



ALEURITES FORDII. FRUIT OF THE CHINESE WOOD-OIL TREE.

The Chinese wood-oil tree or "tungshu," is a native of the central and southern provinces of China up to 34° north latitude. In this country it is growing and bearing in the Gulf States and in California and has withstood temperatures ranging from 16° to 114° F. It is also quite drought-resistant. The tree averages 20 feet in height and bears large white flowers in early spring before the appearance of the leaves, which are large, ovate and hairy beneath. The fruit, which in China is harvested in October, is the size of a large apple, with a soft green skin, and contains usually five seeds the size and shape of a small rounded Brazil nut. These seeds yield about 25 per cent of one of the quickest drying and hardest oils known. It is more waterproof than linseed oil, but less elastic. In its physiological effects it strongly resembles castor-oil. As this oil on account of the revolution in China is now bringing about 12 cents per pound, or nearly one dollar per gallon, and is normally worth probably 60 cents per gallon, and as the United States imported during the fiscal year 1910-1911 about 5,000,000 gallons, there is every prospect of a steady market for any quantity we can produce. Photograph natural size from specimens from a tree (S. P. I. No. 21013) sent Mr. A. R. Hopkins, Biloxi, Miss. in 1908.