Historical Notes on Early Burlat and Moreau Cherries

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A recent report (8), calling attention to two cherry varieties new to this country, established Early Burlat as the commercial synonym for a variety introduced from Morocco in 1936 as P.I. 125106 Bigarreau Hatif de Burlat, from France in 1938 as P.I. 127378 Hatif Burlat, and in 1949 as P.I. 162449 Bigarreau Precoce de Burlat; Moreau, as the commercial synonym for a variety introduced from Germany in 1937 as P.I. 125697 Bigarreau de St. Charmez, but also called Souvenir des Charmes, and Bigarreau Sandrin.

Early Burlat

Early Burlat was discovered (1) in the spring of 1915 as a chance seedling growing in a hedge near Lyons, France by Leonard Burlat, fruitgrower at Loire (Rhône). This shrub, which was bearing high-quality fruit, so impressed Mr. Burlat because of its earliness that he propagated it by budding it to a rootstock in August, 1915. In March, 1917, scions cut from the growth of these first buds were grafted to a 6-year-old cherry tree. On the basis of the quality and size of the fruit produced on this latter tree, Mr. Burlat gave the selection his name, calling it 'Hatif de Burlat.' In conformance with Articles 36 and 37 of the 1961 International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (6), that portion of 'Hatif de Burlat' containing L. Burlat's surname is retained without change, but Hatif is translated into its English equivalent, giving 'Early Burlat.'

In 1926 L. Burlat presented his variety to the Permanent Commission of the Société Pomologique de France (1, 7). This group classed Hatif de Burlat (Early Burlat) among the best bigarreaus then known, and officially declared it to be of sufficient value to merit propagation. Interest in the variety developed rapidly. Its fame spread to the cherry-growing centers of France, where it soon became one of the important commercial varieties, comparing well with Moreau (another leading variety) in areas where the two can be grown together. In the cherry-growing sections around Nimes, where Moreau does not grow well, Early Burlat has become a leading variety, according to Aimé Lambertin, nurseryman at Nimes, France, a visitor at the U. S. Plant Introduction Station, Chico, California, in July, 1961.

By May, 1951, the original mother-tree had attained a height of approximately 29 feet, breadth of 35 feet, and trunk diameter of 27 inches. According to L. Burlat, who was then 81 years old, this tree commonly bore average crops of 800 pounds or more of fruit each year, and in very good years produced as much as 1400 pounds (1). There was no mention about the varieties which served as pollenizers to produce such crops.

Moreau

Several persons have claimed the honor of discovering the Moreau cherry, but apparently priority for its naming is not fully established (4, 5).

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The name 'Bigarreau de St. Charmez,' a phonetic spelling error (2, 9, 10) for a cherry listed as 'Bigarreau de St. Charmes' (3), was probably the name printed on the tag attached to the tree received from the nursery. 'Bigarreau de St. Charmes' (9, 10) likewise is an erroneous transformation of the valid name 'Bigarreau Souvenir des Charmes' (4, 5), one of the synonyms for Moreau.

Information obtained from the literature, and by correspondence, indicates that 'Souvenir des Charmes' is the name given this cherry by its discoverer, Claude Sandrin, landowner at The Charmes, commune of Denicé (Rhône), France (4, 5, 9, 10). Mr. Sandrin claimed that this cherry originated on his place as a chance seedling near trees of Bigarreau Mai and Reverchon, that it fruited first in 1884-1885, and that in 1897 it began to attract the attention of several people, who propagated and distributed it under the name 'Bigarreau Sandrin.' Which of these two names was given first is not definitely established by the available information, but it appears to be 'Bigarreau Souvenir des Charmes.'

In 1907, fruits of this variety were presented to the Société Pomologique de France by M. Moreau, nurseryman at Villefranche-sur-Saône (Rhône). In 1909, overlooking any previous names given this cherry, the Moreau Nurseries commercialized it under the name 'Bigarreau Moreau.'

In May 1911, C. Sandrin of Denicé (Rhône), and M. Perroux and M. Moreau, of Villefranche-sur-Saône (Rhône), simultaneously presented to the Société Pomologique de France (4, 5) cherry fruits that were so similar in appearance that a commission was appointed by the Société to determine whether all three were the same variety. Although each of these three gentlemen claimed priority in naming this cherry, none claimed that each name was a separate variety. In its report (5), made after reviewing the evidence and visiting the establishment of each gentleman, the commission stated: "But if the Commission may conclude neatly to the identification (that all three varieties are identical) it does not need to be so affirmative in regard to the paternity; it will only say there are moral presumptions in favor of Claude Sandrin, considering the age of the trees he showed us and details he sincerely gave us." This Commission concluded its report by noting that, whether one called the variety 'Bigarreau Souvenir des Charmes,' 'Bigarreau Sandrin,' or 'Bigarreau Moreau,' the fruit are from one and the same variety, which has high commercial value because of its early maturity, large size, color, and quality of fruit and tree.

Although this variety is still known in France under the names 'Bigarreau Souvenir des Charmes' and 'Bigarreau Sandrin,' it is sold and grown commerically, as well as registered in the official catalog of varieties of the Ministry for Agriculture, as 'Bigarreau Moreau' (9). 'Moreau' is therefore the name retained for use in this country.

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Color Pattern and Distribution in Delicious Sports in Relation to Tree Type

At the 1963 meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science, Dr. D. F. Dayton, of University of Illinois, reported that the red skin color of apples may be found either in the epidermis or in the tissue immediately beneath the epidermis of the various red sports of Delicious. He summed up his study by grouping the sports as follows:

(1) Standard tree, fruit predominantly striped with some red wash, no epidermal color: Starking Delicious, Red King, Evarts, Kirby, Shotwell, Frank, Hi-Early and Red Queen.

(2) Standard tree, fruit predominantly washed red, no epidermal color: Richared, Vance, Gardner, Top-red, Red Prince and Royal Red.

(3) Standard tree, fruit mainly striped with some red wash, red color in epidermis: Adams.

(4) Standard tree, fruit mainly washed, red, color in epidermis: Chelan Red, Imperial Double Red, Pittman, Watsonville, Ryan, Woelke, Voelker No. 4, and Diede.

(5) Spur-type tree, fruit predominantly striped with some red wash, red color in epidermis: Okanoma, Clawson Spur, Donnelly Spur, Erwin Spur, Marr Spur and Woodsspur (Starkspur).

(6) Spur-type tree, fruit mainly washed with red, red color in epidermis: Starkrimson, Redspur, Wellspur, Okanoma, Paynter Spur, Sali Spur, Royal Stewart Spur and Hamilton Spur.—*G. M. Kessler*

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A Promising Apple for Warm Climates

Dr. John Popenoe* has called the attention of the editor to a new apple cultivar that has possibilities for the Deep South. This new variety, Dorsett Golden, a seedling of Golden Delicious, was discovered at the home of Mrs. Irene Dorsett in New Providence Island, Bahamas, where the lowest temperature is reported as 50° F.

The first fruit of Dorsett Golden was observed in 1959. They are large, resemble Golden Delicious in appearance, and have so-far been seedless, according to the nursery now propagating this variety. Quality characteristics are not reported.

The tree appears to bloom in March and April, and ripen its fruit in August, although some fruit have ripened in late June.

Trees will be available after Jan. 15, 1964 from Newcomb Nursery, Redland Road S. of Biscayne Dr., Homestead, Florida.—*G. M. Kessler*

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