

of careful investigation, he says, and is used extensively by the Indians. They used to bring small hammocks made of caroá around to the houses in Bahia, and offer them at two or three milreis each. We hope to investigate these two plants as thoroughly as possible.

"The most striking thing about Rio just now is the heat. Dr. Willis says it is cooler in the interior, and we are fervently hoping he is right. We leave day after tomorrow for Lavras; it is a two days run, stopping over night at Sao Joao del Rey. Our only regret is that our time is going to be so short for this interior trip. We have cut down our equipment to the essentials, made a few purchases here in Rio, including an abundant supply of mosquito netting, and are, I believe, in good shape to tackle rough country. It will probably be smooth sailing until we leave Pirapora, but from there on, unless all the reports we have received are false, we can expect to have jerked beef and feijoada on our menu pretty frequently.

"Several Guttiferae which are grown here seem to me to be well worthy of careful attention. We have only been able to examine the fruits of one, *Rheedia brasiliensis*, but I was immediately struck by the resemblance of this fruit to the mangosteen, in flavor and character of flesh. It is smaller than a mangosteen, being about an inch and a quarter in diameter, oval, yellow in color, and containing three or four seeds surrounded by whitish, juicy pulp, of delightful flavor. It is just beginning to ripen at the Jardim Botânico and we are not able to get any seeds at this time, but no doubt Dr. Willis would be glad to supply them. We have photos of tree and fruit.

"Barbosa Rodrigues says *Platonia insignis*, whose fruits are very similar to *Rheedia*, is far superior in flavor, and if that is the case it is certainly worth getting. He says of it 'the fruits are large and the seeds are enveloped in a very aromatic, whitish pulp, of delicious taste. *Doce* (jams, jellies, and sweets of all kinds) made with the pulp of this fruit, is, when well made, a nectar.'"