

size of those of *Weigelia*, but more attractive in color and with the added value of interesting fruits." (D. N. Shoemaker, Takoma Park, D. C., April 4, 1924.)

The Pacayito.

Ten years ago, when conducting field work in northern Guatemala, O. F. Cook of the Department of Agriculture was impressed by the beauty of a dwarf palm which he encountered at Senahu, in the department of Alta Verapaz. He sent nine grams of seeds to Washington. S. P. I. No. 38515 was assigned to the lot, and, for lack of a complete botanical determination, the species was listed simply as a *Chamaedorea*. Mr. Cook said that its native name in the Senahu region was *Canquib*. Later the botanical determination was considered incorrect, and the plant was catalogued as *Nunnezharia* sp.

From the seed secured by Mr. Cook, a few plants were grown at the Yarrow Plant Introduction Garden, Rockville, Maryland. In 1915, seven of these were sent to experimenters in Florida, the Canal Zone, Missouri, Nevada, and Maryland. Nothing was heard of them, and the pacayito dropped out of sight for the time being, though Mr. Cook had a few plants at his home in Lanham, Maryland, where he was carefully watching their behavior and informing himself regarding their cultural requirements.

Three years after this first introduction, I spent several months in northern Guatemala, where I went primarily to search for choice avocados. Like Mr. Cook, I was struck by the beauty of the pacayito in the forests of that region, and I determined to effect its introduction into the United States on a scale which would permit of its being tested widely. I commenced a search for seeds, but was surprised to find it impossible to secure more than a very small number of them. Though the plants flowered annually, and set abundant fruits, it appeared that the latter were eaten by insects before they reached maturity, in the great majority of cases. After spending some time in the search, and securing only 125 seeds, I decided to send live plants in place of seeds. With this object in view, I visited the mountains near Purula, department of Baja Verapaz, and with the aid of my Indian assistant, Jose Cabnal, located a spot where this palm occurred abundantly. I dug several hundred fine young specimens out of the leaf-mold in which they grew, packed them in bundles of twenty-five, wrapped each bundle in moss which I found growing in the same region, and hurried them down to the coast. The shipment reached Washington promptly, and most of the plants were saved. From this lot, and the seeds which were secured at the same time, a good stock of plants became available, and were distributed widely. Following is the Inventory note which accompanied this material: