

29484. CYPERUS PAPYRUS L.**Papyrus.**

From Philadelphia, Pa. Presented by Mr. H. A. Dreer. Received February 1, 1911. Secured at the suggestion of Mr. Charles J. Brand for use in his paper-plant investigations.

"This sedge grows in Egypt, Abyssinia, and Asia Minor, growing 5 to 12 feet high. According to Mr. A. Aaronsohn, of Palestine, a specially large form grows in the lakes above the Dead Sea. In the making of the Egyptian papyri or rolls, the stems were split into long, thin bands which were arranged side by side on a hard, smooth surface. Another set of these bands or strips was then placed upon the first at right angles. The whole was then subjected to pressure, after which the sheet was rubbed smooth with ivory or other hard material. These sheets were then glued together at the ends to form rolls of the desired length. Ordinarily the cortex or outer layer of the stems did not go into the making of sheets but was used for making rough cordage.

"It is evident from the above that papyrus was not used to make paper in the modern sense in which the fibers are chemically digested or mechanically reduced to pulp and then formed into sheets from a thin, watery solution." (*Brand.*)

29485. MACHILUS NANMU (Oliv.) Hemsl.**Nanmu.**

From Yachow, West China. Presented by Mr. W. F. Beaman. Received February 3, 1911.

"This is a species of *Machilus*, a genus closely allied to *Laurus*, which grows to great size in western China. It is very highly esteemed by the Chinese on account of the great durability of its wood, which has been used for centuries by the Chinese in the construction of coffins. Owing to its scarcity a sufficient number of planks to construct a coffin often costs as much as a hundred dollars. The imperial palaces are said to be finished in this wood, and huge columns were brought at great expense to support the roof of the temple at the Ming tombs, north of Peking. It is worth careful experiments to find whether there are parts of the United States adapted to its culture. It might easily prove an important article of export if it can be propagated readily in this country." (*Walter T. Swingle.*)

See No. 28128 for previous introduction.

29486. DIOSPYROS LOTUS L.**Persimmon.**

From Tientsin, China. Presented by Dr. Yamei Kin. Received February 3, 1911.

"Seed of the seedling persimmon, sold on the market only in the dried-fig form. This wild persimmon is called *hei tsao* or *black tsao*, not a persimmon according to the fruit growers' classification here." (*Kin.*)

29488. VIGNA sp.

From China. Presented by Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, Shanghai, China. Received February 2, 1911.

"Seed of a wild pea found on mountains. The bloom is very fragrant." (*Farnham.*)
Seeds olive brown, mottled with black.

29489. NICOTIANA TABACUM L.**Tobacco.**

From Mexico. Presented by Mr. W. W. Mackie, director, Yaqui Valley Experiment Station, Esperanza, Sonora, Mexico. Received February 4, 1911.

"Native tobacco seed secured from the Yaqui Indians. This tobacco is called *Macuchi* and has been prized by the Mayos and Yaquis for centuries. The Mayos and Yaquis are branches of the same tribe living on rivers of the same names." (*Mackie.*)