

DENVER ART MUSEUM

1300 LOGAN STREET, DENVER, COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN ART

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INDIAN VEGETABLE DYES

Part II

LEAFLET 71

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1. INTRODUCTORY. Before the introduction of various types of dyes by Europeans and Americans the Indians used a large number of plants as sources for dyes, stains and paints in a wide range of colors. The introduction of commercial dyes has resulted in the abandonment of many of these native dyes, though some have survived and others have been introduced in recent years. This is true of the Navaho, who, thanks to the revival of their weaving through the efforts of interested whites, are today using many more vegetable dyes than they did under aboriginal conditions. The Navaho dyes listed herein are largely in this group.

Information about these native vegetable dyes is widely scattered through the scientific literature on the Indian. To make this information more easily available lists of dyes are from time to time issued as leaflets in this series, the first list being Leaflet 63.

2. METHODS OF USE. The large majority of vegetal dyes were prepared by boiling the plant materials. Sometimes the objects to be dyed were boiled with the dye and sometimes they were soaked in the cold solution. Mordants, or substances used to set the dyes, were used in many cases. It is planned to list the various types of mordants in a future leaflet. Space does not permit discussion of all the methods of using vegetal dyes. These details may in most cases be found by consulting the works listed in the bibliography.

3. TRIBES. It should be understood that in many cases the dyes listed in this leaflet and in number 63 were used by many more tribes than those whose names are printed. In general all the tribes in any given area used the dyes listed as being from any single tribe in that area. Some plants, such as the wolf moss, *Evernia vulpina*, were used in several areas.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PART OF PLANT	OBJECT COLORED	TRIBE
		BLACK		
Alismaceae	Water lily	Shells of seeds	Basketry	Klamath
<i>Dondia depressa</i>	Western blite		Basketry	Cahuilla
<i>Pinus edulis</i>	Pinyon	Pitch	Wool	Navaho
<i>Tsuga Canadensis</i>	Hemlock	Bark	Blanket wool	Tlingit
		BROWN		
<i>Juglans major</i>	Wild black walnut	Leaves, hulls, whole nut	Wool	Navaho
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Sweet gale	Tips of branches		Ojibwe, Flambeau
		GREEN		
<i>Juniperus</i>	Cedar	Leaves	Face paint	Yavapai
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	Juniper	Bark, berries	Wool	Navaho
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Hemlock	Bark	Basketry	Tlingit
		ORANGE		
<i>Impatiens biflora</i>	Spotted Touch-me-not	Entire plant		Menomini, Ojibwe
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Sorrel	Entire plant		Meskwaki
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn	Inner bark, central pith		Pillager, Ojibwe
<i>Thelesperma subnudum</i>	Navaho tea	Leaves, stems, blossoms	Wool	Navaho

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PART OF PLANT	OBJECT COLORED	TRIBE
<i>Opuntia polcanthua</i>	Cactus	Fruit	Wool	Navaho
<i>Cerasus crenulata</i>	Wild cherry	Roots	Wool	Navaho
<i>Rubus vitifolius</i>	Wild blackberry	Berry juice	Wooden articles	Luisefño
<i>Betula occidentalis</i>	Birch	Bark	Buckskin	Hopi
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>	Mountain mahogany	Bark of root	Wool	Navaho
<i>Echinocystis macrocarpa</i>	Gourd	Seeds	Rock paintings	Luisefño
<i>Krameria parvifolia</i>		Roots	Leather	Pima
<i>Prunus americana</i>	Wild plum	Roots	Wool	Navaho
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black oak	Bark		Ojibwe
<i>Ranunculus pennsylvanicus</i>	Bristly crowfoot	Entire plant		Ojibwe, Flambeau
<i>Ranunculus recurvatus</i>	Hooked crowfoot	Root		Menomini
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Sumac	Leaves, twigs, berries	Wool	Navaho
<i>Salix</i>	Willow	Roots	Ornamental parts of dress	Powawatomí
<i>Urtica lyalii</i>	Nettle	Leaves, stem, roots	Basketry	Tlingit
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Shad scale	Leaves, twigs	Wool	Navaho
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Saffron		Corn bread	Hopi
<i>Chrysothamnus latisquamus</i>	Goldenrod or chamiso	Flowers, twigs	Wool	Navaho
<i>Chrysothamnus bigelovii</i>	Rabbit bush	Twigs, blossoms	Wool	Navaho
<i>Helenium hoopesii</i>	Owl's foot	Flowers, leaves	Wool	Navaho
<i>Hymenoxys metcalfei</i>	Owl's claw	Flowers, leaves	Wool	Navaho
<i>Impatiens biflora</i>	Spotted Touch-me-not	Entire plant		Ojibwe
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Ladies sorrel	Entire plant		Menomini
<i>Parosela emoryi</i>	Parosela		Basket strands	Southern California Indians
<i>Populus angustifolia</i>	Cottonwood	Bud	Quills	Omaha
<i>Psoralea macrostachya</i>	Pea scurf	Roots	Basketry	Luisefño, Salinan
<i>Ranunculus pennsylvanicus</i>	Bristly crowfoot	Entire plant	Mats, basketry	Potawatomi
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	Leaves, stems	Porcupine quills	Cheyenne
<i>Rumex hymenosepalus</i>	Canaigre	Roots	Wool	Navaho
<i>Rumex venosus</i>	Veined dock	Roots, dried	Feathers, quills	Cheyenne
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed-Susan	Disk florets	Mats	Potawatomi
<i>Scirpus</i>	Great bulrush	Pollen	Face paint	Cocopa
<i>Tagetes micrantha</i>	Bitter ball	Entire plant	Wool	Navaho
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Cat-tail	Pollen	Paint for faces	Pima
<i>Watsica glomerata</i>	Mullein	Roots	Porcupine quills	Yurok, Karok

Compiled from the following sources by Mona Hanks under the direction of F. H. Douglas:

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