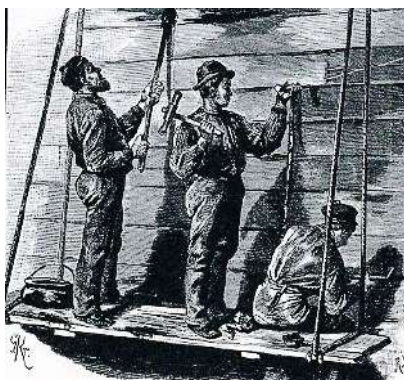


EleventhCO



Tulum beach.

AND This country has a long tradition and culture around cannabis, although its origin is still uncertain. It is claimed that hemp in various forms was introduced by Pedro Cuadrado in 1519 during Spanish colonialism, at the request of the conquistador Hernán Cortés. At that time, its use was widespread for the manufacture of sails, ropes or the caulking of boats. For this reason, the Spanish favored the cultivation of this fiber throughout all their American colonies.

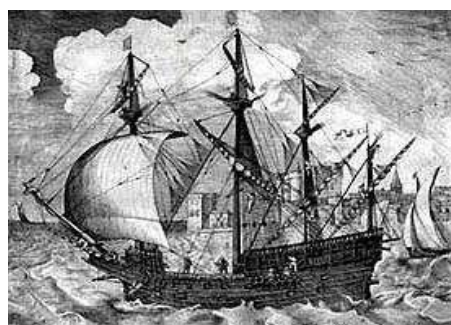


Riverside carpenters caulking with hemp soaked in pitch.

the natives began to use the plant for other purposes than to make cordage.

The first written testimonies of its medical use date back to 1712, in a book by the Jesuit priest Juan de Esteyneffer. Also in the poems of the romantic poet Manuel M. Torres. There were also many indigenous groups in the Sierra Madre, such as the Cora or Tepehuan, who consumed this herb in a ritual way. The latter knew it as Rosa María or Santa Rosa and blessed the plant, granting it a divine origin.

In addition to European hemp, other psychoactive Cannabis species were introduced, both from the Caribbean (where they arrived from the hands of the Hindus after the abolition of colonial slavery) and from other regions. Quite possibly, subspecies from Southeast Asia were also introduced. This may have taken place during the many years of trade between Acapulco and Manila in the Philippines. It was the so-called route of the Manila Galleon (Nao de China).



It is said that Pedro Cuadrado became a promoter of hemp in the new territories and encouraged its cultivation during those years in the colonies. Even in 1545, a law was issued in Ponferrada that advised viceroys and governors to have flax and hemp planted in the Indies and that the indigenous people apply themselves to this activity and to the spinning and weaving of the fiber. However, around 1550, the Spanish governor forced them to limit production because apparently 1

It mainly took place between the 17th and 19th centuries, Spanish ships traveled this route a couple of times a year, importing spices, ivory, porcelain and handicrafts from Asia. Filipino plant species were also introduced into Mexico during these routes, such as the Mango (genus *mangifera*), which has become a crop of great economic importance in the south of the country.



Return trade route between Manila and Acapulco.

As a curiosity, the genetic origin of the Mexican mango varieties "Ataulfo" and "Manila" in Chiapas has been investigated and the historical hypotheses about their Asian origin have been confirmed. They are also known to have had to be introduced as live plants, as mango seeds are recalcitrant and cannot be kept long term without losing their viability. It is a fact that could clarify certain doubts about the introduction of cannabis in Mexico and open new lines of investigation. Curiously, and in a similar way to cannabis, during the expansion of mango cultivation, a series of more commercial hybrids were created in the US that have served as the basis and standard for global production and sale, displacing traditional mangoes from the market, even having some best qualities.



Mexican mango and a hybrid mango, the result of the various plant improvement projects in Florida.

A few years later, Cannabis grew profusely in the mountains throughout the country and was consumed smoked or infused. Subsequently, the

Marijuana cigarettes became popular among working people and militiamen. In fact, this is how the term "marijuana" was born, so widely spread throughout the world. Its origin is debated between the military colloquial term *Mary and Joan* (euphemism with which prostitutes or brothels were named, where their consumption and sale was profuse) and the word of Nahuatl Aztec origin "malihuan" (formed by *mali*, meaning prisoner and *huan*, property; possibly referring to how the plant seems to take over the individual).



The bandits during the Mexican revolution were great users and lovers of the speck.

In 1913 the corrido "La Cucaracha" became popular, an old Spanish folklore song adapted and popularized during the Mexican revolution to mock the dictator Victoriano Huerta. He had a great reputation for being corrupt, bloodthirsty and a thief, of a despicable being with a great fondness for drink and marijuana. It was popularized by the Zapatista troops, shortly before the capture of Torreón by Pancho Villa in 1914:

*The cockroach the cockroach,
can't walk anymore
because it does not have,
because is missing,
marijuana than smoking.*

Geographically, Mexico is halfway between the temperate and tropical zones. It covers a large area, which is why it has traditionally been a place of great diversity of varieties. Normally these were known by their region, thus having Michoacán, Oaxaca de montaña, Guerrero, Zacatecas morada, Torreón, Chiapas and many others.

Due to their latitude, the Mexican varieties are not as late as other more tropical plants (Colombia-

nas, Caribbean, etc). However, the varieties from the south, such as Oaxaca or Guerrero, tend to ripen more slowly than those from the northern regions of the country, such as Sinaloa.



Mountainous area in the Sierra de Sinaloa.

The proximity to the border of the United States and the roots of the plant in Mexican traditions and customs favored emigrants to introduce the "speck" in the neighboring country. Historically, Mexico was and continues to be a great producer of marijuana, which is why it has always played an important role in the history of the plant. Most of the marijuana found in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s came from this country, however, with the joint efforts of the US and Mexican governments to eliminate trafficking in the plant, plantations were controlled and even sprayed with herbicides (paraquat) the Mexican mountains. This wiped out most of the traditional landraces and their great diversity. It also favored the production and importation of grass to move to Colombia.



Jungle and Mayan ruins in Yucatan.

The Mexican varieties imported to California matured before the arrival of the first frosts, unlike the majority of exotic seeds from Thailand or Colombia. In addition they were

high-quality, appreciated plants, which is why they were an important basis for the first hybrids in the history of cannabis such as Big Sour, Eden Gold, Pollyanna or Early Pearl, even before the first exotic varieties from Central Asia (Afghanistan or Pakistan) were introduced.) and thus came the second generation of hybrids "post-kush".

At present, most of the varieties that are cultivated and in demand in Mexico are hybrids introduced by the drug traffickers (of European or American origin or kush varieties, known locally as enanas, chaparras, pakistanas, talibanas, moradas), much more productive, fast and good power. Sometimes even grown under artificial light indoors. This allows several harvests a year and harvest the product up to 2 months earlier than the traditional "Christmas" marijuana, which could rarely be harvested before December.

This can also be observed in the seeds, normally the traditional local varieties have seeds of smooth, brown tones, without mottling. However, modern seeds that are more mottled and mottled in color, dark, can be observed, which indicates a very possible hybridization of them.



Chaparra field in Sinaloa, images courtesy of Sergio.



Field of Creole Mexicans, very different from the shorties.

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