

Swingle, W. T., *Microcitrus*, a new genus of Australian citrus fruits. (Journ. Washington Acad. Acad. Sci. VI. p. 569—578. f. 1—4. Oct. 4, 1915.)

Contains as new: *Microcitrus australasica* (*Citrus australasica* F. Mull.), *M. australasica sanguinea* (*C. australasica sanguinea* Bail.), *M. Garrowayi* (*C. Garrowayi* Bail.), *M. australis* (*C. australis* Planch.), and *M. inodora* (*C. inodorus* Bail.).
Trelease.

Townsend, C. O., Single-germ beet seed. (Journ. of Heredity. VI. p. 351—354. 1915.)

The writer's goal was the production of a strain of sugar beets which yielded only one-germ seeds. More than 95 per cent, of the beet seed of commerce is composed of multiple germ seedballs, the germs of which are so closely melded together by nature that they cannot by any known means be separated without injury to the germ. The number of germs produced normally as single germs does not exceed 1 per cent, of the total number of germs. The principal value of a strain, which yields only one-germ seeds, lies in the economy of labor it would make possible. Thinning, the most expensive and laborious single operation in sugar beet growing, costs approximately 3,000,000 dollars annually for the entire beet acreage in the United States. The only way to avoid this condition and to eliminate the expense and labor of thinning beets is to have all single-germ seeds.

Fifty plants, showing the highest number of single germs, as indicated in the bud stage, were selected, trimmed (all flower clusters removed) and isolated as thoroughly as possible. Though subsequent improvements have shown that in spite of all these precautions it was possible for unfavorable crosses to have been made by minute insects, the writers results indicate that he was in a measure successful in producing the pollination desired. The percentage of single germs of the fifty isolated plants was not determined, but was somewhat above 25%. In the second generation the number of single-germ seeds was upwards of 50 per cent on the best plant and in the third generation it was about 75 per cent. Individual plants in a few cases show a somewhat higher percentage than this. Continuing along these lines, it is fair to assume that it is only a matter of time when a plant bearing only single-germ seeds will be produced. A reasonable amount of care on the part of the beet seed growers will then make the production of single-germ beet seed commercially practicable. M. J. Sirks (Haarlem).

Personalnachrichten.

Ernannt: Dr. **Hugo Fischer** zum Vorsteher-Stellvertreter am Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut zu Bromberg, Abt. für Agrikulturchemie, Bakteriologie und Saatzucht und hat die Leitung des bakteriologischen Laboratoriums daselbst übernommen.

Verstorben am 24. November in Strassburg Prof. dr. **Hermann Graf zu Solms-Laubach.**

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