

62677 to 62691—Continued.

shades are extremely pretty, others a bit pallid. It should be easy through selection to develop a strain producing nothing but bright-pink flowers. The plant seems to be a perennial in this climate, but I suspect it will stand no frost.

62683 to 62687. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. (*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.). Lauraceae. **Avocado.**

The avocados of the Chota Valley are an interesting group. The majority of them belong to the Mexican race, but quite a few are obviously of the lowland type which we call West Indian. Some of the trees seem almost intermediate in character between these two races, which leads to the belief that they may be of hybrid origin. The Mexican varieties of the Chota Valley are a superior lot, perhaps the finest which we have found during our explorations in tropical America.

The five varieties originally introduced in 1921, plus the five now obtained, give us a collection comprising some of the best forms grown in the Chota Valley.

62683. No. 688. Hacienda Carpuela. Avocado No. 1. This avocado is an oblong, light-green fruit, weighing about 12 ounces. It is probably not a Mexican; it may be a cross between this race and the West Indian; the characteristics of the fruit suggest this possibility. Since I was unable to see a mature specimen, I can not report upon the quality of the fruit, though I am assured by the owner of the tree that it is excellent. The seed cavity is large and the seed loose within. The foliage has no odor of anise when crushed.

62684. No. 689. Hacienda Carpuela. Avocado No. 2. This is a pear-shaped fruit with a distinct neck, pointed where it joins the stem. The weight is about 12 ounces; the color dull yellowish green. Since the leaves are distinctly anise scented, it seems probable that the variety belongs to the Mexican race. The seed is moderately large and tight in the cavity. I was unable to examine a mature specimen, hence I can not vouch for the quality of the flesh.

62685. No. 690. Hacienda Chalhua. Avocado No. 3. This avocado is said by the owner of the hacienda to produce fruits of a large size and excellent quality, but I was unable to see mature specimens and am not able to vouch for this personally. The foliage is not anise scented, hence I suspect the variety to be of the West Indian race, though it may be a cross between this and the Mexican. The fruit is pyriform, rather slender, broadly necked; maroon-purple; the weight uncertain, perhaps 1 pound in well-developed specimens. The skin is rather thick, but not so much so as in many varieties of the West Indian race. The flesh is a rich yellow; the seed is large and tight in the cavity.

62686. No. 691. The Huerta de los Dolores. Avocado No. 4. This and the following variety come from an orchard which has an interesting history. Over a hundred years ago the owner of the grove died, leaving the property to the Virgin of Dolores. The Bishop of Ibarra was named administrator.

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Some of the trees on this property are extremely old; I suspect, in fact, that they may have been planted by the Spanish monks who originally owned the haciendas of the Chota Valley. It is not unlikely that certain of these trees date from the eighteenth century. The largest have trunks 8 to 10 feet thick.

The avocado represented by this number is undoubtedly of the Mexican race. The fruit is broadly pyriform; green skinned, and weighs about 8 ounces; the seed is of medium size and tight in the cavity. The flesh is rich yellow and of excellent quality.

62687. No. 692. The Huerta de los Dolores. Avocado No. 5. This avocado, having the same interesting history as No. 691 [S. P. I. No. 62686], is not a true Mexican, since the leaves are not strongly anise scented. Most probably it is a cross between this race and the West Indian. The fruit is oblong-ovoid, about 12 ounces in weight, and maroon-purple; the seed is rather large and loose in the cavity; the skin is thick for a Mexican, thin for a West Indian; the flesh is creamy yellow and is said to be of excellent flavor.

62688. PRUNUS SEROTINA Ehrh. Amygdalaceae. **Capulin.**

No. 706. Ambato, Ecuador. Seeds of a large-fruited capulin obtained in the market. For a description of the capulin, see S. P. I. No. 52597 and the Journal of Heredity for February, 1922.

62689 and 62690. RUBUS GLAUCUS Benth. Rosaceae. **Andes raspberry.**

62689. No. 699. Ibarra, Ecuador. Plants of a rare albino, or white-fruited, form of the Andes raspberry. It was discovered by José Felix Tamayo and brought by him to the Hacienda la Victoria in Ibarra, where it is now growing vigorously.

The typical form of the Andes raspberry has maroon-colored fruits. They will be found described in the inventories under S. P. I. Nos. 55788 and 62014, and in the Journal of Heredity, vol. 12, No. 9, November, 1921. According to Señor Tamayo, the albino form yields fruits of excellent quality, differing from those of the typical *Rubus glaucus* only in color.

62690. No. 708. Ambato, Ecuador. Seeds of the typical form of this excellent berry obtained from fruits purchased in the market.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 52717.

62691. SOLANUM MEDIANS Bitter.

No. 681. Lima, Peru. Tubers presented by Prof. Julio Gaudron, Jardín Botánico de la Escuela Nacional de Agricultura. This is a potato-like species brought into the Botanic Garden of the School of Agriculture some years ago by Nicolas Esposito. It occurs wild on the coast of Peru, and Professor Gaudron believes it may prove of interest in connection with potato-breeding experiments, since it is exceedingly productive of tubers which are smaller than potatoes, being commonly 1 or 2 inches in length and not more than an inch in diameter. They have white, crisp flesh of very firm texture, but are not considered good to eat.