



FRUITING BRANCH OF XANTHOCERAS SORBIFOLIA. (SEE S. P. I. No. 39431.)

This North Chinese plant belongs to the horse-chestnut family. It is found wild as a shrub in dry loess banks and cliffs in Shansi, Honan, Shensi, and Kansu, in which provinces the country people eat the kernels, calling the plant *Mu kua hua* (quince flower), presumably on account of the fruits somewhat resembling Japanese quinces in appearance. In temple courts around Peking one frequently finds this plant cultivated, and in such places it grows into a small tree, often with a dense head of foliage. Though seldom seen in American gardens, it deserves to be more widely planted, especially in dry, sunny situations, where its masses of white flowers with yellow and red blotches in the center appearing in May make the plant of great decorative value. (Photographed by Frank N. Meyer, at Chaoyu, Shansi, China, July 23, 1914; P12264FS.)