

Middlebury, Vt. Nov. 17 1920

Dear Mr. Deane:-

Your letter of the 13th is at hand and I wish to explain briefly the question you raise regarding my naming of certain blackberries.

(1) R. allegheniensis var. Gravisi Fernald I consider a synonym of R. orarius Blanch. on p. 80 of the Blackberry Bull., interpreted there as R. allegheniensis X Canadensis. Note: it is described as an unnamed var. of R. allegheniensis, in Gray Man.

(2) R. scleratus is only a little phasantry. Fernald + Pearson had jocosely called one of their finds with savage prickles: "R. damnificans" I gravely suggested it would be better Latin to call it R. scleratus. Where did you find this name? It surely has nowhere appeared in print.

(3) My suspicion that R. cuneifolius might be of doubtful status arose from the fear that it had been confused with R. Linkeanus Seringe in DC. Prodr.

(See Rydberg No. Am. Fl. 22. pt. 5. 1913, p. 461.)

2: 560, a plant described from garden specimens of unknown origin (sometimes a garden escape & found on ballast). It is however closely related to our Am. species R. cuneifolius Pursh.

A word regarding Viola cucullata Ait. form prionosephala (Wern.) Brainerd, Rhod 15: 112. June 1913

I regard a "form" as of small importance in systematic botany. There are numerous "fluctuations" in a species (due to the varying supply of food & water, & of light & heat,) that one may study if he has the acme to do so. It is quite common for more or less of pubescence to appear in the leaves or floral parts of a southern or western violet, as it is for every purple-flowered species to have an albino form. See Hugo de Vries "Species & varieties" pages 715-741, Lecture XXV. Also paragraph beginning at bottom of p. 8 in Blackberry Bull. & Plate II.

With kind regards, Very sincerely,

Ezra Brainerd.



Brainerd, Ezra. 1920. "Brainerd, Ezra Nov. 17, 1920." *Walter Deane correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/164242>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/288543>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

IMLS

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.