

Grafting of Apples on *Eriobotrya japonica* Stocks

MR. M. J. THIRUMALACHAR has reported in the March Number of *Current Science* a case of grafting of Apple on *Eriobotrya japonica*. He has figured a successful graft six weeks old.

We wish to mention that successful experiments in grafting of apple on *Eriobotrya* were conducted in the Fruit Nursery attached to Lalbagh in the year 1936. About half a dozen successful plants of 1936 are growing in the Nursery, one of which has put forth a bunch of flowers (Fig. 1). From the observation so

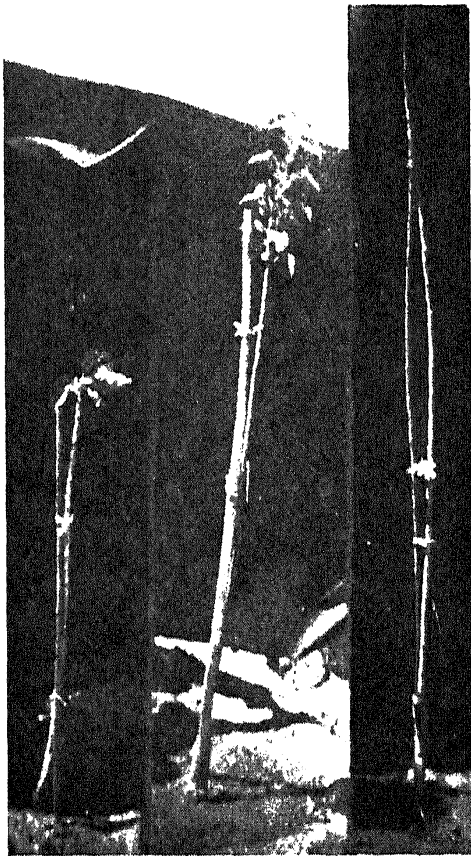


FIG. 1

far recorded the leaves of the budded apple on *Eriobotrya* is much coarser and the rate of growth slower than that of apple on apple. Further work on the morphological aspects is being pursued. At the Fruit Research Station, Hessarghatta, budding apple varieties on *Eriobotrya* is being conducted on a large scale (Fig. 2). There have been a number of successful takes, as against Mr. Thirumalachar's

failure to make the budded plants make much headway.



FIG. 2

Another contention of Mr. Thirumalachar is that the problem of a suitable apple root-stock in India is to find one which is resistant to the root disease. Our experience is that in addition to the root disease—collar-rot—our real problem is the longevity of the apple and the object in trying apple buds on *Eriobotrya* is to lengthen the life of the apple plant, as *Eriobotrya* is known to live much longer under the conditions obtained in Bangalore.

In Algeria, Pears are said to be regularly budded on *Eriobotrya*. Thus it is not the first time that *Eriobotrya* has been looked upon as a likely stock in pomological work in the warmer countries.

It is in the programme of the Fruit Research Station, Hessarghatta, and the Lalbagh Nursery, to try various Rosaceous stocks for the different varieties of apple. Anatomical work on the nature of the union between the stock and scion is a regular item of work at the Research Station.

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