

Domestication of the Tomato



The big luscious
tomatoes we
love are
Solanum
lycopersicum
subspecies
lycopersicum



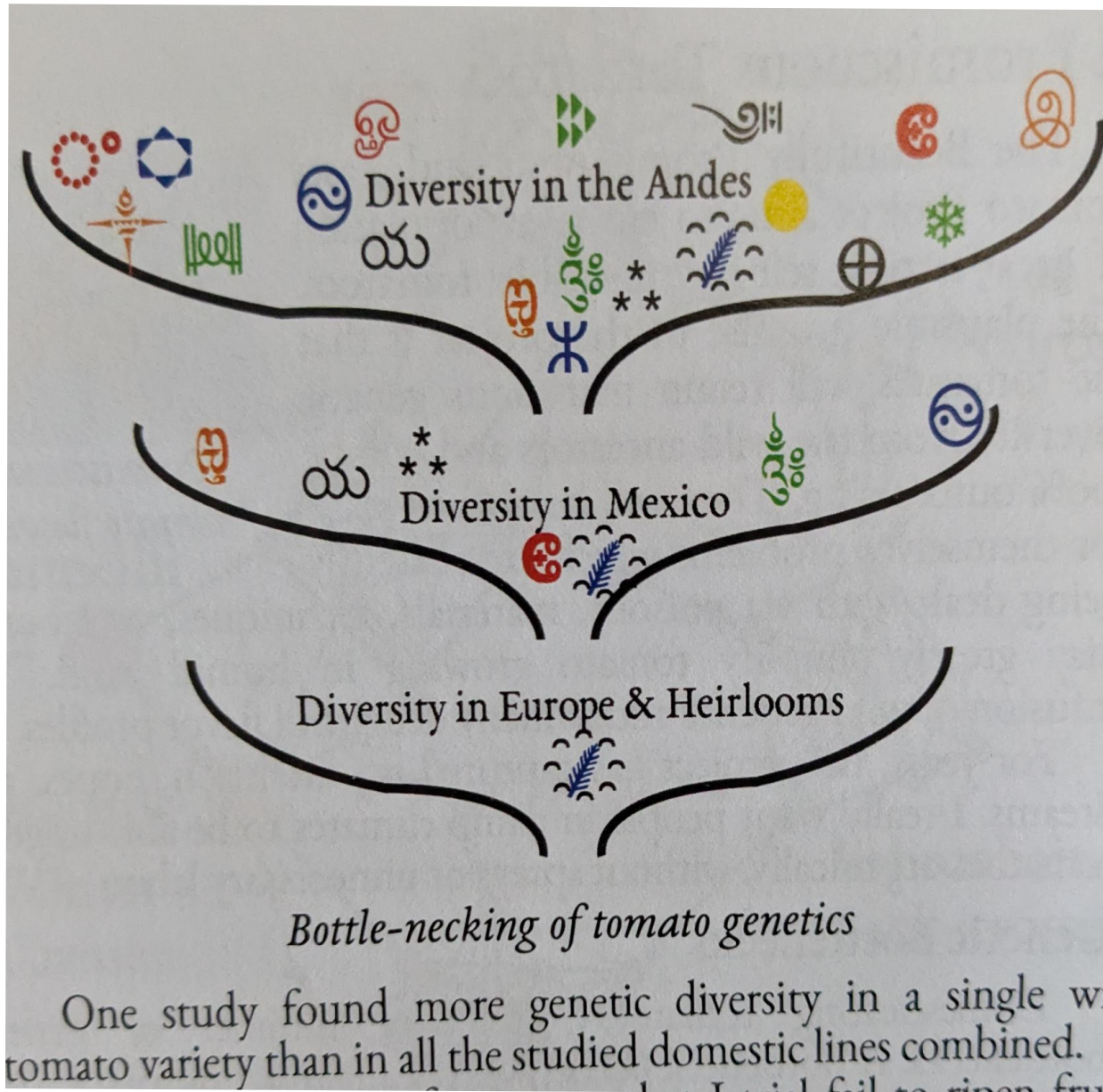
There seems
little debate that
they were
selected by
humans from
Cherry Tomatoes
Solanum
lycopersicon
cerasiforme



Which in turn
derived from
the currant
tomato

*Solanum
pimpinellifolium*





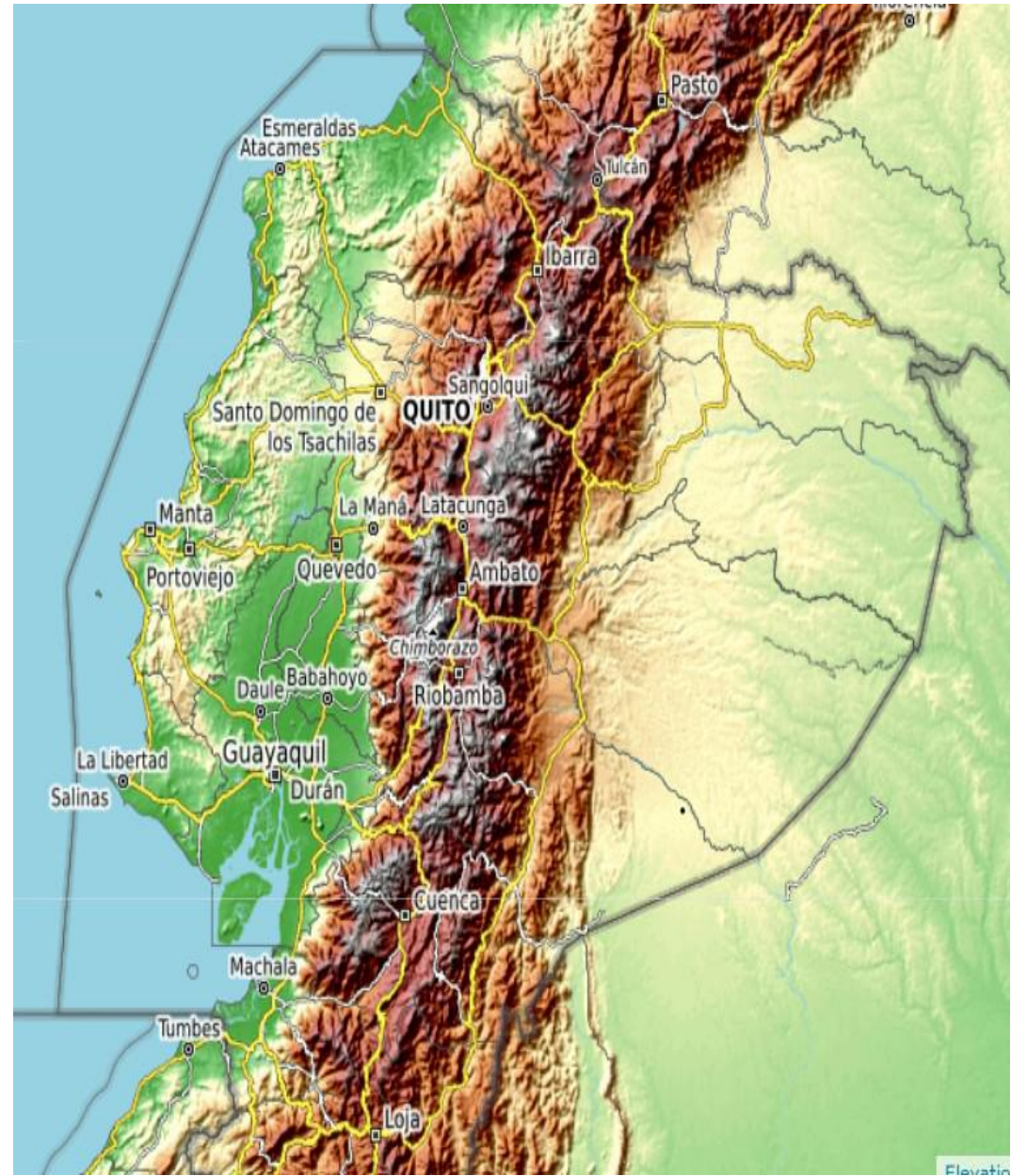
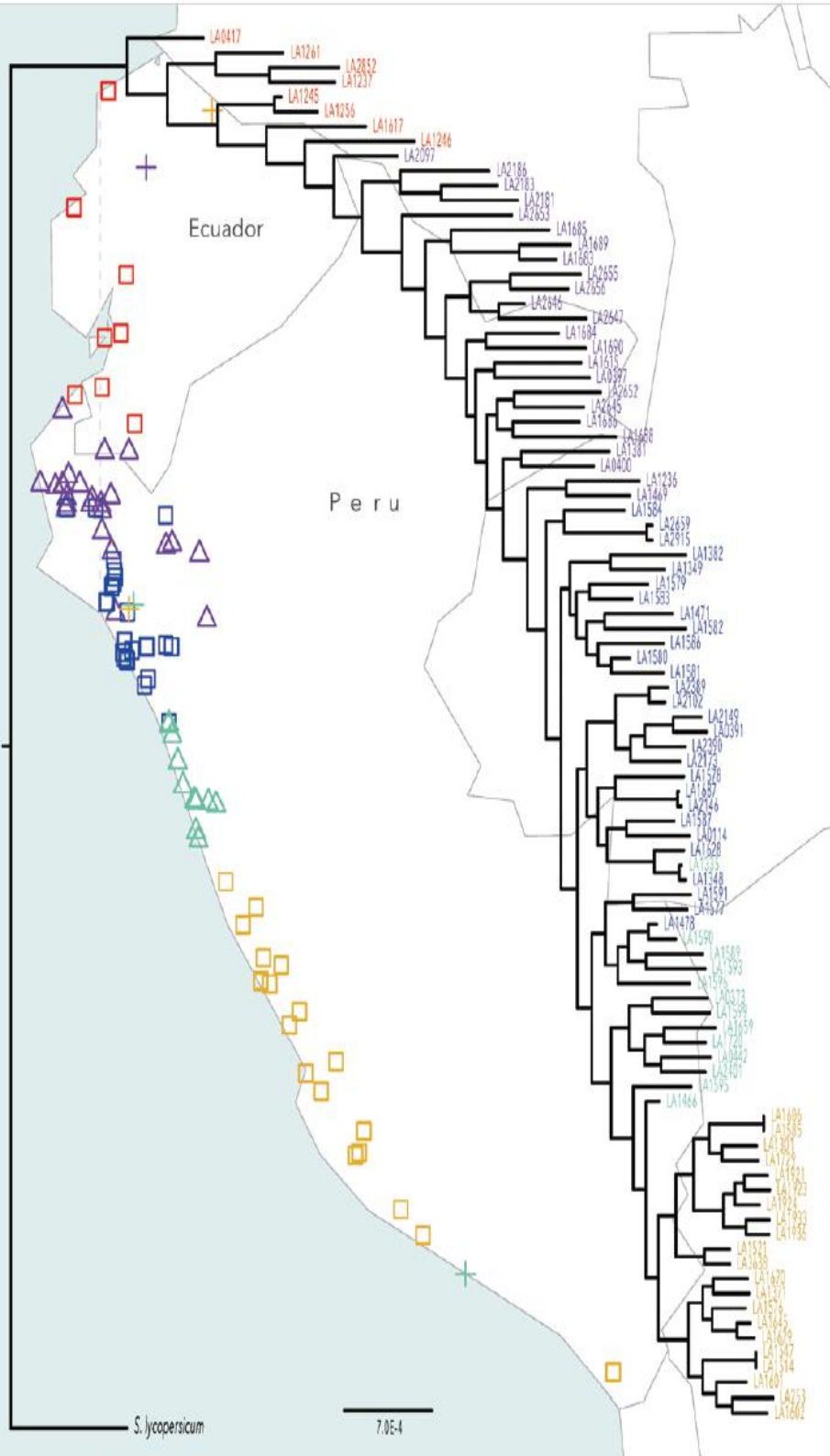
Standard story about loss of diversity & pollinators with each transition



Currant Tomato

Solanum
pimpinellifolium







Currant Tomato

*Solanum
pimpinellifolium*

70,000
BCE



Cherry Tomato

*S.lycopersicum
cerasiforme*

Cherry Tomato

Natural range expansion

Exploitation of
'weed' by
humans?



Cherry Tomato

Rapid return south



~10,000 BCE ?

Presumably human
agency

Possibly associated
with introduction of
maize from Central to
South America



Rapid
Return -
Date?



Cherry Tomato
X
Currant Tomato
-

Both have
inbreeders and
outbreeders



Northward
return and
selection for
'big' tomatoes

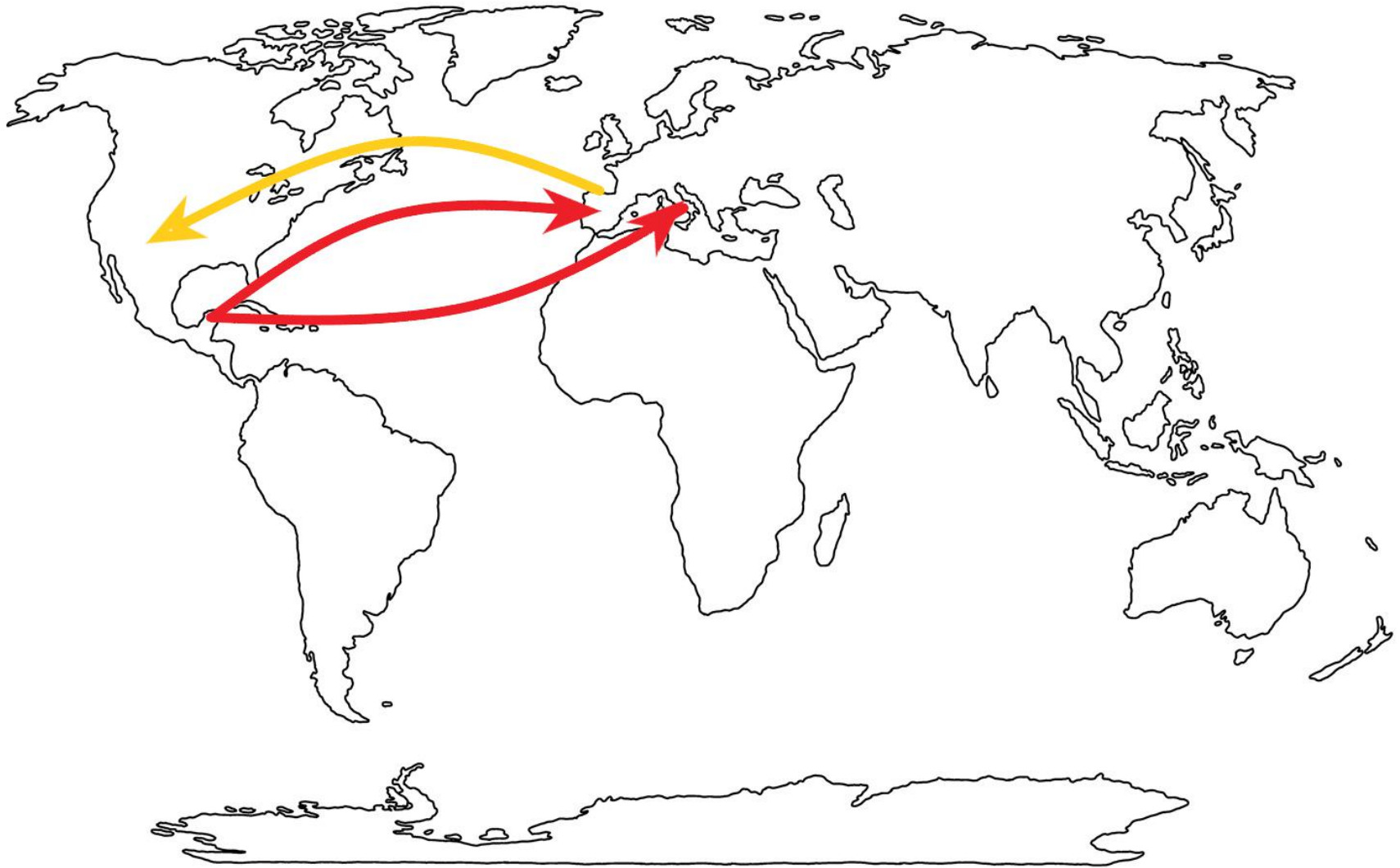
Local Trade and the Colombian exchange











- 1586- Poma amoris. "It grows in gardens and likes moist places . . . It is cold and not without bad qualities. The apples are eaten without harm in Italy. They are also macerated with oil and dried in the sun there, or buried in horse manure, in order to anoint scabies, . . . this is highly praised by some."
- 1822 USA - A farm wife describes her trouble with bed bugs, and how she got rid of them. It seems that while she was walking in the garden she accidentally touched a tomato vine which was particularly nauseous in smell to her. It occurred to her that the smell might also be nauseous to the bed bugs. She rubbed the bed-stead with a tomato vine, and presto! No bed bugs.
- 1837-Blanco, Manuel. Flora de Filipinas. Manila, 1837.p. 135. "The natives make immense use of the fruit [of the tomato] which they use in almost all their dishes. With their leaves, they dye cotton cloth a dirty green."