

## 41874 to 41877—Continued.

41876. *PAEDERIA FOETIDA* L. Rubiaceæ.

A glabrous pink-flowered vine, the leaves of which when crushed give off a strong odor of hydrogen bisulphid. It has become a troublesome weed among the bamboos at the Brooksville (Fla.) Field Station.

41877. *VITIS DAVIDII* Foex. Vitaceæ.

Grape.

"A luxuriant, deciduous climber, the young shoots not downy, but covered with spiny, gland-tipped, somewhat hooked bristles, which give them a very rough appearance. Leaves heart shaped, slender pointed, toothed; 4 to 10 inches long, shining dark green and smooth above; bluish or greyish green beneath. Fruit said to be about two-thirds inch in diameter, black, and of a pleasant flavor. Native of central China; introduced by Wilson for Messrs. Veitch in 1900, but if, as I believe, the vine called *Spinovitis davidii* is the same, it has been cultivated in France and in England since about 1885." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 667, under V. armata.*)

## 41878 and 41879.

From Chungking, China. Presented by Mr. E. Widler. Received February 5, 1916.

41878. *BOEHMERIA NIVEA* (L.) Gaud. Urticaceæ.

Ramie.

"*Ch'u ma*. This plant has a stem 5 to 6 feet high and 1 inch in circumference; the long-stalked leaves are ovate in shape with serrate margin; the under surface is covered with a downy substance and has a silvery appearance. The plant matures in about four months and bears in August. China grass is obtained from the stems of *Boehmeria nivea* and ramie fiber, or rhea, from the stems of a variety of this plant. Both plants, which belong to the stinging-nettle family, have somewhat the habit of the gigantic stinging nettle, but *B. nivea* flourishes in temperate countries and is characterized by the white undersurface of its leaves, while, on the other hand, *B. nivea* var. *tenacissima* requires a more or less tropical climate for its best development and has the under surface of its leaves green. The term *ramie*, however, is applied in commerce to the product of both plants. The local market value for a sample of fiber is 300 cash per cattie. It is used principally for rope, cloth, and famous grass cloth." (*Widler.*)

"I think that according to the best usage at the present time the plant *Boehmeria nivea* may be called *ramie*. The bark, with the fiber stripped from the ramie plant and dried, without much cleaning, is designated *ramie ribbon*; the cleaned fiber, as it is commonly prepared in China by scraping the bark, is called *China grass*; and the fiber prepared from this grass by degumming and combing is called *ramie flasse*. The long fiber combed out is known as *ramie tops*, and the short tangled fiber combed out in preparing the tops is *ramie noils*." (*L. H. Dewey.*)

41879. *CROTON TIGLIUM* L. Euphorbiaceæ.

Croton-oil plant.

"*Pa tou*. The first Chinese character composing this name refers to a country which was included within the boundaries of the present eastern Szechwan. It is a few days' journey from Chungking, on a small river. The second character was used because of the resemblance to the soy bean. This plant grows to a height of about 30 feet, 3 feet in circumference. It bears red and white flowers. It takes from five to eight years to grow, and it does best in a temperate climate. In spring