Supplemental Text 2. General cultural geography in northeast Mexico.

Northeastern Mexico was ethnically diverse at European contact (Ramírez Castilla 2007). Spanning what is now northern Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and southern Texas was a broadly defined amalgamation of hunter-gatherer groups collectively termed “Coahuiltecans,” an oversimplified category based on perceived linguistic and general cultural similarities (Hester 2004:129; Newcomb 1961). Ramírez Castilla (2007) further subdivides northern Tamaulipas peoples into *Llanura Norteña* (inland plains) and *Laguna Madre* (coastal) groups. A multitude of distinct ethnic identities clearly comprised these general categories (see also Campbell 1979; Eguilaz 1965; Saldivar 1943; Salinas 1990). Such contact-period Indigenous hunter-gatherer groups regularly utilized agaves alongside numerous other wild plant resources such as mesquite, prickly pear, various fruits and nuts, and unspecified roots and tubers (**Supplemental Table 2**; Foster 1997; Newcomb 1961; Salinas 1990).

Sedentary agricultural societies with distinctly Mesoamerican traits characterized regions to the south. These include the Huastecs, in the tropical lowlands of Tamaulipas and Veracruz and spanning into San Luis Potosí, Querétero, Hidalgo, and Puebla, and those of the Valley of Tula in extreme southwestern Tamaulipas and eastern San Luis Potosí. The ceramic period occupations of the Ocampo Caves are directly related to the *pueblos de la sierra* (“mountain villages”) of the Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra de Tamaulipas (the *Región Serrana*; Ramírez Castilla 2007; Romero and Valenzuela 1945). MacNeish (1947) termed this distinct regional development the Pueblito Culture. Agaves served various functions for such sedentary communities, despite their reliance on cultivated crops. During the 16th and 17th centuries, alcoholic *pulque* (fermented agave sap) was produced in Huastec towns (Toussaint 1948; Pérez Zevallos 2005:84). As recently as the late 1970s, contemporary Teenek (Huastec) communities in San Luis Potosí and northern Veracruz cultivated agave for food, *pulque*, fiber, and medicine (Alcorn 1984:537).

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