

54918 and 54919.

From Tripoli, Libya, Africa. Seeds presented by Dr. E. O. Fenzi. Received March 22, 1922. Quoted notes by Doctor Fenzi.

These are the wild forms of well-known evergreens and may differ from the varieties now cultivated. Both are native to Cyrenaica.

54918. *CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS* L. Pinaceæ. Cypress.

"This is first found at about 650 feet elevation, but grows at its best above 1,300 feet, where trees 100 feet high and showing the same branching habit as the old cedars of Lebanon are not rare. They are confined to the northern slope of the Cyrenaican plateau, where precipitation is much greater than on the southern slope."

54919. *JUNIPERUS PHOENICEA* L. Pinaceæ. Juniper.

"The *Juniperus* is much more plentiful than the *Cupressus*, so much so as to constitute about 60 per cent of the whole woody vegetation between sea level and 2,600 feet elevation. It may become over 30 feet in height, but is generally smaller. The wood of both species is quite heavy and practically indestructible."

54920 to 54922.

From Mount Silinda, Southern Rhodesia, Africa. Seeds presented by Dr. W. L. Thompson. Received March 22, 1922. Quoted notes by Doctor Thompson.

54920. *KHAYA NYASICA* Stapf. Meliaceæ. African mahogany.

"The *red mahogany* is one of our most valuable timber trees and is widely distributed over Mozambique. It is fairly rapid in growth, though not equal to some of the eucalypts in this respect. It is found most often growing near streams, but also on high ground at a distance from water. The timber is very durable and is not attacked by white ants or borers."

A huge tree, 150 feet or more in height, with a very straight trunk and an enormous crown of handsome glossy foliage which is not eaten to any extent by locusts. The hard red timber has a beautiful grain and is easily worked. The seeds are boiled and crushed by the natives, who use the resulting oil in their hair to kill vermin. The tree is native to Gazaland, Mozambique, where its native name is *umbaba*. (Adapted from *Journal of the Linnean Society, vol. 40 (Botany), p. 42.*)

54921. *STRYCHNOS MELLODORA* S. Moore. Loganiaceæ.

"The *Strychnos* is also prized by us for its timber, which is fine grained and strong, and is used here for tool handles. It is not so large a tree as the *red mahogany*, not usually more than a foot or 15 inches in diameter. It is much more free from the attacks of insects than the *ukuhla* and not so completely immune as the *red mahogany*."

54922. *TRICHILIA CHIRINDENSIS* Swynn. and Baker. Meliaceæ.

"The *ukuhla* is a fine timber tree except for the fact that white ants and borers attack the wood. I have some bookshelves made of this lumber over 20 years ago which have not been touched by borers since, though they have some borer holes in them, made previous to the lumber being made up into shelves. This immunity is due to chance treatment, lying out in the storms during our rainy season, not to controlled conditions. We have tried soaking the lumber in a pond, but so far have not learned to control conditions so as to be uniformly successful. The seeds are partially covered with a white pulp, inclosed by a bright-red skin, having a nutty flavor, and although there is very little of it on each seed the natives are very fond of it. An oil is also obtained from the seeds. I once obtained some of it from a native; it was quite solid like tallow, and I attempted to make candles of it, but when melted it did not harden again at once on cooling."