

55417. PRUNUS MAJESTICA Koehne. Amygdalaceæ. **Cherry.**

From Yunnan, China. Seeds collected by J. F. Rock, Agricultural Explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture. Received May 16, 1922.

"(No. 2884. Between Puerhfu and Mohei, Yunnan. March 18, 1922.) A tree 25 to 30 feet in height with ascending branches, growing on exposed dry ridges 6,000 feet or more in altitude. The cherries, which are borne in March, are oblong to ovoid, bright red, with scanty but juicy bitter flesh. The tree grows in company with *Pyrus yunnanensis*, *P. pashia*, *Larix* sp., and several other species of *Prunus* and *Malus* which are now in flower." (Rock.)

55418. PHASEOLUS SEMIERECTUS L. Fabaceæ.

From Gatun, Canal Zone. Seeds presented by J. A. Close. Received May 18, 1922.

"The long narrow pods are of a leguminous plant which I am trying out as a cover crop. I first noticed the dark-purple flowers, about the size and shape of sweet peas, along the railroad track at Gatun, but the plant did not grow well in the gravel. When planted in heavy clay mixed with charcoal, however, it developed wonderfully, and the vines formed a dense mat which allowed no other vegetation to grow under or through it. The plants grew about 3 feet high, and in the last month of the dry season the ground was covered with the decaying leaves. New plants have appeared a hundred feet from the old planting." (Close.)

55419 to 55423. ACACIA spp. Mimosaceæ.

From Khartum, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Seeds presented by E. E. Massey, Government botanist, Sudan Government Department of Agriculture, through Maj. R. G. Archibald, Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories. Received May 15, 1922.

Introduced for experimental planting in the southwestern United States in connection with gum-arabic production.

55419. ACACIA ALBIDA Delile.

A low, much-branched tree with whitish bark, axillary spikes of white flowers, and flat, oblong pods. It is a native of tropical Africa and yields a gum similar to gum arabic. The leaves are eaten by goats, and the bark is used in curing leather. (Adapted from *Oliver, Flora of Tropical Africa*, vol. 2, p. 339, 1871, and *Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, Additional Series IX*, pt. 2, p. 288.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 44922.

55420. ACACIA CATECHU (L. f.) Willd.

A moderate-sized tree with dark-brown, much-cracked bark, very finely pinnate leaves, spikes of white or pale-yellow flowers, and narrow dark-brown pods. It is found in most parts of India and Burma, sometimes becoming over 70 feet tall with a circumference of 8 or 9 feet. It yields a pale-yellow gum, with tears often an inch in diameter, which is a strong mucilage and a better substitute for gum arabic than the gum of *Acacia arabica*. This species is also the source of cutch, the resinous extract obtained by boiling down a decoction obtained from chips of the heartwood; from this extract a dull-red dye may be obtained.

The sapwood is yellowish white, and the heartwood, which is extremely hard, is either light or dark red. The wood is very durable, takes a fine polish, and is not attacked by white ants or shipworms. (Adapted from *Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India*, vol. 1, p. 27.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 50711.

55421. ACACIA NUBICA Benth.

An umbrella-shaped shrub 4 to 5 feet high, with dark greenish bark, small leaflets, and rather large heads of fragrant yellowish flowers. It is native to Abyssinia and the western coast of Arabia. (Adapted from *Linnaea*, vol. 35, p. 337.)