

Mejia Mar. 23^d 1862

My Dear Dr.

In my last I told you I was going to the Ciénaga de Rapata. I am domiciliated about three leagues from it — have been to it twice — once returned the same day once camped out & made a little more than two half days of it. The first day the Zoologists - Gundlach & Blanco did not do a big business — nor I neither. The second they killed 4 snow geese & I got a lot of plants. There are several familiar faces — *Sisyrinchium*, *Paraserpinaca*, *Cephalanthus*, *Nymphœa*, *Nuphar*, *Utricularias*, *Potamogeton* &c. A tree with singular flowers of which I have found only the ♂ I can refer only to *Artocarpus* though not much like others of the family. It has ~~the~~ 3 fl. within an inflated rather fleshy white involucre cleft on one side. The *Nuphar* has leaves a foot long or more & $\frac{2}{3}$ as broad. The *Nymphœa* differs from the two in *lyris* — fr. *N.* ample in the connective of the anthers not produced into a long appendage — leaves not ^{the stipules are connected} *sinnati* — the sepals have no purple lines. Fr. *N.* *Rudzeana* in the diurnal expansion of the fl. — their larger size (pet 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ long). Of the *Utricularias* one is a yellow many-flowered sp. the other 2 fl. purple with yellow palate. I guess the Ciénaga is the native country of *Nasturtium brevipes*. Gundlach pointed out to me a willow at a distance but a man of whom he inquired said there are no fl. now — I have a remark to make on *Cicca* *C. Antillana* I have seen many times in fl. and always some time after the leaves were fully grown. On the

contrary *C. scandens* has the fl. and leaves contemporaneous, according to several observations & to arboreal (if the spec. collected at Mata shouts belong to it) puts out its fl. & leaves at the same time (found in fl. only once).

28. Returned today from another excursion to the Biengos. Found another *Utricularia* a *Pontederia* & the willow with perhaps enough (or little enough) fl. to determine the sp. I don't think it can be *S. Humboldtiana* given by Gris as Cuban. Added another orchid (few specimens) to my coll. A large showy sp. collected a few spec. of another *Nymphaea* agreeing with *N. amplax*. Guess it's the same that I found at *Hair del medio*. Learn that there are letters for me at Fernuna. Will return in two or three days.

29 collected a *Myrica* (*M. cubana* perhaps) & a palm (few spec.) - a *Badiere*. Compared the two *Nymphaeas*. Quite distinct.

Ap. 1st Now square yourself to get a blessing! Early in Nov. I sent off my last remittance of plants since then I have written as many as 5 or 6 letters & in all, I guess, I have expressed great anxiety to know that they reached you. Now comes your letter of 21st Feb. & I am in just as much doubt as ever. Alex is indeed in it a clause which gives me some hope "But we wait to get returns on the set of your later collection". I know you are driven to the utter distraction ^{by this} but don't tell me about it for that makes more - we answer my question. A good while ago I asked you if I could have a set of the mosses which I had promised to Lundbeck. Will you tell me - yes - or no. Will you tell me in as few words as possible if the plants have come. I expect to keep on on & on repeating these & any such question. I have to make till I get a plain answer.

"O! happy man!" Wish you could have peeped through a crack at me the last three weeks. You would have been tempted to exclaim "Oh! miserable dog". Nobody knows how much

filth I swallowed & I thought I should ^{for 2 or 3 nights} I have not before experienced such cold as at that place & in the low land. But it is a sorry dog who speaks ill of the bridge that has brought him safe over. As for Josephine I was treated hospitably to dirt and all according to the ability of the owner. I collected going to the Biengos a *Casuarina* with fl. & fr. & very young leaves. Returning I got full grown leaves. The seeds are enveloped in a yellowish fibrous arillus like cotton. (Thank God) is *Casuarina eriophora*. I am hardly in the humor to send you anything even if the leaves were dry which they are not - or perhaps I might enclose a bit.

I see that a steamer sails tomorrow "antes & despues" = "sooner or later". So I shall give this a shove in the morning. If it goes off well - if not it will go next time, maybe.

I want to say something on the *Monopetalae*. I am continually asked the name of this thing or that & I can't answer - more than that it is of such or such family. Don't forget to answer my questions.

Yours truly
Charles Wright

The stipules are distinct but hardly prominent or white

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Wright, Charles. 1862. "Wright, Charles Mar. 23, 1862." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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