

Something of this strange fatalism seems to have followed attempts to introduce and disseminate the plant in this country. The imported prepared product, however, is a more or less common article of commerce obtainable in many of our markets, especially in the East.

Time has served to show that plants distributed some years ago by the National Botanic Garden at Washington and by the United States Department of Agriculture, under the name *Ilex paraguariensis* are not of this species. It is doubtful, in fact, if there are any plants of the true yerba mate growing in the United States except those recently introduced by the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction. One species which was sent out under the name *I. paraguariensis* is *Elaeodendron quadrangulatum*. This is found among ornamental plantings in South Florida but it has no resemblance and no relation to the true *Ilex*. Another plant, distributed by this Office under the name *I. paraguariensis*, proved to be *Ehretia microphylla*, the so-called "forest tea" of the Philippines. The leaves of this *Ehretia* contain no caffeine but are used by the natives as a substitute for tea. It is of interest to note the difference in the fruits of the *Ehretia* and of *I. paraguariensis*, for the fruit characters are important in identification work. We are indebted to Homer C. Skeels for the following:

"The fruits of *Ehretia microphylla* and *I. paraguariensis* are nearly spherical and about 4 mm. in diameter. Each has the remains of a stigma about 2 mm. long at the apex of the fruit. The grayish black surface of each fruit is irregularly wrinkled, that of the *Ehretia* being slightly darker in color and duller than that of the *Ilex*. The *Ehretia* fruit in falling from the plant drops out of the calyx. The *Ilex* fruit carries the calyx with it, but this calyx, 1 to 2 mm. broad, is nearly the same color as the fruit and is closely appressed to it. The fruits differ greatly, however, in internal structure. The *Ilex* contains 4 one-seeded nutlets which separate easily and which are shaped like the quarters of an apple. The *Ehretia* fruit contains one globular nutlet with 6 to 8 cells and is usually 4-seeded."

In the months of May and June, 1922, the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction was fortunate enough to secure seed of *I. paraguariensis* from three sources. The first lot, S.P.I. No. 55489, was presented by D. S. Bullock, Agricultural Commissioner of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of this Department, located at Buenos Aires, Argentina. Mr. Bullock secured the seeds in the territory of Misiones early in April and the shipment reached us June 7, 1922. On the same date a small lot, No. 55493, was secured through Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co., Paris, France. A few weeks previous to these introductions a sample, No. 55566, arrived from C. Fiebrig, Director of the Botanical Garden at Asuncion, Paraguay. All three lots of seeds were sown at our Plant Introduction Garden, Bell, Md., and from them several thous-