

Carex aurea, Nutt.—I have specimens of *Carex aurea*, Nutt., found growing in the moist, sandy soil just back of the lake beach. They fruit very abundantly and many of the spikes are decomposed which on examination proves to be due to the proliferation of secondary spikes from the lower perigynia. In most cases this is shown by a tumidity of the base of the peduncle but in others (when the spikelets are small) the mother perigynium is quite well developed and occasionally one perigynium is superposed upon another. An interesting theory of the mode of development of the spikes of *Carexes* might be based upon these sports.—J. J. DAVIS, *Racine, Wis.*

Cypripedium candidum.—Dr. Gray says that this plant grows in bogs. *C. pubescens* and *spectabile* are found here in damp woods and I have searched in similar localities, for years, for *candidum*, without success. Yesterday I discovered a fine lot growing on the driest kind of a rocky hill.—E. W. HOLWAY, *Decorah, Iowa.*

Development of Heat in Flowers of *Phytelephas*.—It has long been an admitted fact that many plants at their season of flowering exhibit appreciable elevations of temperature: Lamarck, rather more than a century ago, was, I believe, the first to notice the phenomenon. As the few books I have had the time or opportunity of thus far consulting contain no mention of the behavior of the Ivory Palm (*Phytelephas macrocarpa*), I now write to put briefly on record two or three observations respecting that plant. A fine example (female) was recently in flower in the House No. 1 at Kew. On April 20th, at 1 p. m., the temperature of this house was 68° Fahr.; the bulb of the thermometer, which had been suspended for some time near the plant in question, was placed in the center of the cream-colored inflorescence, and the mercury almost instantly rose to 92°, showing an increase in temperature of 24°. It is probably fair to assume that the normal temperature of a plant like the *Phytelephas* with such a large surface for evaporation, &c., is considerably lower than that of the surrounding air; in any case the actual increase in temperature is remarkable. The following day, at the same hour, the thermometer registered 72° degrees in the house, and, when placed in the same position in the center of the inflorescence, only rose to the same height as that reached the preceding day, viz. 92°. As the drawn-out end of the bulb prevented it from actually touching the convex ovaries, a small incision was made in one of these, and the thermometer then rose to 94°. Within the last week *Phiadendron sagittifolium*, with its anthers nearly ready to dehisce, showed a rise from 69° to 81°, and *P. eximium*, at a time when by sun heat the house had risen to 82°, exhibited a further increase of 10°. *Carludovica Plumieri* rose from 73° to 90°, but this last was certainly not in good condition, for the long barren stamens had already changed from creamy-white to cinnamon color, and the spathe had commenced to decompose, although not three hours had elapsed since the flowers had opened.—GEORGE NICHOLSON, in *Trimen's Journal*.



Nicholson, George. 1881. "Development of Heat in Flowers of *Phytelephas*." *Botanical gazette* 6(7), 243–243. <https://doi.org/10.1086/325497>.

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