

for me here to distinguish the varieties
of your species, well. The dry materials
or the few living specimens - I saw
or cultivate do not admit of this.
I know from our *N. album*, what
a great difficulty it is to distinguish
the real varieties, or to find them.
So I am constantly at work about
the *Nymphæaceae*, I attend some what
those data which I published 1854 on
N. album. I found several new varieties
since, one of a dark crimson colour of
the petals like *N. rubra* Portneuf,
which I cultivate since in the botanic
garden here. I have now a splendid
aquarium, the largest, I think, which
exists, and the cultivation of living plants
is nearly complete. *N. odorata* I saw
often in the garden and examined it
in a splendid, living state at Berlin
in the garden of Borrig; I have only young
plants here, grown from seeds which
I received last autumn by Mrs. Wiggins
(Ida Wiggins), which I hope will flower
next year.

The principal distinguishing marks
of the chief varieties I take from
morphological characters, of second rank
importance all colour or physiological
differences, size, rate of growth and
the like. In the most cases every spe-
cimen gets small or tall according
to treatment. That can be seen every

but very
Koenigsberg in Pr.
25th of Sept 1861
My Dear Sir.

Many thanks for your letter of the
8th of Sept, which I received yester-
day night.

Be sure that the bright crimson
seeds, which you sent me, are unripe,
therefore their crimson colour, which
all the seeds of all species of
Nymphæa at a certain time, before
they are ripe, have and therefore
the cup-shaped arillus, which is all
yet grown up. As regards the spe-
cies to which the seeds belong, I do
not doubt, that it is *N. odorata*.
The arillus covering only half the
seed and the crimson colour are
no mark of distinction to any spe-
cies. Rather unripe fruit of *N.*
odorata and you will find always the
arillus half grown at a certain age
and the seed crimson.

Your remark, that you have in
Calle Mearns an ivodorous *Nymphæa*
with a tuberiferous rootstock and
no arillus at all! is most interesting.

i.e. as to the latter two points.
Its rigidity small, it varies
too much, to make it a mark of
dichotomia and depends too much
upon the age of the flower and the
weather. Nymph. after another the
first day of the flower very sweetly,
the second less and stinkier. After
the fourth or fifth day. If the
weather is cold and rainy it smells
after not at all. But if the plants
of Lake Ontario has no stink,
it will belong to the other genus.
I know no Nymphaea without
stink. Have you seen the plant?
I should suppose that it was
a Nymphaea or that some mistake
was about it. I know nothing
of such a plant.

You ask: what is Nymphaea n. d.?
I know is little. I
saw no authentic specimen; it does
not exist in any herbarium of Europe;
as far as I saw. Nothke has it not.
It plant under the name of N. n. d.
in the herbarium of Bernhardt, now
in the botanic garden of Leipzig, is
a small N. odora. The flower
measures only 67 mm in diameter.

it plant under the name of N. n. d.
which I saw, but not of flower, ~~at~~
in the botanic garden of Leipzig, was
certainly N. odora. Since I have
questioned it from N. odora by its per-
manent root. Now every young plant
of N. odora, grown in soft or very muddy
ground, has a permanent rootstock,
even of a foot in length. Only later it
begins to require a standing or hori-
zontal system. Therefore the plant of Mr.
Adams, which has the permanent root
could well have been a young N. odora.
The other character, that it ~~seems~~
"seems" to require the head of a stem, which
N. odora was hardly, the same says,
is given in such a doubtful manner
—"seems"—, that since himself does
not seem to have put much reliance
upon it. After (Phil. Bot. Kew. Ind. III. 240)
says: "radix caecalis, apice inflexa"; this
character vanishes quite away, because
the rays of the stigma, or rather the
processes of the corolla change in
a characteristic manner ~~the~~ their direction
every day of the flower in all species.
i.e. in N. odora it is the first day
of the flower nearly perfect, the second
a little inflexed, the third ~~seems~~
more inflexed, and the fourth still more.

I am very glad, that you have
set to work about your Nymphaeas.
It is impossible

Day is most species or rather in all.

I asked my friend Engelmann to set about examining the varieties of your northwestern species - and he seems to be also at work. He sent me just splendid drawings of *Nelumb. luteum* and dried specimens of *Nuphar polysepalum*.

Have you ~~it~~ any means of procuring for me 'good seeds', which are able to germinate, of *Cabomba*? I should not mind any expense. The best would be to send them in wet powder of charcoal, in which way I received good seeds of *Potamogeton* and *Nym. odorata* from your country. I do not think, that the seeds of *Cabomba* would bear to be kept dry for any length of time, without losing their germinating power.

I am this moment or more occupied by studying living plants of several species of *Nymphaeaceae*, which I received from Java and Ceylon, that I can not set about to lay before you at any length my questions about *N. odorata* and your other northwestern species of *Nymphaeaceae*. But if you permit me, I will do so

in winter, which, I am very
sorry to say, is approaching
quickly; after 5 or 6 weeks
we may see snow already cover-
ing every thing.

Receiving my dear Sir, my best
thanks for your kind letter of
the 10th of April 1862 and the
quids of *N. elegans*, which were
most welcome. As I intended
to answer your letter more in
detail, for which I had not the
time that moment, I delayed an-
swering it to infinity.

For proving the species of some
doubtful *Symphacaceae* I took
refuge to hybridizing them, and
all warmhouses and all basins
in the open air are full of hybrids
or mongrels. The experimenting
with them takes up the greatest
part of every before noon, but the
results are most interesting to me
and I hope will become useful to
the the descriptive question. I put
and particularly to the physiological
part of my monograph.

Believe me, dear Sir, yours most
truly and with greatest regard
Robt. Caspary



Caspary, Robert. 1865. "Caspary, Robert Sept. 25, 1865." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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