The Cuban Botanical illustrations (1819-1828) of Nancy Kingsbury Wollstonecraft (1781-1828) at Cornell University Ithaca, New York

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Judith Russell (UF) and Emilio Cueto
Preliminary Progress Report

Pieces of the puzzle

- “Mrs. Walstoncraft”
- “Mrs. Wolstoncraft”
- “Mary Wolstoncraft”
- “A.K. Wollestonecroft”
- “Anne Kingsbury Wollestonecroft”
- “D’Anville” (pseudonym)
- “Nancy Kingsbury Wollestonecroft”
Cuba and her neighbors/ Cuba y sus vecinos
The beginnings

• Columbus (*Diary*, 1492/ 1825)

• Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo (*Historia General y Natural de las Indias Occidentales*, 1535)

• IMAGES

• Francisco Hernández, Philip II’s physician. 1570. Cuba, Mexico. Ms. Burnt in Escorial fire (1671)
Carl Linnaeus
(Sweden, 1707-1778)
SPECIES PLANTARUM
Holmia [Stockholm, Estocolmo], 1753
“Ancestry.com” for plants

Figure 2-6 Discover Biology 3/e
© 2006 W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
PIONEERS OF CUBAN BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS
1763-1827: 144 ills. Only 49 printed when made

- 1795-1796. Atanasio Echevarría (1769?-1820s?). Expedition of Martín de Sesé (1751-1808) and José Mariano Mociño (1757-1819). Ms. 14 ills.
- 1790s. Olof Swartz (1760/1818). *Printed.* 1 ill.
- 1819. Rafael Gomez Rombaud. Tobacco plant. Ms. 1 ill.
1763. Nikolaus Jacquin (Dutch, 1727-1817). Visited Cuba in the 1750s. 29 printed ills
Pl. 99 *Ginoria (americana)*/ Clavellina de río
1795-1796. Atanasio Echevarría (1769?-1820s?). Expedition of Martín de Sesé (1751-1808) and José Mariano Mociño (1757-1819). Ms. 14 ills.

• To exile in Switzerland. Ms. Returned to Barcelona.
• Copied by ladies in Geneva
• Lost.
• 1979 Hunt Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.
• *Solanum mammosum* (Nipplefruit, fox head, cow's udder, or apple of Sodom/ Güirito)
1796-1802: José Guío Sánchez (?), Baltasar Manuel Boldo (?)
Count of Mopox Expedition (1796-1802)
67 ills. 1802/1984
José Guío

[Pereskia] (1797)/ Trichilia glabra (1798)
1804: Antonio Cavanilles (1745-1804)
14 Cuban ills.
Hortus Regius Matritensis (1804/1991)
1801, 1804. Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) 
In Cuba 1801, 1804. 12 ills. 
*Plantes équinoxiales* (1808)/ *Nova genera* (1815-1825)
1 ill. Datura ceratecaula, "Stramoine cornu", Chamico Silvestre.
1819. Rafael Gómez Rombaud
Intendente General de Hacienda
1 ill. Tobacco plant Ms. 1819
1824. Curtis’s Botanical Magazine
Nicotiana Repanda / "Stem-clasping Havana Tobacco"
4 ills. (pl. 2484, May 1, 1824).
1827. Descourtilz, Michel Etienne (1775-1835/38). French planter who lived in Santo Domingo and visited Cuba in the 1790s. 2 ills. "Toque de La Havanne" (?)
Nancy Kingsbury Wollstonecraft
(Rindge, Cheshire, New Hampshire, 29 October, 1781-Matanzas, 16 May, 1828), age 46

New York Farmer (IV.1828) [“Wolstoncraft”]

Mensajero Semanal (26.VIII.1828) [“Walstoncraft”]
José Antonio Saco (1797-1879) vs. Ramón de la Sagra (1798-1871)

El Mensajero Semanal (1829), Papeles de Saco (1858)
Nancy Kingsbury Wollstonecraft
Carlos Trelles (1912) / Emilio Cueto (2002)
[“Walstoncraft”]
Specimens of the plants and fruits of the island of Cuba, 1826?.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author:</th>
<th>Anne Kingsbury Wollstonecroft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary:</td>
<td>Plates drawn and colored by hand, accompanied by descriptive manuscript notes. Vols. 1-2 bound in half calf (worn) with the author’s name stamped on cover; v.3 bound in 1/4 morocco with author and title on spine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating:</td>
<td>(not yet rated) 0 with reviews - Be the first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjects</td>
<td>Botany -- Cuba, Fruit-culture -- Cuba, Botany, View all subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More like this</td>
<td>Similar Items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bibliography

• 1834. Samuel L. Knapp, Female Biography: Containing Notices of Distinguished Women, in Different Ages and Nation (New York: J. Carpenter, 1834), p. 477; “Wolstoncraft” [wrote letters upon Cuba “evincing more knowledge of the soil, climate, productions, manners and customs of the inhabitants than any other one who has written on the subject”]


• 2008. Wayne Bodle, “Wollstonecraft(s) in America, 1792–1870s”, Australia and New Zealand American Studies. Association Meeting at the University Of Sydney July 4-7 unpublished paper (2008). [“Nancy Kingsbury Wollstonecraft lived in Cuba in the 1820s as part of a mostly female American expatriate convalescent community. She became known for watercolor paintings of local flora and fauna. Sarah Garrison Wollstonecraft and her daughter, Jane Nelson, disappeared from the record, but both may have been in New Orleans from 1845 until the mid-1870s.”, pp. 57-58

• 2009. Wayne Bodle, “Mary Wollstonecraft at 250: Are the Doors of Perception Still Open?” Historiann, April 2009 [“My research to date has traced Charles’s second wife and widow, Nancy (who a Boston antiquarian publisher mistakenly gave the name “Mary” and described as having assumed the vocation of writing about women’s rights) to her death in a Cuban community of mostly female American convalescent or “invalid” artistic expatriates].

• 2012. Wayne Bodle (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), "'Who Forms This Paradise by the Sweat of his Brow...': Nancy (Kingsbury) Wollstonecraft's Botanical Reckoning with Cuba, 1821-1828". 2012: The Empire and Imagination in Early America and the Atlantic World (15th – 19th centuries). Conference at Bayreuth University, 13-15 December 2012
Birth Certificate
Benjamin Kingsbury, II (1742-1827) and Abigail Sawin (1748-1793)
(Thanks to Judith Russell)
Biography
1820s
Ms. Kingsbury in Cuba

- **1817**: Anglo-Spanish Treaty abolishing slave trade.
- **1817**: Havana Botanical Garden. José Antonio de la Ossa.
- **1818**: Fine Arts Academy “San Alejandro”.
- **1818**: A Royal Decree allowing free trade from various Cuban ports. 1827. Western Cuba, 48 French, 57 Spanish, 71 English, 785 US
- **1823**: Monroe Doctrine. Doctrina Monroe.
- **1824**: Ayacucho, Perú.
- **1825**: Expanded power to Captain General (“Facultades omnímodas”).
- **1827**: Censo: Mostly black 56%. 704,000 (311,000 white, 286,000 slaves, 106,000 free blacks) 1,000 sugar mills trapiches; 30,090 ranches, 5,534 tobacco farms; 2,067 coffee plantations (Matanzas, 203).
- **CLIMATE**: Semitropical. Average temperature 21° C (70° F) - 27° C (81° F). Healthcare destination.
Ms. Kingsbury, the woman

- 1781. 29 October. Born, Rindge, New Hampshire. Mother dies (1793) when Nancy was 12. Siblings: Joseph (1769-1840), Abigail (1777-1813), Jedidah (1779-1842), Benjamin (1785-1836), Mary (1787-1852)
- 1817. Benefactor of The Poydras Female Asylum, founded in 1817 New Orleans by Julien Poydras
- 1819. Moved to Cuba, Matanzas. Why? Health reasons?
- 1825. Summer. Visits New England [pl. 110]
- 1827. June 10, Father Benjamin dies.
- 1828. April. Drawings already in NY. *New York Farmer; Mensajero semanal*
- 1828. 16 May. Dies in Matanzas, Cuba, age 46
Ms. Kingsbury, the botanist

- Linnean terminology and classification
- Olof Swartz [3]
- Patrick Brown, *Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*, 1756 [17]
- James Smith, *Introduction to Physiological Botany*, 1807 [20]
- Cambridge University garden [22] *Coco* soil analysis by chemists Cambridge University [Letters, 1, 565], University garden in Cambridge, US. [84] [Harvard?]
- Soil analysis correspondence with Charles H. Miller M.D. [Letters, 1, 564]
- **Studied? Self-taught?**
Ms. Kingsbury, the botanist

• Studied? Self-taught?

• “The tree which bears the flower and the legume represented in plate 66 grows in this island to twenty feet high. It may be that I have mistaken the genus, and species to which botanists have assigned it. But without either books to inform or scientific friends to correct, it would be astonishing if I did not make any mistakes in the nomenclatur[e] and in the artificial arrangement of plants which have been presented to me and their characters unfolded by Nature only without the slightest aid from scientifick persons. I have yet not had so much as a single conversation with a botanist, much less a lesson [] I describe the plants, as I have found, or thought I found them. No aid from others have aided me. It must be therefore that my descriptions shall prove faulty, yet I can affirm it is unavoidable, not willful faults that I shall deface these pages”.
Ms. Kingsbury, the lover of poetry
Richard Blackmore (1654-1729) [10]/“Sweet floret” [37]/
Nancy Kingsbury Wollstonecraft
(Lived in Cuba [Matanzas], ca. 1821-1828)
3 VOLUMES: 121 ILLUSTRATED PLATES, 220 PAGES OF DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

- Volume 1- 47 plates
- Volume 2-51 plates
- Volume 3- 23 plates (cut to smaller size)

- ILLUSTRATED PLATES
- Last numbered plate, No. 145
- One mutilated
- 24 missing (or never painted)
- Some plates have more than one plant
- Some plants have more than one plate
Sketches
1. *Canna indica*
Indian shot

- L: *Canna indica*
- E/ I: African arrowroot
- Sp/ Es: Achira, Achera, Sagú, Capacho, Biri, Cucuyús, Juquián, Risgua, Caña de India
1. *Canna indica*

- The *Canna indica* has received the English name of Indian shot from the extreme hardness and perfect roundness of the seeds, which are so hard they are used to shoot birds. They are sometimes also strung together and wore for beads and are so smooth and of such a shining black color as to look very [?] for necklaces upon a negro’s skin.
2. *Canna / Monandrya monogynia*

Lance leaf

- **L:** *Coreopsis lanceolate*
- **E/ I:** Lance-leaved coreopsis
- **Sp/ Es:** Semíramis, Botón de oro, Dalia marítima, Ojo de poeta
3. *Justicia assurgens/ Diandria monogynia*

Balsam

- **L:**
- **E/ I:** Justicia Balsam, Sixangle Foldwing
- **Sp/ E:** Banderita, Gallitos
4. *Justicia picta/ Diandria monogynia*

Picture leaf

- **L:**
- **E/ I:** Caricature plant, Joseph’s coat, Café con leche
- **Sp/ Es:** Guacamayo, Justicia, Papagayo, Unión de los casados
7. Pothos / Tetrandria monogynia

[?]

- L: *Epipremnum aureum*, *Scindapsus aureus*
- E/ I: Golden pothos, hunter's robe, ivy arum, money plant, silver vine, Solomon Islands ivy and taro vine, devil's vine or devil's ivy
- Sp/ Es: Poto, Potho
8. *Plumeria alba*/ *Pentandria monogynia*
Jasmine tree

- **L:**
- **E/ I:** White Frangipani. Nosegay
- **Sp/ Es:** Alhelí Blanco, Alhelí Cimarrón, Tabaiba, Suche, Franchipán, Caracucha, Tabeiba, Tijereta
9. *Cordia sebestena*
Scarlet cordia

- **L:**
- **E/ I:** Geiger tree
- **Sp/ Es:** Vomitel Colorado, Sebestén de las Antillas, Nomeolvides
10. *Cordia gerascanthus/ Pentandria monogynia*
Prince wood

- L:
- E/ I: Spanish elm, Light American, Cupane, Ecuador laurel
- Sp/ Es: Móncoro, solera, Varia de Cuba, Palo de rosa
11. *Cameraria latifolia / Pentandria monogynia*
Bastard Manchioneel

- L:
- E/ I: White poison wood, Savanna white poison wood.
- Sp/ Es: Chechén, Chechén de caballo, Maboa
13. *Datura arborea/ Pentandria monogynia*
Floripondio

- L:
- E/ I: Angel's trumpet, Peruvian trumpet
- Sp/ Es: Árbol de las trompetas, Trompetero, Floripondio blanco, Trompeta del Juicio, Estramonio
15-16. *Convulvus cerulea et rubra / Pentandria monogynia*

Blue and red bindweeds

- L: *Ipomoea rubra*
- E/I: blue dawn flower, blue bindweed, blue convolvulus, morning glory, Pig-vine Morning-glory
- Sp/Es: Bejuco de puerco
- Cf. plate 46
25. *Passiflora cerulea*
Blue passion flower

- **L:**
- **E/ I:** Blue passionflower, bluecrown passionflower or common passion flowe
- **Sp/ Es:** Pasionaria, flor de la pasión o pasionaria azul
28. *Imopteris Alba* / *Monablya paullinia*/ Sapindacea *Tropteris genscom* [“cannot be so”] [?] 

- L:
- E/ I:
- Sp/ Es:
[31][b] *Amaryllis Belladona/ Hexandria monogynia*  
Lily

- L:
- E/ I: Jersey lily, belladonna-lily, naked-lady-lily, March lily
- Sp/ Es: Amariles, azucena de San Miguel, azucena de Santa Paula, Azucena de Marzo, Azucena Rosada, la suegra y la nuera
33. [?] / Lomentacea
Bastard Fustik

- L: *Chlorophora tinctoria*?
- E/ I: Bastard Fustic, Yellow Brazil wood
- Sp/ Es: Mora, Moral, Palo de mora
35. *Laurus persea/ Enneandria monogynia*
Avocado pear

- L: *Persea americana*
- E/ I: Avocado
- Sp/ Es: Aguacate
36. *Anacardium occidentale* / *Polygamia monoccia*
Cashew apple

- L:
- E/ I: Cashew
- Sp/ Es: Marañón
37. *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*/ *Decandria monogynia*
Barbados pride

- L:
- E/ I: Peacock flower
- Sp/ Es: Guacamaya, Clavellina, Pequeño flamboyan, Pájaro rojo del Paraíso, Chivato de jardín, Tabachín, Poinciana.
41. *Cactus grandiflora/ Icosandria monogynia*

Night blooming Cereus

- **L:** *Selenicereus grandiflorus*
- **E/ I:** Queen of the night, night-blooming cereus
- **Sp/ Es:** Cactus Reina de la Noche
43. *Psidium piriferum/ Icosandria monogynia*
Guayaba or Guava

- L: *Psidium guajava*
- E/ I: Goava
- Sp/ Es: Guayaba
Punica granatum/ Icosandria monogynia
Pomegranate

- L:
- E/ I: Pomegranate
- Sp/ Es: Granada
47. *Magnifera indica/ Pentandria monogynia*

Mango

- L: *Magnifera indica*
- E/ I: Mango
- Sp/ Es: Mango
48-49. *Anona muricata/ Polyandra polyginia*

Sour sop

- L:
- E/ I: Soursop
- Sp/ Es: Guanábana
50. *Citrus aurantium*/ *Polydelphia icosandria*
Seville orange; Lime

- **L:**
- **E/ I:** Bitter orange, Seville orange, sour orange, bigarade orange, marmalade orange
- **Sp/ Es:** Naranja agria
52. *Bignonia stans*/ *Didyanamia Angiospermia*
French Oak

- **L:** *Tecoma stans*
- **E/ I:** yellow trumpetbush, yellow bells, yellow elder, ginger-thomas.
- **Sp/ Es:** Trompeta de Oro, Bignonia amarilla,
58. *Bombax pentandrum*/ *Monadelphia pentandria*
Silk cotton tree

- L: *Ceiba pentandra*
- E/ I: Silk cotton tree, simal, red cotton tree, kapok, bombax.
- Sp/ Es: Ceiba
59. *Hibiscus esculentus*/ *Monadelphia poliandria*

**Okra**

- **L:** *Abelmoschus esculentus*
- **E/ I:** Okra, Gumbo
- **Sp/ Es:** Quimbombó, Guingombó
62. *Hibiscus tiliaceous*/ *Monodelphia polyandria*

**Sea mahoe**

- **L**: *Hibiscus Tiliaceous*
- **E/ I**: sea hibiscus, beach hibiscus, coastal (o coast) hibiscus, coastal (o coast) cottonwood, green cottonwood, native hibiscus, native rosella, cottonwood hibiscus
- **Sp/ Es**: Hibisco marítimo
64. *Erythtina coralloidendron/Diadelphia decandria*  
Royal Piñon; Coral tree; Spanish piñon real.

- **L:** 
- **E/ I:** Coral tree 
- **Sp/ Es:** Árbol del coral
66. *Aeschynomene grandiflora*/*Diadelphia decandria*

Choiseul pea

- L: *Sesbania grandiflora*
- E/ I: Vegetable hummingbird, agati, hummingbird tree
- Sp/ Es: Cresta de gallo, gallito blanco, gallito colorado, paloma, zapatón blanco, zapatón rojo
74. Cryptogamia
Wild sage

- L: *Salvia verbenaca*
- E/ I: Wild clary, wild sage
- Sp/ Es: Gallocrespo, gallocresta, gallocresta común, gallocristo, grana de cresta de gallo, hierba de ciego, hierba de la cruz, balsamilla, balsamilla de aragón, balsamina, balsamita, bálsamo, cánamo de campo
77. *Arum peregrinum*/ Gynandria poliandria
Malanga; malangas

- **L:** *Alocasia macrorrhizos*
- **E/ I:** Giant taro
- **Sp/ Es:** Alocasia, Oreja de elefante, Colocasia, Marquesa, Alcolcaz, Ñame, Manto de Santa María, Orejas de elefante, Ñame de Canarias, Taro de jardín
79. *Tillandsia monostachya/ Hexandria monogynia*

**Wild pine**

- **L:** *Tillandsia recurvata, Tillandsia pauciflora*
- **E/ I:** Small ballmoss or ball moss,
- **Sp/ Es:** Palomilla, Gallinitas, Musgo bola, heno pequeño
81. *Granichis* [?]. No description

- L:
- E/ I:
- Sp/ Es:
84. *Epidendrum fragrans*/ *Gynandria diandria* [?]

- **L:** *Prosthechea fragrans*
- **E/ I:**
- **Sp/ Es:** Concha de Almeja o Brujita del Bosque?
85. Epidendrum Imbricatum/ Gynandria diandria

• L: *Prosthechea fragrans*, *Encyclia fragrans*
• E/ I: Fragrant Anacheilium Orchid, Fragrant Prosthechea Orchid
• Sp/ Es: Concha de Almeja o Brujita del Bosque?
87. *Areca Oleracea/ Altissima/ Monoccia Enneacandria*  
Royal palm tree

- L: *Roystonea oleracea*
- E/ I: Caribbean royal palm, palmiste, imperial palm, cabbage palm
- Sp/ Es: Palmera imperial, Chaguaramo
90. *Carica papaya*

Papaw. No description

- L: *Carica papaya*
- E/I: Papaw
- Sp/Es: Frutabomba, papaya
92. *Carica papaya fructus*
Fruit of the papaya

- L: *Carica Papaya*
- E/ I: Papaw
- Sp/ Es: Frutabomba, papaya
95. *Jatropha Curcus*/ *Monoccia monadelphia*

Physick Nut

- L: *Jatropha Curcus*
- E/ I: physic nut, nettlespurge.
- Sp/ Es: Piñón de botija, piñón de template, jatrofa
99. *Jatropha multifidi* / *Monoccia monadelphia*
Physick nut

- L: *Jatropha multifida*
- E/ I: Coralbush, Guatemala rhubarb, coral plant, physic nut,
- Sp/ Es: Jatrofa, bálsamo, flor de coral
104. *Dodecandria Monogymia* [?] 

- **L:**
- **E/ I:**
- **Sp/ Es:**
108. *Bromelia Anana*/ *Hexandria Monogymia*

Pineapple

- L: *Bromelia ananas*
- E/ I: Pineapple
- Sp/ Es: Piña
110. *Tillandsia/ Hexandria monogymia*

Rose-colored pine; Wild pine

- L: *Tillandsia utriculata?*
- E/ I: Spreading airplant
- Sp/ Es:
111. *Tropaelum Majus / Nasturtium*
Indian or garden cress

- **L:** *Tropaelum Majus*
- **E/ I:** Garden Nasturtium, Indian Cress
- **Sp/ Es:** Capuchina, taco de reina, espuela de galán, flor de la sangre, llagas de Cristo, marañuela, mastuerzo de Indias o pelón
116. *Triopteris citrifolia/ Decandria trigynia* 
[?] 

- L: *Tetrapteris citrifolia*
- E/ I: Citron-leaved Tetrapteris
- Sp/ Es: Bejuco de paralejo
121. *Pentandria Monogynia*

[?]

- L:
- E/ I:
- Sp/ Es:
122. *Solanum melongena*/ *Pentanddria Monogymia*

Egg Plant

- L: *Solanum Melongena*
- E/ I: Eggplant
- Sp/ Es: Berenjena
128. [?]
144. *Plumeria rubra*/ *Pentandria monogymia*
Jasmin tree

- L: *Plumeria rubra*
- E/ I: Nosegay or frangipani
- Sp/ Es: Franchipán, frangipani, cacalosúchil
THANKS / GRACIAS
Specially to Nancy! / Especialmente a Nancy!