

New York

Nov. 30, 1887.

Dear Dr. Gray:-

I thank you sincerely for your kindly criticism of my use of a new binomial for Conioselinum Canadense, Torr. & Gray, which notwithstanding the kind tone of your letter has evidently displeased you, and as this, I deeply regret it.

I would not have you think that I made that name simply for the very poor satisfaction of coining a new one. I worked over it a good while and supposed that I was moderately sure of having taken up the oldest specific name of the plant, for I concluded from a careful examination of Walter's book that

N. L. Britton



He must have known the species in question. And as it comes from the Carolina Mountains, at all events, this is not so unlikely.

The Athamantia Chinensis part of it I was not familiar with, though your letter reminds me that you had a note on it not long ago. Had I seen that at the time I should <sup>be</sup> have been satisfied with the reference, written Onoseris chinensis as you have done in your letter.

There is no doubt that there are, as you say, pitfalls for young botanists, and I presume the proper thing for them to do is to avoid writing anything. I indeed, as you may gather, have considerably discouraged at my first attempt at changing ~~any~~ a name. Though of the propriety of using the oldest specific name I am not yet decided what ground to take. I had rather talk with you about this than write. At all events I thank you for the consideration with which you have treated me.

Very Respectfully,  
N. L. Britton.



Britton, Nathaniel Lord. 1887. "Britton, Nathaniel L. Nov. 30, 1887." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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