A New Fruit from Uruguay. (*Pouteria suavis*, Hemsl.)

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No. 9.]

[1906.

XLVIII.—A NEW FRUIT FROM URUGUAY.

(*Pouteria suavis*, Hemsl.)

In July of the present year, Kew received from the Editor of 'Il Giardinaggio' (an Italian horticultural journal, published in Turin) leaves, fruit and seeds of a South American tree, asking whether it was known to science. This material was supplemented by a paragraph from 'Il Giardinaggio' of which the following is a translation :—

"Mr. E. Frosio, a horticulturist of Paysandu, Uruguay, in a private letter received by the 'Il Giardinaggio,' sends the following interesting note, which we think our readers will like to see :

"'There is a plant bearing a fruit and having persistent leaves, which is certainly endemic in the islands of the Uruguay River and is so peculiar that nobody has yet been able to classify it. The general appearance of the plant is that of a laurel, with leaves which are green and shining on the upper surface. The fruit is about the size of an apricot, but of the shape of an apple ; it is yellow and scarlet when mature and possesses a perfume so delicate that it is equalled in no other fruit. The seed is like a large hazel-nut, but the edible fleshy part of the fruit is small ; it has, however, an extremely agreeable taste and possesses such a remarkable digestive property that when the aborigines have over-indulged, they eat freely of this before lying down at night and then they sleep 'like a child' and wake up the next morning with a clear head and a wonderful appetite.'"

The leaves of this plant agree exactly with those of a specimen in the Kew Herbarium, collected by Dr. P. G. Lorentz in Concepcion del Uruguay, in 1878, and wrongly named *Lucuma gardneriana*, A. DC. (syn. *Pouteria gardneriana*, Radlk.). *Lucuma gardneriana* was collected between Angrias and Saõ Gonsalvo, in Piahy, about 1,750 miles north of Concepcion del Uruguay, and Lorentz's specimen is certainly different, though closely allied.

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There is also in the Kew Herbarium a small flowerless branch collected in Uruguay by John Tweedie, of what is apparently the same species. Tweedie sailed up the river Uruguay about the year 1833, and probably botanised in the islands. The following note accompanies the specimen :—"This is called among the natives of the Uruguay *aguya*. It is one of the most splendid evergreen trees I have met with, and the fruit, resembling a golden knob pear, has a finer scent than the pine-apple. The two fruits sent are bad specimens." These fruits have disappeared, but those sent by the Editor of 'Il Giardinaggio' are pear-shaped.

Pouteria suavis, Hemsl. [Sapotaceae] ; species nova ex affinitate *P. gardnerianae*, a qua foliis angustioribus lanceolatis, floribus dimidio minoribus et sepalis subaequalibus interioribus haud truncatis emarginatis differt.

Arbor ramis floriferis rectis graciliusculis appresse-sericeis. *Folia* glabra, in ramorum apicibus conferta, demum coriacea, breviter petiolata, anguste oblonga, oblanceolata vel lanceolata, 4-15 cm. longa, saepius circiter 10 cm. longa, 1-2.5 cm. lata, apice obtusa vel rotundata, basin versus attenuata, supra nitida conspicue venosa. *Flores* circiter 3-4 mm. diametro, infra folia ad foliorum delapsorum axillas fasciculati, numerosi, pedicellis sericeis 3-4 mm. longis. *Sepala* 4, biseriata, 2 omnino interiora, similia, ovata, concava, extus sericea, ciliolata. *Corolla* fere ad medium 4-lobata, lobis rotundatis erectis ciliolatis. *Staminodia* oblonga, ciliolata, corollae lobis alterna iisque dimidio breviora. *Stamina* corollae lobis isomera et iis opposita, inclusa. *Ovarium* villosum, 2-loculare (an semper ?) stylo glabro brevissime exserto. *Fructus* pyriformis, 4-5 cm. longus, medio 2.5-2.75 cm. diametro, glaber, pericarpio carnosio tenui. *Semina* saepius 2, semiovoidea, vel 1, ovoideum, testa crassa, ossea.

Steps have been taken to establish this tree at Bordighera, where seeds have been sown in Mr. Garnier's garden. Under cultivation the fleshy part of the fruit may possibly be so increased as to render it acceptable to a circle outside the aborigines of Uruguay.

W. B. HEMSLEY.

XLIX.—MARINE ALGAE FROM COREA.

We have to-day a good general knowledge of the land flora of Corea, but of the marine vegetation our knowledge is meagre in the extreme. With the exception of Okamura's list of algae from Fusan (Tokyo Bot. Mag. vol. vi., p. 117) and the records of a few stray algae (mostly floating Sargassums) picked up by naturalists and others, we have no information on the subject.

It is therefore satisfactory to have opportunities of examining specimens freshly collected and dried by residents in the country. During the past year Mrs. H. G. Brand and Mrs. Sydney Wakefield have forwarded four small dried collections from Fusan and Wonsen respectively. An examination of these shows that the coast of Corea is not by any means poor in marine vegetation, and will amply repay the time and trouble spent in collecting. This