

53924. DIOSCOREA ESCULENTA (Lour.) Burkill. Dioscoreaceæ.**Lesser yam.**

From Barbados, British West Indies. Tubers presented by J. R. Bovell, Director of Agriculture. Received August 1, 1921.

"This *Buck* yam has a delicious flavor, and persons growing yams would be well advised to try to obtain a few tubers when the next planting season comes around." (*Report of Department of Agriculture, Barbados, 1919-20.*)

"This is a white-fleshed yam of excellent quality. The skin is smooth and thin but tough; the variety should be a good shipper. The tubers are cylindrical in shape and rather small." (*R. A. Young.*)

53925. DIOSCOREA LATIFOLIA Benth. Dioscoreaceæ.**Acom.**

From Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tubers presented by D. S. Bullock, agricultural trade commissioner, United States Department of Agriculture, American Embassy. Received July 28, 1921.

"*Papa de aire en parral* (climbing air potato)." (*Bullock.*)

"A yam which produces its crop of edible tubers along the vine, in the axils of the leaves instead of under ground. According to I. H. Burkill, it is of African origin and is called *acom*. Mr. Burkill states that it is very closely allied to *D. bulbifera*. The vine is round stemmed and the leaves cordate. The variety is not a very strong grower. The tubers are angular, brownish gray in color, thin but tough skinned, and in form resemble the liver of fowl, whence arises the name 'turkey-liver yam' by which the variety is known in some parts of Brazil. The tubers weigh from a fraction of an ounce to as much as a pound each, depending upon age and the conditions of growth; they keep exceedingly well. The quality of the tubers is fair when they are properly prepared for the table. The cooked tubers are rather firm but mealy. Boiled in the skin the yellowish flesh is of unpleasantly strong flavor, but when the tubers are pared, cut into pieces, and boiled, the objectionable quality is removed. The boiled yam is also very good when slightly fried." (*R. A. Young.*)

53926 and 53927.

From Africa. Seeds collected by Dr. H. L. Shantz, Agricultural Explorer of the Department of Agriculture. Received August, 1920, and numbered July, 1921. Quoted notes by Doctor Shantz.

53926. CROTALARIA sp. Fabaceæ.

"(No. 1186. Kisumu, Nyanza, Kenia, British East Africa. July 11, 1920.) A *Crotalaria* with small clustered pods."

53927. CROTALARIA sp. Fabaceæ.

"(No. 1187. Kisumu, Nyanza, Kenia, British East Africa. July 11, 1920. A *Crotalaria* with large bladder pods and seeds one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch across."

53928. LEPTOSPERMUM SCOPARIUM NICHOLLII (Darr.-Smith) Turrill. Myrtaceæ.

From Richmond, Victoria. Seeds presented by F. H. Baker. Received August 13, 1921.

A red-flowered variety of this very abundant tree or shrub, the beautiful colonial counterpart of the English broom, or gorse, sometimes 30 feet in height. Early voyagers and colonists sometimes used its pungent leaves in place of tea. The whole plant, including leaves, flowers, fruit, and young shoots, is highly aromatic, and the oil which it contains perhaps, in the future, will be put to some useful purpose. The wood is largely used for fences and firewood. The Maoris made use of it for their paddles and spears, and a bunch of the twigs makes an excellent broom. (*Adapted from Laing and Blackwell, Plants of New Zealand, p. 272.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 48168.