



FLAAR
MESOAMÉRICA

Ethnobotany

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CULTURE

BIODIVERSITY



Ethnobiology

- *éthnos*:- folk, people.
- *-bíos+logía*: Estudy of life.
- Study of knowledge and human interactions with the biological (life, environment).

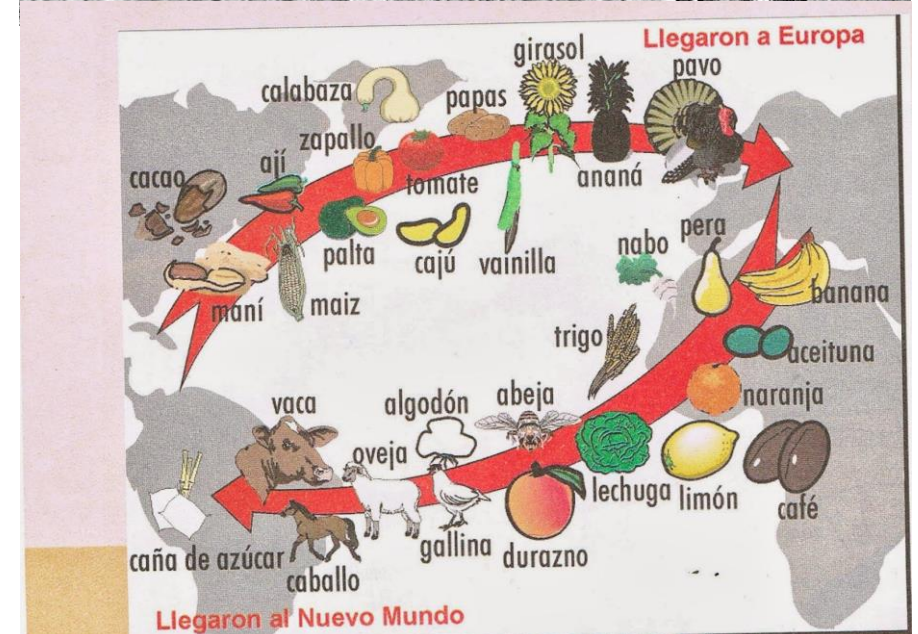
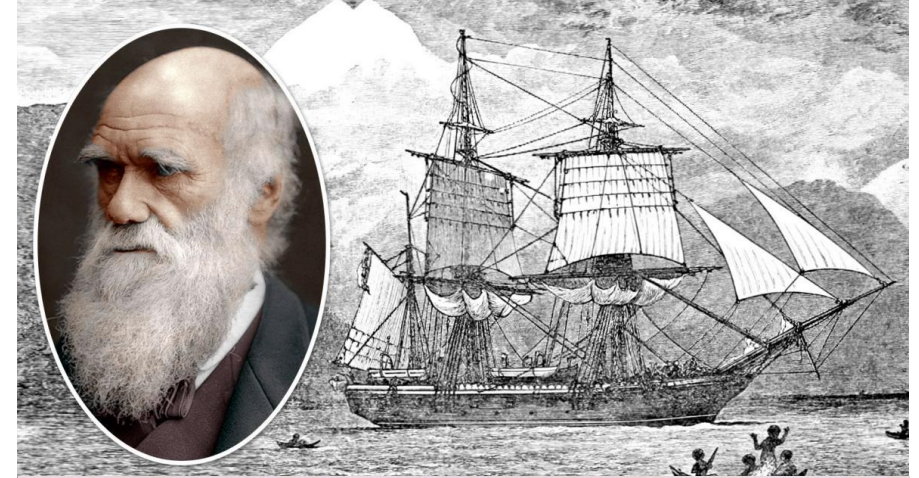
Human-Biota-Environment

- Interdisciplinary science with anthropological-ethnographic and biological aspects.



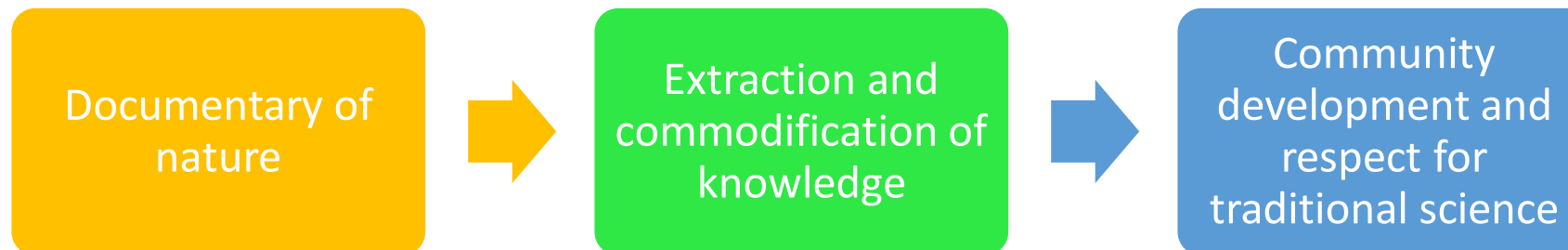
History: Study of the biological knowledge of the "other".

- 15th to 19th century:
 - Naturalists, biologists and merchants interested in the nature of the New World and the knowledge of native groups in the colonization areas.
 - Carl Linnaeus (18th century) and Charles Darwin (19th century).
- 20th century (1900 to 1940):
 - Ethnobiology begins as a science.
 - Documentation of the local technology, plants and animals of the "other" with utilitarian and mercantile approaches for the western economic system.
- 1950-1970
 - Systematization of study methodologies.
 - Better conception of the "other" and their interactions with the environment.
 - Studies focused on the identification of natural products for the production of drugs.



Present

- 1980 - 21st century (Present)
 - New branches: Ethnomycology, Ethnoecology, etc.
 - Social concentration: Cultural relevance, recognition of the rights of "other", of the people and cultures originating in a region.
 - **Cultural relativism. Traditional intellectual property and law.**



Scope of ethnobiology



- Integrates -> local and global knowledge.
- Connect -> cultures, academic and scientific approaches.
- Relate -> Biological and social aspects of human experience with the environment.

Applications

- Development in areas of biology: Conservation and Ecology.
- Conservation strategies based on traditional local science and technology.
- Studies of local development and rural communities.
- Ecological, culturally relevant policies Education



ACOFOP
Asociación de Comunidades
Forestales de Petén



Subdisciplines

- Ethnobotany
- Ethnozoology
- Ethnoecology
- Ethnomycology
- Ethno + **any specific biological aspect**





Ethnobotany



Ethnobotany

Document and Study

- Human knowledge about plants over time and in different contexts.
- How plants are part of their belief system, explanations and conceptions of the world.
- Use and management of plants to reproduce their cultural, social, physical and spiritual life.



A 4x3 grid of 12 images showing various plant parts: a snowflake, a yellow rose, a succulent, a red flower, raspberries, a flowering tree, a green leaf, a catkin, a leafy plant, a pine cone, an orchid, moss, a fern frond, a purple flower, and two pine cones.

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Theobroma cacao (Malvaceae)



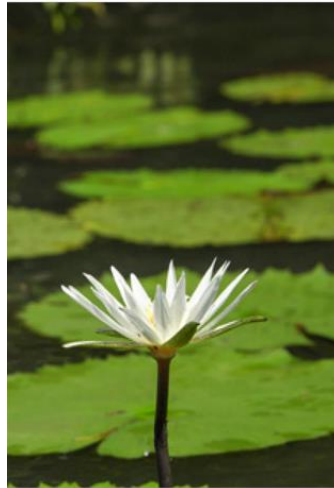
Erythrina berteroana (Fabaceae)

Palo de pito, Tzité

- Edible flowers, cause sleep.
- Seeds used in Mayan ceremonies.
- Ajq'iq



Nymphaea ampla (Nymphaeaceae) Waterlily, Naab, Nohoch.



Fotografía #1



Fotografía #3



Figure 2 Mayan ritual enema

- Mayan culture.
- Rituals Flowers, seeds and rhizome.

Zea mays (Poaceae)

Maíz (corn)



- Of Mesoamerican origin.
- Atol, tortilla, tamales, chuchitos, fermented drinks, etc.

