

41878 and 41879—Continued.

it bears fruits, which grow to the size of large sparrow's eggs. The seeds are drab outside and whitish inside. They sell in the market for 100 to 150 cash per cattie. This is one of the five principal poisons mentioned by Shen Nung, so the plant is probably indigenous to China. The Arabic name is *ba to*, which was probably derived from the Chinese name. One of the Persian names means *Ricinus* from China, so that it is quite possible that the original habitat of this plant was here. The *pa tou* is oblong, obscurely triangular, about three-quarters of an inch in length, 3-celled, and of a yellowish brown color. Each cell contains an oval, flattened, or imperfectly quadrangular seed, resembling a coffee bean. The dark-brown testa incloses the yellowish albumen, within which is the large dicotyledonous embryo, often much shrunken. The testa is very acrid. The fresh fruits, the oil, the testa, and the root of the tree are all used in medicine. The drug is recommended for a very large number of difficulties, but, generally speaking, the Chinese doctors are afraid to employ it on account of the exaggerated notions of its poisonous properties, which were handed down from very ancient times." (*Widler.*)

41880. BROSIMUM ALICASTRUM Swartz. Moraceæ. Bread-nut tree.

From Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Presented by Dr. L. Lavedan, New Orleans, La., through Mr. O. F. Cook, of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Received February 11, 1916.

"The leaves are used extensively for forage purposes in Yucatan, as already reported by Mr. G. N. Collins of this office a few years ago. Dr. Lavedan also considers that the seeds, which are produced in great abundance, might be utilized as a source of industrial starch or perhaps distilled into alcohol. I have assured him that we would be interested to test the possibilities of growing this tree, at least in southern Florida." (*Cook.*)

41881. AMYGDALUS PERSICA L. Amygdalaceæ. Peach.
(*Prunus persica* Stokes.)

From Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Cuttings presented by Mr. G. Williams, Department of Agriculture and Stock. Received January 31, 1916. Introduced for breeding experiments.

41882. PHASEOLUS CARACALLA L. Fabaceæ. Bertoni bean.

From Puerto Bertoni, Paraguay. Presented by Dr. Moises S. Bertoni. Received February 2, 1916.

S. P. I. No. 37010, received as *Phaseolus bertonii*, a name given by Dr. Franceschi to a Paraguayan bean, is apparently identical with this species.

41883 to 41900.

From Kirki, India. Presented by Mr. William Burns, economic botanist, through Mr. C. V. Piper. Received in January, 1916. Descriptive notes by Mr. Piper.

41883. ALYSICARPUS LONGIFOLIUS (Rottl.) Wight and Arn. Fabaceæ.

"An annual, erect legume growing 3 to 5 feet high; leaves lanceolate; stems slender, rather woody; native to India. In tests in Florida, Mississippi, and elsewhere this plant succeeds well but requires a long summer season to mature. Owing to its sparse leafiness and tough stems, as well as lack of great vigor, it is not promising."

See S. P. I. No. 32432 for previous introduction.