

Yoscanr Ap 14th 1866

Dear Dr:

In Grisebach's list of 1865 collection No 360. *Belaria spinosa* Rich
Strange that tho' I have Richards figure stereotyped on the brain I have
never been able to recognise the plant. To compare your specimen with Rich's
figure and tell ^{your opinion and} me what is Grisebach's last sager about the matter. You have
his account of it I got.

I am picking up flaws in his list. I find under *Pavonia subpandurata*
"corolla (sicca rosea)" & under *P. cordifolia*, "petalis (sicca roseis -)" and under
P. megalo phylla "petalis rubris". Now so well as I remember I haven't
seen a purple-flowered *Pavonia* in Cuba. ^(*P. actinoides* perhaps excepted) How comes it then that Gris
describes the color of the flowers from the dried specimens & not from
the labels? Did Dr. Gray pocket the labels & leave Gris. to describe by guess?
Now this is not treating me right. My reputation for accuracy is at
stake. I wish you to do me the justice to examine into this. I don't
ask it as a favor as I do many other things. Grisebach seems
to quote much of Ruzel's special habitats than he does mine
as if he had not the tickets contenting himself with "Cub. or." or
"Cub. or." only; and these often wrongly put ^(I don't allude to the earlier numbers of those the tickets were lost.)

I can't account for the mania of being over-particular. After
treating friend Blain in Habana where he goes as seldom as possible,
he has now put Dr. Morale there also. If he had been content
to say "*boranici cubensis*" ^(under *abieca* *Moralei*) it would have been amply sufficient and
all right. I must say these blunders annoy me for the people
here will probably attribute them to my carelessness.

When you get a complete copy (surplus) of the "cat. pl. Cub." won't
you have it bound, interleaved, for me & send it when you have
anything else so as to make up a package.

I am sorry that Grisebach does not give the derivation
of his new generic names. It would be convenient to such as
I who doesn't carry a Greek Lexicon in his sabera. It sometimes
helps a fellow out of an uncertainty.

I wrote you once that I had made out a list of all the numbers and in a column headed "Lawall" I have checked off all the numbers he has received. Mr. Lay promised me his numbers & I shall probably get them also from Mr. Finck & Mr. Fabre. By this means we will be able to distribute them only such plants as they have not already received. I would be glad to get a similar list from all the other subscribers so as to give them no more duplicates and one cause for ground-bling. Is the scheme practicable to any extent? And can you help to accomplish it?

19th. I am growing wrathful and as I can not blow up Lyris back without you for squalls. I was at San Marcos yesterday and got *Cacalia discolor* Gr. Why in the name of common sense does he trust to Don. Dick, & Harry whose testimony as to the color of flowers came through Bill, Ted, & Lyris culminating in Richard in whom he seems to have the blindest of blind faith - instead of following my trustworthy notes (generally) I am satisfied that my ticket (if you sent it) had on it "fl. white" as they are. Such blunders vex me. I wish he had quoted my special habitats as he does *Ruellia*. There are two errors in the character of the above plant - leaves (3" 4" long, 8" 10" wide) & "squamis-spice". In San Marcos I got also *Rhodia fruticosa* Gr. and a *Pieris* new to my collections. I had often before seen the bush & wondered what it could be but I was always too late for its common with the other (or several of the) ~~same~~ species of flowers almost contemporaneously with the appearance of the leaves & the fr. maturing rapidly all ^{signs} of fructification soon disappears. I got also a good supply of *Daphnia argentea* from the only plant yet known to me. Also some *Plumeria sericeifolia* and various *Myrtaceae*. *Argemone utusa* plenty of fl. *Saccharum tricephala*. *Spideudum radiopagum* - a capital name, if it means "that you can't pull up the plant by the stem" or that the roots break off very easily.

Chalassia. "Fl. (unknown)" no sirree, I know 'em. That is, unless I am woefully deceived. But the character given in Lyris is horrid. The fl. are not on a spadix as I understand it no more than a daisy is unless that the fl. being without a ligid spathe the peduncle below it is necessarily a spadix. However, that don't matter. The leaves are not ovulate as we understand it on land. Imagine a plant with opposite leaves flattened in just the contrary direction and you will have a pretty good ^(the edges of which are slightly rounded the rest being flat) idea from the plant so. The fl. are 2-3 not "central" as described by Lyris. but lateral. The fl. I have examined but slightly put wishing to destroy them unnecessarily & not knowing how many I had. ^(possibly of no always solitary) But I answered this much that it has 14 linear stigmas (or styles) & am but few ⁴⁻⁵ ovaries. Will you have it figured? I will pay for it. I got also what may be a *Majus*-form plenty of fl. but no fr. Linters 2 on a consolidated filament one next the axis lower down & shorter the opposite extending beyond the connective & deeply notched. Both sagittate-lanceolate. It is in a major for the leaves are narrowly linear and quite entire. Stamens at length exserted one inch long or more.

Please do me the favor to look at the above-named species of *Passiflora* and *Cacalia discolor* to be sure that you did not keep the tickets for I don't want to give Grisebach a blessing unless he merits it as I feel much in the humor just now, to do.

In San Marcos I got a quantity of the bark from a *Mayasacra* or whatever it may turn out to be I suppose you can determine from the locality & in some way having Grisebach's determination of the family. You see it resembles very closely the bark of *Lagetta* & of *Timberdendron* (lost two knives & a pencil - camped out in the pine wood).

O! dear I do miss so much those missing sheets. They contain for the families I so want to study, when squaring of the puzzles are *Euphorbia*, *Legum.* *Myrt.* *Melastom.* *Convolv.* &c.

Enclosed are a couple of scraps for Lyris. Hope you don't throw these notes into the basket under the table.

28th of the little plant supposed to be *Majus* I have seen that and it

is not *Najas* (fid descr.). It has two ovaries one sessile the other on a short stalk each with a long filiform style. The seed is ^{oval} dark green with the remain of the style about the middle of one side. What is it?

Bark for this time. Kind regards to Mrs Gray — and to Mrs Driver?

Yours ever Charles Wright



Prof. Wm. Gray.
Cambridge.
Mass.



Wright, Charles. 1866. "Wright, Charles Apr. 14, 1866." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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