

DO WE HAVE A MATCH?



Tree Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)



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FROM Martha Gottlieb

It sure looks like a match to me. It seems to me there are three species concerned here.

Nicotiana glauca - Tree tobacco - the yellow flowered plant that is pictured.

A powerful plant containing anabasine, similar to nicotine - and thus another hallucinogenic insecticide.

N. sylvestris - the other plant figured; is white flowered (usually). This is a common flower garden plant - with a lovely fragrance.

N. tabacum - tobacco itself. The flower is usually shorter than the long tubular earplugs illustrated by Justin.

My question is --- why Tree Tobacco ? Was it smoked? That's one rough smoke. Was it, like tobacco, added to Balche ? Anabasine, like nicotine, is a cholinesterase inhibitor - but a stronger one. It can be deadly, for instance, if it is mistaken for tobacco and chewed.

I know I've seen ear plugs like this here and there, but I don't have a sense of how common they are. Are there any on vases?

Neat, Justin. All this stuff under our noses all the time. Observation!

Martha Gottlieb

From David Suart.

Here's another tobacco ear ornament for you -- a leaf instead of a flower -- from the DO Palenque tablet. This is the same leaf that appears on a few of those little tobacco snuff bottles called

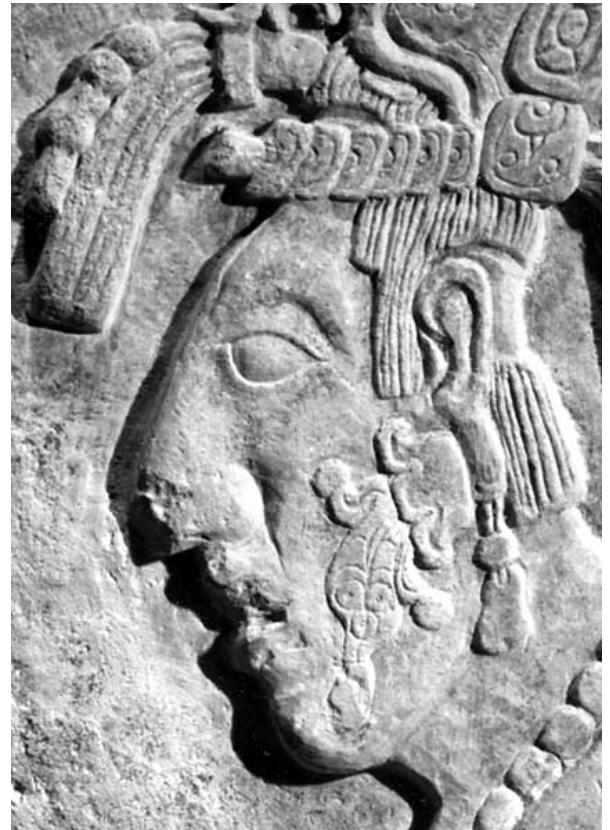
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Interesting!

David

From Steve Houston

We had this in the book, as "tobacco exhalation" (fig. 4.6.b).



A wild tobacco, also known as Sacred Tobacco, it originated in Mexico but was widely cultivated throughout North America by native peoples for ceremonial purposes.