

I sat by a hedge of *Corylus*
(viz. *C. Americana*),
And watched the evening shadows fall
O'er fairest Texarkana.*

An aged sp. came my way
And paused to pass the time of day;
I took it for an annual,
Unentered yet in the Manual.

Near 19 cm. high

x 10 in width, 'twas staminate;
For fruit or blossom 'twas too late,
It could but wilt away and die.

"O ancient sp.," I began,
"Truly Linnaean must you be;
You still must keep, if any can,
Your title to your right to be."

"Black, no sp. I," it said,
"I'm but a form depauperate,
Unpublished yet, I only wait;
The Seventh Edition may find me dead."

I started as *A. viridis*
Of Greene, alas! and pity 'tis,
But that was when we both were green
And all my characters were seen.

*
a town between
Texas & Arkansas

By A. S. Reese
given to me
January, 1908

A. S. Reese

Vainly viridis of Greene
Parenthesized I then became,
And on my back doorsleaps the name
Of Otto Kuntze might be seen.

A hybrid some one thought me then,
And published me as such, I think,
(For I don't know all the times I've been
Immortalized in printer's ink).

Then forma viridis of Greene
Parenthesized by A.H. Moore,
As yet in public print unseen,
So don't divulge this secret love.

But it's very annoying not to know
Your status in society,
And have your betters treat you so
When you boast such a long synonymy.

Time was I had my entry free
To seats reserved for spp. pure,
But now I stand in line and see
My chances daily growing fewer.

My status on my legs depends,
And so my effort never ends;
My need to hurry now I plead,
For I am but a tumble-weed!



Pease, Arthur Stanley. 1908. "Pease, Arthur Stanley Jan., 1908 [poem]." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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