

51396 to 51403—Continued.

curuba. The vine is not quite so ornamental as that of some other species, but the fruit is considered one of the best. It is slender oblong-oval, 2 to 4 inches long, and slightly more than an inch thick, with a thin, leathery pericarp (not brittle, as in most other species) inclosing many black seeds, each surrounded by an orange-colored, juicy aril. The flavor is sprightly and aromatic. While much eaten out of hand, the fruit is perhaps best when prepared in the form of *creme de curuba* or when made into an ice. Certainly the *curuba* is one of the most popular fruits in Bogota."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 43766.

51400. *PHYSALIS PERUVIANA* L. Solanaceae.

Poha.

"(No. 451a. September 11, 1920.) Seeds of *uchuba*, a form of the ground cherry, or husk cherry, cultivated in the Colombian highlands. The plant reaches about 4 feet in height, and the fruits are oval to nearly round, up to an inch in length, deep yellow when fully ripe, and much esteemed for making dulces, or preserves."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 48181.

51401. *RUBUS MACROCARPUS* Benth. Rosaceae.

Colombian berry.

"(No. 446a. September 11, 1920.) Seeds of the *mora*. This is the giant Colombian blackberry, first called to our attention by Frank M. Chapman, of the American Museum of Natural History, and last year introduced into the United States, on a very limited scale, through the efforts of Frederick L. Rockwood, of Bogota. It is a remarkable berry and one which will be of great interest, I believe, to North American horticulturists.

"Frank M. Chapman, M. T. Dawe, and others have spoken of this species as the *mora de Castilla*. This name is, indeed, sometimes applied to it, but it is given to various species of *Rubus* as well, the term 'de Castilla' being applied to a great many products of the country, signifying that they are of good quality (everything good being supposed to emanate in colonial days from Castile or Spain). Many of the natives with whom I have talked know the species simply as *mora*. Since it is not greatly like our northern berries I suggest that it be called the *Colombian berry* instead of the giant blackberry, thus honoring the land of its origin.

"The species seems limited to regions of very particular climatic conditions; I have seen it only at altitudes of 8,500 to 9,500 feet, in moist mountain meadows on the outer edge of the mesa or plateau of Bogota, where the clouds drift up from the valley and keep the plants bathed almost constantly in mist. It grows among brush and large ferns, its coarse canes reaching to about 10 feet in height and often recurving somewhat. The leaves, which are trifoliate, are large and coarse. The flowers are produced singly at the ends of stalks 3 to 5 inches long, half a dozen or more of them arising from the summit of a single cane. The flowers are rosy purple and nearly an inch in diameter.

"The berries, which ripen principally from October to December in the region where I have studied the plant (El Penon, between Sibate and Fusagasuga), are variable in form, some being heart shaped and compressed on two sides, others ovoid, and still others oblong. The largest are about 2 inches in length. The individual drupelets are large, and each contains a hard, slender, oblong seed; the torus or receptacle is large and extends well into the center of the fruit; when ripe it separates readily from the drupelets and can be removed before the fruit is eaten. The color of the ripe berry is deep maroon-red. It is juicy and of pleasant flavor, not distinctly resembling the blackberry in this particular. It is used mainly for preserving or making dulces and is frequently seen in the Bogota markets, where it is much in demand and commands a good price."

Plate III shows two fruits (natural size) of this species.

51402. *RUBUS* sp. Rosaceae.

Blackberry.

"(No. 453a. September 11, 1920.) Seeds of *mora*, a fine large blackberry from the Bogota market. The fruits are 1½ inches long, thick in proportion to their length, and of good flavor and quality. The species grows wild not far from Bogota."