

44994 to 44999—Continued.

between Salama and Santo Tomas. It grows in dry, rocky places and also along the banks of streams, reaching a height of about 3 feet under the former conditions and 6 feet under the latter. The foliage is coarsely pinnate, with oval, glaucous leaflets. The flowers, which are produced in clusters of considerable size, are of a deep lilac and quite attractive. In form they resemble the flowers of the common pea, but are smaller, being about half an inch broad. The shrub seems well worthy of trial in California and Florida."

44998. *TABEBUIA PENTAPHYLLA* (L.) Hemsl. Bignoniaceae.

"(No. 154a. July 9, 1917.) *Matiliscuate*. Seeds of a handsome flowering tree found in north-central Guatemala, especially in the Valley of Salama, and commonly growing near small streams. I have seen it at altitudes of 2,000 to 3,500 feet. The tree is about 35 feet high at maturity, with a spreading crown, deciduous during the latter part of the dry season (January to March), and producing large clusters of pink flowers which make the tree a mass of color visible for some distance. Its flowering season is from January to March, and the seeds, which are produced in long, slender pods, ripen in May and June.

"As an ornamental tree for cultivation in southern Florida and possibly also in California the *matiliscuate* seems well worthy of trial. Its only defect is its habit of dropping its leaves during the dry months of the year. If it flowers in the same months in Florida as it does in Guatemala, however, it should be a valuable addition to the flowering trees of that region. It thrives on heavy but rocky land and does not seem to require a large amount of water."

44999. *PERSEA SCHIEDEANA* Nees. Lauraceae.

Coyó.

"(No. 161. Bud wood from the sitio of Don David Pierri, San Cristobal, Vera Paz, July 3, 1917.)

"The *coyó*, *chucte*, *shucte*, or, as it is sometimes called, *chaucte*, is a species of *Persea* which is undoubtedly indigenous in this region. It is reported also from Zacapa and Chiquimula, but I have seen it only here up to the present. The tree grows on the banks of streams, where the soil is moist and rich. The hills in this region are dry, rocky, and covered with a scanty vegetation of cacti, *Pereskia*, thorny leguminous shrubs and small trees, and a few other plants. As well as being indigenous in this region, the *chucte* must be classed as a cultivated fruit tree, since it is occasionally, but not often, planted in gardens.

"At the present time the *chucte* is neither in flower nor in fruit. It is said to bloom in February and to ripen its fruit in May and June, continuing until August. One of the two trees which I have seen (this one standing on the north bank of the Rio Motagua a short distance above El Rancho) was about 60 feet in height. The other one was not more than 45 feet high. The general appearance of the tree, its habit of growth, size, and character of bark and foliage are remarkably suggestive of an avocado of the West Indian type, but on closer examination it is seen that the leaves are larger than is common with the avocado, the venation is impressed on the upper surface of the leaf, and, most conspicuous of all, the ends of the young branchlets and the petioles are covered with a ferruginous tomentum. The foliage is said to fall just before the tree comes into bloom, the flowers making their appearance along with the new leaves.