

The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

CLOVES

Native to **Indonesia**

Mainly used as a **medicine**

Numbing agent for early dentists

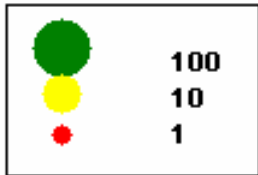
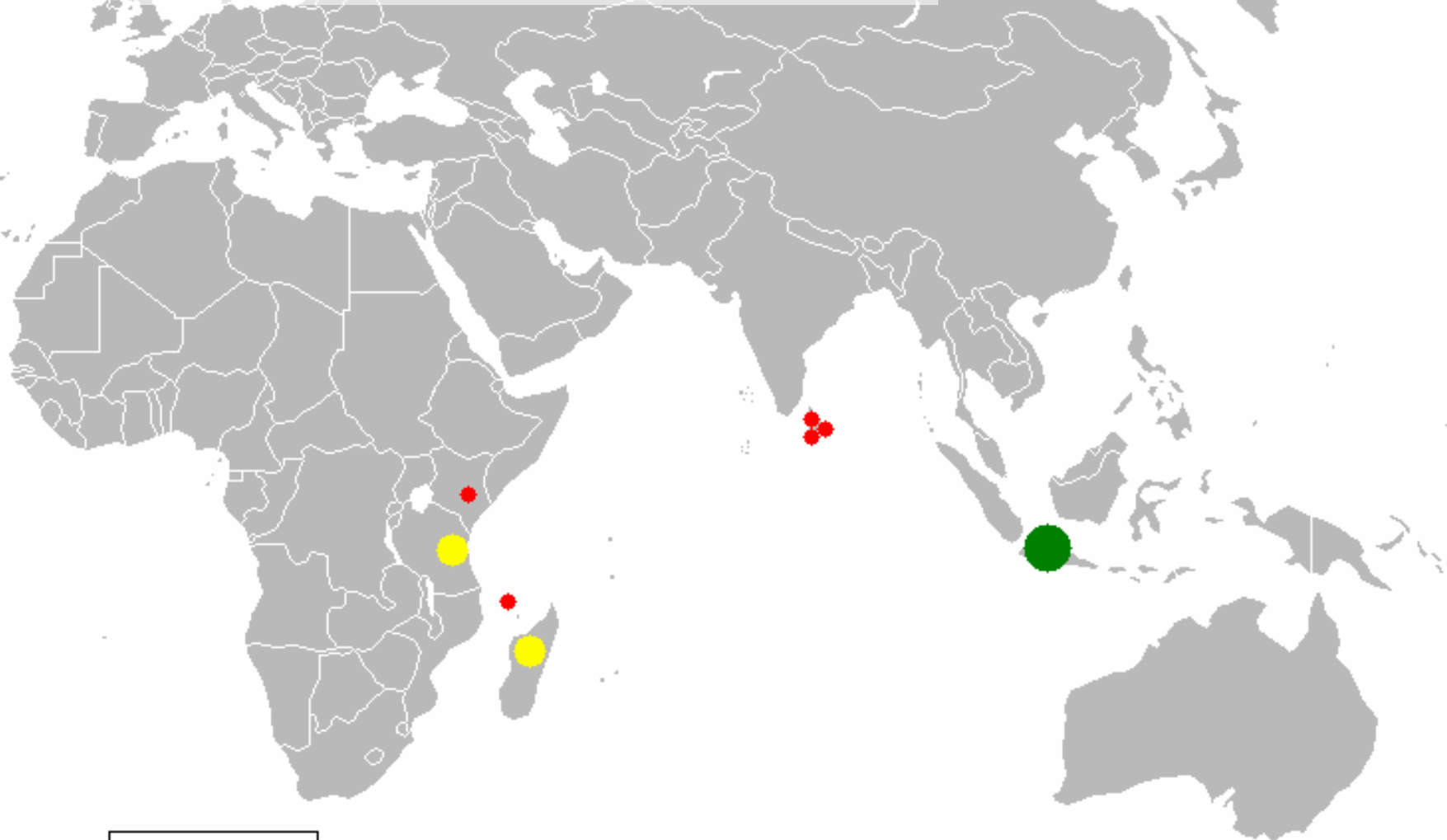
Can kill parasitic worms in the body

Laxative

Can numb the skin



Clove output, 2005



Clove output in 2005 shown as a percentage of the top producer (Indonesia - 110,500 tonnes)

The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

TEA

Native to **China**

Discovered in 2737 BC

First used for **flavor** and **seasoning**:

Water was boiled for hygiene, and tea made it taste better

The tea bag (1903) and iced tea (1904) are both American inventions





A tea shrub

The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

SUGAR

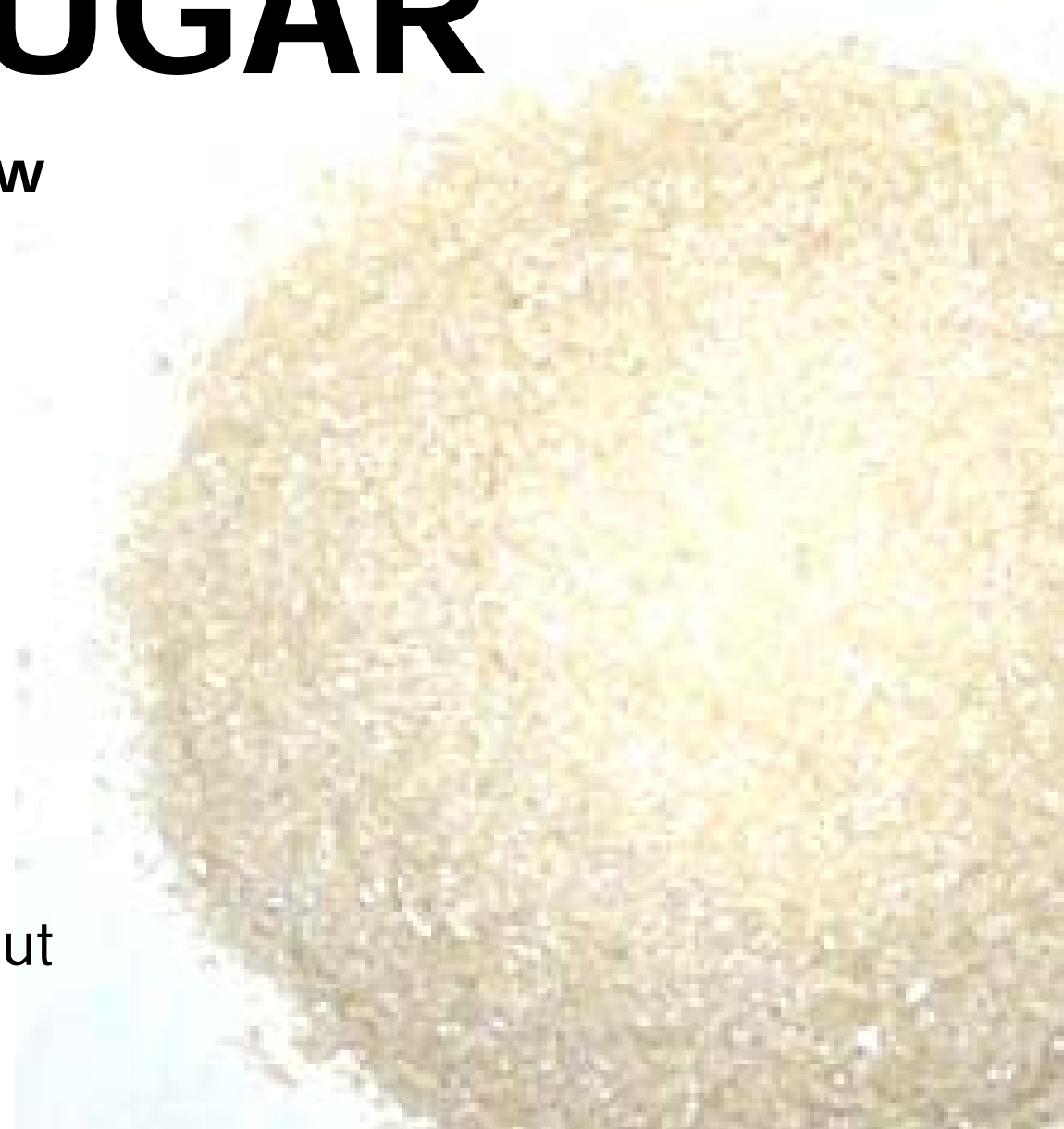
Native to **India** and **New Guinea**

India, 350: Discovery of crystallization

Easier to store,
transport, and sell

Brought by the Dutch to
the New World in 1625

Spread quickly throughout
the Caribbean





Sugar cane

The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

LAVENDER

Native to **India, Africa, and Arabia**

Used as a **medicine**

Antiseptic

Sleep aid

Insect repellent

Really did help to ward off the plague

Romans loved it – at the rate of a month's pay per pound



The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

PEPPER

Used in **India** since prehistoric times as a **seasoning**

Once known as “black gold”

Used as money

Probably the single most important spice to lure European traders to India



The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

PAPRIKA

Native to **Mesoamerica**
(modern-day Mexico) and
the **Caribbean Islands**

Used for seasoning and
healing

Unusually high in vitamin C

One of the previously
unknown spices brought
back by Columbus



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SALT

Found all over the world

Both a seasoning and a preservative

Used by the Romans for money (the Latin *salarium*)

Columbus started salt works on Jamaica, Hispaniola



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CINNAMON

Native to **China**

Imported to Egypt before 2000 BC

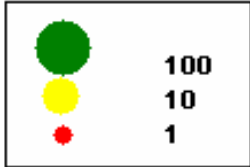
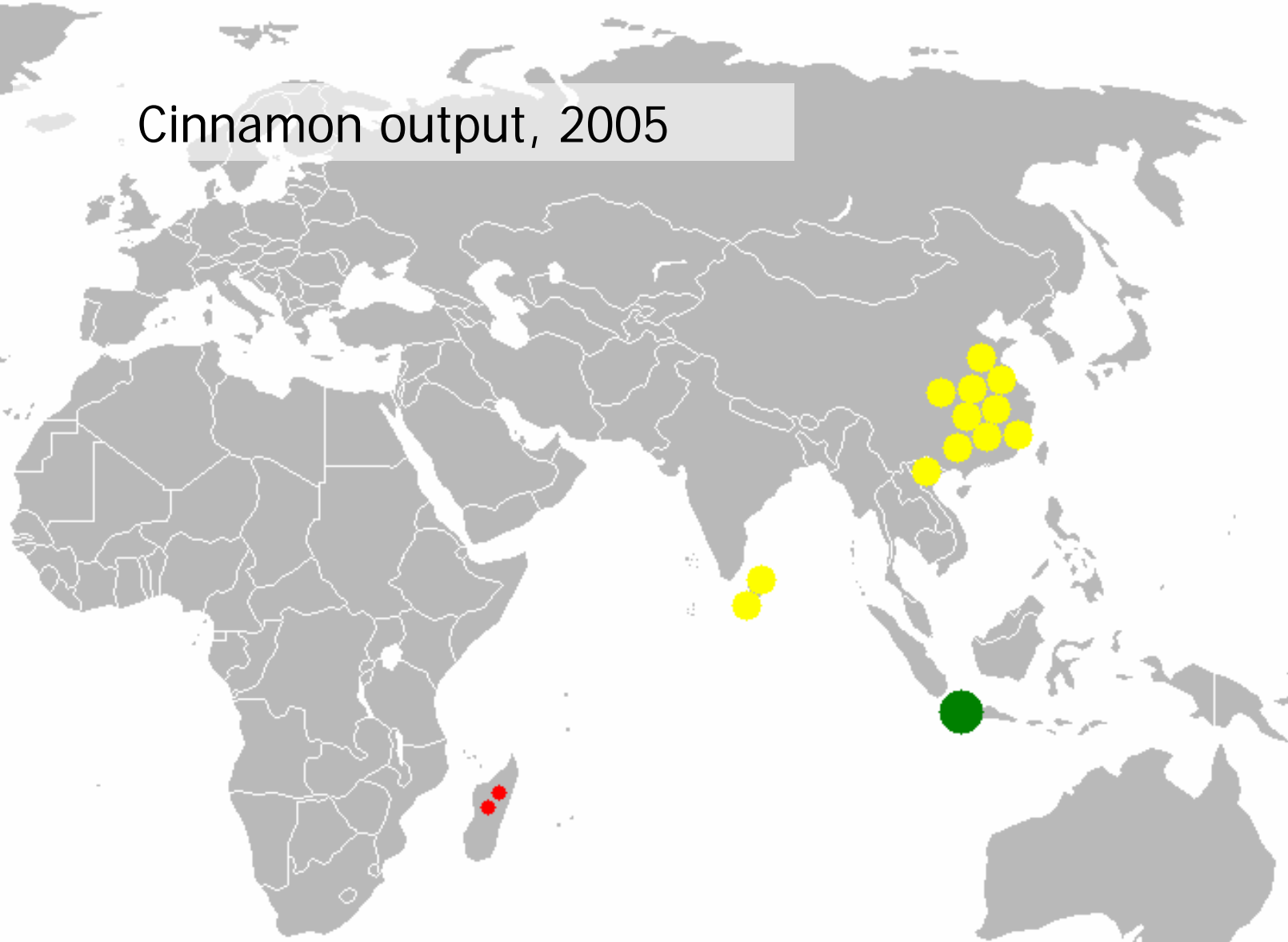
Used as a **seasoning** and in **religious ceremonies**

Arab middlemen kept its origin
a secret with a fairy tale

Key spice in Roman
funerals, biblical
ceremony



Cinnamon output, 2005



Cinnamon and canella output in 2005 shown as a percentage of the top producer (Indonesia - 60,000 tonnes)

The Spice Trade, 1400-1650

ALLSPICE

Native to **Jamaica** and **Mesoamerica**, where it's called "kurundu"

Both a **seasoning** and a **medicine**

Aids indigestion and gas

Natural deodorant

Used in smoking meats

Why "allspice"?



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NUTMEG

Existed *only* on **Run Island**

Used as a **medicine**

Europeans thought it could prevent the plague

Caused 100 years of war between Dutch, English

1667: Nutmeg and the birth of New York City





Afghanistan

Pakistan

India

Nepal

Myanmar
(Burma)

ประเทศไทย
ไทย
Thailand

Vietnam

Malaysia

Indonesia

Papua New
Guinea

Indian
Ocean

NT

QLD

Australia

WA

中国
China

S Korea

日本
Japan