

## 51116 to 51125—Continued.

51118. *CORDIA NITIDA* Vahl. Boraginaceæ.

"(No. 415a. July 1, 1920.) Seeds of *muñeco*. The *muñeco* is commonly planted in and about San Jose as a street tree, or as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens. It reaches a height of 40 feet, and forms a broad, shapely crown of deep-green foliage. It is quick growing and rather soft wooded, so that limbs are sometimes broken off by storms. The orange-red fruits, which are produced in clusters 4 to 6 inches across, are individually the size of small cherries. They are not edible, but since they remain on the tree a long time they are of decorative value."

51119. *CROTALARIA VERRUCOSA* L. Fabaceæ.

"(No. 413a. July 1, 1920.) Seeds of a plant found abundantly at Puntarenas, in abandoned or uncultivated places close to the seashore. It seems less woody in character than *Crotalaria retusa*, and likely, therefore, to make a better crop for use as a green manure. It reaches about 18 inches in height, and bears attractive white and pale-blue flowers. Evidently it is an annual. It should be tested as a cover crop in the South, especially on sandy lands."

51120. *CUPANIA* sp. Sapindaceæ.

"(No. 414a. July 1, 1920.) *Paraiso*. Seeds presented by Carlos Wercklé, of El Coyolar, Costa Rica. Mr. Wercklé states that this is a handsome ornamental tree, indigenous in the region about Coyolar, and probably not described botanically. It should be tested in southern Florida."

51121. *PASPALUM NOTATUM* Fluegge. Poaceæ.

Grass.

"(No. 418a. July 1, 1920.) *Gengibrillo*. Seeds presented by Alfredo Quiros. From sea level up to 5,000 feet this is probably the most important of the pasture grass cultivated in Costa Rica; above 5,000 or 6,000 feet it is injured by frost and is not, therefore, extensively planted. In the lowlands it is especially esteemed; it makes a compact sod, crowding out weeds and other grasses, and affording an abundance of nourishing green forage, eaten readily by both horses and cattle. It rarely grows more than a foot in height, and where pastured constantly does not often reach more than 6 inches. For trial in the Everglades region of southern Florida."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 37996.

51122. *POLAKOWSKIA TACACO* Pittier. Cucurbitaceæ.

"(No. 422. July 1, 1920.) Seeds of *tacaco*. Among Costa Ricans this is one of the most popular of all vegetables, and it is regularly sold in the market of San Jose during a large part of the year.

"In general character the *tacaco* suggests the chayote. The plant, which is commonly cultivated on arbors or allowed to climb over trees, has a leaf resembling that of the chayote in shape but differing in texture; and the fruit, which falls to the ground when mature, is about 3 inches long, elliptic in outline. Frequently it has a few short spines about the base; elsewhere it is smooth. When boiled it is considered to have a richer flavor than the chayote, but the flesh is somewhat fibrous.

"The *tacaco* should be tried in the chayote-growing regions of the United States. Doubtless it would be possible to reduce the proportion of fiber and otherwise improve the fruit by selection."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 47329.