

53896 to 53908—Continued.**53906. RUMEX MARITIMUS L. Polygonaceæ.**

An annual common in marshes in Assam, Bengal, and the plains of northern India. In the Punjab Himalayas it is found in similar localities up to 12,000 feet. It is distributed to Europe, Asia, North Africa, and North and South America. The plant has cooling properties and is often eaten by natives as a potherb especially in the warm weather. The leaves are used medicinally. (*Vol. 6, pt. 1, p. 591.*)

53907. RUMEX VESICARIUS L. Polygonaceæ.

An annual 6 to 12 inches high, native to the western Punjab, the Salt Range, and the Transindus Hills and cultivated throughout India as a vegetable; it is eaten either raw or cooked. It is usually grown in patches near a well and may be procured almost all the year round. The entire plant is used medicinally. (*Vol. 6, pt. 1, p. 592.*)

53908. TRICHOSANTHES ANGUINA L. Cucurbitaceæ.

An annual creeper which probably was originally wild in India or the Indian Archipelago. It is cultivated throughout India as a rainy season crop for its long cucumberlike fruits, which are cooked and eaten as a vegetable, either boiled or in curries. When young it is prettily striped with white and green; when ripe it varies in length from 1 to 3 feet and is of a brilliant orange color. If gathered when very young, less than 4 inches in length, and cut into thin strips, it may be cooked in the same way as French beans and forms a very fair substitute for that vegetable. (*Vol. 6, pt. 4, p. 81.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 51824.

53909. DENDROCALAMUS HAMILTONI Nees and Arn. Poaceæ.**Bamboo.**

From Dehra Dun, India. Seeds presented by R. S. Hole, forest botanist, Forest Research Institute and College. Received July 29, 1921.

The common bamboo of the eastern Himalayas with large stems 3 to 6 inches in diameter, rather hollow and not always straight, but used for every variety of purpose. This bamboo grows gregariously on hillsides up to 3,000 feet, and the stems are 40 to 60 feet high. They often grow low and tangled instead of straight; the bamboo may be recognized by this characteristic and by the very thick shoots which grow out at the nodes. The young shoots are eaten. (Adapted from *Gamble, A Manual of Indian Timbers, p. 430.*)

A forest growth of this edible bamboo is shown in Plate I.

For previous introduction see S. P. I. No. 48266.

53910 to 53912.

From Nice, France. Seeds presented by Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky, Jardin d'Acclimatation. Received July 19, 1921. Quoted notes by Doctor Proschowsky.

53910. CENTAUREA CANARIENSIS Willd. Asteraceæ.

"A rather large bush which is very drought resistant. When covered with its large purple flowers it is rather ornamental."

Native to the island of Teneriffe, Canary Islands.

53911. CENTAUREA RAGUSINA L. Asteraceæ.

"An exceedingly ornamental bushy Dalmatian plant with yellow flower heads and white silky-tomentose foliage, sometimes nearly 6½ feet across, which grows on almost perpendicular rocks and on walls of masonry where it is planted or naturalized, since it is not wild here."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 48027.