

33695 to 33709—Continued.

33702. GREIGIA sp.

"(No. 997.) The first I have seen growing in central Chile. Found very near the seacoast. Is a new variety."

33703. CUCUMIS MELO L.

Muskmelon.

"(No. 1185.) By Chilean custom, irrigated fields are rented to the dry farmers in lots of 1 cuadra (4 acres) to each renter for their 'chacra.' The rental price is a contracted number of sacks of beans. In these chacras are planted beans, potatoes, corn, squashes, aji, muskmelons, and watermelons. As squashes and melons have the natural faculties of aerohybridization these notes refer to this phenomena and give my opinion of the causes of the excellence created in Chilean melons.

"A hundred or more tenants have adjoining lands in which to sow and plant their food crops. No attention is given to the seeds planted, except squashes and melons, and such care as may be given is unknown to the persons themselves. When a squash is cooked or a melon eaten, if they are exceptionally good as to sweetness, flavor, productiveness, etc., the seeds are saved and are generally put into a bag hung for this purpose. This is repeated until sufficient mixed seed is accumulated. In this manner a large variety of all good selected seeds are sown the next year. Each tenant does the same thing, only with a different assortment. Therefore, each field is yearly sown with a hundred or more different collections of seeds, selected especially by taste and not by sight. Atoms of pollen are distributed great distances, and as no two melon patches are a greater distance than 60 meters apart, the aerial hybridizing commences and ends with the bloom. In this way every melon ripens with its seeds crossed by some other or others of equal, but perhaps different, merits. Every year new kinds of melons are created and these ignorant people are selectors by taste instead of scientific attainments. There are no people better able to judge of melon quality than these, as they live upon them during the season. As this breeding process of continually crossing improved varieties takes place year after year, it is not surprising that Chilean melons have reached a high degree of excellence.

"The seed sent was a production of this year, having flavor, quantity, and character of its own and was firm enough to be a good shipper. If its merits can be reproduced it is extra good, but as they are already crossed there is no security."

33704. LYCOPERSICON ESCULENTUM Miller.

Tomato.

"(No. 1188.) A smooth yellow variety from Germany, grown in Chile for many years. Medium size, mild and fine flavored, prolific. By mild I mean it has little acid or of an agreeable kind."

33705. EUGENIA TEMU Hook. and Arn.

"(No. 1189.) '*Temu*.' This is the first *temu* I have found bearing fruit, and I consider this an extra valuable find. The fruit is perfectly round, black, glossy, with a good quantity of juicy, wine-colored flesh. The flavor is aromatic and agreeable, something like wintergreen berries. It has no sort of repugnance. Its size for each tree is the same, that is, all the fruit on a tree is exactly alike, no large and no small ones. Some trees bear fruit a trifle larger than others; the smallest size is three-eighths of an inch in diameter, the largest half an inch. Each berry has but one seed, which readily separates from the flesh. It is prolific to excess, the tree being black with fruit.

"The glossy leaves are fragrant and evergreen; they fall, but not until after the new ones are formed. In bloom the tree is charmingly white with a mass of delightfully fragrant flowers which perfume the adjacent air for some dis-