

5572 to 5585.**Leguminous forage plants.**

From Algeria. Presented by Doctor Trabut, Government Botanist of Algeria, through Mr. W. T. Swingle. Received November 2, 1900.

"This valuable collection comprises small amounts of the seed of a number of forage plants which are cultivated by Doctor Trabut at the Algerian experiment station at Rouïba. Many of these were introduced into culture by Doctor Trabut, and are now sent out of North Africa for the first time. Some of the plants occur in other parts of the Mediterranean region, but in general the forms of these species found growing in Algeria are more resistant to drought than those obtained elsewhere. This has proved true of the common vetch from Tunis, the narrow-leaved lupine or naturalized form of the Corsican lupine. All of these species are adapted for planting in autumn in the warmer regions of the South and Southwest. Unfortunately, only a small amount of seed of these species could be obtained. It is hoped that enough can be grown in this country to give a fair trial another year. There can be no doubt that all of the native North African forage plants deserve a most careful trial in the arid and semiarid regions on the Pacific slope. All of these are winter crops and should be sown in early autumn, since at that time there is sufficient moisture in the soil to enable the seed to germinate. The climate of North Africa is very mild in winter, and probably most of these species would be injured by severe frosts. They could, however, be grown in spring in Washington State and Oregon, where the winter would probably prove too severe to permit of their being sown in autumn." (*Swingle.*)

5572. VICIA CALCARATA.**Vetch.**

"This vetch is native to the Mediterranean region. The seed of this particular sort was obtained at Boghar in Algeria where the climate is very dry. This is one of the species introduced into culture by Doctor Trabut." (*Swingle.*)

5573. VICIA HIRTA.**Vetch.**

"This plant, which is usually considered to be a hairy form of *Vicia lutea*, occurs very commonly in Algeria and has been introduced into cultivation by Doctor Trabut. It reaches a height of 16 to 18 inches at the experiment station at Rouïba." (*Swingle.*)

5574. VICIA FULGENS.**Scarlet vetch.**

"An Algerian vetch with handsome red flowers. It is an annual and grows with extraordinary vigor, reaching a height of 6 to 8 feet and yielding an abundance of excellent forage. Doctor Trabut, who introduced the species into culture, reports that at the experiment station at Rouïba, near Algiers, it yields 40 tons of green fodder to the acre. The great drawback of this most promising vetch is that the pods when ripe snap open, especially under the influence of hot winds, and scatter the seed, rendering its collection very difficult and the seed in consequence high priced. It is sown in autumn before the first rains in Algeria, either alone or with winter oats. It occasionally produces seed abundantly. It is to be hoped that some region may be found in the United States which has a sufficiently humid atmosphere during the ripening period of the pods to prevent their scattering the seeds. It might be possible to breed varieties which would hold the seed better. This vetch is most likely to succeed in the Southern States and on the Pacific slope." (*Swingle.*) (See Nos. 3825 and 4336, inventory No. 8.)

5575. VICIA SATIVA.**Common vetch.**

"Doctor Trabut has been making comparative tests of all obtainable varieties of the common vetch at the Algerian Experiment Station at Rouïba. The one which proves best adapted to Algerian conditions is the present number, which is from the dry regions of Tunis." (*Swingle.*)

5576. VICIA BENGALENSIS.**Bengal vetch.**

"This name is given by the Kew Index as a synonym of *V. nissoliaana*. It is one of the best of the numerous species of vetch grown at the Algerian Experiment Station at Rouïba. It somewhat resembles the scarlet vetch, attaining a considerable height." (*Swingle.*)