

44994 to 44999—Continued.

over 4 inches high and already had two to four fully characterized leaves. When quite small it strongly resembles *Cocos weddelliana*, but the pinnæ are somewhat broader and not so numerous. For fern dishes in the Northern States it should have great value.

"When mature, the plant has a slender trunk, perhaps half an inch thick and 2 feet high. The leaves are a foot to 18 inches in length, rather finely pinnate, deep green, graceful, with the rachis stiff but arching slightly. In Vera Paz the flowers are produced in June and July, and the small, round seeds, about as large as small peas, ripen in December.

"Since it is found at considerable elevations in Vera Paz, it seems likely that this palm will be sufficiently hardy for cultivation in the open in California and Florida. It should be provided with ample shade, however, and planted in a very moist situation in soil containing a large proportion of leaf mold.

"As a house plant for the Northern States and for use in fern dishes it seems to me that this plant possesses unusual possibilities, and I strongly recommend it for trial."

For an illustration of the pacayito palm, see Plate I.

44995. SALVIA HEMPSTEADIANA Blake. *Menthaceæ*.

"(No. 151. July 9, 1917.) Plants of an herbaceous perennial collected on the banks of a small stream at Purula, Department of Baja Vera Paz (altitude 5,200 feet).

"The plants commonly grow 1½ to 2 feet in height, and soon after the beginning of the rainy season (May) send up spikes of brilliant blue flowers, tubular in form and about an inch long. It is a conspicuous thing when in bloom, and is strongly recommended for trial in California and Florida, where it should be hardy."

44996. PERSEA sp. *Lauraceæ*.

"(No. 152a. Seeds from the Chuacus Mountains, near Rincon Grande, about 5 miles from Salama, at an approximate altitude of 3,000 feet. July 9, 1917.)

"I do not know what this species may be; possibly it is as yet undescribed. Only one tree has been seen up to the present, and this was erect, rather slender in habit, and 30 feet in height. The foliage strongly resembles that of *Persea americana*, but is more heavily pubescent beneath than is common in that species. In form and size the leaves could not be distinguished from some of the cultivated avocados. The young leaves and branchlets are covered with a velvety tomentum.

"The fruits, which ripen in June, are oval or oblong-oval in outline, about 1½ inches in length, shining black in color, with a membranous skin and a very small amount of greenish pulp having a strongly resinous taste. The seed is quite large in comparison with the size of the fruit, elliptical in outline, with the seed coats thin, brownish, and brittle, and adhering closely. The cotyledons are whitish, with the embryo at the base of the seed. The fruit is distinct from that of the avocado in having a large, fleshy, bluntly toothed calyx, pinkish or whitish in color, which remains on the tree when the fruit falls.

"This species is introduced in connection with the experiments now being carried on with a view to determining the best stock on which to bud the avocado."

44997. DIPHYSA sp. *Fabaceæ*.

"(No. 153a. July 9, 1917.) Seeds of a leguminous shrub common in the mountains of the northern part of the Department of Baja Vera Paz,