

Words with [š] in the Sandoval dictionary: Caxcamote, quequexcamote, etc.

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Sandoval provides entries for several plants whose names show variant pronunciations with palatal and alveolar fricatives. The fact that the most detailed definitions are given with the palatal pronunciation suggests that it was the more frequent for both plant names included here. None of Sandoval's entries provides a scientific name and his etymologies are unreliable.

*QUEQUEXCAMOTE, m. = El **quequexque* con rizoma muy desarrollada. Se compone el nombre de **quequexque* + *camote* = tubérculo. *Quiscamote*, en Honduras. *Tiquisque*, en Costa Rica.

*QUEQUEXQUE, m. = Planta de rizomas comestibles, muy abundante en las tierras húmedas y pantanosas y que se cultiva en los jardines. Sus hojas son tan grandes que en el campo y en los caminos sirven de paraguas a los indios y gente pobre para defenderse de la lluvia. En la variedad del **quequexque* son más notables el blanco y el morado. Viene el nombre del mexicano **quequexquic* = cosa picante o que causa picazón. *Tiquisque*, en Costa Rica. *Quequeisque*, en El Salvador. *Quiquisque*, en Honduras. *Malanga*, en Cuba, donde se cree que la planta y su nombre son exóticos, de procedencia africana; a lo cual debemos advertir que el **quequexque* crece espontáneamente en la parte continental de América Hispana.

*CAXCAMOTE, rn. = "*Quequescamote*". "*Quequexcamote*".

QUEQUESCAMOTE, m. = "**Quequexcamote*".

QUEQUEISQUE, m. = "**Quequexque*".

*QUEQUEIXQUE, m. = "*Quequeizque*".

QUEQUEIZQUE, m. = "*Quequeisque*".

QUEQUESQUE, m. = "**Quequexque*".

QUEQUEZCAMOTE, m. = "**Quequexcamote*".

QUEQUEZQUE, m. = "**Quequexque*".

Batres Jáuregui cites only one of the two (or more?) plants referred to by Sandoval, and suggests a medicinal value for it among the indigenous population.

Quequexque Llaman así a unas hermosas hojas grandes, extendidas, de verde color oscuro, que los indios aplican para curar los Dolores reumáticos. Su nombre botánico es *Arum sagittatum*.

Armas also includes *quequeshque* (and only that pronunciation) with the following definition:

Colocasis esculenta (L.): Arácea de la tierras cálidas y templadas, de muy hermosas hojas, muy común en nuestros jardines.

Rubio, who is much more interested in and knowledgeable about botanical materials, has several relevant entries. Note that the pronunciation differences are sometimes associated with different scientific names.

Quequeshque. Malanga, quequexque. *Colocasia sculentum* L. Planta ornamental hogareña. Tiene propiedades medicinales contra carencia de leche en las madres, dolor de cabeza, erisipela y problemas en el parto. Sus tubérculos son comestibles.

Quequexque. Quequeshque, *C. sculentum*, planta ornamental.

Web searches under variations of the scientific name *Colocasia esculenta* turn up a number of sites with extensive information on this valuable food plant. Cultivated for over 6000 years, and native to Southeast Asia, it is now distributed globally. Known as Taro or Elephant's Ear, it is a popular ornamental plant as well as a staple food plant in many parts of the world. One of the best descriptions, which includes several lovely images of different varieties, can be found at http://www.floridata.com/ref/c/colo_esc.cfm (last access November 2006).

Rubio's entry for the pronunciation variant *quequesque* refers to a different plant altogether.

Quequesque. *Phylodendron smithii* Engl. Bejuco ornamental de hojas grandes y acorazonadas.

The scientific name here should be spelled *Philodendron smithii* Engl. Detailed botanical information is available by searching the New York Botanical Garden site at <http://www.nybg.org/bsci/belize/Araceae.htm> (last access November 2006). Sometimes known as the Arrowhead Philodendron, this plant is also described and pictured at the Exotic Rainforest site at <http://www.exoticrainforest.com/Philodendron%20smithii%20pc.html> (last access November 2006).

Rubio also includes an entry for **quequeshcamote**, still another plant.

Quequeshcamote. *Xanthosoma violaceum* Schott. Planta ornamental de rizomas comestibles.

Purplestem taro, or *Xanthosoma violaceum* Sch., can be viewed at <http://www.wschowa.com/abrimaal/araceum/xanthosoma/xviolaceum.htm> (last access November 2006), and its scientific information can be accessed via the USDA pages at http://www.itis.usda.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=505765 (last access November 2006).

Finally, Rubio also cites *cashcamote*.

Cashcamote. Yuca, *M. utilisima*, planta.

The scientific name here should be *Manihot utilissima*, the edible cassava or manioc plant. An apparent synonym is *Manihot esculenta* Crantz, whose profile and images can be found on the USDA site at <http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch?keywordquery=Manihot+esculenta&mode=sciname> (last access November 2006).

Morales Pellecer cites only *quequeshque*, and skips scientific names altogether.

quequeshque arácea de tierras cálidas y templadas.

The *Diccionario de la Real Academia* (DRAE) does not include entries under any of the spellings. My own notes show that *quequeshcamote* is still recognized and was defined for me by my landlady as “la fruta del quequesque – dicen que es comestible pero yo no comería,” but *quequexque* was rejected in favor of *quequesque*, “esa planta de hojonas en el jardín.”