

HISTORY INTRODUCTION

The genus *Brunfelsia* was named after John Brunfels (1488). A number of valuable economic plants occur within the ranks of the family Solanaceae. Everyone is acquainted with the tomato and quite a percentage of the world's population use tobacco. Some members of the family have medicinal value e.g., *Atropa* and *Datura*. There are others that are ornamentals and possess little economic value, but are in considerable demand by the horticulturist. Not the least of these ornamentals is *Brunfelsia americana*.

The author has attempted to study the above named species with particular reference to Botanical features. The majority of the observations and experiments were carried out on one plant growing on the I.C.T.A. Botany plots, and viability and germination experiments thus refer to the species in this particular area. Accordingly some information on the soil of the area has been included.

It is regrettable that such literature as could be obtained on the Solanaceae was directed to the more popular and economic species of this family. As a consequence, in a study of such short duration and faced by a lack of pertinent references, the author must perforce be excused for his brevity and for the omission of all those small details which gladden the heart of the perfectionist.

M.J.P.

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