

55485. ZIZIPHUS MAURITIANA Lam. Rhamnaceæ. Indian jujube.
(*Z. jujuba* Lam., not Mill.)

From Assam, India. Seeds presented by S. K. Mitra, economic botanist. Received June 5, 1922.

The Indian jujube is cultivated chiefly for its fruit, which varies in shape from more or less spherical in the wild or commoner kinds to oval or oblong in the cultivated kinds. The pulp is mealy and pleasantly sweetish; some of the cultivated varieties are very fine. The tree is found throughout India. (Adapted from *Brandis, Forest Flora of India*, p. 88.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 41443.

For an illustration of this jujube, see Plate V.

55486. ACANTHOSICYOS HORRIDA Welw. Cucurbitaceæ.

From Pretoria, Union of South Africa. Seeds presented by Dr. I. B. Pole Evans, through Dr. H. L. Shantz, physiologist in charge of the Office of Plant Physiological and Fermentation Investigations. Received June 5, 1922.

"*Narras*. A remarkable cucurbitaceous plant which grows on the dunes of the Namib, where subterranean waters exist. Even when this water is at great depths this plant subsists. It forms thorny thickets on the sand hills of Southwest Africa and is adapted to a hot, dry climate, with little or no rainfall. The fruit is the size of an ostrich egg. Both the pulp and seeds are used as food by the natives. The fruits are produced in abundance, and for about four months of the year the more primitive Hottentots are said to survive with practically no other source of food or water. The fruits are eaten and water is secured from them. The seeds when ripe are plump and about the size of watermelon seeds.

"The plant is one which should be of great value to our Indians of the Southwest if once established on the sand dunes of Arizona and southern California. It is doubtful if any plant can be secured which seems offhand to give greater promise in that region than does this cucurbit." (*Shantz*.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 31401.

55487. AMYGDALUS PERSICA L. Amygdalaceæ. Peach.
(*Prunus persica* Stokes.)

From Santa Ines, Chile. Plants presented by Sr. Salvador Izquierdo, Santiago, Chile. Received June 12, 1922.

"*Pomona Improved*. Sr. Izquierdo writes that this is an improved form of the variety *Pomona*, grown at his nursery at Santa Ines. Preserved fruits which he has sent us to show the character of the variety indicate that it is a fruit of unusually large size, deep yellow, clingstone, and of excellent quality for canning. It should be tried in California, where it may prove to have real value. Its season of ripening is not known." (*Wilson Popenoe*.)

55488. MEDICAGO SATIVA L. Fabaceæ.

From Loja, Ecuador. Seeds presented by Sr. Enrique Witt. Received June 15, 1922.

Locally grown seed introduced for experiments in alfalfa breeding.

55489. ILEX PARAGUARIENSIS St. Hil. Aquifoliaceæ. Yerba maté.

From Buenos Aires, Argentina. Presented by D. S. Bullock, agricultural commissioner, Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture. Received June 5, 1922.

"These seeds were harvested in April in the Territory of Misiones." (*Bullock*.)

A small, bushy, evergreen tree with serrate alternate leaves, native to Brazil and Paraguay and the neighboring countries. The leaves are roasted and ground to make the Paraguay tea of commerce, which is said to possess the good properties of tea and coffee without their injurious after effects.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 47309.