

21780 to 21782—Continued.

A collection of seeds, as follows:

21780. *CANNABIS SATIVA* L.

Hemp.

“(No. 428, Dec. 8, 1907.) Seeds of a particularly robust form of this well-known hemp. This form of *Cannabis* is commonly cultivated in association with maize by peasants and farmers on the mountains north and south of Ichang at altitudes between 3,000 and 5,000 feet. The plants vary from 6 to 12 feet, and the lower part of the stem is often 4 inches in circumference.

“This plant is cultivated exclusively for the oil which is expressed from the seeds after grinding and steaming in the ordinary Chinese way. This oil is used for illuminating purposes and is valued on account of its noncongealing in the coldest of weather. The stems are used for fuel, though a little fiber is occasionally used for making sundries for local use.

“It is the *Tung ma* (cold hemp) of these parts.” (*Wilson*.)

21781. *ACTINIDIA CHINENSIS* Planch.

Yangtaw.

“(No. 347, Dec. 8, 1907.) A robust climber, 10 to 30 feet high; leaves and young shoots covered with bright crimson villous hairs. Flowers unisexual or hermaphrodite, buff-yellow to white, fragrant, 1 to 1½ inches across, produced in great profusion. Fruits abundantly produced, ovoid to globose, 1 to 2½ inches long, 1 to 1½ inches across, epicarp membranous, russet-brown, more or less clothed with villous hairs. Flesh green, of most excellent flavor, to my palate akin to that of the common gooseberry but tempered with a flavor peculiarly its own.

“The plant is common in thickets and margins of woods from 3,000 to 4,000 feet high in western Hupeh and Szechuan. Also known from the Huslian Mountains in Kiangsi Province and from Fokien.

“The plant is highly ornamental, either in foliage or in flower. The fruits are excellent for either dessert or making into preserves.

“Introduced by me to the nurseries of Veitch & Sons, of Chelsea, London, and quite hardy in England.

“Local native name, *Yang tao* (strawberry peach).” (*Wilson*.)

21782. *EUCOMMIA ULMOIDES* Oliver.

Tu-chung.

“(No. 383, Dec. 8, 1907.) Tree 25 to 40 feet by 1½ to 4 feet. Cultivated in western Hupeh and Szechuan at altitudes between 1,000 and 4,500 feet. The tree is valued for its bark, which constitutes the native drug *Tu-chung*. The bark, leaves, and fruit contain silky, elastic fibers composed largely of a caoutchouc-like substance akin to balata. As a rubber-producing plant, however, the plant has little value.

“*Eucommia* was introduced from China into France by Vilmorin and into England by myself. In both countries it has proved quite hardy. In Algiers and parts of Tonking this tree has been experimentally planted by the French as a rubber-producing tree.

“The medicine *Tu-chung* is valued as a tonic and mild aphrodisiac.

“The customs' valuation here is: First quality, 30 taels per picul; second quality, 20 taels per picul; third quality, 10 taels per picul.” (*Wilson*.)

21783. *BAUHINIA PICTA* (H. B. K.) DC.

From Miami, Fla. Grown in 1907 at the Subtropical Laboratory and Garden from seed presented by Mr. J. C. Harvey, Sanborn, Vera Cruz, Mexico; distributed from Subtropical Laboratory and Garden.

“An unarmed shrub with nearly orbicular leaves, about 3½ inches long, and solitary terminal racemes, 2 to 3 inches long, of white flowers spotted with red.” (*W. F. Wight*.)

21784 to 21805.

From Sibpur, Calcutta, India. Presented by Capt. A. T. Gage, superintendent, Royal Botanic Gardens. Received January 10, 1908.