



CORDEAUXIA EDULIS. YEHEB NUTS.

The Yeheb is a tree or shrub which has recently been discovered in Italian Somaliland, East Africa. Its seeds, called nuts, have a high food value, containing 21 per cent of cane sugar, 2 per cent of reducing sugars, 13 per cent of proteids, and 37 per cent of carbohydrates. They form an article of commerce and are brought to the coast by caravans and are eaten by the native Dolbahanta Somalis in preference to rice and dates. Though the climate of Somaliland is not well known, the indications are that where this plant grows, long periods of drouth occur, but rains are abundant and regular at certain seasons of the year. Winter temperatures do not probably go below freezing. The plant quickly forms a long tap root, bears when only 4 feet high, has evergreen leaves which if crushed, stain the fingers a magenta color, and grows into a large tree. From the investigations which have been made by the Kew Botanic Gardens the indications are that this plant is worthy of a thorough trial in the arid southwest, at first in the practically frostless areas, and a special effort is being made to get a large enough quantity of the seeds for an extensive experiment. Photograph of seeds received from Kew, December 2, 1910; S.P.I. No. 29122. (See Kew Bulletin 1908, p. 36-44; 141.)