

John McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, has contributed a new ornamental Chilean shrub with small edible fruits possessing a raspberry flavor, *Eugenia luma* (No. 53591).

Benito Carrasco has sent in a plant for covering bare arid soils, which produces ivory-white berries with a pineapple flavor, *Salpichroa rhomboidea* (No. 53608).

Friends of P. H. Rolfs will watch with interest the growth of two new grasses from Minas Geraes, Brazil (*Axonopus* sp., No. 52917, and *Brachiaria plantaginea*, No. 52918); the former, he finds, covers the ground there more densely than does the best St. Augustine grass, being very persistent and crowding out everything else.

Before he was wounded and obliged to return to America, the noted naturalist, George K. Cherie, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, sent in some seeds of a remarkable blackberry (*Rubus* sp., No. 53545) which he discovered on the Zamora River in Ecuador at an altitude of 5,500 feet. Of it he remarks, "I do not believe I have ever seen such tremendous clusters of berries. The latter are large and to me very fine flavored."

P. J. Wester, to whom we are indebted for many Philippine plants, presents in this inventory a new and practically seedless variety of the mabolo, a tropical persimmon (*Diospyros discolor*, No. 53555), which is sweeter, more juicy, and of better flavor than the ordinary sort and ought to be distributed throughout the Tropics.

Doctor Proschowsky, of Nice, France, whom few correspondents have equaled in generosity, has added to his gifts the wild apple from the high plateau of Indo China (*Malus laosensis*, No. 52900). Since this grows into a large tree and produces fruit similar in shape, color, and flavor to certain cider pears of Normandy, but grows wild in the dense forests of Indo China; it may possibly prove valuable either as a stock or in the creation of an apple which can be grown in southern latitudes. The wild apple (*Malus doumeri*, No. 53008), which Mr. Miéville, of the Agricultural Station at Chieng Khuang, sent in from Laos, Indo China, may prove similarly useful.

P. C. Standley, of the National Museum, has recently described a tropical persimmon (*Diospyros konzattii*, No. 53176), which produces fruit superior, in his opinion, to that of *D. ebenaster*, and resembles somewhat the delicious sapidilla. It may prove suitable for cultivation in parts of Florida, Hawaii, and Porto Rico.

The spiny palms of the genus *Acrocomia* have proved to be very rapid growers in southern Florida, some of them equaling the coconut in this respect when planted on pinelands. In view of its ability to withstand severe drought, its hardiness, and the value of its kernels, the macauba palm (*Acrocomia sclerocarpa*, No. 53487), which Thomas R. Gwynn has sent in from Paraguay, would appear to be a most desirable introduction.

The fundi grass of Nigeria (*Digitaria exilis*, No. 53486) Professor Piper reports has proved remarkably promising for forage in the Southern States.

The apricot of Harput, Syria (No. 52914), which grows to be as large as a peach and possesses a remarkable flavor, deserves to be tried in California.