

Botanical Illustrations Available for Sponsorship



***Cestrum fastigiatum*, watercolour drawing and hand-coloured plate, 1815**

Now recognised as *Cestrum diurnum*, this species is native to the Caribbean and Mexico. It is not unusual for the epithet to change, or in some cases, for a species to be reattributed to another genus as botanical knowledge expounds.



***Asclepias curassavica*, painted by a Chinese artist, late 18th or early 19th century**

This painting, by an unidentified Chinese artist, formed part of a collection by Kew's first Director, William Jackson Hooker, and was probably sent to him by a correspondent stationed in China in the mid-1800s.

Asclepias curassavica is an ornamental evergreen shrub that has been used both as a medicine and a poison. It is interesting that although native to Mexico and Tropical America, it was clearly being cultivated in China by the early 1800s.



Unidentified specimen, possibly from the family Annonaceae, painted by a Chinese artist, late 18th or early 19th century

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