



LONDON PLANE

Platanus x acerifolia

DID YOU KNOW? At the Espolón (promenade in Padrón) there are more centenary London plane trees, mentioned in the Galician catalog of singular trees (Catálogo de árbores)

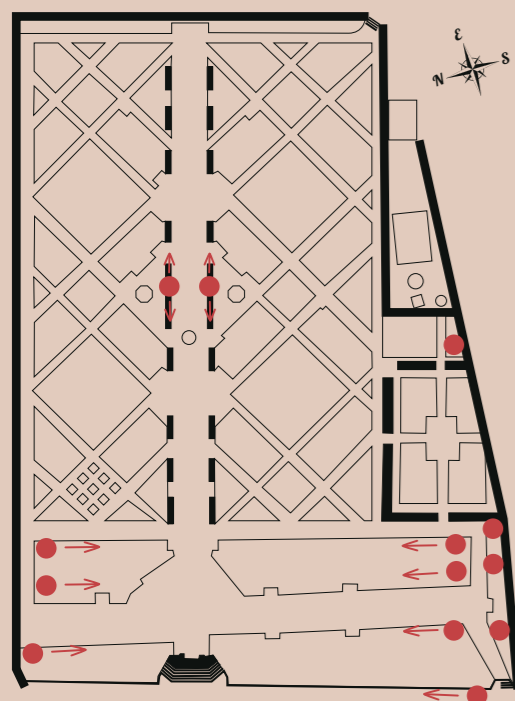
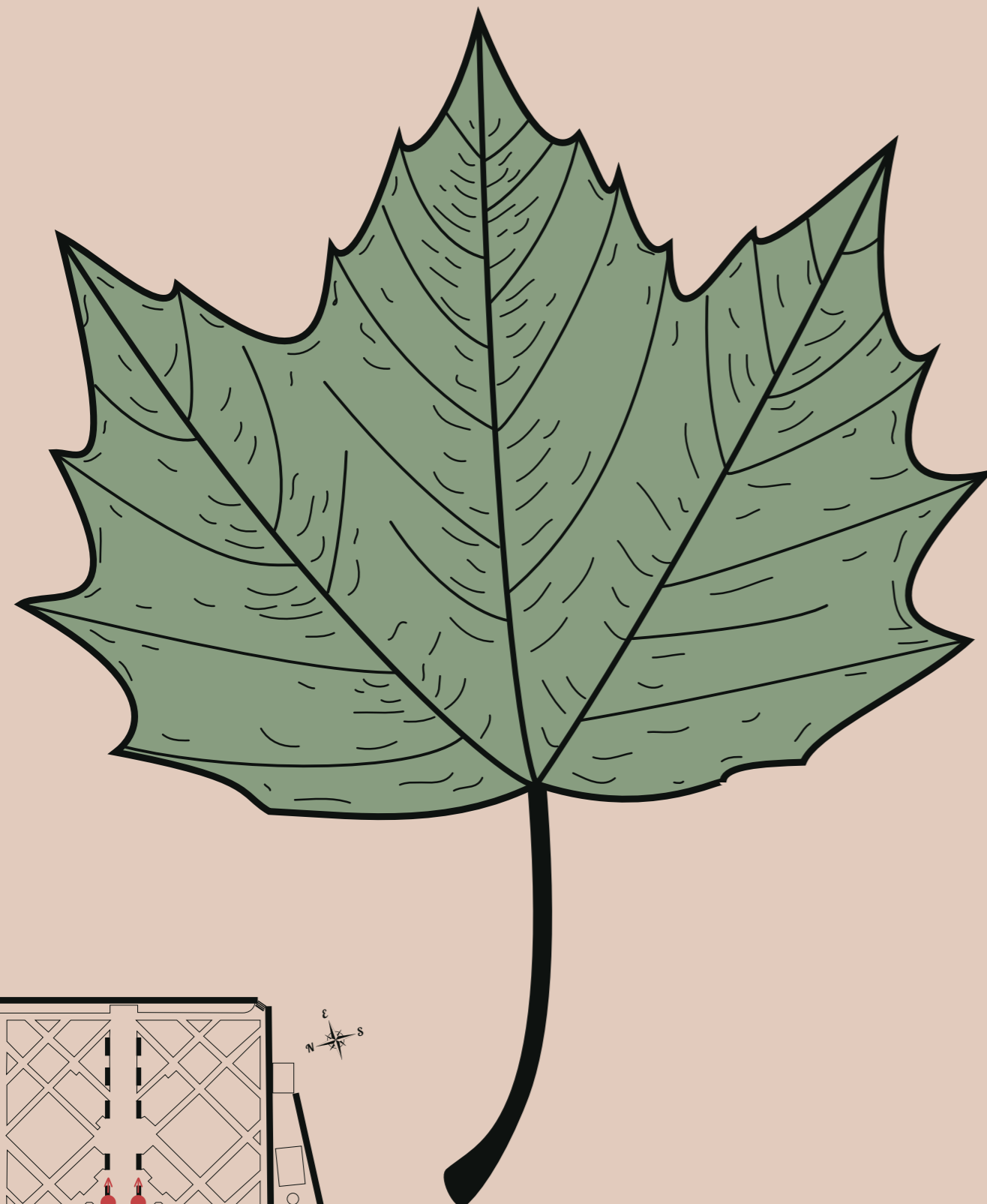
It belongs to the Platanaceae family. It is thought to be a hybrid between *Platanus occidentalis* and *Platanus orientalis*. However, its origin is not clear (some say it is London and others Spain).

Common names: “plátano de sombra”, “plátano de paseo” (Spanish); “plátano de sombra” (Galician); “London plane tree”, “hybrid plane” (English).

Etymology:

- *Platanus*: this genus comes from the Greek word “platanos”, which was already the word used in ancient times to refer to “*Platanus orientalis*”, which is the native plane tree from southeastern Europe and southwestern Asia.
- *Acerifolia*: the word “acerifolia” comes from the genus *Acer* Tourn. ex L. (maple tree) and the Latin word “folium, -i” (leaf), due to the similarity between its leaves and those of some maple tree.

Description: It is a very big monoecious and deciduous tree with open branches and a wide crown. It grows quickly. It can exceed 40 meters in height, with an erect trunk. Its bark is cream-green becomes brown in old specimens; when it falls, it leaves uncovered yellow-white spots from the inner bark. Both bark and leaves have astringent properties. Its leaves are deciduous, simple, alternate, lobed and toothed. Their top side is hairless and their underside is pale. Its flowers are unisexual (monoecious), insignificant, squamous and blooming in April-May. Its fruit is achene, clavate, hairy, brown and volatile. It comes out in September-October.



Monumental tree

London plane trees in T shape. They provide the aesthetic of English gardens to this garden.

