

California Avocado Society 1948 Yearbook 33:69-70

Committee on Foreign Exploration

H. B. Griswald

Chairman

This committee was organized in 1947* to co-ordinate the activities of a group of enthusiastic explorers who had turned up some very interesting avocado specimens in Mexico and Central America. This material ranged from wild indigenous avocados from the mountain areas to selected edible varieties from the populated valleys. Past Yearbooks contain the detailed accounts of these explorations. See schedule below.

A further exploration by members of this committee was made in August of this year. A detailed account will be found elsewhere in this issue. Also a group including five members of this committee discovered some interesting West Indian-Mexican hybrids in the Ciudad Victoria area of Northern Mexico. These were noted on a quick inspection trip over the border from the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas last November. Further investigation of this area is desirable.

These expeditions should be of value in two fields. First, root stocks may be found as a result of testing these wild specimens found in the mountains. They may have special qualities as root stocks not found in our local Mexican varieties. There is also the possibility of finding a root rot (decline) resisting stock from among the close relatives of the avocado found in the mountain areas. Many of these wild forms have been introduced into California for study and test.

Second, it is the belief of the committee that all the possibilities for commercial edible varieties have not yet been exhausted in these countries from which we imported many of our present varieties, notably the Fuerte. There is a concentration of hybrid type (Mex.- Guat.) seedlings on the Rodiles property, Atlixco, Mexico, near where the Fuerte was found. These types have fine appearance and many have been introduced for test here. See list below.

Introductions of avocado plant material have been made through quarantine inspection and with the co-operation of the University of California at Los Angeles. Dean Robert Hodgson has taken a personal interest in this work and Dr. C. A. Schroeder has handled all details representing both the University and the Committee on which he has been a very active member. Propagation of this material in California has been both at U.C.L.A. and on the Griswold Ranch in San Diego County.

Duplicate propagation of all selections has also been made under the direction of Wilson Popenoe at the Pan American School of Agriculture, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Wilson Popenoe and staff have added immeasurably to the direction and success of this work.

All the members of this committee have participated in at least one trip into Mexico in search of avocado material. Each member has financed his own expenses. The

avocado industry owes a vote of thanks to their enthusiastic efforts to extend the knowledge and source material of the avocado.

Wild Forms Introduced for Test as Boot Stocks

Names indicate location where found

Aquila (Mex.)	Uyuca (Hond.)
Atcultzingo (Mex.)	Chichoy (Guat.)
Chocoman (Mex.)	Chimaltenango (Guat.)
Tuxpango (Mex.)	

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Edible Varieties Introduced for Test as Commercial Fruits

Rodiles (Atlixco, Mex.) 30 Selections

Uvalde* (Texas, U.S.A.) 1 Selection

Miscellaneous Introductions for Study

Maltrata (Mex.)	3 Selections
Guanajuato (Mex.)	3 Selections

Committee Members

Mr. H. B. Griswold, Chairman, La Habra, California	Dean Robert W. Hodgson, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles, California
Mr. Carl Crawford, Santa Ana, California	Dr. C. A. Schroeder, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles, California
Mr. Marvin Rounds, Whittier, California	Dr. Wilson Popenoe, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.
Mr. Harold Wahlberg, Santa Ana, California	Dr. Luis O. Williams, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.
Mr. Elwood Trask, Carlsbad, California	Mr. Don Piester, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.
Dr. J. Eliot Coit, Fallbrook, California	Sr. Henri Gilly, Puebla, Mexico

Expeditions

No. 1 May, 1947 Mexico—1947 Yearbook Page 29

No. 2 October, 1947 Mexico—1947 Yearbook Page 22

No. 3 August, 1948 Mexico—1948 Yearbook Page 54

In addition to the above organized expeditions much work has been done by individuals in co-operation with the committee. Wilson Popenoe and his staff at the Pan American School of Agriculture, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, have continuously sent in material.

*Originated in Northern Mexico