

Jan 3
Washington D. C. Dec 27. 1898

Dear Dr. Robinson

I have been for some time interested in gathering together from various places in Mexico the seed sold as chia.

Chia seed is used to form a cooling and refreshing drink. Chia is mentioned by the old authors of Mexican history but very incorrectly. My wish is to write a paper upon Ancient and Modern uses of chia in Mexico.

Please inform me if there is a *Salvia* *chian* and where noted.

So far all the seed that have come under my notice and known as Chia are forms of *Salvia* with two exceptions these are forms of *Egyptis*.

The seed of Chia obtained without botanical specimens was planted in the green house here and botanical specimens made from them, A number set of these is sent you for determination, You can retain the specimens, only send us your determinations, many look alike and in all probability have a common origin. As these seeds are sold from Acapulco to the City of Mexico

Forms of Chia

(6) 18811 Colima by purchase in the market but

- was informed the seeds was obtained at
 Zamora State of Michoacan in quantities
 17759 — San Luis Potosi Mexico obtained at
 the market
 1778 — Nombre de Dios State of Durango Mex
 obtained in the Market
 17756 — Monclova ^{State of Coahuila} Mexico from the market
 17755 — San Pedro state of Coahuila Mexico from
 the market but was informed that ^{it} was obtain
 ed from the City of Mexico
 17757 — Durango City, Mexico purchased in the Market
 17760 Villa Lerdo State of Durango from the
 market

City of Acapulco by purchase in the Mar-
 ket the seeds sent to J. S. Brandegee San Diego
 California and by him planted two different
 forms of *Salvia* came up marked A and B

- (A) This is a robust plant and like the other
Chias has blue flowers with blueish white
 markings in center
 (B) Small plant with delicate blue flowers
Chas from Coahuila

18840 (F) Chas negro

Black seeded Chas this plant has
 white flowers. The specimens are from plant
 in green house hear and from seed obtained

at Golema Mexico where the seed can be had in quantities from native plants and by the Indians and as the plant is cultivated as a crop.

Boath Chans have a strong aroma of catnip

18810 Chan Blanco or white seeded the flowers (E) are white - the specimens sent are from the green house hear and from seeds obtained from the market of Golema. The seeds are to be had in quantities from native plants and by the Indians from cultivating it as a crop. All the forms of Chan have a wide commercial distribution.

In cultivating the Chans a confusion was made with the labels so I have added (a letter) so as not to astray.

18812 Chan Negro with black seed but (D) with lavender colored flowers the seeds are fathered with 18810 (F) and the distinction in the flowers and seeds only known by cultivation hear. The leaves have a dead green look or shading. There is only one black Chan in commerce in Mexico.

14754 Chan Negro

This Chan seed was obtained from San Luis Potosi Mexico from the Rev Geo. B. Winton who wrote that the seeds was obtained in the market under the name of chia

The leaves have a noticeable greenish ^{white} look or shading so has the leaves of Chan Negro
18810 (F)

I send a package of seeds - of the black and white Chans as obtained in Bolama

A happy New Year to you all

Yours sincerely
Edward Palmer



Palmer, Edward. 1898. "Palmer, Edward Jan. 3, 1898 [to Benjamin Lincoln Robinson]." *Edward Palmer letters* –.

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