

six sepals in two series; corolla rotate with linear appendages; stamens six; six-celled superior ovary; berry with a single seed by abortion. The wood is good for cabinet-making, joinery, and turning. The fruit, which is shaped like an olive, is eaten, but its flavor is not very agreeable. The odorous flowers, which possess astringent and tonic properties, serve for the preparation of a perfume; the red, woody, fibrous bark is astringent, and is used as a febrifuge and a tonic; a decoction is used as a gargle for salivation. The fruits and seeds furnish an oil for burning. The root is astringent." (Lanessan, *Les Plantes Utiles des Colonies Francaises.*)

*Osterdamia tenuifolia* (Trin.) Kuntze. (Poaceae.) 41509. Mascarene grass from the Bonine Islands. Presented by Mr. J. B. Thompson, Guam Agricultural Experiment Station. "This grass is used for lawn purposes in Japan and is said to succeed well about Yokohama. It was originally described from the Mascarene Islands. It has been tested in a preliminary way in California, at Biloxi, Mississippi, and at Miami, Florida. The grass makes a very beautiful dark green turf, the leaves being short, never more than an inch or two long, much resembling the turf of red fescue. Stout rootstocks are produced in abundance and these have a tendency to elevate the turf, a defect which can be remedied by proper rolling. The grass has considerable promise for fine turf and for golf purposes in the South." (C. V. Piper.)

*Phoenix farinifera* Roxburgh. (Phoenicaceae.) 41507. Seeds of a palm from Matania El Saff, Egypt. Presented by Mr. Alfred Bircher, Middle-Egypt Botanic Station. Habitat, India and South China. A dwarf species, having a stem two feet high, completely enveloped by the leaf sheaths; fronds six feet long, unarmed, pinnate, reclinate, with long, awl-shaped, plicate leaflets; flowers dioecious; spathe poly-valved; spadix erect; fruit a drupe, oval, 1 cm. in length, fleshy, black, hard; stone single, oblong, horny. In Cochin-China the plant goes under the name of Cay-cho-la. The trunk, stripped of its leaves, contains a quantity of certain starch which the poor use in case of need. This palm stands the climate of the south of France without protection. It is adapted to sandy and otherwise dry and barren land, but prefers the vicinity of the sea. (Adapted from von Mueller, *Select Extra-Tropical Plants*, p. 373; and de Lanessan, *Les Plantes Utiles des Colonies Francaises*, p. 784.)

*Polygonum* sp. (Polygonaceae.) 41527. Seeds from Bhutan, India. Collected by R. E. Cooper. Presented by Bees Limited, Liverpool, England, at the request of Mr. A. K.