

Viroa surinamensis (Rol.) (Myristicaceae.) 43424.
Seeds of *Ucuuba* from Para, Brazil. Presented by Mr. George H. Pickerell, American Consul. "Myristicaceae are more important as timbers than the Annonaceae, in spite of being represented by a much smaller number of species, especially the two commonest species of the Amazon, *ucuuba branca* (*Virola surinamensis* Warb.) and *ucuuba vermelha* (*Virola sebifera* Aubl.) The first, especially, is one of the most useful trees of the Amazon region, not only for its easily worked wood, moderately hard, but also for its seeds, which furnish a kind of vegetable wax rich in stearin. While the *ucuuba branca* is found principally in the varzeas (probably meaning low, swampy valleys) it is not excluded from the terra firma (meaning dry ground); the *ucuuba vermelha*, which is distinguished by its larger leaves and smaller fruits, is a tree of the dry land and is found principally in the forests. Both these species have, especially when young, a characteristic manner of growth, with slender whorled branches furnished with regularly distichous leaves. The regularity of its branching reminds one of the European conifers. Without doubt other Amazonian species of *Virola* and probably also some species of *Iryanthera* furnish wood which could be utilized, but I have no positive knowledge in regard to this." (J. Huber, *Mattas e Madeiras Amazonicas*, Boletim de Museu Goeldi, vol. 6, p. 174, 1910.) The wood of this Brazilian tree is used for interior work and general carpentry. The bark is medicinal and the fruits contain 55 per cent of myristin, a waxy substance of the consistency of beef tallow, used in the trade for candles and soap. (Adapted from Correa, *Flora do Brazil*, pp. 70, 71.)