

36926. ASPARAGUS LUCIDUS Lindley.**Asparagus.**

From Taihoku, Formosa, Japan. Presented by the Bureau of Productive Industries, Government of Formosa. Received December 26, 1913.

"This is a scrambling plant of the most vivid green, forming an entangled mass many feet in length when cultivated in the greenhouse, but in its natural state not even a foot high. It is a native of Macao, whence it was received by the Duke of Northumberland, with whom it has produced little green flowers at Lyon. It is nearly allied to *A. falcatus*, from which it differs in its smaller solitary leaves and in the flowers not growing in racemes." (*Edwards's Botanical Register, 1844, Misc., p. 29, No. 36.*)

36927 to 36929.

From Bahia, Brazil. Collected by Messrs. P. H. Dorsett, A. D. Shamel, and Wilson Popenoe. of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Received December 27, 1913.

Quoted notes by Messrs. Dorsett, Shamel, and Popenoe.

36927. COCOS CORONATA Martius.**Nicuri palm.**

"(No. 29a. November 28, 1913.) Seeds of the nicuri palm, a species common in the region around the city of Bahia. It grows to a height of 20 or 30 feet and is usually somewhat scraggly in appearance, on account of the leaves being whipped and torn by the wind. The old leaf bases usually adhere to the trunk and are arranged spirally, giving a curious twisted appearance to the palm. The leaves are glaucous, and when well grown are very graceful, though not as feathery as *Cocos plumosa* and others of that type. In the interior of Bahia State this palm is very abundant, according to Dr. Argollo Ferrão, and goats feed on the fruits. The hard shell of the seed incloses a kernel which is fed to chickens and is sometimes eaten by the people themselves. The leaves are used as thatch and for making brooms, carpets, and hats; the nicuri hat is commonly worn by the natives in the rural districts around Bahia, and is sold in the markets at from 200 or 300 reis to 1 milreis (7 to 35 cents) each, according to quality. The plant is of slow growth. A wild orchid, called here wild vanilla, commonly grows on its trunk. It should be tried in Florida and California. These seeds were obtained at Shr. Pedro da Costa's place in Matatu, a suburb of Bahia."

36928. CANNA sp.**Canna.**

"(No. 30a. November 28, 1913.) Seeds of a wild canna which grows along the roadsides in the suburbs of Bahia. Its flowers are scarlet; the petals are narrow; the plant grows 3 to 4 feet high. For hybridization."

36929. EUGENIA UNIFLORA L.**Pitanga.**

"(No. 31a. November 29, 1913.) Seeds of the *pitanga* from select fruits produced at the country home of Dr. Fortunato da Silva in Cabulla, a suburb of Bahia. These fruits were chosen because of their unusually large size and handsome appearance. Should be tested in California and Florida as a selected strain of this interesting fruit. The *pitanga* is extensively used here as a hedge plant, and appeals to us as being unusually good for this purpose. The fruit is esteemed by the natives, especially when made into jelly or preserves. Pitanga sherbet is also popular in Bahia and is served in the cafés. Since the plant is already known in California and Florida under the name of 'Surinam cherry,' a description of this fruit is not necessary."