

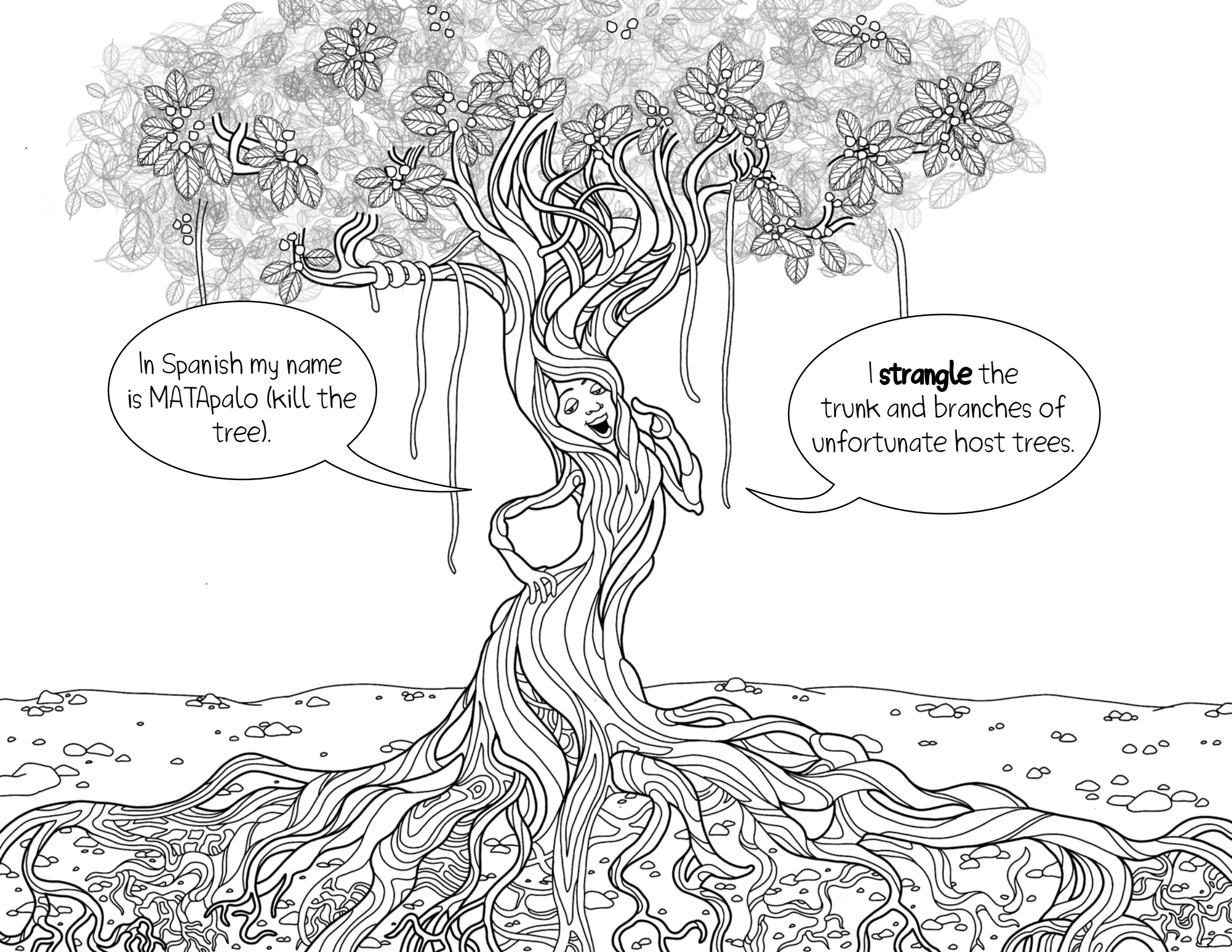


# WARNING!

I'm a **STRANGLER** fig.



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Illustrations: Diana Sofia

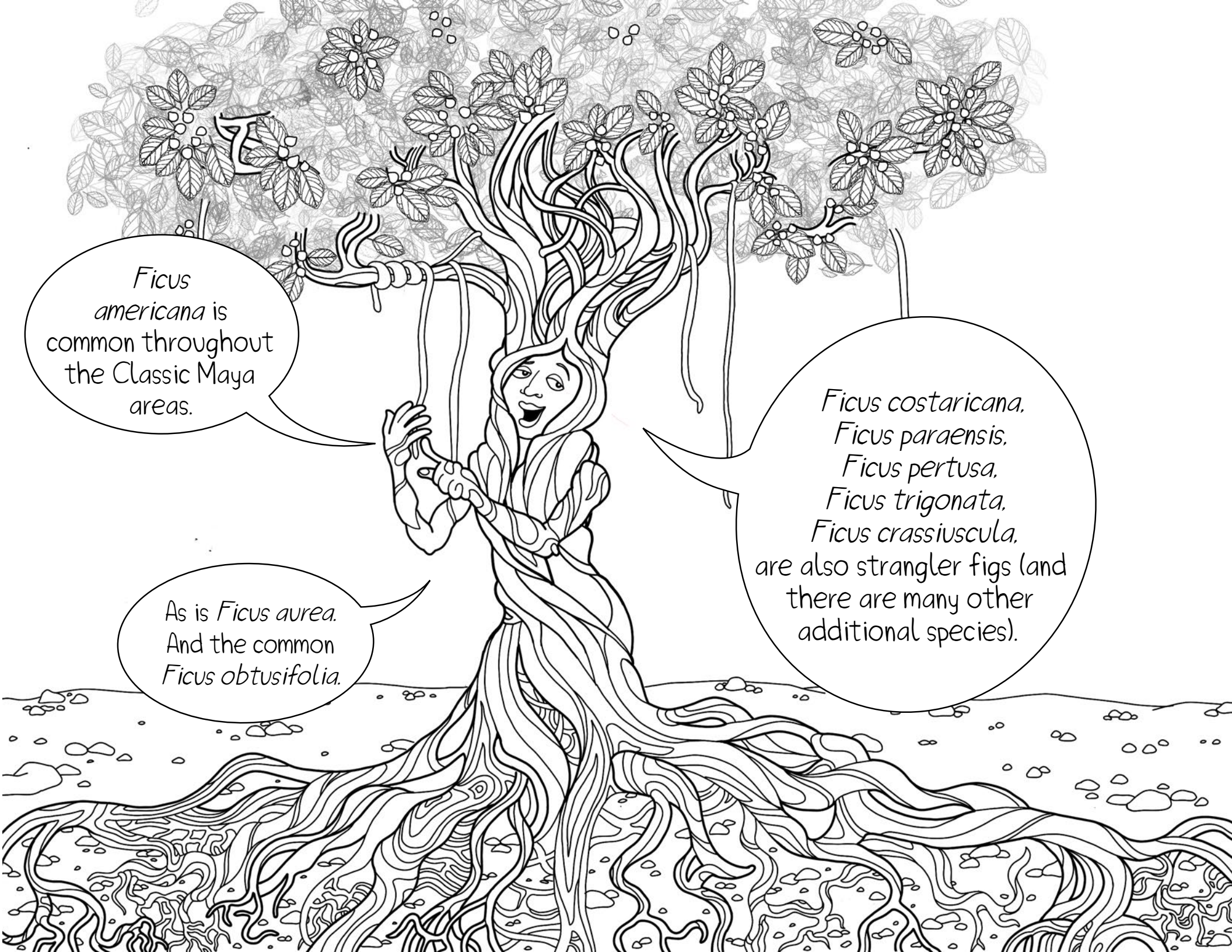


In Spanish my name  
is MATApalo (kill the  
tree).

I **strangle** the  
trunk and branches of  
unfortunate host trees.



But, how do we  
strangle the host  
tree?



*Ficus americana* is common throughout the Classic Maya areas.

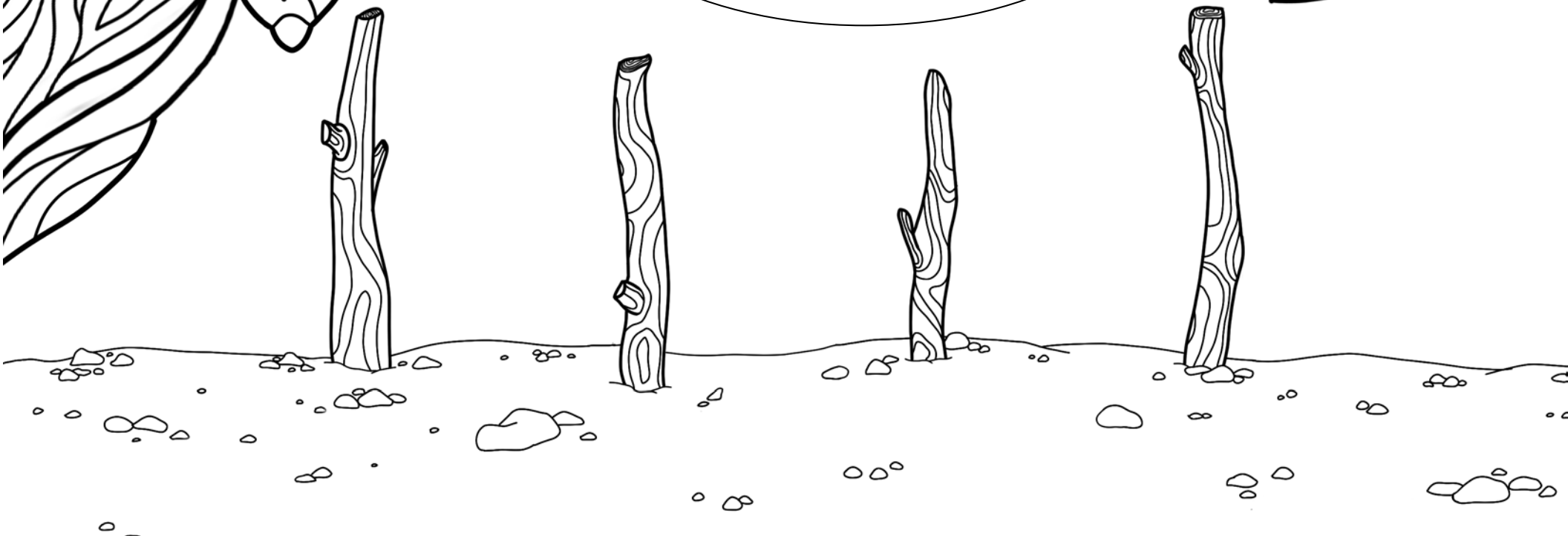
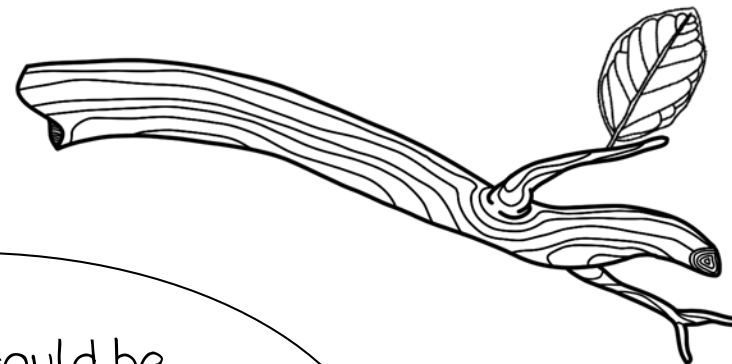
As is *Ficus aurea*.  
And the common *Ficus obtusifolia*.

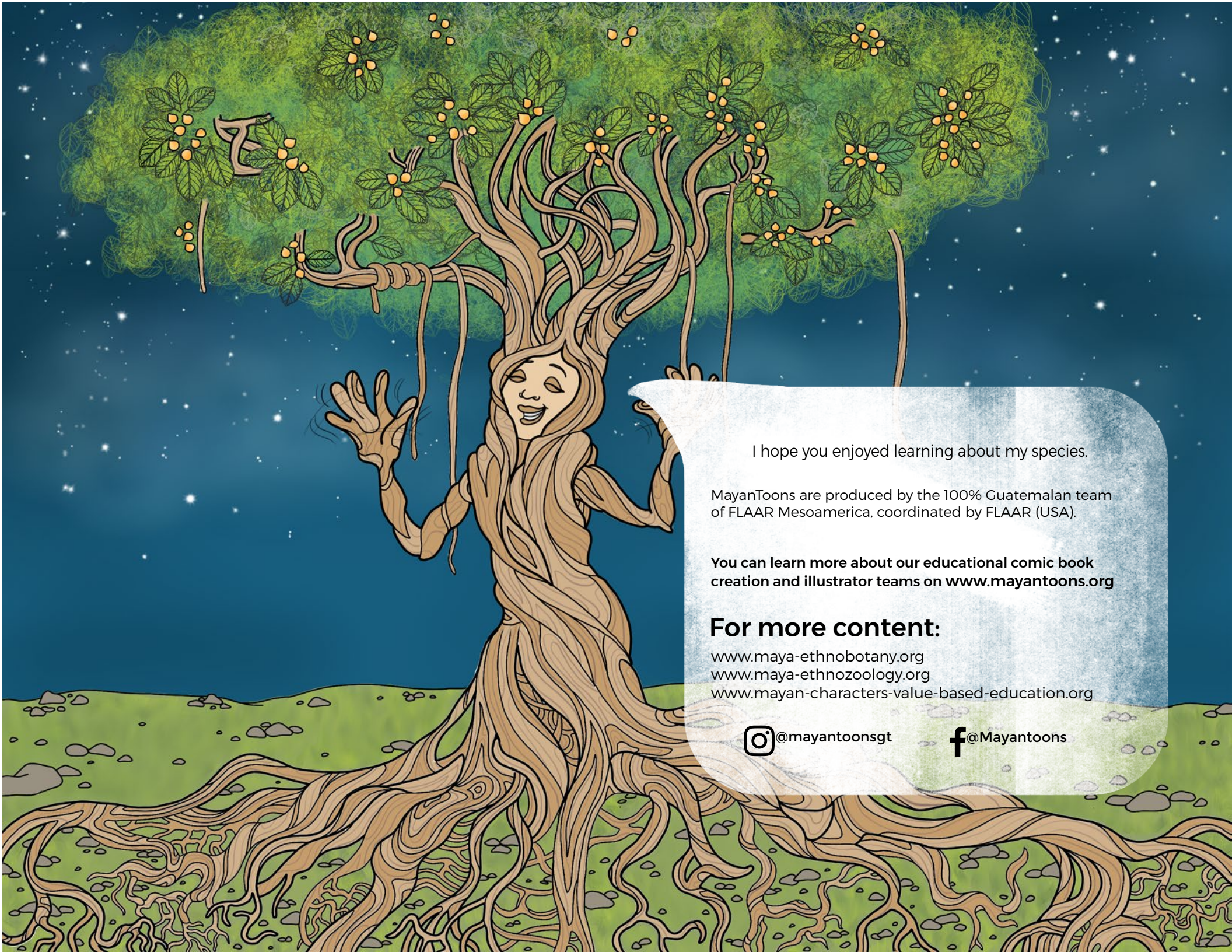
*Ficus costaricana*,  
*Ficus paraensis*,  
*Ficus pertusa*,  
*Ficus trigonata*,  
*Ficus crassiuscula*,  
are also strangler figs (and there are many other additional species).



In theory I could be  
useful as a living fence.

Since you can take any branch, trim it  
off me, and stick it to the ground.





I hope you enjoyed learning about my species.

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