

DUTCH SCIENTIST FINDS PEARLES IN COCONUTS

Silk purses were made out of sows' ears several years ago by a chemist. Now comes a botanist, Dr. F. W. T. Huenger of Amsterdam, who has made an equally impossible-sounding discovery. He has found pearls in coconuts. The gems are round, perfect in form, milk-white, but lack the iridescent sheen of the oyster pearl. They are very rare and difficult to secure, for the natives of the tropical islands prize them highly as talismans and are reluctant to part with them.

They are formed by a process similar to that which produces shell-fish pearls. Certain coconuts are "blind", that is, they do not have the three "eyes" at the end, to one of which the embryo of the seed is normally attached. Caged inside the nut and unable to develop normally, the embryo becomes impregnated and covered with lime salts from the milk of the coconut.

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