

## NOTES ON INTRODUCED PLANTS IN SIAM.

By PHYA WINIT WANANDORN.

The following notes form a sequel to those initiated by Dr. A. Kerr in this Supplement. Most of the information has been derived from many residents of Bangkok, among whom may be mentioned Phya Pojana Pricha, an amateur horticulturist of old standing.

With the limited knowledge on introduced plants at present at his disposal, the writer is fully conscious of the fact that these notes are incomplete and may contain faulty material in many places; but he hopes those who can will rectify such defects as they may be detected, so that information as full and accurate as possible may eventually be available on the subject.

**Adiantum Farleyense** Moore. เฟินขนนก (fern khon nok).

This most beautiful of Adiantums is occasionally to be met with in Bangkok ferneries, where, however, it usually does not grow to any noteworthy size, outside glass, at any rate. It is said to have been introduced from Europe by Prince Sanpasart between thirty and forty years ago. The fern is a native of Farley Hill, Barbados, and is botanically considered a variety of *Adiantum tenerum* Sw., which latter is about the commonest of maiden-hairs in Bangkok.

Under the same Siamese name, or rather เฟินขนนกก้านแข็ง (fern khon nok kan kheng) to be particular, is also to be found cultivated in Bangkok another fern, apparently a dwarf variety of *A. tenerum*, differing from *A. Farleyense* obviously in its rigid and soriferous habit.

**Allamanda cathartica** Linn. *Allamanda*. บานบุรีเหลือง.

One or two forms of this handsome climber are now very common in this country, having been in cultivation here for at least thirty-five years. The introducer is unknown. The species is a native of tropical South America.

**Anthurium Andraeanum** Lind. & André. *Anthurium*.

หน้มีวัดอก.

This Colombian aroid in its many varieties is a very popular greenhouse plant among the Siamese, on account of the showy and



**Bougainvillea spectabilis Willd.** *Bougainvillea.* ตรู๋ยจีน.

เฟื่องฟ้า.

This *Bougainvillea*, a Brazilian native, is now a very common feature on fences, trellis and other supports in this country. The date of its introduction is unknown, but fifty years ago the plant was already in Bangkok. It must have been rather rare and not well known prior to the formation of the Dusit Palace Gardens, about thirty-two years ago, for the gardens then, it is said, had to get their supply of *Bougainvillea* plants from the Province of Nakawn Sritamarat.

**Brunfelsia Hopeana Benth.?** พุดสี. สามภู่.

Probably the above species, a native of Brazil and the West Indies, this shrub was first observed in the possession of Mom Rajotai of Bangkok about twenty years ago. The introducer is unknown, but it was probably that gentleman himself.

The scent of the flower so strongly resembles that of *putachat* (*Jasminum auriculatum*) that the plant is sometimes called by the Siamese *putachat muang*.

**Buddleia Davidii Franch.**

This scented lilac-flowered shrub of Chinese origin, now still uncommon in Bangkok, was imported from Holland by the Dang Toi Nursery in 1928. Together with this species was also introduced *B. globosa* Lam., a native of Chile, but that plant has since died out.

Indigenous to this country there are one or two species of *Buddleia* of sufficient horticultural beauty, but they are not seen cultivated in Bangkok.

**Caladium bicolor Vent.** *Caladium.* ขอนฝรั่ง.

About 1882 two varieties of *C. bicolor*, a native of Brazil, locally named *kra nok krata* (กระหนกกระทา) and *tom ya pra peng* (ถมยาประเป้ง), first made appearance in Bangkok, and are said to have been sent from Europe by some European. Since then more varieties and forms have been introduced together with those of a few other species, and also not a few and interesting ones have locally sprung up in culti-

variation as results of bud variation. There are at present over two hundred varieties and forms of the Caladiums, at least as named locally, and Phya Prabha is supposed to have been responsible for the introduction of a great number of them.

The Caladiums have long been favourites among the Siamese. In 1906-1907 when collecting and display of the aroids were for the first time in vogue in this country, prices paid by local enthusiastic collectors for certain rare and unique kinds are known to have run up to as much as four figures in ticals.

**Camellia japonica** Linn. *Japan Camellia.* แมต้อวช.

The introduction of this native of China and Japan is said to have been initiated by the late Luang Rajakit Kenikorn about forty years ago. Potted plants with flower buds on are being occasionally imported from China for sale in Bangkok. As a rule the plant does not do well under the climate of Bangkok, either lasting only for a year or two or not opening the flower buds locally formed.

**Castanea sativa** Mill. (*C. chinensis* Hassk.). *Sweet Chestnut.*  
ไม้าลัด.

Out of many seeds locally obtained from a Chinese vendor, Phya Surendra Rajasena of Lampang succeeded in raising a chestnut plant in 1925. After the lapse of so many years the plant is now only about two feet high. Whether it will grow to maturity and set fruit at all, where it is, remains to be seen. This is the only true chestnut plant the writer has ever seen or heard of in this country. The species is a native of the Mediterranean Region, China and Japan.

**Ceropteris calomelanos** Und., var. **chrysophylla** v. A. v. R.

(*Gymnogramma chrysophylla* Kaulf.). *Gold Fern.* เฟินทอง.

This most beautiful of Gold ferns has been in cultivation in this country for about thirty years. The introducer is unknown. The fern is indigenous to tropical America and tropical West Africa.

**Cestrum nocturnum** Linn. *Queen of the Night.* ราตรี.

This popular night-scented flowering shrub of the West Indies has been grown in Siam for a little over fifty years. It is not known

whence or by whom it was introduced to this country. Lady Plian Bhasakarawongse, however, is said to have been the person responsible for the spread of the shrub in Bangkok in the first instance.

**Chrysalidocarpus lutescens** *Wendl.* (*Areca lutescens* Bory).  
หมากเหล็ก.

This graceful and decorative, soboliferous feather-palm, a native of Bourbon, now common in Bangkok gardens, is said to have been introduced by Phya Pradibhat Bhubal about thirty years ago, probably from Singapore. The palm is often grown as a pot plant.

**Cinchona succirubra** *Pav.* *Red Cinchona.* ต้นคินนิน.

The Department of Agriculture introduced this quinine tree from Java in 1925, and sent a plant or two to Chiengrai for trial growing. The climate there, however, does not seem to have suited its proper development. This species is a native of the Andes of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

**Clausena Wampi** *Blanco.* *Wampee.*

This fruit tree from China was first seen by the writer in the garden of Phya Surendra Rajsena of Lampang about eight years ago. The plant was taken there from Bangkok, but the species may have come to Siam long before that time.

**Clematis Jackmanii** *Moore.* *Clematis.*

This beautiful Clematis was imported from Holland by the Dang Toi Nursery in 1928. It seems to do all right in Bangkok. It is said to be a hybrid between *C. lanuginosa* Lindl. and *C. Viticella* Linn., the former a native of China, the latter of South Europe to Persia.

There are several species of Siamese Clematis, some of which are quite floriferous and attractive, but they do not seem to be much known to local gardeners.

**Codiaeum variegatum** *Bl.* *Garden Croton.* โทสน.

This ornamental foliage plant, the so-called *Croton* of the garden, is a native of the Moluccas. It was introduced to Bangkok, from India, it is said, by Phya Bhasakarawongse, about 1880.

In its numerous varieties and forms the *Croton* has been a

plant of outstanding popularity among the local gardeners since its appearance in this country. New fine varieties are continually being imported and locally raised from seed.

**Coffea robusta** Linden. *Robusta* or *Congo Coffee*. กาแฟ.

The writer saw the Robusta coffee plant grown in Siam for the first time in 1925, when a plantation composed of this species was raised in Lampang from berries imported from Sumatra towards the end of 1924 by Mr. Tan Boon Leong of Bangkok.

The plants there seem to have grown and fruited well in situations where there is enough moisture in the soil during hot weather. Robusta coffee is a plant from Central Africa, of uncertain botanical status.

Accidentally introduced with the above was the Liberian coffee (*Coffea liberica* Hiern.).

**Coleus Blumei** Benth. ฤๅษีผสมแล้ว.

This well-known beautiful foliage plant of Java, of which there are now many varieties, was first noticed in this country about the year 1878. It is not known who the introducer was or from which country the plant came directly to Siam.

**Dracaena fragrans** Ker-Gawl, var. **Lindenii** Hort.

This decorative foliage shrub was first imported into this country by Phya Pojana Pricha about thirty years ago, from England. It is a native of Guinea.

**Dracaena Goldieana** Hort.

The late Luang Rajakit Kenikorn is said to have been the person to introduce this attractive foliage shrub of west tropical Africa between thirty and forty years ago. It is but rarely seen in Bangkok gardens.

**Eriobotrya japonica** Lindl. *Loquat*. ไข่ไม้.

In 1923 Mr. A. L. Queripel, a keen horticulturist of Chiang-mai, had in his garden a young loquat plant. That was the first plant of its kind seen in Siam by the writer. The species does not seem to do well in Bangkok. Loquat is a native of China and Japan.

**Ficus elastica** Roxb. *India-rubber Tree*. ยางอินเดีย.

This rubber-yielding *Ficus* was introduced to Bangkok about fifty years ago. It was first noticed at Dr. Hays' place on the Windmill Road, and perhaps it was the Doctor who introduced it. The species probably came to Peninsular Siam about a decade earlier. The variegated-leaved variety was introduced by King Chulalongkorn about forty years ago.

In the early period of its introduction this *Ficus* was a favourite shade and avenue tree. Some small attempts were also made at forming plantations of it for the production of rubber, but with no satisfactory results.

The tree is indigenous to the tropical forests of the Outer Himalaya, from Nepal eastwards to Upper Burma, having its southermost limit of distribution at 24° N. Lat.

***Gardenia florida* Linn. *Cape Jasmine.* พุดใหญ่, พุดจีน.**

This fine shrub with delightfully fragrant flower has long been cultivated in this country, and it is one of the plants that are most easily propagated from cuttings. It is believed to have come from China, where it is supposed to be a native, during the second or third reign of the present dynasty (1809-1851).

***Gingko biloba* Linn. *Gingko, or Maidenhair Tree.***

Along with many species and varieties of dwarfed conifers, the majority of which give little promise to long survive the uncongenial climate of Bangkok, was imported from Japan a young plant of the maidenhair tree, by the Dang Toi Nursery, in the early part of the year 1932. This was apparently the first attempt at introducing this plant of singular appearance into this country. It is doubtful if the plant will long stand the warm climate of Bangkok. The maidenhair tree is a native of North China and Japan, where it is said to be regarded as a sacred plant.

***Hibiscus mutabilis* Linn. *Changeable Rose.* พุดตาน.**

This well-known *Hibiscus* from China is believed to have been introduced by the Chinese during the second or third reign of the Chakri dynasty (1809-1851), during which period most of the older garden plants of Chinese origin are supposed to have come to Siam.

**Hibiscus rosa-sinensis** Linn. *Chinese Shoe-plant.* ชะบะป.

This is the commonest and best-known garden Hibiscus in this country. It is extensively used for hedges, being easily propagated from cuttings. The shrub is probably a native of China, from which country it is believed to have come to Siam during the Ayuthia period, probably in the XVIth or XVIIth century A. D., when sea-borne trade with China had been well established. The variegated-leaved variety is said to be a recent introduction.

It was a practice in the Ayuthia days that persons guilty of adultery were punished by being made to wear shoe-flowers on both ears and led through streets for exposure to public shame. So in those days the red flower of the Hibiscus was, among other things, an emblem of debauchery.

**Hibiscus syriacus** Linn. ชะบะจีน.

There are two varieties of this ornamental shrub of fastigiate habit cultivated in this country—one with a purple, the other with a white flower, which in both is double. The latter variety, however, is less common. The plant does not seem to grow and flower so well in Bangkok as in Northern Siam, probably on account of the difference in the soil and climate. It is said to have been introduced from China by the Chinese about forty years ago. The native country of the plant is uncertain: probably not Syria as the botanical name implies; more likely China, as the Siamese name suggests.

**Hydrangea opuloides** Koch. (*H. hortensia* Smith). *Greenhouse Hydrangea.* ไฮเดรนเยีย.

A few forms of the Hortensia group of this beautiful Hydrangea are now frequently to be seen in Bangkok greenhouses, where they do pretty well. The species is a native of China and Japan, and is said to have been introduced from Singapore by H. M. Queen Dowager Sawang Wadhana in 1924 or 1925.

There is a variety of this species, or probably another species, which has been found never to flower in Bangkok.

**Hyophorbe Verschaffeltii** Wendl. (*Areca Verschaffeltii* Hort.).

มะพร้าวสามเหลี่ยม. หมากสามเหลี่ยม.



This Mauritius palm was first introduced from Singapore by Luang Tanat Pojanamaht in 1919, three plants forming the introduction. Four or five years later many small seedlings were imported from the same place by Nai Sri, a nurseryman at Silom, and principally from this lot the palm has spread in Bangkok.

The former Siamese name has been given in allusion to the miniature coconut-palm-like appearance and the three-cornered stem, or rather stem with the leaf bases, the palm has when it is still low.

**Isotoma longiflora** *Prest.* ดอกป๋ขฝรัง.

This weedy-looking campanulaceous herb, native of the West Indies, was recently observed by the writer in a garden on the the Bangkok Noi Canal, where it is said to have been for about ten years. It is not known when or from which country it came. Its introduction was probably accidental. On account of its acrid, poisonous, milky juice, the plant is by no means desirable where there are grazing animals. The plant is locally so named because of the passing resemblance its individual flower bears to that of the so-called Indian cork-tree (*Millingtonia hortensis*) which is indigenous to Siam.

**Ixora macrothyrsa** *Teijsm. & Binn.* เข็มแดง.

An East Indian shrub, this red-flowered *Ixora* is said to have been introduced by Phya Pradibhat Bhubal about thirty years ago, probably from Singapore. It is fairly common in gardens, but specimens with the size of inflorescence worthy of the specific name are only seldom seen, probably on account of poor cultivation.

**Jacobinia carnea** *Nichols.* พุ่มนก.

A native of Brazil, this low herb or sub-shrub with dense plumose inflorescence of pink flowers was originally raised from seed brought from Hongkong by a Chinaman about six or seven years ago. The plant is not yet common in gardens.

**Jatropha multifida** *Linn.* Coral Plant, Physic Nut.

มะเดือกฝรัง.

This shrub is occasionally to be found in gardens. It is a native of Central and South America, and is said to have been intro-

duced into this country by Phya Prabhaskarawongse about thirty or thirty-five years ago.

**Lagerstroemia indica** *Linn.* *Crape Myrtle.* ชัยพฤกษ์.

Being one of the most beautiful flowering shrubs, this *Lagerstroemia* is commonly cultivated in this country. It is believed to have come from China during the latter part of the third reign of the present dynasty (1824-1851). It is not a native of India or Indies, as the name implies, but of China.

**Latania Commersonii** *Gmel.* (*L. rubra* *Jacq.*). ตาลใบตอง.

This Mauritius fan-palm is said to have been introduced from Singapore by Phya Maha Yodha between thirty and thirty-five years ago. It is usually grown here as a pot subject.

**Leucaena glauca** *Benth.* กะถิน.

This small tropical American tree, whose tender shoots and pods are used as a vegetable by the local people, is now to be seen everywhere in Siam, both cultivated and semi-wild. It has been so long in this country that its introduction cannot be accounted for with any degree of satisfaction. There is a belief that the tree was originally introduced either from Cambodia or direct from India by the Hindus in pre-Ayuthia time, that is, before the middle of XIVth century A. D.

The Siamese usually look upon the tree as indigenous and regard the yellow-flowered *Acacia Farnesiana*, which bears the same vernacular name *katin*, as exotic. This may be known from the fact that when a discrimination is required, the former is called *katin tai* (Siamese *katin*) and the latter *katin tet* (foreign *katin*). Of course both plants are foreign, both are common and naturalised in this country, and the *Acacia* is apparently the later introduction.

**Livistona rotundifolia** *Mart.?* ปามจำปา (*pam java*).

*Pam java*, probably the above species of the Malay Archipelago, is quite popular in this country, being usually grown as a dwarf pot-plant which is much used for house decoration. It is said to have been first brought from Java by King Chulalongkorn in 1901, the year in which the memorable Java-weed was also introduced.

**Malpighia coccigera** *Linu.* ขาบีตตามวีย. ขาโยหนาม. ขาโยมัน.

This West Indian shrub is now pretty common in Bangkok gardens, usually grown as a hedge plant. It is said to have been first imported by one Nai Soot, a late Bangkok plant dealer, about fifteen years ago, probably from Batavia, as one (the earliest) of the local names indicates.

The other shrubs that go by the Siamese name of *cha* ขา and are also commonly used for garden hedges in this country are *Ehretia* *sp.* (ชาญน) and *Acalypha fruticosa* (ขาช้อย)—the latter, and probably also the former, however, being native to Siam.

**Narcissus Tazetta** *Linu.* (*Polyanthus Narcissus*). ลัญเซียม.

This Narcissus of a Chinese myth has been known in Bangkok for at least a century. From China bulbs are being imported annually to grow and flower during the short cold season here. Bulbs formed in this country, at least in the plains climate, are small and rarely produce flowers at all; hence the recurring importation of fresh bulbs. The Narcissus is a native of Europe, Canary Islands, China, and Japan.

The variety *orientalis*, Chinese Sacred Lily, which has the flower wholly yellow, is said to have been occasionally imported, but the writer has seen none himself.

**Nerium odorum** *Soland.* *Sweet Oleander.* ยี่โถ.

This beautiful flowering shrub is native to Western Asia, Central India, Japan, and China. It is from the last named country that the plant was introduced to Siam by the Chinese, probably during the second or third reign of the Chakri dynasty (1809-1851).

The white-flowered variety, which is occasionally seen in this country, is probably of a much later introduction.

**Odontadenia grandiflora** *Schum.* ขานบูหรืออม.

On account of its showy, Allamanda-like, fragrant flower, this floriferous climber, native of tropical South America and usually known under the horticultural name of *Dipladenia Harrissii*, is in high favour among local gardeners. It is not known when the plant first came to this country; but it appears that it was first introduced to Bangkok by Mom Rajotai about twenty-five years ago, probably

from the Peninsula. Though the plant has been here so long, and a desirable plant as it is, it is still not very common, on account of the difficulty with which it can be propagated, so it is said.

**Oreodoxa regia** HBK. *Royal Palm.* ป่ามชาวด.

The Royal palm, a native of the West Indies, is commonly planted in Bangkok gardens and big compounds, usually as an avenue tree. It is said to have been introduced from Singapore by Phya Pradibhat Bhulal thirty-eight or thirty-nine years ago.

**Paeonia suffruticosa** Andr. (*P. Moutan* Sims.) โปวตั้น  
เม้าตั้น.

Potted specimens of this beautiful Chinese peony are often imported from China for use as table decoration in Bangkok during Chinese New Year time, when they are in bloom. The plant of course lasts only a short time, dying down in the immediately following hot weather. It is said that the first importation of the peony into this country for private uses took place at least forty years ago, and that the plant has been in the local trade only for about seventeen or eighteen years.

**Physalis peruviana** Linn. *Cape Gooseberry.*

Phya Daruphan Pitak, Chief Conservator of Forests, informs the writer that Mrs. Medworth introduced this fruit plant to Northern Siam the first time about thirty years ago. This therefore supersedes the information recorded for the species by the writer in the previous number of the Supplement.

**Plumeria acutifolia** Poir. *Temple Tree, Frangipani, Pagoda Tree.* ลั่นทม.

The cultivation of this Central American tree in the East has been of considerable antiquity, either as an ornamental plant in ordinary gardens or as a sacred tree in temple grounds, near padogas, and in grave yards. In Siam the tree is also usually to be found near temples and pagodas, and in Northern and Eastern Siam it is held so sacred that it is never grown in private gardens. So long has the temple tree been in this country that nobody seems to be able to tell anything about its introduction, and that many people even believe it to be a native plant. However, a survey of vernacu-

lar names of the tree in this and some neighbouring countries affords some clue to the probable history of the tree. In Northern Siam the temple tree is called *champa lao*, that is, *champa* of Eastern Siam or of the French Laos. In these latter places the tree is called *champa khao* (white champa). In Peninsular Siam it is sometimes known as *champa khawm* (Khmer champa). The Cambodians name the tree *champaï*, a slight terminal phonetic variation of *champa*. *Khair champa*, *son champa* and *chin champa* are among the Indian names for the tree.

From the above native names the following inference might be drawn about the plant. Northern Siam received the tree from either the present Eastern Siam or the present French Laos, where the tree had been derived undoubtedly from Cambodia. Peninsular Siam got the tree direct from Cambodia, probably by sea route. These events took place probably during the time of Khmer influence in Siam (XIth-XIIIth century A. D.). Cambodia in turn got the tree probably from India at a much earlier period, as an introduction along with the Indian cults.

As regards Lower Siam it is difficult to say about the temple tree. The local name *lantom* (ลันทม) bears no significance which may give any clue to the history of the tree, though it may sound something like a mixture of Chinese and Cambodian. Considering the circumstances obtaining elsewhere in Siam as regards the tree, however, one would feel inclined to believe that Lower Siam also got the tree either directly or indirectly from Cambodia during the same period and that *lantom* is but an accidental, aimless name. On the other hand, if the tree were not so derived, the possibility of its having been obtained from China, or through the agency of the Chinese, might be considered, in view of the fact that one of the Burmese names for the plant is *tayok saga*<sup>1</sup> (Chinese champa) and one of the Indian is *chin champa*.

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<sup>1</sup> The Burmese name *saga*, when used unqualified, is specifically applied to *Michelia champaca*, the ordinary *champa* of the Siamese, the Laos, the Khmers, and the Indians. As in the case of *Plumeria acutifolia*, but to a less extent, the *champa* tree is also cultivated near temples and in monastery compounds and its flower is also sacred to the Hindus, being one of the five that tip the five arrows of Kamadev, the Indian Cupid. All the above

The above being but a vague speculation, it is to be hoped that some readers may be in a position to tell something definite about this interesting *lantom* plant.

**Plumeria rubra** Linn. *Frangipani*. ลั่นทมแดง.

There are two forms of the red-flowered *Plumeria* seen cultivated in this country—one with shorter and broader, the other with longer and narrower corolla lobes. The first form is said to have been first introduced to Puket, from Penang, by Phya Asharat in 1924, when King Vajiravudh visited the latter place. From Puket the plant was further introduced to Bangkok by the same gentleman about 1926. The second form was sent from Hawaii to Phya Pon Palaraks of Bangkok by Mr. L. W. Bryan of the Hawaiian Forest Service in 1930. The plant is a native of central and tropical South America.

**Polyscias Balfouriana** Bailey. (*Panax Balfourii* Sander).

ครุฑยี่แปด.

As are other foliage araliaceous plants, this shrub of New Caledonia is commonly cultivated in gardens and also as a pot plant for the house in this country. It is said to have been first introduced from Europe by King Chulalongkorn about twenty-five years ago.

**Ptychosperma macarthurii** Wendl. หมากเขี้ยว.

A native of West Australia, this palm, which is now pretty common in Bangkok, is said to have been introduced together with *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*, by Phya Pradibhat Bhubal about thirty years ago.

**Pyrus Malus** Linn. *Apple Tree*. แอปเปิ้ล.

In 1925 a consignment of four apple grafts was obtained from China by the Department of Agriculture and the plants were sent to Chiengrai for experimental growing. The plants, as seen at Chiengrai two years ago, did not seem to have done well, having put on

mentioned peoples, including the Burmans but excluding the Lower Siamese, therefore, look upon the two trees as sister plants in name if not also always in utility. The idea anywhere of this sistership as well as the name *champa* itself are undoubtedly of Indian origin. Of course the *champa* tree is also found wild in Siam, but apparently the Siamese did not start cultivating with the Siamese tree, or at least had not a name of their own for it.

but a poor growth during the many years of their existence. The results might have been better had the plants been tried at a much higher elevation than that of about 500 metres where they were. However, considering the character of the climate of Chiengrai, whose rainfall is rather heavy, it is still questionable whether the apple grown there will produce fruit of any size and flavour, if it will ever set fruit at all. The apple tree is thought to be native to Europe and West Temperate Asia.

**Quassia amara** *Linn. Quassia.* ประทัดจีน.

This handsome flowering shrub, which furnishes the quassia wood of commerce, is occasionally to be seen in gardens of Bangkok. As to when the plant first came to Siam it is not known; but it is said to have been first brought to Bangkok, from Peninsula Siam, by Mom Rajotai about twenty years ago. The shrub is a native of tropical America, and not of China as the local name might imply.

**Roupellia grata** *Wall. & Hook. Cream-fruit Tree.* หอมปี่นัง.  
ปานทอน.

This species, which is not a tree but a rambling shrub of Tropical Africa, is occasionally met with in gardens, and is said to have been in Bangkok for about ten years. One of the Siamese names seems to indicate that the plant has been introduced from Penang.

**Ruscus aculeatus** *Linn. Butcher's Broom.*

The Dang Toi Nursery of Bangkok imported this plant from Holland in 1928, and it is believed this was the first importation of the species into this country. The plant is a native of Madeira and Eastern Europe.

**Russelia juncea** *Zucc. Coral Plant.* ประทัดฝรั่ง.

About forty years ago this graceful Tropical American flowering plant, now pretty common in gardens, was first seen with a head monk, of Wat Cherg Lane in Bangkok, of the name of Put. The plant was then called by the owner *ya faran* (หญ้าฝรั่ง), a Siamese name for saffron. The introducer is unknown, but the specimen seen is said to have been presented to the monk by somebody, probably a high dignitary of Bangkok.

**Sachium edule** Swartz. *Chayote*.

This Tropical American plant of the cucumber family is cultivated by the Karens and other hill tribes in Northern Siam. The writer first noticed it in North Chiangmai about seventeen or eighteen years ago. It has never been found cultivated in the plains, and few people know it. It must have been brought into the country by the hill tribes from Burma or other countries adjoining Northern Siam.

The chayote, which, by the way, is a single-seeded fruit, pear-shaped in the form seen, has a very good flavour when cooked, and no other cucurbitaceous fruits grown in Siam can compare with it in delicacy. It deserves to be better known and more widely cultivated in this country.

**Sinningia speciosa** Benth. & Hook. (*Gloxinia speciosa* Lodd.).

*Gloxinia*. ดอกกำมะหยี่.

A Brazilian plant, the *Gloxinia* of the horticulturist was first imported into Siam by Mr. Rivett-Carnac about thirty years ago, from England. Though quite charming when in flower, the plant is seldom met with in cultivation in this country.

**Stephanotis floribunda** Brongn. *Creeping Tuberose*. ชะมูดช้าง.

A native of Madagascar, this charming twining shrub, whose individual flowers are not much unlike those of the garden tuberose, is occasionally to be seen cultivated in Bangkok. The date of introduction is for the present unknown, but the plant has been here for at least six or seven years, the last known specimen being introduced from Singapore by Nai Sri, a plant dealer at Silom, in the early part of 1932.

**Sterculia nobilis** Sm. เก้าลัดดี (kao lat).

Under the above local name, which is a Chinese one for the chestnut, this tree is occasionally seen cultivated and thriving exceedingly well in this country. Many a local owner of the tree that is not yet in bearing strongly believes that it yields the true chestnut. Of course they will not be much disappointed in their expectations if they are not too exacting in the matter of taste.

This false-chestnut tree was first brought as a cutting from



China, where it is probably a native, by a Chinaman about seventeen years ago, and its correct Chinese name is said to be *teng tau*.

**Stevensonia grandifolia** *Duncan.* (*Phoenicophorium sechellarum* Wendl.). ป่ามโคโลมโบ (pam colombo).

Known among the Siamese gardeners literally as *Colombo palm*, this species is said to have been first introduced by King Chulalongkorn about twenty-five years ago. The palm is a native of the Seychelles Islands, and not of Ceylon as the local name would imply; but the latter is probably the country whence the palm was first obtained for Siam.

**Theobroma cacao** *Linn.* *Cocoa Tree.* โคลโก้.

The cocoa tree, a native of Central and South America and the West Indies, is said to have been introduced into this country by the late Luang Rajakit Kenikorn about thirty years ago. It is not known from which country the plant came. It is occasionally grown in gardens, not for the production of cocoa, but simply as a curio.

**Thevetia neriifolia** *Juss.* รั้วพย, กระชอก.

This Tropical American shrub is often planted in this country on account of the bright yellow flowers it constantly bears. The first plant of its kind is said to have been brought from Ceylon by a Buddhist monk on return from a religious mission to that country, either in 1843 or in the year following. The plant was presented to the then reigning King Phra Nang Klao, who was so pleased with it as to name it *rampoe* after one of his grand-daughters, Princess Rampoe.

An orange-flowered variety is said to have been introduced from Hawaii by Prince Thavor Mongkol in 1931.

**Thryallis glauca** *O. Kuntze.* (*Galphimia glauca* Cav.).

*Galphimia.* พวทของต้น.

A Bangkok nurseryman of old standing tells the writer that this Central American flowering shrub was first introduced to Bangkok from Peninsular Siam by Mom Rajotai about twenty-three or twenty-four years ago. The first entry of the plant into Siam, then, must have taken place earlier than the above date. This would therefore place the date of introduction of the plant at least ten years

further back from that previously recorded in this Journal.

**Verschaffeltia splendida** *Wendl.* ปามโคลอมเบีย (pam colombia)

This palm was introduced from Singapore by Luang Tanat Pojanamaht of Bangkok in 1919. It is a native of the Seychelles, and not of Colombia as the Siamese name would literally have it. Apparently the Siamese name was originally intended by its author simply as a phonetic variant of "pam colombo", the name previously given to *Stevensonia grandifolia*, for the superficial resemblance that exists between the two species, irrespective of the notion as to their countries of origin. Such a phonetic variation in names is often employed in Siamese nomenclature for things of allied appearances or other characteristics.

**Victoria regia** *Willd.* Giant Water-lily. บัววิกิตำเลีย.

This water-lily of majestic size and appearance, a native of tropical South America, is often to be seen cultivated in tanks and ditches in this country. From Europe seeds of the plant were imported to Bangkok by Chao Koon Kromata about fifty years ago. About fifteen years later, the first introduction having died out, another importation of seeds of the water-lily was made by Phya Pradibhat Bhupal. Out of a hundred seeds thus imported only one is said to have survived to perpetuate its kind as seen here to the present day.

**Vitis vinifera** *Linn.* Grape Vine. องุ่น.

Vines grown from seed have been in existence in this country for quite a long time, but probably the first live vine brought into Siam was a cutting imported from England by Phya Pojana Pricha about forty years ago.

Owing, perhaps, to unsuitable climatic and concomitant factors, the vines here do not seem to produce grapes of any quality or quantity that might in any way encourage their cultivation beyond that for mere fancy.

**Xanthosoma Lindenii** *Engler.* (*Phyllotaenium Lindenii* André). ลกกะเข็ญ.

This ornamental foliage aroid of Colombia has been in

cultivation in Bangkok for thirty or forty years. It is said to have been introduced probably by Prince Sanpasart.

**Zygocactus truncatus** *Schum.* (*Epiphyllum truncatum*  
Haw.). *Crab Cactus.* เท้าหลังก้ามปู

This red-flowered, day-blooming cactus of small stature was introduced from China, by the Chinese, about fifteen years ago, originally for table decoration during Chinese New year time, when it flowers. The cactus is a native of Brazil.

ROYAL FOREST DEPARTMENT,  
*Bangkok, December, 1932.*

