

P.S. I beg to forward a few copies of my little publication on *Requesia* in case any of your botanists or the Library of the Mus. should like to have one.

H. Thomas, Sept. 17-1879

My dear Professor!

I beg to thank you for your kind letter of 31st ult. and to say that unfortunately the box intended for you was sent too late for shipment to the agents, who had already closed the ships papers as they said, but that it will go by this opportunity.

With regard to *Requesia latifolia* my specimens have always the same large leaf as figured in my plate and as shown by the samples in the Herbarium.

The species is rather common here in some localities and invariably of the same habitus in this respect. I therefore also thought it necessary, as perhaps you will have observed, to state in my little publication on the genus, I once sent you, ~~to remark~~ that the leaves here are always 1-2 inches long, whitish green. in his Catal. plant. Cub. p. 34 says only "8-10" longis, 5" 7" latib." As however Prof. G. had evidently but scanty material at his disposal with regard to this plant (he has f.i. had but one flower of one of the species for the whole genus) it may be, that also more large leafed forms are to be found in Cuba. Until this is decided by a comparison of more ample material it would hardly be warranted to found even a variety on the difference.

Requesia has no synonyms, as far as I know, it never having been described nor figured before, although it may have been mistaken for some other already known and named plant.

In the Copenhagen Herbarium, which among others

contains most of Vahl's original specimens from which his descriptions and drawings are made, & found a couple of specimens of *Regnosia latifolia*, collected here by Dr. Ravn about 1835, labelled the one *Rhamnus sarcophallus*, the other *Sideroxylon myrtilloides*.

The *Rhamnus coriata* of Vahl (*Syns.* III, 41) has been referred to *Ceanothus* by DeCandolle already (*Prodrom.* II, 30) but is no *Rhamnaceae* at all but a *Celastraceae*, having the stamens opposite to the calyx lobes.

In my list of N. Am. plants, published in the proceedings of the Soc. for Nat. Hist. in Copenhagen 1876 I have this plant as *Chaytenus coriatus*, with the synonym of Vahl: *Rhamn. corig.*, it having been determined by Prof. Grisebach, who kindly examined some species that appeared doubtful to me, to be a *chaytenus* and hence by him called *M. coriatus*, *ind.*, he not having ever published it elsewhere. It may perhaps be correct to add Vahl's *regnosia* as well as DeCandolle in my list.

The species resembles a good deal the other *chaytenus* in my Flora, viz: *M. laeodendroides*, Griseb. (*Cat. pl. cub.* p. 54), the descriptions of which I have been able to complete with regard to the flower, which was unknown to Griseb.

I was highly interested to learn that *Regnosia latifolia* is found also in Florida and the Bahamas, another proof how much still is left to be done in the West Indian Phytogeography. It may be taken for granted that it is also found in the intermediate

Islands of Haiti and Portorico. If you can do anything for the exploration of this latter island, which is of the greatest importance, yet being as good as unknown, notwithstanding it being most healthy and easily accessible, I would recommend it to your attention. Spaniards will hardly ever do anything in that respect, at least not in a much satisfactory way and it would seem natural, that American botanists should take a greater interest in the flora of these islands, as being partly connected with that of their own southern states, than most others.

I am very much obliged to you for having taken all that trouble with my Flora especially also for having had an index made to it, which certainly will increase the usefulness of the treatise very much. I had omitted to do that, as I was afraid that perhaps the space ~~was~~ available would not allow of its being added to the work itself.

As you may think I have collected a few new facts as well as some little corrections, which however will no doubt find a convenient place at the end of the work as addenda and corrigenda.

I hardly think I shall have an opportunity at present to visit the United States. If however this should occur, I should certainly feel most happy to visit Mass., & meet in order to have the pleasure of forming your personal acquaintance and personally to thank you for your great kindness in sacrificing some of your valuable time in procuring and supervising the publication of my treatise.

Believe me to be, dear Professor Gray, yours faithfully,
E. Rogers



Eggers, H. F. A. 1879. "Eggers, Baron von Sept. 17, 1879." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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