**Reial Expedició Botànica del Virregnat de Nova Espanya**

The Royal Botanical Expedition to New Spain (Mexico) was one of the most complex among the many scientific expeditions organized by the Spanish Crown during the 18th century, due to its duration, the length of its routes and the extraordinary quality and quantity of the materials that were gathered. The expedition was led by the Spanish botanist Martín de Sessé, professor of Botany at the Royal University of Mexico and, as his assistant, brought the naturalist and physician from New Spain José Mariano Mociño. Martín (de) Sessé y Lacasta was a Spanish botanist. He traveled to New Spain (Mexico) to study and classify the flora of the territory. José Mariano Mociño y Losada was a naturalist, doctor and botanist from Novo-Hispanic. He was a member of the expedition from Madrid.

Botany, during the Enlightenment period, attracted a large number of studies due to the abundant uses of many plants: agricultural, medicinal, dying, textiles, timber, etc. His study was in tune with reformist purposes as a sign of the renewed confidence in reason and that is why his knowledge was part of the offensive to overcome the backwardness of Spain.

This expedition marks the beginning of the knowledge of the plant and animal diversity of Mexico and surrounding areas. The objective of the expedition was to collect and describe the plants typical of New Spain, make herbaria and make drawings. Duplicates of the material were made, both for safety and to provide two collections, one for Mexico and one for Madrid, where, in addition, live plants and seeds were sent. In total, 797 genera and 1327 species of seed plants were recorded, in addition to 7 cryptogams.

In addition, the expedition included the study and illustration of birds, fish, insects, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, crustaceans and spiders. This work places the members of the Royal Expedition as pioneers in the study of ornithology and ichthyology in America.

An expeditionary adventure would imply the vindication of colonial territories and the elaboration of cartographic studies and catalogs of these natural resources with a vision of a possible commercialization.

[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real\_Expedición\_Botánica\_a\_Nueva\_España](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_Expedici%C3%B3n_Bot%C3%A1nica_a_Nueva_Espa%C3%B1a)

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**For Group 5**

**"The life of the desert man"**

