

yellow to deep yellow, with a suggestion of red; lenticels small, numerous, brownish; bloom bluish white; skin medium thick; seed large; fiber rather abundant, fine; flesh yellow, tender, and juicy; quality good, moderately vigorous. Monoembryonic. Season, July." (*Wester, Bulletin No. 18, Bureau of Agriculture, Philippine Islands, p. 27.*)

51606. POLAKOWSKIA TACACO Pittier. Cucurbitaceæ.

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Fruits presented by Otón Jimenez, Department of Botany, National Museum. Received November 3, 1920.

A cucurbitaceous plant, the fruit of which is used as a green vegetable. It is a near relative to the chayote, but the fruit is smaller, fusiform, beset with stiff spines at the base, and has a quite different flavor. It is one of the primitive foods of the natives of Costa Rica, where it grows wild in moist, shady places of the temperate region, and its use as a vegetable has readily been adopted by the Spanish Costa Ricans. The fruits, about 2½ inches long and 1½ inches broad, hang from short stems and are picked while still green. After removing the basal spines they are boiled in water, or pickled, or made into preserves. They are also a favorite addition to the native soups. (Adapted from note of Pittier under S. P. I. No. 26244.)

"The kinds which are cultivated contain very little fiber. They are used in many ways, as greens, pickled, as dessert, as a vegetable, etc., and in any one of these ways are very popular with us, and rightly so, I believe. The most common way consists in cooking the entire fruit with the leaves. When cooked, the skin comes off easily, and by pressing with the thumb and finger the seed comes out easily; all that remains, with the exception of a little fiber, is eaten." (*Jimenez.*)

51607 to 51612.

From Salisbury, Rhodesia, Africa. Seeds presented by H. G. Mundy, agriculturist and botanist, Department of Agriculture. Received November 4, 1920. Quoted notes by Mr. Mundy, except as otherwise stated.

51607. CANAVALI ENSIFORME (L.) DC. Fabaceæ. Jack bean.

"Gotani bean."

"The jack bean is a native of the West Indies and the adjacent mainland and is a bushy, semierect annual with coarse stems, thickish leaves, purplish flowers, and hard, white pods, 9 to 14 inches long, each containing 10 to 14 white seeds. Usually the roots are well tuberized, and the plant will withstand much drought. It is remarkably free from insects and fungous diseases. It is valuable as forage and as a cover crop or for green manure." (*C. V. Piper.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 49259.

51608. DOLICHOS LABLAB L. Fabaceæ. Hyacinth bean.

"Woodforde's dolichos bean; also known as the *Painted Lady* bean."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 47978.

51609 to 51611. HOLCUS SORGHUM L. Poaceæ. Sorghum.
(*Sorghum vulgare* Pers.)

51609. "Jiba Kafir corn."

51610. "M'bele; native variety of Kafir corn."

51611. "Birdproof Kafir corn."

51612. STIZOLOBIUM NIVEUM (Roxb.) Kuntze. Fabaceæ.

"White stringless velvet bean."

"This has now been cultivated in Florida and other Southern States for several years. It requires about the same length of time to mature as the Florida velvet bean (*Stizolobium deeringianum* Bort) or is perhaps slightly earlier. It is, however, much more prolific in seed production and is therefore likely to come into prominent use. It also has the advantage over the Florida velvet bean in being wholly devoid of stinging hairs." (*C. V. Piper.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 46449.