

*Asparagus acutifolius* (Convallariaceae), 49458. From Hartsville, S. C. Seeds collected by Mr. J. B. Norton, agricultural explorer. "This is probably the hardiest evergreen species of the genus. Stock grown from S. P. I. No. 34620 has survived four winters at Hartsville, S. C., when the temperature has gone below 10° F. It makes a beautiful thick-set hedge of a very dark green color, suggesting a five-leaved juniper. As the plants grow older there is a tendency to produce vinelike shoots. The tuberlike storage roots and drought-resistant foliage make it valuable for regions of scanty rainfall. The shoots are edible, although much smaller than those of ordinary asparagus. The flavor, however is said by some to be superior to that of the common species." (Norton.)

*Aulotandra* sp. (Zinziberaceae), 49477. From Kafue, Northern Rhodesia. Collected by Dr. H. L. Shantz, agricultural explorer. "No. 320. A beautiful orchidlike plant which forms a spike about 6 inches high upon which one flower appears at a time. The flowers, about 2 to 3 inches across, have pale yellow centers, with the edges white to lavender or reddish lavender. They open in the morning and last most of the day. The swollen roots have a delicate flavor, and are aromatic." (Shantz.)

*Bactris maraja* (Phoenicaceae), 49476. **Palm.** From Bahia, Brazil. Seeds presented by Mr. H. M. Curran. "A palm said to grow in a swamp; has a spiny stem and produces clusters of edible, dark purple fruits resembling grapes in appearance and flavor. The fruits are very common. In the markets here in Ilheos, where these were obtained, they are called 'Manvel velho,' or swamp coconut." (Curran.)

*Cassiope fastigiata* (Ericaceae), 49623. From Darjiling, India. Seeds presented by Mr. G. H. Cave, curator, Lloyd Botanic Garden. A beautiful free-flowering alpine shrub about 9 inches high, one of the choicest from the northwest Himalayas. It is fairly abundant at elevations of 12,000 to 13,000 feet in shady situations and in moist, peaty, well-drained soil. The solitary, white, bell-shaped flowers have the corolla segments recurved, showing the pink center and the curious awned stamens like those of the arbutus. The tiny leaves, imbricated in 4 rows which give the stem a 4-sided appearance, have white, membranous, ciliated