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Pre-1900 solar distillation in present-day Namibia

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A B S T R A C T

It is well known and documented that solar distillation (desalination) was employed in the latter part of the 19th century in Peru and Chile to provide drinking and boiler feed water for the guano and mineral mining activities. This paper shows that similar activities were carried out in Southwest Africa during the same general period. By remarkable coincidence, the essential player in this was Adolph Luderitz, a key figure in the pre-colonial history of the area.

Keywords: Solar distillation; Namibia; Luderitz
