

the tree is a good wood, being hardy also, and durable. It is very dark brown, and has a fine grain, and is often used for furniture, and for making bows and arrows. The wood is very heavy, and is said to weigh 61.72 pounds.¹ It is highly prized by the Indians, who consider it more valuable than the wood of any other tree of the forest, because it is not liable to decay when in contact with the ground, and is therefore largely used for posts.

The seeds are eatable and nutritious if boiled when green, and are roasted when ripe by the Indians, who use their thick coat as a substitute for coffee.

Pithecellobium glabecanthum was discovered by Jean Louis Berlandier in the neighborhood of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in 1860. With the exception, perhaps, of *Lemnaceae aquatica* and of *Acacia Farnesiana*, it is the most beautiful of the Mimosa-shrub trees which grow naturally within the territory of the United States.

Its aspect in habitations, foliage is luxuriant, dark and lustrous; the flowers, which are produced during a long period of every year, are abundant, beautiful, and fragrant, and the fruit is large and striking appearance. *Pithecellobium glabecanthum* might well be introduced into the gardens of many temperate countries, and although it grows slowly and does not attain a great size, it may prove worthy of the attention of planters as a timber tree.

¹ See *Col. Forum*, no. 344.

² Haynes, "S. Amer. Mus." vol. 40.

COCOAS AND COCONUTS

COCONUTS.—*Cocos nucifera*.—*Cocos nucifera*.

(enlarge)

A.—Seed of a coconut, natural size.
B.—Seed of a coconut, enlarged.
C.—Seed of a coconut, natural size.