

INVENTORY.

35136. SICANA ODORIFERA (Vell.) Naudin. Melocoton.

From Tampico, Mexico. Presented by Mr. Clarence A. Miller, American consul.
Received April 2, 1913.

"*Calabaza melon*. There is only a small production of this fruit in this district. Excellent preserves are made from this fruit by the residents of this section." (*Miller*.)

"This large and beautiful cucurbit seems to belong to all the hot regions of South America. It is there regarded almost as an economic plant, and according to Triana is even cultivated in some regions. The traveler Piso, as early as 1658, mentioned its principal uses, among others that which was made and which is still made of the remarkably odorous fruits for perfuming linen and clothing and perhaps for driving away moths. He tells us also that the fruits are edible, but are rarely eaten raw. According to Hasskarl, the Spanish of Peru give it the name *Olorero* because of its penetrating odor. In another locality in the same country it is known under the name of *Sicana*, which I have used as a generic name. It is therefore probably cultivated, since three varieties are distinguished under the name *Sicana colorado*, *S. amarilla*, and *S. negra*, according as the fruit is red, yellow, or greenish black, which would surely not be the case if the plant were left entirely to the wild state. In New Grenada it bears the name of *Melocoton*, which is that of the peach in Spanish, without doubt as an allusion to the odor of the fruit, which has been compared to that of the peach.

"The genus *Sicana* is very near *Cucurbita*, to which Velloso and Hasskarl have joined it. In *Sicana* the anthers are as wide or wider than long, besides they are entirely free, while their filaments are connected, which is precisely the opposite of what one sees in *Cucurbita*. If to this first difference one adds the peculiar direction of the calyx teeth, which are turned outward even in very young buds, the shortly campanulate form of the corolla, the total absence of the hairs which make all the species of gourds rough to the touch, the pronounced and most unconquerable tendency of the stem and branches to grow vertically, and finally the particular arrangement of the extremities of the tendrils, which attach themselves like cupping glasses to the most polished solid bodies, to which they adhere with force, one admits with me that *Sicana* could not be confounded with *Cucurbita*." (*Naudin, Annales des Sciences Naturelles, ser. 4, vol. 18, p. 181-184, 1862.*)

For an illustration of the melonlike fruit of the Mexican melocoton, see Plate I.

35137. PERSEA MEYENIANA Nees.

From central Chile. Presented by Sr. Salvador Izquierdo, who procured it through Sr. José D. Husbands, Limavida, Chile. Received March 29, 1913.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 28636.

35138. PERSEA MEYENIANA Nees.

From central Chile. Presented by Sr. José D. Husbands, Limavida, Chile. Received March 31, 1913.

"This is a rounder, more compact tree than the *Persea lingue*, grows in dryer, poorer soils. It is far better as a stock for *Persea gratissima*. The leaves are dark green on top, with a white, silken finish underneath." (*Husbands*.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 28636.