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Dec. 16, '23.

My dear Dr. Schlechter:

Your paper on Costa Rican orchids arrived yesterday. I have only had time to glance through the pages and to make a general survey of the extent of your labors. This is going to be a very helpful publication, if I can ever assimilate its proposals and interpret them with your kindly assistance. I have two unfavorable criticisms to offer: 1. I think it was a mistake to treat the different collections under separate headings; 2. The lack of an index is really a sad one.

I am sorry that your remarks under Epidendrum ionophlebium on page 120, indicate that you regard my treatment of your E. Hoffmannii as a breach of trust. Before going to Europe in the summer of 1922, I devoted the greater part of the winter of 1921 to a critical and bibliographical study of Epidendrum, and it was at this time, not after my return from Europe, that I had arrived at the conclusions published in several numbers of Schedulae Orchidianae. Epidendrum ionophlebium and E. Hoffmannii, were studied by myself and Hubbard in connection with a proposed joint work on Mexican Epidendrums, and lie in my herbarium as we treated them in 1921. My notes on the sheet of E. ionophlebium are as follows: "Schlechter seems to have described his E. Hoffmannii from the same material. His description fits very well the drawing of E. ionophlebium in Herb. Reichb.f. ----- Ames & Hubbard." I had no intention of violating a confidence and you will see, if you study my notes, in Sched. Orch. that they were simply written to clarify Epidendrum. I have no desire to forestall you or to use your confidences for publication. If that spirit had governed my work I could have rushed into print with Powell's new species, long before you published your paper, because I had a nearly complete set from the Kew Herbarium in my possession at a time when Powell had given me every reason to be hostile. If I had not known you and if I had not enjoyed your cooperation, I would surely have anticipated your publication, because I was under no obligation to Powell and had every reason to push forward with my work as I was preparing a flora for the U.S. National Museum. Think this over. Life

x is t. short to spend it in doing well things.



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Please send me duplicates where possible, of your new species. Send tracings, anyway, and get them to me as soon as you can. I have already made proposals regarding this and I hope you will consider them very favorably.

I enclose a little Christmas card for the children. It may come too late for the 25th, but it will be a remembrance to recall the day.

Yours faithfully,

*Charles Darwin*



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Dec. 16, 1923 [to R. Schlechter]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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