

45505 and 45506—Continued.

closely to the cotyledons. A few other varieties showing these same characteristics were seen in the same locality, and it is possible that they may not be true Guatemalan avocados, though in most respects they appear to belong to this race.

"In form the fruit is long and slender, sometimes slightly curved, and sometimes becoming pyriform. It is medium sized, weighing about 12 ounces. The surface is smooth and deep green in color. The skin is thin and surrounds deep-yellow flesh of good quality, without fiber or discoloration. The seed is medium sized, and while it never rattles in its cavity it does not fit as snugly as in nearly all other Guatemalan varieties.

"A formal description of th's variety is as follows:

"Form elongated to slender pyriform, sometimes curved; size medium, weight 12 ounces, length $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, greatest breadth $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 inches; base narrow, rounded, the short, stout stem (2 to 3 inches long) inserted obliquely; apex quite smooth, uniformly bright green in color, with very numerous minute yellowish dots; skin very thin, less than one-sixteenth of an inch, but firm and tough; flesh rich yellow near the seed cavity, changing to light green near the skin, firm, of fine texture, free from fiber, and of rich, nutty flavor; quality very good; seed medium sized, weighing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, conical to slender conical in form, the cotyledons smooth, with the seed coats adhering loosely." (*Popenoe.*)

45506. MALPIGHIA sp. Malpighiaceæ.

"(No. 196. City of Guatemala, Guatemala. November 6, 1917.) Cuttings of *azerola*, from Amatitlan (altitude 3,900 feet). The name *azerola*, which properly belongs to species of *Crataegus*, is applied, in central Guatemala, to a large Malpighia the fruits of which are not unlike those of the Barbados cherry (*Malpighia edulis*). I have seen the plant only in a few places; it is most abundant at Amatitlan, where it is seen in a large proportion of the gardens and dooryards.

"This species is much larger than *M. edulis*, often becoming a small bushy tree 20 feet in height, but more commonly seen as a large shrub, spreading in habit, with a dense crown. When young, the leaves are covered with a thick whitish tomentum; when mature, they are membranaceous, elliptic-acuminate in form, about 4 inches long, cuneate at the base, bright green and glabrous above, heavily pubescent with the venation prominent below. The flowers are produced in small axillary clusters. Individually, they are scarcely an inch broad, with clawed crapelike petals of lilac-pink color. The fruits, which ripen mainly during August and September, are the size of a large cherry, but flattened and sometimes pointed toward the apex. They are bright red when fully ripe, with a tender skin and juicy, whitish flesh of peculiar sub-acid flavor. The seeds, three in number, are roughly winged. The character of the growth suggests that this plant may be slightly hardy. It has not been seen in the lowlands, but is grown at altitudes of 4,000 to 5,000 feet where the climate is comparatively cool, but not cold enough to experience severe frosts. The plants produce abundantly. While not a fruit likely to become of great importance in the United States, it possesses sufficient interest and value to merit a trial. The regions in which it seems likely to succeed are Florida, southern Texas, and California." (*Popenoe.*)