

Table 5.1. Cultivated and domesticated plants of the Central American Land Bridge and vicinity. N.R.= not presently recognized in the archaeological record but widely grown at the time of European arrival. Based on Piperno and Smith, 2012 (pp. 154-155) and references cited therein.

Immediately adjacent areas (Mexico):

| Plant                          | Common name           | Earliest record  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Agave</i> sp.               | maguey, century plant | Tehuacán Valley sequence, Mexico<br><br>(cultivated?)              |
| <i>Amaranthus cruentus</i>     |                       | ?Tehuacán; highlands Mexico  |
| <i>A. hypochondriacus</i>      |                       | ?highlands, Mexico   |
| <i>Canavalia ensiformis</i>    | swordbean             | 1600 BP, Oaxaca; Gulf region of<br><br>Mexico?                     |
| <i>Capsicum annuum</i>         | chile pepper          | Tehuacán; highlands Mexico   |
| <i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i> |                       | ?N.R.; southern Mexican highlands                                  |
| <i>Crescentia cujeta</i>       | tree gourd            | cultivated but domesticated(?);<br><br>indistinguishable from wild |
| <i>Cucurbita argyrosperma</i>  | silver-seeded squash  | 5085 BP, Tamaulipas, Mexico;<br><br>possibly 8700                  |

|                               |                        |   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
|                               |                        | BP, Balsas region, Mexico   |
| <i>C. pepo</i>                | pumpkin, zucchini      | 10,000 BP, Oaxaca, Mexico   |
| <i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>     | cotton                 | rare, Tehuacán; Yucatán   |
| <i>Leucaena esculenta</i>     | guaje Colorado         | 6000(?) - 3000 BP, Tehuacán; sw<br>Mexico; probably Balsas region |
| <i>L. leucocephala</i>        | guaje verde            | 2300 BP, Tehuacán; lowland forests<br>central Veracruz, Mexico?   |
| <i>Opuntia ficus-indicata</i> | India fig, tuna cactus | ?NR; upland tropical habitats, central<br>Mexico                  |
| <i>O. sp.</i>                 | prickly pear           | Tehuacán (cultivated?)  |
| <i>Pachyrhizus erosus</i>     | jicama                 | ?NR, lowland seasonal forest                                      |
| <i>Phaseolus acutifolius</i>  | tipary bean            | 2400 BP, Tehuacan, Jalisco, Sinaloa,<br>Mexico                    |
| <i>P. coccineus</i>           | runner bean            | 5000 BP, Tehuacan, highlands,<br>Mexico                           |
| <i>P. lunatus</i>             | sieve lima bean        | ?NR, lowlands western Mexico                                      |
| <i>P. vulgaris</i>            | common bean            | 2300 BP, Tehuacán; Lerma-Santiago                                 |

|                               |                             |   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
|                               |                             | Basin, Jalisco, Mexico  |
| <i>Persea americana</i>       | avocado                     | 3000 BP, Tehuacán, highlands,<br>Mexico                       |
| <i>Physalis philadelphica</i> | ground cherry, green tomato | sp.?, Tehuacán  |
| <i>Sechium edule</i>          | chayote                     | ?NR, eastern highlands, Mexico                                |
| <i>Setaria macrostachya</i>   | foxtail millet              | 6000-4400 BP, Tamaulipas,<br>highlands, Mexico                |
| <i>Spondias mombin</i>        | ciruela, hog plum           | 7000 BP(?), Tehuacán; lowland<br>seasonal forest              |
| <i>S. purpurea</i>            | jacote, hog plum            | ?NR, southern Mexico  |
| <i>Zea mays</i>               | maize                       | 8700 BP, central Balsas region,<br>Guerrero/Michoacán. Mexico |
| Central America               |                             |   |
| <i>Persea Americana</i>       | avocado                     | lowland Guatemala   |
| <i>Phaseolus dumosus</i>      | year-long bean              | ?NR, Guatemala highlands                                      |
| <i>Spondias purpurea</i>      | jacote, hog plum            | ?NRCentral America  |

*Theobroma cacao*

chocolate

3000 BP, Honduras