

bros salvo cerca de la garganta; estambres con las anteras sentadas, incluídos, insertos en el tercio superior del tubo, anteras lineares, de unos 15 mm. de largo, conspicuamente mucronado apiculadas (apículo de 1.5 mm. de largo); disco anulado cupular; estilo incluso, glabro, con estigmas grandes, anchamente lamelares, oblongo lineares; ovario falsamente bilocular.

México: en la selva alta siempre verde de laderas cerca de la laguna como 1 km. al este del Rancho de El Ocote, unos 30 km. al noroeste de Ocozocuautila, estado Chiapas, 21 Mayo 1950, *Miranda 6224*; en el mismo lugar, 2 Abril 1953, *Miranda 7734*.

Esta especie del antillano género *Casasia* parece ser la única encontrada hasta ahora en el continente, si se exceptúa el Sur de la Península de Florida. Se halla relacionada con *C. longipes* Urb., de Jamaica, pero se distingue claramente de ésta por sus estípulas más pequeñas y soldadas, sus hojas siempre agudas en la base y sus flores más grandes en todas sus partes.

THE BLENHEIM ORANGE APPLE IN THE TEMPERATE REGIONS OF COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR

GEORGE M. DARROW¹

DR. WILSON POPENOE suggested that I note particularly the apple varieties called Emilia in Ecuador and Pennsylvania in Colombia while surveying deciduous fruits in the highlands of Central and South America. These two varieties are considered the best, or among the best, in their respec-

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tive countries and the Emilia is the basis of the apple export trade of Ecuador.

Through the kindness of W. V. Harlan and H. E. Christie, I had the opportunity to see orchards of the Emilia in the vicinity of Ambato, Ecuador, and fruit of it in the city markets of that country. Later I saw fruit of the Emilia from Ecuador and also fruit of the Pennsylvania in the city markets of Colombia. There seemed to be no observable differences between them. Because the apple varieties of these countries are for the most part importations from Europe and the United States, a review of the possible identity of the variety was made. It did not seem to fit any commercial variety of the United States. Hence two shipments of the fruit were obtained from Mr. Christie at Quito, Ecuador, and specimens were submitted to J. M. S. Potter, of the Wisley Gardens, England. He identified the specimen as the Blenheim Orange.

Blenheim Orange is an old English dessert and cooking variety that has been found by T. H. Jackson among the best in Kenya, Africa, at 8,300 feet elevation under temperate climate conditions similar to those in Ecuador and Colombia. He stated that it and the Gravenstein variety require rather less chilling to grow freely than other varieties tried, with the possible exception of Winter Banana.

S. A. Beach in "Apples of New York" stated that Blenheim (Blenheim Orange) originated at Woodstock, England, over 150 years ago and was in the nurseries of England by 1818. He described it as being a large vigorous upright spreading tree bearing its fruit well distributed over the tree. The apples are large, roundish oblate, and quite uniform. The color of Blenheim Orange is yellowish over-spread with a dull pinkish-red. Its flesh is tinged with yellow, rather firm, crisp, a little coarse, somewhat aromatic and classed as good to very good in flavor. Though classed as a dessert variety, it is used both as a dessert and as a cooking apple. In the northern United States it is best from October to December but it may keep longer in storage.

In England the vitamin C content of Blenheim Orange has been reported as 18.4 mgs. per 100 gms., or about equal to that of the tomato and much higher than that of most

other apples. H. V. Taylor in "Apples of England" described Blenheim Orange as a very valuable apple for either dessert or culinary use. The tree is a vigorous grower and becomes large. It is self-sterile and a shy bearer till fully grown, therefore, it is seldom planted now in commercial orchards there. It blossoms very late and yet it does not escape frost injury. It is very resistant to mildew. It is described as a large round, flattened, uniformly shaped apple 3.50×2.75 inches in size. The flesh is yellow, crisp, juicy, sweet, and pleasantly acid—"a really superb eating apple with a unique nutty flavor". Its season there is November to December.

Blenheim Orange has been found to be a triploid variety and all triploids are self-sterile in the United States. Though no observations were made on its self-sterility in Ecuador, it probably requires cross pollination with another variety there and should always be grown in mixed plantings with other varieties.

LITERATURE

DICCIONARIO DE BOTÁNICA. Publicado con la colaboración de eminentes especialistas, bajo la dirección del Dr. P. Font Quer. Con un millar de figuras en gran parte originales; seguido de un vocabulario ideológico en el que se ordenan conceptualmente las voces del diccionario. Págs. i-xxxix, 1-1244. Editorial Labor, S. A., Barcelona, 1953. Cost approximately \$12.80, U. S. currency.

If there is in any language a botanical dictionary equal in scope and detail to the present one, it has not come to the writer's attention. Whoever has searched in vain for certain botanical terms in the *Diccionario de la Lengua Española*, or has observed the highly diverse terminology employed in botanical literature of Latin America and of Spain, will rejoice at the arrival of a volume so catholic and so com-

sense, and also such unexpected topics as soils, and terminology of animals, chiefly of the lowest orders, which affect plants. In its preparation a vast amount of botanical literature was examined, of not only Spanish but American origin, some of it dated as late as 1952. There is a refreshing consideration of American words, generally accepted as authentic in Latin America, but ignored by the Real Academia Española. That Dictionary has lagged far behind in its acceptance of necessary modern terminology, not only in botany but in such other subjects as commerce, manufactures, radio, automobiles, aviation, and many other subjects. The unsurpassed taxonomists of today in such countries as Colombia, Chile, and Argentina, to mention but a few, would be unable to write such excellent descriptions of plant species, were they limited to words found in the Academy dictionary, unless by using, as they sometimes do, lengthy circumlocutions.

There are minor matters in this new *Diccionario* with which one may disagree, but it would be ungracious to mention them, nor is one obliged to observe them. The word selected in each case by the editor to express a certain idea has been chosen with care, and those words he considers synonymous are listed as such, although they can not be said to be banned. The use of synonymous words is praiseworthy in English, to vary the monotonous style of botanical description, and when properly chosen, there is no reason for supposing that they are less useful in writing Spanish.

This substantial volume will be a necessity to every botanist of whatever field, including horticulture, agriculture, and pathology, who uses the Spanish language in writing. It will be indispensable also to all who merely read the language; and botanists of other speech will have to read a great deal more Spanish in the future! — *Paul C. Standley.*

ORCHIDS OF GUATEMALA. Oakes Ames & Donovan S. Correll in *Fieldiana Bot.* 26, N^o 2: 397-727, figs. 108-198. 1953. — The conclusion of the *Orchids of Guatemala*, the first part of which was reviewed in *Ceiba* 3: 222. 1953. The present part continues the high standard set by the first part.

CIBA REVIEW, is the house journal of Ciba Limited, Basle, Switzerland. Occasional articles in the field of economic botany are published in the journal. Number 99 of the Review has several good articles on hard fibers and the plants from which they are produced. The Review should be in all botanical libraries. — *L. Wms.*

CARIBBEAN CIRCUIT. Harry Luke, xv—266. Nicholson & Watson, London, 1950, 1952. List 12s. 6 d. — An occasionally interesting travel book about the circum-Caribbean lands. The portion on Central America is weak. — *L. Wms.*

THE FOUR SEASONS OF MANUELA. Victor W. von Hagen in collaboration with Christine von Hagen. 312 pages. Duell, Sloan and Pierce, New York. 1953. List US\$5.00. — A fascinating and well written account of the association of Manuela Sáenz and Simón Bolívar, the Liberator. — *L. Wms.*

ISLANDS TO WINDWARD. Carleton Mitchell. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. New York, 1948. — A story of a trip by small boat from Trinidad up through the Caribbean Islands. There are accounts of visits to many of the islands but with emphasis on the water that surrounds them. The photographs are excellent, and abundantly sprinkled through the text. The volume is expensive. — *L. Wms.*

INDICE BIBLIOGRÁFICO E NUMÉRICO DAS PLANTAS COLHIDAS PELA COMISSAO RONDON. F. C. Hoehne & J. G. Kuhlman. Quarto. 400 pages. Secretaria da Agricultura, Sao Paulo, Brasil, 1951. — Numerical and systematic lists of the plants collected by Drs. Hoehne and Kuhlman, and others, on the expeditions of the Comissao de Linhas Telegráficas, Estratégicas de Mato-Grosso ao Amazonas, de 1908 até 1923. — The list will be useful to those who wish to work with the plants of western Brazil, for the lists of plants known to grow there. The short account of the collecting trips made into western Brazil will be of interest to anyone who has travelled in that country. Knowing Dr. Hoehne's

account of the collecting trips which he made, even though he gives the reasons for not writing the account. — *L. Wms.*

INDEX KEWENSIS. E. J. Salisbury (ed.).—The eleventh supplement of this well known and important index has just been received from England. It covers the decade 1941-1950. The date on the title page is 1953. The list price is given as £ 6 net. — *L. Wms.*

THE PRE-COLUMBIAN CULTIVATED PLANTS OF MEXICO. Robert L. Dressler. Botanical Museum Leaflets, Harvard University 16: 115-173. Cambridge, Mass., December 4, 1953.

Although abundant data have been published in recent years regarding precolumbian plants cultivated in Mexico, they have appeared in scattered publications, or supplementary to systematic treatments, or only incidentally in general botanical works. It is a great convenience to have these data now collected in one systematic, or rather alphabetical list, where they may be located quickly.

While admittedly a compilation, the present list has been prepared with great care and discrimination, being based upon more than 200 cited bibliographic references. Many additions can and will be made to it, especially among herbaceous ornamental plants, but at least the most important food plants have been noted, and the new list is an admirable one.

It is difficult to obtain dependable records concerning the botany and zoology of Mexico and Central America as they existed at the time of the Conquest. The earliest published data are scant and often confusing. For 450 years this region has been subject to biological invasion from Europe and, what is less appreciated, to interchanges with South America. Plants now universal have had an abundance of time for distribution. It is all but impossible to convince the most intelligent Mexicans and Central Americans that

POEM

TO

DR. ELMER D. MERRILL

*Oh, Chronica Botanica, ah, what a learned tome!
I read the same with pleasure the moment I got home!
Of all Merrilliana, this is the very gist,
The Lowest Form of Life, my friends, is a Diffusionist!*

*Now what is a Diffusionist, the layman well may query?
An Anthropologist gone wrong with thinking process bleary!
The center of all Culture is the Valley of the Nile!
Distort all truth to prove this is their credo all the while!*

*Barley floated down the stream from whence it did not grow!
(Though Barley will not float today, the which all farmers know!)
No one knew simply nothin' but the haughty Pharaoh's kin,
And to contradict this Dogma is in truth a mortal sin!*

*So if you find a Pyramid in whatever land du bist
The maker did not dream it up — he was a plagiarist!*

*There were two ancient continents, Atlantis and Mu!
This has come down in legend which of course is always true!
Who doubts our pronouncement is but an ignorant clown...
Why, there's holes in either ocean in the spot where they went down!*

*When the folks took to the water they were much disturbed in mind.
They took their brain cells with 'em but they left their plants behind!
If the Arnold Arboretum should sink beneath your feet
I s'pose you'd grab an ear of corn or else a sugar beet!*

*Avaunt, you cautious scientists, De Candolle and the rest
Who use your hair-brained researches to put us to the test!
When every little carving or crack on Easter Isle,
Is in truth a hieroglyphic from the Valley of the Nile!*

*How sweet our errant fancies to which we fondly cling!
YOU may write a thousand papers but it will not mean a thing!*

*But we got feelin's, Doctor, and this we can not brook
America's Linnaeus quotin' Proverbs to a Cook!*