

Monte Verde Aug 7th 1861

My Dear Dr

A few days ago came news of the 8th ult.
as welcome as unexpected for I didn't look
for any more letters except in answer to those
written after my return from Baracoa. I am
glad to know that the plants came safely. I
wrote you I think that I had baled up all
my plants & only wait an occasion of sending
since then came two large bundles from N. H.
which I thought had already been brought
here & incorporated with the rest.

Yesterday I was in the locality where I was
lost sometime ago. I didn't find much —
the most interesting is a new *Pleurochenia* —
a slender tree 40-50° high. I found specimens
of what I have called *Cicca arborea* & I can't
help wondering that Grisebach could make
the three so very distinct ^{came} sp., mere varieties.
The tree from which came my specimen is two
feet thick at the ground & 60° high I guess.
The fr. has 5-6 styles ^{stigmae deeply} — is nearly spherical —
not at all grooved between the carpels — the
valves closely appressed to the seed — *C. antil-*
lana on the other hand is always a shrub —
the fr. has 4 styles — is depressed — is grooved not
only between the carpels but on the back of
each & is inflated or the valves are not appre-
ssed to the seed. — I meant to enclose in my
last the fr. of *Phletotenia** but forgot it till
I had closed my letter. Today I found a new
Lorossegin. So you see I can still do
something for botany. I am contemplating
a journey overland to Habana. Don Juan

It is 5-petaled - 2 lateral very small

Gurnback gave me introductory letters to friends in Bayamón & Baracoa which were very useful to me. And now he says since I have experienced that his "recomendaciones son de valor" if I will come westward he will send me to various points where doubtless I will find "plantas raras". It is now however the very worst season & I am somewhat afraid to venture. So I guess I'll give this plant a little more examination before I go.

Aug 12. I am bothering myself with a little specimen. Petiole of fl. 4 mm. - winged cal. & ad. fl. of Eurythea but not the typical anthur & linear caps. - Dilated & dentate fl. & determinate stigmas of Centropogon but not the white fl. nor bracts. In fact it is like in kind & it puzzle me.

23d. The day after writing the above I went to the woods & got a drenching - in a steady rain of two or three hours. It was the beginning of a storm which continued all the following day. Such a rain fell as I have not before seen - a foot or 18 in. of rain I have no doubt. The ground is covered with fallen leaves & branches. Trees were blown down - yet it was not a hurricane of the famous kind. Generally rains at this season are accompanied with lightning & thunder but there were none this time. The rains have continued more or less ever since & the roads are bad. I have been waiting, waiting for letters & I should begin to think you had forgotten me but that I get none from home & the papers are a month in arrear. A friend just come from Cenla says the mail service is interrupted by the employment of the steamers in the public service or other service. This will account for the non arrival of letters. I get a little - very little - news from the Havana papers down to the last of July.

24th Found today a bush of Lamiastrum Grayi? - Bl. mostly 7-androus 6-7 and inserted on the outer side of a lobed disk. 10-12 feet between the stamens rather the groove between two contiguous lobes. The

leaves appear smaller & do not quite accord with the character in shape. I think however it is the same thing I have before collected in this part of

Our last papers gave the account of the fight at Bull's Run. I have gleaned from a few Havana papers some scraps of news of later date but nothing of moment.

I inclose a few lines to my sister. Please forward & oblige.

Yours truly Charles M.



Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass.





Wright, Charles. 1861. "Wright, Charles Aug. 7, 1861." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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