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MADRAS BANANAS

A MONOGRAPH

BY

K. CHERIAN JACOB, L.A.G., F.L.S.

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MADRAS BANANAS

A MONOGRAPH

DEDICATION

To

Sir S. V. Ramamurthy, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to the Government and
a former Director of Agriculture, Madras

In remembrance of

a long and sustained interest taken by him in the
author's humble work, since the day he was at the helm of
the administration of Agriculture of the Province of
Madras,

And as a token of

the author's high regard for him, not unmixed with
the pleasure and the pride which he feels on completion
of a work, the very initiative for which he owes to the
impetus given by him in his studies on bananas,

This book is most respectfully dedicated
by the author.

PREFACE

The present book is the outcome of a late recognition of the fact that the 'Banana' is of sufficient economic importance in South India to merit a monograph. The author who has been engaged in the survey, collection and study of the banana of South India during the last fifteen years of his service, gladly undertook the task of writing it up after his retirement in 1944 at the invitation of the Government of Madras and has spared no pains to make the book as complete and useful as possible. While he has freely drawn upon material from other publications on the subject, much that relates to South Indian bananas are based on his original observations and study and have been recorded for the first time.

The question of nomenclature of banana varieties is one which bristles with great difficulties. In a multi-lingual province like Madras, much confusion prevails on account of the same variety going by different names in different localities. The author has attempted, with what degree of success, he leaves the reader to judge, to disentangle the tangled skein and place before him a clear account of the many varieties that exist in this Province properly classified and indicating the synonyms by which they are known.

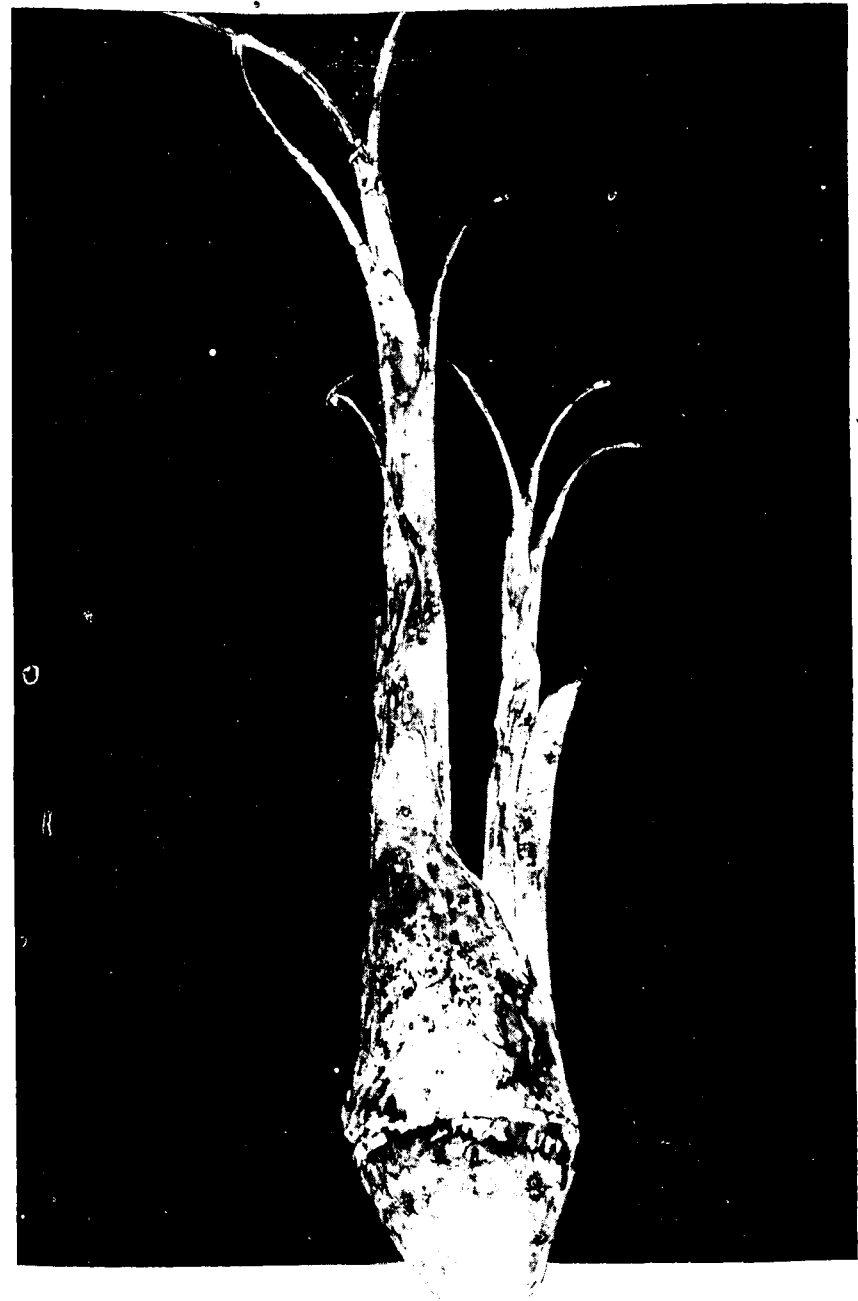
Both the British and the Metric systems of measurement are adopted in this book. Practical difficulties, it is regretted, precluded the author from confining himself to one uniform system throughout.

Exhaustive references, I regret to say, have not been given here as this work concerns mainly of the classification and description of the South Indian varieties of bananas. Since the manuscript was prepared in 1945, E. E. Cheesman and other authors have published works on the classification and other aspects of bananas of the world.

Varietal names have been adopted after the local names of the various banana varieties to make them easily known to the people of the respective localities. Hence long names have become unavoidable.

The author is grateful to the Government of Madras for the honour done to him, in being asked to undertake the

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7. DOUBLE SHOOT IN ONE RHIZOME

Heart present—*cont.*

Heart purple—*cont.*

Heart and the naked part of axis drooping and nearly parallel to stem—*cont.*

stem not purplish green or blue black—*cont.*

Pulp of ripe fruit not granular—*cont.*

Plant medium tall and medium stout—Fruit about 40 in a bunch—*cont.*

Fruit up to 5 inches long and 1 inch across, apex about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long—

Heart about 10 inches long nearly touching the ground at harvest time *Kallu monthan*

Heart normal *Kuri bontha*

Fruit about 150 in a bunch, fruits 4 to 7 inches long, 5-ribbed—Apex of fruit stout, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long—

Fruit ashy coated *Booditha montha bathees*

Fruit not ashy coated *Pacha montha bathees*

Apex not distinct *Nalla bontha bathees*

Seeded bananas

Pedicel of fruit: short $\frac{1}{4}$ inch Leaves yellowish green, shining. kattuvazha
(*Musa kattuvazhana* K. C. J.)

Pedicel of fruit: long $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Stem and lower surface of leaf *Naaru vazha*
ashy coated, fruits terete. (*Musa* *textilis*
Nee)

Stem and leaf not ashy *Elavazhai* (*Musa*
coated, fruit 5-ribbed, *balbisiana* colla.)
leaves green.

Note.—Unless otherwise mentioned, by 'fruit' is meant the unripe mature fruit

