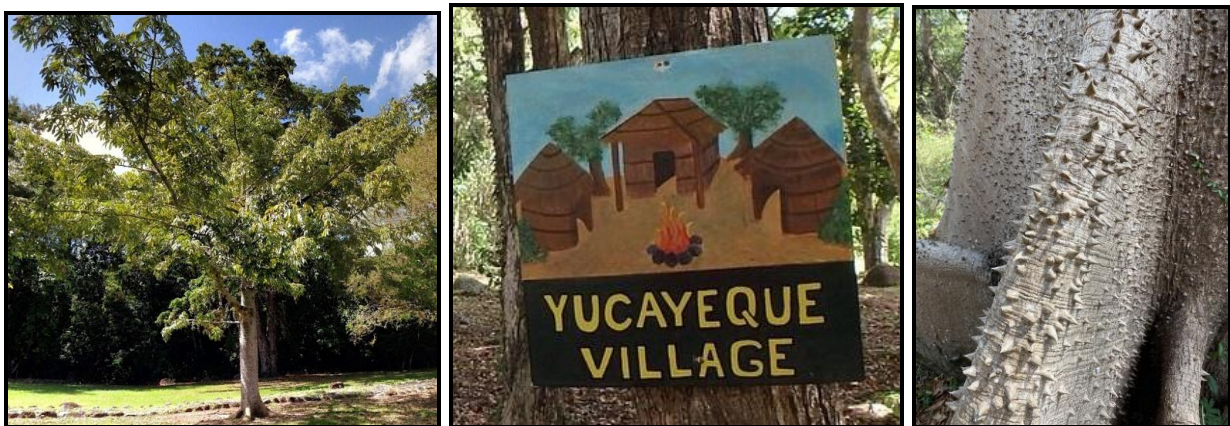
Figures 327, 328. The 1977 ceiba at PR-2 and Hostos, now in Plaza Cacique Agueybaná, with a young tree aside (GESV 4/2016); detail, from Blog Arts and Monuments 2016.



Figures 329, 330. The younger “ceiba acostada” of Hacienda Buena Vista (WP 11/16/2022); ceiba near sea at Mercedita (iNat 1/15/2019).



Figures 331, 332, 333. Ceibas of Tibes Indigenous Ceremonial Center, north of Ponce: entry tree (GESV 11/2014; webpage; iNat 3/15/2023)



Figures 334, 335, 336. All Google Earth



Figures 337, 338, 339. iNat 2/18/2023; Google Earth.



QUEBRADILLAS

This northeastern coastal municipio is wedged between Isabela on the west and Hatillo to the east. Ceibas are an important landscape feature here. The two (or three) median ceibas east of the city are famous for their heavily-planked buttressed roots and logos with the tree are frequent. “Calle de Ceiba” in southeast of the city and one housing area is called “Sombras de La Ceiba.”

1977 Inventario

Five ceibas were reported from three sites in this municipio.

One tree in Barrio Cocos, PR-2, km 99.2

Two trees, Barrio Cocos, PR-2, km 99.5

Two trees, Barrio Cocos, PR-2, km 93.5 [actually, now in Camuy municipio]

iNaturalist, 2018-21

Six photographs have been posted on iNaturalist for the municipio: from 2/21/2018; 7/28/2018; 3/31/2019; 4/17/2021; 5/2/2021, and 4/28/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Many of the previously mentioned ceibas can be viewed with Google Earth Street View, May 2016.

Figure 340. The famous “Las Dos Ceibas” (actually three) of highway median PR-2, km 99.6 (GESV May 2016). View W to E



Figure 341. The ceibas with third tree in foreground (GESV May 2016). View E to W



Figures 342, 343. iNat photographs of same (iNat 7/28/2018 and 5/2/2021).



Figure 344. Logo of health clinic near Las Dos Ceibas, PR-2, km 99.2, south side (GESV May 2016).



Figures 345, 346. Ceiba and ceiba mural on PR-2, at km 100 (GESV May 2016).



RINCON

This small coastal municipio is well-known for its defunct nuclear plant and iconic lighthouse. It is often called “Las Puntas” because it is the westernmost point of the island. By coincidence, two residential areas are called “Dos Ceibas” and “Casa de Ceiba” because of the prominent trees nearby. They are at Calle 413, km 4.9 and off PR-411, km 18.3. (no GESV available).

Figure 347.



1977 Inventorio

The publication reports only one ceiba in the municipio – located on municipio property in Sector Parcelas, calle 7, PR-115, km. 111. The site today is 150 Calle 7.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist records four photographs, mostly in the “Las Puntas” area – iNat 1/26/2022; 7/10/2022; 10/8/2022. The location of the 2/9/2023 photograph, flowers only, is confirmed by GESV, shown below.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The ceiba of iNaturalist photograph from 2/9/2023 can be seen on Cambija street next to the ancient water tower (GESV 6/2016). The 1977 tree is confirmed by GESV May 1, 2018.

Figure 348. The 1977 tree at 150 Calle 7 (GESV May 1, 2018).



Figure 349. The water tower ceiba on Cambija street (GESV May 2018).



Figures 350, 351, 352. Saplings in the rural Las Puntas area, none located specifically (iNat photos).



RIO GRANDE

This northeastern coastal municipio is wedged between Loiza on the west and Luquillo to the east. Ceibas have been planted on a few golf courses. Several ceibas have been photographed in the El Yunque National Forest.

1977 Inventorio

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist photographers have been very active in this municipio, listing from 7/7/2014; 5/15/2018; 4/5/2019; 12/25/2019; 4/20/2021; 7/14/2021; 3/14/2022; 3/22/2022; 5/3/2022; 5/10/2022; 5/30/2022; 9/30/2022; 10/29/2022 (3); 10/30/2022; 11/20/2022; 3/29/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

One GESV confirmation of iNat 5/3/2022.

Figures 353, 354, 355. Golf course ceibas, Bahia Beach Resort (iNat 7/7/2014), St. Regis (iNat 4/20/2021), and Wyndham Rio Mar (iNat 4/5/2019).



Figures 356, 357. *Ceiba* along PR 968, km 3.6 (iNat 5/3/2022) and GESV 12/2019).



Figures 358, 359. Trees probably in the Campamento Elisa Colberg (iNat 10/29/2022).



Figures 360, 361, 362. Ceiba(s) at the visitors center, El Yunque National Forest (iNat 3/14/22, 5/30 22; 3/29/2023).



Figure 363. Young tree, west off PR-966 (iNat 7/14/21).



SABANA GRANDE

This interior municipio is in the southwest corner of Puerto Rico, blocked from the Caribbean by Guánica. The sole tree found is along the first base line in Parque Benjamin Ruiz, in Susua Baja. Nearby is Calle Ceiba.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Ceiba at baseball field confirmed(GE 12/2021)

Figure 364. Large ceiba in Benjamin Ruiz Baseball Park, Susua Baja (WP 4/21/2022).



SALINAS

Introduction

This south coast municipio is just west of Guayama and east of Santa Isabel. Most of the trees have been planted along PR-52 and at an intersection.

1977 Inventario

The publication notes seven ceibas in the municipio.

PR-1, km 93.8, salida a Ponce

Barrio Poleos, PR-old 2, salida Salinas a Ponce, frente a carretera (3 trees)

Campamento Salinas, area 3 where are the canons, area occupied by the tanks, US Army property (2 trees)

Las Américas autopista 52, below Peaje Los Cocos en Salinas. Only this one confirmed with GESV May 2016.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

The iNaturalist record includes three trees. One is located in the ruins of the Central Aguirre Historical District, one is in a congested neighborhood off PR-1 at Caratini, and another is on Interstate Highway 52 at km 54.6.

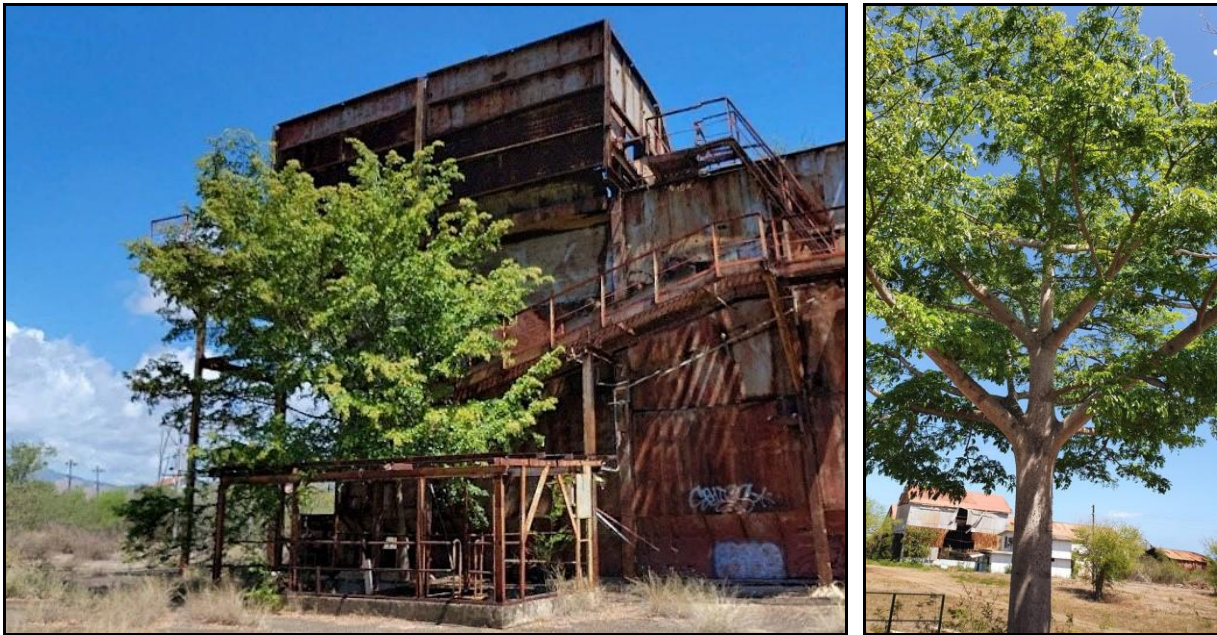
Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The I-52 and Caratini trees are confirmed by GESV and one was seen in the Aguirre Historic District. At the intersection of I-52 and PR-712, exit 58 north of Salinas, five ceibas are present: three to the northeast, one to the southeast, and one to the southwest. Further, heading north along I-52 on the right side of the curving road, between kms 53.4 and 54.6 eleven ceibas have been planted. Clusters of three and four are spaced at 50 meters.

Figures 365, 366. The ceiba off PR-1 @ Caratini street, Las Marias (iNat Nov. 7, 2020) and GESV May 2016.

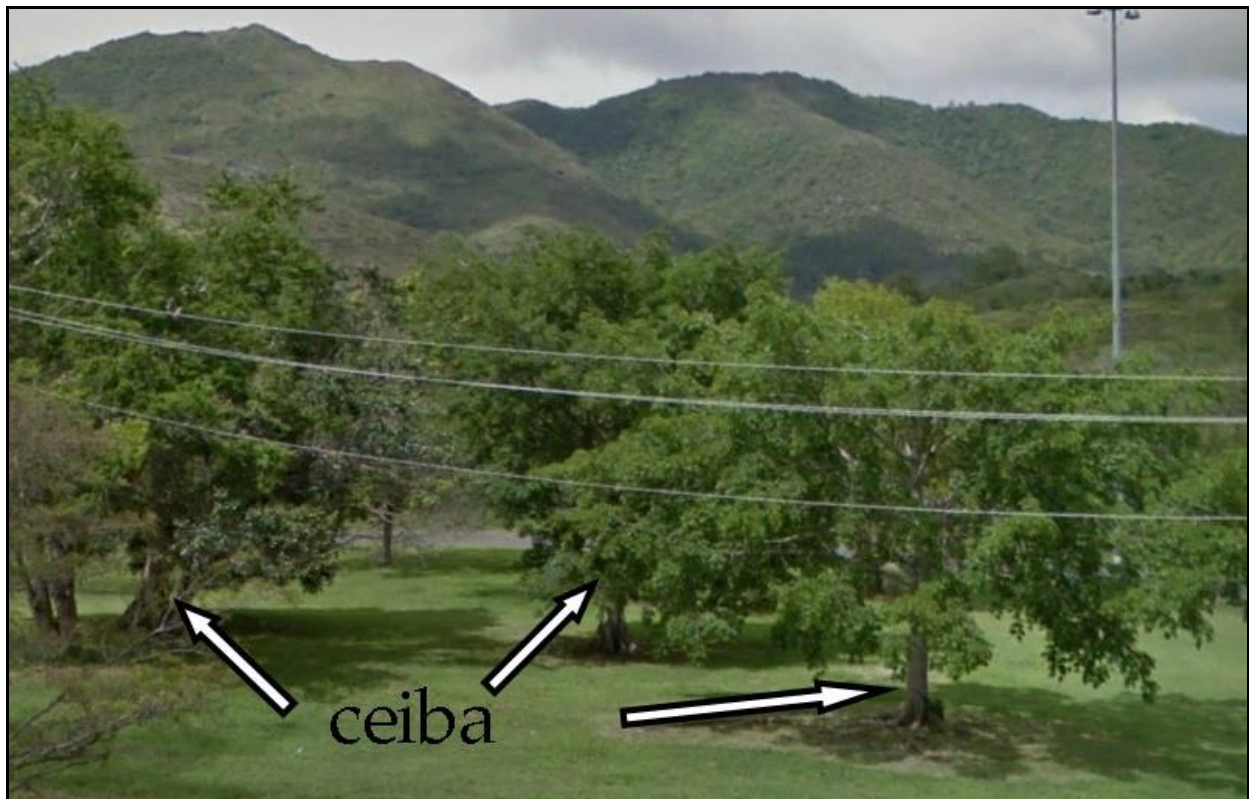


Figures 367, 368. Ceibas at the Aguirre Historic District: iNat April 16, 2020 and GESV May 2016.



The Interstate 52 Ceibas.

Figure 369. Ceibas at the I-52/PR-172 cloverleaf intersection: northeast corner, 3 trees.



Figures 370, 371. southeast corner, large tree on PR-172; southwest corner, 1 tree below interstate 52.



The eleven ceibas on I-52 between kms 53.4 and 54.6.

Figure 372. Three ceibas near km 53.4.



Figure 373 . Ceiba at I-52 km 53.6 (GESV May 2016)



Figures 374, 375, 376, 377. The four ceibas near I-52, km 54.4.

Km 54.4 a



km 54.4 b.



Km 54.4 c

km 54.4



Figures 378, 379. The ceiba at I-52, km 54.6 (iNat Dec 28, 2021) and (GESV May 2016).



SAN GERMAN

This southwest landlocked municipio, is just north of Lajas. One of the most photographed ceibas in Puerto Rico, “Ceiba de la Libertad,” was planted February 18, 1898 to celebrate Spain’s granting the island autonomous status. In 2015 the island legislature passed law 14 to celebrate that special tree. (<http://www.lexjuris.com/lexlex/Leyes2015/lexl2015014.htm>) Calle la Ceiba is a short dead end street in a subdivision south of the city. A ceiba is nearby. Another rural street with a large ceiba can be seen in Sector Duey Bajo. That calle is called “Saiba.” Also, a large ceiba is behind center field in Ruben Flores Santiago baseball field.

1977 Inventorio

From this municipio six trees made the 1977 inventory.

Barrio Caín Alto, PR 361, km 4.5

Barrio Rosario (2 trees)

Sector Hoconuco Bajo, PR 318, km 7.2

Sector Duey Bajo, entering by way of PR 2, km 167.5

Barrio Sabana Grande, Sector Cerro La Libertad, Calle Esperanza, PR 347, km 1.1 [Ceiba de la Libertad]

iNaturalist, 2021

A few sites are photographed for iNaturalist records – dating from 10/29/2013 (4); 3/16/2019; 7/9/2021 (2).

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A few photographs are available.

Figures 380, 381. The famous “Ceiba de la Libertad” various versions (WP 2022; GE 4/2017).



Figure 382. Plaque at Ceiba de la Libertad.



Figure 383. Two young ceibas between chapel and Science Hall, Inter American University (GESV 1/2017).



SAN JUAN

It is not surprising that the most-populated, most-urbanized, and overwhelmingly-dominant economic area of the Puerto Rico also has the most ceibas planted in cultural context. The trees are found especially in parks and gardens, at educational institutions, and along roadways and a few streets.

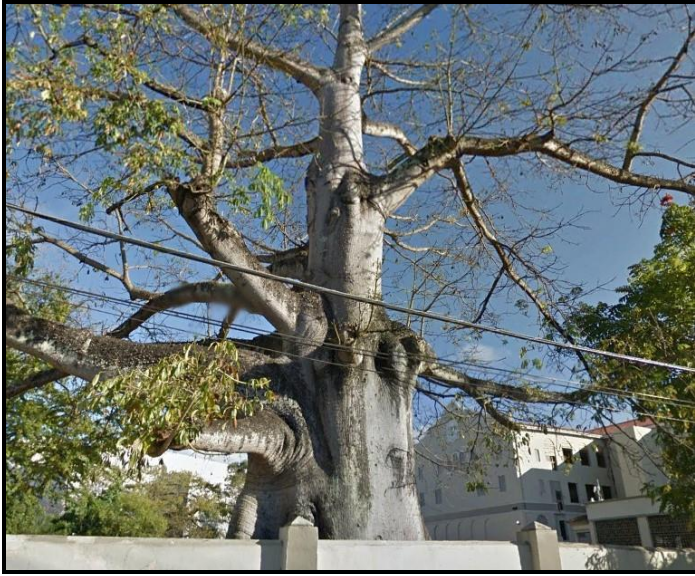
1977 Inventario

The municipio also had the most ceibas reported in 1977 – seventeen, in thirteen sites. Two locations had multiple trees:

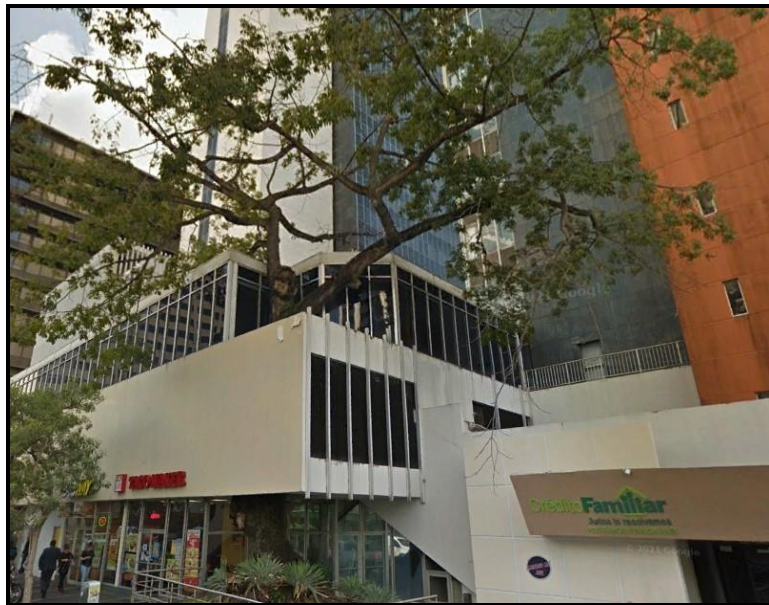
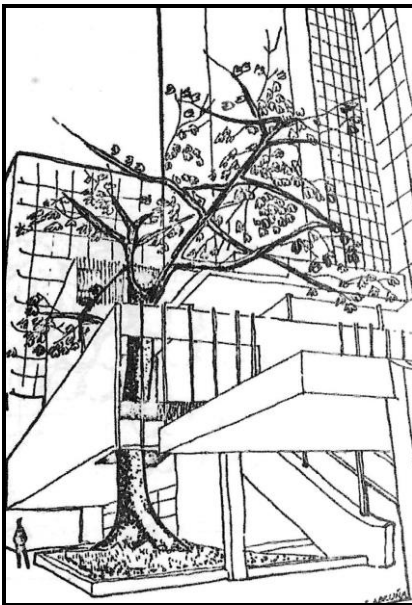
Cupey Alto, Sector Cuatro Calles, Camino Los Marrero, PR-176, km 7.4 (4 trees). Today: Two young ceibas can be seen @ km 7.5 (GESV 3/2016). **Figure 384.**



Av. Ponce de Leon, Pda. 26, Colegio Sagrado Corazón de Las Marias (2 trees) [This site is now Universidad Sagrado Corazon and without ceibas. The Colegio is now in University Gardens and it has a ceiba behind the baseball field at Oxford x Fordham (GESV 2/2016)]
Urbanización Valencia, calle Zamora # 632 [not confirmed]
Puerto Nuevo, Calle Arabia, Centro de Santeros-Botanicos [not confirmed]
Santurce, Sector del Condado, Av Magdalena # 1362 [not confirmed]
Santurce, Escuela Superior Central, pared [confirmed GESV 3/2016, 256 Robles] **Figure 385.**

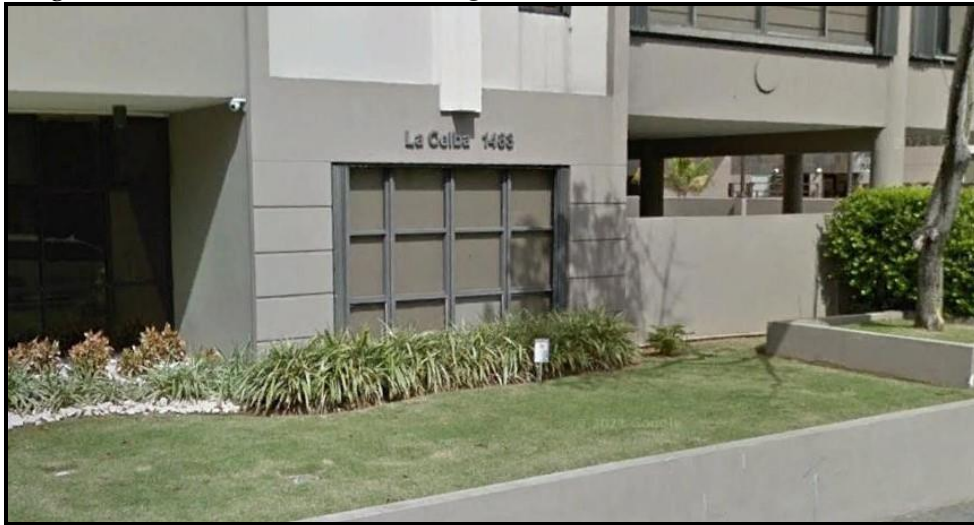


Reparto Sevilla, near Black and Decker Hardware store [not confirmed]
Hato Rey, Av Ponce de Leon # 252, Citibank [confirmed GESV 2/2016]
Figures 386a, 386b. 1977 drawing (p. 34) to now, Remarkable !!



Condado, Calle Luchetti #1363 [not confirmed]

Río Piedras, Sector Sabana Llano, Ramon B. Lopez x D Diego [Condominio La Ceiba, 1483 de Diego x Ashford, GESV 1/2016] **Figure 387.**

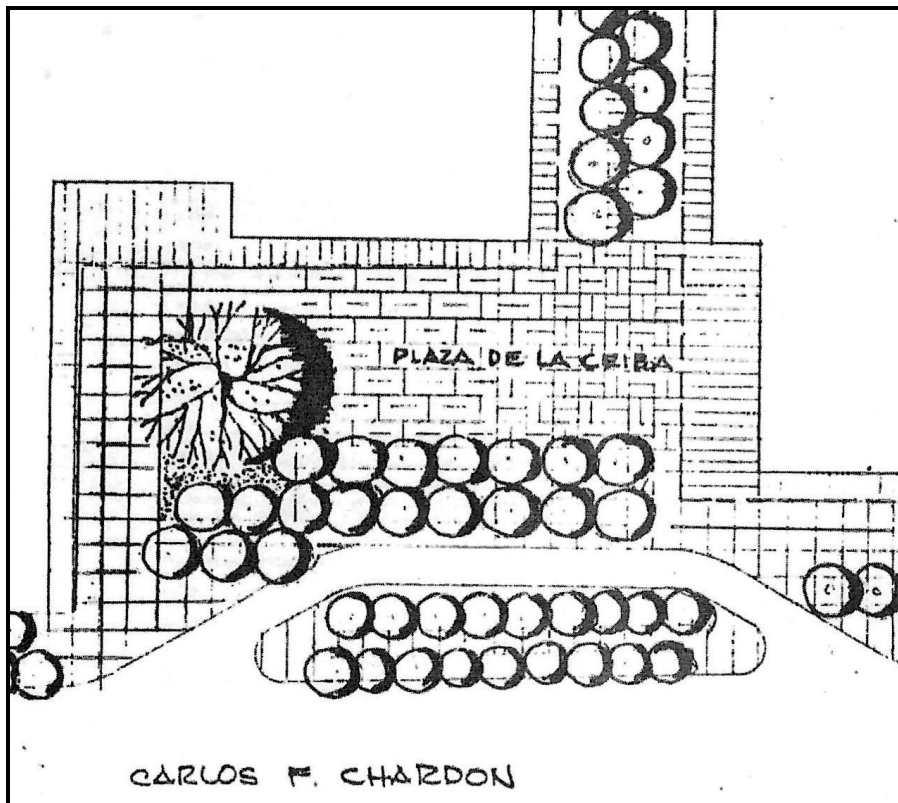


Santurce, Calle San Jorge [not confirmed]

Santurce, Calle Canala, at Calle Robles exit towards Expreso [not confirmed]

Hato Rey, Calle Chardón (Bolivia) [confirmed]

Figures 388a, 388b, 388c. "Plaza de la Ceiba" proposed for centro nuevo of municipio in 1977 (p. 35); GESV 2/2016; and detail of Joe Carr photograph (GE 2022).





iNaturalist, 2021

The iNaturalist record includes photographs from 31 dates: 4/22/2016; 6/2/2017; 1/13/2018; 11/2/2018; 3/19/2019; 4/20/2019; 11/10/2019; 12/28/2019 (2); 1/3/2020; 2/9/2020; 8/22/2020; 12/18/2020; 1/9/2021; 4/17/2021 (4); 4/17/2021 (3); 5/16/2021; 6/26/2021; 8/1/2021; 9/24/2021; 12/23/2021; 12/30/2021; 2/17/2022; 4/8/2022; 6/21/2022; 7/3/2022; 7/11/2022; 7/19/2022 (3); 9/6/2022; 12/8/2022; 1/26/2023, and 3/20/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View -- Many useful confirmations.

The Parks and Gardens of San Juan

Parque Central – iNat 4/20/2019 (11 trees known)

Figures 389a, 389b.



Figures 390, 391. SE walkway (iNat 1/31/2018)

detail (iNat 4/20/2019)



Figures 392, 393, 394, 395. Off south walk path (GESV 4/2016)



Figures 396, 397. North walk path central (iNat 1/26/2023); root detail (iNat 7/3/2022).



Figures 398, 399. Parque Central, SE corner roundabout (GESV 4/2016); WP 12/26/2019.



Figures 400, 401. Parque Barbosa iNat (3/19/2019); Parque Jaime Benitez (GESV 1/2021).



Figure 402. Luis Muñoz Rivera Park -- iNat 1/13/2020



Figures 403, 404. Luis Muñoz M. Park

GESV Dec. 2021

PR 17, km 4.1 SE (GESV Feb. 2016)



Figure 405. GESV 4/2016



The Ceibas of the Complex of Parks near the Fort, including Ballajá, Casa Rosa, Children's Park, Escuela de Bellas Artes, Parque Pasivo Viejo San Juan,

Figure 406. Isleta (iNat 12/28/2019)



Figures 407, 408, 409. Ballajá Ceibas (iNat 6/26/2021; 12/20/2021; 2/17/2022 - near tennis courts)



Figures 410, 411. Kids' Park (WP 2019-07-13) (WP 2018/03/24)



Figures 412, 413. After Hurricane María. Sept. 2017 (WebPage)



Figures 414, 415. Escuela Bellas Artes (iNat 2/9/2020)

Fort area (GESV 5/2019)



Figures 416, 417. José N. Gandara Park (iNat 2/14/2023) Parque Hospital (iNat 5/16/2021)



Figures 418, 419. Parque Linea La Camoja (GESV 3/2016)



Figures 420, 421. Two ceibas, Jardin Botanico Museo de Arte (iNat 1/9/2021); Facebook view



Bosque Urbano Doña Inés Mendoza – iNat 4/17/2021 lots

Some parks clearly emphasize and enjoy their ceibas. Within Parque Doña Inés, for example, there is a Plazoleta de Ceiba and Catedral de Ceibas. Aside from the 14 ceibas of the “cathedral” that surround the large cross (see air photograph below), there are perhaps at least six more. Also, the logo of the Park seems to be a ceiba. This arboretum is maintained by Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín – **Figures 422, 423.**



Figure 424. The ceiba cathedral a few years after plantings.



Figures 425, 426, 427. Bosque Urbano Doña Inés: the iNat photographs of 4/17/2021.



Figure 428. Webpage photograph.



Educational Institutions

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus

Figures 429, 430. Plaza Ceiba nov 2018

root detail, Sept. 2022



Figures 431, 432. Plaza Baldorioty, 3-4 ceibas

Student Center

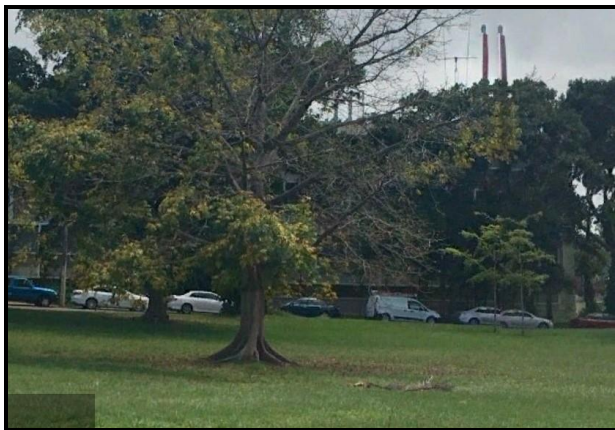


Figure 433. At major UPR parking lot. (iNat 3-20-2023)



434, 435. Insitute of Tropical Forestry, N. of Ceiba Street (iNat 6/2/2017); (GESV 5/2016).

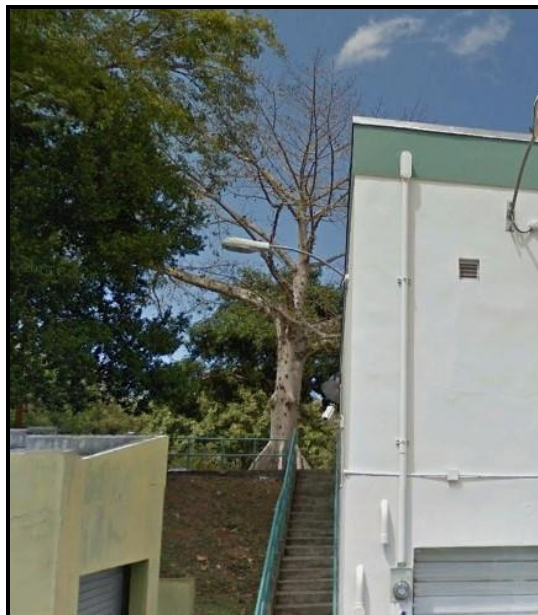


Figure 436. UPR-RP Agricultural Experiment Station (GESV 5/2016)



Figure 437. Colegio Sagrado Corazon, Oxford x Fordham, behind baseball field (GESV 2/2016).



Figure 438. Roadway and Street Ceibas: PR-22, km 1.9, 6 young ceibas in median (GESV 1/2022)



Figure 439. PR-176, km 7.5 (two young trees) (GESV 3/2016)



Several trees have been planted along the east side of Río Piedras, Calle Sorbona.

Figures 440, 441. Calle Sorbona 309 (GESV 2/2016); Sorbona @ Princeton (iNat 7/19/2022)



Figures 442, 443, 444. Sorbona N. of Notre Dame (iNat 7/19/2022) both; Sorbona, S. of Columbia (iNat 7/20/2022)



SAN LORENZO

This east central municipio is kept from the sea by Yabucoa. It does have a “Blvd de la Ceiba” north off PR-183, but no tree is seen. A calle de Ceiba” is farther northwest off 183, near the border with Gurabo.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

One ceiba has been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Nada

Figure 445. Young ceiba planted at Hacienda Muñoz, along PR-181 (WP and iNat 4/22/2023).



SAN SEBASTIAN

This northwest interior municipio, as yet, has only one identifiable ceiba in specific location. It does have a “calle ceiba,” but no tree was seen in the neighborhood.

1977 Inventario

Two trees were located in 1977, but neither was confirmed with Google searches.
Barrio Piedras Blancas, Sector Cidral, PR-111, km 24
Barrio Perches Arriba, near Barrio El Gato, “La Gran Parada”

iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist record has a lone entry, for 4/11/2021, a sapling in the Guajataca State Forest.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A Google Earth survey produced no ceibas.

Photographs

Figures 446, 447. A very young ceiba in Guajataca State Forest (iNat 4/11/2021); another on PR-119 to Las Marias, unspecified site, planted 2000 (Facebook 6/4/2021).



SANTA ISABEL

This core south central coast municipio is bound by Salinas to the east and by Juana Diaz on the west. Plaza la Ceiba is a shopping mall just west of the PR 542, an adult ceiba is nearby to the east. An eastern subdivision has a “calle Ceiba,” without a ceiba nearby. A “special” old ceiba – “Ceiba Estabani” can be seen along PR 53 at km 76.6

1977 Inventario

The entry for Santa Isabel is simply: “Barrio Descalabrado (a la derecha).” Not confirmed.

iNaturalist

The iNaturalist photographs for the municipio are two: December 17, 2018, a mature tree at the intersection of Calle Caracol and PR-542, just south of the interstate, which is confirmed by Google Earth 1/2/2022, and May 1, 2021: Four trees, closely aligned somewhere near the wind turbine farm, are so mislocated that they cannot be confirmed with Google Earth.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

When interstate 52 was constructed across the northern portion of the municipio, by-passing the city, ceibas appeared at the major intersection of I-52 and PR-153. Trees were planted on the northwest and southwest corner.

The Martex Farms SE, at Descalabrado, has two ceibas on the grounds. One is nicely placed on an island in their lake. Another is amongst a coconut grove. Both photographs date from April 2017.

Figures 448, 449. PR-542@Higuero (iNat: 12/17/2018); view from PR 52, km 76.7 (GESV 2/2016)



Figures 450, 451. Intersection I-52 and PR 153: NW corner (GESV 11/2019); SW corner (GESV 7/21).



Figures 452, 453. Ceibas at Martex Farms SE, Descalabrado (GE April 2017)



Figures 454, 455, 456. The Ceiba "Estabani," from PR 52, km 76.6 (GESV 4/2016) and detail (WP 9/23/2020 and 2021).

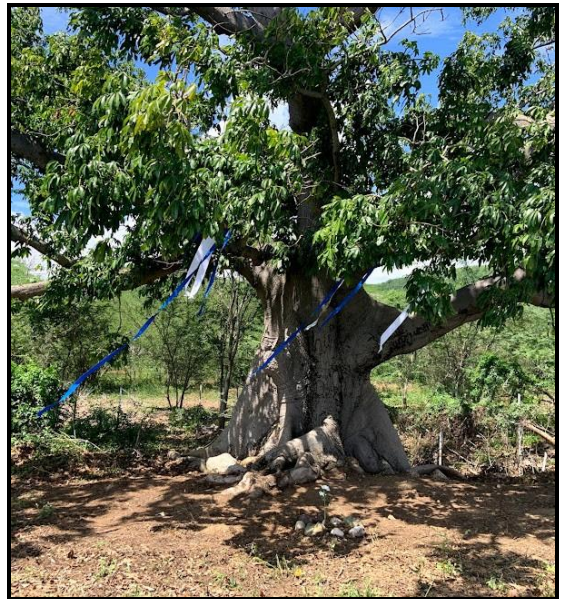


Figure 457. Four ceibas near wind farms, mislocated by iNat 5/1/20212.

WHERE?



TOA ALTA

This north central interior municipio has two identifiable ceibas in location. It does have a “calle ceiba” west of town, but no tree was seen in the neighborhood.

1977 Inventario

Two trees were located along PR-861 at km 9.2 during the search of 1977, but neither was confirmed with Google searches.

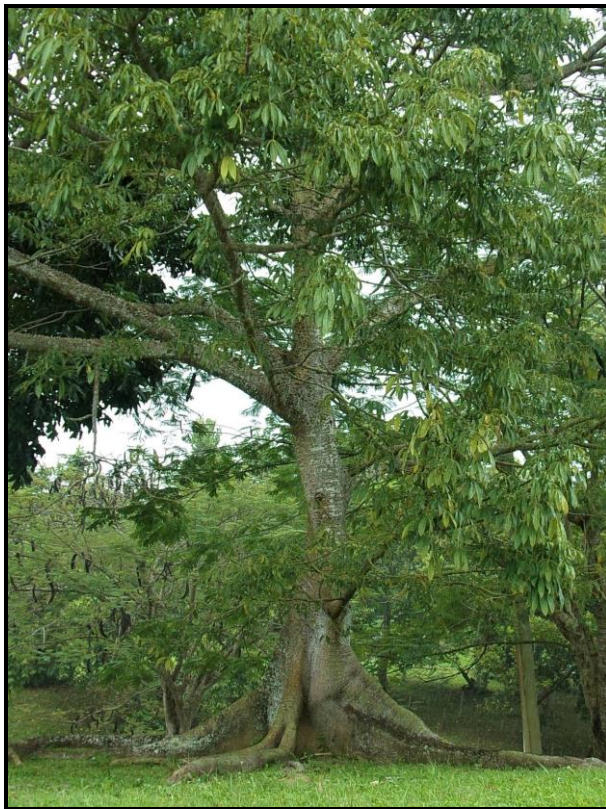
iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist record has two entries, for 2/5/2023 and 4/13/2021.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

A Google Earth survey produced no ceibas.

Figures 458, 459. A young adult ceiba near Lago La Plata in the Refugio de Vida Silvestre (iNat 2/5/2023); calle Francia (iNat 4/13/2021).



TOA BAJA

This north coast municipio a bit west of San Juan. The town does have two subdivisions with streets called “Ceiba,” but neither has a tree nearby.

1977 Inventorio

Only one tree, in Barrio Candelaria, on PR-2, km 19 was listed. Confirmed with Google Earth April 8, 2016.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

One poor quality photograph from April 20, 2020 of Campanilla has been recorded.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

The tree in the 1977 inventory can be seen prominently along PR-2, at km 19.

Figures 460, 461. 1977 ceiba on PR-2, km 19 (GESV April 2016); Campanilla tree (iNat 4/20/2020).



Figures 462, 463. Goggle Earth views of PR-2 tree: April 2016 and January 2023.



Figures 464, 465. Campanilla ceiba, Google Earth views: April 2016 and January 2023.



TRUJILLO ALTO

This municipio has become overwhelmed as an extension of the San Juan metropolitan region, to the southeast.

1977 Inventario

Only one tree, in Barrio Cuevas, on the highway to Trujillo Alto, at the Colegio del Carmen, was listed. However, today, Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Carmen is actually in municipio San Juan. That tree MIGHT be seen today on the back of their property.

iNaturalist, 2010-2023

No photographs have been submitted to iNaturalist for the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

An adult ceiba can be seen at the back of Parque de Ejercicios from PR-8860 (GESV March 2016); close up by R. Rebelius (2022) shows it on walking path.

Figures 466, 467. GESV March 2016 and R. Rebelius March 27, 2022.



Figure 468. Large ceiba at Hacienda Loyola Barnes (WP 7/3/2021).



Utuado

This municipio is a large interior area south of Arecibo and north of Adjuntas. At least four ceibas are near the Caguana Ceremonial Reserve and another was undoubtedly at the archeological site of “Cueva de la Ceiba/Seiba/Seiva” (Haeberlin 1917: 220; Rainey 1940: 115; Rouse 1941: 275). The cave is a mile west of the main ceremonial site. Barrio Caonillas Arriba has an “escuela Caonillas Ceiba” just north off PR-531, with a ceiba nearby.

1977 Inventario

Six ceibas, in five sites, were reported from this municipio.

Barrio Caguana, Parque Ceremonial Indígena (2 trees)

Sector Los Morcones, on road to Adjuntas, near ruins of 2nd hydroelectric plant

Pueblo de Utuado, desvío PR-111 north

Bosque Río Abajo

Barrio Mameyes Abajo

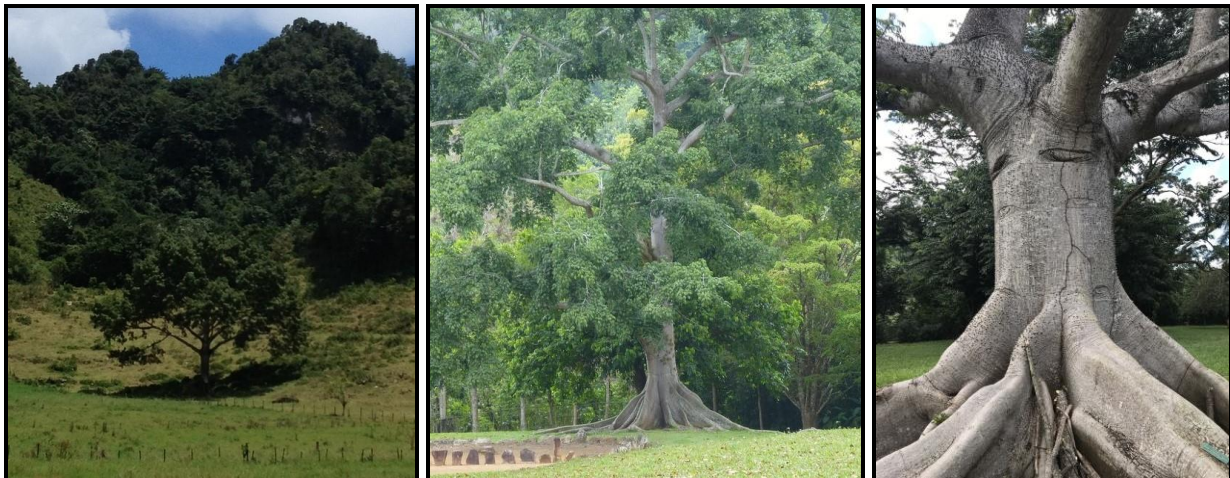
iNaturalist, 2021

iNaturalist provides several photographs of ceibas, especially in the indigenous reserve, with many duplicates: 8/7/2015; 4/23/2017; 9/7/2018; 5/19/2021; 7/3/2021; 7/15/2021; 10/13/2021; 12/29/2021; 1/9/2022; 3/27/2022; and 3/27/2022.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Photographs are available from a few GESV locations.

Figures 469, 470, 471. iNat photographs from the Caguana Ceremonial Reserve, from 8/7/2015; 4/23/2017; 8/7/2018.



Figures 472, 473. Two ceibas near ball court, Caguana Reserve, two views (GE 2016 and GESV April 2022;).



Figure 475. Caonillas Abajo (iNat 3/27/2022).



VEGA ALTA

This north central coastal municipio is wedged between Dorado to the east and Vega Baja on the west. A “calle Ceiba” is in the northern Dorado sector of the town.

1977 Inventario

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

GESV found three ceibas at the intersection of PR-22 and PR-2.

Figures 476, 477. 1. A young ceiba planted south of the PR-22/2 intersection and two younger saplings to the north (GESV 5/2016).



VEGA BAJA

Vega Baja is a central north coast municipio. Its barrio named “Ceiba” surrounds “Calle Ceiba,” an east-west trending street that crosses into municipio Vega Alta to the east.

1977 Inventorio

No ceibas were reported for Vega Baja after the survey in 1977.

iNaturalist, 2017

The iNaturalist record has two entries, for 7-23-2017 and 10/31/2017. The first site is Reserva de Guardia Nacional, at the northwest corner of PR-687 and calle Jacananda, in western Vega Baja. The photograph was taken just prior to Hurricane María in September 2017. A sign notes the status of an “Area Natural Protegida.” The other iNat photograph shows an uprooted ceiba off PR-22 just after the hurricane..

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

Google Earth posted an undated photograph of the PR-687 tree, with fewer leaves, apparently taken after María. The ceiba, also known as “La Ceiba de Tortuguero (barrio),” has become the only feature in “Parque Ecológico Ceiba Pentandra.” Some residents find it a spiritual icon and place offerings beneath (Rosario M. 2021). GESV also found four ceibas planted along the north side of PR-22, km 40-40.1.

Figures 478, 479. The National Guard ceiba (iNat July 2017) before Maria and after.



Figure 480. The Ceiba Pentandra de Tortuguero, in its newly declared park setting.



Figure 481. The ceiba uprooted by Hurricane María in Sept 2017, PR-22, km 42. This photograph is from October 31, 2017 (iNat). Leaves are still green.



Figure 482. Ceibas along PR-22 at km 40.0 (GESV May 2016).



Figure 483. Ceibas near PR-22, km 40.1. Background tree is at Hacienda La Rumba, a swimming venue. (GESV May 2016).



Figure 484. Ceiba along PR-2, north side, at km 38 (May 2016).



VIEQUES

Vieques Island is about 20 kilometers to the east of Puerto Rico. Vieques hosts one of the oldest and most-photographed ceibas – in “El Parque de la Ceiba de Vieques Reserva Natural La Ceiba Centenaria Ecological Park.”

1977 Inventario

Six ceibas were reported from this municipio in the 1977 survey.

Isabel II, Barrio Hueca, Joya de la Hueca Oeste

Isabel II, final calle Antonio Mellado y PR 997

Barrio La Mina, PR 993, km 5-8

Barrio Mosquito, PR 991, km 25 [THE TREE]

Barrio Destino, km 1, US Navy property

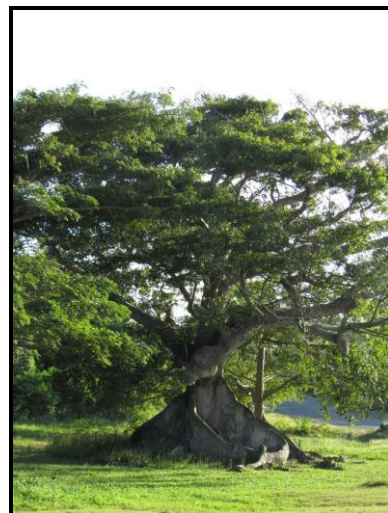
iNaturalist, 2021

Several ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio – mostly of the ancient tree at Mosquito. 12/6/2009; 1/24/2011; 6/4/2017; 7/24/2017; 4/24/2018; 4/2/2019; 5/19/2019; 11/17/2019; 12/21/2019 (3); 2/1/2020; 2/6/2020; 5/4/2021 (2); 5/20/2021; 12/22/2021; 1/2/2022; 1/29/2022; 2/14/2022; 3/19/2022; 3/21/2022; 4/16/2022; 4/29/2022; 5/9/2022; 7/26/2022; 10/28/2022; 11/19/2022 (2).

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

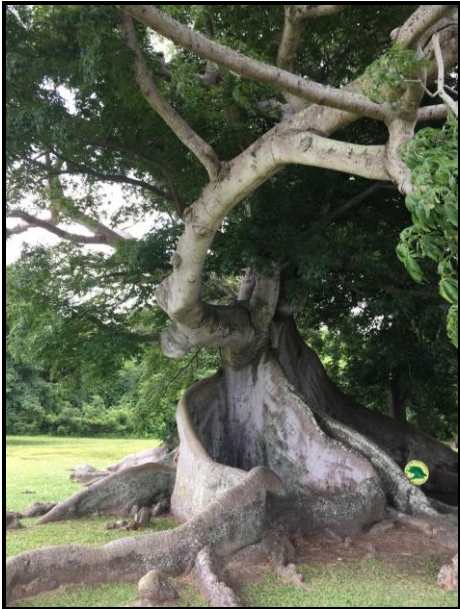
Aside from a few photographs near the iconic tree, Google Earth Street view is not present.

Figures 485, 486. (iNat 12/6/2009; 1/24/2011;).



Figures 487, 488. Before María (iNat 6/4/2017)

after María (webpage)



Figures 489, 490, 491. Coming back (webpage); iNat 4/24/2018; 5/19/2019.



Figures 492, 493, 494. (iNat 4/2/2019; 4/16/2022; 4/29/2022)



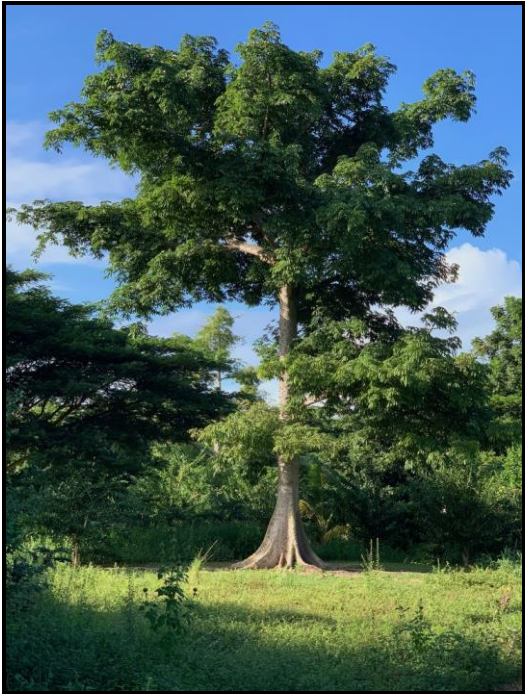
Figure 495. GESV 6/2022



Figure 496. March 13, 2023 iNat



Figures 497, 498, 499, 500. Rural ceibas in the west: Pirata Trail and Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre El Buey (iNat 12/21/2019 (3); 12/21/2019).



Figures 501, 502. Rural ceibas on Vieques. The south: Puerto Real (iNat 5/4/2021; 11/10/2022).



Figures 503, 504. An urban ceiba in Isabel II, corner of Reg 65 Infanteria x Jose G. Sueiro (iNat 12/28/2021); detail of buttress (iNat 5/20/2021).



VILLALBA

This south central interior municipio is blocked from the sea by Juana Díaz. At Hacienda El Limón is/was a large ceiba, attached to which is/was a bronze burial urn (a bell) containing the ashes of the US-born owners. The “Santuario de Villalba – Hacienda Limón,” including the ceiba, is/was cared for as national heritage. “The Beaded Ceiba” is a commercial garden, north of town on PR-149.

<http://www.prfrogui.com/home/hcalimon.html> la hacienda el limon 1:41 of 4:23; 1:57, and 3:27, 3:48

1977 Inventario

Eight ceibas, in five sites, were reported from this municipio. Except for the Hacienda Limón area, none of the others could be found via Google Earth.

Hacienda Limón, PR-151, km 9.5 @ PR-559, km 0.5

PR-151, km 3.8

Barrio Caonilla Arriba, Sector La Ortiga, PR-151, km 12

Barrio Vacas, Sitio El Pino (3 ceibas)

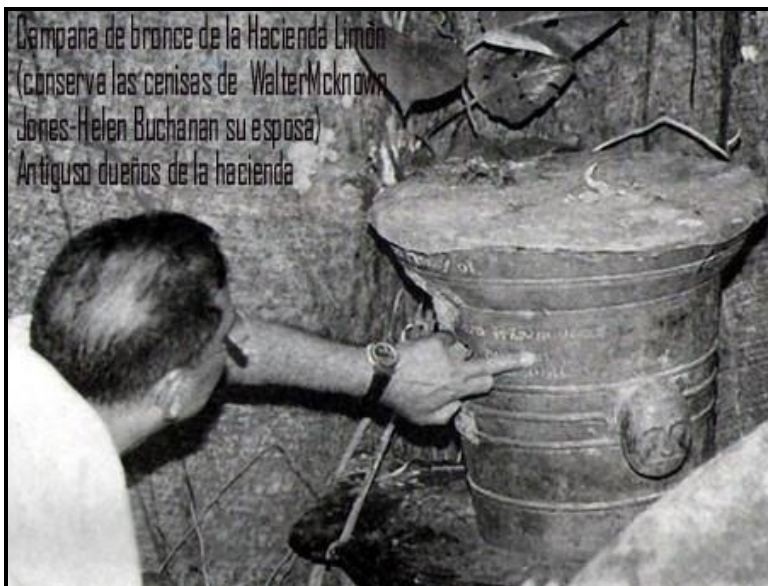
Barrio Semil, finca G. Durán (2 ceibas)

iNaturalist, 2021

No ceibas have been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View -- nada

Figure 505. Bell, upside-down, containing ashes of owners, Hacienda Limón, beneath a ceiba.



YABUCOA

This southeastern coastal municipio is wedged between Maunabo on the south and Humacao to the north.

1977 Inventorio

No ceibas were reported from this municipio.

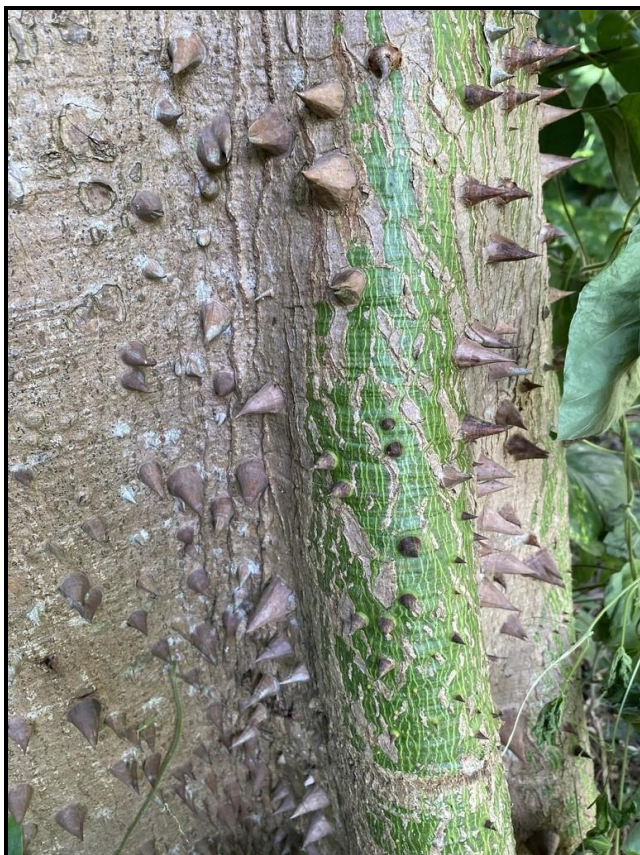
iNaturalist, 2021

Only one ceiba has been photographed for iNaturalist in the municipio – from 4/19/2020. It seems to be a young tree, double-trunk, heavily spiked, near PR-182 @ PR-3.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

nada

Figure 506. Young ceiba near PR-182 and PR-3, Yabucoa (iNat 4/19/2020).



YAUCO

This southwest coastal municipio is limited by Guayanilla on the east and by Guánica and Sabana Grande to the west. Ceibas appear in several different settings over the municipio and have even found their way into the local poetry. Héctor Andrés Negróni, historian of the municipio, in his *Historia de Yauco* (2002) quotes “a tu ceiba extendida junto el llano” (p. 283) and “con su ceiba y sus ruinas a la orilla” (p. 286). These refer to the ancient Hacienda La Florida with its ruins of the ermita next to the Río Yauco. The town has a “Calle Ceiba” and a Calle la Ceiba.” Further, a major ceiba and its plaza are associated with the colorful “escalinata” in el centro. A plant shop carries the name “Ceiba Camacho Acosta.” iNaturalist located some isolated ceibas along the Río Yauco and nearby forests.

1977 Inventario

One ceiba was located during the search of 1977, in Barrio Barinas, next to the casa grande of finca La Florida, PR-2 at PR-135. As it turns out, the grounds of Hacienda La Florida, which included the ruins of La Ermita Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Barinas, is a Monumento Histórico Nacional and today a campus of the Ana G. Méndez University.

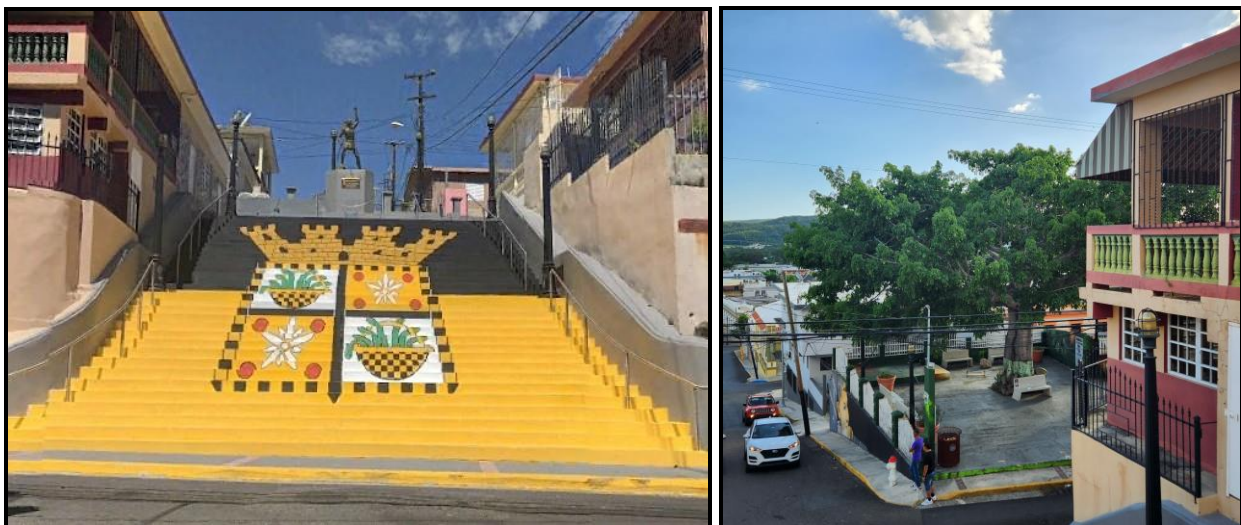
iNaturalist, 2011

The iNaturalist record has five entries – from 8/10/2019; 3/16/2022; 11/27/2022, 12/5/2022; and 1/11/2023.

Google Earth/Google Earth Street View

GESV discovered La Escalera with its large ceiba and plaza near PR-375 @ Betances.

Figures 507, 508. Colorful La Escalera (GESV Feb. 2017) and view of ceiba plaza below (iNat 11/27/2022).



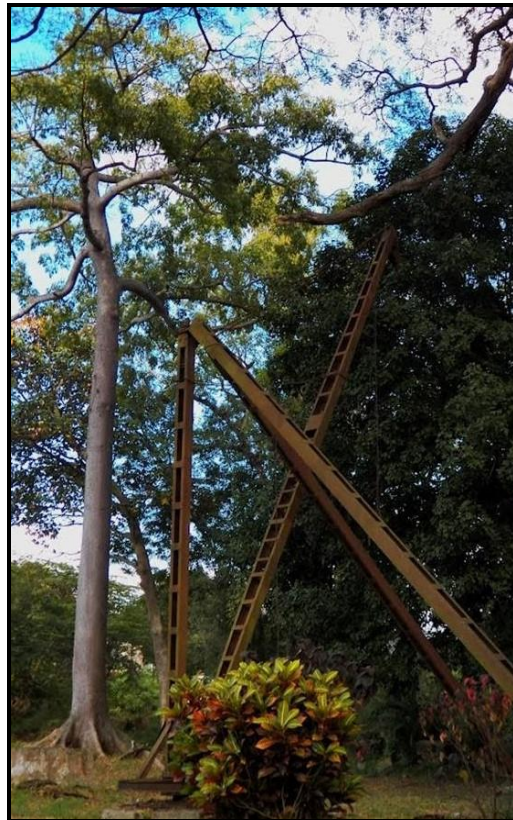
Figures 509, 510. *Ceiba* in the plaza of Yauco, below La Escalera (iNat 11/27/2022); plant store Ceiba Camacho Acosta showing seeding and sapling of *Ceiba pentandra* (Facebook).



Figures 511, 512, 513. Isolates at Río Yauco (iNat 8/10/2019); near dam on Río Loco 9iNat 1/11/2023); sapling in Bosque Estatal de Susúa (iNat 3/16/2022).



Figures 514, 515, 516. Ceibas amongst the ruins at La Florida (Facebook 5/4/2019; 1/14/2020; 8/22/2017).



Concluding Remarks

Though the ceiba was apparently not a prominent feature in the ancient and colonial culture history of Puerto Rico, during the last century or so, the tree has increasingly appeared in painting, folklore, and literature, usually expressed within Hispanic, Taino, or Afro-Caribbean traditions. The Boriqua, in general, claim the ceiba as their national tree. In this study, using photography from iNaturalist and Google Earth Street View, and without on-site landscape observations, we located over 500 ceibas planted in cultural context in Puerto Rico. Nearly half of the trees are in urban settings -- in parks (27%) and other sites (21%) including government and educational institutions. Rural ceibas can be found in the numerous nature reserves (29%) and along major transportation routes (23%). Eleven trees are legendary, with the age and cultural significance to be "special." Three major cities -- San Juan, Ponce, and Caguas -- account for one-fourth of the trees, reflecting the continuing close relationship between humans and ceibas.

In assessing the role of the ceiba in the future landscapes of Puerto Rico we have far more questions than answers. Interest in ceibas might be determined by which of the three dominant cultural influences of the Boricua responds most vigorously.

Will the proponents of the Taino resurgence (González 2018) construct an even more elaborate heritage for the ceibas of Boriquén -- to honor the ancient aboriginal heritage? Aside from the earliest observation by governor de Leon, where are the primary sources that speak of Taino-ceiba relationships?

Will the Afro-Caribbean community build on its heritage of ceibas as an artifact of memories of West African such as found more intensely on Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba?

Will the Hispanic society promote more intensely the ceiba for purposes of tourism and island solidarity: "ceiba . . . símbolo del tiempo." (CD 1977: back cover) A tree for all Boriquen?

Much of what passes throughout popular media about ceibas in Puerto Rico cannot be verified and often has stories that are like those from other islands. For example, the large ceiba near the sea in Mayaguez, known as The Columbus Landing ceiba, is believed to have been the tree where a caravel was moored on Columbus's second voyage. It is true that the "Admiral of the Ocean Seas" was for two nights in November 1493 in the protected lee of western Boriquén, but exactly where cannot be known for certainty. The editor of Navarrete's *Voyages* notes "Ensenada de Mayagues" as the anchorage site, but this is disputed by residents of Aguada and others nearby who "desire" their municipio to be so honored. Under any circumstance, the tree now standing at Columbus Landing is not 500 years old and is 108 meters/356 feet from the

coast. Given the draft of the boats and the shallow offshore, another 1,000+ feet of mooring line would have been needed, and that is simply unrealistic.

Similar impossible scenarios of mooring sites are told about ceibas near the sea in Havana harbor or at La Antigua, near Veracruz, Mexico been used by Cortés (Davidson 2021: 4). A similar legend exists in the Dominican Republic as well. The famous “Ceiba de Colón” is a historic tree located slightly over a mile upriver from the mouth of the Río Ozama in Santo Domingo. Legend has it that here Columbus moored his ship the Santa María when he first arrived in the Americas (Alemar 1943: 120-21).

In the case of Cuba, much has also been made of the final founding of Havana in 1519 and the importance of a ceiba in that event. However, as Paul Niell (2015: 158-59) has brilliantly explained in his writings about the earliest days of Havana, the historical paintings portraying ceibas and their legends came later. The first Cuban capital was not in Havana, but in the south shore at San Cristobal de la Havana.

It may be that ceibas have been planted, or spared to grow, as coastal landmarks for harboring sites. Such certainly was the case of the port of La Ceiba, Honduras (Davidson 2021: 47). However, we have no evidence that this occurred elsewhere in the Antilles.


Ceiba: The national tree of Puerto Rico ???

Ceiba pentandra is popularly thought of as the national tree of Puerto Rico. While I have no evidence of such a legal designation, many government agencies, such as El Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, El Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, and especially those related to tourism, consistently refer to the ceiba as “árbol nacional.” The one law that does highlight the ceiba is not general but declares only the “Ceiba de la Libertad” of San Germán as a “National Resource of Historic Value.” See, Lex Juris Puerto Rico. Ley para declarar la Ceiba de la Libertad. Ley núm. 14 del 16 de febrero de 2015. P. de la C. 1778. <http://www.lexjuris.com/lexlex/Leyes2015/lexl2015014.htm> (Seguinot B. 2023).

The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, an agency of the commonwealth government, proposed the ceiba as the official tree, but until now it has not been officially selected (see Feeney 2003: 17 and [wikipedia.org/wiki/List of U.S. state and territory trees](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_and_territory_trees)).

Figure 4. On the commonwealth tree of Puerto Rico.

Commonwealth Tree



The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture suggested the ceiba as the commonwealth tree. The government has not officially adopted the symbol. But most people still consider the ceiba to be the commonwealth tree.

Ceibas grow in tropical climates. Their small yellow, white, or pink flowers bloom only at night. Bats pollinate the blossoms. Ceibas grow to be more than 100 feet (30 meters) tall. Their trunks stretch outward at the base. The trunk's shape keeps the huge trees planted firmly in moist soil.

Ceiba is a Caribbean Indian word that means canoe. Taínos used the ceiba's trunk to build canoes.

People also call ceibas kapok trees. The trees have seedpods filled with kapok. This soft, fluffy fiber is lightweight and waterproof. People stuff sleeping bags, life preservers, and pillows with kapok. Kapok also provides insulation from heat and sound.

Puerto Ricans consider ceibas a symbol of strength.

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The ceiba has not been the obvious choice for “official tree” of Puerto Rico. Coconut palms, royal palms, and flamboyáns are more visible (and often more appreciated) and mangroves dominate the coasts in many areas. Perhaps because the *seyba* of Taino times speaks to modern residents as an aspect of aboriginal heritage that has played a major role in modern widespread acceptance of the ceiba. Respect for Taino heritage seems to be an increasingly important aspect of modern Puerto Rican identity and ethos.

The ceiba tree remains deep in the ethos of the West Indies. Almost everywhere it is the foremost “spirit tree.” While evidence of aboriginal reverence for the ceiba in Boriquen is lacking, many islanders have taken the tree as their special tree. Judging from the number of recent plantings and the care given to older trees, ceibas will apparently become an even more prominent unifying feature of the Boriqua landscape.

*** **

Appendix

Puerto Rican Ceibas: Literature and Folklore in the Cultural Traditions of the Boricua: (examples)

Taino

<https://witchesandpagans.com/sagewoman-blogs/an-invitation/the-sacred-ceiba.html>

“The sacred ceiba”

Lilliam Comas, 2018 in Sage Woman Blogs

<https://magicinpuertorico.com/2013/11/01/the-portal-of-la-ceiba/>

“Magic in Puerto Rico”

Yvette Milán, 2013 “The portal de ala ceiba,” in Magic in Puerto Rico blog

Afro-Caribbean

<http://sansespiritismo.blogspot.com/2012/06/sanse-tradition-thr-ceiba-tree-of-life.html>

“Sanse tradition, the ceiba tree of life,” in sansespiritismo.blog [Hermano Luis]

Three Puerto Rican folktales: “Guanina,” “The naiboria seiva,” and “the Jibaro and the ceiba tree.”

Hispanic American

“Guanina,” by Cayetano Coll y Toste

[1908] in *Tradiciones y leyendas Puertorriqueñas*, 9-17. Barcelona: Casa Editorial Maucci, 1924, 1928. The “Romero and Juliet” story of Puerto Rico, with several variations: “Los cadavers de don Cristóbal y Guanina fueron enterrados juntos al pie de una gigantesca ceiba.”

“La Ceiba” by Domingo Nieves (CM 1977: 25)

“Hay una ceiba añosa y corpulenta
Cerca del pueblo Quebradillas
De mi tierra, Hermosa maravilla
Siendo inmune a ciclones y tormentas.

Ubicado en la finca de mi padre
Bajo su sombra pasó horas de gran ensoñación
Escuchando de las aves su canción
Y jugando con los niños por las tardes. . .

Dulces recuerdos llegan a mi mente
De aquellos días de mis primeros años
Cuando libre de penas y desengaños
A su sombra dormitaba dulcemente.

En tus grandes cóncabas raíces
Me sentaba a descansar cuando niño
Esperando mis compañeros a jugar
Pasando allí las horas más felices.

Hoy ya anciano vuelvo a que me cuentas
De todas tus pasadas glorias
Cuando em busca de honores y de historia
Bajo tu sombra se agrupaban los valientes. . .”

“Ceiba Implorante” by Ramón José Dávila (1960, CM 1977: 24)

“Ceiba Añosa” by Abelardo Diaz Alfaro (CM 1977: 27-29)

“Vieja ceiba junto al río Plata. Vieja ceiba junto al paso de los Diaz, que eres mudo
testigo de una época. Quien te sembró ahí?”

. . . Casi siempre las ceibas crecen solitarias. . . “

“Canto a la Ceiba” by anonymous (de barrio Cocos, Quebradillas, 1962) (CM 1977: 26)

“Ceiba, el grito de mi tierra suba por tu savia indígena.”

Puerto Rican Ceibas: Paintings

“La ceiba de Ponce” by Francisco Oller, 1888 (Museo de Arte de Ponce)



“Ceiba pentandra” watercolor by Frances Worth Horne, 1918-1934, from Popular Flora of Puerto Rico, Popular Borinqueña (unpublished watercolors in New York Botanical Gardens, collected in Puerto Rico by N. L. and E. G. Britton.



“La Ceiba de Ponce” by Antonio Martorell, 1991 (two displays), 300" x 336", Carbón y pastel de óleo sobre Papel

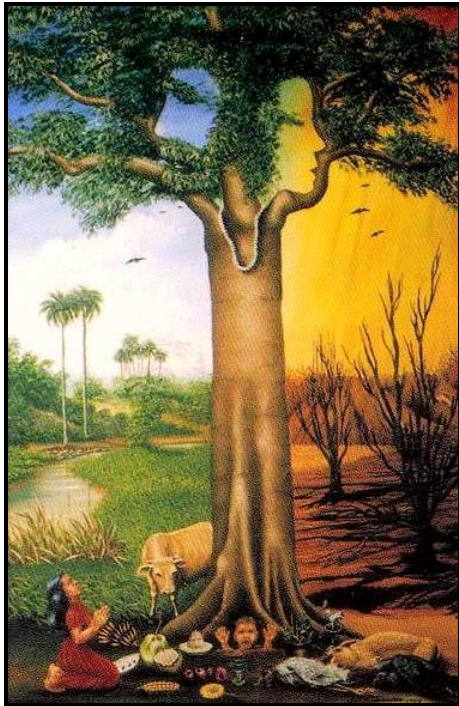


“El árbol de ceiba” by Alicia Maury, 2011 (source: Mari Mut 2015).

“Casi siempre las ceibas crecen solitarias.” (CM 1977: 28)



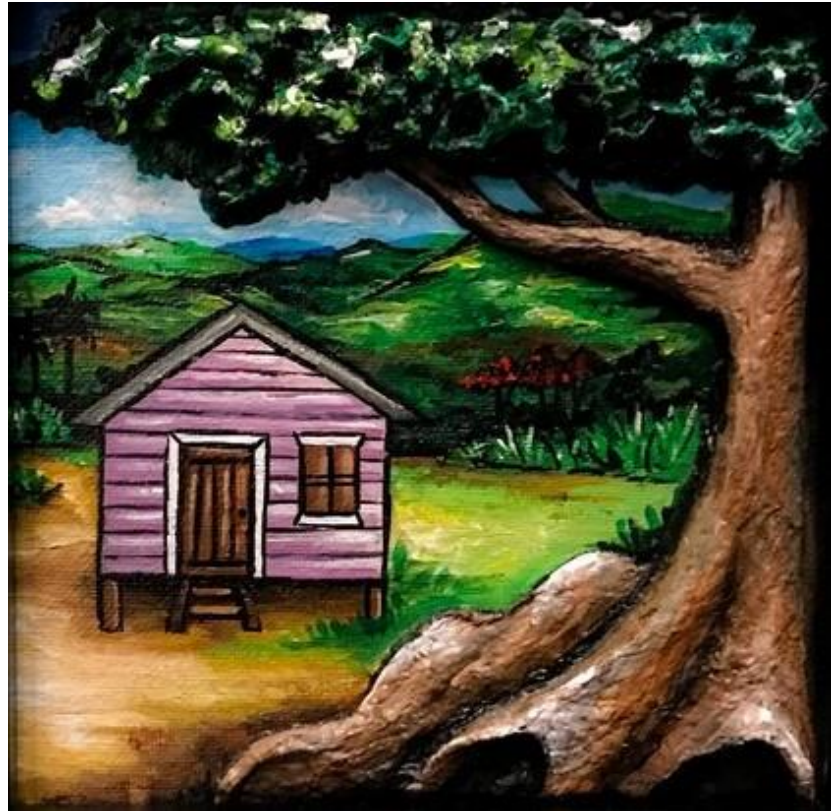
“Abuela Ceiba,” 2012 artist unknown, in “Sanse tradition, the ceiba tree of life,” in sansespiritismo.blog (Hermano Luis)



“Guanina” by Guito (Carmen Milagro Ortiz Miranda), 2014



“Atabeira the Maga Flower and the Ceiba,” 5x10” watercolor by Karla Morales (Artesanias Calichi, Juncos), 2017, and her other ceiba-themed art, normally of recycled wood and paper.



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In retirement, the author and wife Sharon Solomito have conducted landscape observations on *Ceiba pentandra* and found over 10,000 trees in planted in cultural contexts. The following reports on their investigations can be seen at williamvdaavidson.com.

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Ponce 1900

Ceiba Tree
Puerto Rico.

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Patillas



Caguas



San Juan
Parque Central



Mayaguez



Vieques