

**53753. SCLEROCARYA CAFFRA** Sond. Anacardiaceæ.

From Mount Silinda, Southern Rhodesia, Africa. Seeds presented by Dr. W. L. Thompson. Received May 27, 1921.

"A tree not found in our forests, but common in the open forest country. It would seem probable that the fruit, improved by selection and breeding, ought to become quite valuable and attractive for the seed used as a nut, if not for the pulp, since the flavor of the kernel is pleasant, especially if slightly roasted. The shell is very hard and tough, but one can obtain the kernel without cracking it by prying off with a strong iron point the cap with which the shell is provided. If the kernel were larger and the cap could be removed more easily, it might be quite an attractive nut. As it is, the natives often crack the nuts and eat the kernels." (*Thompson.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 52216.

**53754 to 53758.**

From Quito, Ecuador. Collected by Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer of the Department of Agriculture. Received June 8, 1921. Quoted notes by Mr. Popenoe.

**53754. CARICA CHRYSOPELALA** Heilborn. Papayaceæ.**Higacho.**

"(No. 610a. Quito, Ecuador. May 7, 1921.) Seeds of *higacho* from Banos, Province of Tungurahua, where it is common in gardens. It does not appear to be grown in Ambato. In the Provinces of Pichincha and Imbabura it is called *chamburo* and is fairly abundant in the larger towns, such as Quito, Otavalo, and Ibarra. In the Azuay it is called *chamburao* and in Loja *toronchi*; in the former Province it is fairly abundant, but in the latter, with the exception of the northern portion, it appears to be little known.

"This plant resembles *C. candamarcensis* in general appearance, though it can readily be distinguished by its leaves which are glabrous or nearly so, while those of *C. candamarcensis* are pubescent below. The fruits of the *higacho* are also quite distinct; they are slender oblong, truncate at the base and acute at the apex, and commonly 4 to 6 inches long. When ripe they are greenish to deep yellow; the flesh is thin, even more aromatic than that of *C. candamarcensis*, and used only when cooked in the form of a sweet conserve or dulce. The species is probably indigenous to the Ecuadorian Andes."

For an illustration of fruits of the *higacho*, see Plate V.

**53755. CRATAEGUS STIPULOSA** (H. K. B.) Steud. Malaceæ.

"(No. 604. Quito, Ecuador. May 7, 1921.) Plants of *Huagra-manzana* or *manzana silvestre*, from the Protestant cemetery in Quito. This plant, which grows wild along some of the ravines in the vicinity of Quito and is occasionally seen in cultivation, becomes a slender tree 20 to 25 feet high. It has elliptic-lanceolate, serrate leaves and produces during March, April, and May round yellow fruits about an inch in diameter. These are almost identical with *tejacotes* of Mexico and the *manzanilla* of Guatemala; the flesh is whitish, mealy, and rather dry, of pleasant flavor suggesting that of the apple. The seeds are larger and rough. During the ripening season the fruits are commonly sold in the markets of Quito.

"For trial in the United States as a stock plant for other rosaceous fruits; as a fruit-bearing species it is less valuable than some of its Central American congeners."

**53756. ONOSERIS SALICIFOLIA** H. B. K. Asteraceæ.

"(No. 605a. Loja, Ecuador. May 7, 1921.) Seeds of a half-shrubby composite which grows in the region of Loja and also in other parts of southern Ecuador at altitudes of 7,000 to 8,000 feet. It is 5 feet high and produces an abundance of lavender-blue flowers about 2 inches in diameter. It is a pretty perennial, worthy of trial in the United States as an ornamental plant."