

240. *NICOTIANA RUSTICA* L. (SOLANACEAE) — Aztec Tobacco, “Turkish Tobacco”<sup>54</sup>  
Indian Tobacco

Long before the conquest, leaves were dried and powdered and rubbed over the body in ceremonial ablution. The leaves were also chewed as a euphoriant.<sup>54</sup> According to the *Wealth of India*, this was the first tobacco grown in Virginia for export to Europe.<sup>1</sup> More recently it is cultivated in Australia, the Balkans, Burma, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, and the U.S.S.R. Rustica types are used for hookah, chewing, and snuff, being unsuitable for biris, cigarettes, and cigars.<sup>1</sup>

According to Hartwell, the leaves are used in folk remedies for cancerous wounds, indurations, and cancerous ulcers of the spleen, and scirrhus tumors in the arm and hip.<sup>4</sup> In Lebanon the wild Turkish tobacco, used more for snuff than smoking, is used as an emetic, expectorant, and externally as a poultice.<sup>23</sup>

Rustica types are generally high in nicotine.<sup>1</sup>

**Toxicity** — Classed by Emboden as a narcotic protoplasmic poison and retardant to neural transmission.<sup>54</sup>