

39423 to 39442—Continued. (Quoted notes by Mr. F. N. Meyer.)**39425.** *RICINUS COMMUNIS* L. Euphorbiaceæ. Castor bean.

“(No. 2120a. Southwest Shansi, China, August 4 to 14, 1914.) Var. *inermis*. A variety of castor bean having spineless burs. Occurs sporadically in fields among the ordinary sort. Of value to students of mutation and variation in plants, and possibly of commercial value also as producing less waste material than the common varieties.”

39426. *MEDICAGO SATIVA* L. Fabaceæ. Alfalfa.

“(No. 2121a. Mountains between Hotien, near Linhsien, Honan, and Luanfu, Shansi, China. July 7 to 12, 1914.) A wild alfalfa, found everywhere between grasses, bowlders, rocks, and pebbles, on banks, cliffs, etc.; of low spreading growth, foliage small, flowers of blue color, large individually, but racemes small. Branches not erect except when having some support. Thrives best, apparently, at altitudes between 2,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level. Of value possibly as a pasture plant in the intermountain sections of the United States. This alfalfa may be one of the original forms in which this important forage plant occurs on the globe, and the erect-growing varieties now so extensively cultivated might have been derived from one of these prostrate forms.”

39427. *INCARVILLEA SINENSIS* Lamarck. Bignoniaceæ.

“(No. 2122a. Near Wuwang on the Hwang River, Shansi, China. August 11, 1914.) Var. *floreflava*. A variety of this biennial, having large, pale-yellow flowers, instead of rosy ones. Of value as an ornamental for the hardy border. Of special interest to botanic gardens.”

39428. *AMYGDALUS* sp. Amygdalaceæ. Peach.

“(No. 2123a. Sianfu, Shensi, China. August 21 to 26, 1914.) Stones of the real wild peach, growing in the mountains one day's journey south of Sianfu. The fruits are small, hard, and sourish, but there is considerable variation in them as regards size and taste. They are apparently all freestones, and while some have red flesh near the stone, others are white throughout. The Chinese eat these fruits out of hand, but they do not appeal to the white races, although they might be utilized when preserved, as they possess the real peach flavor. Local name *Ying t'ao*, meaning 'cherry peach.'”

39429 and 39430. *PRUNUS ARMENIACA* L. Amygdalaceæ. Apricot.

39429. “(No. 2124a. Peking, China, June 25, 1914.) A large apricot of soft yellow color and of mango shape, which is a very unusual form among apricots. Said to come from the vicinity of Paotingfu, Chihli Province.”

39430. “(No. 2125a. Peking, China. June 27, 1914.) An apricot with fruits as large as small apples; of whitish yellow color with some blush on one side. Of fresh and sweet taste. Said to come from the vicinity of Paotingfu.”

39431. *XANTHOCERAS SOBBIFOLIA* Bunge. Sapindaceæ.

“(No. 2126a. Chaoyu, Shansi, China. July 22, 1914.) A shrub, occasionally growing into a small-sized tree, found in loess cliffs. The shiny pinnate foliage reminds one of an ash, but the drooping racemes of white flowers, with yellow stamens, produced in great masses in early summer, give the shrub quite a distinct appearance. The Chinese eat the kernels of the fruit and call the plant *Mu kua hua*, meaning