

43425 to 43440—Continued.

jam. In Guatemala it is most commonly eaten as a fresh fruit or made into a sweet preserve. While, naturally enough, it can not be claimed that this cherry is equal to any of the excellent cultivated varieties of the North, which have been produced by generations of selection and vegetative propagation, it must be said in all fairness that it is a fruit of remarkably good quality for one which has never had the benefit of intelligent cultivation and has been propagated only by seed. When put into the hands of intelligent horticulturists in a region suited to its cultivation and subjected to a few generations of selection it should become a fruit worthy of taking rank alongside its relatives of northern orchards."

For an illustration of this wild cherry, see Plate I.

43426. *ANNONA PURPUREA* Moc. and Sessé. Annonaceæ. **Soncoya**

"(No. 28a. Seeds procured at Escuintla, Guatemala, September 22, 1916.)

"The *soncoya* (here called *soncuaya*, *suncuya*, or rarely *chincuya*) is a remarkable species of *Annona* which appears to be fairly common in the foothills of the western slope of Guatemala. Fruits and trees were seen from Escuintla to Ayutla, on the Mexican frontier, the elevation varying from 200 to 1,200 feet. The *soncoya* is an immense fruit, often larger than a child's head, and covered with short conical protuberances. It is almost perfectly spherical in form, measures about 6 inches in length, and weighs 3 pounds or more. In color it is a light russet brown, sometimes greenish; the protuberances are about one-fourth of an inch long, corky and sharply pointed. The rind also is corky, about one-fourth of an inch thick, rather pliable, granular, and easily broken. The flesh is pale orange, cottony in texture, rather juicy and with an aroma and flavor almost identical with that of the North American papaw (*Asimina triloba*). The seeds are very numerous, brown, shaped like those of the cherimoya, but much larger, being fully 1 inch long.

"The tree is grown in dooryards and is said also to occur wild in the forests, but up to the present I have only seen it in cultivation. It grows to about the same size as the cherimoya and is of the same form, but the foliage is much larger and makes the tree a striking object in gardens. The fruit is common in markets and fruit stalls and seems to be generally used by the Indians, though an overindulgence in it is said to superinduce *paludismo*, or malarial fever.

"The tree grows on deep loamy, usually moist soils. It probably is suited only to regions with a very warm climate. If it succeeds at all in Florida it will probably be only in the extreme southern end of the State.

"The *soncoya*, which is unknown in cultivation outside of Central America, is a fruit of much better quality than most of the wild *Annonas*. It seems to be especially worthy of attention because of its thick outer rind, which makes it easier to handle than the cherimoya."

43427. *SICANA ODORIFERA* (Vell.) Naud. Cucurbitaceæ. **Melocoton**

"(No. 29a. Mazatenango, Guatemala, September 23, 1916.) A peculiar melon called here *melocoton* (peach). It is not commonly cultivated and is rarely seen in the market. The fruit is cylindrical, a foot in length about 4 inches in diameter, with a smooth surface shining black in color. On cutting it in halves lengthwise one finds a narrow zone of flesh next the skin and the rest of the space occupied principally by seeds, which resemble considerably those of the watermelon. The flavor is rather