Overall thoughts:
Both versions have strong aspects to their design, I particularly like version A's beige background and page heading with the maroon type on top of the low opacity botanical image. I like the navigation system on version B more, so I'm thinking maybe put the navigation on the top for the next iteration with the heading just below the navigation

The serif typefaces in version A look good, maybe for the subheadings like "why does it matter" and "science and identification" you can try using a bolder version of the body text for those if possible. If there are no bolder variations of that typeface you can keep the current one you have now.

I also liked the staggered images and text layout on version B, with the text being on the left and image on the right for one part, then reversing later on the page. It helps guide the reader through the images while also reading about the illustrations, which is important in truly understanding the concept. Overall keep up the good work, these are great!