

integerrimum certainly were not *Nuphar Kat-*
mianum, but self *Nuphar intermedium* Ledeb.
Now I ~~also~~ saw here in Russia *Nuphar inter-*
medium ~~strongly in evidence~~ in such conditions,
that it seemed to me to be a hybrid between
Nuphar pinnatum and *latum*. And the question
is, whether under what circumstances *Nuphar*
intermedium is to be met with in North America?
or should the your *Nuphar intermedium* be that
found in North America be a hybrid between *Nuphar*
adpressum and *Kalmianum*? I ask you therefore
to answer the following questions, if possible:
1) Are there found plants of *Nuphar*, bearing only
large flowers (as large as those of *Nuphar latum*)
with five petals? 2) If such plants are
found, are 2 or more, are they identical in their parts
with *Nuphar latum*? 3) *Nuphar latum* ~~latum~~
adpressum met with *Nuphar adpressum* in the same
ponds or streams or slowly flowing rivers? 4) Are
there any intermediate forms between the two
described? 5) Are there large forms of a *Nuphar*,
which I determine to be *Nuphar intermedium* Ledeb.
as Professor Torrey gave them to Hooker & Lindley,
found together with *Nuphar Kalmianum* ^{and adpressum} or 2-
parallel forms in different ~~separate~~ ponds?

If you should have 2 or more very specimens
of these forms of *Nuphar*, which resemble *Nu-*
phar latum (S. 1899) or seem to be *Nuphar in-*
termedium, you would oblige me very much if
you send me each, even if only for examination.
I should return them with greatest pleasure as
soon as I have examined them.

I send you my acknowledgments and ask you to be
so kind as to send me also your last 2 most be-
autiful letters to our common Miss Agassiz and
to Dr. Engelman.

Yours very truly and faithfully

Robert Caspary

Koenigsberg in Pr.

16/2/1863

Dear Sir.

Perhaps you have heard, that I prepare a
Monography of *Nymphaeaceae*, at which I
am working already a considerable time.

I have just now to a question, which I should
not like to decide by the somewhat in-
complete material, existing in Europe. It is the
question: whether *Nymphaea elegans* Hooker
is identical with *Nymphaea stellata* W. as it
exists in the East-Indies and in Africa, having
received more than a dozen of names, as ge-
nerally any person finding a new variety or even
the same plant as his predecessor, considered
his plant as a new species. *Nymphaea ele-*
gans Hooker is exactly the same plant, which
Schumann called: *pallida* i. e. a form of
Nymphaea stellata W., in which the stamens
are arranged in whorls, instead in spiral
rows as it often be the case. But the arrange-
ment of the stamens is in all species of *Nym-*
phaea very manifest and if by coincidence
each different arrangement of the stamens
should be observed a reason to declare the
plant in question a new species, we should
find some thousand species of *Nymphaea* in
Europe. There exist as far as I know only
two specimens of your *Nymphaea quadrata* =
N. elegans Hooker, originally collected by
Wright in New-Holland, in Europe, one in the

Herbarium of Dr. W. Hooker, the other in the
Herb. of Mr. S. Southey, which I saw
both, but both are in a bad state. The Hooker
Herbarium contains also an original speci-
men of *Nymphaea elegans*,
grown in New. Unfortunately the living
plant does not any more, or rather almost
for upwards of 7 years, ~~not any more exist~~
at New or any where else in Europe. If
I did I can not find the slightest dif-
ference between *Nymphaea bellota* W. and
Nymphaea elegans Hook according to those
I original specimens, except that the seed,
which Wright's specimen, preserved in
the Hookerian herbarium, contains is per-
fectly smooth, as is only the variety seed
of *Nymphaea bellota*, whilst the ripe seed
shows about 12 interrupted longitudinally
placed rows of short hairs. Now the
question is: is the seed of the specimen
in the Hookerian herbarium quite ripe or un-
ripe? Hooker may have grown his plant
from other seeds, which he received better
and which were ripe. I leave therefore my
refuge to you and put the question to you:
whether the seed of *Nymphaea elegans* Hooker,
when perfectly ripe, is completely smooth,
or if it has longitudinal, interrupted ~~rows~~
of hairs? Have you cultivated *Nymphaea*
elegans also in North America? If
so, I ask you for some seeds of the

plants, which has perished at New.

I owe most valuable material of
North American *Nymphaeaceae* to Mr.
Eaton, to whom I ask you to be so
kind as to remember me and tell him,
that I am most grateful for his favor,
which I received about 2 years ago. But
I look his direction that have even not yet
reached him for his kindness. Be so kind as
to send me his direction, being a young man,
Mr. Eaton will have changed several times about
by his direction in the mean time.

Nevertheless I am still in doubt about
some questions as regards North American
Nymphaeaceae; several of them are of such
a description, that they only can be solved
in your own mind by observation of the
living material. And as regards one I take
the liberty of calling in your assistance.

Asclepias Nuphar advena and *Kalmiana*,
which latter is the same as *Nuphar pennsylvanica*
Sm. & many authors and formerly even yourself
(Manual 1848 p. 22) speak of. *Nuphar luteum* Sm.
call it, that they consider it the same species
as *Kalmiana* or so, that they have it as a distinct
species. Examining nearly all the material exist-
ing in European herbaria, I found several large
flowers of a *Nuphar* fl. in Herb. Benth. - Jackson-
ville - Drummet 1822, with 5 fast & separate, which
as far as the specimens admit of judgment, seems
possible be really *Nuphar luteum*, or which seems
more probable, *Nuphar advena* excepting having
5 separate, the latter seems to confirm the latter view.
And I saw a good quantity of minor flowers, 40-
47 mm (equal to about 1 3/4" high) in Hamden (p. i.
Herb. North. - Troy - New York - Dr. Torrey & Herb. Lin. H. - New
Albany - New York. Torrey), which from the stigma



Caspary, Robert. 1863. "Caspary, Robert Feb. 16, 1863." *Asa Gray correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/221765>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/259304>

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

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

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>.