

37725—Continued.

vated in the United Provinces as a hedge or shade plant. They observe also that when the plant is cultivated as a vegetable it is grown on highly manured land near villages, but when raised for cattle fodder is cultivated on light, sandy soils. It is sown at the commencement of the rains and cut in October. The average yield of dry pulse is about 10 maunds to the acre. *Guar* is specially suitable as a green manure or green fodder crop, owing to the amount of nitrogen it contains and its comparative freedom (when young) from fiber. Church gives the nutrient ratio of the dry beans as 1:1.7, and the nutrient value 79. In certain districts, such as Meerut, where this plant is regularly and largely grown as cattle food, the breed of animals met with is remarkably fine—a high testimony to the care taken of them." (*Watt, Commercial Products of India.*)

37726 to 37728.

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Carlos Wercklé, Department of Agriculture. Received March 31, 1914.

37726. *MIMUSOPS ELENGI* L. Sapotaceæ.

Munamal.

See S. P. I. Nos. 5029 and 30957 for previous introductions.

"A large, evergreen tree, with fleshy leaves, glossy, oval, with nervation slightly emphasized; calyx of six sepals in two series; corolla rotate, with linear appendages; stamens six; 6-celled superior ovary; berry with a single seed by abortion. The wood is good for cabinet-making, joinery, and turning. The fruit, which is shaped like an olive, is eaten, but its flavor is not very agreeable. The odorous flowers, which possess astringent and tonic properties, serve for the preparation of a perfume; the red, woody, fibrous bark is astringent and is used as a febrifuge and a tonic; a decoction is used as a gargle for salivation. The fruits and seeds furnish an oil for burning. The root is astringent." (*Lançssan, Les Plantes Utiles des Colonies Françaises.*)

37727. *STERCULIA* sp. Sterculiaceæ.

37728. *BYRSONIMA CRASSIFOLIA* (L.) H. B. K. Malpighiaceæ. **Nance.**

"A shrub or small tree, flattened and forming in certain parts of the torrid and temperate regions, but especially in the torrid regions along the Pacific, characteristic groups called *nancitales* (from its common name *nance*). The leaves are thick, oval, entire, and smooth. The yellow flowers form short spikes; the fruits are small yellow berries and give off a peculiar odor, rather unpleasant, which is the reason, according to Gagini, that the Spanish call the tree *merdiera*. The fruits are used to make a sort of beverage." (*Pittier, Les Plantas Usuales de Costa Rica.*)

37729. *FICUS SYCOMORUS* L. Moraceæ.

Sycamore fig.

From Cairo, Egypt. Presented by Mr. Thomas W. Brown, at the request of Prof. S. C. Mason, of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Received April 11, 1914.

"Sycamore fig."

"This is the sycamore tree of Scripture. It is a very large tree, growing abundantly in Egypt, Syria, and the East; it produces red figs about the size of an egg, but almost insipid; the Egyptians eat them with great relish; for drying they are of no value, being then tasteless, unpleasant, and full of seeds.