

Flora of Central and South America

This is a listing of tropical plants that can be used when designing an exhibit for species native to the Central and South American rainforest. Represented are some of the more suitable species for use in smaller, confined spaces. This list does not include members of the Orchid and Bromeliad family at this point, simply because of sheer diversity. Additional genus and species will be added often as information becomes available. The countries shown are the most recent known natural distribution for each species based on collection data.

~Josh Heath

Adiantum

macrophyllum - Central and South America, Panama, Colombia

peruvianum - Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia

polyphyllum - Nicaragua to Venezuela

Alsobia

dianthiflora - Costa Rica, Central America

punctata - Central America

Anthurium

affin besseae - Ecuador

amnicola - Panama

andeanum - Northwestern Ecuador and southwestern Colombia

angustinum - Brazil

angustispadix - Costa Rica

argyrostachyum - Northwestern Ecuador and Colombia

arisaemoides - Ecuador, Peru

austin smithii - Costa Rica

bakeri - Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia

besseae - Bolivia

bogotense - Colombia

brenesii - Costa Rica

breviscapum - Ecuador, Peru

brownii - Costa Rica to Colombia

caucanum - Colombia

clarinervium - Southern Mexico

clavigerum - Costa Rica to Bolivia, east to Brazil and Guianas

clidemiodes - Costa Rica, Panama

colonicum - Panama (Colon province)

corallinum - Peru

corrugatum - Ecuador

croatii - Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

crystallinum - Colombia, Panama

cuspidatum - Costa Rica to Colombia

cutucuensis - Ecuador (Cordillo de Cutucu mountains)

digitatum - Peru, FG, Venezuela

draconopterum - Ecuador (Alto Tambo in Esmeraldas)

dressleri - Colon, Panama

dwyeri - Panama, Colombia

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effusilobum - Ecuador, Peru
eminens - Colombia to Bolivia, east to Brazil, Guianas
ernestii - Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Peru
falcatum - Ecuador, Colombia
fasciale - Southern Ecuador
fendleri - Venezuela (Colonia Tovar)
flavolineatum - Ecuador
fragrantissimum - Panama
friedrichsthali - Guatemala to Colombia
gladiifolium - Brazil
gracile - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador
hebatatum - Central Panama
hookerii - Caribbean into Venezuela
impolitum - Panama
kunthii - Costa Rica (Alajuela, Puntarenas, San Jose), Panama (inc. bocas del Toro, Darien, San Blas)
lancea - Ecuador
lancifolium - Costa Rica
lentii - Costa Rica (Col Tapanti and Talamanca Mountains), Panama (Chiriqui and Cerro Jefe), Colombia
lingua - Ecuador
llewelynii - Peru (Tarapoto, San Martin)
longegeniculatum - Ecuador
longipeltatum - Mexico (Northern Oaxaca and southern Veracruz)
lucens - Southern Mexico to Honduras
madisonianum - Panama
magnificum - Colombia, Honduras
marmoratum - Ecuador
microphyllum - Brazil
moonenii - French Guiana
moronense - Ecuador, Peru
nanum - Colombia
nervatum - Western Panama
ovatifolium - Ecuador
oxycarpum - Colombia to Amazonian Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil
oxyphyllum - Pacific slopes of Ecuador
pallidiflorum - Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Panama
pedatoradiatum - Mexico
pendens - Panama (Colon and Darien provinces)
pendulifolium - Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
penningtonii - Ecuador, Peru
pentaphyllum - Mexico to Panama, Costa Rica (Alajuela and Guanacaste/Heredia)
pittieri - Costa Rica, Panama
plowmanii - Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia
podophyllum - Veracruz, Mexico
polyschistum - Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil

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pseudospectabile - Panama (Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui provinces)
radicans - Ecuador, southeastern Brazil
reflexinervium - Peru (Tingo Maria in Huanuco)
regale - Colombia
rugulosum - Ecuador
salvinii - Mexico through Colombia
scandens - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia
scandens var. latifolium - Central and South America
scherzerianum - Costa Rica
schlechtendalii - Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua
scolopendrinum - Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru
spathulatum - Ecuador
spectabile - Costa Rica
superbum - Ecuador, Peru
supraglandulum - Panama (Cerro Jefe)
tilaranese - Tilaran in Costa Rica
trilobum - Panama, Colombia, Ecuador
triphylum - Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
trisectum - Costa Rica (La Selva and Heredia), Panama (Veraquas province), Ecuador
trinerve - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia to Brazil
truncicola - Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
tysonii - Panama (Cerro Jefe)
variegatum - Ecuador
veitchii - Colombia
verapazense - Mexico to Belize
vittarifolium - Central America
watermaliensi - Costa Rica, Panama
warocqueanum - Colombia
willdenowii - Lesser Antilles
willdenowii var. brevifolium - Brazil
willifordii - Peru (Loreto Dept)

Begonia

convolvulacea - Panama
crispula - Brazil
fagifolia - S. America
glabra - Panama, Costa Rica
imperialis - Mexico
listada - Brazil
maurandiae - Ecuador, Western Brazil
mazae - Mexico
paleata - Brazil
pulchella - Brazil

Bertolonia

carmoi - Brazil
maculata - N. South America
marmorata - Ecuador

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Campyloneurum-

angustifolium var. *ensifolium* - Ecuador

phyllitidis - Caribbean, Belize through South America

Ceratostema

rauhii - Peru

Caladium

bicolor - Costa Rica

humboldtii - Costa Rica

Calathea

allouia - Peru

altissima - Brazil

argyrophylla - Brazil

brasiliensis - Brazil

capitata - Peru, Brazil

colorata - Brazil

fatimae - Brazil

foliosa - Costa Rica

gloriana - Costa Rica

hammelii - Costa Rica

lanata - Brazil, Peru

lancefolia - Brazil

leuconeura - Ecuador

lutea - Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador

marantifolia - Costa Rica

micans - Costa Rica

musaica - Brazil

ovata - Brazil, Suriname, Venezuela

pachystachya - Ecuador

robinae - Costa Rica

rotundifolia - Brazil

standleyi - Western Brazil

undulata - Ecuador

venusta - Costa Rica

vitatta - Venezuela, FG, Guyana, Suriname

warsewicsii - Costa Rica

zebrina - Brazil

Campyloneurum

angustifolium - Central and South America

multipunctatum - Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador

phyllitidis - Throughout Central and South America

Chamaeranthemum

venosum - Brazil, Ecuador

Cissus

amazonica - Brazil

rotundifolia - Peru

sicyoides - Brazil

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Codonanthe

carnosa - Brazil
devosiana - Brazil
elegans - Belize
gracilis - Northern South America
luteola - Panama
serrulata - Brazil
uleana - Panama to Peru, Brazil
venosa - Brazil

Columnea

allenii - Panama
arguta - Panama (Bocas del Toro, Colon, San Blas)
boliviana - Bolivia
colombiana - Ecuador
crassicaulis - Ecuador
crassifolia - Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico
cruenta - Ecuador
dodsonii - Ecuador
erythrophaea - Mexico
ericae - Ecuador
filifera - Ecuador
gloriosa - Costa Rica
harrissii - Central America
hirta - Panama
incredibilis - Colombia
isernii - Ecuador, Peru
katzensteiniae - Ecuador
linearis - Honduras
microphylla - Costa Rica
minor - Colombia, Ecuador
mira - Panama
orientandina - Ecuador, Peru
ornata - Costa Rica
polyantha - Brazil
pulchra - Panama
purpusii - Mexico
purpureovittata - Peru
raymondii - Costa Rica
rubriacuta - Colombia, Ecuador
sanguinea - Ecuador, FG, Suriname, Venezuela
scandens - Ecuador, Venezuela
schiedeana - Mexico
spathulata - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru
strigosa - Colombia, Ecuador
sulfurea - Guatemala, Belize
verecunda - Costa Rica

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villosissima - Ecuador, Peru

Corytoplectus

colombianus - Colombia

cutucuensis - Ecuador

cirkbridei - Colombia

Costus

cuspidatus - Brazil

malorteanus - Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua

sanguineus - Mexico to Costa Rica

stenophyllus - Costa Rica, Honduras

Cyclanthus

bipartitus - Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama

Dorstenia

contrajerva - Widespread throughout Central and South America

Drosera

chrysolepis - Brazil (Bahia, Minas Gerais)

graminifolia - Brazil

intermedia - Northern South America

montana - Brazil

rorimae - Venezuela (Mt. Roraima and surrounding Tepuis), Guyana, Brazil

Drymonia

chiribogana - Ecuador

coccinea - Brazil, Ecuador

coriacea - Costa Rica

cuyabonensis -

ecuadorensis - Ecuador

fimbriata - Costa Rica

killipii - Ecuador, Colombia

microphylla - Panama

semicordata - Brazil, Peru

serrulata - Brazil

turrialvae - Costa Rica

variegata - Ecuador, Panama

Elaphoglossum

backhouseanum - Colombia, Panama, CR, Nicaragua

crinitum - Costa Rica, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia

decoratum - Costa Rica to Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

herminieri - Belize, Caribbean, CR, FG, Ecuador, Guatemala, Venezuela, Guyana

luridum - Venezuela, Guyana

metallicum - Peru

nigrescens - Brazil

peltata - Throughout Caribbean, Central and South America

Episcia

cordata - Venezuela

cupreata - Colombia, possibly Ecuador

fimbriata - Peru, Venezuela

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kohlerioides - Brazil

lilacina - Nicaragua to Panama

Ficus

aurea - Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Caribbean, Guatemala

jimenezii - Costa Rica

lundellii - Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

sp. Panama - Panama, similar/identical species found to Peru

Fittonia

argyroneura - Peru

verschaffeltii - Ecuador, Peru

Gasteranthus

acropodus - Panama

atratus - Ecuador

quitensis - Ecuador

pansamalanus - Ecuador

Geogenanthus

ciliates - Ecuador, Peru

poepigii - Brazil

speciosum - Brazil, Ecuador

undatus - Ecuador, Peru

Gloxinella

erinooides - Venezuela

lindeniana - Colombia

sylvatica - Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Peru

Heliamphora

chimantensis - Venezuela (Bolivar, Chimanta Tepui)

elongata - Venezuela (Ilu and Tramen Tepuis)

folliculate - Venezuela (Aparaman, Murosipan, Terke-Yuren, and Kamarkaiwaran Tepuis)

heterodoxa - Venezuela (Ptari Tepui and Gran Sabana)

hispida - Venezuela (Cerro Neblina)

ionasii - Venezuela (Tramen Tepui)

minor - Venezuela (Auyan Tepui)

neblinae - Venezuela (Cerro Neblina)

nutans - Venezuela (Roraima and Tramen Tepuis)

pulchella - Venezuela (Chimanta Tepui group)

tatei - Venezuela (Cerro Huachamacare)

Hoffmannia

bullata - Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama

ghiesbreghtii - Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama

refulgens - Mexico, Honduras

Homalomena

crinipes - Ecuador

peltata - Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

wendlandii - Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador

Huperzia

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cuernavacensis - El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico

Kohleria

amabilis - Costa Rica, Ecuador

bogotensis - Colombia

chiapensis - Mexico

hirsurta - Ecuador

hondensis - Colombia

hypertrichosa - Ecuador

magnifica - Colombia

peruviana - Peru

saxicola - Mexico

spicata - Costa Rica, Ecuador

warscewiczii - Costa Rica

Macleania

glabra - Costa Rica

insignis - Mexico to Costa Rica

pentaptera - Panama, Colombia, Ecuador

Maranta

leuconeura - Ecuador

repens - Central and South America

Marcgravia

affinis - Peru

brownii - Costa Rica, Ecuador

coriacea - Brazil

macrophylla - Ecuador, Peru

nepenthoides - Costa Rica

nervosa - Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador

panamensis - Panama

parviflora - Peru, Ecuador

pittieri - Costa Rica

purpurea - Peru

rectiflora - Caribbean, Panama, Guatemala, Colombia

schippii - Panama, Ecuador, Belize

waferi - Costa Rica

williamsii - Ecuador

Microgramma

acatellela - Brazil

brunei - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia

crispata - Brazil

geminata - Brazil

heterophylla - Caribbean

lycopodioides - Mexico to South America, Brazil, FG,

megalophylla - Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana

nitida - Central and South America

percussa - Brazil

persicariifolia - Brazil, Trinidad, Paraguay

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piloselloides - Central and South America

reptans - Brazil, FG, Tobago, Trinidad, South America

squamulosa - Brazil

thurnii - Brazil

vaccinifolia - Brazil, Peru, Trinidad

Mitraria

coccinea - Mexico

Monolena

primuliflora - Brazil, CR, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Colombia

Monstera

adansonii - Widespread through Caribbean, Central and South America

deliciosa - Central and South America

dubia - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru

obliqua - Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Trinidad

siltepecana - Mexico, probably south to Colombia

subpinnata - Peru

Napeanthus

costaricensis - Costa Rica

Nautilocalyx

bullatus - Peru

coccineau - Guyana

cordatus - Guyana, Venezuela

ecuadoranus - Ecuador

glandulifer - Ecuador

lynchii - Ecuador, Peru

pemphidius - Venezuela

pictus - Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname

porphyrotrichus - Guyana, Venezuela

Nematanthus

australis - Brazil

brasiliensis - Brazil

corticola - Brazil

crassifolius - Brazil

fissus - Brazil

fluminensis - Brazil

fornix - Brazil

fritschii - Brazil

hirtellus - Brazil

lanceolatus - Brazil

maculates - Brazil

monanthos - Brazil

serpens - Brazil

tessmannii - Brazil

villosus - Brazil

Nephrolepis

exalta - Brazil

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pendula - Caribbean, Central and South America

Niphaea

oblonga - Guatemala

Paradrymonia

alata - Costa Rica

binata - Ecuador

campostyla – Ecuador, Costa Rica

ciliosa - Brazil

costaricana - Costa Rica

decurrens - Costa Rica

densa - French Guiana

fuquaiana - Ecuador

hypocyrtia - Ecuador

luteynii - Colombia

merumeana - Guyana

pedunculata - Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama

Pearcea

hypocyrtiflora - Ecuador

sprucei - Ecuador

Peperomia

abbreviatipes - Colombia

alata - Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Suriname, CR,

albert-smithii - Ecuador

albovittata - Ecuador

angulata - Venezuela

angustata - Mexico

antoniana - Ecuador

argyreia - Northern South America

bicolor - Ecuador

blanda - Central and South America

caespitosa - Ecuador

caliginigaudens - Colombia

campylotropa - Guatemala, Mexico

caperata - Ecuador

clusiifolia - Caribbean, Venezuela

columnella - Peruvian Andes

costaricensis - Costa Rica

crassicaulis - Central America

crispa - Ecuador

cuchumatanica - Guatemala

cyclaminoides - Bolivia

dahlstedtii - Brazil

dendrophila - Ecuador

eburnea - Ecuador

elongate - Brazil

ferreyrae - Peru

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fraseri - Ecuador
futokadsura - Ecuador
galioides - Central America and northern South America
glabella - Central America and northern South America
graveolens - Ecuador
hernandifolia - Ecuador
hirta - Caribbean, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
hoffmannii - Central America and northern South America
incana - Brazil
jamesoniana - Ecuador inc. Tiputini
lanceolata - Mexico
lehmannii - Ecuador
maculosa - Ecuador
macrostachya - Brazil
maypurensis - Venezuela
meridana - Venezuela
metallica 'Columbiana' - Columbia
montium - Ecuador
moralesii - Guatemala
nitida - Brazil
obtusifolia - Central and South America, Caribbean
olens - Mexico
paradoxa - Ecuador
pecuniifolia - Guatemala, Mexico
pellucida - Central and South America, Caribbean
peltoidea - Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela
pereskiiifolia - Colombia, CR, Belize, Panama, Venezuela
peruviana - Peru, northern South America
prostrata - Ecuador, Peru
puteolata - Peru
quadrangularis - Brazil, Caribbean, Colombia, Guyana, Panama, Suriname
reptilis - Colombia
resedaeflora - Peru, Chile
rotundata var. anomala - Ecuador
rotundifolia - Costa Rica to Colombia, Caribbean
rugosa - Ecuador
rupicola - Ecuador
sachatzinzumba - Ecuador
sandersii - Honduras
tenuimarginata - Colombia
translucens - Brazil
tricolor - Peru
trifolia - Caribbean, FG
trinervula - Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela
tristachya - Peru
turboensis - Colombia

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velutina - Ecuador

verschanffeltii - Ecuador

Philodendron

andreanum - Colombia

angustialatum - Peru

angustisectum - Colombia

appendiculatum - Brazil

auriculatum - Costa Rica, Panama

barrosoanum - Ecuador, Venezuela

bipennifolium - Colombia

Burle Marx Fantasy - Brazil

camposportoanum - Bolivia, FG, Guyana, Suriname

crassinervium - Brazil

dolosum - Brazil

elegans - South America

erubescens - Colombia

giganteum - Trinidad

gigas - Panama (San Blas)

gloriosum - Colombia

glaucophyllum - N. South America

goeldii - Ecuador, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela

grazielae - Brazil, Peru

hastatum - Brazil

holtonianum - Colombia

imbe - Southeast Brazil, Bolivia

joepii - French Guiana

lehmanni - Colombia

longilaminatum - Brazil

mamei - Ecuador

melanochrysum - Colombia

mexicanum - Mexico

ornatum - Brazil, Ecuador, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela, Peru

pedatum / *quericifolium* - Colombia, Venezuela, northern South America

pinnatifidum - Venezuela, Brazil

sagittifolium - Central and South America

scandens - Widely distributed throughout Central and South America

schottianum - Costa Rica, Panama

selloum - Brazil, Paraguay

sodiroi - Colombia

spectabile - Colombia

squamiferum - Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Suriname, Peru

tenue - Honduras through Ecuador, east to Venezuela

tripartitum / *fenzlii* - Honduras to Ecuador, east to Venezuela

ugulatum - Brazil

verrucosum - Costa Rica to Ecuador, possibly Peru

Phlebodium

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aureum - North, Central, and South America

decumanum - Central and South America

Pilea

cadieriei - Honduras, Mexico

glaucophylla - Colombia

grandifolia - Jamaica

involucrata - Caribbean, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela

microphylla - Central and South America

mollis - Venezuela

nummulariifolia - Central America to Peru

pubescens - Brazil

rhizobola - Brazil

spruceana - Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

Pinguicula

antarctica - Argentina, Chile

calyptrata - Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

chilensis - Argentina, Chile

clivorum - Guatemala

elongata - Colombia, Venezuela

emarginata - Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras

involuta - Bolivia, Peru

jarmilae - Bolivia

lilacina - Guatemala, Belize

moranensis - Guatemala

orchidiodes - Guatemala

Platycerium

andinum - Peru, possibly Bolivia

Polypodium

attenuatum - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, FG, Guyana, Nicaragua, Suriname, Venezuela

bombycinum - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Venezuela, Panama, Peru

fallax - Central and South America

levigatum - Bolivia, Brazil, CR, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Venezuela

polypodioides - Central and South America

triseriale - Central and South America

Ruellia

makoyana - Brazil

Selaginella

apoda - North, Central, and South America

diffusa - Northern South America

emmeliana - Venezuela

erythropus - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia

flagellata - Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama

flabellata - Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela

imbricans - Venezuela

marginata - Brazil

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martensii - Mexico to Panama

mollis - Mexico to Bolivia

pallescens - Venezuela, Suriname, widespread in northern South America

plana - SE Asia

posada - Central American

umbrosa - Ecuador north to Belize

Sinningia

aggregate - Paraguay, Brazil

allagophylla - Brazil

barbata - Brazil

canescens - Brazil

cardinalis - Brazil

cooperi - Brazil

elator - Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela

incarnata - Brazil

macrophylla - Brazil

macropoda - Paraguay, Brazil

sellovii - Brazil, Bolivia

Spathiphyllum

cochlearispathum - Central America

floribundum - Columbia

friedrichsthali - Mexico to Colombia

phryniifloium - Panama

Stenospermation

wallisii - Bolivia, Ecuador

Syngonium

erythrophyllum - Central America, Panama

sp. Llano-Carti Road - Panama

macrophyllum - Belize, CR, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Northern South America

podophyllum - Mexico through Central and South America

rayii - Costa Rica, Panama

ternatum - Guyana

wendlandii - Costa Rica

Tradescantia

navicularis - Central America

zebrina - Central America

Utricularia

alpina - Antilles, N. South America

asplundii - Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

aureomaculata - Venezuela

buntinggiana - N. Venezuela

calycifida - South American

campbelliana - Venezuela, Guyana

choristotheca - Suriname

determannii - Suriname

endresii - Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador

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guyanensis - Central and South America
geminiloba - Brazil
heterochroma - Venezuela
humboldtii - Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil
huntii - Brazil
jamesoniana - Central and South America
laxa - South America
longifolia - Brazil
meyeri - Brazil
mirabilis - Venezuela
nelumbifolia - Brazil
nephrophylla - Brazil
panamensis - Panama
praelonga - South America
praetermissa - Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama
quelcii - Venezuela, Guyana, N Brazil
schultesii - Colombia, Venezuela
steyermarkii - Venezuela
reniformis - Brazil
tricolor - South America
tridentata - South America
unifolia - Central and South America
Zamia
pseudoparasitica - Panama

BIOTOPIC DESIGN