

Poster

Tetzcutzinco: a botanical garden

Alejandro Torres Montúfar^a

^aFacultad de Ciencias. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Introduction. The *Tetzcutzinco* is a peak in Central Mexico where king *Netzahualcoyotl* of *Texcoco* created a beautiful garden and a place of rest. Today, the existence of this former garden is evidenced by its great vegetal diversity, with approximately 370 species of plants in a confined geographical area.

Objectives. The purpose of this investigation is to catalog the flora at the *Tetzcutzinco* for a period of one year, and determine the utility of the plants at this locality.

Methods. A plant specimen collection was used to facilitate identification and collection of plants. In order to get information about their utility in *Tetzcutzinco*, a search was conducted in the specialized literature and through interviews with local people.

Results. The garden consisted of native plants from the Valley of Mexico and some exotic plants from other geographic locales. A relevant characteristic of this garden is that all of the plants have useful properties such as: use in medical treatment *Plumbago pulchell*; *tlacopopotl* [*Baccharis sordescens*]; *epazote* [*Chenopodium graveolens*], consumption as a food item (*oceloxóchitl* [*Tigridia vonhoutei*]; *nopal* [*Opuntia* sp.]; *quelite* [*Amaranthus hybridus*], ritual purposes *Erythrina leptorrhiza*; *iztafiatl* [*Artemisia Mexicana*]; *mirto* [*Salvia microphylla*] or ornamental uses *Sprekelia formossissima*; *acahual* [*Tithonia tubiformis*]; *oloxochitl* [*Gomphrena globosa*]). Research conducted at the *Tetzcutzinco* site resulted in the identification of all plants in the garden. All have useful properties, indicating the historical importance of this botanical garden in Mexico.

Conclusion. *Tetzcutzinco* is a location of great importance in México due to its archaeological structures and evidence of a garden, which exhibits the botanical richness of this country.

Keywords: ethnobotanical garden, plant properties, *Netzahualcoyotl*

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Presenting Author: Alejandro Torres Montúfar, montuf@hotmail.com