

## 51127 to 51141.

From Buitenzorg, Java. Seeds presented by Dr. I. Boldingh, acting head of the Division of Plant Breeding, Java Department of Agriculture. Received August 20, 1920.

51127. *ARECA CATECHU* L. *Phœnicaceæ*. **Betel-nut palm.**

Variety *alba*. The species is one of the most important and valuable palms and is widely distributed throughout the East; it forms an erect, slender stem, bearing at its summit a crown of graceful leaves, among which hang great clusters of egg-shaped fruits, each one formed when ripe of a thick fibrous pericarp, inclosing one seed about the size and shape of an ordinary nutmeg. Native to Cochin China and the Malay Archipelago; it does not succeed at any distance from the sea nor at an altitude above 3,000 feet. The average yield of a betel-nut palm is estimated at 300 fruits. The chief use of the seed is as an ingredient in the preparation of pan for chewing, a universal practice among all classes. The seed or nut is found in all the bazaars either whole, sliced, or cut into small pieces, the chewing of which is said to stimulate digestion and to prevent dysentery. In the preparation of pan use is made of lime, catechu, cardamoms, cloves, and other ingredients. Areca nuts are used in medicine because of their astringent properties, and when reduced to charcoal and finely powdered they are also used as a dentifrice. (Adapted from *The Garden*, vol. 64, p. 282.)

51128. *CARYOTA MITIS* LOUR. *Phœnicaceæ*. **Palm.**

A palm, 15 to 25 feet in height, with a low, stoloniferous stem and scurfily villous petioles, leaf sheaths, and spathes; the few, very large, broad, bipinnatisect leaves are 4 to 9 feet long. The bluish black fruits are half an inch in diameter. Native to Mauritius. (Adapted from *Baker, Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles*, p. 423.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 24616.

51129. *DAMMARA ALBA* Rumph. *Pinaceæ*.

(*Agathis loranthifolia* Salisb.)

A splendid tree, up to 100 feet high, with a stem 8 feet in diameter, straight and branchless for two-thirds of its length. It is of great importance on account of its yield of the transparent dammar resin, extensively used for varnish. Native to the Indian Archipelago and mainland, extending to the Philippine Islands. (Adapted from *Mueller, Select Extra-Tropical Plants*, p. 161.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 34071.

51130. *DRYMOPHLOEUS* sp. *Phœnicaceæ*. **Palm.**

Received as *Actinophloeus macarthurii*, for which a place of publication has not been found.

51131. *LATANIA COMMERSONII* Gmel. *Phœnicaceæ*. **Palm.**

A dioecious palm 40 feet high, native to Mauritius, with dark-green fan-shaped leaves, 3 feet long, paler beneath, the blade deeply lacinate; the veins and margins of the lanceolate segments are tinged with red. The petioles, 4 to 6 feet long, are slightly tomentose with smooth margins, spiny in young plants. The globose drupes are 1½ inches in diameter. (Adapted from *Baker, Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles*, p. 381.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 45960.