

## REPORT OF THE FOREIGN EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

Activities of this committee during the past year have primarily related to the project on resistance to *Phytophthora* root rot.

As the result of previous contacts by the committee chairman, seed collections were received at Riverside from Colombia, Argentina, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida. Although the latter two areas can hardly be designated as "foreign," collections sent from these states originally came primarily from Latin America. Through an agreement made with the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Introduction Garden in Miami, and with the excellent cooperation of Dr. Murray Gaskins and Mr. Harold Winters, seed of many interesting varieties of avocado have been received and tested at Riverside for root rot resistance.

In September, 1959, the committee chairman visited Puerto Rico with the object of determining how extensive the avocado root rot fungus is on the island, of collecting seed from healthy seedlings in *Phytophthora*-infested areas, and of making other collections of different avocado types and species of ***Persea***. With the fine cooperation of Mr. William Pennock, Horticulturist at the Estacion Experimental, Rio Piedras, a number of trips were made to areas where avocados and root rot occurred. Root cultures were made from 19 trees and ***P. cinnamomi*** was isolated from seven of these. Several of these trees were in excellent condition. Seed were collected from seven trees; more will be obtained in this promising looking area later. Root rot is common on the island, and the possibility of finding individual resistance is good; the great majority of trees are seedlings so that no difficulty is encountered in recovering the rootstock.

Committee members Carl Crawford and Elwood Trask made more of their frequent trips to Mexico during the past year.

George A. Zentmyer, Chairman

### MEMBERS OF FOREIGN EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

Carl S. Crawford  
Orange, California

Sr. Henri Gilly  
Puebla, Mexico

Harlan B. Griswold  
Fallbrook, California

Col. Wells W. Miller  
Vista, California

H. W. Montgomery  
San Dimas, California

Dr. C. A. Schroeder  
University of California, Los Angeles

Elwood E. Trask  
Carlsbad, California

Harold E. Wahlberg  
Santa Ana, California

Dallas I. Walker  
San Dimas, California

Hugh T. Walker  
Santa Ana, California

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala

Marvin B. Rounds  
Glendora, California

Dr. Louis Williams  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Beltsville, Maryland

Dr. George A. Zentmyer, Chairman  
University of California, Riverside