



E. Anderson: Evolution of Domestication. The Evolution of Man. (ed.) Sol Tax, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1960. p.82/3

Q20

Where and when did men first begin to domesticate plants? In terms of germ-plasm structure and population dynamics, what happens to a plant when it is domesticated? This is a fundamental problem on which we have some pretty theories and excellent mathematical models but virtually no facts. Only one thing is clear. It is time we put to rest the dogma about early agriculture bequeathed to us by nineteenth-century botanists, anthropologists, and prehistorians. We learned them in our salad days and easily forget what guesses in the dark they were originally. Now is the time to follow the lead of Darwin and lay such myths aside. We should take fresh looks at the existing evidence and start thinking about the most effective questions to ask, the most likely areas in which to find critical new evidence.