

# The new hottest chile pepper in the world is...

**New Mexico Business Weekly by Kevin Robinson-Avila, Senior Reporter**

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[CaJohns](#) Fiery Foods in Ohio has kicked up the heat in its hot sauces.

The company, which sells chile pepper sauces and products online and wholesale, has released a new line of salsas made from the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion pepper, which [New Mexico State University](#) 's [Chile Pepper Institute](#) has officially certified as the hottest chile on the planet.

Until recently, [CaJohns](#) touted its Holy Jolokia chile as its hottest item, made from the Bhut Jolokia pepper, which NMSU brought from the remote highlands of India. The university had previously identified Bhut Jolokia as the world record holder for tongue-scorching chile, and Guinness World Records certified the Bhut Jolokia title in 2007.

But now, a first-of-its-kind scientific study by NMSU on "super-hot" chile varieties has identified Trinidad Moruga Scorpion as the new hot-pepper world heavyweight, said Chile Pepper Institute Director [Paul Bosland](#) in a news release.

"For this study, we wanted to establish the average heat levels for super-hot varieties," Bosland said. "That's something that hadn't been scientifically set. We also wanted to see which chile pepper truly has the highest heat levels."

Bosland and his partners, senior research specialist [Danise Coon](#) and graduate student [Gregory Reeves](#), included five varieties in the study: Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, Trinidad Scorpion, 7-pot, Chocolate 7 and Bhut Jolokia.

The team grew the peppers in southern New Mexico and randomly selected mature fruits from several plants for each variety. They dried and ground the peppers into powder and extracted and examined the capsaicinoids — the compounds that produce heat sensation.

The Trinidad Moruga Scorpion scored highest overall in mean heat, with more than 1.2 million Scoville Heat Units.