

Cultivated plants.

Owing to your kindness I have received a letter from Mrs Treat of Vineland, saying that she w<sup>d</sup> observe *D. filiformis* next summer. You will see by this letter that I am obeying your orders & working on *Dioscorea* &c.

Yours most sincerely

C. L. Darwin

102

Down,  
Beckenham, Kent.

Jan 8. 73

My dear Gray,

You sent me a letter dated Wilmington July 9. '67 about *Dioscorea*. It has no signature but you refer to it as written by Mr. Canbay or Canbay or Cawley. Will you be so kind as to write the name for me distinctly, for some people are so foolish as to say that your handwriting, like mine, is not very legible. The letter has interested me much in some respects & the gentleman seems very kind & willing to oblige.



Does he reside at Wilmington  
now? And if so would you  
ask him to observe one point  
for me - namely whether the  
Dionaea catches large or small  
insects. It w<sup>d</sup> be advisable  
to gather a dozen or score  
of leaves which are quite closed  
shut, bring them home, & open  
them. As "large" & "small" are such  
vague terms it w<sup>d</sup> be very  
advisable, if not causing too  
much trouble, to measure

the breadth of the broadest part  
& length (from end of head to  
end of abdomen) of an average  
sized captured insect; & then  
state how many exceeded or  
were less than this mean.  
But it sh<sup>d</sup> be particularly  
stated whether any of the  
captured insects were quite  
minute. Does your friend still  
abide by his conclusion that a  
leaf after catching an insect  
never acts again? This agrees  
with my small experience with



Darwin, Charles. 1873. "Darwin, Charles Jan. 8, 1873." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225921>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/254394>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

**Sponsored by**

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.