

50597 to 50607—Continued.

50602. MAXIMILIANEA VITIFOLIA (Willd.) Krug and Urb. Cochlospermaceæ.
(*Cochlospermum hibiscoides* Kunth.)

"Silk cotton, seed and lint from Summit, Canal Zone."

"A common shrub or small tree of eastern and central Guatemala from the highlands at about 4,000 feet down to a level of 1,000 feet or perhaps lower. The plant occasionally reaches a height of 35 feet, is always stiff, rather sparsely branched, and bears stout branchlets which usually carry leaves only toward their tips. The plant is leafless from December or January to May in most sections, and at this period it produces at the end of the branchlets numerous large yellow flowers, single, brilliant in color, with a deep-orange center. They are followed by oval seed pods as large as a hen's egg." (*Wilson Popenoe.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 44821.

50603. MIMOSA sp. Mimosaceæ.

"*Espino*, from Chobo, Las Guayas, Ecuador, a plant which may become a pest in pastures, but is good for hedges."

50604. PRUNUS SEROTINA Ehrh. Amygdalaceæ.

Capulin.

"*Capulin*, from Ambato, Ecuador."

"The wild cherry, found both wild and cultivated in the mountains of Guatemala, from elevations of about 4,000 feet up to 9,000 feet or perhaps higher. As commonly seen, the tree is erect, often somewhat slender, reaching a height of about 30 feet, the trunk stout and occasionally as much as 3 feet thick, and the bark rough and grayish. The young branchlets are dotted with grayish lenticels. The leaves, which are borne upon slender petioles three-fourths of an inch long, are commonly $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth at the widest point, oblong-lanceolate in outline, with a long, slender tip. The upper surface is dull green, the lower surface glaucous, and the margin is rather finely serrate. The flowers, which are produced from January to May, are white, about three-eighths of an inch wide, and very numerous on slender racemes 2 to 4 inches in length. As many as 15 or 20 fruits sometimes develop on a single raceme, but many drop off before reaching maturity, with the result that two to five ripe fruits are commonly found on each raceme. The season of ripening in Guatemala is from May to September. The ripe fruits, which are slightly oblate in form and up to three-fourths of an inch in diameter, separate readily from the short fruitstalks, leaving the green 5-toothed calyxes adhering to the latter. In color the fruit is deep glossy maroon-purple. The skin is thin and tender, but so firm that the fruit is not easily injured by handling. The flesh is pale green, meaty, but full of juice. The flavor is sweet, suggestive of the Bigarreau type of cherry, with a trace of bitterness in the skin. The stone is a trifle large in comparison to the size of the fruit.

"Pleasant to eat out of hand, this cherry can also be eaten in various other ways—stewed or made into preserves or jams. In Guatemala it is most commonly eaten out of hand and as a sweet preserve.

"This species does not appear to be adapted to hot tropical seacoasts, but it seems to be distinctly subtropical in character. It may succeed in moist subtropical regions, such as Florida, where other types of cherries do not thrive." (*Wilson Popenoe.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 44885.

50605. PSIDIUM GUAJAVA L. Myrtaceæ.

Guava.

"Seeds from the largest fruit of this kind I have ever seen; it measured a little over 3 inches in diameter."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 48575.