

NO. 16.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

April 28 to May 19, 1909.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

ACTINIDIA ARGUTA. 25195. From Taracal, Unsan, Korea. Presented by Mr. J. D. Hubbard. Received April 1. "Seeds of the Korean 'Tara' or wild fig. In its wild state here the Tara plant is a wonderfully tough and wiry vine that will climb up trees sometimes to a height of 30 feet. The fruit has a green skin and is the size of a date when ripe. The flavor is different from any fruit I ever tasted and I came from California, the land of fruit. I do not think the vines bear the first year, but after that profusely." (Hubbard.) For propagation; plants available later.

ANDROPOGON SORGHUM. 24956-997. A collection of 42 kinds of milos (24956-964), dwarf milos (24965-970), blackhull kafir (24971-984), red kafir (24985-989), brown kowliang (24990-995) and white durra (24995-997), grown on Government Experiment Farm at Amarillo, Texas, by Mr. John F. Ross season of 1908. Received March 1909. Improved by selection for dwarf stature, erect heads, productiveness and other desirable characteristics by A. H. Leidigh and Carleton R. Ball.

CYPHOMANDRA BETACEA. 25515. Seed of tree tomato from Kingston, Jamaica. Presented by Mr. W. Harris. Received May 13. "This is a species of South American shrub from the mountainous regions of Brazil adjacent to Peru, cultivated occasionally for the egg-shaped, reddish-brown faintly-striped fruits. Fruits about two inches long, on slender stalks, acid and tomato-like in flavor; agreeable to those who like tomatoes."

GERBERA JAMESONI. 25513. Seed of Barberton daisy from Capetown, South Africa. Presented by H. J. Chalwin. Received May 1. "This has a beautiful flower, orange red in color." (Chalwin.)

J. G. Saurchild

GLYCINE HISPIDA. 25468. From Madison, Wisconsin. Purchased from L. L. Olds Seed Co. Received May 8. Wisconsin Black. "This variety has proven to be one of the earliest growing in Wisconsin, but gives a relatively poor yield of seed and forage. While the records are somewhat incomplete it is almost certainly the direct descendant of S.P.I. No. 5039," (C. V. Piper.) For preliminary tests by Office of Agrostologist; if satisfactory will be available later.

MUCUNA. 25514. From Richmond River, New South Wales, Australia. Presented by Mr. J. H. Maiden. Received May 12. "This is a tall, tree-climbing tropical plant, extending over East India and the Malayan and South Pacific Islands. In New South Wales it only occurs in the northern districts. (Maiden.) For preliminary tests by Agrostologist; if satisfactory will be available later.

MURRAYA EXOTICA. 25350. From Buitenzorg, Java. Presented by Dr. M. Treub. Received April 30. To be used in Citrus breeding experiments. For propagation; plants available later.

MELILOTUS PARVIFLORA. 25465. From King Island, South Sea Islands. Presented by Mr. Henry S. Baker. Received April 20. "This yellow-flowered melilot has, in the last few years transformed the island, which seemed absolutely barren or given up to worthless vegetation, into what is now the most profitable grazing and fattening area in Australasia. It has grown even on raw white sand near the sea shore, and in the course of five or six years has transformed it into rich, dark brown, almost black, loam and made it capable of growing good crops of oats, lucern, etc. This melilot is strictly an annual and dies off each year, the practice being to burn the old stems in January and February. Cut for hay about the middle of December, it makes splendid feed and all stock like it in this form. The estimated average yield of melilot in dry hay is $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. Melilot-fed horses are of great size and strength and have great endurance. It might be introduced to good advantage on the sandy wastes along the Atlantic

and Pacific coasts. It would be a mistake to consider melilot better than alfalfa or other useful home fodders, its advantage being in its ability to redeem poor land." (Baker.)

ORYZA SATIVA. 25469. From Canton, China. Presented by Mr. Leo Bergholz. Received May 8. Szemiu. "This is absolutely the best rice grown within this province." (Bergholz.)

PEDILANTHES. 25511. Candelillo from Saltillo, Mexico. Presented by Mr. J. R. Silliman. Received May 12. "A wild, euphorbiaceous Mexican plant which is of great interest because the dry stems yield, it is claimed, from 3 to 5 per cent of a firm, hard wax which seems suited to coating phonograph cylinders and similar uses. Grown in the dry, semi-desert regions of North Central Mexico, Lower California and Southwest Texas." (F. Chisolm.) For propagation; plants available later.

RUBUS. 25466. A wild red raspberry from Bataan Mountains, Philippine Islands. Presented by Mr. Wm. S. Lyon. Received May 7. "A rather promising and prolific raspberry. It was in fully ripe fruit March 1 and found at 3700 feet altitude on dry, rocky, sterile ridges. Should prove hardy. A little dry (not offensively so) and quite as showy as the best garden Cuthbert I ever recall seeing." (Lyon.) For propagation; plants available later.

SOLANUM ZUCCAGNIANUM. 25467. Grown at Miami, Florida, by Mr. P. J. Wester. "An herbaceous plant growing about two feet high with smooth, ovate, wavy-margined leaves on long petioles. The flowers are white, borne in clusters of one to three or more, on short, drooping stems. The fruit is round, about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, roughened and furrowed, becoming red when ripe."

STIZOLOBIUM SP. 25254. From Yokohama Nursery Co. Received April 9 and 12, 1909. This is widely cultivated in Hokkaido. It is an annual leguminous climber, cultivated on common dry land. The young soft grains are eaten boiled

and have a taste of *Vicia faba*, but this bean contains a poisonous ingredient in slight quantity; so it is advisable to eat moderately." (Yokohama Nursery Co.) For preliminary tests by Office of Agrostologist; if satisfactory will be available later.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

CEYLON, Peradeniya. H. F. Macmillan, April 7. Is sending a packet of seeds of *Mucuna atropurpurea* and will send other species of *Mucuna* as available.

EGYPT. Hubert S. Smiley, April 25. Is sending several cases of seeds of wheats, barleys, peas, corn, cabbages, teff, mustard, and several other things under their native names.

FORMOSA, Tamsui. Carl F. Deichman, April 12. Will send Kah-peh-sung (*Zizania palustris*) as soon as possible. Edible bulb is harvested in September in Formosa.

INDIA, Bombay. Latham & Co., April 7. Forward cuttings of Ladoo and Suntra oranges. The Ladoo is a popular orange in India and is of the mandarin class, although not so fine looking. It deserves a place in every collection of oranges. It is a loose-skinned sort, but the skin is more nearly filled by the flesh than the ordinary mandarin. It is usually crisp in texture and of good flavor. Has only a little fiber. Of the Suntra, Woodrow says (*Gardening in India*) that it is the finest orange in India. This variety is of especial interest because of its reported seedlessness and the fiberless nature of the flesh, which is quite remarkable.

INDIA, Kavali, Nellore District. E. Bullard, March 6. Is sending seed of a fruit called in the native language "Sara." It grows on a tree of moderate height. The seed of the fruit is cracked and the inside kernels are eaten as nuts. These are eaten with salt or with honey, and sell for a high price. Also sends seed of a plant called Tangadi. A tree 3-6 feet or more high. A leguminous plant and the bark is used for tanning. The leaves

are considered excellent fertilizers. He sends also wild indigo, a legume used only as a soil fertilizer.

Russia, Riga. Volmer & Co., May 5. They say that they have a plant, *Phacelia lanacetifolia*, which is much better for bees than red clover. They send a sample of the seed.

SPAIN, Madrid. Madden Summers, April 20. Will send seeds of the best variety of Spanish muskmelon with instructions as to planting, picking, etc. He thinks this melon will become a very valuable crop in the United States.

SUDAN, Khartoum. R. Hewison, April 14. Says that some of the Sudan wheats, native and introduced, have been quite favorably reported upon as the result of milling and baking tests carried out in England, and asks if they would be of use to us.

TRANSVAAL, Pretoria. F. T. Nicholson, April 10. Will soon send fifty gladiolus bulbs. Will try to get more another season, together with other interesting plants from different places.

TRIPOLI, Wm. Coffin, April 25. Mentions having sent a report on Dry land farming to the State Department in March. Will collect grape cuttings and chick peas. Will send photographs of date plantations.

TURKEY, Bagdad. A.E.C. Bird, April 14. Is sending a bag of a cereal grown there called Hoortman, which is a variety of oats.

RECENT VISITORS.

GREECE, Dr. Arthur Donaldson Smith, Consul at Patras, Greece. He wants to try all sorts of Plant Introduction experiments in Patras, especially one with sweet potatoes. Dr. Smith has carried on extensive explorations in Africa and has written a book on Unknown African Countries.

ROUMANIA, Bucarest. Mr. Horace G. Knowles, former American minister to Roumania. It was Mr. Knowles who introduced sweet corn into Roumania. Previous to that time the people of that country had known only the ordinary yellow corn, although corn was a prominent article in their diet, especially among the poorer classes. The sweet corn introduced by Mr. Knowles has proved very popular, and a valuable addition to Roumanian products. Mr. Knowles also sent to this office some of the delicious Roumanian muskmelons and a small watermelon about the size of a grape fruit, which he predicts can be made a great favorite on our hotel tables. It has been grown one season very successfully in Massachusetts. S. P. I. No. 22657.