



# LOOKING FOR THE FAT CATFISH

## EN BUSCA DEL PEZ GRASO (RHIZOSOMICHTHYS TOTAE)





An aerial photograph of a small, forested island in the middle of a large body of water. The island is covered in dense green trees and shrubs, with a small clearing at the top. The water is a deep blue-green color with some whitecaps.

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# REPORT

8th November 2021 – 2nd December 2021

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# S O C I A L RESEARCH TEAM



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# ANATOMIA DEL "PEZ GRASO" DEL LAGO DE TOTA (Boyacá)

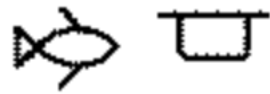
POR CECIL MILES

Secretario de la Asociación Nacional de  
Piscicultura y Pesca.

"Pez graso", "runcho".  
6 o 7 anillos prominentes circundantes en el  
cabeza, del tamaño aproximado de la cabeza en  
vista lateral, comprimida. Diámetro esquelético 4.75 a  
5.0 en el pedúnculo caudal, 7.5 a 8.  
5 a 5 en la talla esquelética, su ancho al nivel  
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feriormente del ojo, formando sus membranas un  
istmo. Trompa, 2.5 a 2.66 en la cabeza, su  
perfil occipital notablemente cóncavo debi-  
do a la distancia interocular, 2.75 a 3 en la cabeza, algo  
pequeño, superior, sin bordes libres, 9 o 10 en  
la trompa, 3.25 a 3.33 en la distancia interocular.  
5 en la anchura 2.16 a 2.33 en la cabeza. El bar-



# ANTHROPOLOGY AREA





# 1.

## Sacred relationship between the Muiscas and his waterbodies

The relationship that the indigenous Muiscas had with water bodies such as lakes and lagoons was one of worship. They were sacred places that housed divine wisdom from the goddess of Water. “It can be assured that all the water reservoirs, no matter how small, constituted for the Chibchas as many sanctuaries of worship of the goddess Water” (Triana, 1922). Although all bodies of water were sacred, lakes and lagoons were by preference places of worship where offerings and rituals were made. “The richest and most affectionate tributes were paid to its shores to the sound of joyful music and the frenzy of their dances: little goldfish, fine emeralds, terracottas full of offerings and the thousand finest pieces of indigenous industry were thrown into the waters.” (Triana, 1922).

There were certain lagoons that were worthy of greater offerings for the Muiscas due to their symbolic importance : “Iguaque, creative source of the human race; Fúquene, a mysterious shelter of fantastic mohanés; Siecha, a clear mirror of the moon; Guatavita, an enchanted ritual ceremony vessel; Suesca, a pleasant shore of coal and salt; and Tota, guards and watches over a new sun” (Triana, 1922). However, with colonization, the Catholic religion began to punish the worship of other gods such as the goddess of Water, thus transforming not only the belief system of the Muiscas but also their relationship with water bodies... “-Yes, Father, we have worshiped with all our hearts in the lagoons “the catechumens would answer when they confessed their guilt of love for the goddess” (Triana. 1922)



# 2.

## Fishing practice in Lake Tota. Muiscas and his waterbodies

Apparently the fishing practice in Lake Tota was not a practice that was found since Muisca times, but rather developed with the arrival of Europeans in the region. The Muiscas were good fishermen and practiced fishing in different parts of the highlands, they also knew the place and mastered different fishing techniques.

“Net weights or other artifacts associated with fishing have been found on the shores of the Fúquene lagoon (Hernández de Alba, in Broadbent, 1965: 13), Sogamoso (Silva Célis, 1945a: 102) and Soacha (Reichel-Dolmatoff, 1942: 19) although for none of these sites is its chronology known with precision. On the other hand, it is interesting that in the grammars the terms “chupcua” appear as equivalent to fishery or swamp, “iaia” translated as “fishing net” and “tijisua” as “hook” (Uricoechea, 1871: 190 and Acosta Ortegón, 1938: 48, 58 and 59). According to a quote from Porto Alegre (/ 1571 /, 1983: 111) the use of the above artifacts by the indigenous people would be confirmed, since, speaking of the captain fish, he maintained that it was caught with “hooks and nets.” (Langebaek, 1987).

Despite their great knowledge in fishing, there are few records that affirm that they did so in Lake Tota. Instead, different sources affirm that they did not navigate the waters of Lake Tota. One of the main reasons was the belief of a myth about the existence of a monster in the lake. This myth so frightened the inhabitants that even until the middle of the 19th century, people were unable to navigate the river for fear of this beast with the body of a snake and the head of a bull. This is how Miguel Triana affirmed it in 1888, who himself verified that, even in those years, “the tradition of a black monster with the head of a bull still existed among the natives in the waters of that enchanted lagoon” (Triana, 1922).



# 3.

## The fish in Lake Tota

The Rainbow trout was introduced to Lake Tota in 1940. After its introduction, other species were transferred to the lake in order to contribute to its feeding. Currently all the species of fish that inhabit the lake were introduced except for the fat fish. The foreign ones are the rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), which is currently the only species that is used commercially in the area; the captain of the savannah (*Eremophilus mutisii*), the guapucha (*Grundulus bogotensis*), species that were introduced to the lake in the 1950s and that had a satisfactory adaptation being occasionally consumed by fishermen and their families; and finally, the carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), which was introduced to control the excess of elodea in the lake. The seventh species, and the only endemic to the lake, would be the Tota fatty fish (*Rhizosomichthys totae*), which is a species with a restricted distribution to the lake and which is reported as extinct (CORPOBOYACÁ & Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, 2005).

**Tabla 9.3.** Listado de especies ícticas presentes en el Lago de Tota y sus categorías de vulnerabilidad.

Familia	Especie	Nombre Común	Categoría
SALMONIDAE	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Trucha	
CHARACIDAE	<i>Grundulus bogotensis</i>	Guapucha	NT
CYPRINIDAE	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Carpa	
	<i>Carassius auratus</i>	Goldfish	
TRICHOMYCTERIDAE	<i>Eremophilus mutisii</i>	Capitán	NT
	<i>Pygidium bogotensis</i>	Capitanejo	
	<i>Rhizosomichthys totae</i>	Pez graso	EX

Fuente: Hidroestudios, 1978; AquaRAP realizados por este estudio

Categoría Libros Rojos: EX= Extinta; NT= Casi amenazado regionalmente (Mojica *et al.*, 2002).





Since the species that currently inhabit the lake, other than the fat catfish, are not native to there, it is worth questioning about the lake's ichthyofauna prior to the introduction of trout in 1940. There is little evidence of ichthyofauna in the lake before this year, on the other hand, some sources indicate that probably this lake several centuries ago did not host a variety of species there, instead there were few or none.

An anonymous description of the book on the History of Cooking in Colombia published in 1620, stated that in the lake there was not found many species of fish because their waters were very cold. For their part, Mora et al. (1991) assure that high Andean tropical lakes generally have poor fish fauna and Lake Tota is an example of this, since here the fat catfish has also been endemic its only inhabitant. In addition, De Jiménez de Quesada at the time of the colony affirmed that:

“Fish is raised in the rivers and lagoons that exist in that Kingdom and, although it is not in great abundance, it is the best that has been seen ... It is only a common fish gene, and not large, but not a span or two ... “(in Ramos, 1972: 295–296, in Camargo, 1987).

The truth is that the first recognition of native fish species of the Cundiboyacence highland was made by the first inhabitants of the region, that is, the Muiscas. Before colonization, as well as fishing gear, and their own fishing techniques, they also knew the species that inhabited the region.

“Acosta Ortegón (1938: 58–59) brings the Muisca words that are equivalent to fish or fish, guamuica as” black captain “, chichinegui as” small captain “and guapguijicha or guapuche translated to” small and white “fish. The linguistic distinctions that appear in the grammar seem to fit fairly well with the varieties of the native fish *Eremophilus mutissi*, very common until recently in rivers and lagoons of the Altiplano (Martínez, 1981: 296) and that presents an albino variety (captain rey) and another hyperpigmented (black captain) ”. (Langebaek, 1987).

The ecological knowledge of the Muiscas is very important to take into account due to their historical proximity to the territory, because before any European visit to American lands, they lived among the ecosystem of the highlands and knew their species. Therefore they already knew these fish before they had a scientific name. Reason why, it is pertinent to question why they did not know the fat catfish and never described it as the rest of the few species of fish that inhabited the high waters of the highlands.



# 4.

## The earthquakes in Tota

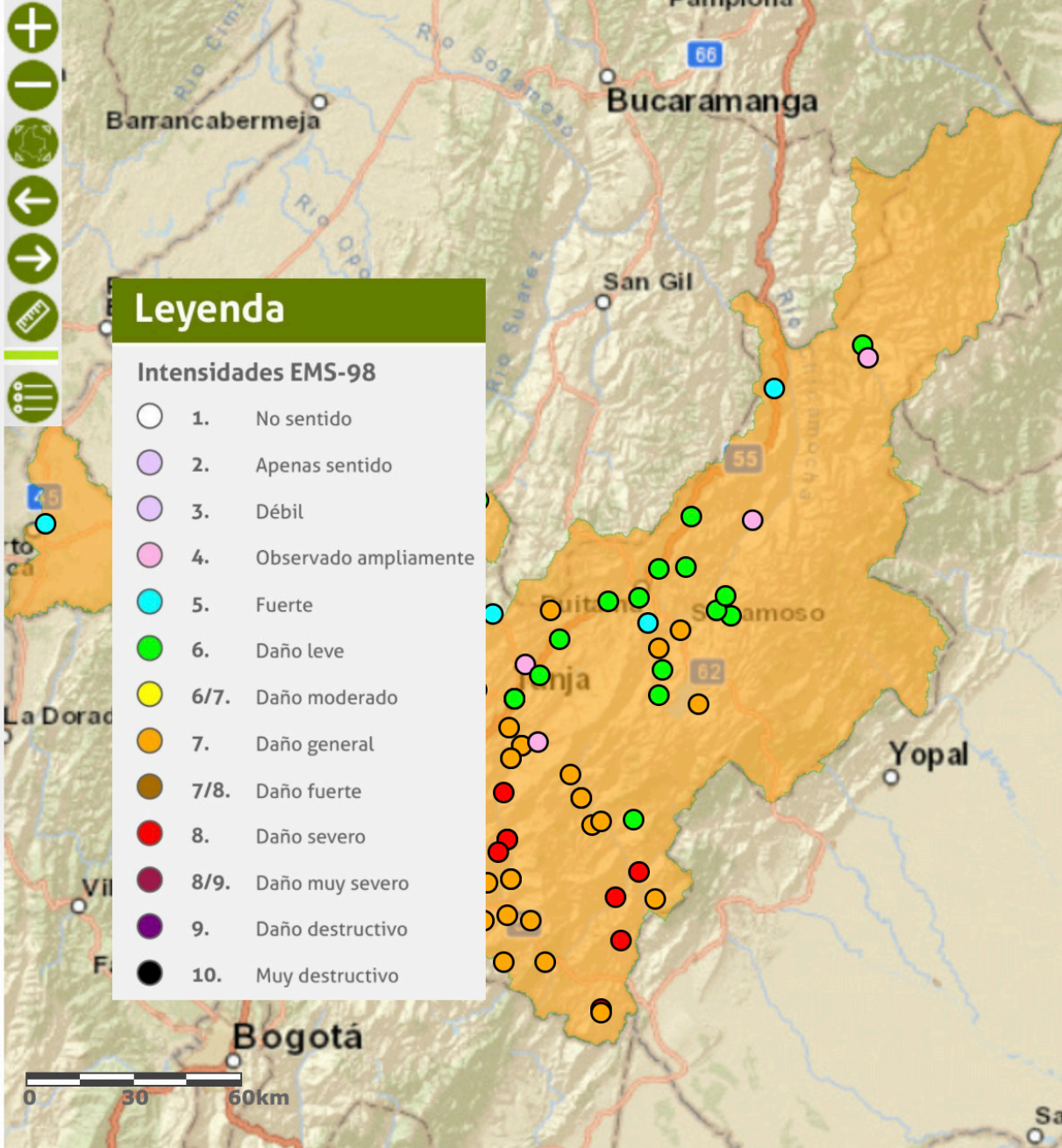
The English scientist Cécil Miles after his discovery of the fat catfish in 1942, stated that:

“A few years ago, a seismic phenomenon caused the death of a large number of these fish, which were used by the riparians to light their houses. Today, however, it can be considered scarce, and only a few specimens are found floating in the waves of the leeward beaches. It is presumed that the species lives mainly in the deep parts of the lake, to which a depth of more than 300 meters is attributed”. (Miles, 1942)

To corroborate the information on the earthquakes that occurred before 1942, the year of publication of the previous quote, the database of the Colombian Geological Service was accessed, a platform that has all the seismic records from the seventeenth century to the present in the country . In this, it was found that from 1900 to 1945 there were only 3 earthquakes that were felt in the department of Boyacá, and only one of these had an epicenter in this department, which was on November 1, 1928 in the municipality of Chinavita with a magnitude of 5.9 MW and a depth of 15 km. According to the table of the Colombian Geological Service on the intensity of the earthquake, this could be felt in 37 municipalities among which were Garagoa, Guateque, Guayatá, La Capilla, Somondoco, Sutamarchán, Sutatenza, Tenza, Tibaná, Tunja, Ümbita and Zetaquirá in the department of Boyacá. (Colombian Geological Survey, Consulted in November 2021)

As described above, none of the towns mentioned are those adjacent to Lake Tota, that is, Cuitiva, Aquitania and Tota. The only record that shows that an earthquake was felt in the municipality of Tota was in 1957, a year that exceeds the time that Miles describes the earthquake event.

<< Volver a página anterior



Por sitio

Departamento

Municipio

No.	Fecha del sismo
1	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
2	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
3	<a href="#">2015/03/10</a>
4	<a href="#">1992/10/18</a>
5	<a href="#">1875/05/18</a>
6	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
7	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
8	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
9	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
10	<a href="#">1928/11/01</a>
11	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
12	<a href="#">2015/03/10</a>
13	<a href="#">1917/08/31</a>
14	<a href="#">1967/07/29</a>
15	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
16	<a href="#">1995/01/19</a>
17	<a href="#">1992/10/18</a>

Dirección: Diagonal 53 No 34 - 53 Bogotá D.C. Colombia, Teléfono: (571) 231 2000

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Map of the earthquakes that have been felt in the department of Boyacá throughout history and their level of impact and damage Colombian Geological Survey. Consulted in

Nooviembre 2021



[Ver tabla completa](#)

Hora local	Lat.	Long.	Magnitud	Prof. (km)	Centro poblado	Intensidad sitio	Intensidad máxima
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Almeida, Boyacá	7	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Aquitania, Boyacá	7	8
15:55	6.825	-73.134	6.3	157.7	Arcabuco, Boyacá	5	7
11:12	7.07	-76.8	7.1	10	Arcabuco, Boyacá	4	10
11:15	7.86	-72.42	6.8	15	Belén, Boyacá	6	10
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Berbeo, Boyacá	7	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Boyacá, Boyacá	7	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Campohermoso, Boyacá	8	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Chíquiza (San Pedro de Iguaque), Boyacá	6	8
11:08	4.95	-73.097	5.9	15	Chinavita, Boyacá	8	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Chinavita, Boyacá	8	8
15:55	6.825	-73.134	6.3	157.7	Chiquinquirá, Boyacá	5	7
06:36	3.78	-74	6.7	15	Chiquinquirá, Boyacá	5	9
05:24	6.747	-73.03	6.8	161	Chiquinquirá, Boyacá	7	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Chitaraque, Boyacá	6	8
10:05	5.1	-72.89	6.5	15	Chivor, Boyacá	7	8
11:12	7.07	-76.8	7.1	10	Cómbita, Boyacá	4	10

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Source: Map of earthquakes by region. Boyacá Department.

<http://sish.sgc.gov.co/visor/seccionServlet?metodo=irADepartamento&idDepartamento=15&idMunicipio=&cuadranteXMin=&cuadranteXMax=&cuadranteYMin=&cuadranteYMax>

On the other hand, the same author affirms that the death of the fish caused by the earthquake was such that: “it served admirably to burn in lamps; but despite having collected enough specimens to fill many barrels of oil, there were still leftovers and they rotted on the beaches, to such an extent that for a time they made it impossible to approach them due to the smell “(Miles 1945, in Camargo 1982).

This description definitely describes an event not only tragic but also memorable for the people of the community, who would remember it. Such an event would have required an earthquake of great magnitude and depth, which, according to the evidence, never existed at that time in the Tota region. However, the news about these earthquakes only describes the damage to the infrastructure of some municipalities and the injuries or human deaths. But it does not describe the consequences for animal species, particularly fish.

On the other hand, it should be clarified that Lake Tota has a depth of 61 meters, approximately (CARO, 2007., CORPOBOYACÁ & Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, 2005. And Alvarez, 2017). The Chorographic Commission in 1852 had carried out the survey del Lago to determine its depth and determined that it was 80 meters (Triana, 1922), later, Miguel Triana in 1888 carried out a new survey in which he determined that its depth was 56 meters (Triana, 1922). The measurements, despite the age of their record, were not so far from the actual measurement currently established. However, for some reason in 1942 Miles makes this description, in which he assures that there are more than 300 meters of depth in the lake information preceded by the description of the fatal earthquake for the fatty fish At least in this respect, the information provided by Miles is not as reliable.

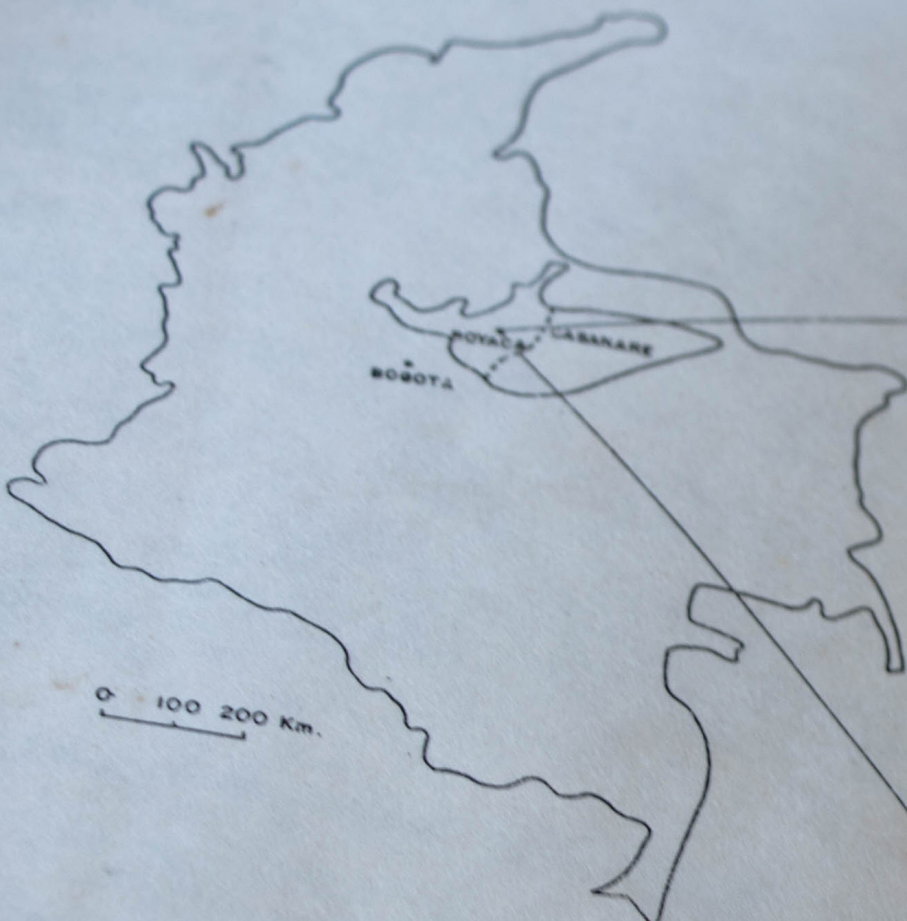






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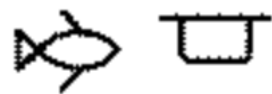





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# HISTORIAN AREA







We focused on the colonial period of the actual Colombia territory (between the 16th and 18th centuries). In order to analyze the transformation that the region had once the conquest project was established. In these centuries we could find the first vestiges of information that allow us to identify the social structure and configuration of the area before the Spanish conquest.

At the same time, we can analyze how Muisca (the predominant indigenous group in the central region of Colombia, the Altiplano Cundiboyacense) communities transformed their relationship with lake Tota after the arrival of the colonizers the way in which their economic relations were developed. The main objective: confirm if there was fishing at the lake, and, to get a historical perspective of the Fat Catfish search and to provide tools that allow us to formulate hypotheses about it.

However, not all the information found in this research corresponds to the colonial period because we did an inventory of cartographies of Lake Tota dated from the beginning of the Colonial Period to the first half of the 20th century. Within this broad time frame, a search was carried out in official archives of Colombia (the General Archive of the Nation, and the collections of the Banco de la República and the National Library) and published books and chronicles. In this sense, we are going to present the main findings.

# 1.

## Lake Tota's Cartographies

Taking as a starting point the need to give ourselves an idea of how the Lake looked previously, the search for all kinds of maps of both the Lake and the surrounding regions was advanced. And later, a chronological inventory of them was developed. The first map in which Lake Tota is detailed is one of the two cartographies made by Diego de Torres made in 1585 (forty years after the Spanish conquest), which also corresponds to the first map made of the central region of Colombia. In this map the city of Tunja and all the towns surrounding it, freshwater rivers, and lakes are drawn.

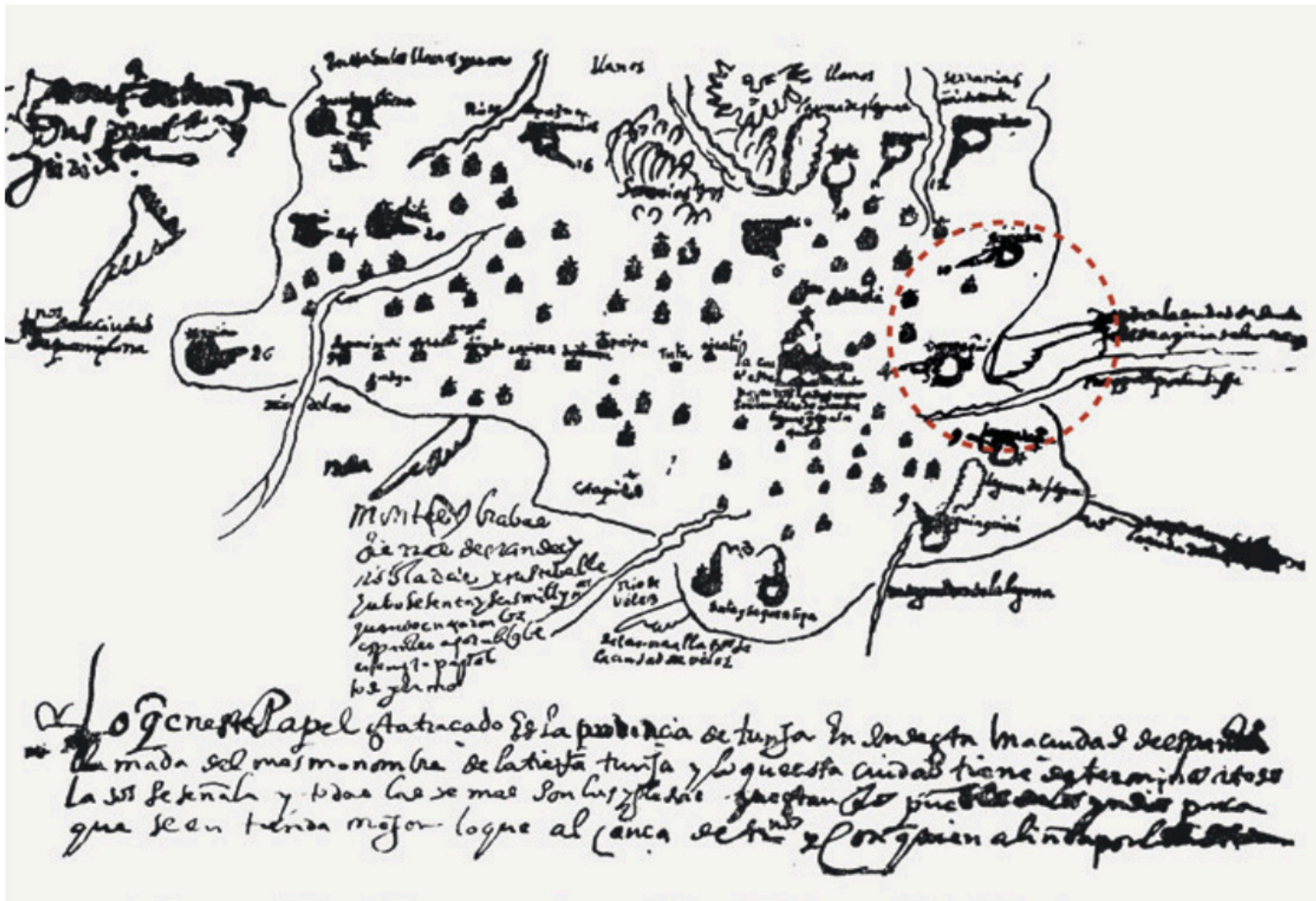
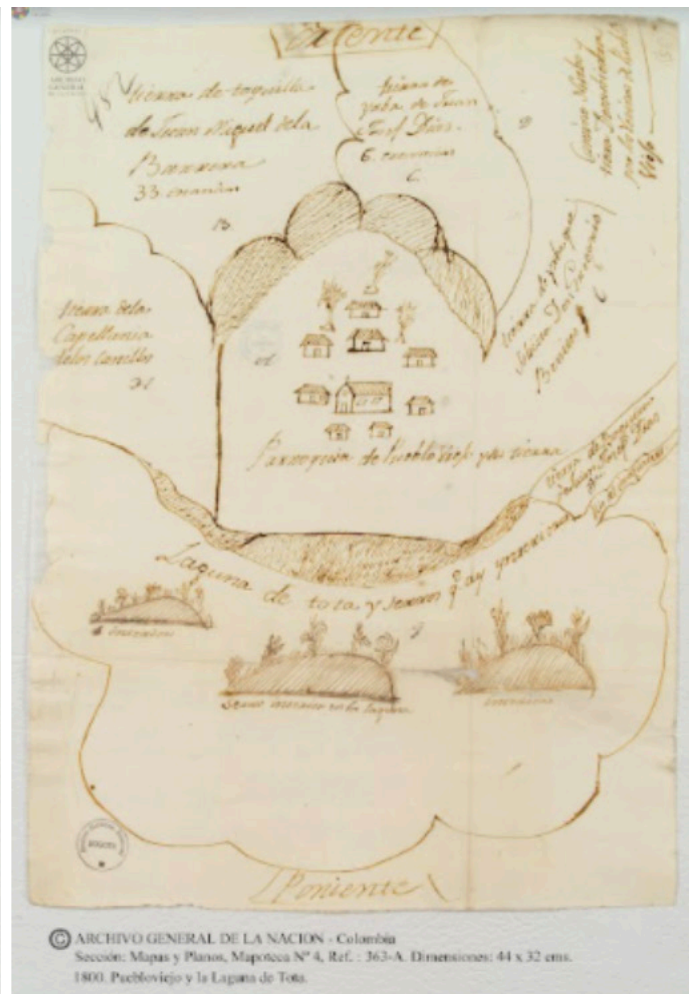


Image of the Map (edited) of the Tunja region from 1586 that rests in the General Archive of the Indies (Seville, Spain). Lake Tota is barely visible in the upper right part of the map, with an extensive river that flows out of it towards the eastern region of the country.



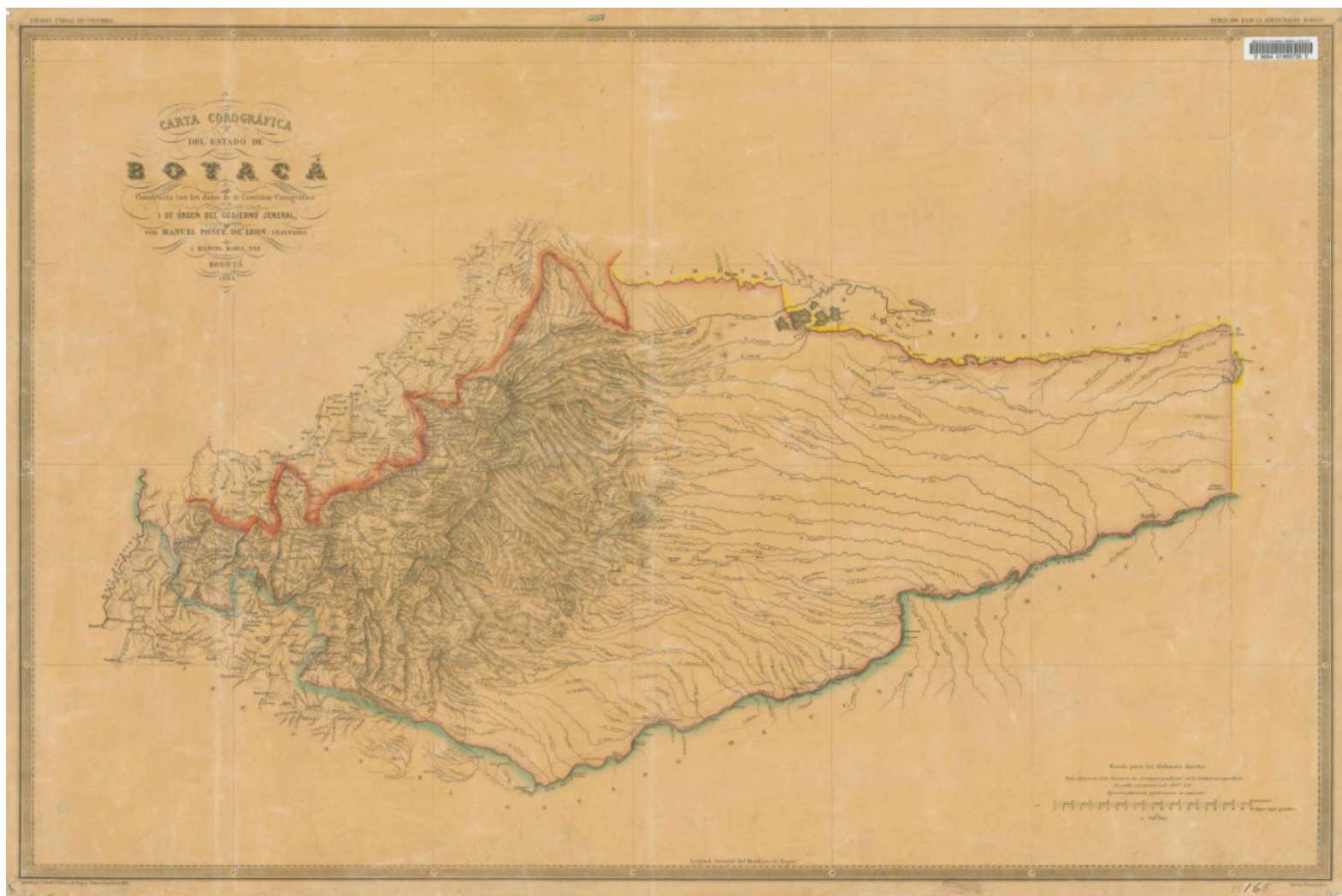
During the period spanning the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries, no maps of Lake Tota were found, although there is represented the Laguna de Guatavita despite its size, the cause of this is the symbolic relevance of Guatavita in the Muisca worldview, and in the imaginary of the Spanish, due to the rituals celebrated in it.

The following map in chronological order is a series of three maps from 1799–1800 where the lake and Pueblo viejo (currently Aquitania that is the closest town to the lake) are represented, in this map, the islands and the source of the Upía River were also identified



General Archive of the Nation (Colombia), Maps of Pueblo Viejo and the Lake of Tota. Map Library 4, Reference 363–A and 365–A. (1799–1800)

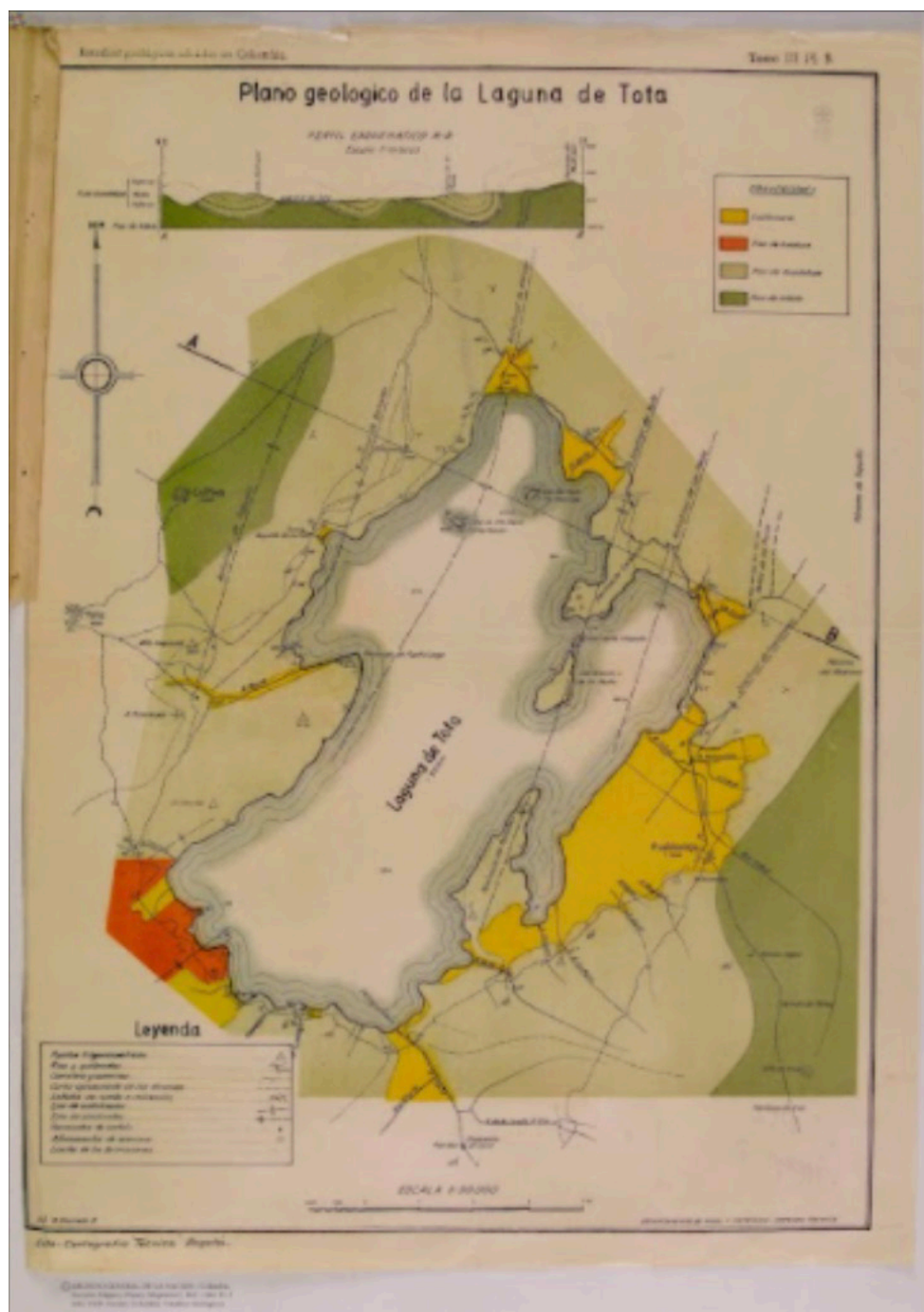
Later, we cataloged maps of the republican period made by the recently created Colombian State, the first, from 1824, and two additional maps from the middle of the century. In these maps, it's hard to find the morphology of the lake and nearby creeks.



Cartographic chart of the State of Boyacá [1864]. Cartographic Collection of the Bank of the Republic. Reference H165.

Finally, we found a 1929 map of the Lake in which each one of the creeks that flow into it is drawn with enormous precision.





General Archive of the Nation (Colombia), Geological Plan of the Laguna de Tota [1929]. Map Library 2, Reference 1062-5.

After the map search, we entered into the conquest period, following information sources. In first place, the colonial chronicles, a series of books made by conquerors or Catholic priests whose purpose was to describe the exploits of those who founded cities and towns in America. And, in the second place, we consult official documents made by the Spanish government in the New Kingdom of Granada (the name this region had during the colonial period).

# 2.

## Chronicles and colonial documents.

We looked for chronicles about the conquest of the area around Lake Tota, made out during the years of 1539 to 1539. A good example is Juan Rodriguez Freile's chronicle named El Carnero, where the writer mentions five lagoons that served as a sanctuary for the Muisca populations (Guatavita, Guasca, those of Siecha, Teusacá, and Ubaque). Although there are no mentions of Lake Tota, this fragment exemplifies indigenous practices around water bodies and their role within their worldview.

.We want to emphasize in the chronicle made by Lucas Fernandez de Piedrahita (1676). This one is the most important chronicle for our research because in this one the author not only describes the Lake, but also affirmed the existence of a monster within it:

"Tota [lake], placed on the highest point of a moor, has six leagues in perimeter, formed in a perfect circle, so deep that air can hardly go through it; Its clear and soft waters are sea-green in the center, it's like a gulf, and continually make on the shores the noisy sound that the Ocean does on the sands. Referring to it that times ago it was discovered a blackfish was discovered with the head like an ox and larger than a whale. Quesada says that in his time people of great credit affirmed it and the Indians said that it was the devil; and for the year six hundred and fifty-two [1662], while I was in that place, Doña Andrea de Várgas, a lady of that country, told me that she had seen it. "

Consider that, in the Muisca worldview (the legends around its origin), there are no "diabolical" representations of the Lake or any monster living on it, but rather, this corresponds to an interpretation of Christian civilizing order, results of the evangelization project carried out by Spain in all America. In these chronicles and other ones the authors mention the fishes species that inhabited the watersheds of the Cundiboyacense Altiplano.



Now, the most significant finding of the colonial period about Lake Tota is a description made by an anonymous official Spanish about the region in 1620: in this, he states the following:

“There are two main lagoons in the district of this city, one on the western side, which they call Tinjacá [Laguna de Fúquene] because they are near the town of this name; the other is to the east and is called Guaquira [Lake of Tota] because it is close to another of this name, Tinjacá is seven leagues from the city and Guaquira eight.

The Tinjacá lagoon will be eight leagues long and six wide and twenty in circumference, and in-depth it will have more than twenty states: people navigate it with rafts made of reed to fish and hunt ducks, and they pass through it in the rafts of millstones from one town to another.

Guaquira will be five leagues long and four wide and nine in circumference; It is very deep, but nobody navigates it because there is no reason for doing it, and very large waves rise in it. In both lagoons, many creeks of water enter, and they have many springs in themselves. Each one has a large drain: Tinjacá runs north and enters the Rio de Oro; that of Guaquira runs east and will enter the Meta River, which is the Boyacá River.

Some fish raised in the Tinjacá lagoon; one that they call captain, another that they call bagre, others that they call sardines, which are smaller; The Indians who live around the lagoon take advantage of these fish; in Guáquira, fish are not raised because it has very cold water”.

This description provides us invaluable information regarding fatty fish research. In the first place, it seems that there were no fish in Lake Tota because the water was too cold for it, and, therefore, it was not fished in its surroundings, in turn, it wasn't sailed for the same reasons. It is necessary to make a critical reading of this document because the statement that there is no fish does not imply it was true. Secondly, it reaffirms the importance of the Fúquene Lagoon as a place where there was extensive fish activity.

At the same time, the search in documents of the General Archive of the Nation allows us to conclude that in the towns around the lake the economy was based on agriculture (mainly, the sowing of wheat and corn), and to a lesser extent, livestock (swine and cattle). And if there had been fishing in the period before the introduction of trout in the 1940s, this was on a very small scale.



Presentado por don Francisco de

Peru

Don Pedro Ordóñez Sargos

Yo el Sr. de la ciudad de Tunja Dño Legítimo  
 de don Francisco de Vargas y de don y Daniel  
 Ordóñez y Salasomar = Digo que por fin y muerte  
 del dicho don Francisco de Vargas mis padre me  
 pertenece como asu hijo mayor legítimo la succe-  
 sion de la Encomienda y pueblo de yndios de tota  
 Contados los Capitanes y yndios queleso n  
 sujetos y pertenecientes a elcaique principio de la  
 dicha Encomienda que es esta que presento  
 Originalmente Confesada necesaria segun  
 Leyes y usos de dicho mis padre (y sus antecesoros)  
 que fallecio a bra dos meses poco mas o men  
 Como es notorio y portal lo alego que la no to  
 rigas del dicho fallecimiento me xelica  
 de yuca Como asu hijo mayor legítimo  
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# 3.

## Paintings of daily life.

At the same time, the search in documents of the General Archive of the Nation allows us to conclude that in the towns around the lake the economy was based on agriculture (mainly, the sowing of wheat and corn), and to a lesser extent, livestock (swine and cattle). And if there had been fishing in the period before the introduction of trout in the 1940s, this was on a very small scale.

In turn, European and American explorers and travelers stepped on Colombian soil and left, in addition to the memories of their travels, incredible paintings of the mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, and other geographical features of the nation, which were an inspiration to the national artists of the time. With this background in mind, the art collections where these images rest were consulted to find illustrations of Lake Tota and the inhabitants of its nearby areas.

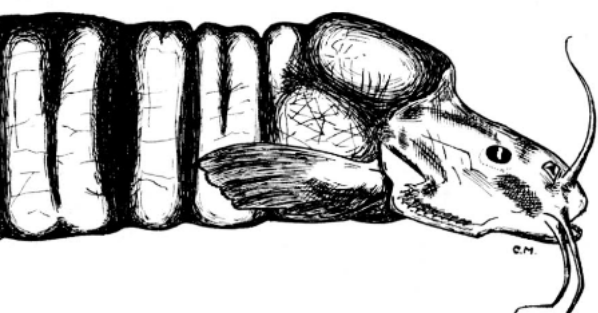
In turn, European and American explorers and travelers stepped on Colombian lands and left not only memories of their trips, but also incredible paintings of the mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, and other geographical features of the nation, which were an inspiration to the national artists of the time. With this background in mind, the art collections where these images rest were consulted in order to find illustrations of Lake Tota and the inhabitants of its nearby areas.

The main finding is the Edward Walkhouse Mark expedition made in 1846, in which he made an outstanding painting, a Watercolor that shows the immensity of Lake Tota in this period, and where peasants also appear dressed in the typical ruana and hat, witnesses of its ecosystem transformation. In turn, Mark painted the people who lived in the Sogamoso region, where Lake Tota is, characterizing the customs and costumes of the local peasants.





Edward W. Mark. Lagoon Tota near Bogotá [1846] Banco de la República Art Collection





Manuel María Paz (Chorographic Commission). Guatavita Lagoon: Province of Bogotá [1855],  
Collection National Library of Colombia. Reference 551.482. Watercolor

In turn, we consulted the entire collection of the Comisión Corográfica, in which Siecha and Guatavita Lagoons paintings and other hydrographic resources of the Colombian Andes were found. Finally, the pieces of the main costumbrismo painters were consulted with the purpose of finding images about the relationship between peasants and indigenous people with fishing, having this in mind, a painting was obtained by the most prominent Colombian painter of this period: Ramón Torres Méndez, who shows us how the indigenous people of the highlands continued with the tradition of Captain fishing in the Sabana of Bogotá.





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INDIOS PESCADORES  
DEL FUNZA.

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Ramón Torres Méndez. Fishermen Indians of Funza [1860 C.a], Banco de la República Art Collection. Reference AP1357. Watercolor.

# 4.

## Comparison of the Lake maps

Once we found the geological map of the lake from 1929, I made a comparison between it and the current lake in Google Maps to make a list of all the creeks represented in the cartography and search for the possible disappearance of someones, framed in the formulation of hypotheses about the origin and destination of the Fat Catfish. The 1929 map was chosen because it predates Cecil Miles' 1942 Fat Catfish description.



Upper course of the Upía River, located in the Municipality of Aquitania, and the main tributary of Lake Tota.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Laguna+De+Tota/@5.4894296,-72.936058,808m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x8e6a59f21d23516f0:0xedeaf6a8bc3482ee!8m2!3d5.5446101!4d-72.9283391!5m1!1e4?hl=es>





Of 16 streams identified on the 1929 map, 11 remain as of 2021. A considerable number taking into account the ecosystem changes around the lake as a result of human intervention. They can be seen both on the map and in the Google Street View tool. The most important: the source of the Upía River, the Tobal River are still identifiable.

In conclusion, although the search for files and maps has not identified a specific mention of the Fat Fish, the information presented here allows interesting conclusions about its origin.







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