

55504. TELFAIRIA PEDATA (J. E. Smith) Hook. Cucurbitaceæ.
Koume vine.

From Nairobi, Kenia, Africa. Seeds presented by A. Holm, director, Department of Agriculture. Received June 6, 1922.

"A perennial climber, indigenous to eastern Africa, which grows very luxuriantly in this colony. The kernels of the seeds are used by the natives both as a foodstuff and as a source of edible oil.

"The following analysis of the seeds has been published by Gilbert (see Sadebeck, Die Kulturgewächse der Deutschen Kolonien und Ihre Erzeugnisse, Jena, 1899, p. 245) :

	Per cent.
Moisture	6.54
Ash	2.04
Oil	36.02
Protein	19.63
Woody fiber	7.30
Nitrogen-free extractive matter	28.45

"These seeds are flat, irregularly circular in shape, and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The single seeds average 4.9 grams in weight.

"The Imperial Institute of London has reported as follows:

"The seeds consist approximately of fibrous husk 11 per cent, shell 38 per cent, and kernel 51 per cent."

"The kernel yields 56.9 per cent of slightly reddish brown oil.

"The oil from seeds from Zanzibar gave the following analysis:

Specific gravity at 15° C.....	0.919
Acid value	2.6
Saponification	196
Iodin value	89

"This is a nondrying oil and has a pleasant, slightly sweet taste. It would be suitable for soap manufacture and also as an edible oil. The seed is used by Europeans in this colony both as a nut and as a flavoring for cakes.

"The reason that these seeds are not more used is due to the hardness of the shell and the difficulty of removing it, as well as to the intensely bitter, green skin which separates the kernel from the shell. If a method could be found of removing the tough fibrous husks and this bitter skin, it would appear that the seed would be of considerable commercial value, both for its edible oil and for the manufacture of soap, as well as for the resultant oil cake, which would probably make a good cattle feed. It would be impossible, however, to use the cake after pressing the unhusked seeds, on account of the skin mentioned above.

"A German syndicate of soap and candle manufacturers at Mannheim has investigated the possibilities of these seeds, but expressed the opinion that it would be inadvisable to place consignments of the seeds on the European market until a machine had been invented for rapidly and cheaply shelling them.

"These seeds grow very rapidly in any place which is not touched by frost. The pod containing the seeds is about a foot in diameter when ripe. The vine climbs over neighboring trees and requires no care." (S. W. Eels, *American consul, Nairobi, Kenia.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 52450.

55505 to 55508. RUBUS spp. Rosaceæ. **Raspberry.**

From Slough, England. Plants purchased from Charles Turner, The Royal Nurseries. Received June 2, 1922.

55505. RUBUS sp.

Carter's Prolific. A moderately vigorous variety with spiny canes about 3 feet high and very small leaves; it is a good cropper, and the berries are medium sized, deep red, and nearly round, firm, and of good flavor. (Adapted from *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, vol. 47, p. 47.*)

55506. RUBUS sp.

"Northumberland Fillbasket. Large, deep-red fruits of good flavor." (*Dicksons's 1921-22 Catalogue.*)