

# The Sweet Potato And Oceania: An Essay In Ethnobotany

D. E Yen

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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 *Āwāwa*, *Piper methysticum*, A Study in Ethnobotany. MS thesis, UH Manoa. Kā, sugar cane

All about The sweet potato and Oceania : an essay in ethnobotany by D. E. Yen. LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for booklovers. This site uses cookies to deliver our services, improve performance, for analytics, and (if not signed in) for advertising. By using LibraryThing you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Your use of the site and services is subject to these policies and terms. Hide this. Results from Google Books. Click on a thumbnail to go to Google Books. assumption that the sweet potato was one of the crops of the earliest settlers in New Zealand. 2. FERDON Vol. 8, No. 1. This idea seems to have been given its strongest support by yet another assumption based upon an attempt to interpret the function of a special type of prehistoric structure, thought to have been for storage, by applying historic ethnographic analogy. This was the rectangular, roofed, semi-pit structure whose function as a sweet potato storage facility was originally suggested by Jack Golson in 1959. Oceania: An essay in ethnobotany. B. P. Bishop Mus. Bull. 236:1-389. and JOCELYN M. WHEELER. 1968. Introduction of taro into the Pacific: The indications of chromosome numbers. Ethnology 7(3):259-267. YOUNG, ROBERT.