

**HENEQUEN**, hĕn'e-kĕn; *Mex. Sp.* hĕn'ĕ-kĕn'. The Mexican name of the plant *Agave fourcroydes* and of the fibre produced from its leaves. The plant closely resembles the maguey plant (*A. cantala*) and the true sisal plant (*A. sisalana*) (see HEMP, SISAL), but its fibre, largely used in making binder twine, is not quite so valuable as the fibre of these two species. Henequen is a native of Mexico, where it is largely cultivated, particularly in Yucatan. The plant lives from 15 to 25 years. The stems when mature range from about 2 to 5 feet in height. The fibre, from 3 to 5 feet long, is commercially known as sisal, or Mexican sisal, although the term "sisal" is considered more appropriately applied to the fibre of *A. sisalana*. Mexico exports about 120,000 tons of henequen fibre annually.