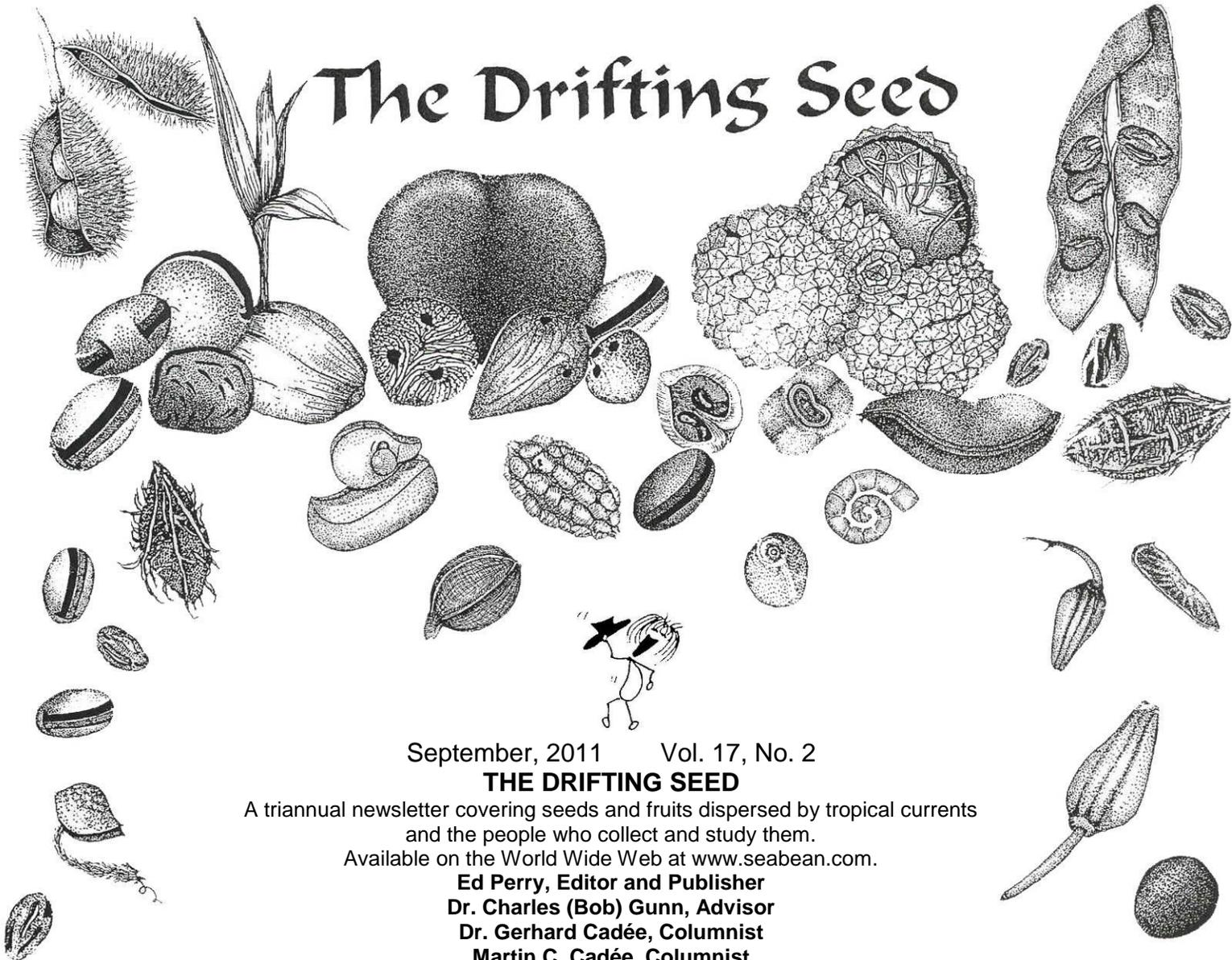


The Drifting Seed



September, 2011 Vol. 17, No. 2

THE DRIFTING SEED

A triannual newsletter covering seeds and fruits dispersed by tropical currents and the people who collect and study them.

Available on the World Wide Web at www.seabean.com.

Ed Perry, Editor and Publisher

Dr. Charles (Bob) Gunn, Advisor

Dr. Gerhard Cadée, Columnist

Martin C. Cadée, Columnist

Dr. Rudolf Jung, Columnist

Suzy McElwaine, Columnist

Dr. Gerald Sullivan, Columnist

Alice Surrency, Columnist

Paul Mikkelsen, Web Site Manager for www.seabean.com

The 16th Annual International Sea Bean Symposium will be held at the Cocoa Beach Public Library, October 21st-22nd, 2011.

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For Newsletter Submissions, Donations, or Seed Identification:
contact: **Ed Perry**, Seaheart88@aol.com
1770 Mason Terrace, Melbourne, FL 32935, USA
Or e-mail: seabean@seabean.com, or visit: www.seabean.com

What A Life!!, Part 1
by Gerald Sullivan
geraldsully@yahoo.com

One of the finer things in life is to be a “drifter.” Imagine being a wanderer of the beach, a collector of seabean from afar or even more fortunate to travel to other domestic or foreign beaches in search of the riches they afford. Oh, to have the wherewithal (dinero and physical fitness) to explore the sands of Australia (Nan Rhodes), Bahamas (Patty Foreman), Jamaica (King Richard Buckman), Japan (Emma Longhorn), Kauai (Carol Sullivan), Mexico (John Williams), Micronesia (Tim Flynn), World (Izumi Hanno), Yucatan (The Magnificent Seven or was it the Band of Eleven?) and all the other intriguing beaches of the world.

Invariably the question arises from the beach sandpeople one encounters. “What do you do with all those lovely seabean once you’ve collected them?” They are, of course, unaware of the joy, sense of accomplishment and rewards associated with finding, identifying, displaying, polishing, jewelry production, gift giving, germinating, growing, studying, reporting, sharing, worshiping (as with talisman or amulet) et cetera, etc. The vast majority of driftseeds I’ve collected have been distributed among visiting school teachers to be used as classroom teaching tools. Let me assure you that’s a whole lot of beans. More specifically, I’ve found that the following endeavors have worked nicely for me in the past in seabean utilization:

1. Kokonut Klowns—The fortunate arrival of a number of rather undersized coconuts (*Cocos nucifera*); an in-depth study of the theatrical faces of the world’s most renowned clowns and recognition of a few commercial logos, resulted in the creation of the “Kokonut Klowns.” Hopefully, one might detect a hint of Emmett Kelly, Red Skeleton, Jack-in-the-box and others. Even a Ronald McDonald likeness was attempted since a coconut with sufficiently abundant coir (husk, fiber) arrived which would do justice to this idolized American buffoon.
2. Professor and Friends—Having fully recovered from his major surgery involving the unsuccessful search for the elusive coconut pearl (1); he is once again a favorite among this diverse assemblage of faithful followers.
3. Gordy (*Crescenta kujete*) aka “The Calabash Kid—He really gets rattled when someone says that without his moustache he looks like the twin of Sesame Street’s Bert. The Kid claims that his famous hog-plum nose (*Spondias mombin*) sets him apart from that disgusting muppet.
4. Dolphins on a Roll—One might have difficulty recognizing the three segments of the seed pod from the sandbox tree (*Hura crepitans*) masquerading as dolphins. The wax wave and rhinestones were also gifts from the sea. Can tar balls be far behind?
5. Sea Wax—Sometimes, simply as a diversion, when the arrival of drift seeds diminished to nearly none, sea waxes



were collected and occasionally deployed. Surprisingly, carnauba wax never washed ashore. Since an application for sex wax (middle of picture) could not be ascertained, this practice of wax gathering was discontinued. A follow up picture illustrates the artistic magic of the Texas sun and heat.



6. Duh, A Wind Chime Failure—Thirty to 60 days after assembling a most beautiful seaheart (*Entada gigas*) wind chime, composed of 12 seahearts drilled straight through from hilum to base and strung, virtually exploded. Apparently there was sufficient moisture in the air to initiate germination and the bursting apart of all the beans. *Caution*—seabean necklaces should not be worn in the shower, rain storms or while swimming. Since I was in a state of shock, a commemorative snapshot of this blunder was not taken, or if taken, conveniently lost. Next time the seeds will be prepared properly as described in #7.

7. Clackers (*Entada gigas*)—A number of small seahearts were prepared by sawing off a portion of their base, scraping out the endosperm, drilling a hole through the hilum and stringing together with braided jute. This replica was christened “Las Entadas” and presented to my daughter-in-law who is a student and performer of South American folkloric dance.



8. Mary’s Bean—(*Merremia discoidesperma*)—The birthing process was so intense and prolonged in my Daughter-In-Law’s first pregnancy that a caesarian section was considered. At the beginning of her second pregnancy she was presented with a Mary’s bean with the following instructions: In order to enhance its power, one must retain Mary’s bean in a secure place such as the accompanying drawstring pouch and periodically throughout the full-term, remove and warm the amulet gently in one’s hand and replenish its luster/beauty by rubbing the seed on both sides of your nose. The natural facial skin oils will renew its splendor and you will create a mystical physical/chemical bonding with it. Proof-of-the-pudding—she barely-barely made it to the delivery room in time. Veddy in-ter-es-ting! In the accompanying photo, if given the choice, which Mary’s bean would you prefer?



9. Ibisu. The Asian Drifter—Seabeaner Emma Longhorn, residing in Japan, graciously presented me with this clay facial mask of Ibisu, a logo of a local beer which washed ashore. His body was then assembled with numerous Mustang Island drift seeds. Ibisu should be mounted in a shadow box for proper display. Recognize any of the seeds? Nice beer belly.



9 ½. TO BE CONTINUED

Reference

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A Sea-Bean Encounter on the Coast of Ireland

by Suzy McElwaine, Ballygowan, Northern Ireland, suzy@bluestorm-clothing.co.uk

My family and I recently had a wonderful holiday in Connemara, County Galway, on the West coast of Ireland. It's one of the most stunning locations in Ireland, with beautiful mountains, an interesting coastline dotted with islands, and fabulous white sand beaches.

If you get stuck in Connemara when the weather is bad it's not all that much fun! The clouds come down and cover all that incredible scenery and it can be very cold, even in high summer. We were, therefore, amazingly lucky to get fabulous, sunny, and in Irish terms, warm weather. With this in mind, on July 10th we headed for the nearby Sellerna Beach so that we could all have a swim.



Living in Ireland, only the super hardy go into the sea in a swimsuit, so this meant wet suits for the kids—Ricky age 6 and Robbie age 4. Soon, we were all enjoying the sun and the beautiful beach, with the kids splashing about and playing some kind of complicated game which seemed to revolve around them pretending to be lobsters.

When Ricky suddenly produced an object he had found floating in the water, we all looked on with interest. What could this thing be? A sea shell? A plant? An alien? My father Graham, who was with us that day, is an enthusiastic naturalist, but this defeated even him, although he thought, due to the fact it was floating, that it might have drifted in from as far away as the Caribbean! It was about the size of a horse chestnut, with a black band around the middle and a hinge at the back. Most of us honestly thought it was some kind of shellfish, resulting in many (obviously fruitless) Google searches when we got home!

Having passed our photos on to some of his contacts, Graham was able to find out that our "Creature From The

Deep" was in fact not a creature at all, but a red hamburger sea-bean, *Mucuna urens*, and this was verified by a number of experts in the USA.

None of us had heard of a sea-bean before, never mind found one, although we understand that they do pop up along the Irish coast from time to time, having travelled right across the Atlantic from Central America, the Caribbean and South America. How amazing that something so small can travel such a vast distance intact and looking like it had only just gone into the water. This species is



clearly designed for long term survival!

In hindsight we all now wish we had taken it home with us though at the time, we thought it was an animal and therefore put it back in the sea to continue its journey.

I wonder where the little sea-bean has headed to next? Perhaps we should start fitting them with satellite tracking devices or “bean cams!”

My son Ricky, who found the sea-bean, is absolutely mad about the sea and the plants and animals that live there. This “find” has really helped encourage him to learn more and will, I have no doubt, continue to be an

influence on him in years to come. He’s already, at the age of six, hoping to be a marine biologist. Maybe once he’s achieved his goal, he’ll specialize in sea-beans!

In any case, my family will always be on the lookout for the next bean now!



Be Careful What You Wish for:
The Unintended Consequences of Land Crab Eviction with Nicker-Beans
by Dr. Rudolf Jung, (jungrudolf@hotmail.com, www.mahahualbeachhouse.com)

Before sharing my tale on using nicker-beans for expelling land crabs from their burrows, I have a confession to make and I need to ask for forgiveness. I am guilty of sea-bean ignorance! Despite having spent almost all of my vacations for the last 15 years in our vacation home in Mahahual, at the Costa Maya, Mexico (<http://www.mahahualbeachhouse.com/>), I was totally unaware that the southern Yucatan coast of the Mexican Caribbean is a sea-bean paradise. As I know now—and as others have already described here in the newsletters (<http://www.seabean.com/newsletters/vol12-1.pdf>)—Costa Maya beaches, fed by the Caribbean Current, produce year-round an incredibly rich and diverse crop of drift seeds. It is impossible not to notice them, yet—except for mutilating a few Sea-Hearts to serve as key chain appendices—I almost completely disregarded them.

But worse, until very recently I had not the slightest idea from where sea-beans might come from nor did I know that seeds of some rainforest plant species can disperse *en masse* with sea currents over very long distances; I never even heard of the term “sea-bean.” The guilt for this second count of sea-bean ignorance weighs much heavier than the first. I am a plant molecular biologist and almost my entire research career of 35 years was dedicated to studying seed biology. I ought to have known! I have one lame excuse to make though—my guides on Caribbean flora do not show any of the sea-beans (except for nicker beans). So, even when I occasionally wondered from which trees sea-beans may have originated from, these books did not offer any answers.

A few months ago a friend of mine from Mahahual asked me to purchase for her on Amazon.com a copy of *Sea Beans from the Tropics* and to bring it along on my next trip to Mahahual. It took me only

a few minutes of leafing through this wonderful guide, to get the sensation of a big revelation. But I was also in shock—it dawned to me that one of the possibly most fascinating aspects of vacationing on a tropical beach—sea-beaning—had eluded me for a very long time. Fifteen years with at least 30 visits to the Costa Maya wasted! Unimaginable the beach treasure I could have amassed during this period. In June 2011 I travelled for the first time sea-bean “enlightened” to Mahahual and my—now “guided”—sea-bean collection tours to Costa Maya beaches exceeded my even wildest expectations. The wrack was full of drift seeds and nobody ever seems to gather them.



After 9 collection strolls (about 10-15 hours total collection time) I counted:
500 Sea-Hearts (*Entada gigas*; I stopped collecting them when I reached 500)
683 Red and Brown Hamburger Beans (about half and half *Mucuna urens* and *M. sloanei*)
221 Saddle Beans (*Dioclea* spp.)
34 Mary’s Beans (*Merremia discoidesperma*)
18 Little Marbles (*Oxyrhynchus trinervius*)
16 Black Mucuna (*M. holtoni*)
12 Hamburger Beans of undetermined species (*Mucuna* spp.; small, dark, glossy Hamburger Beans)
8 Thick-Banded Hamburger Beans (*M. fawcettii* ?)
9 Grey Nicker Beans (*Caesalpinia bonduc*)
5 Brown Nicker Beans (*Caesalpinia major*)

Here is a link to my Picasa album with images of the drift seeds I found:
<https://picasaweb.google.com/jungrudolf/CostaMayaSeaBeansAndDriftSeed#>

Now to my story about Grey Nicker-Beans and land crabs. The Grey Nicker-Bean, more precisely the Nicker-Bean vine, is the only “sea-bean” plant I have been familiar with for some time (although I was not aware of the fact that Nicker-Beans float in sea water and belong to the drifting seeds).

Four years ago hurricane Dean (the third strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic basin) devastated the Costa Maya with a direct hit. Even though our vacation house did not sustain much damage, the hurricane laid waste to our beach, garden and jungle. Very few plants and trees survived the wind and waves of this powerful storm. A half year after the storm we encountered a never seen before, quickly sprouting and enormously vigorous vine, growing about 40 yards from the high water line. Because of its thorns and characteristic leaves, even before the vine developed flowers and pods, it was not difficult to identify it. It was a Grey Nicker-Bean vine. My only recently acquired knowledge about sea-beans suggests to me that this vine probably originated from a drift seed carried deep into our property by the waves of the hurricane. After another year passed, the vine had evolved into a huge, impenetrable, thorny (although nicely green) thicket, almost entirely covering (and smothering) a large Uva del Mar tree (aka Sea Grape, *Coccoloba uvifera*) and several other trees. This vine produces hundreds of seeds and I have seen several other Nicker-Bean vines growing on other beaches. In so far it’s surprising to find so few Grey Nicker-Beans as drift seeds at the wrack line (I found less than 10).

Our caretaker says the Spanish name for the Nicker-Bean vine is Una de Gato (Cat’s Claw), which is an apt name. If you walk by accident into a Nicker-Bean thicket it’s like running into a barbed wire

fence, only worse. Aside of receiving nasty and bleeding scratch wounds, the thorns are brittle and easily break off and fracture; it is very painful to extract them.

One of our plant books provided the seemingly useful information that Nicker-Beans are being used



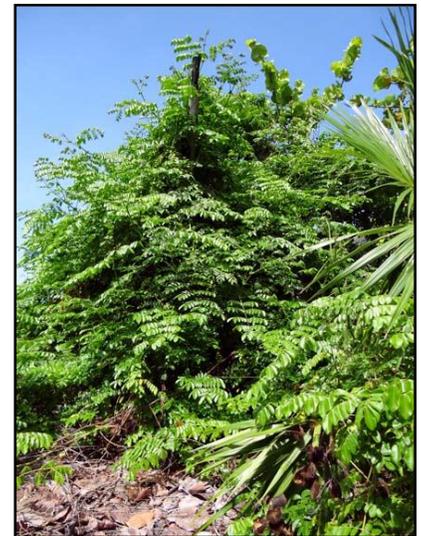
for evicting land crabs from their burrows by dropping beans into the holes. This is supposedly an “organic” plant protection technique used on Caribbean Islands by small-plot farmers or gardeners. The often abundant crabs can be a pest in agricultural plantations because they eat seedlings or destroy plant roots with their burrows.

In the post-Dean period we engaged in a major effort to restore plant life on our property by planting many new trees and native plants. However, land crabs were very detrimental to this effort

because they seemed to prefer new planting sites for new burrows. My guess is the affinity of crabs to these places can be explained by the fresh water that is typically regularly applied to new plantings. As already mentioned, because of our sprawling Nicker-Bean vine we had a large amount of Nicker-Beans at our disposal and so the idea was born to start a crab eviction project on our property and to expel crabs in the proximity of our most precious plantings.



At first—not without feeling guilty about such cruelty—we marveled at the sights of the crabs trying to roll out the Nicker-Beans from their burrows. Akin to small Sisyphuses, for many hours, they made one futile attempt after another. The smooth beans would roll back into the holes over and over again. They are apparently too slippery for crab claws to get a good grip on them. According to the book, the crabs eventually should get frustrated from this activity and abandon the hole. And indeed they left, however, after the first night passed we had to realize that each “evicted” crab just made a new hole in a distance of an inch or so from the old burrow. So a tug-of-war started, with us dropping Nickers into emerging new burrows around our—I mentioned it already—*most precious* plants, and the crabs making a new burrow each night close to their “condemned” old dwelling. Our least hope was that they would get tired and move farther away from our plantings. Needless to say that it was our effort now that became Sisyphusian, and eventually we had to give up this whole eviction enterprise.



This is not the end of this story however. A German proverb says, “Wir hatten die Rechnung ohne den Wirt gemacht” (loosely translated we “reckoned without one’s host”). As an entirely unintended consequence, a year and a half later, everywhere on our property—neatly marking all those former crab holes around our *most precious* plants—small Nicker-Bean vines are emerging! If not immediately removed, these prolific lianas tend to grab, strangle and kill any plant in reach (i.e. not “any” plant, but—I have to repeat it again—our “most precious” plants). Even though crabs have been clipping, nibbling on, excavating or otherwise molesting almost every plant we have been trying to establish in our garden, they seem not to harm any of the emerging Nicker-Bean seedlings. It almost looks like an act of revenge. Crabs can’t laugh audibly (I think), but they sure must have a great time observing us getting scratched and bleeding in our new fight eradicating these damn vines.

***Acrocomia* sp., a Prickly Palm Seed from Tenerife (Canary Islands)**

by Gerhard C. Cadée & Martin C. Cadée, (Gerhard.Cadee@nioz.nl)

The Canary Islands are reached by the southern continuation of the North Atlantic Drift, the Canary Current. However, tropical drift seeds appear to be rare (Gunn & Dennis, 1976, p. 35). Guppy (1917, p. 38) spent several days on Tenerife examining the northern coast but found no tropical drift seeds although a considerable amount of oceanic drift such as *Spirula* shells and Portuguese man-of-war *Physalia* was cast on the shore. On Lanzarote, another of the Canary Islands, a few tropical drift seeds were found: Nelson (2000, p. 89) reported an *Entada gigas* collected there in 1985 by Kraus. Sytske Dijkzen collected here two drift seeds *Dioclea reflexa* and *Mucuna* aff. *flagellipes* (Cadée & Dijkzen, 1999). Nelson (2002) did find on Lanzarote, among drift of *Spirula* shells and innumerable plastic nurdles, five seeds of Convolvulaceae, sea bindweed *Calystegia soldanella* or moonflower *Ipomoea alba*, the latter a 'Gulfstream' drift seed. Both plants did not grow on Lanzarote. Here we report a new tropical drift seed *Acrocomia* sp. from the Canary Islands, now from Tenerife.



On the 23rd of April 2011, Martin collected an endocarp of the prickly palm on the beach at Punta del Hidalgo on the North coast of Tenerife. This is an easy identifiable globose palm seed because of its three almost equatorial pores. The length of our specimen is 28.5 mm and its diameter 23.5 mm. This falls within the diameter of 20 to 35 mm given by Gunn & Dennis (1976). Pictures can be found on internet and in Gunn & Dennis (1976), Nelson (2000), and Perry & Dennis (2003). All mention that the prickly—or corozo-palm—grows in tropical America and the West Indies. Perry & Dennis mention a buoyancy time in seawater of over 15

years under test conditions. Despite this extraordinary long time, only once it is mentioned from east Atlantic shores. William MacGillivray collected *Acrocomia* around 1900 on the beach of Barra, one of the Outer Hebrides, islands off the West coast of Scotland (Nelson, 2000, p. 34 & p. 58). Although interest in tropical drift seeds in Europe has increased in the last decades, no new material was reported.

Guppy (1917, p. 160) observed that the moist mature fruits of this palm sink in seawater and that even dry fruits drift only for some days. However, after they have lost their outer layers, and decaying of the seed during exposure on the ground, they are able to float for a longer time. Each empty 'stone' has three lateral perforations, two of which are closed at the bottom, only one is more or less open. If this stone is picked up on the beach during high tides, it will float. Seawater is unable to replace the air within the 'stone,' this trapped air gives it its buoyancy.

The *Mucuna* and *Dioclea* collected on Lanzarote could still be of African origin, although we suggested a neotropical origin more plausible (Cadée & Dijkzen, 1999). This *Acrocomia* must be derived from tropical America as this palm does not grow in Africa. However, Nelson (pers. communication July 2011) mentions the possibility that the prickly palm might be introduced on Tenerife, because "tourists like palms." According to Henderson (1995) *Acrocomia aculeata* (Jacq.) is a widespread and variable Neotropical species, in which he lumps several formerly separately described species. It occurs throughout the Neotropics from Mexico through Central and South America to Paraguay and Argentina and also occurring on the Greater and Lesser Antilles.

Ridley (1930, p. 327) writes that Guppy (1917) reports *Acrocomia* among the drift seeds he collected

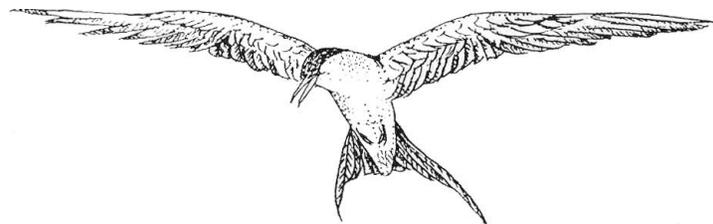
on the Azores. This must be a misquotation as Guppy (1917, p. 160) only mentions *Acrocomia* from beach-drift of Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada and very scantily presented on the Turks Islands. He does not give *Acrocomia* in his Table on p. 27, which presents characteristic West Indian drift seeds he knows from European coasts including the Azores.

This is the second report of an endocarp of the prickly palm *Acrocomia* sp. from an East Atlantic shore, over 100 years after the first. We ask visitors and inhabitants of the Canary Islands to look out for tropical drift seeds. Apparently the southern arm of the North Atlantic Drift, the Canary Current transports fewer tropical drift seeds than the northern arm that supplies our West European coasts.



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Sea Bean Heaven

Dream from September 18, 2001

by Alice L. Surrency, FloridaAl@cfl.rr.com

It was a long two weeks for all of America, myself included. The stresses of the World Trade Center crashes, topped with the threat of Tropical Storm Gabriel was a lot for this human to endure. My head hit the pillow after a weekend of sun and sea beaming. I spent the weekend trying to escape the TV and the horrors that it brought, by combing the beaches for sea beans. It was Tuesday night and my sunburn was starting to itch, sleep was just a few short breaths away. I found myself watching a horrible flood. Where was I? The waves were crashing higher and higher upon the shore, where I was standing. I remember viewing the devastation from many different views, from high above, from far away and from the parking lot of some kind of storage facility or junkyard. My panic was setting in; I had nowhere to run, the water was everywhere. Confusion was a constant; where am I? Who owns this place? Can anyone help me? My mind was racing with concern for my safety. Someone begins to talk to me; I can't see their face. I turn all around to see who they are or where they are, but could not see anyone. The voice tells me, this is pretty normal for this time of year around here, just wait it out, you are safe, and you may even be surprised. Surprised about what? What was the voice referring to? An uneasy feeling set in as I climbed up on a tall rack holding lots of stuff. I could not make out what the stuff was.

As dreams go, in a blink of an eye the water was gone and the ground was dry. The water had left lots of trash and foliage lying around. What was all this about? As I began to question myself, something caught my eye. It was the color of a dark red Bing cherry. The size was as big as the top of a tin can. No way, this was too far away from the water to have these here. Could it really be a Sea Heart way up here? Leaping down from the shelf seemed like a short jump, which lasted an eternity. The closer I came to the object the more objects I noticed. They were lying all over. There were round ones, flat ones, big ones, and small ones all along the bottom of the lower shelves lying amongst the trash below the shelf. I seemed to walk and walk to reach the cherry colored object, time seemed to stand still. During this walk my left-brain kicked in and was trying to analyze how so many sea beans could have got here. Finally, it was in my hand, the most perfect Sea Heart I have ever seen. This baby was ready for the tumbler. Wow! What a joy and what a strange place to find such a powerful joy feeling.



So my obsession kicked in and away I went. A quick scan of the area showed lots of wrack stuck all over the place, could this place really have other great beans as well?

As I walked along what resembled a wash, back home in Arizona, I was having trouble fitting all of the wonderful beans into my bulging pockets. From over my shoulder came the voice again. I turned to see if I could see them this time, but to no avail. The voice asks would you like a bag? I politely answered yes, thank you. Do you know what sea beans are I ask? The response was no, but they seem to bring you great joy. Yes, they do, I responded and I am not really sure why. So I proceeded

to sing the Sea Bean sermon, telling all about the far away currents that carry the beans to us from exotic trees from far away. The voice interrupted and stated, feel free to help yourself to all the sea beans you want, it is comforting to see you enjoy my creations so. Not really listening to what the voice said, my mind was preoccupied with the excitement of showing my sea bean buddies my haul. Wow! What will Alice, Cathie, and Ed think about this place, this must be Sea Bean Heaven?

The further I walked the more beans I saw. I came through a wash and saw a set of old pillars. They must be remains of an old bridge. Along the leg of one of the pillars I saw a large rock-type object. Being an old rock hound from Arizona, I was locked onto the target and going in for my first real Florida rock. As I approached the object it appeared too smooth to be any kind of rock that I recognized. Oh no! This was a Huge Sea Heart—it was 6 inches across. What a find! This will for sure make it into *The Drifting Seed*. I fell to my knees and began to dig this gem out. The next thought that came to my mind was to be sure to thank the universe for offering this gift into my life. Wow! Without delay the words THANK YOU came floating out of my mouth, on little clouds. I was feeling good all over.

My eyes opened and my mind had to determine if what just happened was real or a dream. Much to my dismay there were no huge Sea Hearts out on the counter, no sand in my shoes. Damn, it was a dream.

The next day began with such a peace about it. My mind continued to wander back to Sea Bean Heaven every time work got a little tough. I wanted to share this place with you so if you get a chance to choose your great escape, you might consider visiting my Sea Bean Heaven. There is plenty to go around.

P.S. Tell them Alice sent you, I have a good connection up there.



Sixteenth Annual International Sea-Bean Symposium and Beachcombers' Festival

Cocoa Beach Public Library—550 North Brevard Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931

Open Free To The Public, October 21st & 22nd, 2011

Schedule of Events*

Through the weekend: Sea-bean collections and displays, experts, sea-bean polishing, the famous Bean-O-Matic, jewelry, T-shirts, slide-shows, speakers, books, authors, international guests, raffle and contests (including the ever popular “ODD-BEAN” contest, and the Saturday morning “BEAN-A-THON” beachcombing bonanza!).

We are pleased to announce that our very own Blair Witherington will be our featured Keynote Speaker for this year's event. Blair is a Research Scientist, photographer, author, and avid beachcomber. He will present to us “Georgia and the Carolinas, a Beachcombing Odyssey” on Saturday evening. Blair's wife, Dawn, is also a great contributor to this effort and behind-the-scene preparation.

Natural history writers and books will be available through the weekend. Returning this year for her second visit will be “Dr. Beachcomb” Deacon Ritterbush, with her book *A Beachcomber's Odyssey: Treasures from a Collected Past*; Deacon will be onsite with us all weekend to sign books and share knowledge. Krieger Publishing Company will be pleased to present *Sea-Beans from the Tropics: A Collector's Guide to Sea-Beans and Other Tropical Drift on Atlantic Shores*, by Perry/Dennis (reprint edition 2010). Ed Perry will be on-hand to sign copies. Krieger will also have the reprint edition of the *World Guide to Tropical Drift Seeds and Fruits*. Blair and Dawn Witherington are the authors of *Florida's Living Beaches* (Pineapple Press, 2007) which is a guide to anything and everything you may encounter on Florida's beaches, featuring not only sea-beans, but also shells, fish, plants, birds, and even the “green flash!” Blair and Dawn will be at the Symposium with copies of their Florida book as well as their newly released *Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas, A Beachcomber's Guide*. The ever-popular *The Little Book of Sea-Beans* will also be available. Jim Angy, Marge Bell and Matt MacQueen of Still Nature Productions will be offering their digital books and *Beach Basics* packages. Also present will be Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer with his book *Flotsametrics and the Floating World*, and Beach Hunter David McRee with his book *Florida Beaches*. This year we will again also make available for sale Cathie Katz' beautifully written and illustrated *The Nature of Florida's.....series*.

Thursday, October 20th (3-5pm)

Everyone is invited to the main conference room at the Cocoa Beach Public Library for an informal get-together and introduction, discussion of symposium plans, and to set up displays for the weekend. We need lots of help setting up tables, chairs, and displays, so please feel free to donate time and suggestions. At 6pm those interested can meet at Roberto's Little Havana Restaurant (1/2 mile south of the library at 26 N. Orlando Ave.—this place has GREAT Cuban food, and has become a Symposium tradition).

Friday, October 21st (9am-6pm)

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 9am to 6pm. Enter your seeds for the ODD-BEAN contest (see 22nd).
11 to 11:45 am: *The Context of Beachcombing* (slide show)—by Dr. Beachcomb Deacon Ritterbush
2 to 3 pm: *Wall Across the Atlantic and Tsunami Debris* (slide show)—by Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer
4 to 5 pm: *Eyes of the Ocean: Glass Fishing Floats, their History, Use, and Beauty* (slide show)—by Ann and Dan Sherwood
6 pm: The library closes.

Saturday, October 22nd (8am-9pm)

Displays and collections open to the public all day, free, from 9am to 5pm. Enter your seeds for the ODD-BEAN contest (see 4:30).
8:00 to 10:00 am: Bean-A-Thon 2011—You are on your own; don't come to the library first if you participate. Collect sea-beans and/or toys/trash/sea-glass on any beach between Canaveral National Seashore and Sebastian Inlet. You MUST have your beans/toys/sea-glass at the library by 10:30am. Contest is judged/tallied per individual effort in the 2hr. time frame, please. No doubling-up.
9:00 am: Library opens.
10:30 to 11:30: Judges will tally Bean-A-Thon entries outside in front of the library (awards at 7pm that night).
11:30 to Noon: *I Think It's a Jellyfish!* (updated! slide show) learn about the jellies that wash up on our beaches—by David McRee
1:00 to 2:00 pm: *Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Sea Glass* (slide show)—by Dr. Beachcomb Deacon Ritterbush
4 to 4:30: **GROUP PICTURE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY! Be in it! Bring your camera!** —photos taken by Jim Angy
4:30 pm: ODD-BEAN contest judging (for entries submitted all through the weekend). In a baggie with your name, address/phone number place your squarest sea heart, largest hamburger bean, and largest nickernut from an existing sea-bean collection. “Oddness” will be determined by the judges. These entries DO NOT have to be found in the Saturday morning Bean-A-Thon. Please enter!!!!
Dinner Break: 5:00pm to 7pm: Tables and displays will be taken down in main room in preparation for the keynote presentation.
7:00 pm: Prompt! Bean-A-Thon and contest awards and certificates presented. Raffle winners chosen.
7:45 to 8:45 pm: **Keynotes** Blair and Dawn Witherington—*Georgia and the Carolinas, a Beachcombing Odyssey* (slide show)
9 pm: Library closes for Symposium.

Sunday, October 23rd (9-11am)

Take down displays; small business meeting to discuss and schedule dates/help for next year's symposium.

*October is still HURRICANE SEASON in Florida, so our schedule is at the mercy of the powers beyond our control. Hurricanes are wonderful for beaning, but can be dangerous for beachwalkers. Our beachcombing and Symposium activities may be cancelled because of severe weather, in which case we'll follow evacuation procedures to the mainland. In the event of a hurricane, information will be available at your hotel and at the library.

Travel and Hotel Information for Symposium 2011 in Cocoa Beach

Cocoa Beach is about an hour drive from Orlando International Airport.

Beach Place - 1445 S. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. 783-4045

La Quinta: <http://laquinta.com/lq/properties/propertyProfile.do?ident=LQ622&propId=622>

Luna Sea: <http://www.lunaseacocoabeach.com/reservations.php>

Pelican Landing: <http://www.angelfire.com/on2/pelicanlandingresort/main.html>

South Beach Inn: <http://www.southbeachinn.com/accommodations.htm>

Anthony's On The Beach - 3499 S. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. 783-9892

Beach Island Resort - 1125 S. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. 784-5720

Crawford's Cocoa Cabanas - 1901 S. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach. 799-0307

And finally, here's a link to a list of lots of local lodging. <http://cocoabeach.com/lodging.html>



Sea-Bean T-Shirt for 2011

100 % cotton shirt

all shirts are a \$20 donation each

► available at the **16th Annual Sea-Bean Symposium and Beachcombers' Festival**, Cocoa Beach, Florida ◀
(or to mail-order only while supplies last contact Alice at floridaal@cfl.rr.com for instructions and shipping)

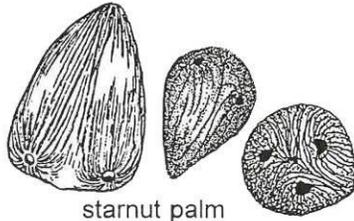
This year's T-shirt features the artwork of our own Dawn Witherington that depicts the whimsical and relaxed nature that seems to be a common trait among "sea-beaners" and beachcombers worldwide.

Simple Guide to Common Drift Seeds

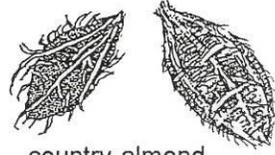
(Illustrations by Cathie Katz and Pamela J. Paradine)



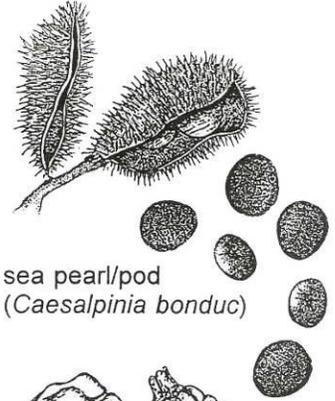
hamburger bean
(*Mucuna* spp.)



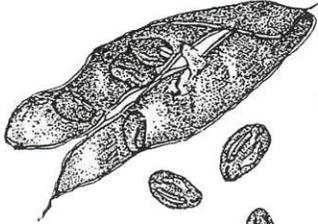
starnut palm
(*Astrocaryum* spp.)



country almond
(*Terminalia catappa*)



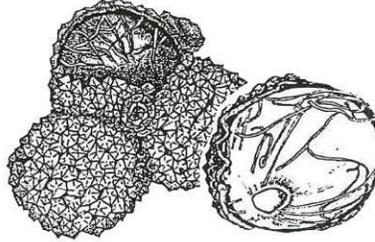
sea pearl/pod
(*Caesalpinia bonduc*)



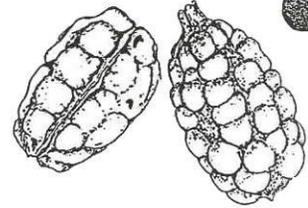
bay bean/pod
(*Canavalia rosea*)



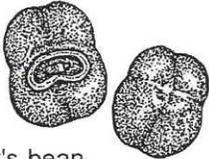
sea heart
(*Entada gigas*)



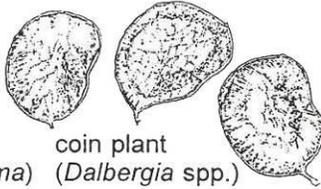
golfball/pod
(*Manicaria saccifera*)



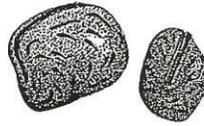
hand grenade
(*Sacoglottis amazonica*)



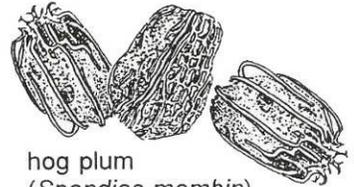
Mary's bean
(*Merremia discoidesperma*)



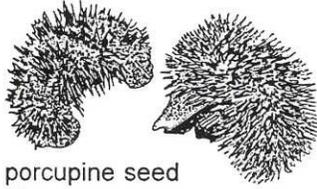
coin plant
(*Dalbergia* spp.)



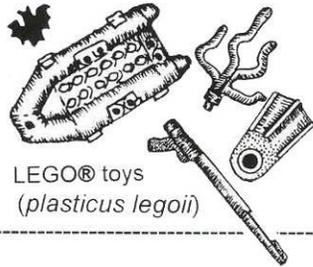
sea purse
(*Dioclea reflexa*)



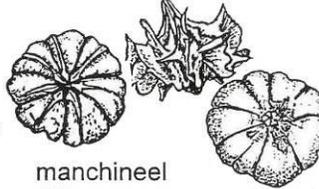
hog plum
(*Spondias mombin*)



porcupine seed
(*Caryocar microcarpum*)



LEGO® toys
(*plasticus legoii*)



manchineel
(*Hippomane mancinella*)



white/black/red mangrove
(various genera)



The Drifting Seed

PO Box 510366
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

