

***Begonia* or be *Oxalis*: Confusion Between Spanish and Aztec ‘Sour Herbs’**

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The Spaniard who came to Mexico after the Conquest were accustomed to using ‘sour herbs’, usually *Oxalis* species, to perk up salads and sauces. In Mexico the Aztecs sold ‘sour herbs’, *xoxocoyolli*, in the markets. Some were *Oxalis* species, but most were *Begonias*, a completely unrelated genus. Sahagun lists six *xoxocoyollis* that were sold for food; several others were so harsh-flavored that they were used only as medicines. The Spaniards had never seen *Begonias*. To this day, many people think the Nahuatl name *xoxocoyolli* and its variants applies only to *Oxalis* species.