

Ethnobotanical Investigation of Acjachemen Percussion Instruments

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We investigate traditional botanical knowledge of the Acjachemen tribe in Southern California. The Acjachemen are interested in gaining recognition for their ethnobotanical knowledge and in documenting their traditions. We specifically document the construction of unique percussion instruments. Previous work has shown that the most important plant used is the blue elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana* C. Presl. (Caprifoliaceae). We investigate the link between plant conservation and the cultural significance of these percussion instruments. We also examine the change in plant use over time and correlate this with local environmental changes.