

55756 to 55761—Continued.

Likiang Snow Range. The foliage is dark green, and the orange-red, oval-pointed, sour fruits are much sought after by birds and hence difficult to collect."

55759. *PRUNUS* sp.

Plum.

"(Szemao. July, 1922.) A plum tree of fine shape, 40 to 50 feet in height, growing in the mountains at an altitude of 5,000 feet or more. The small yellow fruits, about the size of an olive, are not very sour; the flesh is scanty but quite tasty."

55760. *PRUNUS* sp.

Plum.

"(Szemao. July, 1922.) A plum tree growing in the mountains at an altitude of 5,000 feet."

55761. *PRUNUS* sp.

Plum.

"(Szemao. July, 1922.) A plum tree, 30 to 35 feet in height, growing in the mountains at an altitude of 5,000 feet or more. The fruit, somewhat larger than an olive, is yellow, hard, and sour. Owing to its freedom from disease and prolific bearing, this species, as well as the two preceding ones, should be suitable for stocks."

55762. *GARCINIA MANGOSTANA* L. Clusiaceæ. Mangosteen.

From Paris, France. Seeds purchased from Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. Received September 6, 1922.

For previous introduction and description, see S. P. I. No. 55728.

55763. *ACANTHOSICYOS HORRIDA* Welw. Cucurbitaceæ.

From Louws Creek, Eastern Transvaal, Union of South Africa. Seeds presented by E. B. Edwards. Received September 14, 1922.

"*Narras*. A remarkable cucurbitaceous plant which grows on the dunes of the Namib, where subterranean waters exist. The plant subsists even when this water is at great depths. It forms thorny thickets on the sand hills of Southwest Africa and is adapted to a hot, dry climate, with little or no rainfall. The fruit is the size of an ostrich egg. Both the pulp and seeds are used as food by the natives. The fruits are produced in abundance, and for about four months of the year the more primitive Hottentots are said to survive with practically no other source of food or water. The fruits are eaten and water is obtained from them. The seeds when ripe are plump, about the size of watermelon seeds.

"The plant is one which should be of great value to our Indians of the Southwest if once established on the sand dunes of Arizona and southern California. It is doubtful whether any plant can be obtained which seems offhand to give greater promise in that region than does this cucurbit." (*H. L. Shantz*.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 55486.

55764 and 55765. *PRUNUS SEROTINA* Ehrh. Amygdalaceæ. Capulin.

From the city of Guatemala, Guatemala. Seeds presented by Sr. Jorge Garcia Salas, Director General of Agriculture. Received August 17, 1922.

"In Guatemala this tree is found throughout the highlands generally, sometimes as a semicultivated plant, sometimes as a wild species, or at least having the appearance of one. Its zone of cultivation lies between 4,000 and 9,000 feet. The Kiche Indians who live near Quezaltenango know the fruit as 'tup' and distinguish two varieties—the 'ek-i-tup' (red tup) and the 'sak-i-tup' (white tup), the latter having fruits of much lighter color than the former. The presence of a name for this fruit in the Kiche language argues an ancient cultivation in the Guatemalan highlands.