

Nashville Tenn
October 6th 1884

Dear Dr Gray

18 years ago - July 14. 67 I collected on the western slope of the Cumberland Mountains at Coopers Franklin Co Tenn, what I thought to be a *Silphium* species - had no sources to find. I parted with all my specimens but one, giving the others to Conkey, Chickering and Ward.

I can not make it agree with any of the species in your new volume, and do believe it is an undescribed species.

I had labelled it in my herbarium *Silphium brachiatum* on account of the decussate disposition of the peduncles; *subhastatum* would also be a good name for it, but the outline of the leaves may be variable.

However I fear the old phrase "*silphium philosophi feripes*" and prefer to deposit it with you, instead of rushing with it into a journal.

I give you my description of the specimen that the notice of the object should not be lost, if the package should per accident not come to your hands.

Truette, on July 8 1880

Silphium brachiatum

Stem 3-5 feet high, square, smooth and glaucous, pubescent below, nearly naked and slender above. Leaves opposite, smooth on the lower surface with but slightly scabrous on the veins, roughened and moderately scabrous above, glaucous green, elongated, deltoid in outline, gradually attenuate from a dilated, cuneate or subcordate base or truncate base, lower about ^{6-10 inches long} petioled with slight winged and villate petioles, upper sessile by a cordate base 1-2 inches long.

Margin of leaves irregularly serrately dentate or serrate and hispidulous villate.

Heads solitary, slender peduncled, involucre of about 15-16 foliaceous ovate scales $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, subglobose rays 8, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, receptacle about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high.

Stemia nearly articular narrowly winged with a shallow depression in width at joint.

Flower July on mountain limestone.

I collected from the rocky bed (sandstone) of a rapid mountain stream on Lookout Mountain where I also collected *Dickville sessilifolia* in flower a small, submerged, a small, lichen-like or moss-like plant, which I then and now took for a *Podosternum*. It had not yet reached the flowering state. I know the *Podosternum abrotanoides*, which grows east from the Lookout Mountain in all parts of the Alleghenies, and it flowers already about ^{the same} time. It is also of a much more robust growth. I do not know whether I ever more will have a chance to revisit the place to collect the plant later in the season, and place it therefore in your hands in the best form, I have it.

You will also find a young *Helianthus*? collected 30 August 1883 at Bransville West-Tennessee. In its present state I can not make it out, but you perhaps know it, anyhow. —

I am very anxious to know the fact about these plants, as I am at work on a list of plants collected by me in Tennessee.

I have also a couple of ugly arkers, which I fear you are not very anxious to see, but will not taste your kindness too much at one time.

Yours very respectfully

A. J. Pattinger



Gattinger, Augustin. 1884. "Gattinger, Augustin Oct. 6, 1884." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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