

shade, however, and planted in a very moist situation in soil containing a large proportion of leaf mold. As a house plant for the northern states, and for use in fern dishes, it seems to me that this plant possesses unusual possibilities, and I strongly recommend it for trial.

A year later, I found this same palm growing near Pochutla, in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, and sent in a few seeds, to which were assigned S.P.I. No. 46783. In 1920, I was again in northern Guatemala. Being convinced by this time that the pacayito was adapted to house culture in the United States, and having been requested by the Office to secure a large number of plants, so that the species could be given even wider distribution than had yet been possible, I spent several days at the finca Mocca, where, through the courtesy of Robert W. Hempstead, and the aid of my Indian assistant, Victor Chiquin, I brought together a shipment of nearly two thousand fine young plants, together with seven ounces of seeds. This shipment was escorted to the coast, and dispatched from Puerto Barrios to New Orleans. It reached Washington in good condition, and most of the plants were saved. They were grown for a year or more at the Plant Introduction Garden, Bell, Maryland, and then distributed widely, to experimenters in Florida and California who desired to test them out-of-doors, and to people in the North who wished to try them as pot plants for house culture.

At this writing, ten years after the first introduction of the species, it has shown its value in the United States to the extent that two nursery firms are attempting to secure by importation from Guatemala large quantities of seeds or young plants. For open air culture in California and Florida it has not proved satisfactory; but as a subject for house culture in the North it is excellent. It should be remarked, however, that its cultural requirements are not yet fully understood. In sending it from Guatemala, I stated that it should be grown under shade, and provided with ample moisture. Later I observed that it grew on limestone soils, or in regions where such soils predominated. In the United States, we have found that ordinary living room temperatures are quite favorable to its development, but the atmospheric aridity which frequently prevails during the winter months is apt to prove inimical. It does not require continuous shade, but tolerates it to a much greater degree than many other plants.

Not until recently has the species been carried on our records under a specific name. A flowering specimen from the greenhouse at Bell, Maryland, was sent to Professor Guillaumin at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris, France, and shortly afterwards we received word that it had been identified as *Chamaedorea elegans* Martius. In his article on "Les Chamaedoreas Cultives," published in the Journal de la Societe Nationale d'Horticulture de France (June, 1918), Prof. Guillaumin