

For this week:

A small snack of a few dozen wild almonds contain enough cyanide to kill humans. How did humans turn the almond into an important nut crop?



BIO 235
Plants & People
Evolution &
Domestication
of Crops



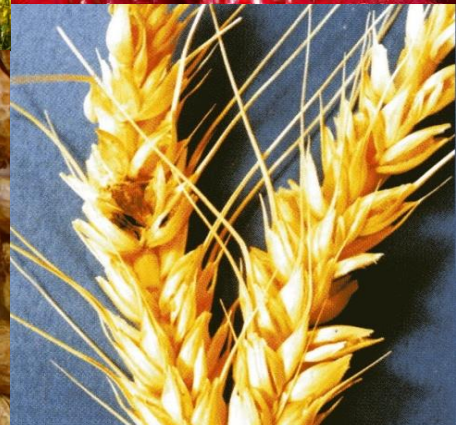
Lecture 5 Hybridization, Polyploidy & Crop Domestication I - Guajes, nopales & maguey

- Polyploidy preceding domestication - Cotton
- Hybrids and polyploids as triggers for domestication - wheat, strawberry
- Edgar Anderson
- Guajes, nopales & maguey
- Serendipitous backyard hybridization & the origin of crops

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Polyploidy
& Crops



Polyploidy

x = base chromosome number of a lineage; $2n$ = chromosome number in somatic tissue regardless of whether an individual is diploid $2n = 2x$, triploid $2n = 3x$, tetraploid $2n = 4x$, etc.

- haploid ($= x$) (say 6)
- diploid, $2n = 2x = 12$
- tetraploid, $2n = 4x = 24$
- hexaploid, $2n = 6x = 36$
- octoploid, $2n = 8x = 48$
- decaploid, $2n = 10x = 60$ etc etc

- Polyploidy is normal in ferns (95%), common in Angiosperms (30-70%), rare in Gymnosperms, infrequent in Animals

- Ploidy changes may represent 2-4% of speciation events in flowering plants and 7% in ferns

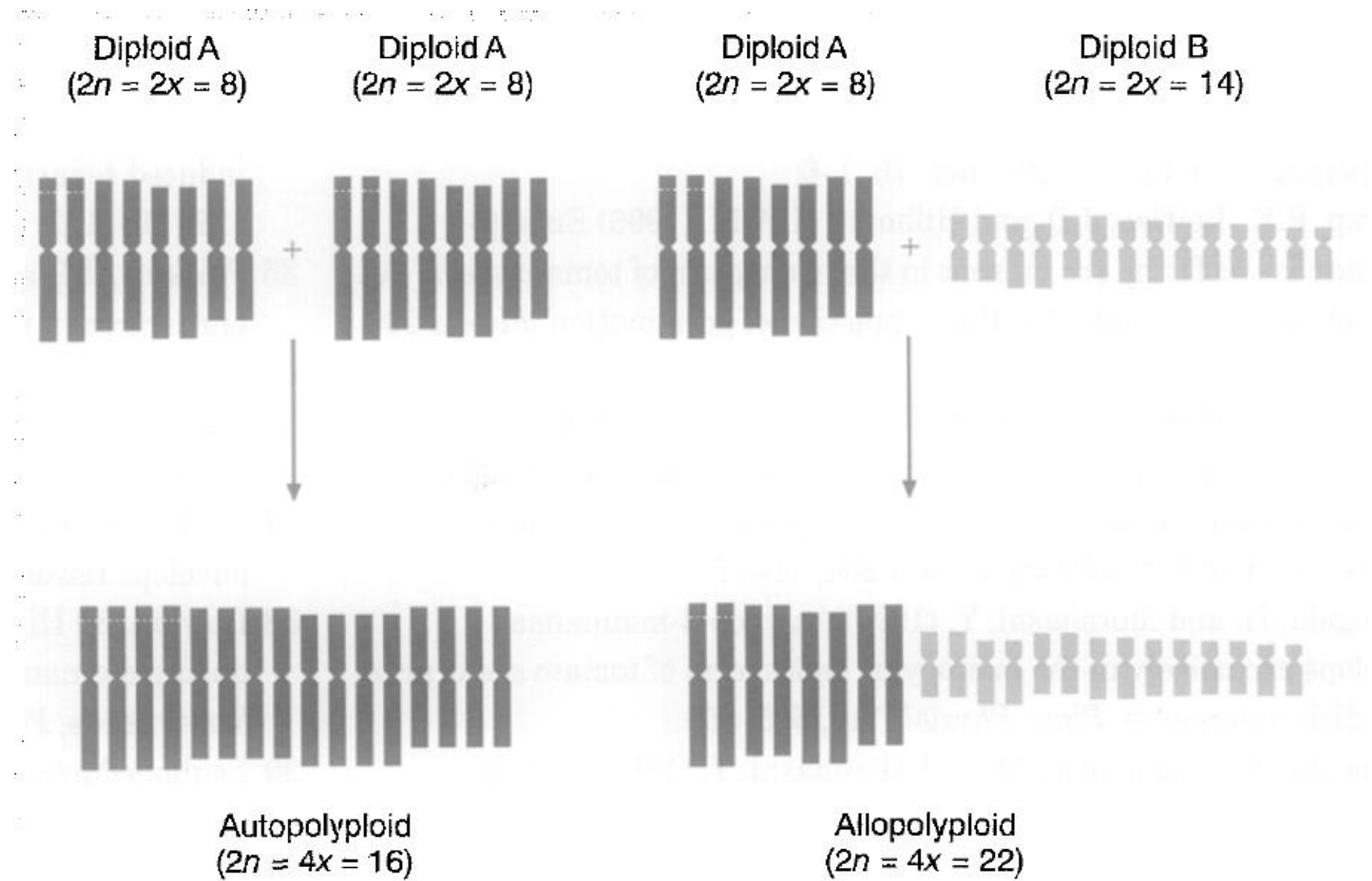
Polyploids

Autopolyploids (AAAA)

- between genetically very similar plants
- parents the same species
- chromosomes homologous
- at meiosis quadrivalents

Allopolyploids (AABB)

- between genetically dissimilar plants
- parents different species
- chromosomes not homologous
- at meiosis bivalents



Polyploid complex

Stace, Plant taxonomy

Octoploids : $2n = 8x =$

Heptaploids : $2n = 7x = 49$

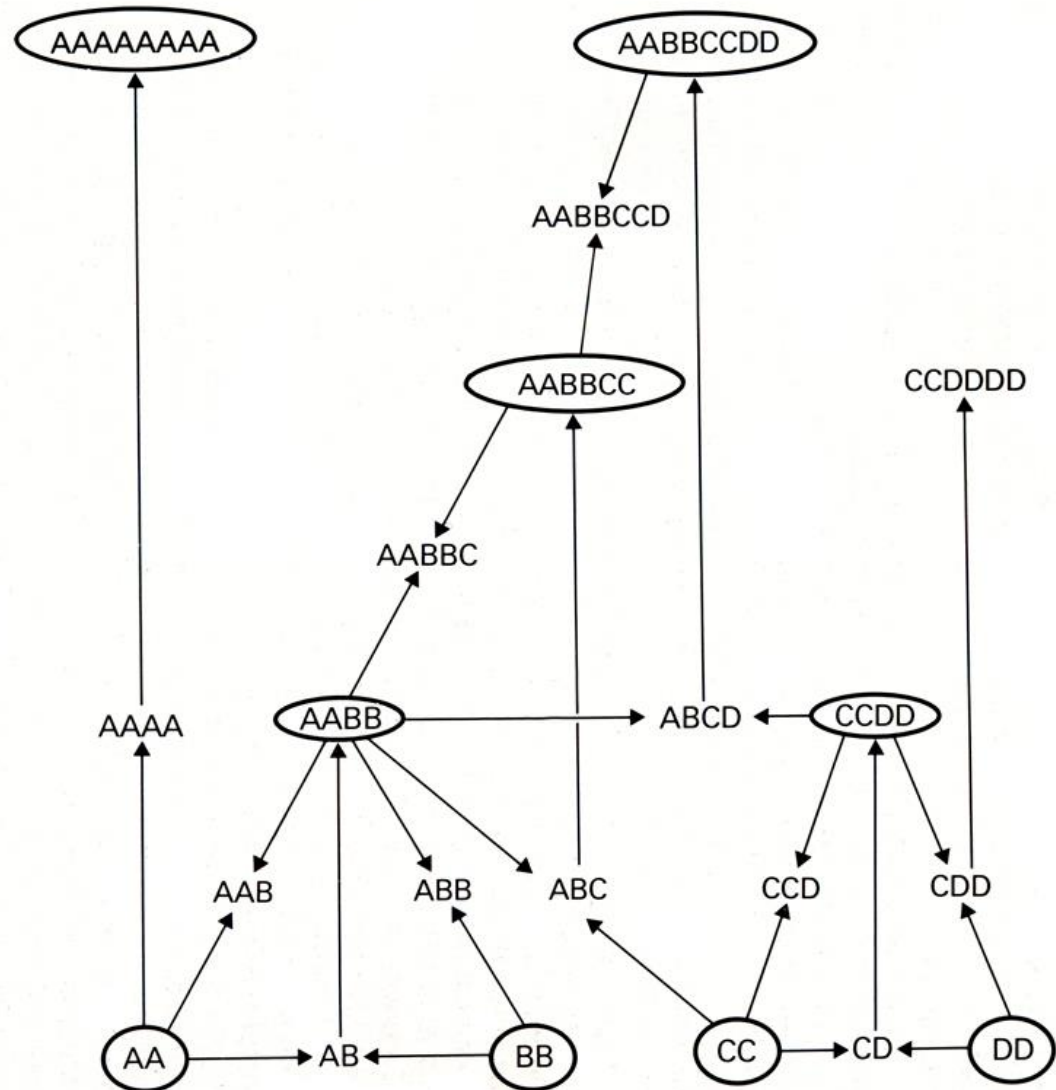
Hexaploids : $2n = 6x = 42$

Pentaploids : $2n = 5x = 35$

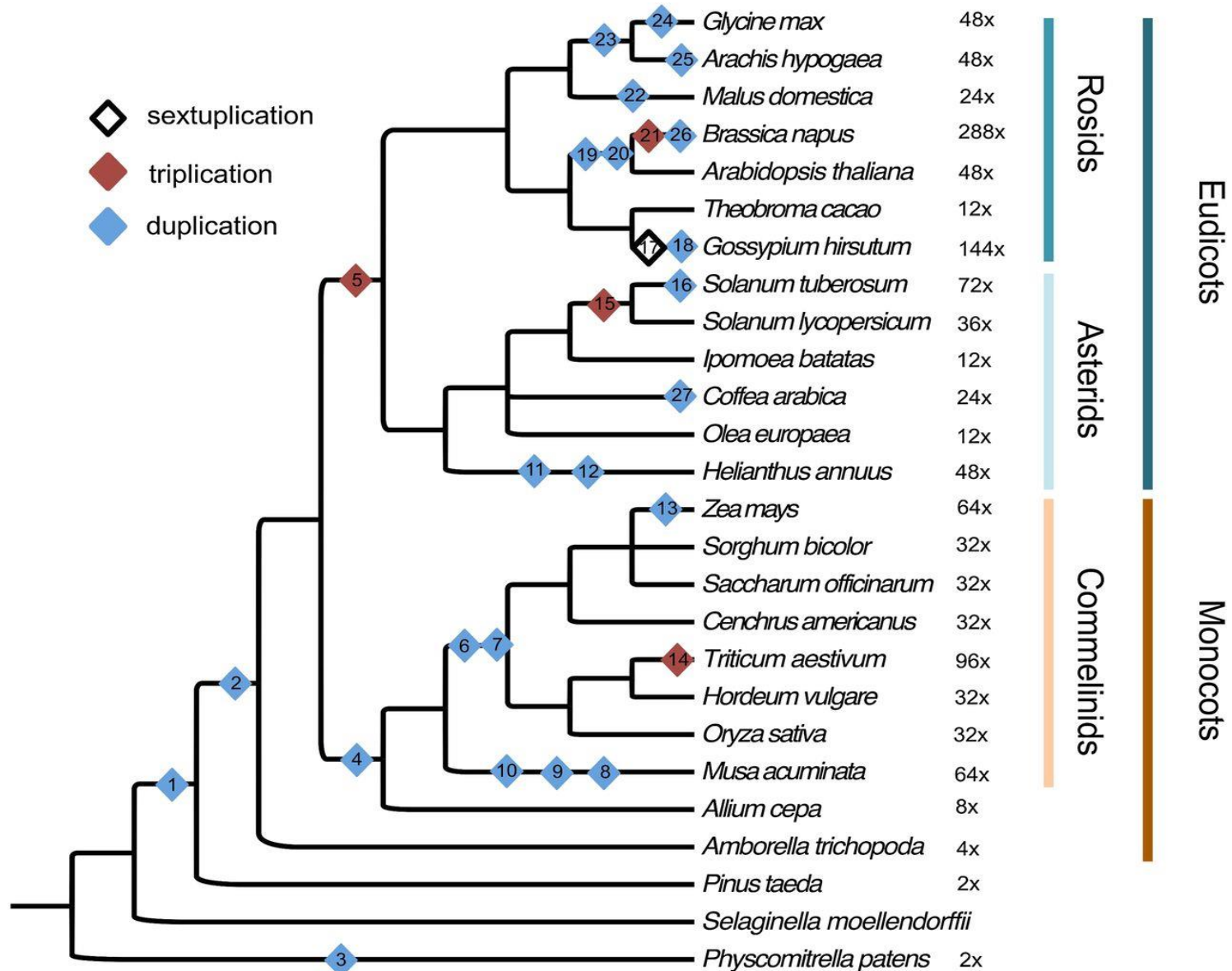
Tetraploids : $2n = 4x = 28$

Triploids : $2n = 3x = 21$

Diploids : $2n = 2x = 14$



Whole genome duplications & land plant phylogeny



Polyploidy & Crops

Whole Genome Duplication, WGD

- Genomic plasticity and rapid genome evolution
- Neofunctionalization of genes
- Diploidization
- Addition of novel genetic material
- Opening up of vast new terrains of gene expression space

Hybrid vigour / Heterosis - hybrids and allopolyploids tend to be bigger and faster growing

Recombination and emergence of transgressive phenotypes providing novel traits

Hybridization, Polyploidy & Crop Domestication

Polyploidy preceding domestication
Tetraploid Cotton



Spontaneous hybrids in cultivation

Hexaploid
breadwheat

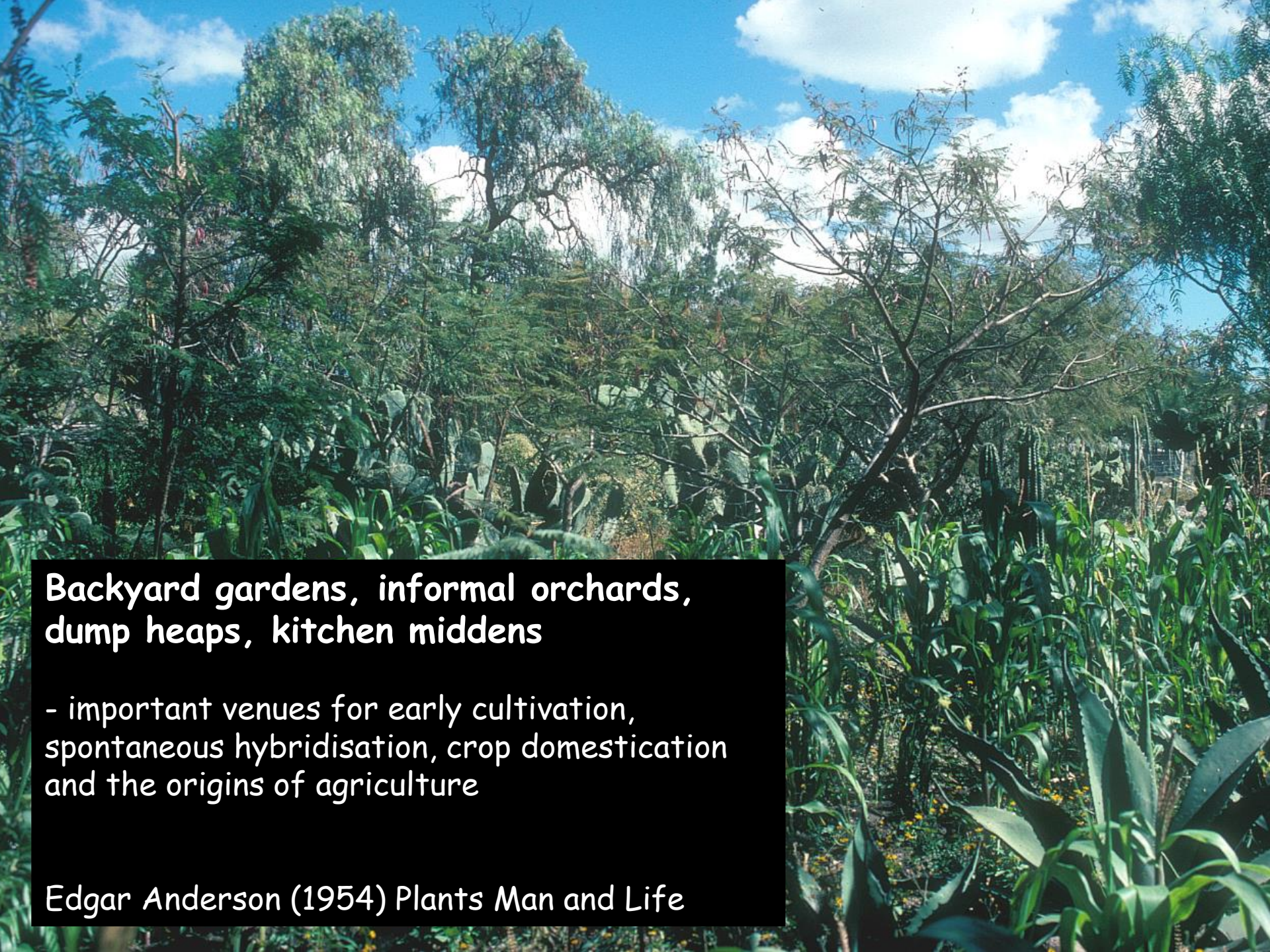


Octaploid
Strawberry



?? Unclear to what extent hybridization and polyploidization preceded domestication or were precipitated by human activities

Bananas, Citrus, Potatoes, Kiwi Fruit, Peanuts, Agave, Opuntia, etc, etc.....



Backyard gardens, informal orchards,
dump heaps, kitchen middens

- important venues for early cultivation,
spontaneous hybridisation, crop domestication
and the origins of agriculture

Edgar Anderson (1954) *Plants Man and Life*

Leucaena leucocephala
Guaje

Leucaena esculenta

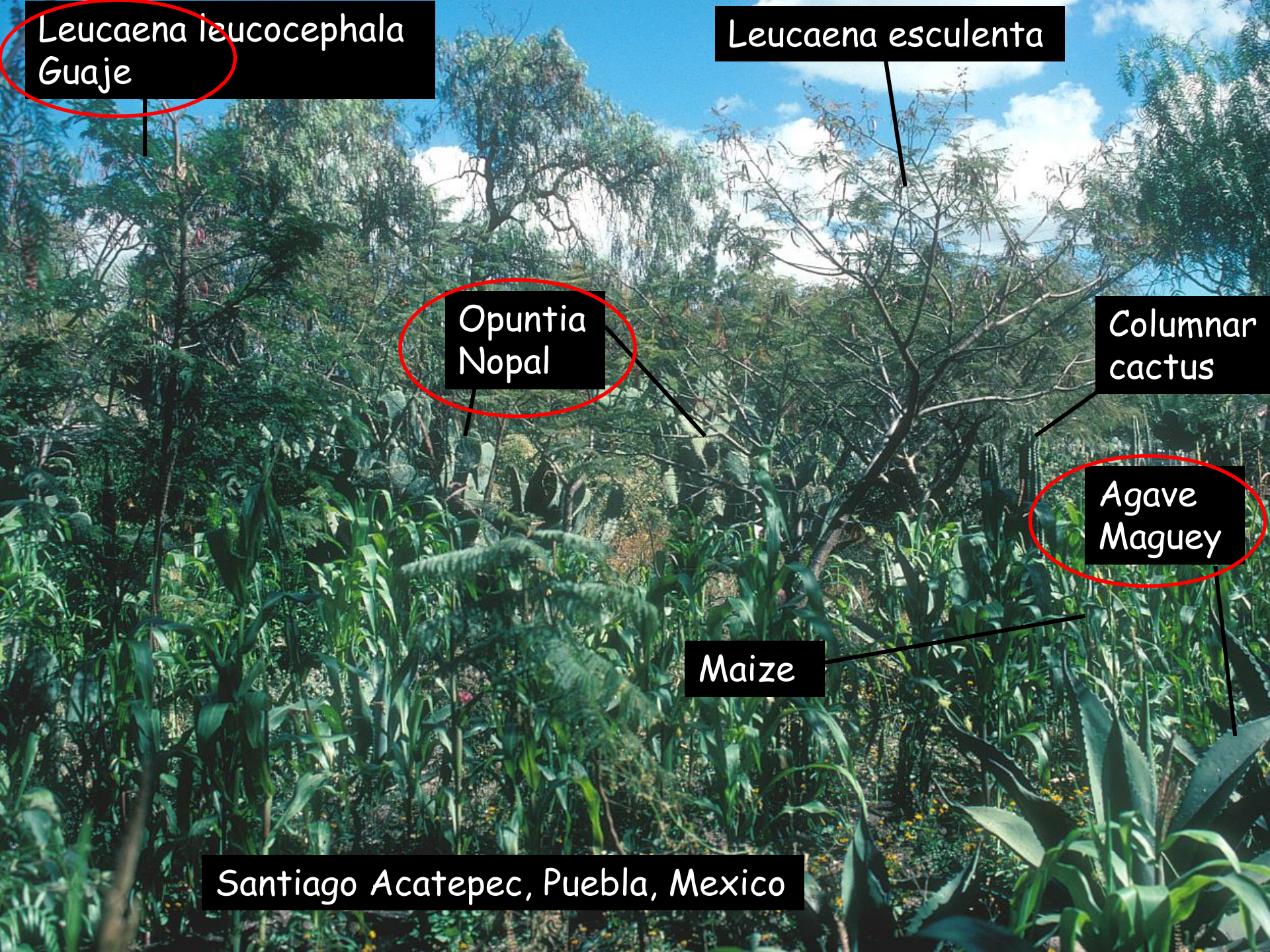
Opuntia
Nopal

Columnar
cactus

Agave
Maguey

Maize

Santiago Acatepec, Puebla, Mexico



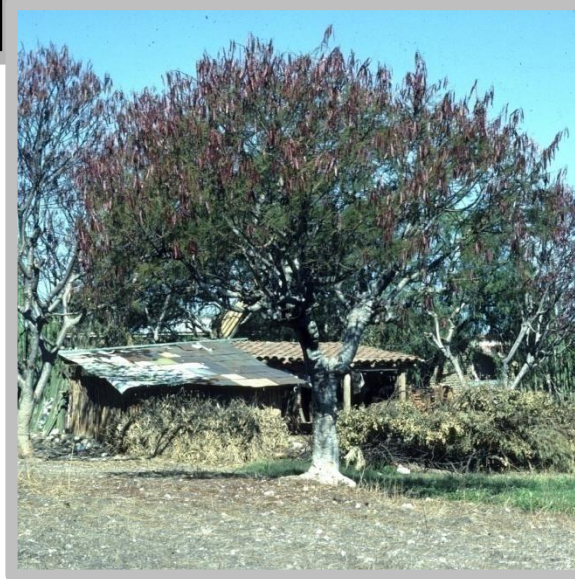
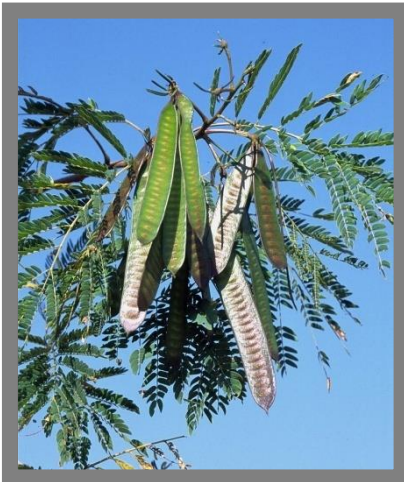
Guaje - *Leucaena* - Leguminosae

22 species

- 17 diploids
- 5 tetraploids
- 2 named hybrids

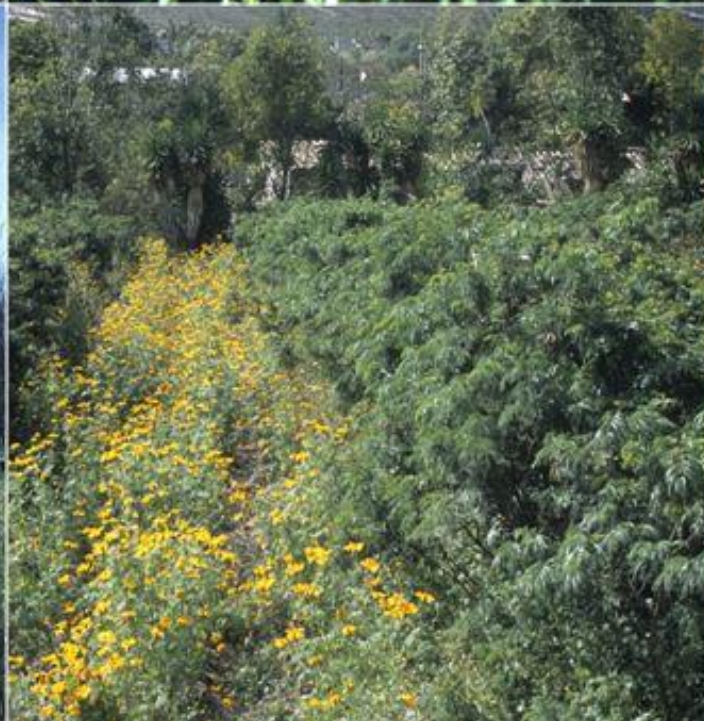
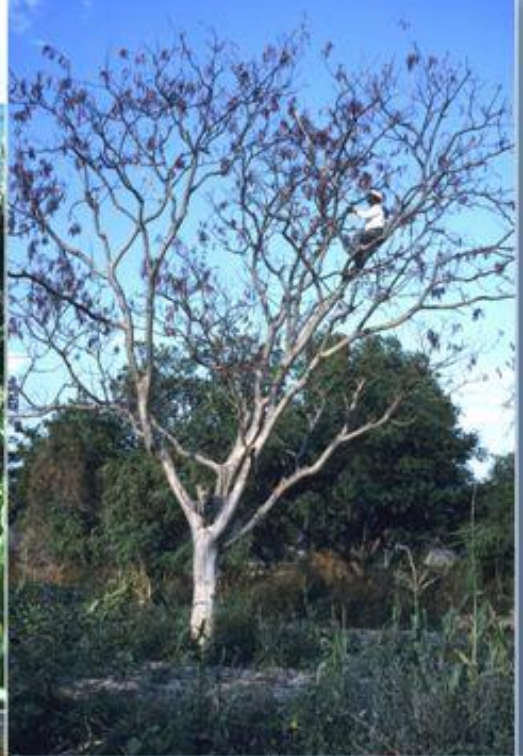


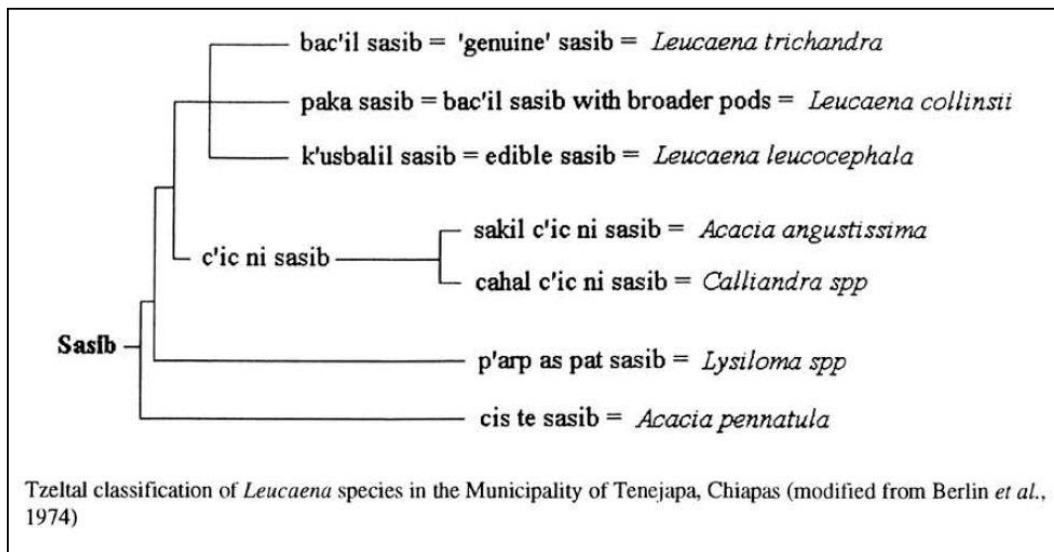
Oaxaca, Mexico





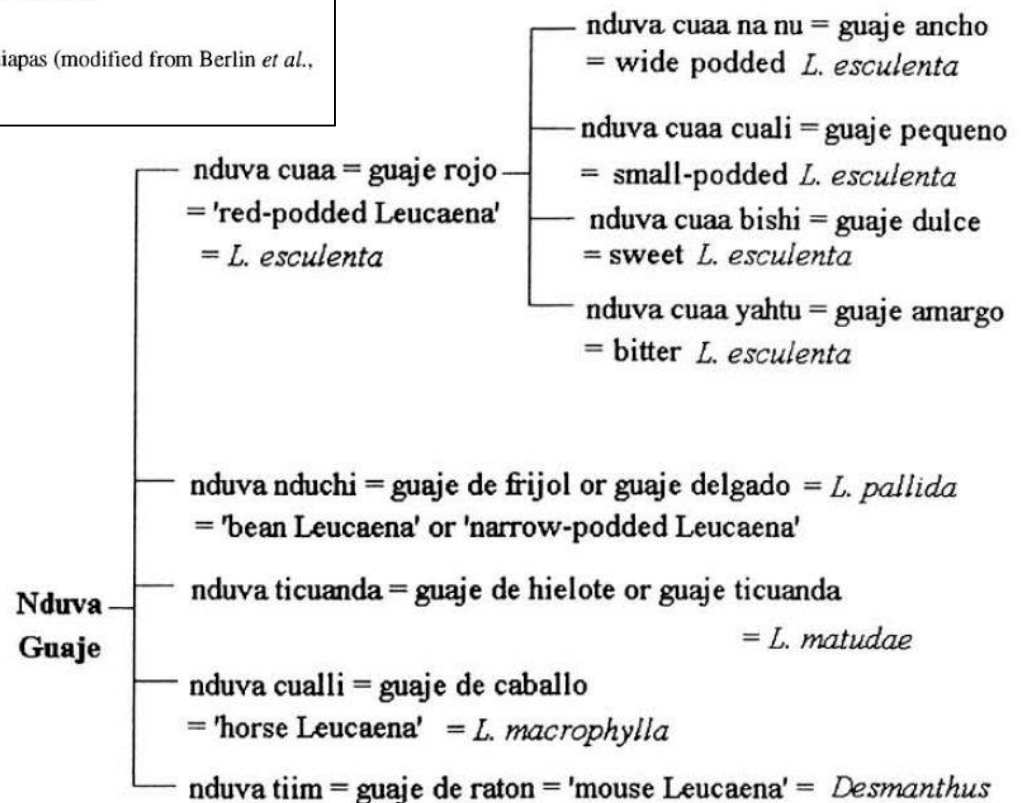






Tzeltal, Chiapas

Leucaena - finely differentiated cognitive systems



Mixtec, Guerrero

Guaje Zacaztín



Guaje rojo



Guaje macho



Guaje manso



Guaje verde



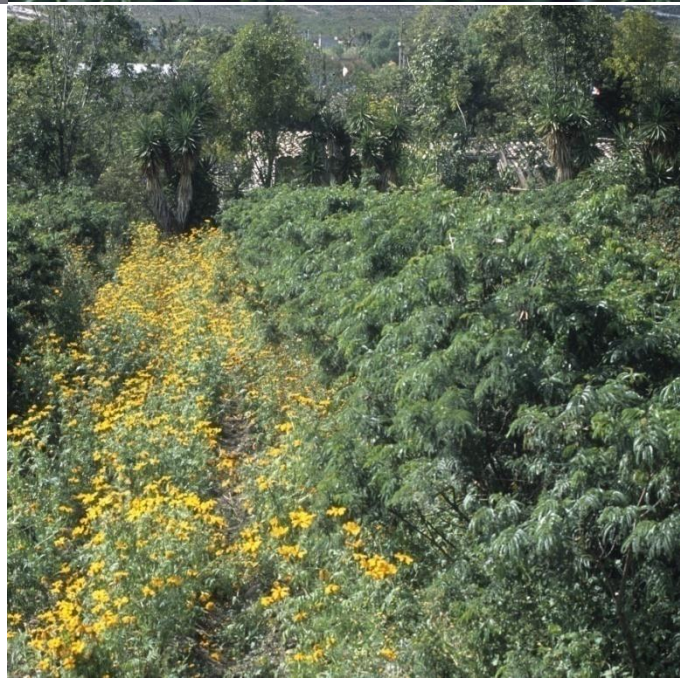
Guaje delgado

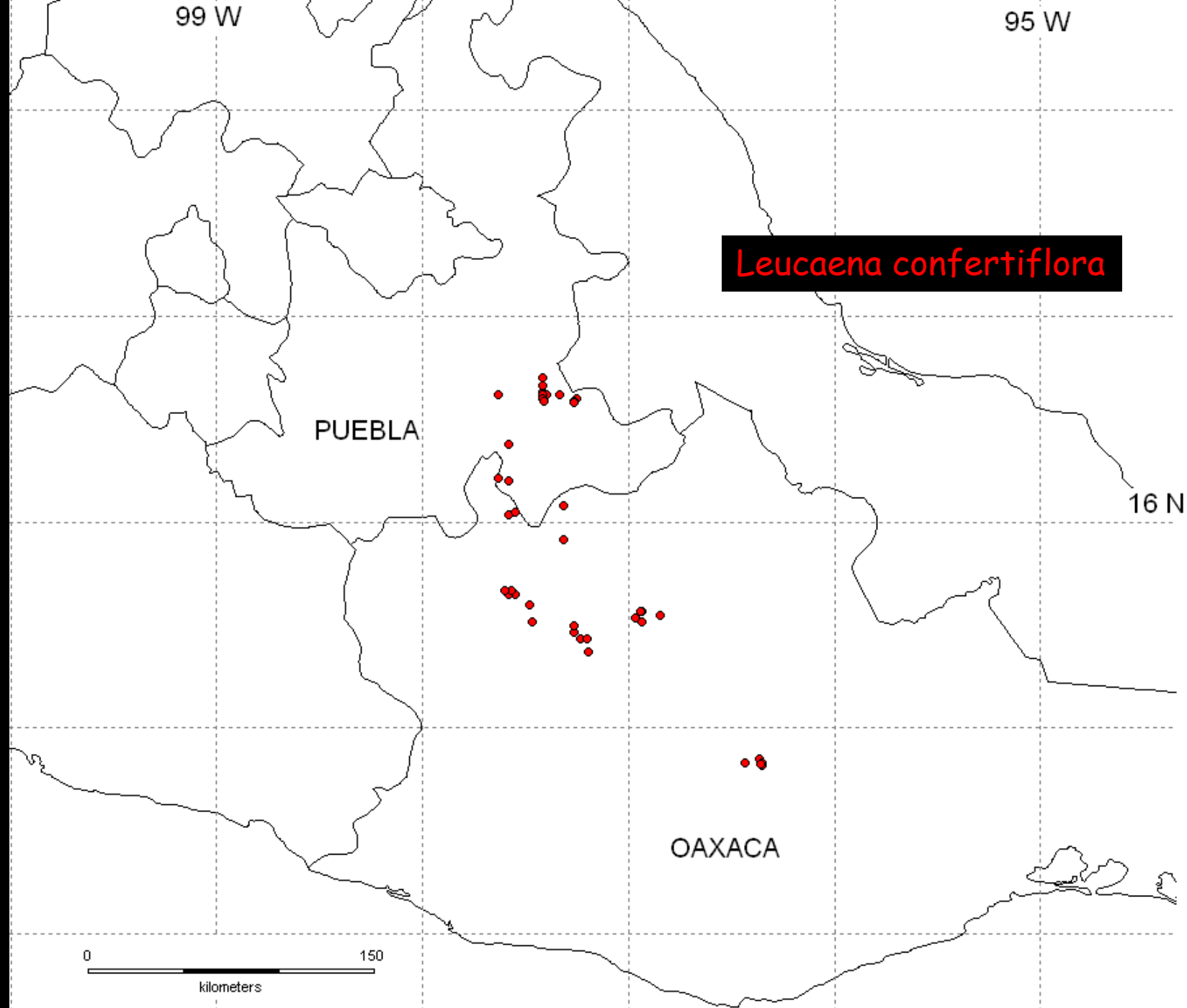


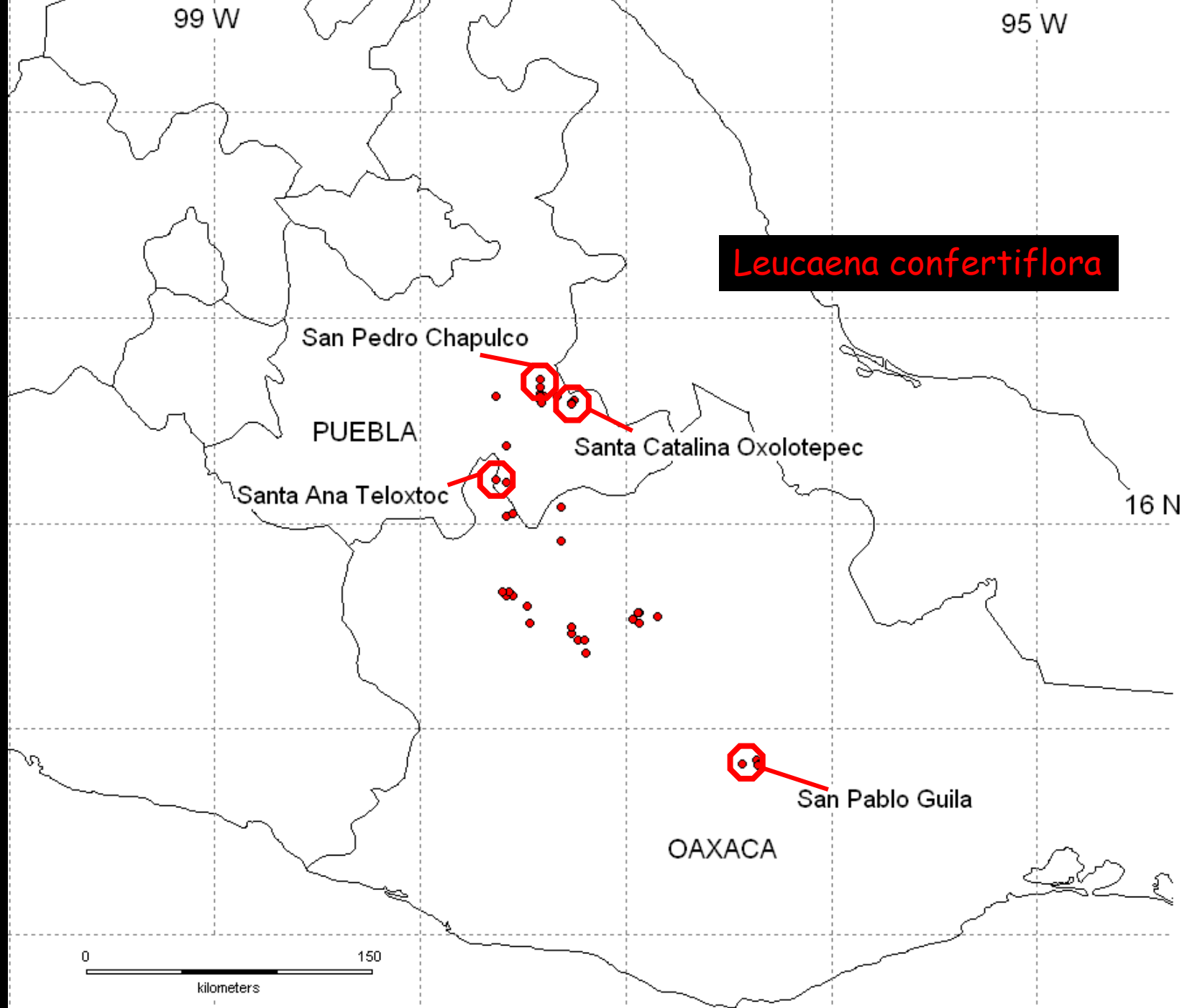
Guaje chiquito



*Leucaena
confertiflora*







Leucaena confertiflora in San
Pedro Chapulco, Puebla
Zárate 1984. Domesticación incipiente del
guaje zacatzín



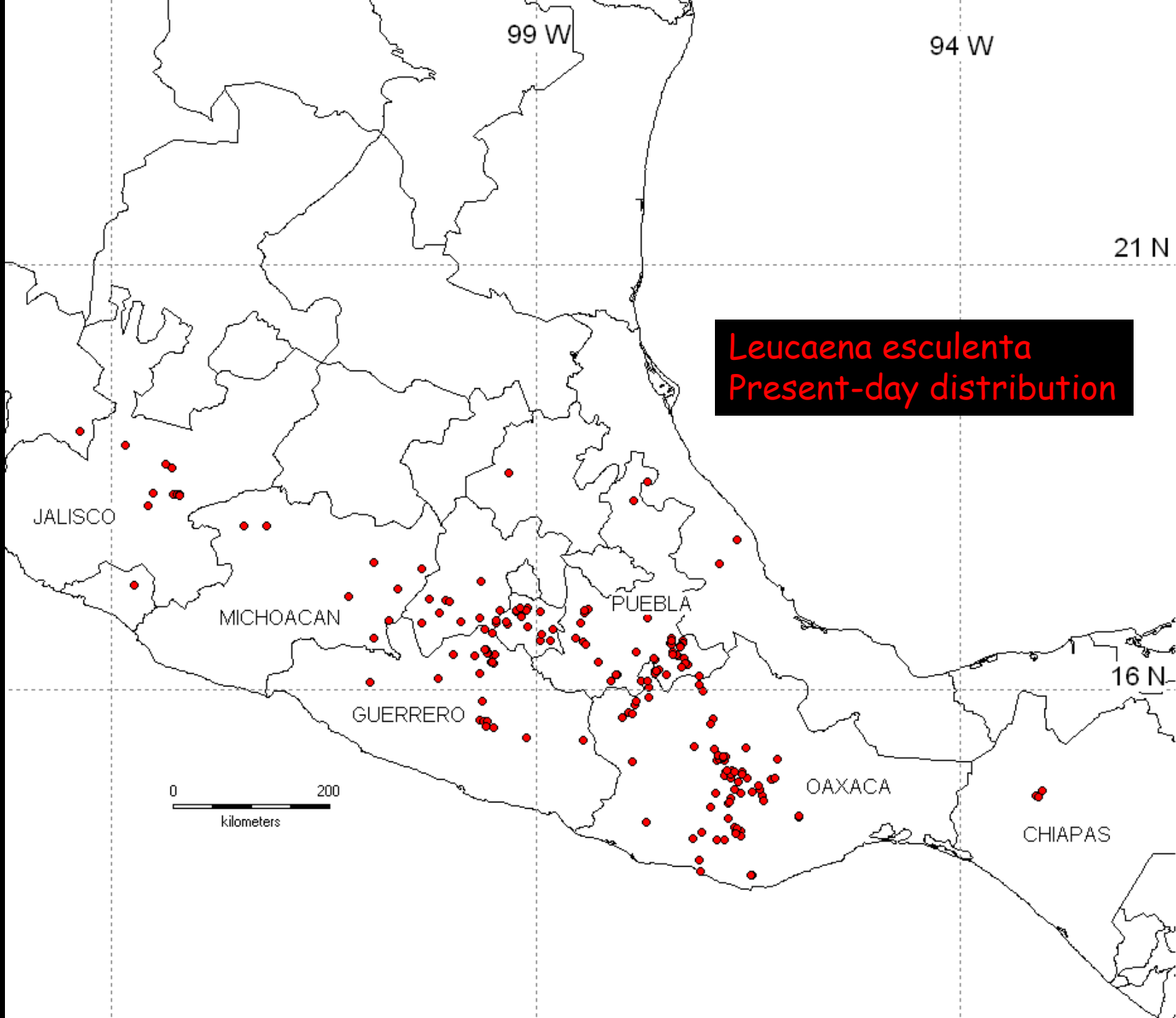
Leucaena esculenta

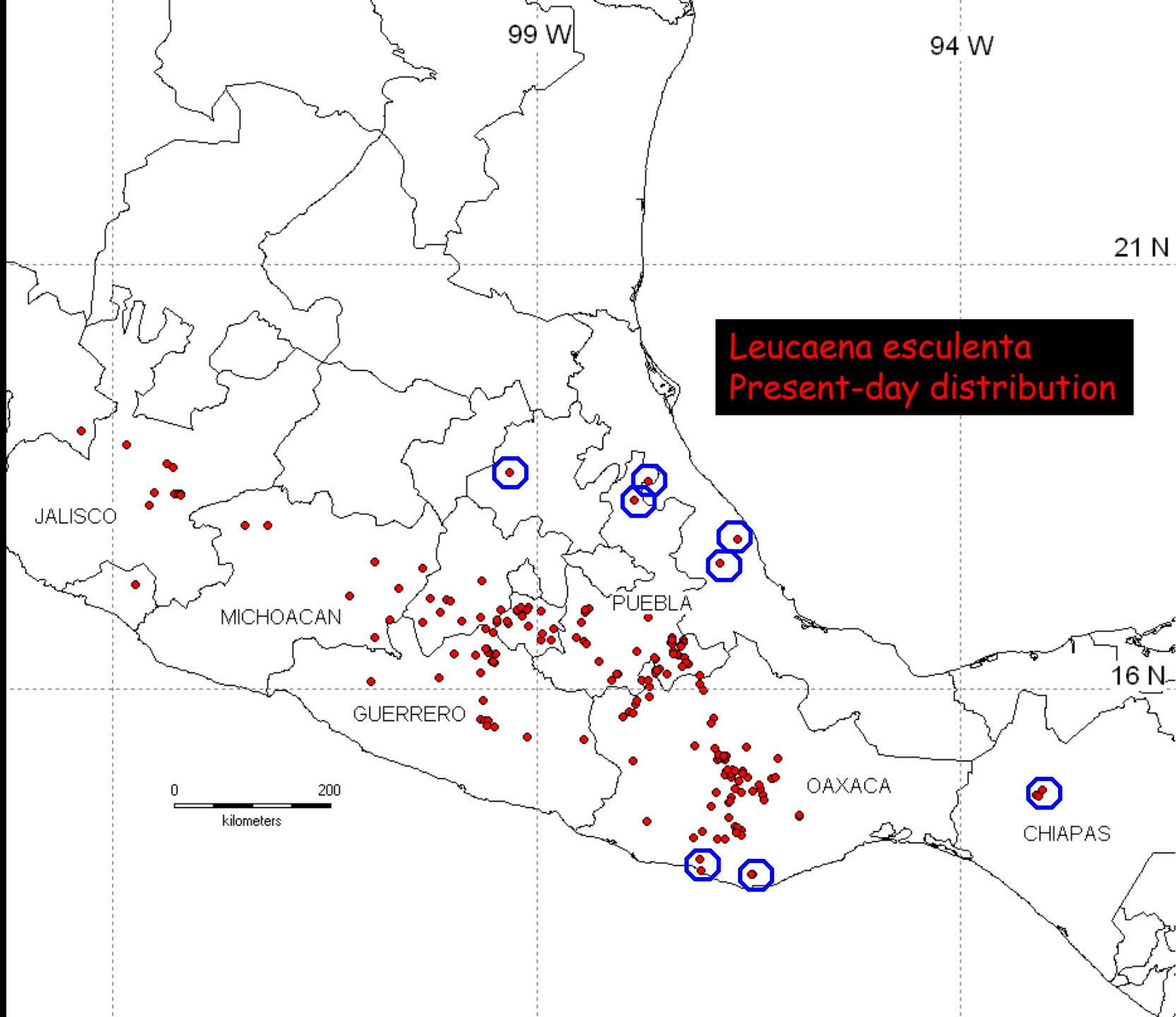
One of the most widely cultivated trees in south-central Mexico

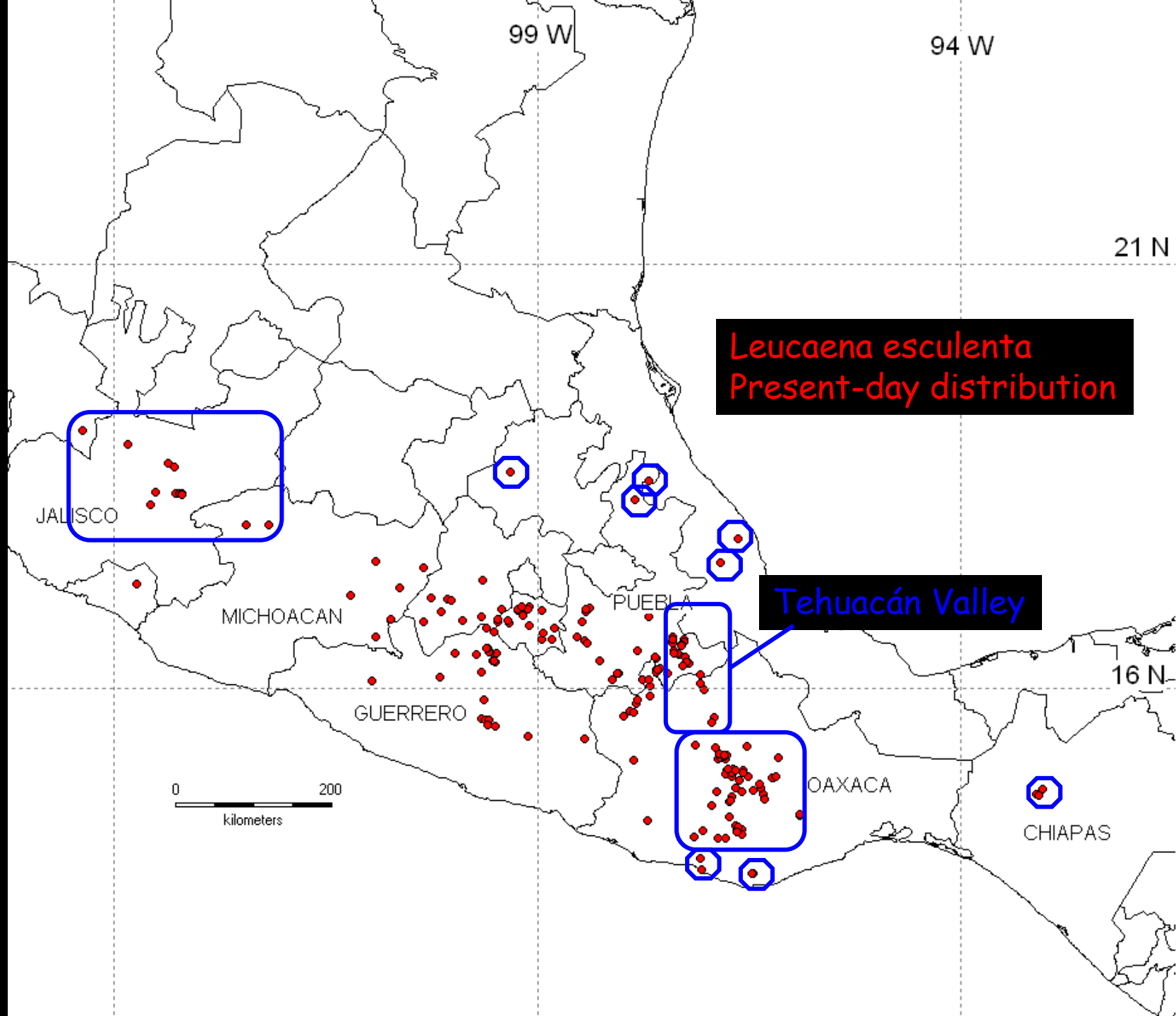


Quantitative differences in pod and seed traits between wild, managed and cultivated populations

Casas & Caballero (1996) Economic Botany







Archaeobotanical record for
Leucaena

- a** Ocampo, Tamaulipas
- b** Coxcatlán & Purrón, Tehuacán Valley
- c** Guilá Naquitz, Oaxaca

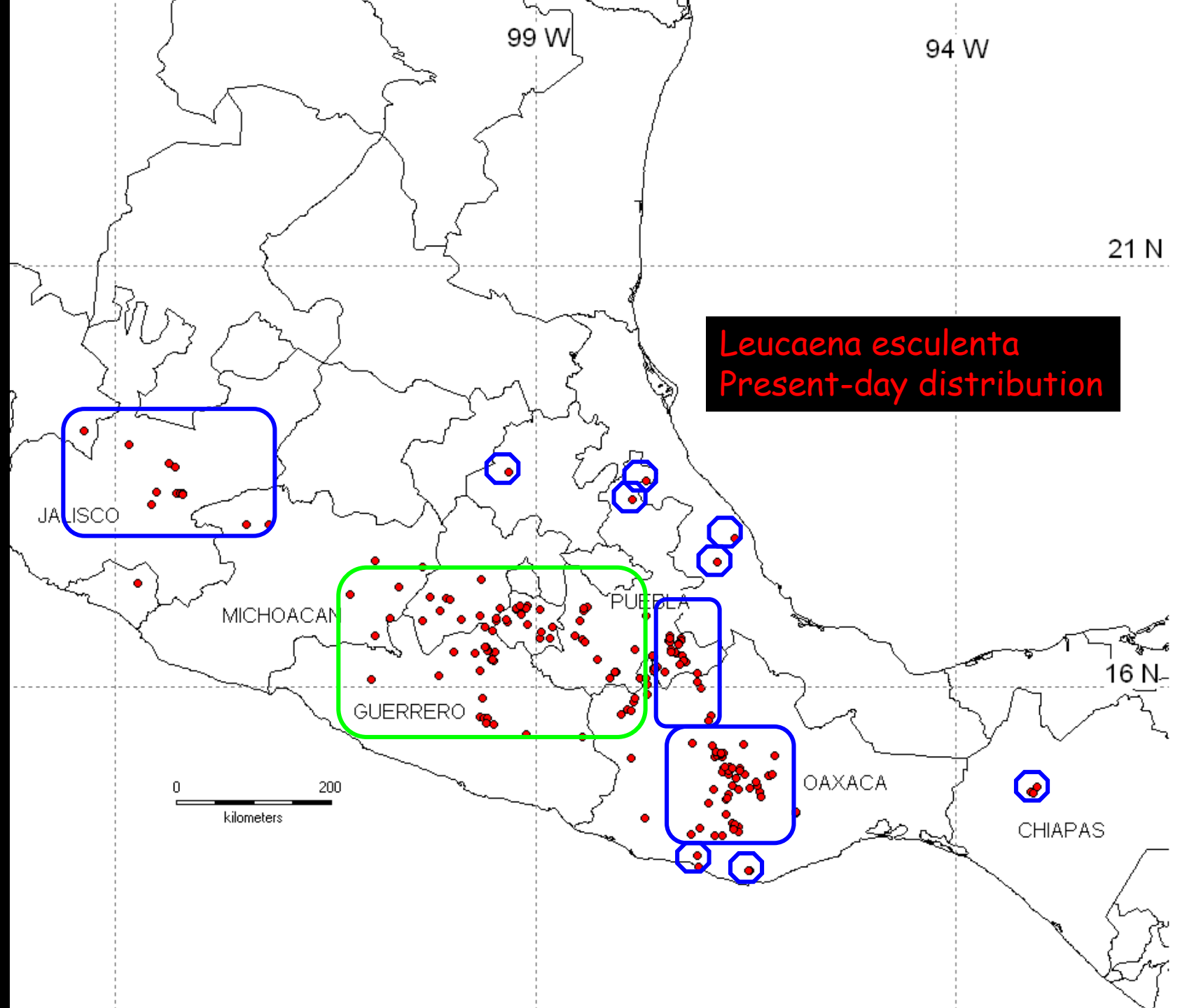
Minor but constant food source for last 6,000 yrs

Increased abundance and appearance of *L. esculenta* in Coxcatlán from 3,200 BP indicating cultivation in Tehuacán

Zárate 2000 *Economic Botany*

Approx limits of
present-day
Leucaena food use





Seeds of 13 species are used as food

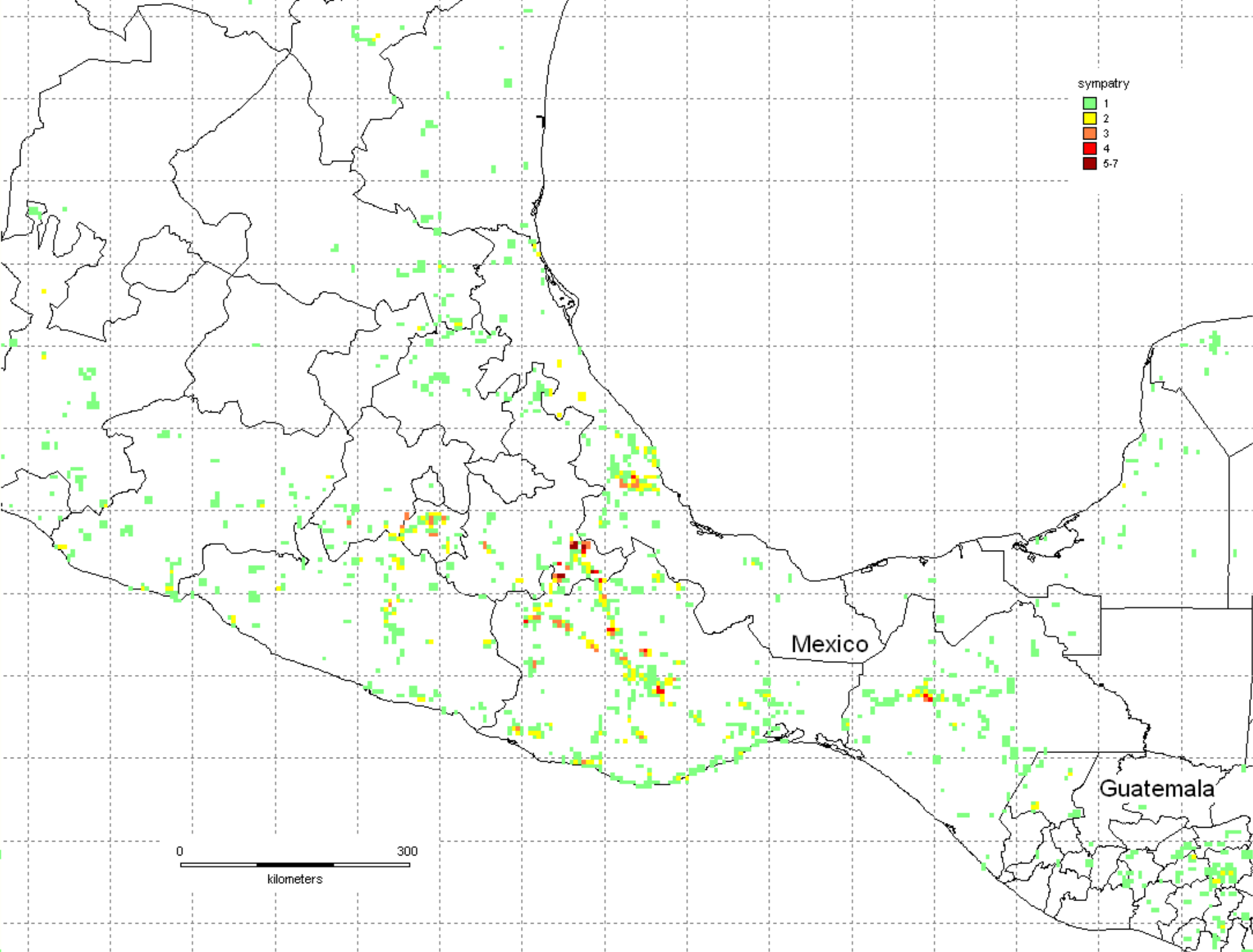
Prevalent throughout S-C Mexico and NW fringes of Guatemala

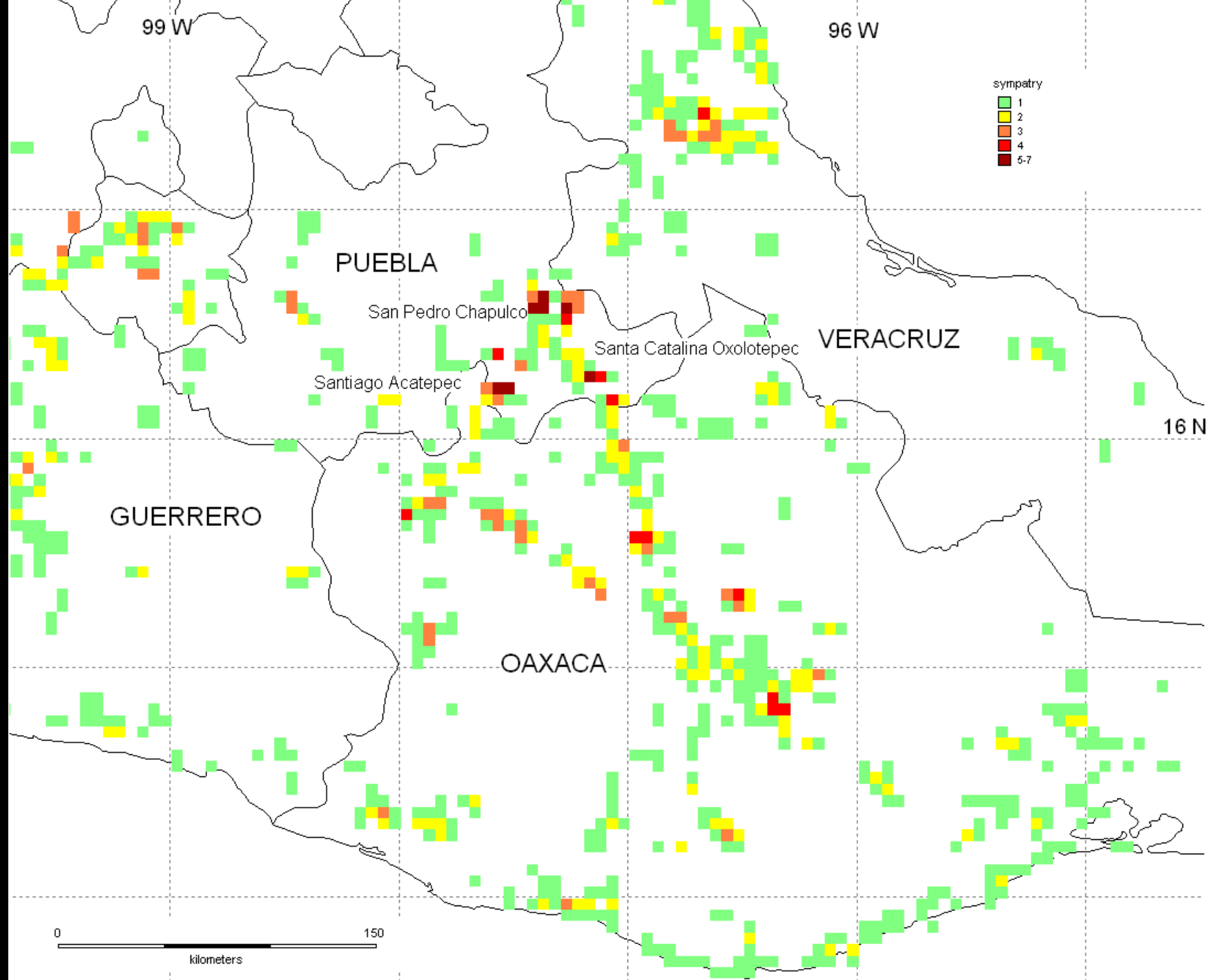
Wild - managed - cultivated (8 of the 13 species) - incipiently domesticated

Home consumption - local & regional marketing

Very local - regional - wider translocation

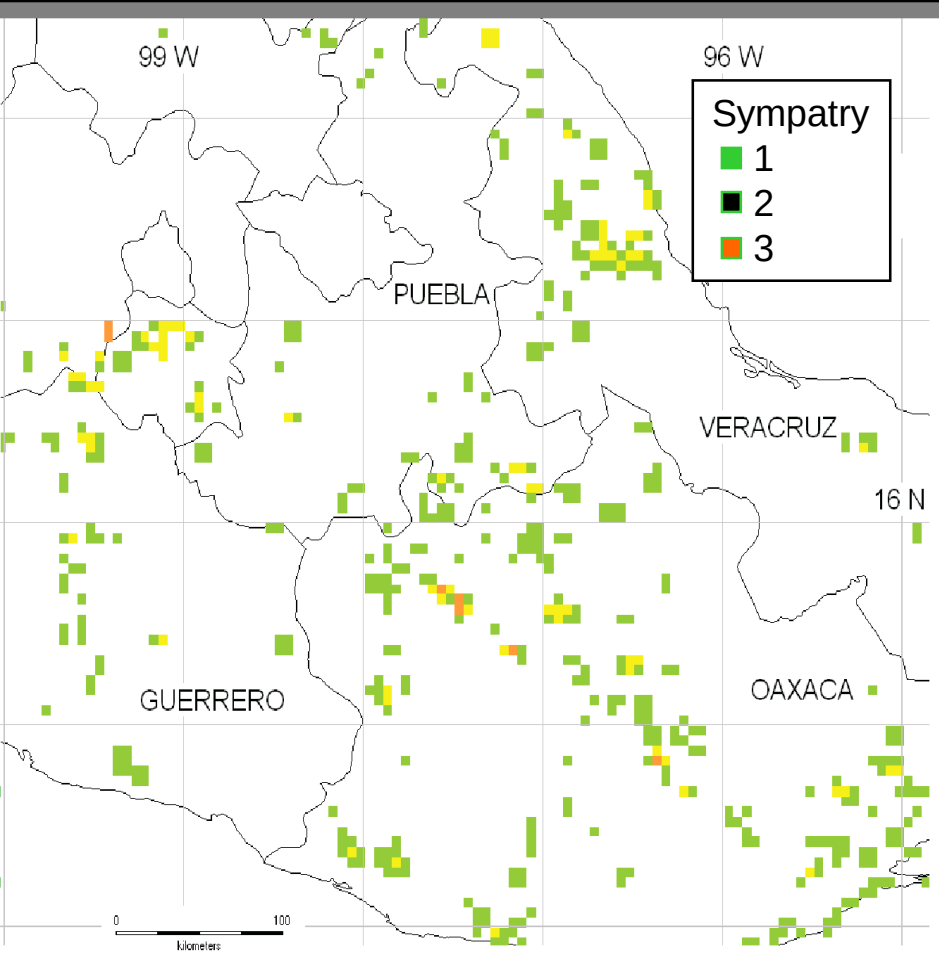
Numerous repeated and spatially and temporally independent wild to cultivated transitions



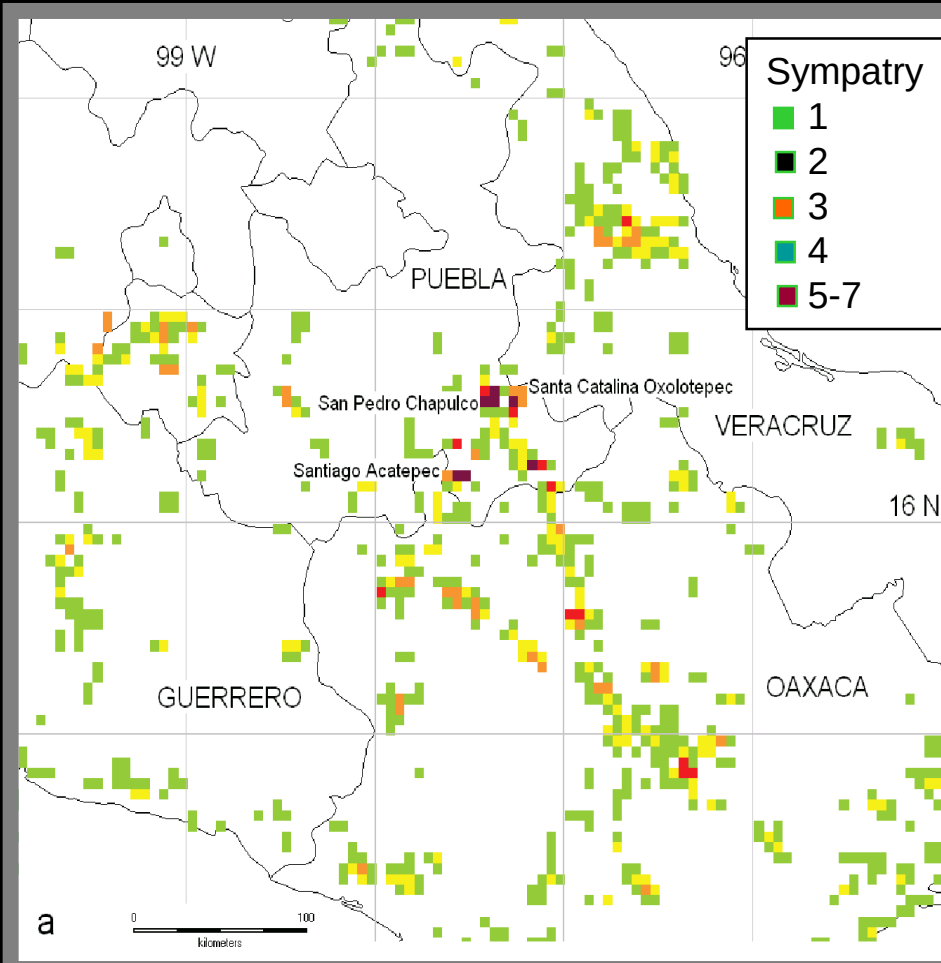


Geography

Hughes et al. 2007



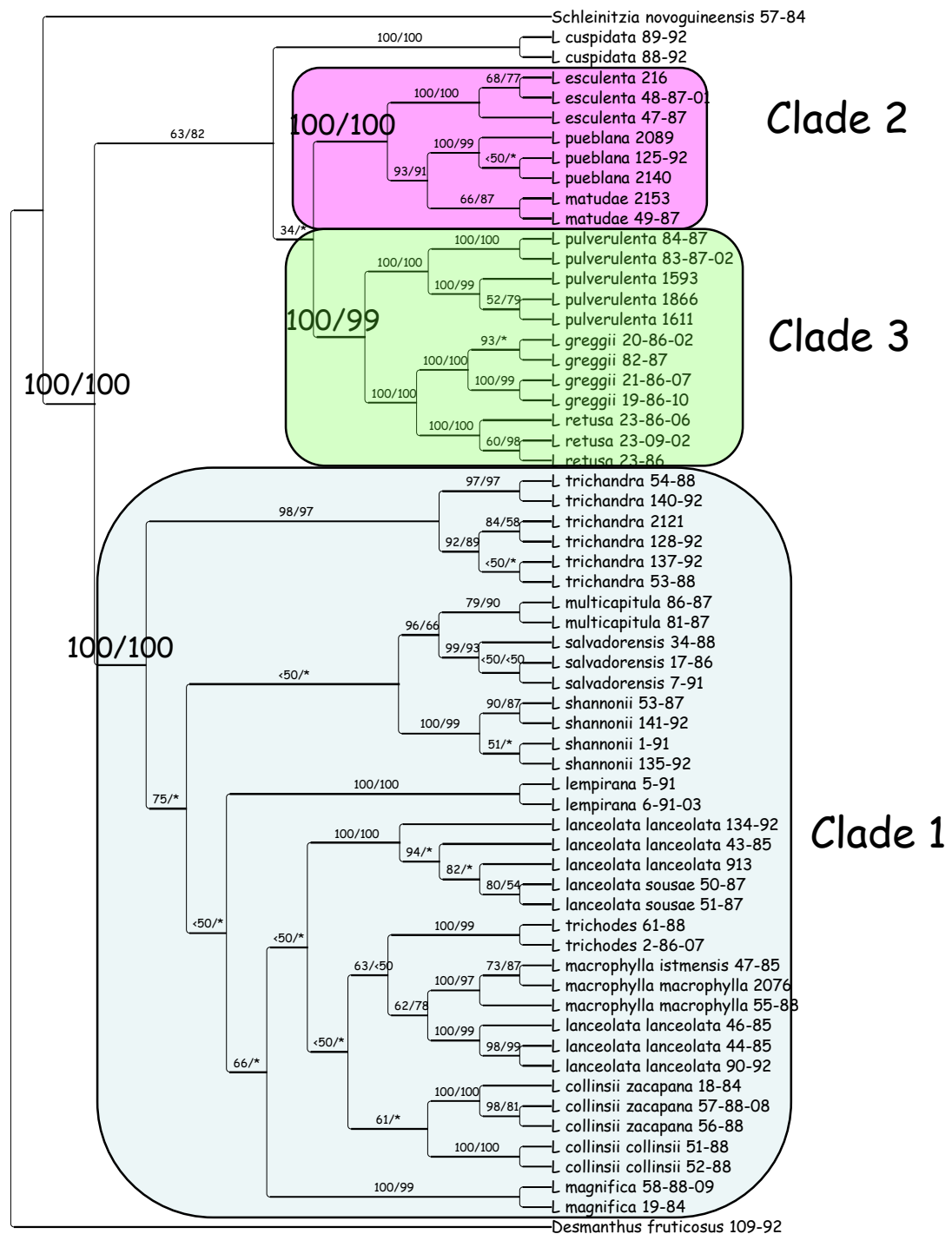
"Wild" Populations



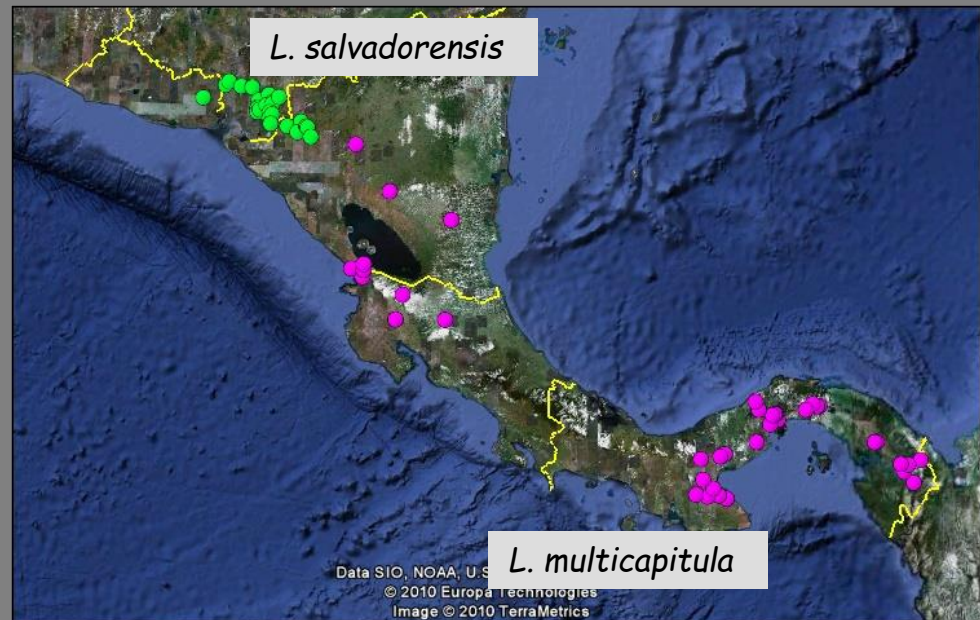
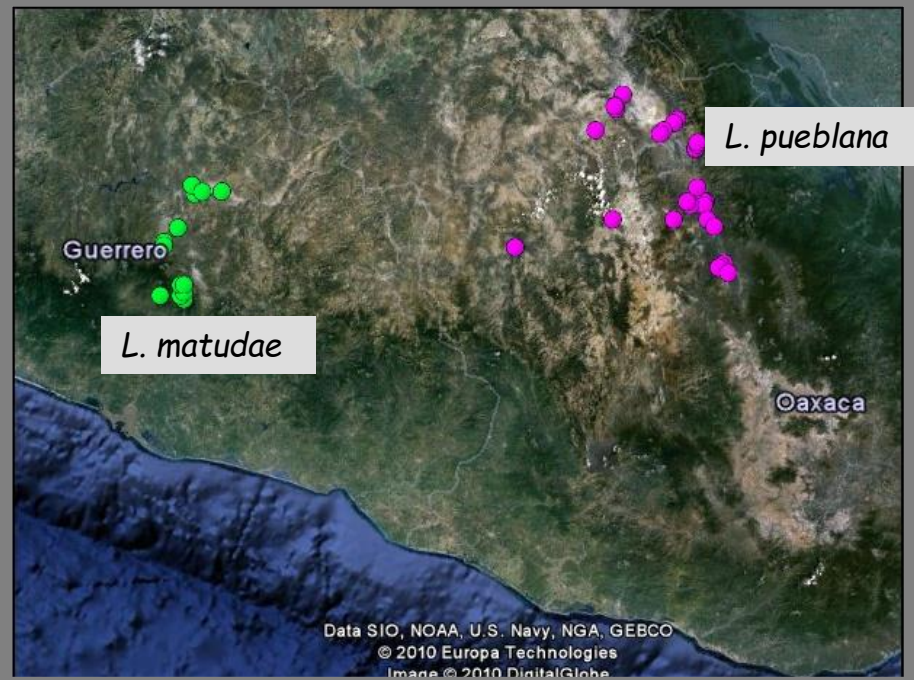
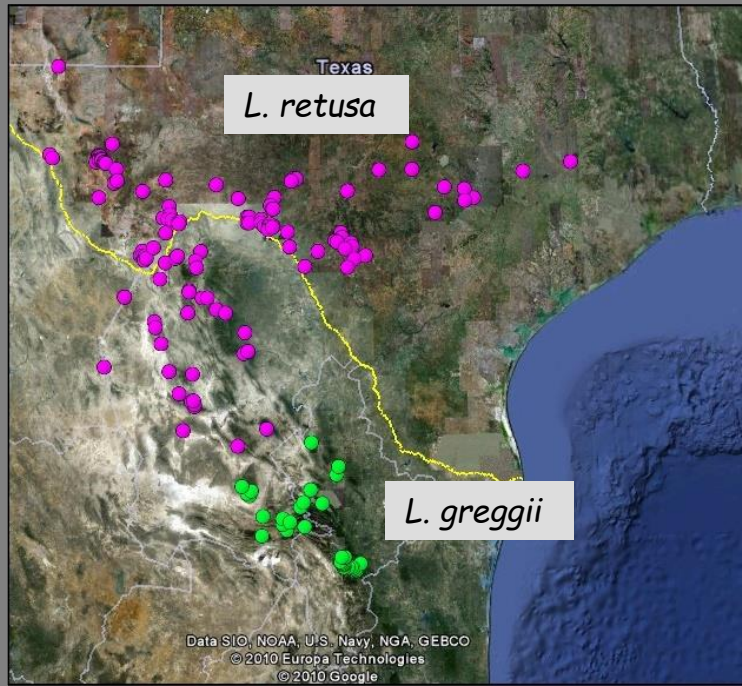
All Collections

Combined Diploid Phylogeny

ML tree from RAxML
6960 aligned bases
Support values 1) ML
bootstraps from
RAxML 2) jackknife
values from NONA
*- clades that collapse
in the strict
consensus parsimony
result.



Well-Supported Pairs of Sister Species



Crossability

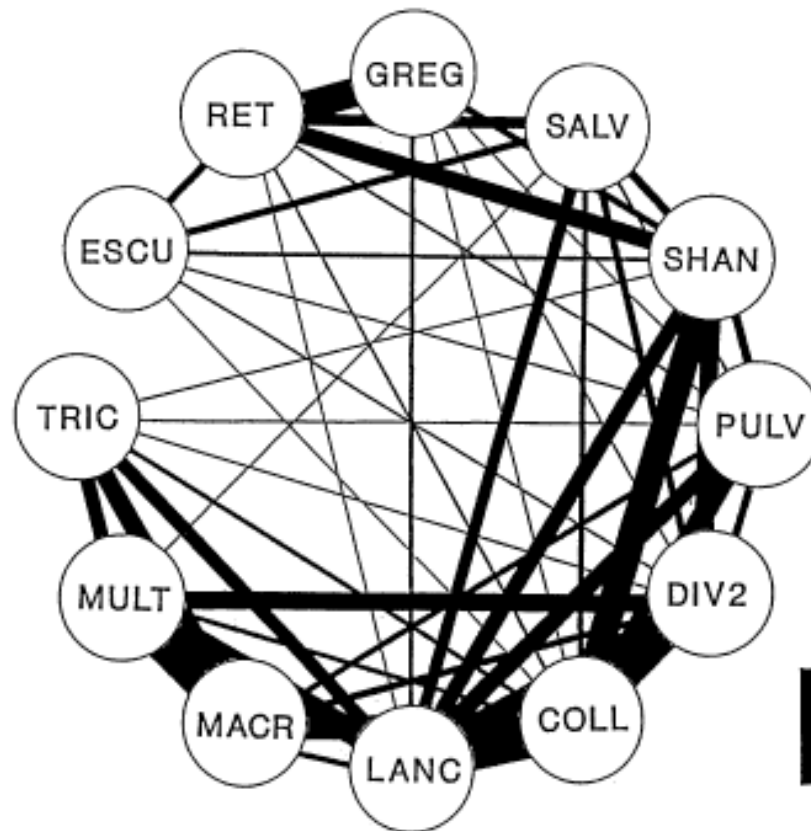
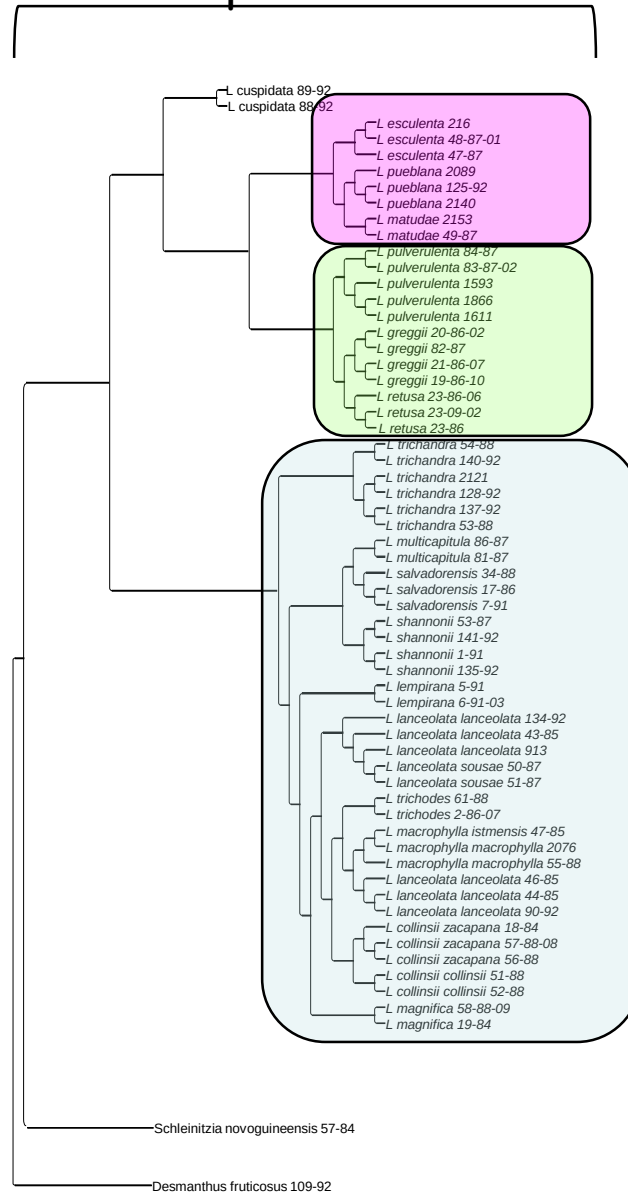


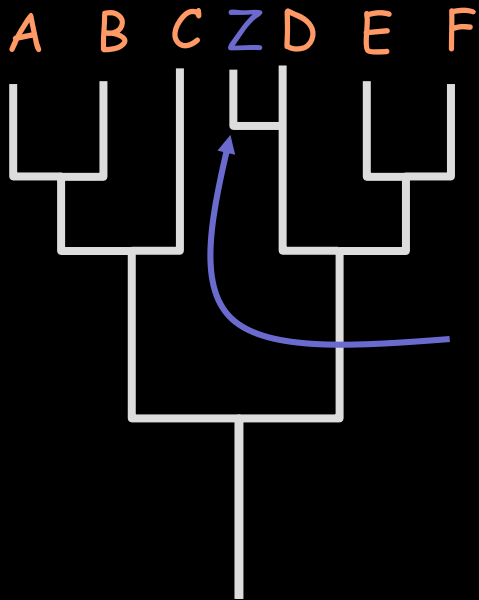
Fig. 6. Relative ease of interspecific hybrid seed production among 12 diploid *Leucaena* species, using maximal data from reciprocal crosses for each species $\times$ species mating. Bar thickness indicates a crossability index of 100%.

Diploid Allopatric Speciation



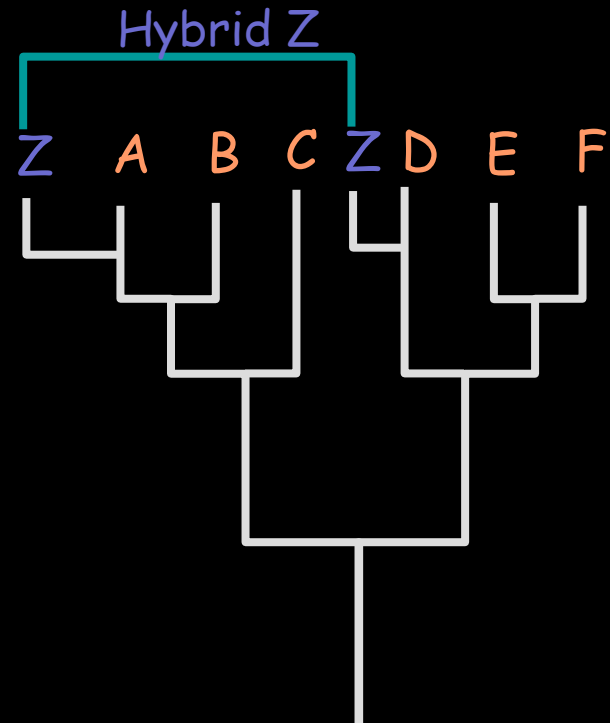
Results from biparentally inherited loci can provide information on allopolyploid origins

- Autopolyploids



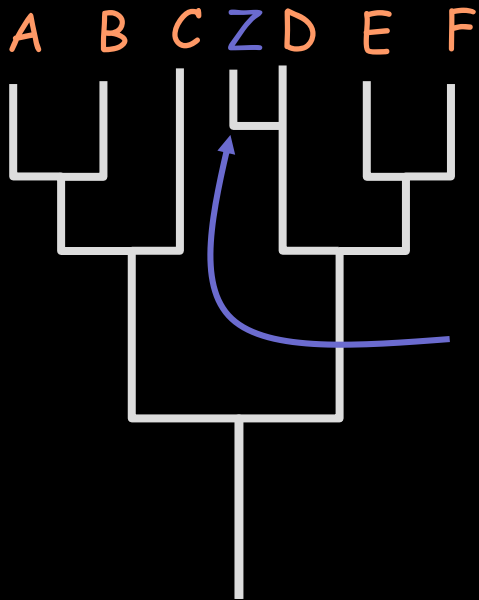
- Allopolyploids:

- Hybridization
- Polyploidy

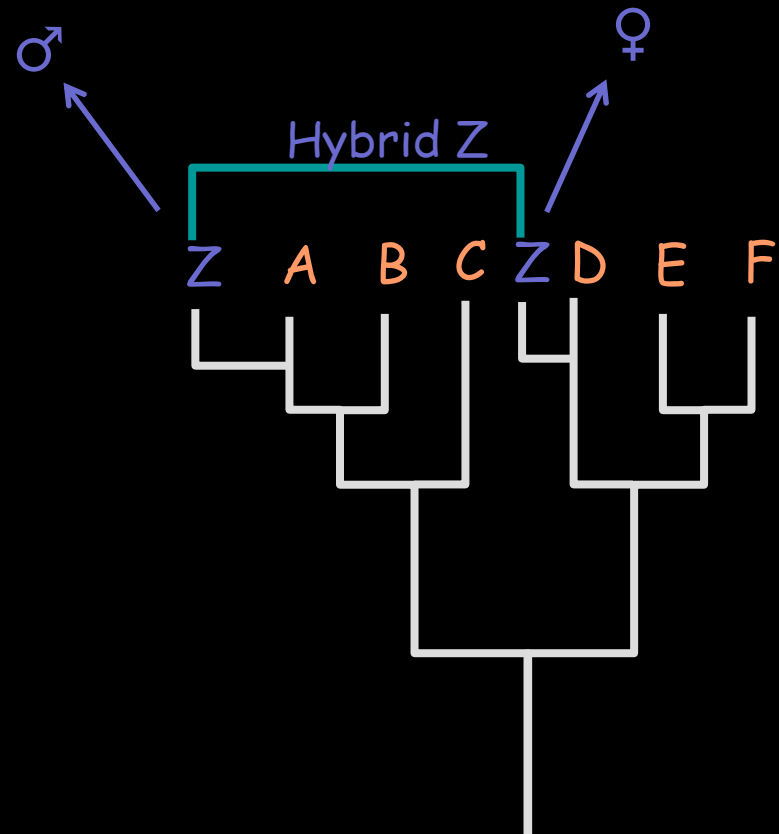


Chloroplast Loci and Maternal/Paternal Inheritance

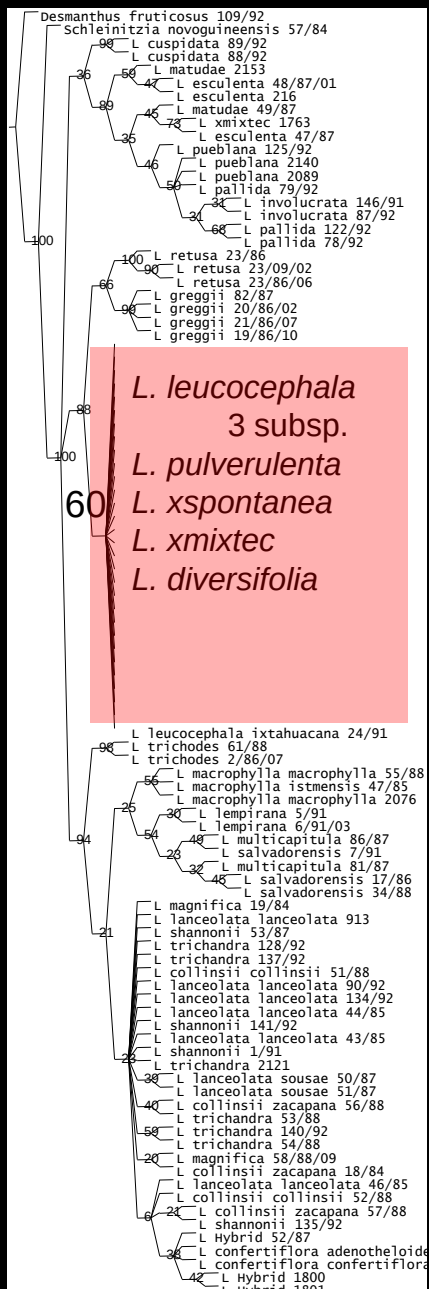
cpDNA inference



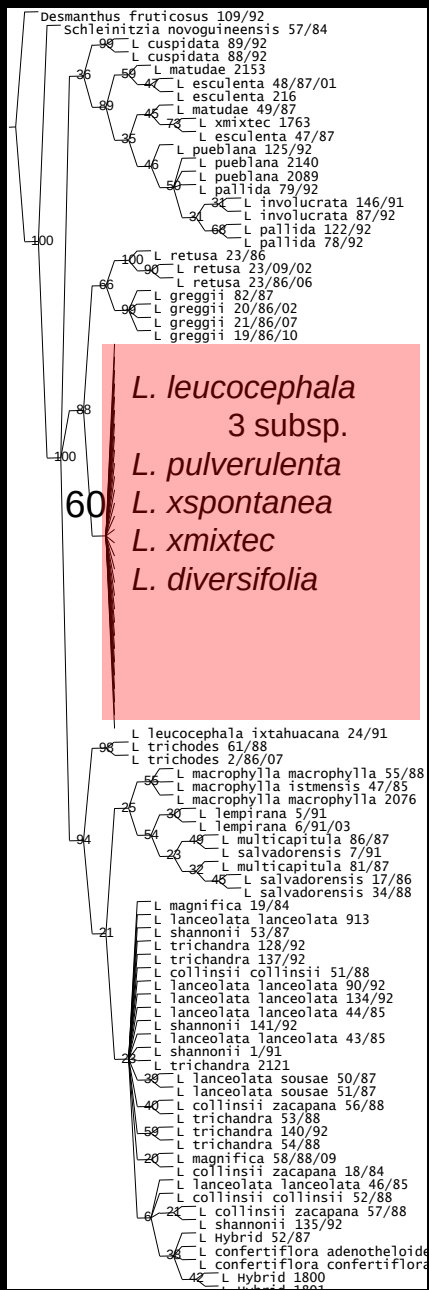
Maternal/Paternal



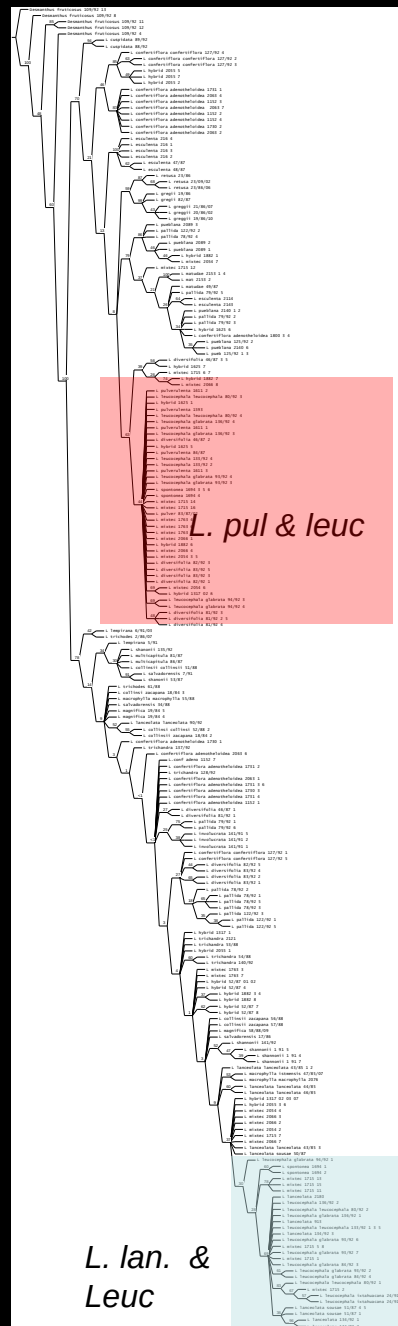
cpDNA Tree ♀



cpDNA Tree ♀

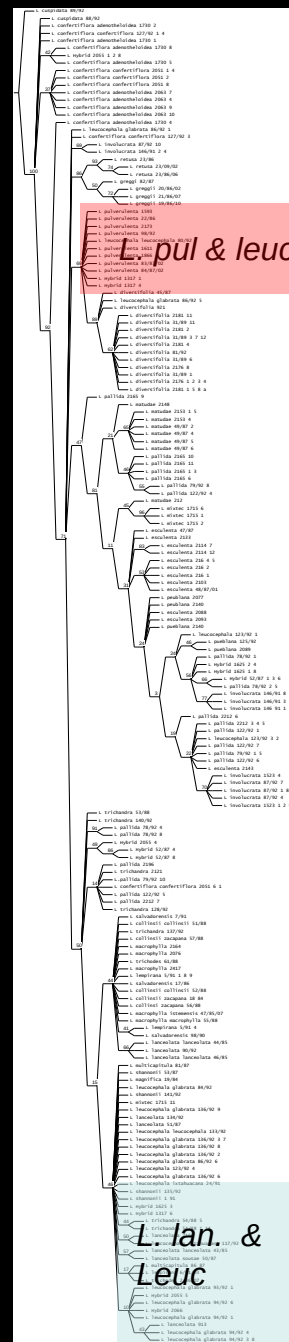


PA1213



L. lan. &
Leuc

28



44 L. trichodonta 54/55 S
L. trichodonta 54/55 S
50 L. lanceolata 55/56 S
L. lanceolata 55/56 S
57 L. lanceolata lanceolata 42/43
L. lanceolata lanceolata 54/55
57 L. multicapitata 44/45
L. lanceolata 54/55 S
L. lanceolata 54/55 S

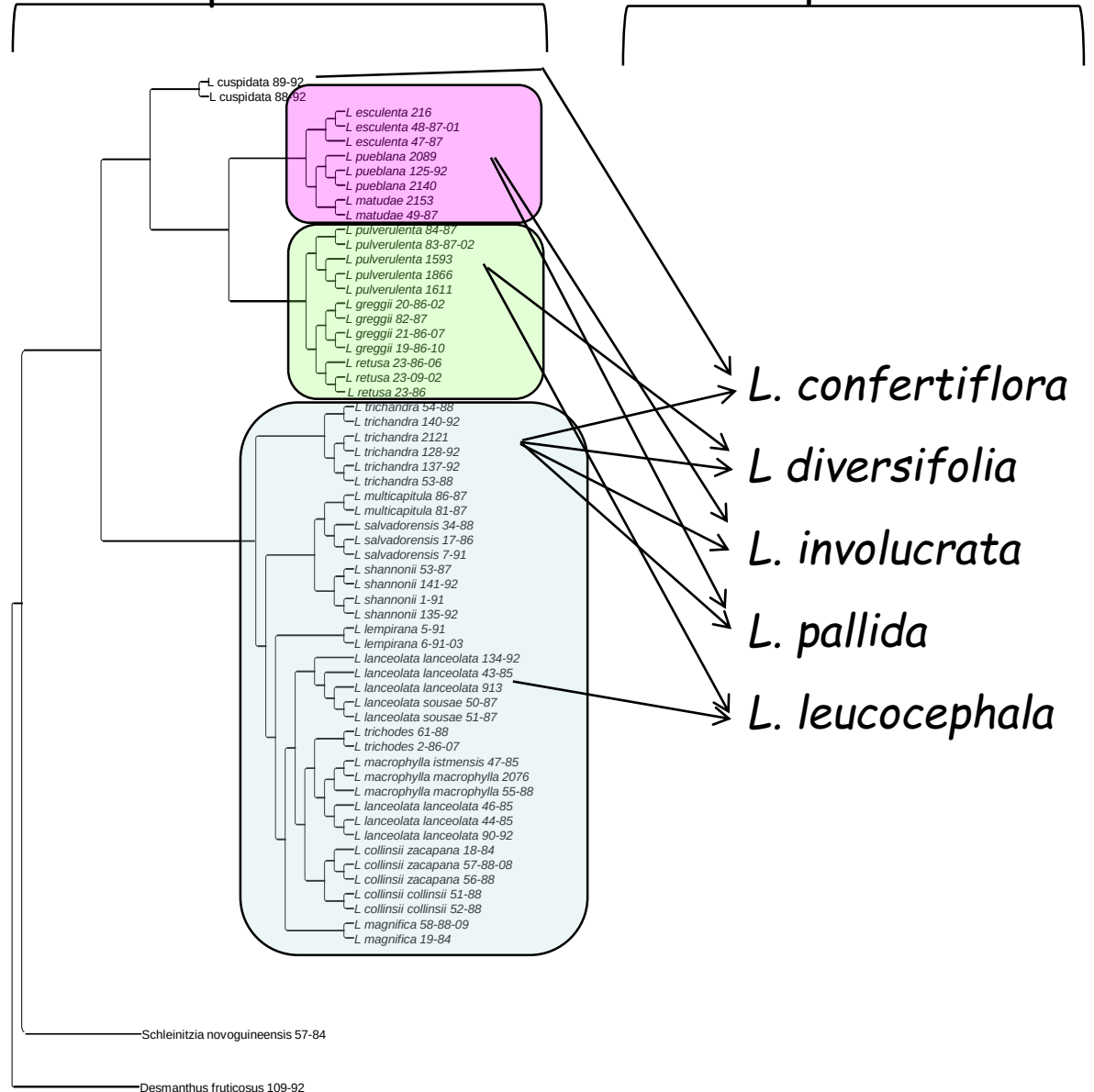


A2

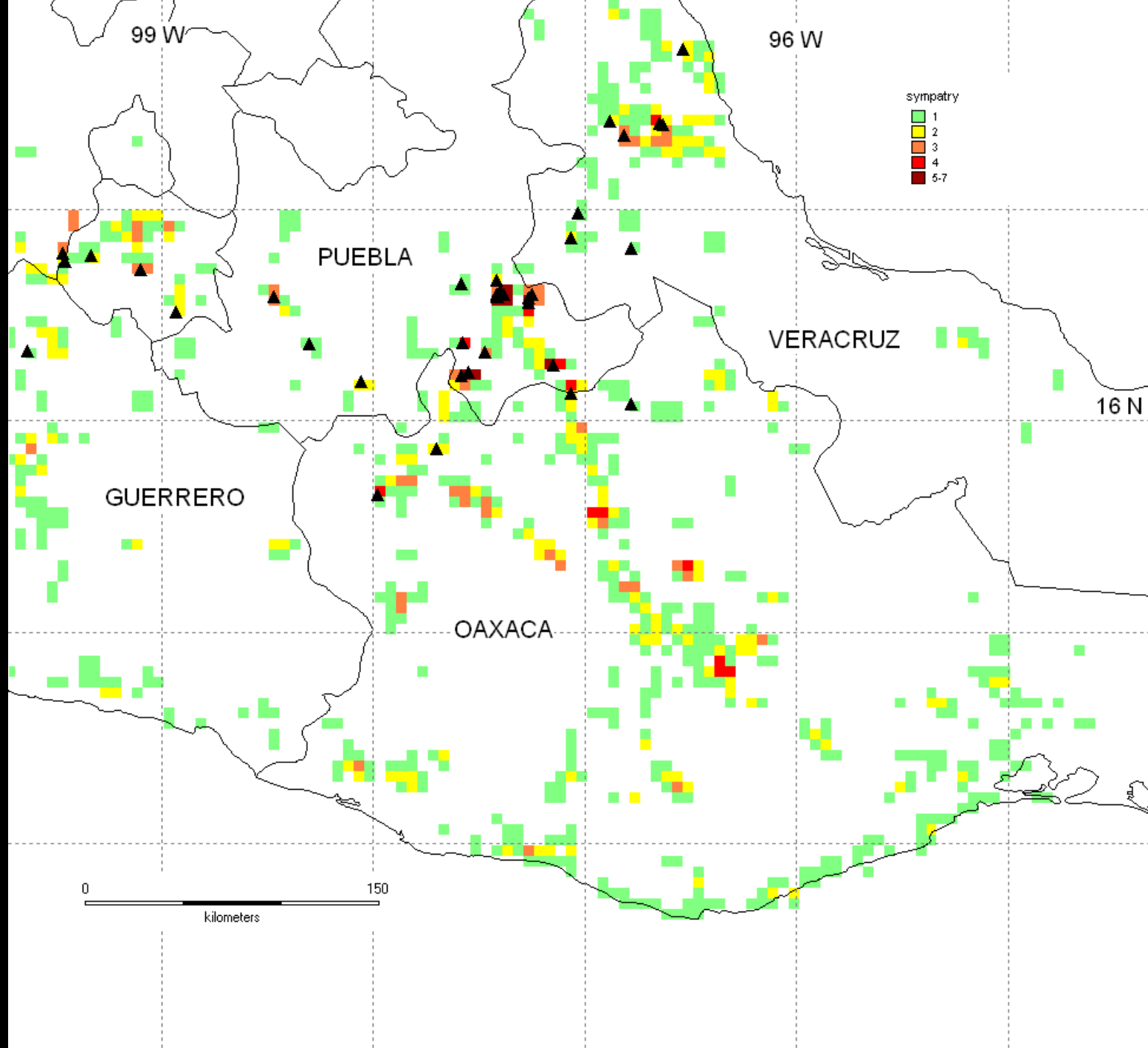


Diploid Allopatric Speciation

Sympatric Allopolyploid Speciation



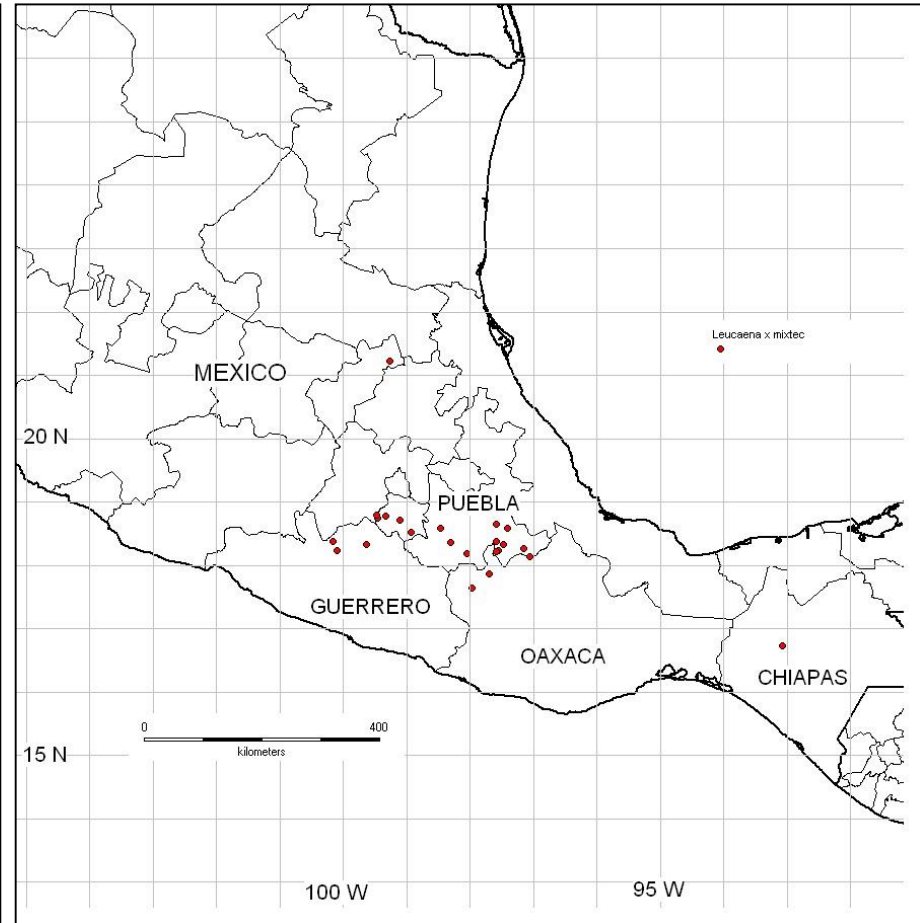
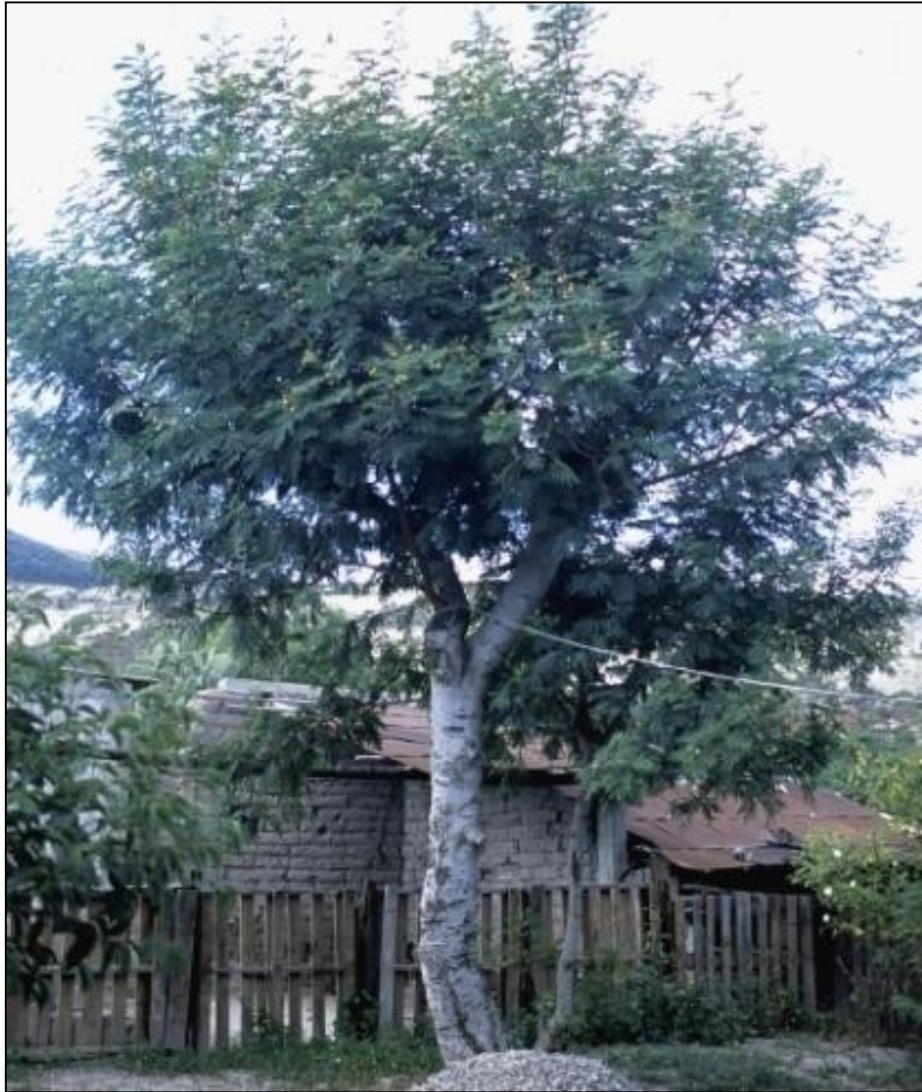
- 1) Crosses involve taxa from divergent clades.
- 2) *L. trichandra* is involved as maternal/paternal contributor in the origin of 4/5 allopolyploids
- 3) At least four unique allopolyploidizations between diploids are required to explain these patterns



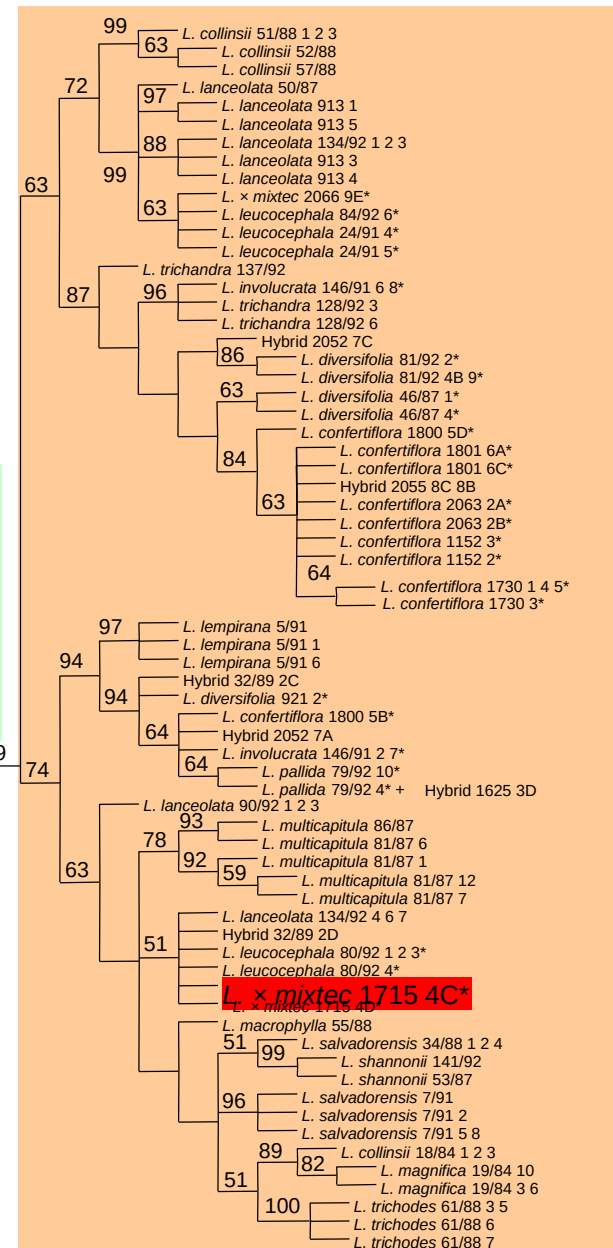
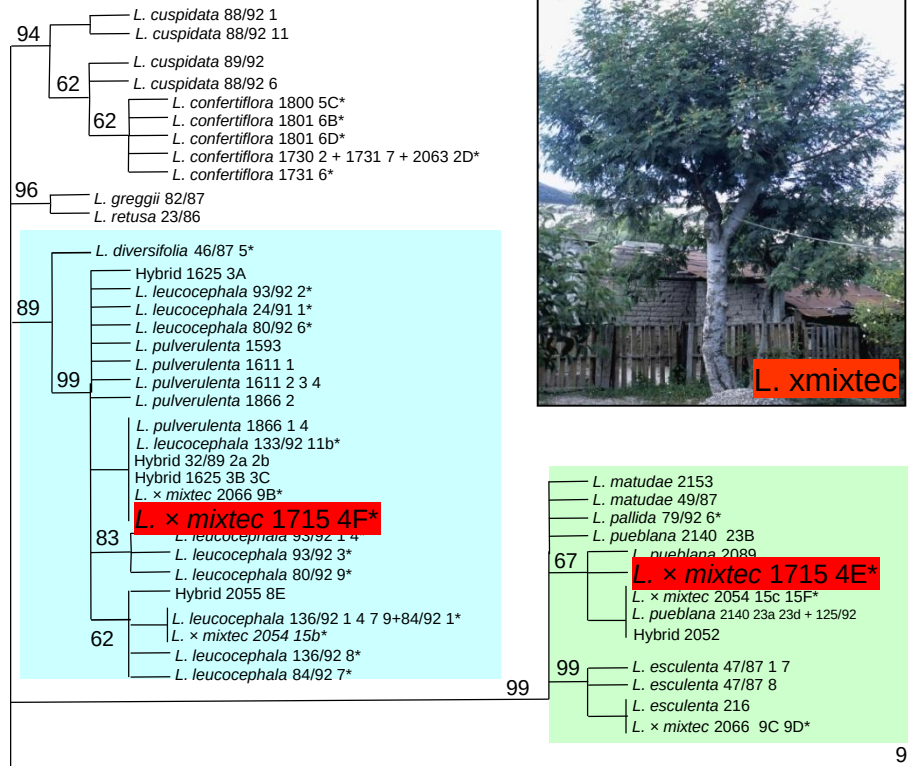
Tetraploid
Leucaena leucocephala



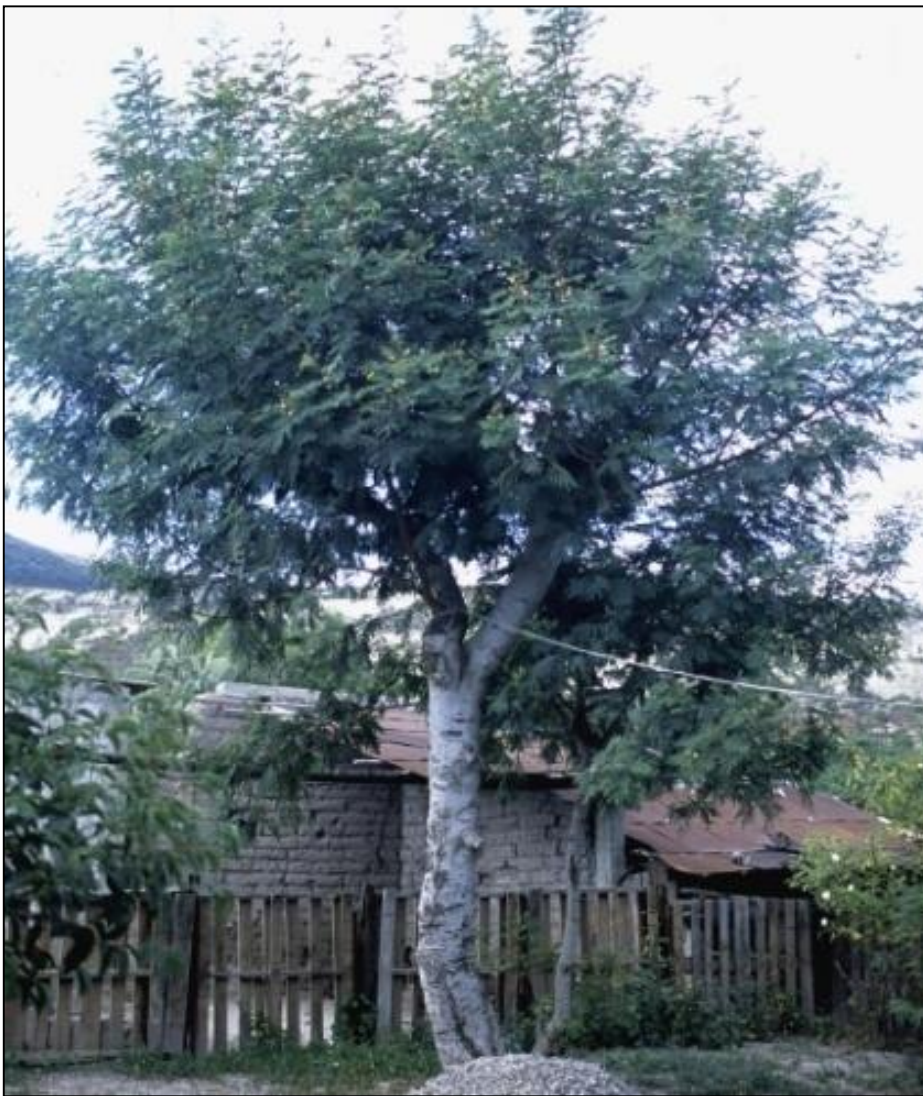
Guaje macho - *Leucaena x mixtec* - sterile



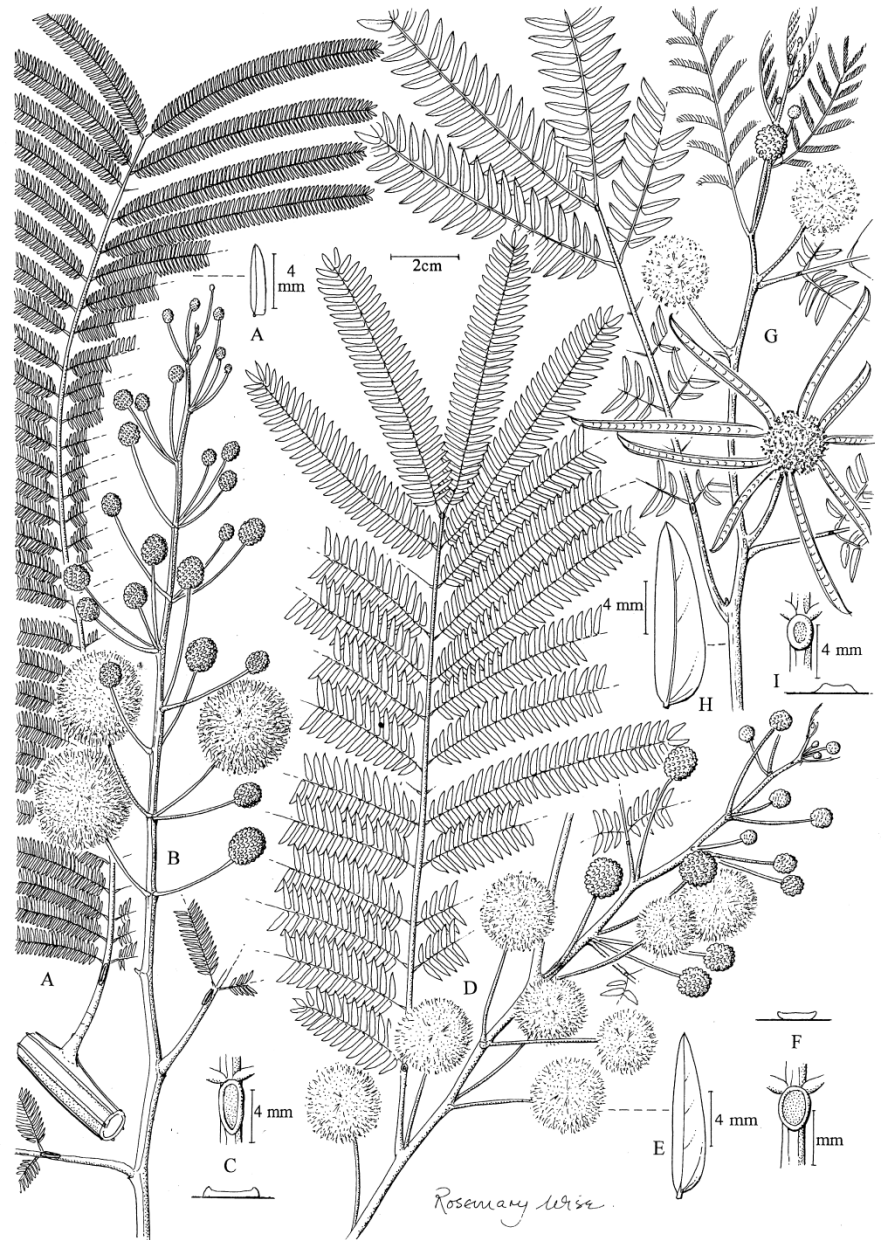
23L Gene Tree



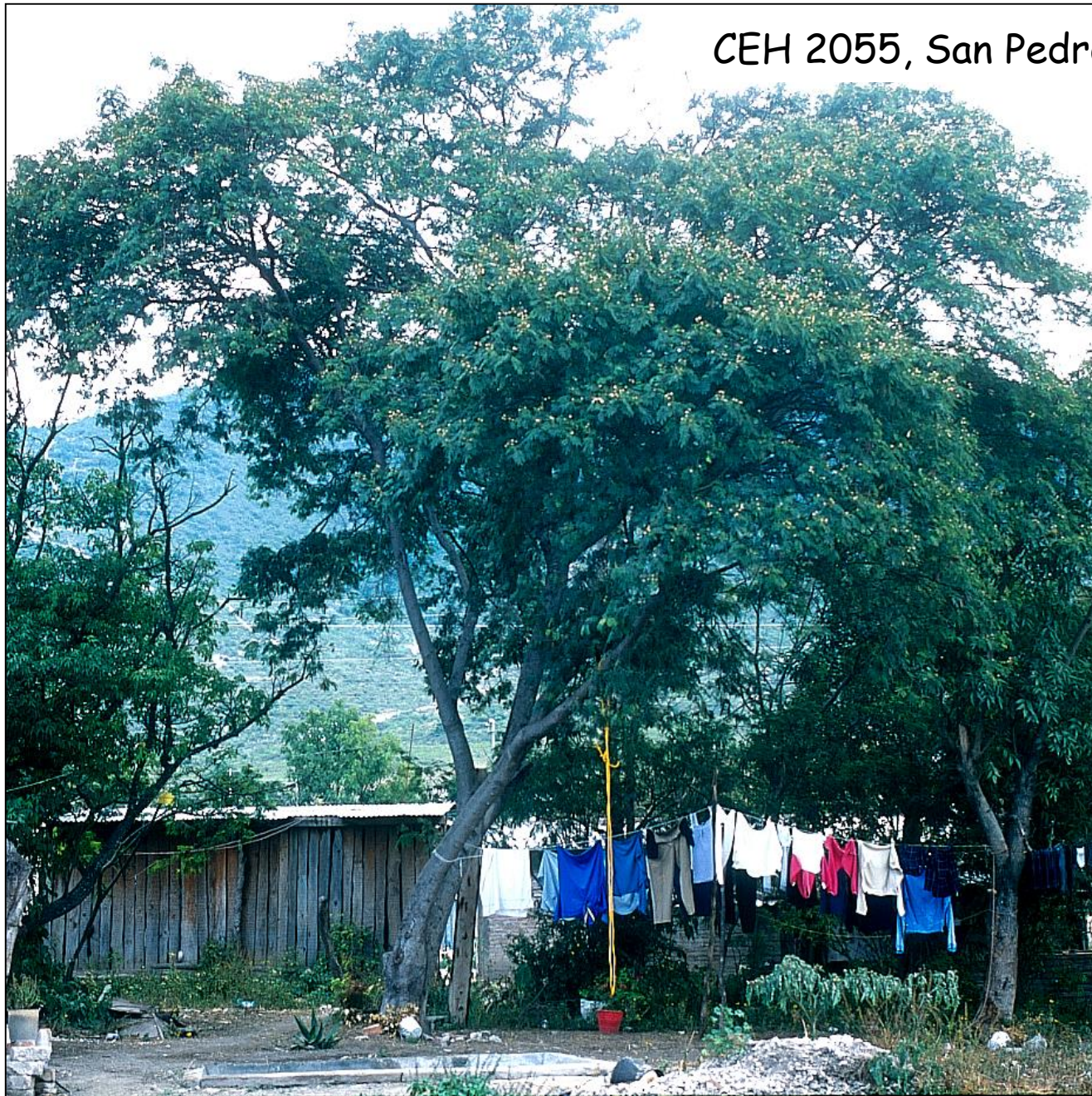
Guaje macho *L. x mixtec* (3x)
 =
 Guaje verde *L. leucocephala* (4x)
 X
 Guaje rojo *L. esculenta* (2x)

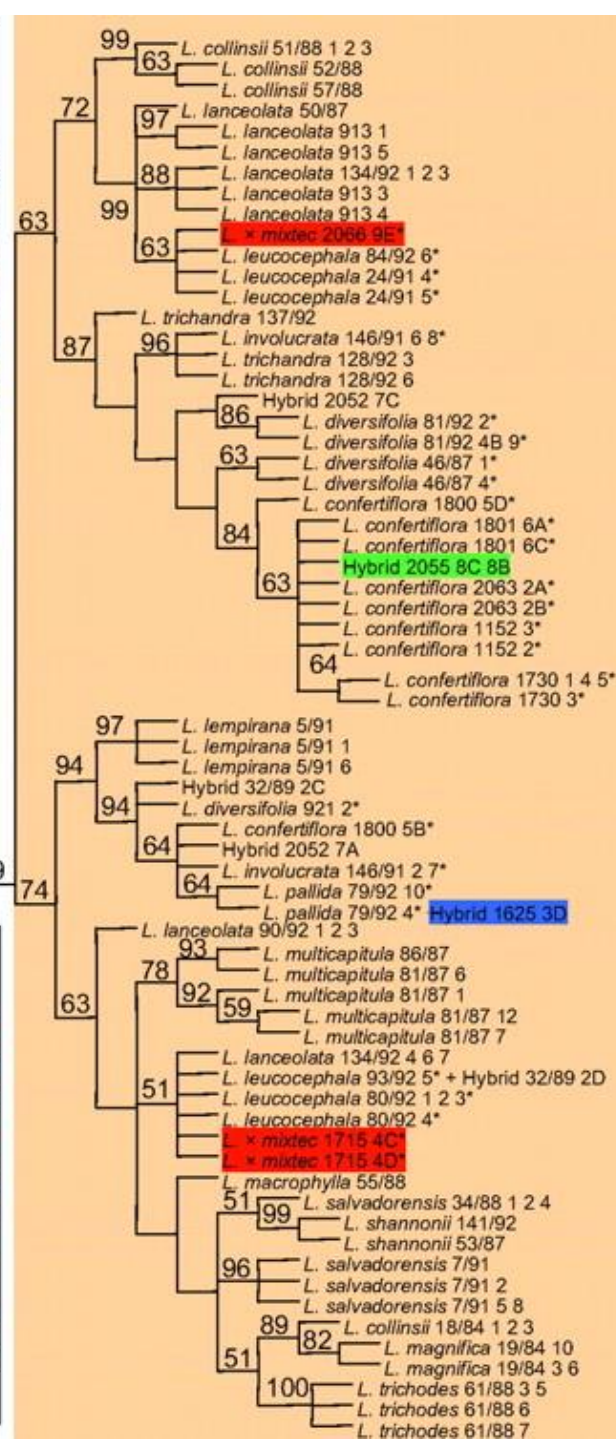
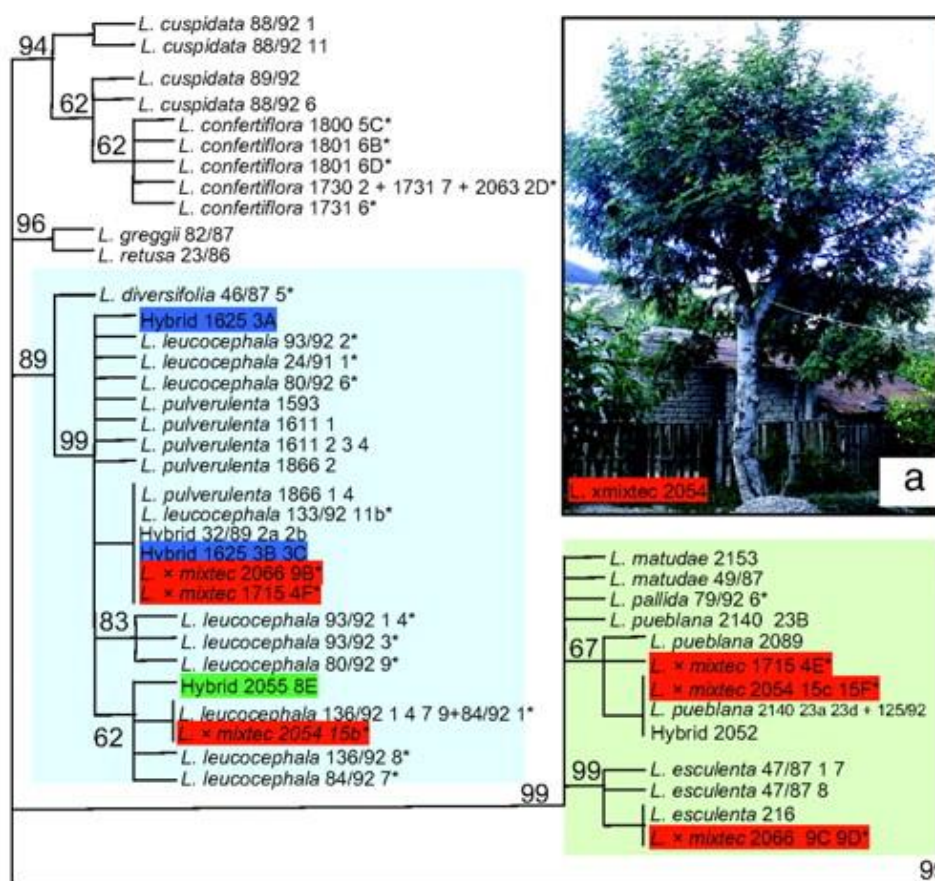


Guaje macho *L. xmixtec* (3x)
 =
 Guaje verde *L. leucocephala* (4x)
 X
 Guaje rojo *L. esculenta* (2x)



CEH 2055, San Pedro Chapulco





Leucaena

Seeds of 13 species are used as food

Prevalent throughout S-C Mexico and NW fringes of Guatemala

Wild - managed - cultivated (8 of the 13 species) - incipiently domesticated

Home consumption - local & regional marketing

Very local - regional - wider translocation

Numerous repeated and spatially and temporally independent wild to cultivated transitions

High levels of artificial sympatry

Spontaneous hybrids are common - *L. xmixtec*, and likely account for at least the origin of the most important polyploid species *L. leucocephala*, which subsequently itself hybridized with another polyploid *L. confertiflora* to form CEH2055.



Agave - Maguey
Tequila & Mezcal





Opuntia - Nopales





Agave & Opuntia

Archaeobotanical records of use -
6,000-9,000 years

Several species are utilized

Finely differentiated cognitive
systems

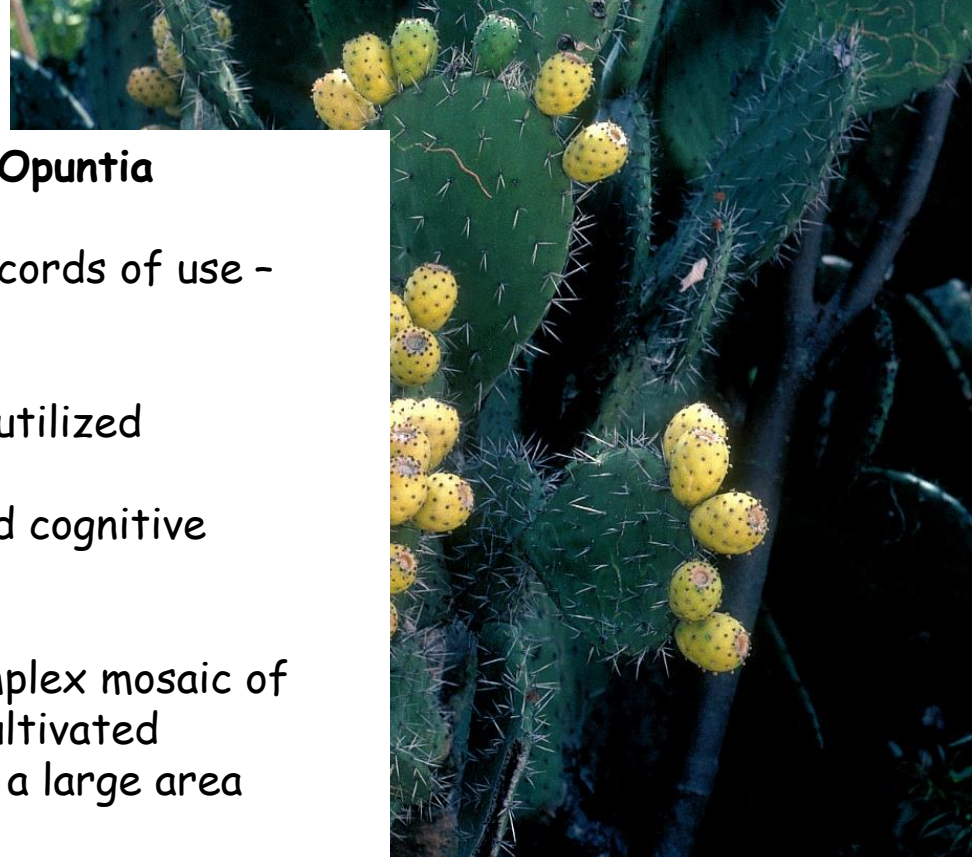
Widespread and complex mosaic of
wild, managed and cultivated
populations spanning a large area

Sympatry resulting from juxtaposition
in cultivation is common

Compelling evidence for spontaneous
interspecific hybridization

Spontaneous hybrid origins for major
Agave and Opuntia domesticates

Ease of vegetative propagation of
spontaneous hybrids





Agave

Opuntia

**Perennial
Mesoamerican
Domesticates**

Leucaena



Serendipitous Backyard Hybridization & the Origin of Crops - Conclusions

Disturbed sites such as backyards, kitchen middens, and informal orchards are important sites for spontaneous hybridisation, where otherwise isolated plant species were brought into sympatry following cultivation.

For Guajes, Nopales & Maguey - three of the dominant perennial plants cultivated in south-central Mexico - predomestication cultivation has resulted in extensive artificial sympatry, and a complex series of geographically dispersed hybrids and polyploids.

In each case, there is evidence to suggest that the most prominent species in cultivation - *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, and *Agave tequilana*, have had hybrid origins most likely following cultivation.

The simple step of bringing species together, casually or consciously in dump heaps and informal orchards has played a key role in domestication of these crops.

Incipient or semi-domesticates like these can provide powerful insights into the early stages of domestication

Leucaena leucocephala

A fast growing, nitrogen-fixing, readily managed, multipurpose agroforestry tree for firewood, poles, high quality animal fodder and green manure

The 'alfalfa of the tropics';
'Miracle tree'

Pantropically cultivated



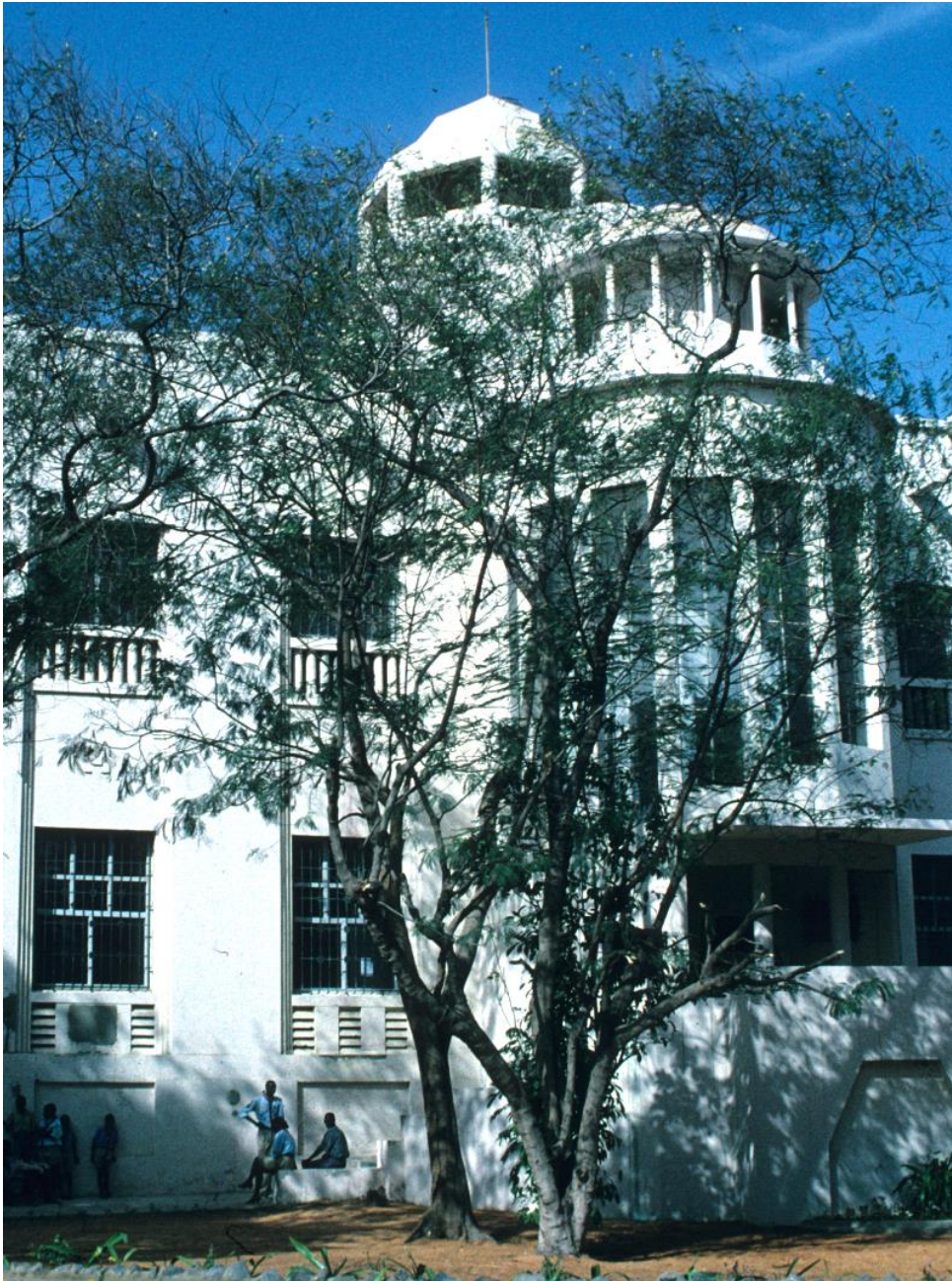
Leucaena leucocephala



A pantropical
invasive weed

Self fertile,
massive seed
production,
fast growing





Guaje macho *L. xmixtec* (3x)
=
Guaje verde *L. leucocephala* (4x)
X
Guaje rojo *L. esculenta* (2x)

In Dakar, Senegal, West Africa

Leucaena leucocephala

Anthropogenic origin several millennia ago as a result of spontaneous hybridization following backyard cultivation of *Leucaena* as an incipiently domesticated food crop in south-central Mexico.

Widely cultivated throughout Mexico for edible seeds.

Introduced to the Old World in the 16th Century and now pantropically introduced and cultivated as a 'miracle tree' or the 'alfalfa of the tropics'.

Now naturalized and a pantropical invasive plant.

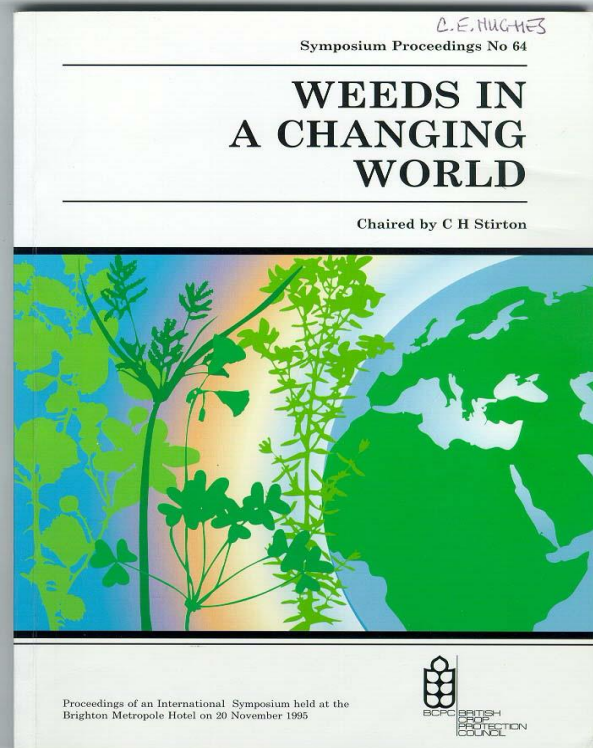
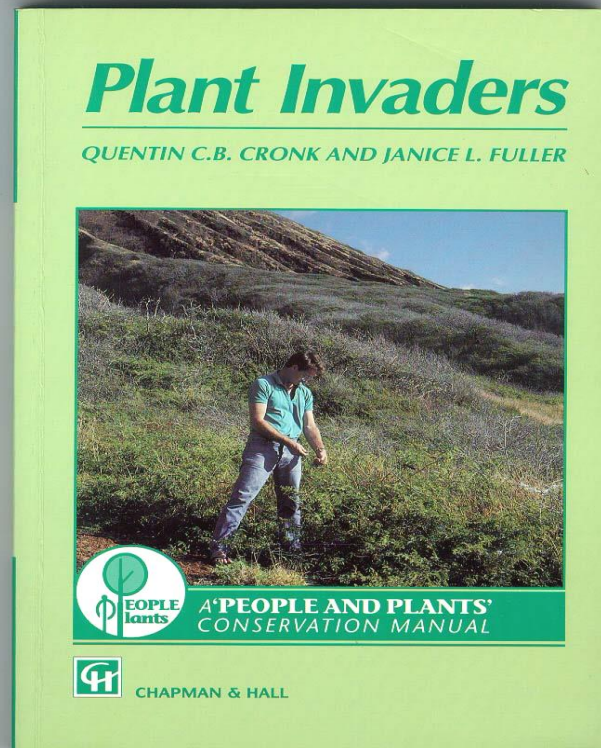
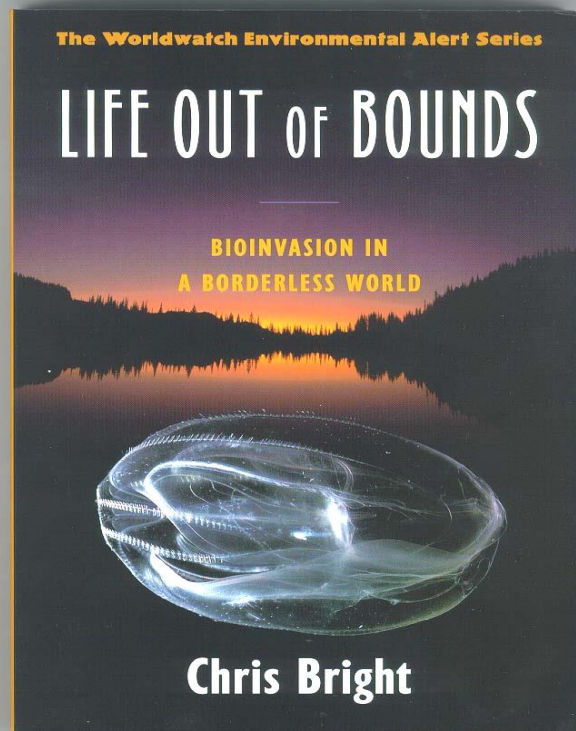
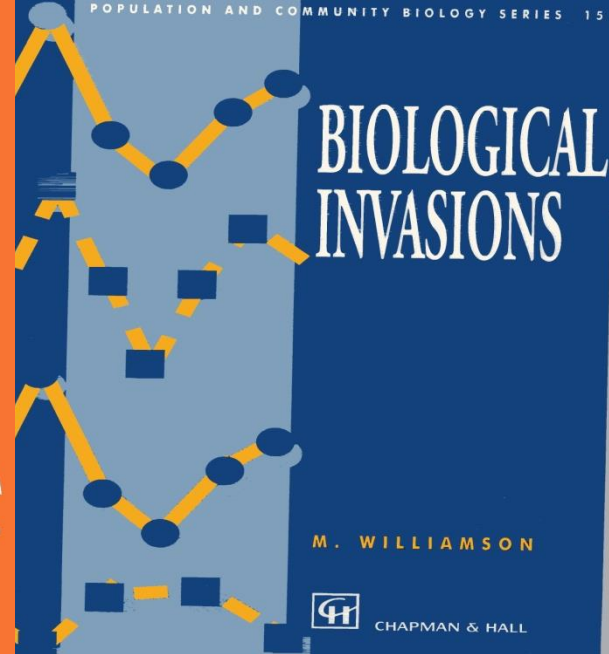
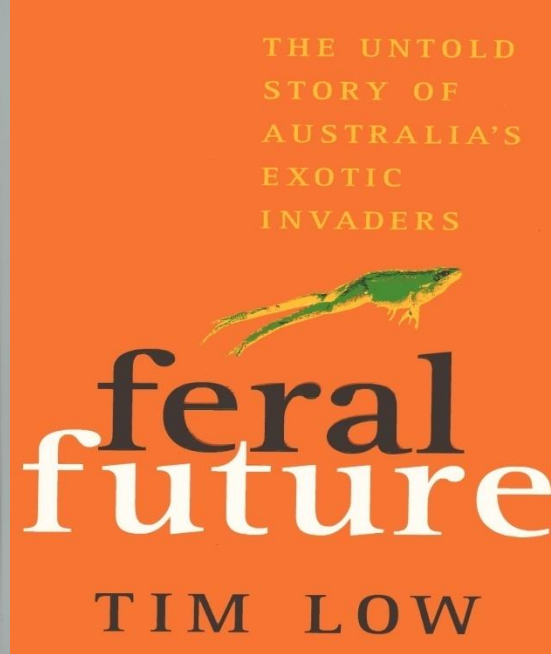
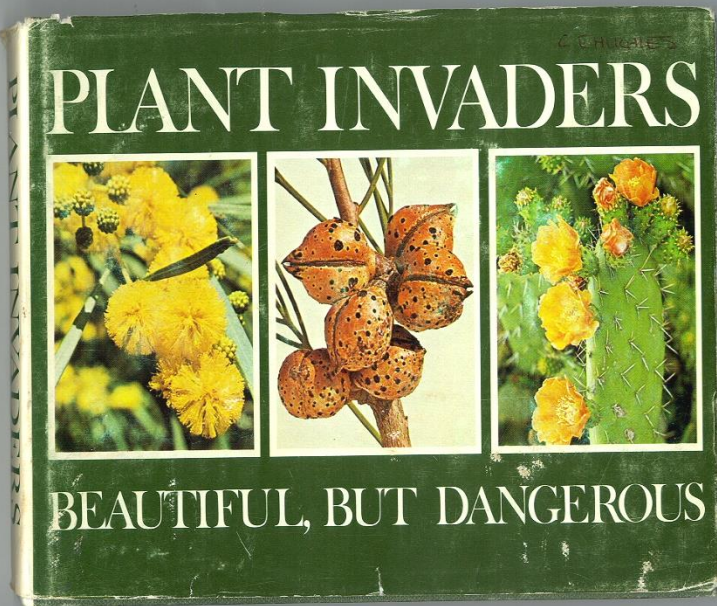
The intertwining of plants and people over several millennia and multiple continents

Invasive Species

an alien plant spreading naturally (without the direct assistance of humans) in natural or semi-natural habitats to produce significant change in terms of composition, structure or ecosystem processes

Darwin (1860)

'Cases could be given of introduced plants which have become common throughout whole islands in a period of less than 10 years..... Let it be remembered how powerful the influence of a single introduced tree or mammal (species) has been shown to be'



Evolution in Reverse

- Effective collapse of the world's ecological barriers represents a vast and unprecedented, but little noticed, biotic upheaval
- Current movements of weeds, pests and pathogens
 - *frequency*: 1000s of times faster than natural rate
 - *pervasiveness*: occasional regional events now a chronic global phenomenon
 - *'impossible' migration, is now not only possible, but common*

'we bring strangers together to make strange bedfellows, and we remake the beds they lie in, all at once..... Thus our disturbances hybridize both the environment and the species.
We are hybridizing the planet

[Weiner, 1994: The Beak of the Finch]

Background paper:

Hughes et al. 2006. Serendipitous backyard hybridization and the origin of crops. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **103**: 10334-10339

Anderson, E. 1954. *Plants, Man & Life*.

Renny-Byfield S. & Wendel J.F. 2014. Doubling down on genomes: polyploidy and crop plants. *American Journal of Botany* 101: 1711-1725.

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