interesting because of the varied scenery, culture, and vegetation that they revealed. Who has seen only the highroads of Honduras, primitive as they seem even to those who best love the country, has seen but little of the real Honduras that lies off the traveled highways.

There are very recent but still unverified reports of teosinte from the mountains of the department of Francisco Morazán, not far from Tegucigalpa, from the mountains of Copán, and even from Nicaragua.

In the Pespire region teosinte is well known but not by its Mexican name. Here it is called *maíz café* or *maíz silvestre*. The former name is applied because the curious triangular kernels are roasted and mixed with ordinary coffee, or used as a substitute for it. It was stated that the ordinary coffee was "better than teosinte" and probably it is. Teosinte is planted in some places about Pespire as forage for stock, since it persists after maize and *maicillo (Sorghum vulgare)* have dried. It is not believed that it is of great local importance.

In Honduras it is useless to inquire for *Euchlaena* by its Nahuatl or Mexican name of teosinte, a term established in foreign nomenclature. In Honduras that name is well known but it pertains to quite a different plant, a cycad, described on an earlier page of this volume as *Dioon Mejiae* Standl. & L. Wms.

A NEW PSAMMISIA FROM COSTA RICA

A. C. Smith

AMONG other interesting specimens of Vacciniaceae and Ericaceae recently obtained in Costa Rica by Dr. Louis O. Williams is a *Psammisia* which represents an undescribed species, of interest as being the second known species of the genus to occur in Costa Rica. The novelty may be known as:

Psammisia Williamsii *A. C. Sm., sp. nov.*

Frutex epiphyticus dependens ubique glaber, ramulis gracilibus teretibus; petiolis rugosis semiteretibus 8-11 mm. longis circiter 2 mm. diametro; laminis in sicco fuscis subcoriaceis anguste oblongo-ellipticis, 10-13.5 cm. longis, 3-5 cm.

latis, basi plus minusve subito attenuatis et in petiolum decurrentibus, apice in acuminem ad 1 cm. longum obscure apiculatum terminantibus, margine leviter recurvatis, 5-nerviis, costa supra valde impressa subtus prominente, nervis duobus proximis cum costa 1-1.5 cm. concurrentibus apicem fere attingentibus ut costa subtus validis, nervis basalibus duobus submarginalibus inconspicuis cum rete venularum utrinque prominulis; inflorescentia axillari solitaria ut videtur 5-7-flora basi bracteis papyraceis ad 2 mm. longis inconspicue circumdata, rhachi valida striata circiter 4 cm. longa, floribus bracteis oblongo-deltoideis acutis 4-5 mm. longis subtentis; pedicellis validis in sicco rugulosis sub anthesi 30-37 mm. longis, basim versus bracteolas 2 applanatas ad 3 mm. longas inconspicue gerentibus, paullo infra calycis tubum evidenter articulatis; calyce coriaceo sub anthesi circiter 9 mm. longo et apice 10 mm. diametro, tubo cupuliformi ruguloso inconspicue glanduloso circiter 4 mm. longo et 5 mm. diametro, limbo erecto-patente quam tubo paullo longiore, lobis 5 deltoideo-apiculatis haud 1 mm. longis, sinibus complanatis; corolla carnosa rubra cylindrico-urceolata sub anthesi circiter 35 mm. longa, basim versus 10-12 mm. diametro faucibus conspicue angustata, lobis 5 oblongo-deltoideis obtusis 2-3 mm. longis; staminibus 10 rigidis sub anthesi 10-11 mm. longis, filamentis liberis subcarnosis circiter 5 mm. longis, connectivis carnosis apice omnimo bicalcaratis, calcaribus patentibus obtusis; antheris 9-10 mm. longis, thecis circiter 1.5 mm. diametro basi incurvato-apiculatis, tubulis quam thecis multo brevioribus haud 2 mm. longis inferne connatis per rimas ovales aequilongas dehiscentibus; stylo filiformi corollam subaequante apice truncato.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, N° 1975022, collected in cloud forest area near El Copey, Cordillera de Talamanca, Province of Cartago, Costa Rica, alt. 1.900 meters, April 17, 1949, *Louis O. Williams 16418*. Duplicate in the herbarium of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana.

The only species of *Psammisia* thus far known to occur north of Panama is *P. ramiflora* Kl., which is not a close relative of *P. Williamsii*, differing in such obvious characters as the shorter inflorescence-rachis, the comparatively short-pedicellate flowers and small calyx-tube, the shorter corolla and stamens, and the connate filaments. The new species is more

closely related to the Colombian *P. macrophylla* (H. B. K.) Kl., from which it differs in its somewhat smaller leaf-blades with attenuate bases, small calyx-lobes, longer corolla, and differently proportioned anthers, of which the tubules are very short in relation to the thecae. — *Department of Botany, U. S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution.*

NATIVE FRUIT[1]

To those of us who live and work with the food plants of the tropics Dr. Hoehne's volume on the native fruits of Brazil is a most welcome addition to the published information which we have available. One which will be welcome, as well, to those who wish to know the native fruits of Brazil.

Dr. Hoehne is eminently fitted to write an account of the fruits of his native Brazil for he knows them from long experience in the field and as a systematist he is outstanding, so that his opinion concerning them is that of an authority.

The volume contains a short introduction; sections on the advantages of fruits in the human diet, on the geographic dispersion of fruit bearing plants[2], on the nature of the edible fruits of Brazil, on the domestication of wild fruit bearing plants. These are followed by an enumeration of the principal species of native fruit bearing plants in alphabetical order by families.

Most of the recent works which have come from Doctor Hoehne's pen have been well illustrated and the present volume is not an exception. There are thirty-two full page plates, each of which illustrates one, or usually several, of the species taken into account.

In the account of the families a running account is given of those species which are considered to be of value. Some

[1] **Hoehne, F. C.** Frutas Indígenas. Instituto de Botánica, Secretaria da Agricultura, Industria e Comercio, 88 pages and 32 plates. Sao Paulo, Brasil, November 1946.

[2] The Portuguese word used is **fruteiras**, literally fruit trees, but many of the plants discussed are not trees.

are more fully described than are others, occasionally only a few words, often a rather complete account.

Occasionally a plant has slipped in which is not a native, as the case of the mango *(Mangifera indica)*. In conferring citizenship on it Dr. Hoehne will offend no Brazilians. Cultivated in Brazil since the XVI century it is one of the most appreciated trees of the country, venerated not only for its fine fruits but also for the shade which it gives in cities such as equatorial Belém.

The genus *Annona* has some forty-nine species in Brazil, or species which should be found there. No specific account is given of these but Robert E. Fries' key, from his monograph of *Annona*, is adapted to the Brazilian species, a considerable help in distinguishing the species of this most difficult and confusing genus.

Bananas, too, are to be found in the volume. Although commonly believed to be natives of the paleotropics Doctor Hoehne maintains his previously stated view that *Musa* must be native of the neotropics as well, —that it existed and was cultivated in many varieties and forms by the Brazilian Indians before Cabral landed there and that the varieties can not be referred to those of the old world. Dr. Hoehne suggests that the subject may constitute a special paper, —which we hope to see from his pen.

The Myrtaceae in the Central American tropics are relatively unimportant as a producer of edible fruits. In contrast there are some two hundred species of the family in Brazil that produce edible fruits (the family is represented by some 1200 species there).

The volume is written in clear and simple Portuguese, of which Dr. Hoehne is a master.

HECHO EN TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS. — IMP. CALDERON