

**35888. ARECA SAPIDA** Solander.**Nikau palm.***(Rhopalostylis sapida* Wendl. and Drude.)

From Kohu Kohu, Hokianga, New Zealand. Presented by Mr. G. J. Clapham, Public Works Department, Wellington. Received July 18, 1913.

"Seeds of the nikau palm, which is quite hardy in this country." (*Clapham.*)

"A tree sometimes 30 feet in height. Stem ringed, green. Leaves 14 feet in length. Spathes two or three, 12 inches long. Flowering axis white; flowers white. Drupe one-half inch long. Both islands, as far south as Akaroa on the east coast and Dusky Bay on the west.

"This elegant and graceful palm is found usually in thick bush. Any specimen standing alone will have its leaves bruised or broken. The Maoris used the nikau leaves in the construction of their whares, or native huts. A framework was made of manuka sticks, and the roof and walls composed of palm leaves, which formed a covering as water-tight as if built of iron. These leaves keep out the wet in a marvelous manner, even when the thatching is so open that one can see the clouds and stars through the interstices. Every separate leaf division is a little channel, which conducts the rain drops to the ground outside. Nikau whares are extremely pretty and picturesque, but are now rarely seen, owing to the unfortunate cheapness of corrugated iron. Bushmen, however, still make them occasionally for temporary residences.

"The top of the stem is fleshy and juicy, and is sometimes eaten. The nikau palm will stand fire almost as well as the cabbage tree. After a big bush fire most of the trees are killed except the nikau, the cabbage trees, and the fern trees.

"The flowers are sessile upon a thick, fleshy axis, the whole inflorescence being inclosed when young in a large spathe. The fruit is of a vivid red when ripe, appearing like a huge bunch of coral. The berries are about the size of a large pea and are extremely hard. They have been used by settlers for bird shooting when ammunition was scarce. Though so hard, however, they are much relished by the kakas or wild parrots. These birds, unable to find foothold upon the smooth stem of the palm, hang upside down, with one claw fixed on the base of the leaf, and thus enjoy their meal.

"The leaf strips are much used by the Maoris for weaving into baskets and kits of every description.

"The bark is ringed with cicatrices formed by the falling off of the dead leaves. The base of a fallen leaf, with the fanlike part torn off, makes an excellent basket for carrying flowers." (*Laing and Blackwell, Plants of New Zealand.*)

**35889. IXERBA BREXIOIDES** Cunningham.**Tawari.**

From Wellington, New Zealand. Presented by Mr. E. Clifton, director, Fields and Experimental Farms Division, Department of Agriculture. Received July 17, 1913.

"A beautiful evergreen tree, sometimes 70 feet in height, with thick, leathery leaves and flat panicles of white flowers. Considered by Kirk to be the most beautiful tree in the New Zealand flora." (*Laing and Blackwell, Plants of New Zealand.*)

*Distribution.*—A small tree having a hard, dense wood, found in the forests on the hills in the North Island of New Zealand up to an elevation of 3,000 feet.

**35890. RAPHANUS SATIVUS** L.**Egyptian black radish.**

From Tampa, Fla. Received from Mr. Peter Bisset, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who procured the seed from Dr. W. C. Richardson, Tampa, Fla. Received July 16, 1913.

"A large variety, said to be superior in quality to the well-known Japanese Sakurajima radish. Original seed collected in Egypt by Dr. W. C. Richardson. The plants from which this seed was raised were grown at Dr. Richardson's place in Tampa." (*Bisset.*)