

Dear Sir And June 23.

Philad. April 23. 1841

In regard to *Psilandra*, I say that without other means of comparison, I did not suspect that it was the same ferns with my *Silphiastrum*, made out before I saw your Mss, however, — for, on examining my very singular looking *Silphium subacaulis* (collected as you will know by name in Florida) I found the achenia to be without margin. I then naturally enough examined the other cognate species, and referred them accordingly — but certainly without any aid from your Mss. I did not travel out of the wind, I merely examined the *Silphium* for a congener with my *S. subacaulis*.

Then, again, my old Arkansa plant collected as you will know in 1819 — 22 years ago. with the aspect of a *Silphium* & some of the characters of a *Par-Theridium*, was also described & named, & considered as a distinct ferns from its first discovery by me. — this I gave up, at once, to Mr. Gray —

— it was his *Euphemantia*, & named after a very deserving botanist.

I am not aware that *Aster filaginifolius* was a suggestion of yours, — at the same time I have not the smallest objection to allow it. — it was described in Beechy's Voyage Suppl. we read it over together, I used my own judgment on the occasion. It was self-evident from the peculiar aspect of the leaves that something like *Cochlospermum* was there described. I now, however, more than suspect that I have but one species, whatever that may be. one of them is winter restful, & the other the same perfect plant the perfect plant being glutinous I referred it to Lindley's *Diplospora inermis* for tho' the name figure is a bad one.

& I am still of the same opinion, for tho' the name figure is a bad one. allowing for distortion by cultivation it may yet be the same. — You now say, that DC. plant has a bracteolate receptacle. I certainly never understood you to say so before. You might have known so, but you never said to me in my leaving. — I therefore now perceive (where too late), what I had suspected that my ferns *Heterostephium* is a good & distinct one, & ought not to have been abandoned, altho' it appears to be almost synonymous with *Cochlospermum* Your *Cosmidium*, I had described as a fern under another name.

— This was also one of my old Arkansa plants. It is true, that you told me *Bidens gracilis* belonged to it, which I ought to have mentioned.

You ought to have left my *Trichomanes* where you found them. The only section which nearly approaches *Gayophytum* is the last with subsessile fls. & numerous seeds. My *Trichomanes* is still either a distinct fern, or a section of *Cochlospermum*. — They are both, however, undoubted sections of *Cochlospermum*, taking in the whole range & connection of this vast genus. — *Taraxia* is far more distinct, but it was not proposed by Jacquin! now it could not be worked out to so much advantage. You do me great injustice by comparing this genus with *Spades* & other innovations. I have not deemed this necessary.

If I had been favored, (as on a former occasion) with a view of Douglas's collections now in Dr. Torrey's herbarium, I should of course have known *Leptogone* & *Cochlospermum* (both of which I had, suspected as it was), as to *Afanotis* I have said nothing about it & have only a minute scrap of alk. The *Bairns* (a peculiar Californian Sp.) with pappus scales alternately shorter (*Colpodia*) deserve to be distinguished in some way. That not, however, finally settled any of these things, but I say again, a more inspection of Doug's plants, which I would see at once in London would have amply given me all the information I needed. At the same time, I thank



Nuttall, Thomas. 1841. "Nuttall, Thomas Apr. 23, 1841." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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