

# Vanilla

**Vanilla** is derived from the seed and seed pods of the orchid **Vanilla planifolia** (flat leaved vanilla), a plant indigenous to Mexico. Genetic studies of plants from across the globe indicate that the original plants came from the area of **Papantla**, part of a region inhabited by the **Totonac** people.

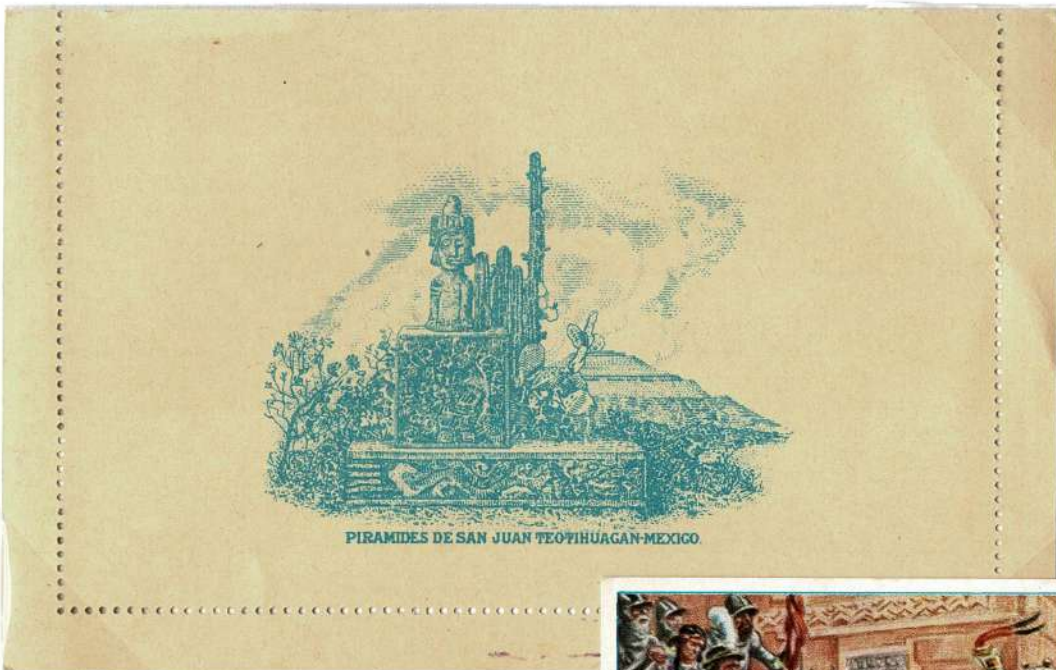
It is thought that the Totonac were the earliest people to cultivate the vine for use as a cacao-beverage spice. It was called *tlixochitl* (which translates as “**black flower**”, a reference to the mature bean) by the **Aztecs**.



Flower of **Vanilla planifolia**:  
French Polynesia 1990  
Traditional resources issue



Entire of December 14<sup>th</sup> 1854 from **Papantla** to Mexico City  
Straight line **PAPANTLA** in red



Mexico: 10c Letter card, in purple.  
The reverse depicts the pyramids at  
Teotihuagan. The **Totonac** claim to  
have built the city.



“**black flower**”  
The matured beans of  
*Vanilla planifolia*  
French Mayotte 1999

Leibig Trade Card: History of Mexico 1.  
Cortez meeting Cuauhtemoc, the last Aztec  
Emperor.



Nadruk verboden

Verklaring op keerzijde