A000-Am,C-Taino-Snuff Dispenser-Stone-1000 CE

Formal Label: Taino Nasal Snuff Dispenser

Display Description:



*Anadenanthera peregrina* 1916

[Archaeological](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological) evidence shows *Anadenanthera* beans have been used as [hallucinogens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallucinogens) for thousands of years. The oldest clear evidence of use comes from smoking pipes made of [puma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felis_Concolor) bone (*Felis concolor*) found with *Anadenanthera*beans at Inca Cueva, a site in the northwest of [Humahuaca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humahuaca) in the [Puna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altiplano) border of [Jujuy Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jujuy_Province), Argentina. The pipes were found to contain the hallucinogen [DMT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimethyltryptamine), one of the compounds found in *Anadenanthera* beans. [Radiocarbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radiocarbon) testing of the material gave a date of 2130 BC, suggesting that *Anadenanthera* use as a hallucinogen is over 4,000 years old.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anadenanthera_peregrina" \l "cite_note-13) Snuff trays and tubes similar to those commonly used for yopo were found in the central Peruvian coast dating back to 1200 BC, suggesting that [insufflation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insufflation_(medicine)) of *Anadenanthera* beans is a more recent method of use.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anadenanthera_peregrina" \l "cite_note-14) Archaeological evidence of insufflation use within the period 500-1000 AD, in northern Chile, has been reported.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anadenanthera_peregrina" \l "cite_note-15)

Some indigenous peoples of the [Orinoco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orinoco) basin in [Colombia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia), [Venezuela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela) and possibly in the southern part of the [Brazilian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil) [Amazon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Basin) make use of yopo snuff for spiritual healing. Yopo snuff was also widely used in ceremonial contexts in the [Caribbean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean) area, including [Puerto Rico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Rico) and [La Española](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Española), up to the [Spanish Conquest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Conquest).

Yopo snuff is usually blown into the user's nostrils by another person through [bamboo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo) tubes or sometimes snuffed by the user using bird bone tubes. Blowing is more effective as this method allows more powder to enter the nose and is said to be less irritating. In some areas the unprocessed ground beans are snuffed or smoked producing a much weaker effect with stronger physical symptoms. Some tribes use yopo along with [*Banisteriopsis caapi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banisteriopsis_caapi) to increase and prolong the visionary effects, creating an experience similar to that of [ayahuasca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayahuasca).

**Effects**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Anadenanthera_peregrina&action=edit&section=9)]

The first report of the effects of hallucinogenic snuff prepared from the beans of *Anadenanthera peregrina* dates back to 1496 when it was observed by Friar Ramon Pane, who was commissioned by Christopher Columbus, among the Taina Indians of Hispaniola. Pane's report was first published in 1511 in Martyr's descriptions of the New World. The description of its effects reads in part: "This *kohobba* powder," described as "an intoxicating herb, is so strong that those who take it lose consciousness; when the stupefying action begins to wane, the arms and legs become loose and the head droops." It is administered with a cane about one foot long which they introduce one end of "in the nose and the other in the powder and ...draw it into themselves through the nose." It worked quickly because, "almost immediately they believe they see the room turn upside-down and men walking with their heads downwards." The administering witch-doctor took the drug along with his patients, intoxicating "them so that they do not know what they do and...speak of many things incoherently," believing that they are in communication with spirits.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anadenanthera_peregrina" \l "cite_note-16)

Accession Number:

**LC Classification: F1909**

Date or Time Horizon: 1000 CE

Geographical Area: Caribbean

Cultural Affiliation: Taino

Medium: Amphibolite

Dimensions:

Weight:

Condition:

Provenance: Puerto Rico Collection

**Discussion:**

**References:**