

Ethnobotany of South America

Contents

	page
Introduction	1
I. Some of South America's most important Indian tribes, Their peculiarities and their frequently used plants	8
The Lowland Indios	13
General description	13
Hunting and weapons	14
Poisonous herbs	14
Fishing	14
Food and plantations	15
Settlement	15
Activities in rain forest and savannah	15
Raw material	18
Amazonas rain forest Indios	19
The Yanomami (between Brazil and Venezuela)	21
The Pemón	30
Seats of the Gods	31
The Ka'apor	32
The Caribbean area	37
Cannibalism of the Caribs and the practiced ceremonies	38
Slavery at the Orinoco	42
Self – blood – sacrifices	43
The Warao Indios	44
The Incas	45
Preincaic Imperia	45
The classic Inca empire	46
Development of the Inca empire	55
The Mochica	59
The Incas	60
Abilities of the Indios	61
The hanging bridge of Penipe	70
'Postal service' in the province Jaén de Bracamoros	71
Environment	71
Languages	72
On the origin of vulgar and some "Latin" plant names	76
Women in the Indian agricultural society	78
The use of the horse in South-America	80
II. Diverse uses of plants by Indios concerning foodstuff	81
Tuberous roots, thickened rhizomes and corms, (Potatoes and substitutes)	81
Manihot esculenta (Cassava, Manioc, Yucca)	85
Dioscorea trifida	86
Maranta arundinacea	87
Other substitutes	87
Folk medicine	89
Maize	91
American Rice (Quinoa)	92
Amaranth	93
Nuts	94
Nutmeg	96
Tomato	101
Bananas	101
Ver-o-peso markets	102

Beverages	103
Mate	103
Maca (<i>Lepidium peruvianum</i>)	104
Cafecito	105
Stimulants	108
Chocolatl	108
Origin of the two words Cocoa and chocolate	112
History of chocolate	112
Chocolate manufacture	117
Medicinal properties	118
Moctezuma's revenge	121
Erythroxylon coca	123
Uses of coca as a stimulant and medicine	128
Tobacco	134
History	134
The tobacco collegiums and "bad air"	136
The type of smoking tool	141
Preparation of tobacco leaves	148
Cancer producing substances in tobacco	149
Control of sexual life	154
Aphrodisiaca	154
Sugar substitutes	156
Sugar	156
Stevia, the great hope of the total world	160
Spices	163
Paprika and Chilli Pepper	163
Hunting	166
Fish poisons	166
Arrow poisons	168
Dietetic prescriptions and prohibitions	171
Drug consumption	171
Incenses, Fumigation and Insecticides	172
Tannins and Tanning	176
Caoutchouc,	179
Chewing gum (<i>Achras zapota</i> , Sapotaceae)	180
Housing	182
Fibres (Wood and timber, bark and leaves)	182
<i>Ceiba pentrandra</i>	186
Agavae	187
Palms	189
Palms, all purpose plants	195
Clothing	204
Textiles	204
Cotton	205
Espeletia	207

Natural Dyes	209
Dyes used by Indios in pre-Columbian and prehistoric times	211
Fungi and lichens	214
Body painting	217
Perfumes, Cosmetics	217
Examples of plants used in cosmetics	221
Lipsticks	223
Oral and dental care	223
Oral care at the Jívaro Indios and dyeing of teeth	225
Tooth extraction	228
III. Medicinal Plants	229
Syphilis	229
Malaria	233
Anti-inflammatory substances	236
Alkaloid plants	237
Poisonous plants	237
Drugs	238
Final remarks	241
Exchange without money and banks	242
The Callawayas	242
Bibliography	245
Subject Index	262
Dictionary of rare Spanish/Indian and English names	265