

Ethnobotany. Lecture 12

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Outline

- 1 Starch-containing plants
 - Lesser starch-containing plants
 - Starch plants of native use



Starch-containing plants

Lesser starch-containing plants



Sago palm, *Metroxylon saghu*

- Belongs to palm family, Palmae
- Tree of Indonesian origin
- Stem (!) is used for starch (sago) production



Sago palm



Sago harvesting



Sago filtering



Andean starch tuber plants

- Oca, *Oxalis tuberosus*, from Oxalidaceae, wood sorrel family
- Ulluco, *Ullucus tuberosus*, from Basellaceae family
- Mashua, *Tropaeolum tuberosum* from Tropaeolaceae, nasturtium family



Oca, *Oxalis tuberosus*



Ulluco, *Ullucus tuberosus*



Mashua, *Tropaeolum tuberosum*



Starch-containing plants

Starch plants of native use



Arrowhead, *Sagittaria latifolia*

- “Pshitola” (Dakota), “mujotabuk” (Ojibwe)
- Aquatic plant from Alismataceae family
- Rhizomes are used as a source of starch



Arrowhead, *Sagittaria latifolia*



Quamash (*Camassia quamash*)

- Famous “Quamash”, important food source of Native Americans in the West
- Belongs to lily family, Liliaceae
- Bulbs are edible and highly nutritious



Quamash, *Camassia quamash*



Quamash roots



Summary

- **Starch-containing plants** are accumulating starch or inulin in their underground parts
- Sweet potatoes and cassava (manioc) are two largest starch sources after potato
- Multiple unrelated tuber starch-bearing species grow in Andes



For Further Reading



A. Shipunov.

Ethnobotany [Electronic resource].

2011—onwards.

Mode of access:

http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310



P. M. Zhukovskij.

Cultivated plants and their wild relatives [Electronic resource].

Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, 1962. Abridged translation from Russian.

Mode of access:

http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_310/zhukovskij1962_cultivated_plants.djvu.

