

to-day, and include in it these
two Smiths of which you have
seen thus far, only the flowers.
As ever Yours,
P. L. Greene.

P.S. The Asclepias above referred to, which
I had not seen till yesterday, proves to
be A. brachystephana! which I really
never did see before. It is very
accurately described in the Bot.
Mex. Bound; and, I fancy that
in the character given in the Syn.
Gel. is traceable the influence of
those specimens of A. humilis which
were mixed with it. E. L. G.

Silver City. July 16. 1880

Dear Dr. Gray: I noted down
the character of my Asclepias
mirabilis, and even mailed my
manuscript to Mr. Coulter (whom
I requested to show it to you, before
printing; he being near your room)
without having looked at your
description of A. nyctaginifolia.
You see, the author wings, of my
new plant put me off the track;
so that I never thought of looking
for its near relative in your section
1. Yesterday, while studying up
a species which I had not seen
before, I read, incidentally your
character of A. nyctaginifolia, and
was, at first, badly scared, fearing
that my supposed novelty with

solid kinds, might be the same.
But the two must be entirely
distinct, after all, though
very closely allied, notwithstanding
the difference in another wing.
I had to sit down and write a correction
for a note about it which I had
appended to the description.
I would also have altered the name,
but I could not think of anything.
Under the supposition that there was
no Asclepias known, with such
a marvellous combination of char-
acters, I called it A. mirabilis; but
in view of A. myctaginifolia, it
is not such a wonderful plant -
as I thought. But, inasmuch
as it will, apparently, stand next
to A. myctaginifolia, there seems
to be at least a poetic fitness in
the name mirabilis.
For your nice arrangement of the
genus in Proc. Am. Ac. XII & in

Syn. Fl., this is an unfortunate
discovery; and if the habit of
A. myctaginifolia is so unlike that
of Asclepias in general, as that
if this plant is, perhaps the
difficulty can be gotten over by sepa-
rating them from the genus:
though I suppose that, however
peculiar the words may be, the
presence of humus will be deemed
a sufficient reason for retaining
them in Asclepias. At all
events, I am very anxious to
hear what you think; and if you
deem it wise to cancel all I
have written for the Gazette about
it, from the reason, to the last
note, I shall not feel badly.
I told Mr. Coulter to have your cross
at your discretion.
It is getting too near Sunday, and
the answer is not to be put off longer,
so I would make up a package



Greene, Edward Lee. 1880. "Greene, Edward L. July 16, 1880." *Edward Lee Greene letters to Asa Gray*

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