

Monte Verde May 12th 1867

My Dear Dr

A few days ago I came upon a noble individual of *Gecca scandens* Worr - a male plant and it brings vividly to mind the appearance of the first one I found which was of the other sex. The plant in question is about six inches thick near the root and sends out irregularly branches as it straggles about toward the tops of the trees which it aims to reach. I could not measure it but I hardly doubt that it is one hundred feet long. A character which has not been noted I believe but which specimens of this plant will well show is the distinctive arrangement of the branchlets not noticeable I think in the other species seen by me. I don't know what the specific name of *Gecca disticha* indicates.

Yesterday I found a *Goetia* which I can hardly doubt is a new species. The most striking tho' not essential character is its size - a slender tree full ten inches thick towards the ground and fifty or sixty feet high I should think. I climbed to the lowest branches full thirty feet I imagine for specimens. The other species I know only as a bush. The leaves (fld. mem.) are much alike but I don't find the disk around the ovary base, which is conical and much larger than the ovary itself. Then I find but one or two ovules in the cells. The stigma is not strictly capitate rather conical or pyramidal bisulcate. The ferruginous-yellow corolla same as *G. amena* Gr.

21st The other day I came upon a bush of *Belairia mucronata* Gr. and now that I have seen both after being so deeply interested in the search of Richard species the characters are quite clear. The difficulty with me was I took *Picketia* & not

To be one of the species and I can yet hardly believe they ought to be so far separated as they are in the new Gen. Plant. I found also more of *Plenanthalis rubrovirens* Lindl. which seems to have been scarcely collected before.

22nd Yesterday I went on a long ramble over my old hunting ground away beyond the Pinal & got back just in time to escape a thorough ducking - for it rains now every day & none of your April showers neither beginning sometimes before mid-day and sometime continuing till night. I got a new *Salvia* somewhat shrubby. fl. scarlet (but, but slightly colored) like, but smaller than a very common sp. in cult. here. Also a new *Ammania* *L. elliptica*, miki, leaves exactly elliptical rounded equally at both end & rather short racemes.

Just where the Pinal creek tumbles over a high bluff at several different times I have gathered a little *Stelia* never however more than one or two specimens at a time. These I suppose you have tucked away, all of them, in your herbarium finding them so scant in each parcel and nothing has been reported on them. *S. oppositifolia* grows abundantly here also but in two or three times larger in all its parts. This varies much in color ^{from green} from greenish yellow to dark red. The smaller one (for men and a specimen found yesterday) has red fl. They look as unlike that I can hardly think them the same species although I can find no difference in them but size.

Four orchids have asserted their rights of squatter sovereignty, and seem to have established it too in the coffee fields. *Breidium variegatum*, *Leochilus salus* Lyr. *Soropis urticulata* Lindl. and *Aceranthus* ~~Montezumae~~ ^{Montezumae} G. Rich. All of them abound in the older parts of Monte Verde which are partly abandoned and growing up to grass & bushes. The coffee tree look sickly & old and are covered with an abundant coating of mosses, lichens with *Villandias*, *Orchid* &c.

I have been hoping and rather expecting to receive from you some further particulars about the damaged plants, but as some time has elapsed now since you reported briefly their condition I suspect you have got my later letters advising you not to write to me again as the day of my return would be so uncertain - sooner or later according to circumstances.

31st I'm going to finish this long rambling epistle. I have found several additional specimens of the little *Stelia* all very uniform in size & color ^{of fl.}, but besides this I have found a very distinct sp. with larger fl. and the sepals pubescent on the inside so that it will fall into Griseb's section *Barbata*. Unfortunately I have yet but a single specimen - with a good number of fl. however. I have also a new *Aceranthus*. I don't know when I got beyond Laguna Interoceanica, Lam. but yesterday I found two bushes of it (sim fl.) so that it seems generally diffused throughout common. Mr. Brissson is going to cut down a piece of wood soon not just here but a league or more away and if I mistake not on the northern watershed of the island. I hope I may find something new or valuable if not new.

No chance of getting home is yet present, but it is probable that the steamer *Albatross* will be in Cuba about the 20th and it is likely I may return on her if I meet with no opportunity before - or I may stay longer if I have success in collecting & it promises to continue.

There has been but one day this month without rain if I mistake not and none of your dingles. It is now coming down good fashion. It began early today & made me hurry to get in my papers & sprinkling them a little. Then came the sun again & I dried them well. But orchid browned & I sweat in the oven. Otherwise I believe they would rot. It is excessively damp. It is a blessed thing that the water

can run off readily otherwise water would be one enormous
mud hole. I would like to have a pluviometer just to know
how much rain falls here. No more at present

Yours ever

Charles Wright



Prof. Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass.



Wright, Charles. 1867. "Wright, Charles May 12, 1867." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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