The Sweet Potato And Oceania: An Essay In Ethnobotany

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Ethnobotany is the study of a region's plants and their practical uses through the traditional knowledge of a local culture and people. An ethnobotanist thus strives to document the local customs involving the practical uses of local flora for many aspects of life, such as plants as medicines, foods, and clothing. Richard Evans Schultes, often referred to as the "father of ethnobotany", explained the discipline in this way: The sweet potato, Ipomoea batatas, and the yams, genus Dioscorea are root crops that today nurture millions of people within the world's tropics. This chapter reviews the questions surrounding the early dispersals of these plants, in the case of the sweet potato from the New World to the Old, and in the case of yams their transfers within the Old World. The sweet potato and Oceania: An essay in ethnobotany. Honolulu. Yen, Douglas E. 1976. The sweet potato in Oceania: an essay in ethnobotany. B. P. Bishop Museum bul. 236:i-xvi, 1-389, figs., tabs, Honolulu. Chung, H. L. 1923. The sweet potato in Hawaii. Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station bul. 50:1-20, figs., tabs. Winter, Kawika. 2004. Hawaiian â€” awa, Piper methysticum, A Study in Ethnobotany. MS thesis, UH Manoa. KÅ­, sugar cane