

line indicates a district, within which all the species are found. Is it not curious that it perfectly coincides with the width of the country, so that with a single exception (*Chironomus hypnoides*) all the species occur within longitudes  $15^{\circ}$  and  $18^{\circ}$ ? The theory of Blyth, that the arctic plants does not like the marine climate, seems indeed for a great part to be correct. - The other chart indicates the depths of the seabottom and shows that an elevation of 200 fathoms would connect Spitzbergen with Scandinavia and Nova Zemlja while the depths against Greenland are very great. As there is reason to believe that Spitzbergen was once devastated so high one might a priori think, that the Flora of Spitzbergen should have immigrated from Europe. And indeed only 3 species are wanting in northern Europe (Scandinavia and Nova Zemlja) while 12 are wanting in Greenland. There is consequently little doubt that the Spitzbergen Flora has its origin in southern ~~east~~ and not as formerly supposed from Greenland.

Yours very truly  
Ch. E. Nathorst.

Nathorst  
Geological Survey Office  
Stockholm, Sweden

22 April 1884

My dear Professor Gray,  
Very many thanks for your kind letter of 25 March and many thanks also for your informations as to the distribution of the different forms or varieties of *Fagus ferruginea* in North America. They will be of great value for my coming work on the fossil Flora of Japonia. I am now quite sure that my opinion as to the colder climate in former times at Nagai is quite correct, since I have obtained a quite similar fossil flora from the still more southerly island Amakusa. Heer was also



Nathorst, A. G. 1884. "Nathorst, Alfred G. Apr. 22, 1884." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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