

3489. DURANTA PLUMIERI.

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

Labeled *D. ellisii*, a white form of the common *Duranta plumieri*. This is the only white-flowered form in the collection in the Palermo Garden.

3490. ARGANIA SIDEROXYLON.

From Morocco, Africa. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

"A spiny, small-leaved tree from Morocco belonging to the *Sapotaceae*. It is a much-branched evergreen tree, attaining a height of from 20 to 30 feet. The fruits, the size of an olive, are used for feeding stock. From the small kernels, after roasting and grinding, an oil is extracted of an irritating and harsh taste, but which is, nevertheless, used in Morocco for food, and also for light. It makes good soap. The tree will grow in the driest soil, and bears in 4 years. It is said not to be in full bearing, however, until 15 years old. It replaces the olive to a considerable extent in the southwestern part of Morocco, where it is said to form forests. The seeds are known as 'grains d'argans.' This plant should be tested in the arid regions of the Southwest." (*Swingle*.) Distributed.

3491. ASPARAGUS ACUTIFOLIUS.

From Palermo, Sicily. Received through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

A wild asparagus, native in the Mediterranean region. It is edible, but not commonly used. (See No. 3285, inventory No. 7.) Distributed.

3492. LUPINUS DIGITATUS.**Hairy lupin.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

The *Lupinus hirsutus* of Linnaeus. "Annual; reddish-hairy; flowers blue; seeds somewhat flattened, grayish-brown, smooth. Native of the northern shores of the Mediterranean from Spain to Asia Minor. Cultivated extensively in Germany as an ornamental plant. It has also been tried as forage, and it is said that cattle prefer both the green parts and the seeds to either the small blue or the yellow lupin. It has a disadvantage in that it does not flower till July (in Germany), and the seeds ripen late. The pods open too easily, making it difficult to collect the seed. It requires a good soil, and apparently will not thrive on the poor sandy soils on which the yellow lupin does so well." (*J. Burt Davy*.)

3493. CITRUS AURANTIUM.**Orange.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

Seeds of the common orange of Sicily. Distributed.

3494. FICUS MACROPHYLLA.**Moreton Bay fig.**

From Palermo, Sicily. Donated by Professor Borzi, director of the Botanic Garden of Palermo, through Mr. W. T. Swingle, May, 1899.

"This species, a native of northern New South Wales and Queensland, Australia, is one of the largest and most rapidly growing figs that have been tested in Algeria. It is said by Rivière to be the most vigorous, to present the finest developments of aerial roots, and to yield the most latex of any that have been tried in the Jardin d'Essai, at Algiers. Maiden says of this species that the milky sap or latex of this tree yields a very fine caoutchouc. Girard finds the latex of the Algerian tree to contain 37 per cent of rubber, but of a very inferior quality, being resinous, dry, and brittle. However, *Ficus elastica*, considered by Van Rombourgh to be the best rubber tree for culture in Java, is said by Rivière to produce gum of equally inferior quality at Algiers. At any rate, *Ficus macrophylla* is worth testing in hot climates, where it may yield rubber of a better quality than at Algiers. One of the most valuable properties of *Ficus macrophylla*, according to Rivière, is the fact that large branches,