

ovary is stalked, its stalk adherent to the tube of the calyx for its lower half. The cylindrical style is slightly hairy at the upper part, and terminates in a green, cushion-shaped stigma. The flowers have a delicate fragrance, which has been compared to that of vanilla. The yellow color of the edge of the petals is apparently due to the presence of coloring matter in the four or five rows of cells nearest to the margin. Those at the extreme edge are raised into pimplelike elevations, whilst those on the surface of the disk of the petal are flat and sinuous in outline, containing in some cases oil in small quantities and minute starch grains, or some substance faintly colored blue by iodine. The thin texture of the petals causes them to be fugacious, and the golden rim which is so beautiful an adornment to the frilled edge very soon turns to dirty brown. These circumstances detract greatly from the value of the flower in a gardener's eyes, but it must be remembered that the flowers are in clusters and open in succession and that when grown as seen by Welwitsch in Angola they no doubt amply justify his eulogium.

"Mr. Monteiro, to whom we are indebted for the introduction of this and many other African rarities sent by him at different times to Kew from Angola, thus writes of the *Camoensia* in his interesting book, *Angola and the River Congo* (MacMillan, 1875): 'It was at Quiballa (a large town situated on a low flat-topped hill on the northern limit of Angola) that we were so fortunate as to obtain specimens of the flowers and a quantity of ripe seeds of the beautiful plant named *Camoensia maxima* by its discoverer, Dr. Welwitsch. We saw it growing along the sides of the road as soon as we left the gneiss formation and entered on the mica slate; but more abundantly in the more bare places on the sides of the hills at Quiballa, in the very hard clay of the decomposed mica slate. The *Camoensia* grows as a hard, woody bush, with rather long straggling branches covered with fine large leaves and bearing bunches of flowers. Its roots spread underground to great distances and shoot out into other plants, so that on attempting to remove what we thought were nice small plants we always came to a great thick root, which we followed and found to proceed from old bushes at a considerable distance. Half a dozen of the seeds germinated on arrival at Kew Gardens, so that I hope this lovely flower will be shortly in cultivation, a welcome addition to our hothouses.' At Kew the plant behaves exactly as described in the above extract, the bed in which it is planted being a mass of woody roots whence numerous suckers spring. These, however, are not allowed to grow, the specimen being limited to about five stems, the thickest being now nearly 2 inches in diameter and very hard. The longest shoots are about 12 feet in length, and they are almost wholly clothed with bright-green trifoliate leaves. New shoots are developed freely all over the plant, and to keep it from becoming a thick tangle many of these are removed annually. It is planted in a hot, moist stove in a raised border of rich well-drained loamy soil, below which there are several hot-water pipes. The stems are trained on wires close to the roof of the house, which is somewhat flat and faces due south. During bright sunshine the house is shaded with an ordinary canvas blind. This plant has been in this position for about 10 years, and all sorts of experiments have been made to induce it to flower; but although it has always grown most vigorously, it has never shown any signs of flowering before this year. Plants tried in the large palm house and other tropical houses, including the succulent house, were not so successful. If planted in a suitable position in a tropical garden, this plant would soon cover an enormous area. We intend to put in cuttings of the branches which are now in flower, in the expectation that they will respond more readily to treatment for flowers than has been the case hitherto. It would be interesting to hear if the plants in Trinidad and Ceylon have flowered regularly since they first yielded. Probably the exceptional amount of bright sun-