

32018. ANNONA SQUAMOSA L.**Sweetsop.**

From Cuba. Presented by Mr. Roberto L. Luáces, Camaguey, Cuba. Received October 24, 1911.

Seeds.

32019. BOSWELLIA sp.**Frankincense.**

From the island of Socotra. Procured by Mr. Charles K. Moser, American consul, Aden, Arabia. Received November 17, 1911.

Mr. Moser made a special expedition from Aden to the island of Socotra at the mouth of the Red Sea at the request of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, and secured two trees of this so-called incense tree. He was enabled to do this through the assistance of the British Resident at Aden, who invited Mr. Moser to accompany him as a guest on a British Government vessel upon which he himself made a special trip to the island of Socotra for the British Government. Two trees were obtained by Mr. Moser during a 26-hour wait of the vessel, being dug out of the soil by native Socotran boys, at an elevation of 2,500 feet above the sea. These were packed in kerosene cases filled with Socotran soil and were taken by caravan to the boat and transported to Aden. They remained in these tins until October 7, 1911, when they were sent to the Department. The following report is taken from Mr. Moser's letter of April 29, 1911:

"We went into the mountains directly south of Tamarida Bay to a place called Adho Dimellus in the Haghier Range. We first saw the tree about 9 miles in a direct line from the sea at an altitude of about 2,800 feet. The trees were apparently in full flower, with immature fruits intermingled. There were no signs of old seeds, and the Socotrans pretended never to have seen any seeds, but they could be easily gathered, and I have made arrangements to procure some during the summer. The soil was very rocky, a red, rich-looking, easily disintegrated granite, out of which, higher up, arose limestone escarpments. The temperature during the night was about 65° F., but at noon it was nearly 90° F. All the trees we saw were nearly the same size, and I was astonished to find in an area of several miles no small shoots or saplings.

"The natives call the frankincense tree *tee-lah-ah* (spelled phonetically) and its product *lu-ban*. From the samples which I saw and from the reputation it bears in the Aden market, it seems certain that the quality of Socotran *lu-ban* is distinctly inferior to that of Somali and the Hadramaut, and the produce per tree is much smaller. The trees we saw were from 20 to 30 feet in height and from 8 to 10 inches in diameter, with scraggly, swollen branches, which scarcely tapered and ended in tufts of sumac-like leaves of a general yellowish color clotted with autumnal reds. The leaves were multifoliate, 7 to 11 leaflets, 1½ to 2½ inches long, elliptic, regularly crenated, and medium ovate. The flowers are very thickly clustered on thick stalks, 5 to 8 inches long, with nearly a uniform diameter of five-eighths to three-fourths of an inch; in color the flowers were a deep pink or bright magenta, much resembling a thick cluster of double geraniums. The immature fruits among them were one-half to five-eighths of an inch long and pear shaped. The bole and branches were of a livid greenish, almost translucent hue, smooth and covered with blotches, resembling gangrenous human flesh; the outer bark sheds in thin, yellowish white, papery strips or peels. When cut, even with the thumb-nail, the bole, the boughs, and the stalks yield a clear, sticky, viscous fluid with a rich aromatic odor. This exudation usually remains clear until and after it hardens, but I saw some trees with clear 'tears' and on others brownish or amber-colored ones. Every day I have cut my two specimens with the thumb-nail, and with but two exceptions the exudation has been clear and colorless; on those two occasions the wound was followed by a milky drop, but I have been unable to discover why.