Words with [ʃ] in the Sandoval dictionary: Buxnay

Laura Martin, Ph.D.
Last revised June 2006

Buxnay is one of the many plant names recorded by Sandoval that have the palatoalveolar sound.

*BUXNAY, m. = Palmerita que produce una fruta en forma de columna. Se usa para hacer encurtidos y como verdura en el cocido. **“Guxnay”.

*GUXNAY, m. = ”*Buxnay”.

Batres Jáuregui does not record this term. Armas cites it as follows:

_Huishnay_ (Symgonium donnell-smithii)
Planta cuya flor en forma de gusano alargado, y de sabor un tanto amargo, se usa en la preparación de chilmoles, o envuelto en huevo.

Rubio’s entry follows Armas very closely:

_Gusnay_  
Huisnay. _Symgonium donnelsmithi_. Planta que da flor comestible en forma de gusano, que se emplea para preparar chirmoles o para envolver en huevo.

What is perhaps most interesting about this series of entries is the evidence for phonological change over the course of just a few decades. First, the bilabial initial pronunciation, apparently alternating – as is common in some varieties of Spanish – with a velar or velarized bilabial diphthong, disappears completely in favor of the velar. Secondly, the fricative undergoes the familiar transition from palatal to dental or alveolar.

The DRAE records no variant of the form, and it is not included in Morales Pellecer’s dictionary. The genus name is actually spelled _Syngonium_, and the plant itself is recorded in the New York Botanical Garden’s Virtual Herbarium at [http://207.156.243.8/emu/vh/specimen.php?irn=769174](http://207.156.243.8/emu/vh/specimen.php?irn=769174) but unfortunately no common names are given.