

with a description of the plant and some observations of its morphological and biological peculiarities mainly quoted from the same author's earlier paper together with a list of vernacular names.

"Two years ago I called attention to an important botanical discovery by Dr. Kersting, who, in the northern territory of Sokode-Bassari, Togoland, came across an especially interesting new kind of bean which matured its pods below, instead of above ground. The well-known ground nut (*Arachis hypogaea*), and the peanut (*Voandzeia subterranea*), are similar instances. Kersting found that the natives of Togoland cultivated the bean, which they called Kandela in three varieties distinguished by their colors. I described this bean which is not known in the wild state, as *Kerstingiella geocarpa*, the type of a new genus of Leguminosae.

"In July, 1910, Aug. Chevalier, the indefatigable African explorer, reported the existence in Dahomey of a plant which, to judge from the description, was very similar to, if not identical with, Kersting's bean. He named it *Voandzeia poissoni*, a new species of the genus of the peanut, giving the Dahomey name as 'Doi'. The beans are sold in the market of Abomey by the natives, who grow them largely. There were also here color varieties (white, black, or red and mottled). An account may be found in *Quinzaine Coloniale*, 1910, No. 16, p. 590. Chevalier's description suggested at once the identity of the Dahomey and the Togo bean. M. Chevalier was, on his return from Africa, good enough to send me a specimen of his Dahomey plant whilst I supplied him with material from Togoland and our comparisons proved that the two beans were actually identical, or in other words that the Togo bean extended into Dahomey and M. Chevalier has already stated (*Compt. Rend.* 1910, p. 1374) that he too considers his species as identical with *Kerstingiella geocarpa*. He gives an important account of its distribution in Dahomey, quoting various vernacular names. The species is also said to occur in British Nigeria, but up to the present I have seen no specimen from there. In Togo as well as in Dahomey the plant is known only in the cultivated state, which renders Kersting's and Chevalier's discoveries the more remarkable.

"Chevalier gives analyses (l.c. p. 1375) which show that the nutritious value of the beans is very considerable. They are said to equal the richest peanuts in nitrogenous matter, whilst they have at the same time a more pleasant taste, particularly for Europeans, recalling that of the finest varieties of beans. The yield, owing to the smallness of the seeds (8-10 mm. by 6-7 mm.), is not large.