

58957. SOJA MAX (L.) Piper (*Glycine hispida* Maxim.). Fabaceæ.

Soy bean.

From Sapporo, Japan. Seeds presented by T. Abiko, agronomist, Hokkaido Agricultural Experiment Station. Received June 12, 1924.

Introduced for soy-bean specialists.

Hadaka-Daidzu.

58958. GARCINIA BINUCAO (Blanco)
Choisy. Clusiaceæ. **Binukao.**

From Manila, Philippine Islands. Seeds presented by the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture. Received June 2, 1924.

The binukao, a relative of the mangosteen, is a handsome tree which is very common in certain parts of the Philippine Islands, notably in Luzon and the Visayan Islands. W. H. Brown, in "Wild Food Plants of the Philippines," states that the yellowish, rounded fruits, nearly 2 inches in diameter, with a very acid pulp and numerous seeds, are eaten with fish by the Filipinos. The small, red flowers are borne in dense clusters. The binukao will probably not endure low temperatures, since it comes from a tropical region.

58959 and 58960. HIBISCUS SABDA-RIFFA L. Malvaceæ.

From Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States. Seeds presented by the agriculturist, Department of Agriculture. Received June 9, 1924.

Variety *altissima*. A tall variety, first recognized in the Philippine Islands where it was grown from seed received from Senegal, West Africa. It is an annual plant with slender stalks 2 to 3 meters high. It differs from the more common roselle in being taller and in having calyx lobes less fleshy and is of little value for making jellies, jams, etc.

Tall roselle is cultivated to a limited extent in Senegal for fiber production, and during the past two or three years a syndicate has been trying to establish its cultivation in the Federated Malay States.

The fiber belongs to the jute group and is suitable for bags, burlaps, and twines. It is coarser and harsher than Indian jute. No efficient machinery has been devised for preparing bast fibers such as jute and roselle, and it would be impossible to produce these fibers profitably by hand labor in this country.

Tall roselle may be grown in the warmer parts of the Gulf States and in southern California. (*L. H. Dewey, Bureau of Plant Industry.*)

58959. Green form.

58960. Red form.

58961. CASTANOPSIS ARGENTEA (Blume) A. DC. Fagaceæ.

From Buitenzorg, Java. Seeds presented by Dr. J. J. Smith, 's Lands Plantentuin. Received June 12, 1924.

In the endeavor to establish in the United States blight-resistant chestnuts or related trees, Asiatic species of *Castanea* and *Castanopsis* are being introduced for trial. This species, from Java, is a large evergreen tree 50 to 60 feet tall, with dense clusters of spiny burs which inclose edible nuts about an inch in diameter.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 58931.

58962. MEIBOMIA OLDHAMI (Oliver)
Kuntze (*Desmodium oldhami* Oliver).
Fabaceæ.

From Leningrad, Russia. Seeds presented by W. I. Kousnetzoff, in charge of forage plants, Bureau of Applied Botany. Received June 12, 1924.

A slender, unbranched Japanese species, 2 to 4 feet high, with leaves 5 to 10 inches long.

58963. FUNTUMIA ELASTICA (Preuss)
Stapf. Apocynaceæ.

Lagos rubber tree.

From Akkra, Gold Coast Colony, Africa. Seeds presented by W. S. D. Tudhope, Director, Agricultural Department. Received April 2, 1924.

A large forest tree which is very widely distributed throughout central Africa and is the source of Lagos rubber, the quality of which is but little inferior to that of Para rubber.

Though of doubtful value for growing commercially even in the most favorable parts of the United States, this plant is being introduced with a view of including it in the collection of rubber plants now being brought together in southern Florida for investigational purposes.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 42367.

58964. LILIUM PHILIPPINENSE Baker.
Liliaceæ. **Benguet lily.**

From Taihoku, Formosa, Japan. Bulbs presented by R. Kanehira, director, Experimental Station of Forestry. Received April 2, 1924.

A semihardy Philippine lily with a slender green stem, sometimes purple dotted, 1 to 2 feet high, 30 to 40 narrow horizontal, recurved leaves 3 to 5 inches long, and delicately fragrant, pure waxy white flowers, 8 inches long, tinged green near the base, with yellow anthers. This species is best suited for pot culture in cold regions.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 50311.

58965. NICOTIANA SUAVEOLENS Lehm.
Solanaceæ.

From Sydney, New South Wales. Seeds presented by J. H. Maiden, director, Botanic Gardens. Received April 2, 1924.

This Australian relative of the common tobacco-producing species is a herbaceous annual or biennial, native to sandy, hilly regions throughout most of Australia. It is said that in former times the leaves were chewed by the natives. The plant is readily eaten by stock. It is now introduced for the use of specialists who are studying the narcotic properties of the Solanaceæ.

58966. AXONOPUS SCOPARIUS (Fluegge)
Hitche. (*Paspalum scoparium*
Fluegge). Poaceæ.

From Guayaquil, Ecuador. Seeds collected by A. S. Hitchcock, Bureau of Plant Industry. Received April 2, 1924.

This South American grass is used at low altitudes for forage, being cut green and fed as is done with guinea grass. I saw it first on the estate of J. A. Cleveland, of Guayaquil, in the rain belt at the foot of the mountains near Bucay. The grass is set out from plants obtained by division of the roots. It is called there "gramalote." I suspect this name is the same as gamalote, which is used for a different species in some other countries. The grass appears to be looked upon with favor, as it is large and succulent and produces abundant forage. It is preferred to guinea grass, which grows under about the same conditions. I found the same grass again in the Perene Valley of central Peru at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. There it is called maicillo and is used in competition with guinea grass. It appeared again in the Yungas region of Bolivia. It is there called cachi. In the intermediate altitude from 5,000 to 8,000 feet it was the only forage obtained for our mules while traveling. Throughout the region the grass is native and has been transferred to cultivation. (*Hitchcock.*)