

NO. 32.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

March 16 to 23, 1910.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

- ADANSONIA DIGITATA.** 27160. From territory of Tete, Zambesia, Portuguese East Africa. "One of the largest varieties, if not the very largest, of the African baobab tree. Height 15-25 meters, diameter 2-10 m. A most striking tree for frostless regions." (Barrett.) For distribution later.
- AMYGDALUS.** 27302. From Tiflis, Caucasus, Russia. A shrubby ornamental almond, flowering in early spring; flowers white. Suggested as a stock for almond and other stone fruits in mild wintered, semi-arid sections. (Meyer's introduction.)
- AMYGDALUS PERSICA.** 27110. From Mr. E. C. Parker, Mukden, Manchuria. Chinese name "Tower". Valuable for grafting and budding only. 27111. Chinese name "Tah-buy-tower". A large white peach native in Shantung Province, China. Quality of fruit fair; growth of tree not known.
- ARBUTUS ANDRACHNE.** 27187. From Nikita, Crimea, Russia. A very interesting ornamental tree, native of the Crimea. It is evergreen and bears edible scarlet berries, varying greatly in size. It grows on the brinks of precipices and has a gnarled, barkless, white or reddish trunk. To be sent to California for propagation. (Meyer's introduction.)
- ASPARAGUS SP.** 27191. From Orianda, Crimea, Russia. A wild herbaceous asparagus of climbing habits, found between shrubs near the seaside. Perhaps ornamental. (Meyer's introduction.)
- BERBERIS.** 27045. From France, through Mr. Frank N. Meyer. "Seedlings of a hybrid between *B. darwinii* and *B. empetrifolia*. The seedlings break up into intermediate types and the plant illustrates the fact that even if the immediate result of a hybridization does not give what is wanted, the seedlings of such a plant may." (Meyer.)

BOEHMERIA NIVEA. 26842 .From Hangchow, China. Presented by Mr. John L. Stuart. "Seeds of a wild hemp or flax. The women use the bark for thread and string, and also make a coarse cloth of it. I think it is not cultivated." (Stuart.)

EUPLEURUM FRUTICOSUM. 27189. From Orianda, Crimea. Seeds of an umbelliferous evergreen shrub found growing in shady places, often quite near the seashores. It appears to stand clipping quite well and is of value as a seaside shrub in shady places. (Meyer's introduction.)

CARICA PAPAYA. 27106. Papaya from Bangalore, Mysore, India, presented by Rev. N. L. Rockey. Another variety received from this locality is described under S. P. I. No. 25692.

CHLOROPHORA TINCTORIA. 26784. From Paraguay. Procured by Mr. Cornelius Ferris, American Consul. "Tata-yuba". A tree with gray bark and sometimes armed with thorns. The wood is yellow and furnishes a dye. For distribution later.

CITRULLUS VULGARIS. 27299-300. From Hockanum, Conn. Presented by Mr. N. H. Brewer. "Princess Marie". Seed grown from S. P. I. No. 23657. 27299. "Dark seeds from melons, the flesh of which was a grey white and not as sweet as the yellow." 27300. "White seeds from a yellow fleshed melon which was very sweet." (Brewer.)

CITRUS. 27058. From near Souchoum Kale, Caucasus, Russia. A large fruited lemon, very juicy and with few seeds; a heavy fruiter and more frost resistant than any other lemons in this locality. **CITRUS SINENSIS.** 27066. A seedling orange originated at the Botanical Garden at Souchoum Kale. Of very strong growth; somewhat spiny, especially on strong shoots. Fruits medium sized, not over sweet and with rather numerous seeds. The trees are hardier here than any other variety. 27067. A seedling orange originated a few years ago at Souchoum Kale. Fruit large, juicy and sweet with few seeds. Trees of medium strong growth with very dark green foliage. Quite hardy in this part of the Caucasus. (Meyer's introduction.)

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CITRUS SPP. 27032-033. From Tanabe, Wakayamaken, Japan.

Cuttings of Natsu-mikan and seeds of Uchi murasaki, presented by Mr. Sietaro Matsuba at the request of Mr. A. J. Perkins. For distribution later.

COLCHICUM. 27304. From Tiflis, Caucasus. A bulbous plant flowering in autumn, with large showy flowers of dark rose color. The strong foliage appears in spring but dies off in midsummer and after some weeks of rest the flowers appear. Prefers semi-shady places. (Meyer's introduction.)

COLOCASIA SP. 27297-298. Dasheens from China, presented by Mr. George Campbell, Kia-ying-chau. For distribution later.

CORONILLA VARIA. 27183. From Orianda, Crimea, Russia. "A leguminous shrub from 2 to 3 feet high, found on dry and stony places near the seaside. Perhaps of value as a fodder and also as an ornamental plant. (Meyer's introduction.)

CRATAEGUS SP. 27177. From near Gagri, Caucasus, Russia. A hawthorn growing on stony cliffs and dry places. Has small leaves and bears small scarlet berries which persist throughout the winter on the bushes. 27178. A hawthorn much resembling the preceding number, but of more robust habit, which may be accounted for by its different location - near Novai, Avon, Caucasus. 27179. From the River Zjiep, Caucasus. A hawthorn growing into a tall shrub or small tree having black, juicy berries which persist through the winter. (Meyer's introduction.)

CYCLAMEN PERSICUM. 26885. From near Gagri, Caucasus. The beautiful wild cyclamen flowering profusely here in the Caucasus at this time of the year. Quite variable even in the wild state. Deserves to be naturalized in the mild wintered regions of the United States and will do especially well in north and central California. (Meyer's introduction.)

DIOSCOREA ALATA. 27044. Grown at the Subtropical Garden, Miami, Florida. "One of the most promising of the yams." (Wester.)

DIOSPYROS KAKI. 27034. Persimmon 'Suyugaki' from Gifu, Japan. Procured from the Gifu Agricultural Experiment Station at the suggestion of Mr. A. J. Perkins.
 27086-088. Three varieties of persimmon from Okitsu, Japan, presented by Dr. Ouda at the request of Mr. A. J. Perkins. **DIOSPYROS KAKI.** 27035-043. Nine varieties of persimmon from Yokohama, Japan. Presented by Rev. H. Loomis. Nos. 27035-038 are not astringent. No. 27042 from Korea. It is not astringent and is of excellent flavor. It grows in a climate that is like that of Philadelphia. 27043. "I think these persimmons are of rare value, being very sweet, not astringent, quite large and almost seedless, probably a distinctly new variety." (Loomis.)

FRAGARIA. 27069. From near Souchoum Kale, Caucasus. A wild strawberry occurring here and there along embankments, open woodlands and even in dry, calcareous cliffs. Flowers in early February and has ripe fruits sometimes as early as the end of February. Said to be small but sweet. (Meyer's introduction.)

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

ALGERIA. Dr. Trabut writes that he will soon send cuttings of *Euphorbia resinifera*, which he secured in Morocco. It is from this species that the euphorbium gum of commerce is obtained. This gum is a valuable ingredient of paint and it is thought possible that the plant may be cultivated in the dry Southwest.

BRITISH WEST INDIES, Antigua. Mr. A. S. Archer, March 5. Writes regarding the culture of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* in those island.

ENGLAND, London. Rev. W. Wilks, Royal Horticultural Society, March 15. Gives instructions that the Black Monukka grapes, S. P. I. Nos. 26605-606, should have four eyes left on the main stem when it is pruned.

INDIA, Bangalore. Supt., Botanical Gardens, sends a list of grafted mango varieties that will be available in May-July.

INDIA, Rangoon, Burma. Feb. 20, Mr. Gerritt P. Wilder of Honolulu, Hawaii, who is making an extensive trip abroad, writes regarding anonas in Penang.

INDIA, Saharanpur. Supt., Government Botanical Gardens, March 2. Sends an extensive report on the bael fruit.

LETTERS FROM MR. FRANK N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER.

Mr. Meyer sends from Tiflis, Caucasus, a small package of coffee made from the roasted yellow soy bean. He says that it makes a very tasteful and nutritious drink, better in his opinion than the postum sold in America, and he thinks the soy bean may be extensively used for this purpose in the future. In Chakva he visited the tea and bamboo plantations and describes these in considerable detail. (See photograph.) He sends a plant catalogue published by the Imperial Domains at Chakva. He mentions several things as being of special interest, among them *Dracaena indivisa*, which is used as tying material. These dry leaves can be kept for a number of years without spoiling. When needed they are wet and split in strips. Grape vines are tied to trellises with these strips. They last in the open from 2 to 3 years. They cultivate mandarins extensively along the coast of the Black Sea, using the Chinese and Japanese varieties. They graft all their mandarins and oranges on trifoliata stock. The kumquat is also a favorite there within recent years. There is an avenue of *Aleurites cordata* trees at Chakva which is very handsome in early summer when in bloom. *Pueraria thunbergiana* is recommended as a fodder plant for cattle and horses, and as a cover for embankments and waste lands. They have been experimenting with paper making from *Edgeworthia* in Chakva, and even imported Japanese workmen to make it. They succeeded in making good paper, but it was too expensive to be commercially profitable. They are still experimenting with *Rhus vernicifera* and *Chamaerops excelsa*. From the former they hope to produce commercial lacquer, and to utilize the fiber from the latter in mattresses and cordage. They grow several varieties of *Diospyros kaki*, but say that the people do not buy the fruit.

RECENT VISITORS.

SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town. Mr. T. F. Dreyer, Assistant Entomologist, Department of Agriculture. He is a student in Cornell University; expects to spend some days in Washington, and is interested in the general problem of plant introduction. He is familiar with the agricultural and horticultural crops of South Africa.