34915. LICANIA PLATYPUS (Hemsl.) Fritsch. **Sansapote.**
(*Moquilea platypus* Hemsl.)

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by the Department of Agriculture. Received January 29, 1913.

"Belonging to the family Rosaceæ. It grows in the form of a tree, rather scarce on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, but more common in other parts of Central America, where it is sometimes known as *Sunza*. The fruit is large, somewhat oblong, with a reddish gray skin; the flesh yellowish, fibrous, and rather sweet, inclosing an oval, depressed seed." (*W. E. Safford.*)

See S. P. I. No. 31686 for previous introduction.

Roots.

34916 to 34919. KERSTINGIELLA GEOCARPA Harms. **Kandela.**

From Togoland, Africa. Presented by Dr. A. Engler, director, Königliches Botanisches Museum, Dahlem, Berlin, Germany. Received March 20, 1913.

"This remarkable new edible bean was first described by Dr. H. Harms, in 1909, from specimens forwarded by Dr. Kersting, of Sokode, Togoland. Since then it has been in cultivation and under observation in the botanic gardens at Dahlem and Jena, and last year Dr. Harms published a short article in which he summarized briefly what was then known about this ground bean, adding some valuable information concerning the conditions of its cultivation.

" 'Two years ago I called attention to an important botanical discovery by Dr. Kersting, who, in the northern territory of Sokode-Basari, Togoland, came across an especially interesting new kind of bean which matures its pods below instead of above ground. The well-known groundnut (*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 Leguminosæ.

" 'In July, 1910, Auguste 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*." (Compt. Rend., vol. 151, p. 84.) The beans are sold in the market of Abomey by the natives, who grow them largely. There were also here colored varieties (white, black, and mottled). An account may be found in Quinzaine Coloniale, 1910, No. 16, page 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., vol. 151, p. 1374) that he, too, considered 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 specimens 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 (Quinzaine Coloniale, 1910, No. 16, p. 1375) which show that the nutritive value of the beans is very considerable. They are said to equal the richest peanuts (*Voandzeia subterranea*) in nutritious 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 seed (8 to 10 mm.