

stout, creeping, underground stem, and the pinnate leaves, which are in erect clusters, are 7 meters (23 feet) or more in length. The flat fruits, 5 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 2 inches thick, are crowded in a large, round head which is borne on a special, erect stalk. The juice obtained by cutting this stalk just below the fruiting head is a very promising source of sugar and alcohol. Eighty-five per cent of the 3,000,000 gallons of proof alcohol produced annually in the Philippines probably comes from the nipa palm. The leaves of this palm are extensively used for thatching and for making baskets and mats, and the immature seeds are boiled in sugar to form a confection. In addition to the above the tree is also a pleasing ornamental. (Adapted from Brown and Merrill, Philippine Palms and Palm Products, p. 98.)

PERSEA AMERICANA (Lauraceae), 58019. **Avocado**. From Caracas, Venezuela. Seeds presented by H. Pittier. "The fruits from which these seeds were taken were obtained from a peddler here in Caracas. They are pear-shaped, of uniform size, about 4 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. The rather tough skin is light yellow, and the flesh, rather well developed in proportion to the seed, has a peculiar but agreeable flavor." (Pittier.)

POECILANTHE PARVIFLORA (Fabaceae), 57934. From Montevideo, Uruguay. Seeds presented by the Director, Direccion General de Paseos Publicos. The lapachillo, as it is called in its native home on the Uruguay River, is a tree of great beauty with its finely divided leaves and small, dense clusters of pink flowers. The heartwood is dark brown, very hard, heavy and durable. (Adapted from Journal of the Linnean Society, vol. 4, suppl., p. 80, and Lillo, Contribucion al Conocimiento de los Arboles de la Argentina, p. 107.)

POMADERRIS APETALA (Rhamnaceae), 57935. From Montevideo, Uruguay. Seeds presented by the Director, Direccion General de Paseos Publicos. A tree occasionally 60 feet in height but usually smaller, native to southeastern Australia. The foliage is eaten readily by stock, often in preference to their customary feed. (Adapted from Mueller, Select Extra-Tropical Plants, p. 416.)

PROSOPIS NANDUBEY (Mimosaceae), 57936. From Montevideo, Uruguay. Seeds presented by the Director, Direccion General de Paseos Publicos. A tree of moderate height which is frequent in the mountainous regions of Uruguay. The numerous small yellowish flowers appear in the spring, and the sickle-shaped pods inclose a pulp of acid flavor. Because of its great durability, the wood is prized for industrial purposes. (Adapted from Arechavaleta, Flora Uruguayana, vol. 1, p. 419.)

STRYCHNOS GILLETI (Loganiaceae), 58020. From Kisantu, Belgian Congo. Seeds presented by Frere J. Gillet. "The fruits of this species are edible." (Gillet.)