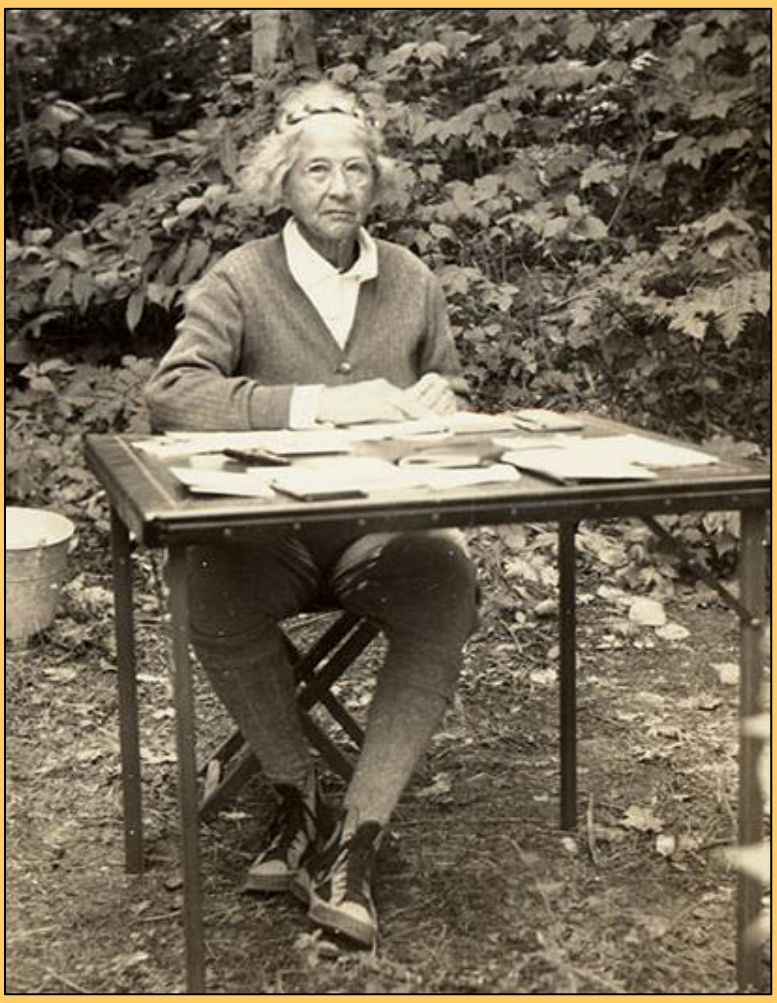
Ynés Mexía (Botanist/Science Pioneer/Explorer)



Ynés Enriquetta Julietta Mexía was a Mexican American botanist notable for her extensive collection of novel specimens of flora originating from sites throughout North and South America. Despite getting a relatively late start in her scientific career (at 50+ years of age), she collected a huge number of plant specimens. According to the British Natural History Museum, she collected at least 145,000 specimens during her travels, 500 of which were new species. During her first expedition, she collected 500 specimens, which is the same number collected during Darwin's famous voyage. Although curators are still working to catalogue her full selection of specimens, 50 new species have already been named after her.

Ynés is remembered by her colleagues for her expertise in fieldwork, resilience in the face of difficult and dangerous conditions, as well as her impulsiveness and generous personality. She was known and praised for her meticulous, exacting work and her skills as a botanical collector. Ynés was honored with a Google Doodle in 2019, celebrating her pioneering work and scientific legacy.