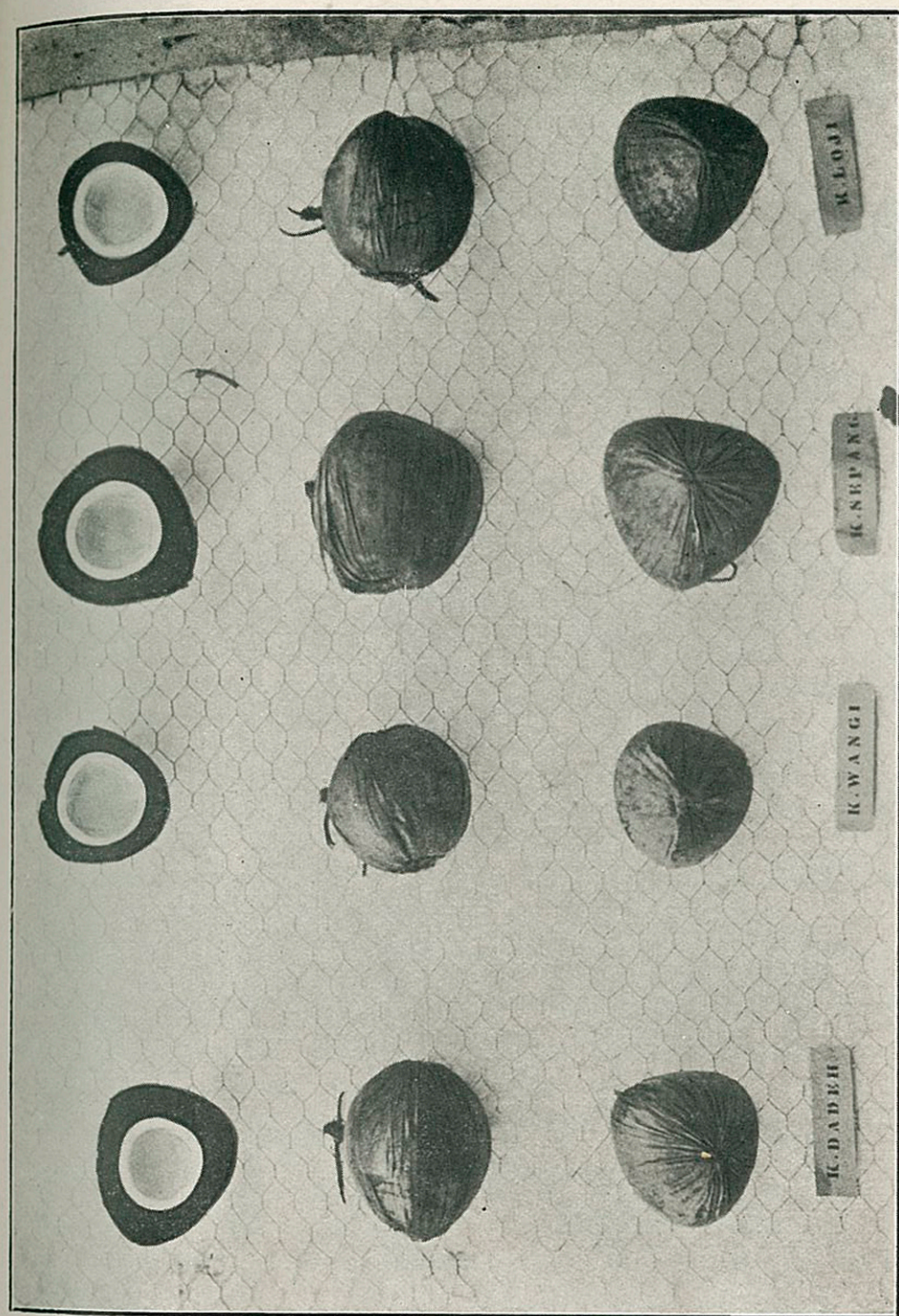


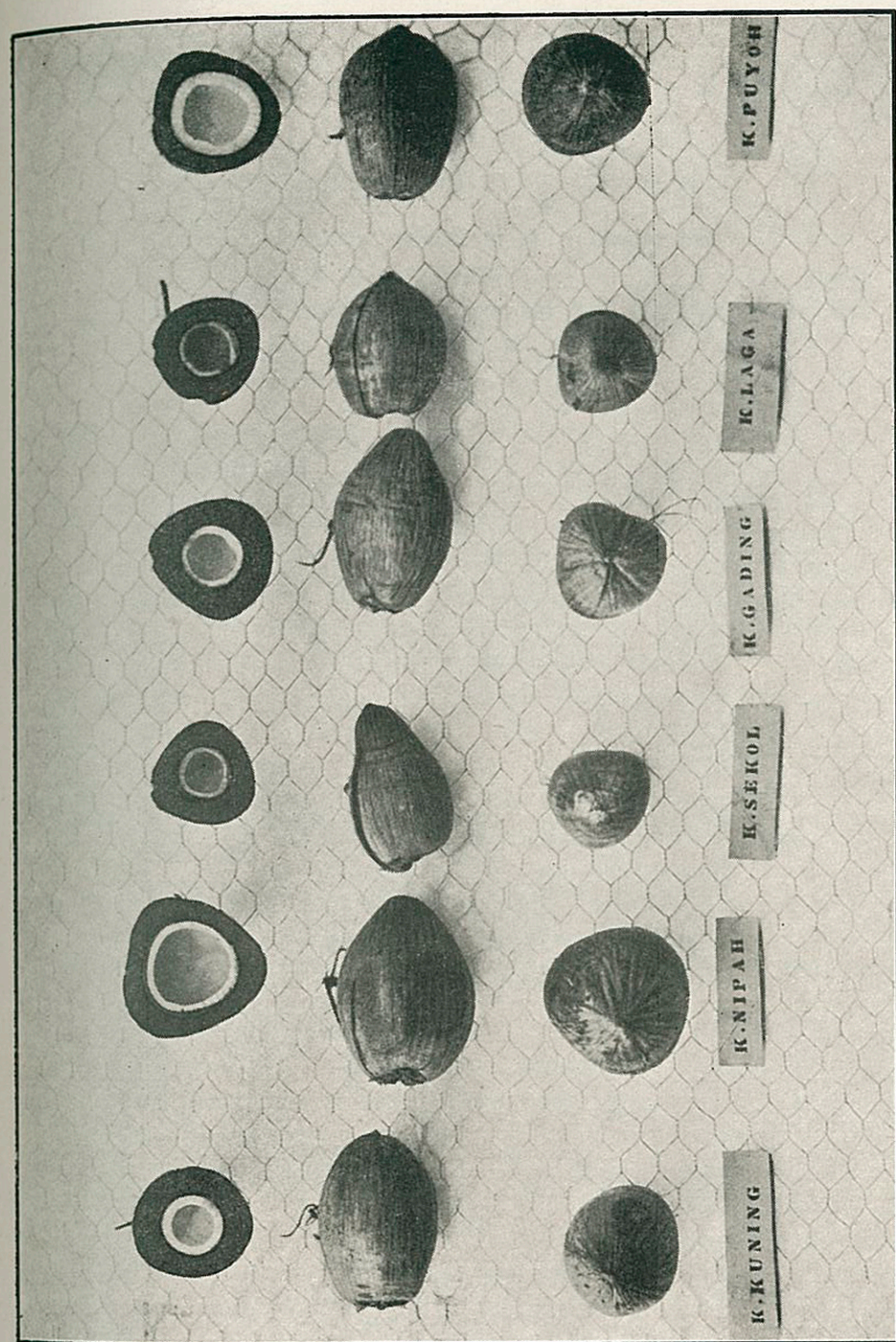
Races of the Coconut palms grown in Singapore.





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**RACES OF THE COCONUT PALM.**

In a recent number of the *Philippine Agricultural Review*, Vol. XI., 1918, page 13, Mr. P. J. Wester has remarked that existing literature seems to indicate the Coconut palm to have "probably not more than thirty five distinct varieties" and he adds that such is a remarkably small number considering the antiquity of its cultivation and its wide distribution. Whether this be right or not, investigation only can prove. In Singapore Island fourteen exist, twelve differing from each other in the nut, and two differing also in growth. With this issue of the Gardens' Bulletin figures are given of the nuts of these Singapore races.

The commonest races in the island are known as Klapa jantong, Klapa bulat, Klapa besar, Klapa sepang and Klapa laga; from the first four most of the Singapore copra is made; but Klapa laga is too small for copra and is sold cheaply at about one cent a nut for ordinary domestic use.

The two dwarf coconuts, Klapa puyoh which is green, and Klapa gading which is yellow, are now becoming much more common than they were. This is on account of a preference due to their very early yield; but Klapa gading is still rare enough for seed-nuts to fetch 30-40 cents each.

Klapa nipah seems to promise big yields, but is not common. It and Klapa hijau, which is also rare, are good nuts for copra making.

The others have special uses. Klapa dadah produces little detached granules of endosperm in the milk—not by any means in every nut but in 4 or 5 per cent, and is eaten with sugar as a delicacy. Klapa kuning has more sugar in the milk than most other coconuts and for that reason is reserved for eating. The nuts of the Klapa loji are eaten young. Those of Klapa wangi are reserved for making medicines as the "meat" has a pleasant scent suggesting pandan.

The shell of Klapa sekol is fancied for cups.

AHMED BIN HAJI OMAR.