

53177 to 53217—Continued.

The stems are clothed with narrow, stiff, sessile leaves of glossy dark-green color and are surmounted by heads of brownish orange flowers. The plant is noted in Ecuador because of the fact that its leaves will burn when green. The flower heads retain their color even when dry. The species will probably prefer a moist, rather cool climate such as that of the Pacific Northwest."

53180. *PASSIFLORA MALIFORMIS* L. Passifloraceæ. **Granadilla.**

"(No. 583a. Ibarra. Ecuador. February 14, 1921.) Seeds of *Granadilla de hueso*, grown in the valley of the Río Chota, in northern Ecuador, at an altitude of about 6,000 feet. This species is a vigorous climber with ovate-cordate, light-green leaves about 3 inches long. The flowers have a large, conspicuous, whitish green calyx, and the corona is white, marked with purplish blue. The fruits are round, rarely more than 2 inches in diameter, with a thin shell yellowish green on the surface and whitish within. Though not more than an eighth of an inch thick, this shell is so hard that it is broken with difficulty. Within it are numerous small black seeds, each surrounded by juicy pulp of pale, orange-yellow color, and acid, highly aromatic flavor, similar to that of *Passiflora edulis*. The fruit is eaten out of hand and is a good one, worthy of cultivation in California and Florida, if it proves to be suitable for those States."

For an illustration of this new passion fruit from Ecuador, see Plate I.

53181. *TACSONIA QUITENSIS* Benth. Passifloraceæ.

"(No. 600a. From mountains near El Angel, Province of Carchi, Ecuador.) Seeds of *tacso*. From an elevation of about 12,000 feet. This wild plant much resembles the cultivated *T. mollissima* in foliage, flower, and fruit. It grows abundantly in ravines and among brush at high altitudes in northern Ecuador. The fruits are not much used by the natives, though they seem nearly as good as those of the cultivated *tacso*."

53182 to 53185. *PERSEA AMERICANA* Mill. Lauraceæ. **Avocado.**
(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

53182. "(No. 573. Hacienda San Vicente, Province of Carchi, Ecuador. February 17, 1921). Budwood of avocado No. 47. *Tamayo*. The parent tree stands in one of the huertas of the hacienda about half a mile north of the house at an altitude of 6,100 feet. This variety, so far as can be judged by an examination of the parent tree, is either a very unusual Mexican or else a hybrid between the Mexican and West Indian races. The fruit is of good size (about 18 ounces in weight) and of convenient oval form. In appearance it is fairly attractive, being smooth, with the surface light green, washed or overspread with maroon purple at the stem end. The skin is not woody; it resembles both in thickness and texture that of such large-fruited Mexican varieties as *Puebla* and *Gottfried*. The flesh is cream colored, with a very few inconspicuous fiber markings. The quality is very good. The seed is small and tight in the cavity. The tree appears to bear fair, but not heavy, crops.

"Formal description: Parent tree about 35 feet high, the trunk 18 inches thick at the base, dividing about 8 feet above the ground, and giving off the first branches at 12 feet. Crown oval, slender, open. Foliage when crushed has a very faint aniselike odor scarcely detectable.

"The fruit is broadly oval to obovoid in form; weight about 18 ounces; length about 4 inches and greatest breadth about 3½ inches; base slightly tapering, the stem inserted to one side; apex very slightly and obliquely flattened; surface smooth, light green with numerous whitish green dots, and overspread with maroon purple or dull purple around the stem; skin thin, like that of the largest fruited Mexican varieties, rather tender; flesh cream