



ILLUSTRATIONS

PAGE I ❧ The myrtle (*Myrtus communis*), the plant into which Polydorus was transformed. Ulisse Aldrovandi, 1550–1605. Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna, Ms. 124, *Tavole di piante*, vol. II, c. 176. © Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna—Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna.

PAGES II–III ❧ The grey mangrove (*Avicennia marina*). From *Luigi Balugani's drawings of African plants, From the collection made by James Bruce of Kinnaïrd on his travels to discover the source of the Nile 1767–1773*, pl. 76 (1991), by Paul Hulton. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.

PAGE IV ❧ The fruits and leaves of *Dodonaea viscosa*, known as *akeake* in Te Reo Māori. From *Indigenous Flowers of the Hawaiian Islands*, t. 39 (1885), by Francis Sinclair. Artist I. Sinclair. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE V ❧ *Harakeke*, the New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*). From *Les Liliacées*, vol. 8: t. 448 (1805–1816), by P.J. Redouté. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE VI ❧ The grey poplar (*Populus x canescens*). From *The North American sylva*, vol. 2: t. 100 (1817–1819), by F.A. Michaux. Artist P. Bessa. Photograph by Matthew Hall.

PAGE VIII ❧ The rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). From *Flore des environs de St. Petersbourg et de Moscou* t. 2 (1811), by J. Liboschitz and K.B. Trinius. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE XVII ❧ The black birch (*Betula nigra*) [as *Betula rubra*]. From *The botanical cabinet*, vol. 13: t. 1248 (1827), by Conrad Loddiges. Artist G. Cooke. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE XX ❧ The rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). From *Flora Danica*, fascicle 18, t. 1034 (1761–1883), by G.C. Oeder et al. Courtesy of The Royal Library, National Library of Denmark.

PAGE XXXII ❧ The pomegranate (*Punica granatum*). From *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* vol. 43: t. 1832a (1816). Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE I ❧ Detail of the sweet potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas*), known as kumara in Te Reo Māori. From *Indigenous Flowers of the Hawaiian Islands*, t. 15 (1885), by Francis Sinclair. Artist I. Sinclair. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE 14 ❧ Adam and Eve. Albrecht Dürer, 1504. Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGE 17 ❧ Viratapurusha (Puruṣa) shown with multiple heads, standing on a pedestal with a long garland of lotus flowers on his shoulders. From *Album of 136 illustrations of the History of the world or Creation of the universe*. Karikal (Tanjore) and for some pages Masulipatam (Andhra), between 1727 and 1758. Source Bibliothèque nationale de France.

PAGE 19 ❧ The grapevine was born from the death of the sacred ox. Maria Sibylla Merian, 1701–05. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by the Smithsonian Museum. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 23 ❧ The common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*—here as *Juniperus minor*) is one of four coniferous species in Finland. According to the Kalevala it was sown in stony places by Pellervoinen. From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes*, t. 78 (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 24 ❧ The middle column of page 9 shows the Maize God (left) speaking with the creator god Itzamnaaj (right). From the *Codex Dresden*, also known as *Codex Dresdensis*, a preconquest pictorial manuscript; ritualcalendrical. Unknown, 1500 (circa). SLUB Dresden, Mscr.Dresd.M.32, digital.slubdresden.de/id272362328.

PAGE 28 ❧ *Cycas angulata*, the cycad brought to Yanyuwa country by the Tiger Shark. From *Botanical Drawings from Australia* plate 159 (1801), by Ferdinand L. Bauer. Copyright Natural History Museum, London.

PAGE 29 ❧ *Eleocharis dulcis* (as *Scirpus tuberosus*). From *Plants of the coast of Coromandel*, vol. 3: t. 231 (1819), by William Roxburgh. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 31 ❧ The New Zealand kauri, *Agathis australis* (as *Dammara australis*). The largest specimen of the kauri tree in New Zealand is known as Tāne Mahuta, lord of the forest, from the Maori god Tāne who brought the trees to earth. From *Description of the genus Pinus and some other remarkable plants*, 2nd ed., vol. 2: t. 6 (1890), by A. B. Lambert. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 32 ❧ Mishima Pass in Kai Province. Travelers embrace the trunk of the ancient *Cryptomeria* tree (detail). Katsushika Hokusai, 1830–32. Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGE 34 ❧ The common lime (*Tilia x europaea*). From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insigne* (“Notable commentaries on the history of plants”), t. 862 (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 35 ❧ A South American species of passionflower (*Passiflora laurifolia*). The passionflower is symptomatic of the Christian approach to sacred plants. From *Metamorphosis insectorum surinamensium* (c.1701–05), by Maria Sibylla Merian. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Smithsonian Museum. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 45 ❧ A South American species of passionflower (*Passiflora laurifolia*). The passionflower is symptomatic of the Christian approach to sacred plants. From *Metamorphosis insectorum surinamensium* (c.1701–05), by Maria Sibylla Merian. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Smithsonian Museum. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 47 ❧ Leaves of *Ficus religiosa* (Peepul, papal, pipul, or Bodhi tree), unknown Indian artist commissioned by William Roxburgh, 1751–1815. Copyright Kew Gardens.

PAGE 49 ❧ Yggdrasil, with the animals that live in its branches, including Níðhöggr who bites the tree from below. From the seventeenth-century manuscript AM 738 4to. Courtesy of the Árni Magnússon Institute, Iceland.

PAGE 54 ❧ *Ceiba pentandra*, the *yaxche* tree (as *Eriodendron anfractuosum*). From *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, vol. 61 [ser. 2, vol. 8]: t. 3360 (1834). Artist M. Young. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 57 ❧ A priest offers springs of tulsi (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*) to Vishnu. Unknown, 1820 (circa). © Trustees of the British Museum

PAGE 59 ☞ *Nelumbo nucifera*, the sacred lotus (as *Nymphaea Nelumbo*). From *New illustration of the sexual system of Carolus von Linnaeus and the temple of Flora, or garden of nature*, t.67 (1807), by R. J. Thornton. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 60 ☞ *Quercus robur*. From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes*, t.129 (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 62 ☞ “The Sacred Tree” (Sakaki) chapter from *The Tale of Genji (detail)*. Unknown, 1650 (circa). Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGE 68 ☞ The bearded iris (*Iris germanica*). From *Botanica in originali* (1733), by Johann Hieronymus Kniphof. Photograph by Matthew Hall.

PAGE 69 ☞ Detail of *Anemone hortensis*. From *The Botanical Magazine (Curtis)*, t. 109–144, vol. 4: t. 123 (1791).

PAGE 80 ☞ The Birth of Adonis from Myrrha. Benedeto Montagna, 1515–1520 (circa). Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington.

PAGE 82 ☞ Apollo and Daphne. Piero del Pollaiuolo, 1470 (circa). National Gallery Picture Library.

PAGE 87 ☞ *Iris germanica*. Some traditions regard the flower that sprang up from the death of Hyacinthos to be an Iris. *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine*, t. 645–692, vol. 18: t. 670, (1803). Artist S. T. Edwards. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 88 ☞ The Fall of Phaethon. Nicolas Beatrizet (after Michelangelo), 1540–63. Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGE 90 ☞ Jupiter and Mercury in the house of Baucis and Philemon. Hyacinthe Collin de Vermont, eighteenth century. Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGE 92 ☞ Cyparissus is transformed into a Cypress. Johann Wilhelm Baur, 1640 (circa). Courtesy of the Imaging Department © President and Fellows of Harvard College.

PAGE 97 ☞ *Acacia nilotica*, a native Egyptian Acacia tree (as *Mimosa Arabica*). From *Plants of the coast of Coromandel*, vol. 2: t. 149 (1798), by William Roxburgh. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 98 ❧ *Narcissus poeticus*—native to Greece and named by Linnaeus in honor of its association with the myth of Narcissus. From *Les Liliacées*, vol. 3: t. 160 (1805–1816), by P.J. Redouté. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 102 ❧ *Oryza sativa*. From *Hortus Romanus juxta Systema Tournefortianum*, vol. 8: t. 64 (1783–1816), by Giorgio Bonelli. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 106 ❧ *Nelumbo nucifera*, the sacred lotus (as *Nelumbo speciosa*). From *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, vol. 68 [ser. 2, vol. 15]: t. 3917 (1842). Artist, W. H. Fitch. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 108 ❧ The mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*). From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insigne*, t. 530 (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 109 ❧ *Pouteria lucuma*, the lucma tree (as *Achras lucuma*). From *Flora Peruviana, et Chilensis*, Plates 153–325, vol. 2: p. 17, t. 239 (1798–1802), by H. Ruiz Lopez and J. Pavon. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 121 ❧ The Barnacle Tree. From *The Herball* (1597), by John Gerard. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 123 ❧ A Scythian lamb, a plant animal found in Russia (a fourlegged object composed of sticks and fur). From “Museum Britannicum,” Plate 15, by Jan and Andreas van Rymdsdyk, 1772. © Trustees of the British Museum.

PAGE 125 ❧ The Waqwaq tree. From a fifteenthcentury Arabic manuscript known as *Kitab al-bulhan*. Ms. Bodl. Or. 133, fol. 4lb. Courtesy of The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford.

PAGE 127 ❧ Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*). From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes* t. 482 (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 131 ❧ The flight of the Simurgh. Basawan, 1590 (circa). The Simurgh is a mythical bird that roosted in Gaokerena tree, which stands in the middle of the world sea (Vourukasha). Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

PAGE 133 ❧ *Pouteria lucuma*, the *lucma* tree (as *Achras lucuma*). From *Flora Peruviana, et Chilensis*, Plates 153–325, vol. 2: p. 17, t. 239 (1798–1802), by H. Ruiz Lopez and J. Pavon. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 135 ❧ *Matricaria chamomilla*, chamomile, (as *Chamaemelon leucanthemon*). From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes* t. 25 (1542). Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 138 ❧ *Leptadenia reticulata* (*givanti* or *jivanti*), a common ayurvedic treatment, and one of the plants to which the hymn to medicinal plants is addressed. From *Hortus Indicus Malabaricus*, vol. 7: t. 25 (1686), by H. A. van Rheedee tot Drakestein. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 140 ❧ Plum Tree in Bloom, Spring Rain Collection (Harusame shū), Ryūryūkyō Shinsai, 1805–10. Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

PAGE 141 ❧ Flowers of *Bombax ceiba*, the *salmali* tree (as *Bombax heptaphyllum*). From *Flore d'Amérique* t. 197 (1843–1846). Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 154 ❧ *Prunus cerasus*, the cherry tree. In the battle of the trees, the cherry was provoked. From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes* (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 160 ❧ Erysichthon chops down an oak sacred to Ceres (Demeter). Johann Wilhelm Baur, 1639 (circa). Courtesy of the Imaging Department © President and Fellows of Harvard College. .

PAGE 162 ❧ *Butea monosperma* (as *Butea frondosa*), known as the flame of the forest, a deciduous tropical and subtropical tree widespread on the Indian subcontinent. From *Plants of the Coast of Coromandel*, Vol 1 (1795), by William Roxburgh. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 166 ❧ The myrtle (*Myrtus communis*), the plant into which Polydorus was transformed. Ulisse Aldrovandi, 1550–1605. Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna, Ms. 124, *Tavole di piante*, vol. II, c. 176. © Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna—Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna.

PAGE 170 ❧ Frosty Birch Trees. Akseli GallenKallela, 1894. GallenKallela was a Finnish painter best known for his depictions of scenes from the *Kalevala*. Courtesy of The Athenaeum. <https://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=57558>.

PAGE 178 ❧ Iskander (Alexander) at the Talking Tree. Unknown artist, 1330–36 (circa). Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC: Purchase—Charles Lang Freer Endowment, F1935.23.

PAGE 182 ❧ Flowers of *Bombax ceiba*, the *salmali* tree (as *Bombax heptaphyllum*). From *Plants of the Coast of Coromandel*, vol. 3: t. 247 (1819), by William Roxburgh. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 186 ❧ Nymphs in the garden of the Hesperides picking the golden apples (detail). Cherubino Alberti (engraver), Polidoro da Caravaggio (artist), 1570–1615. Courtesy of Te Papa.

PAGE 188 ❧ The European oak (*Quercus robur*) [as *Quercus fastigiata*]. From *Traité des arbres forestiers*, t. 16, by J.H. Jaume Saint-Hilaire (1824). Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE 189 ❧ Reproductive parts (1–3. Stamens, 4–5. Cone scales, 6. Seed with wing) of the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*). From *Traité des arbres et arbustes*, Nouvelle édition vol. 5: t. 78 (1812), by H.L. Duhamel du Monceau. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 201 ❧ Compendium of four images from the Jaina *Uttaradhyayanasutra* showing, clockwise from top left: (top left) The six *lesyas*, external appearances cast upon the soul by the individual's Karma, represented by a roseapple tree (*jambu*) from which six men are trying to get the fruit. These men are shown by the colors of their respective *lesyas*. The black has an axe and endeavors to cut the tree down at its base. The blue is cutting the branches. The grey is cutting off the twigs with fruit. The red climbs the tree to pluck the fruit. The yellow pulls off what he can reach as he walks around. The white collects only what has fallen to the ground. (top right) Parable of the ram

(*elaijjam*) and the story of the king and forbidden mangoes. (bottom left) Mahavira classifying living and nonliving things. (bottom right) The nature of karma.

All images © Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

PAGE 202 ✂ Ulysses Conducted by Calypso to the forest, cuts the trees to build his ship. Philip Dawe, 1776. © Trustees of the British Museum.

PAGE 204 ✂ Corn (*Zea mays*). From *Flore des serres et des jardin de l'Europe*, vol. 19 (1845) by L. van Houtte. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 208 ✂ The Broken Pine, Akseli GallenKallela, 1906. Image from The Athenaeum. <http://www.the-athenaeum.org>.

PAGE 214 ✂ *Metrosideros robusta*, the northern rātā, an endemic tree species of Aotearoa New Zealand. From *The botany of the Antarctic voyage of H.M. ships Erebus and Terror in the Years 1839–1843, under the command of Captain Sir James Clark Ross*, vol. 2(1): t. 17 (1853), by J. D. Hooker. Artist W. H. Fitch. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by MBLWHO Library. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 216 ✂ Krishna Counsels the Pandava Leaders, page from a *Mahābhārata* series (detail). Unknown, 1830–1850. Courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum – CC BY 3.0.

PAGE 220 ✂ *Cedrus libani*, the cedar of Lebanon, (as *Pinus cedrus*). From *Plantae selectae*, vol. 6: t. 60 (1760), by C. J. Trew and G. D. Ehret. Artist G. D. Ehret. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden. www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

PAGE 222 ✂ Cat in a Persea Tree, from *Book of Dead of Ani Sheet* 10. © Trustees of the British Museum.

PAGE 224 ✂ Inside Akiba Shrine, Utagawa Hiroshige, 1857. Courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum – CC BY 3.0.

PAGE 226 ✂ The fruits and leaves of *Dodonaea viscosa*, known as *akeake* in Te Reo Māori. From *Indigenous Flowers of the Hawaiian Islands*, t. 39 (1885), by Francis Sinclair. Artist I. Sinclair. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE 230 ❧ A New Zealand Hebe (*Veronica speciosa*), known as *napuka* in Te Reo Māori. From *Favourite flowers of garden and greenhouse* Vol 3 (1897), by Edward Step. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

PAGE 254 ❧ A species of sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*) from North America. From *Botanica in originali* (1733), by Johann Hieronymus Kniphof. Photograph by Matthew Hall.

PAGE 280 ❧ The black mulberry (*Morus nigra*). From *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes* t. 522 (1542), by Leonhart Fuchs. Image(s) courtesy History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries; copyright the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma.

PAGE 294 ❧ *Harakeke*, the New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*). From *Les Liliacées*, vol. 8: t. 448 (1805-1816), by P.J. Redouté. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library. www.biodiversitylibrary.org

