

35139 to 35141.

From Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. Presented by Dr. J. N. Rose, U. S. National Museum. Received March 17, 1913.

Quoted notes by Dr. Rose, except as otherwise specified.

35139. ABRUS PRAECATORIUS L.**Jequirity.**

"Normal form."

"A twining vine with alternate, abruptly pinnate leaves; leaflets small, linear oval, obtuse at apex and base, in 8 to 20 pairs; flowers pale purple to white, in axillary racemes; legumes oblong, compressed, containing 4 to 6 hard, glossy, scarlet seeds marked with a little black spot. Like many other leguminous plants, it is very sensitive to changes in the intensity of light, the leaflets hanging down vertically at night, as though asleep, and rising with the dawn. These movements are also caused in a measure by the overclouding and clearing of the sky. When ripe the pods burst open, displaying the pretty, bright-colored seeds, which are very conspicuous in the tangled undergrowth of the forest. The plant is of wide distribution in the Tropics.

"In India the seeds are used by the jewelers and druggists as weights, each seed weighing almost exactly 1 grain. The plant derived its specific name 'praecatorius' from the fact that rosaries are made of the seeds. The Germans call them 'Paternosterebse.' In many tropical countries they are made into necklaces, bracelets, and other ornaments.

"The seeds, known in pharmacy as jequirity beans, contain two proteid poisons, which are almost identical in their physiological and toxic properties with those found in snakes' venom, though less powerful in their effects. In India the seeds are ground to a powder in a mortar, into which the natives dip the points of their daggers and the wounds inflicted by daggers thus prepared cause death. When a small quantity of the powdered seeds is introduced beneath the skin fatal results follow; less than 2 grains of the powder administered in this way to cattle causes death within 48 hours. One of these poisons, called 'abrin,' is a toxalbumin. It is easily decomposed by heat, and in Egypt the seeds are sometimes cooked and eaten when food is scarce, though they are very hard and indigestible. The root has been used as a substitute for licorice." (*Safford, Useful Plants of Guam.*)

35140. ANNONA SQUAMOSA L.**Anona.**

"Only one tree said to grow on the island and that owned by Mr. Zadray Keating. Supposed African origin."

35141. COCCOTHRINAX GARBERI (Chapm.) Sarg.**Palm.**

(*Thrinax garberi* Chapm.)

"Teyer tree. A beautiful fan-leaved palm common in the Virgin Islands and much prized as an ornamental tree. I have never seen it in the States, although, of course, it may be quite common in the South or in California."

35142 and 35143. CARICA CANDAMARCENSIS Hooker f.**Mountain papaya.**

From Nice, Alpes-Maritimes, France. Presented by Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky. Received February 17, 1913.

"Mountain pawpaw. A small semiherbaceous tree with a crown of large, coarse, palmate leaves, native of Colombia and Ecuador, similar to the pawpaw of the low country, but with fruit only about one-fourth or one-sixth the size of that of the latter. It has been introduced at Hakgala Gardens, Ceylon, in 1880, and is now commonly grown in hill gardens for the sake of its fruit, being often found in a seminaturalized