

Ethnobotany as a Multidisciplinary Science

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Ethnobotany

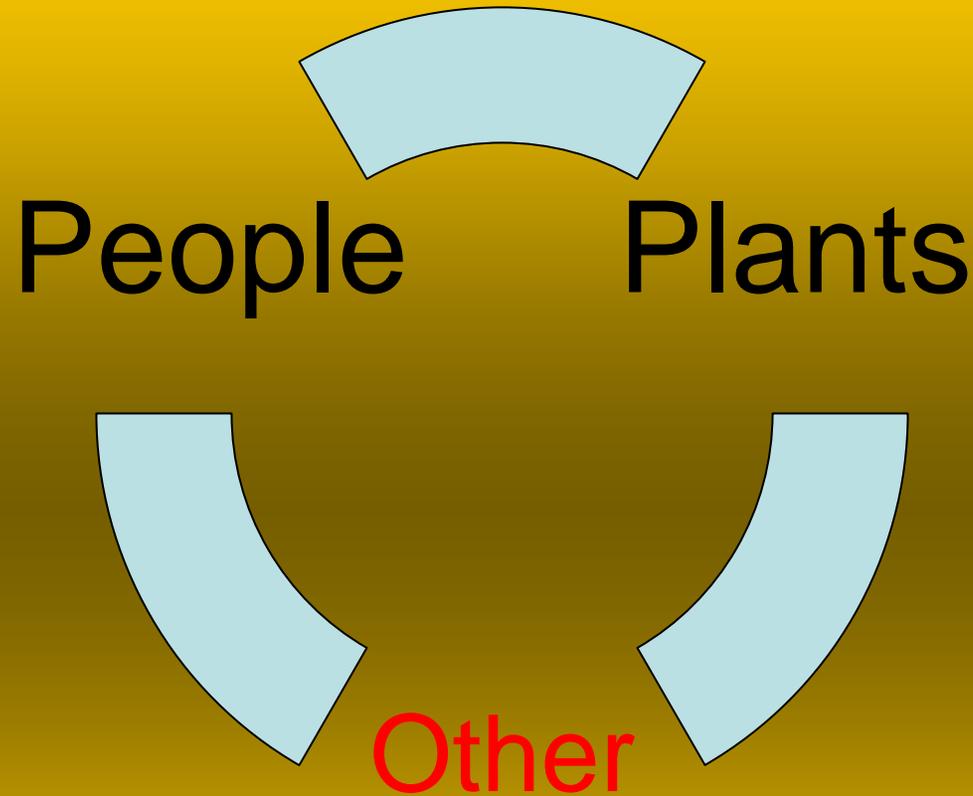
The study of the interrelationship between plants and people

= “ethno” + “botany”

ethno = people; culture

botany = plants

Ethnobotany is multidisciplinary

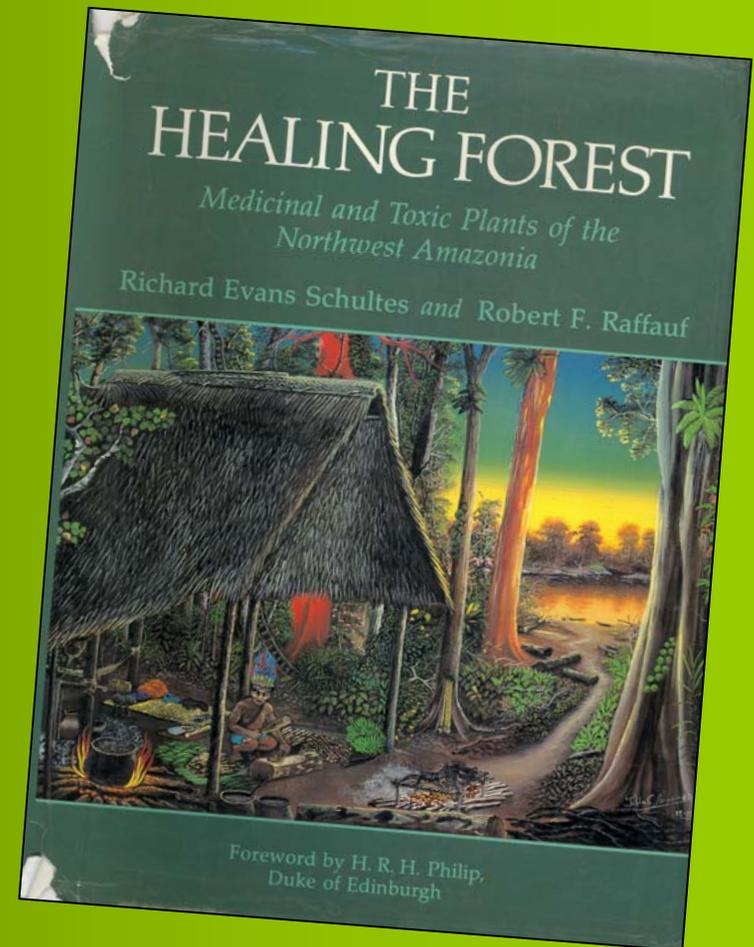
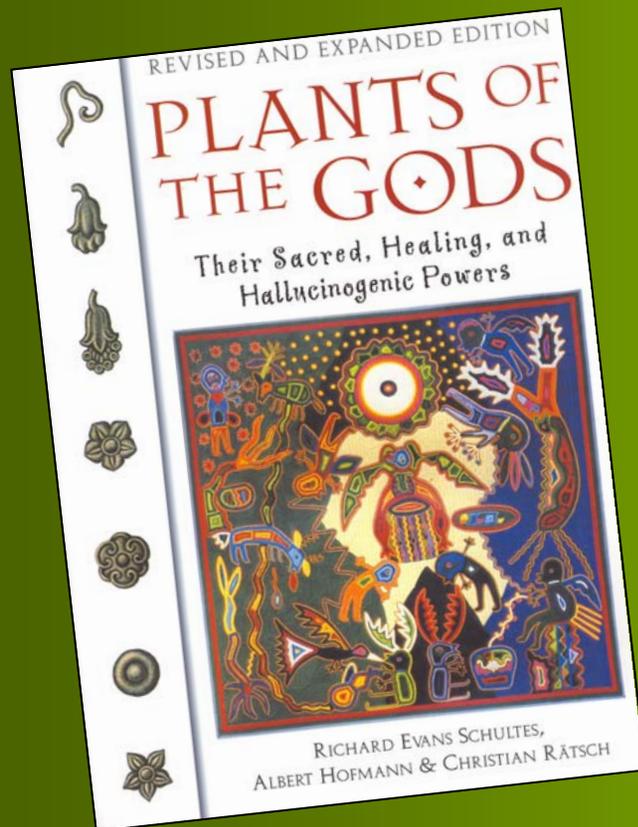


May involve **ecology**, **economics**, **public health**, or whatever is needed to better understand the plants-people relationship

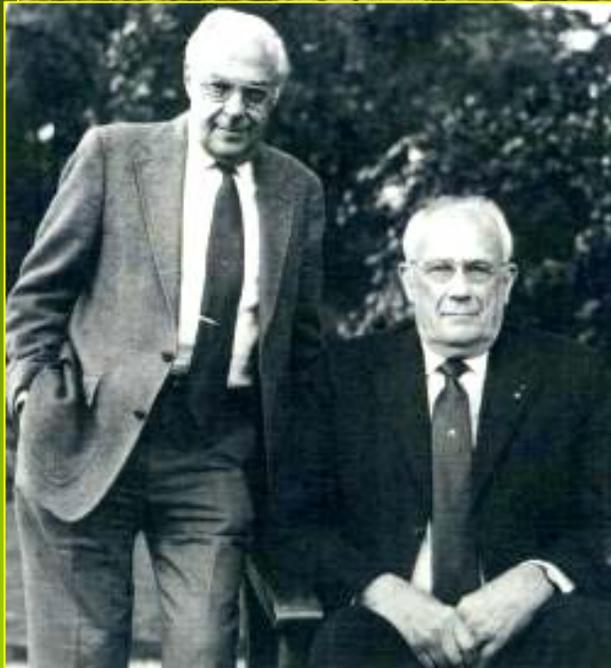
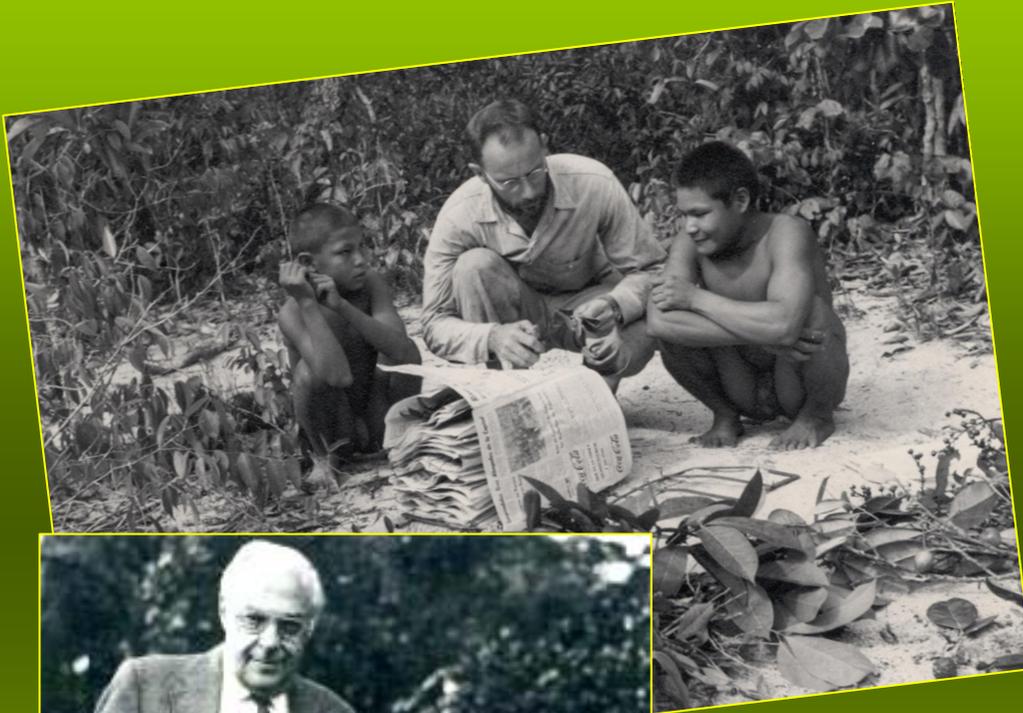
Evolution of Ethnobotany as a Discipline

John Harshburger, coined term in 1896

Richard Evans Schultes (1915-2001)



14 years in Western Amazon Rain Forest



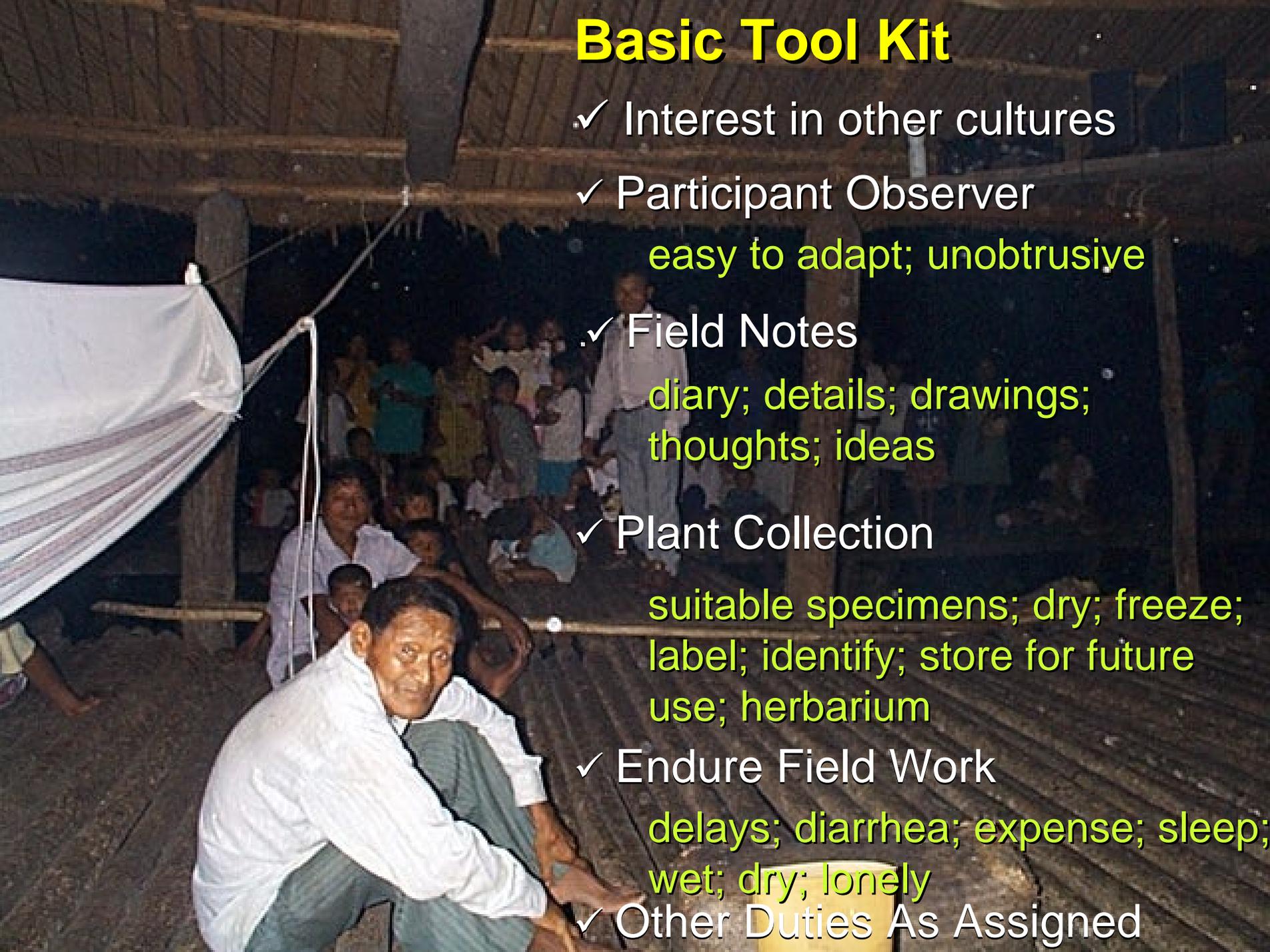
Collected over 25,000 plant specimens, many with economic value

Ethnobotany is a Research-oriented & Field-oriented Discipline



Basic Tool Kit

- ✓ Interest in other cultures
- ✓ Participant Observer
 - easy to adapt; unobtrusive
- ✓ Field Notes
 - diary; details; drawings; thoughts; ideas
- ✓ Plant Collection
 - suitable specimens; dry; freeze; label; identify; store for future use; herbarium
- ✓ Endure Field Work
 - delays; diarrhea; expense; sleep; wet; dry; lonely
- ✓ Other Duties As Assigned



Major Approaches to Ethnobotanical Research

- ▶ Ethnobotany of all plants used by one group or several groups of people
- ▶ Ethnobotany of one plant species
- ▶ Ethnobotany of taxonomically-related plants
- ▶ Ethnobotany of plants with a specific use
- ▶ Ethnobotany of plants by morphologic character
- ▶ Quantitative Ethnobotany

Ethnobotany of all plants used by one group or several groups of people

Classic Approach (most common)

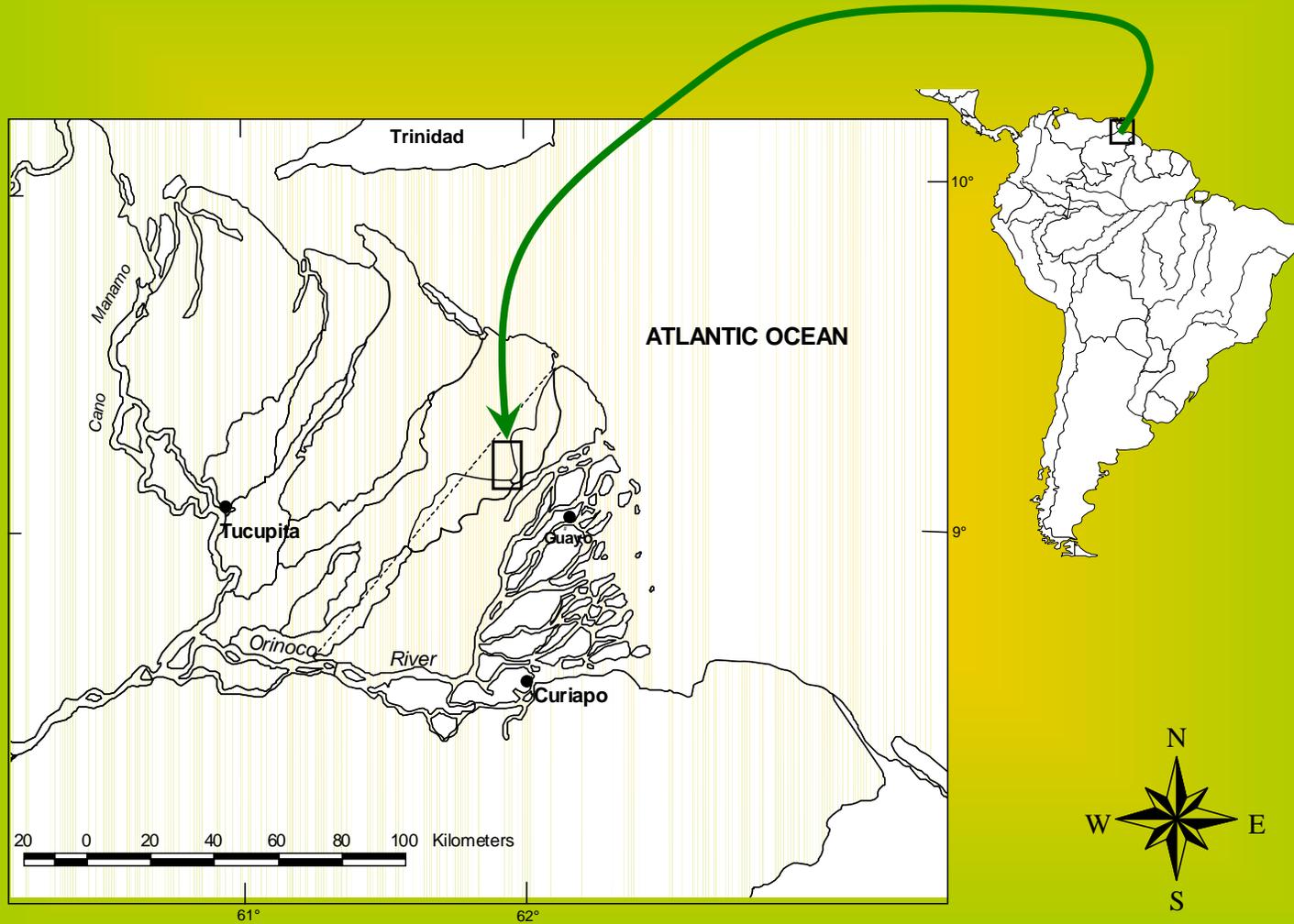
Artifact/Interview

Take artifact to participant, describe materials used

Inventory/Interview

- 1) Ask respondent to describe uses of plant being shown to him/her
- 2) Walk with participant to area where plants are harvested and record information provided in a casual manner (may use recording devices)

Ethnobotany of the Warao Indians of the Orinoco River Delta, Venezuela



Village of España





Murusi



Renealmia alpinia (Rottb.) Maas.





Ohidu, Moriche
***Mauritia flexuosa* L.f.**



<http://www.sacha.org/envir/eastlow/intro.html>



Ha
Hanoko









Anare, Palmito

Euterpe oleraceae Mart.



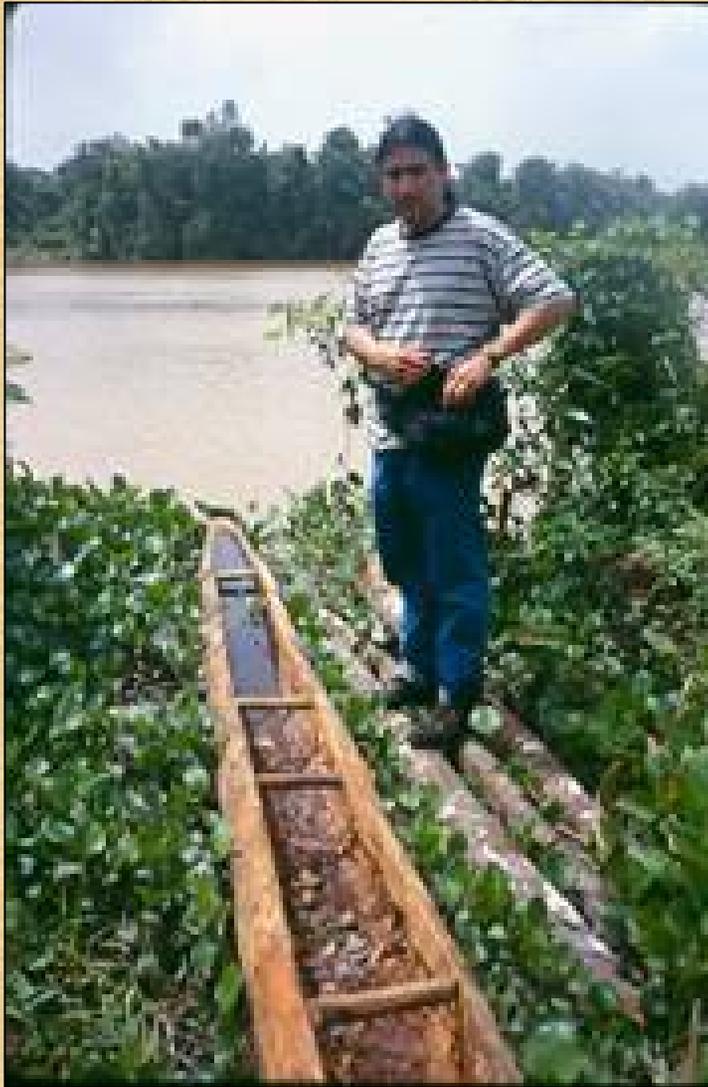


Diaru

Virola surinamensis (Roland.) Warb.



Preparation of a Wahibaka









Homoarao

Pachira aquatica Aubl.





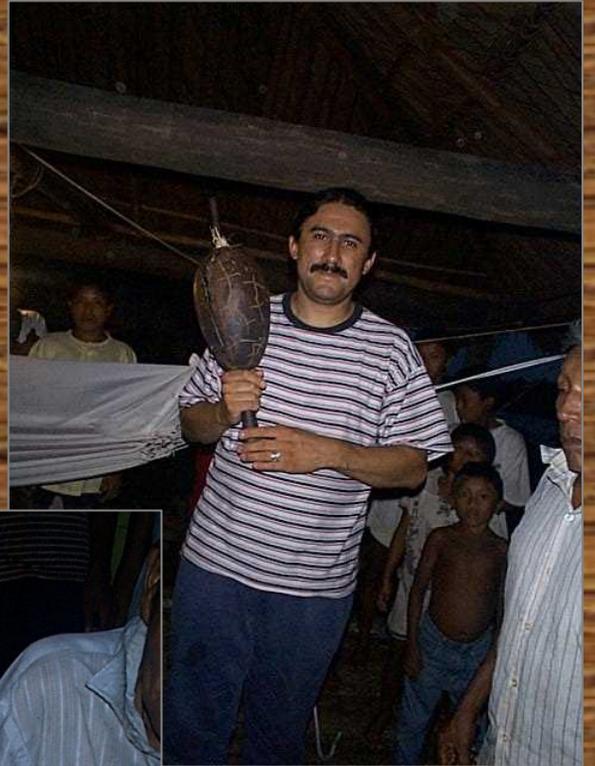
Ohoru
Symphonia globulifera L.f.

Yaha, Temiche
Manicaria saccifera Gaertn.





Village of España along Winikina River

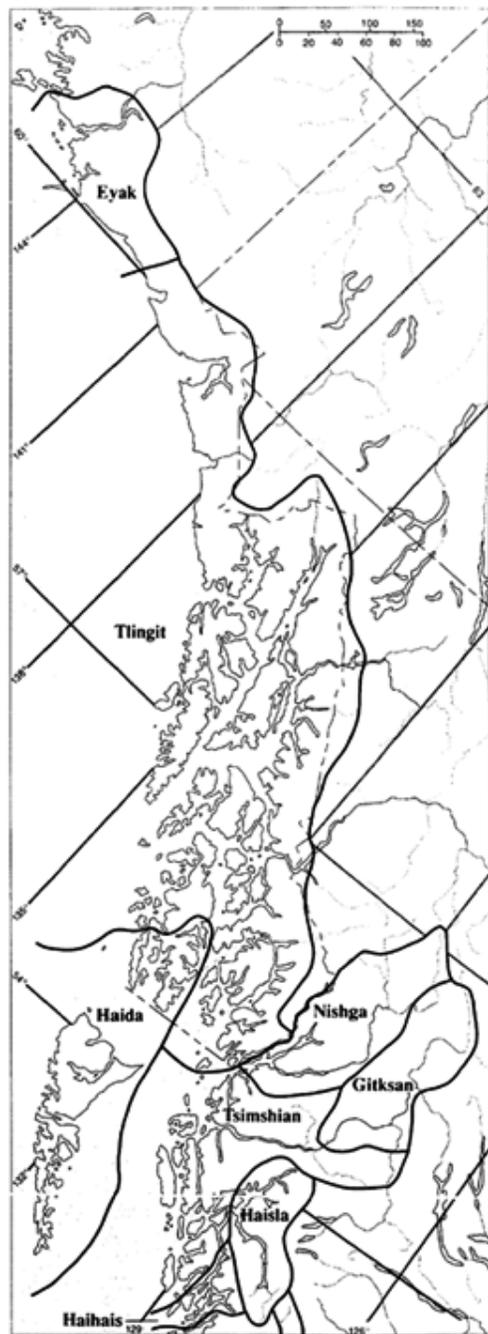


Wisiratu

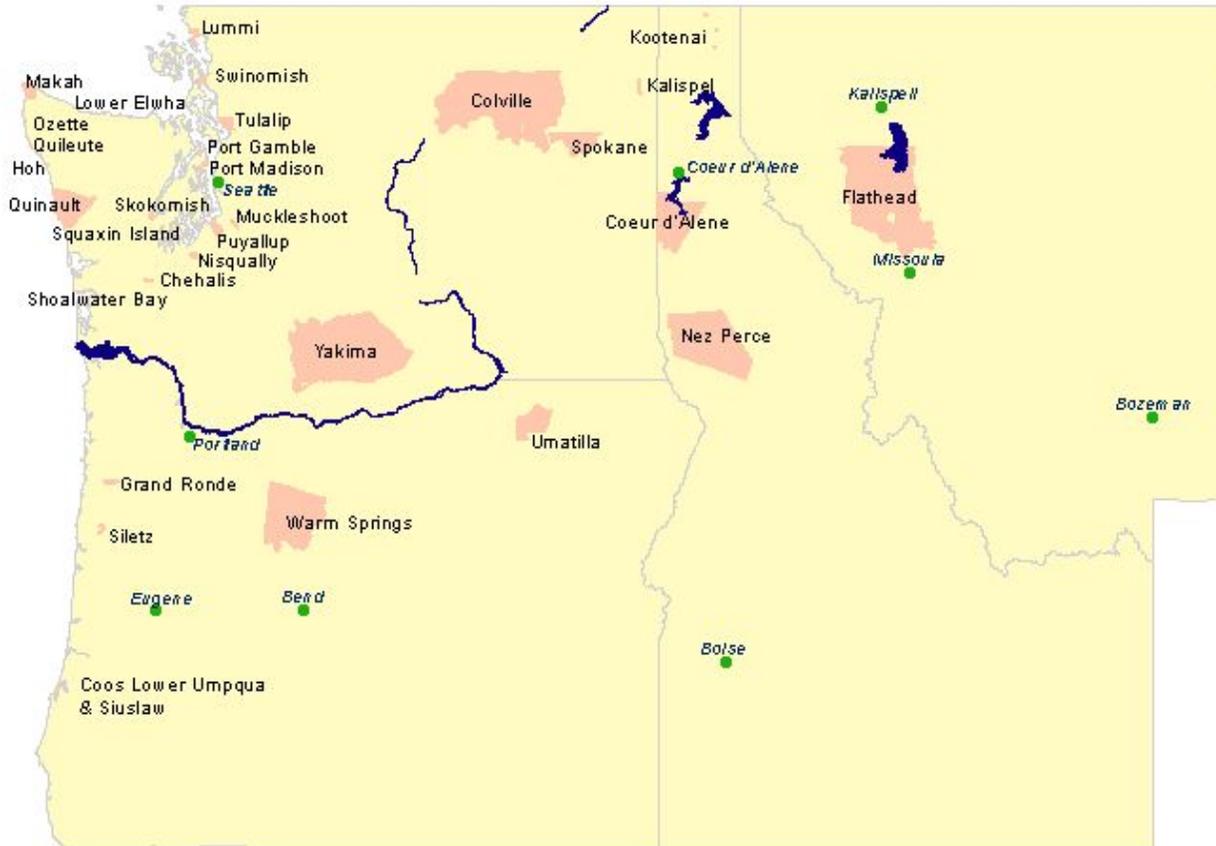


Current Ethnobotany Projects at the Center for World Indigenous Studies (www.cwis.org)

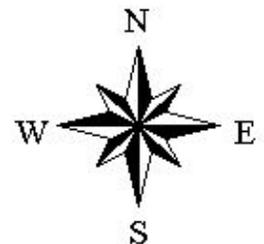




Contemporary Indian Reservations of Northwest Coast and Plateau Cultural Groups



- Cities
- Native American Lands



Squaxin Island Tribe



Charlene Krise



Quinault Indian Nation Culture, Foods and Medicine Workshop



Objectives

Explore the role of stories and legends as healing.

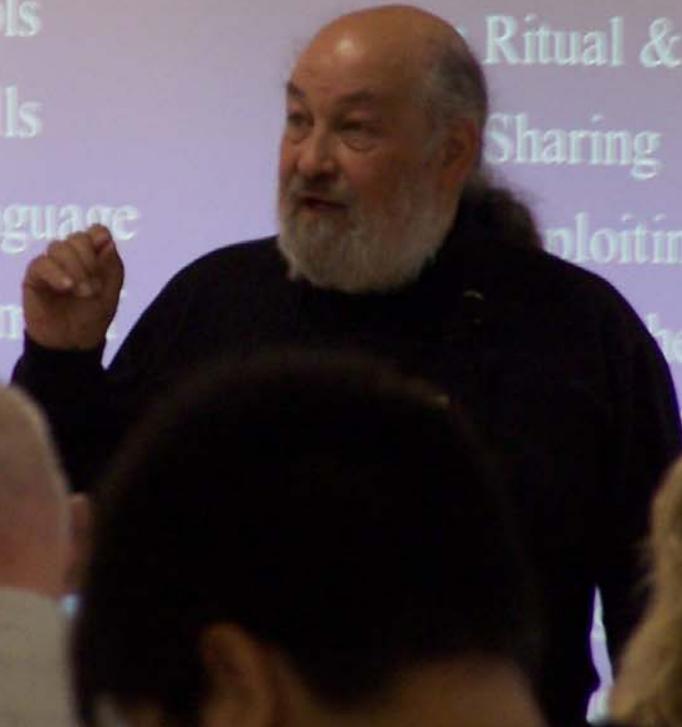
Deepen understanding of what we mean by culture.

Discuss the difference between natural foods and medicine and those that are introduced or produced by agriculture.



Culture includes..

- Tools
- Skills
- Language
- Form
- Laws
- Ritual & ceremony
- Sharing
- Exploiting
- The earth and
- Resources



Traditional Food Preparation





Camas
Camassia quamash





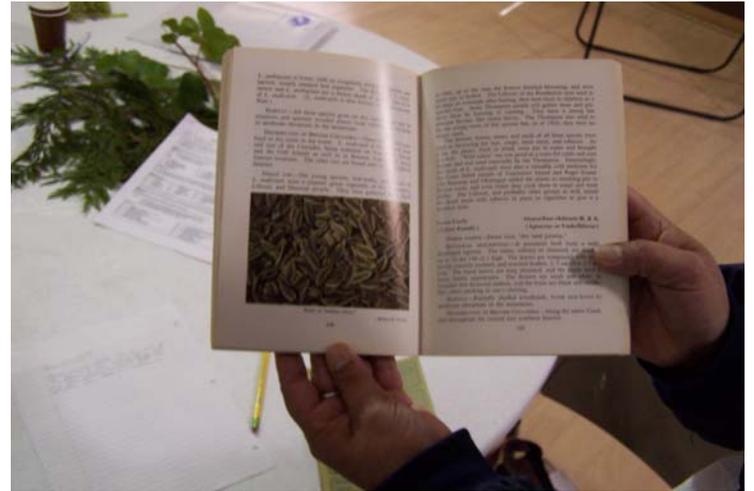
Douglas Fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii
(Mirbel) Franco var.
menziesii











Sharing Traditional Knowledge





A walk in the woods





How old is the land?



Is this what we want for our future?





We must all
work together
for peace and a
better
environment





Thank You!