

well with Mr. Cleveland's  
specimens - and these  
run into *P. intermedium*, &  
I have no certain rule  
for distinguishing always  
*P. intermedium* from *P. vulgare*.

The whole trouble is that the  
books are not the standard, but  
Nature is. We can go to the  
bottom of Books, but Nature  
is unfathomable.

Ever truly yours.

D. V. Eaton

4  
New Haven. July 9. 1875.  
Geo. L. Davenport. Esq.

Dear Sir.

I have not yet  
thanked you for the little  
*Botrychium* which you were  
so kind as to send me.

I have put it away in  
the proper place, with your  
ticket, and now offer my  
thanks. I may perhaps  
never write up the N. Amer.  
Ferns as I should like to,  
but as my collection is now  
by far the best. it is perhaps

will to keep it so.

As to when *Botr. simplex*  
becomes var. *compositum*  
must be a matter of individual  
judgement. Your largest  
figure surely is the var.  
the next largest is not,  
+ the smallest one I  
should call the var.

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As to *P. Californicum* -

I wrote Mr Cleveland a  
long story about it. The  
gist is this - The common  
Californian *Polypodium*

is certainly *P. intermedium*.  
Kaulfuss' *P. Californicum*  
is an older name for  
something. Hooker + Baker  
say it is the same as  
*P. intermedium*. Hook. + Arn. +  
so they give up the latter  
name for the former.

Perhaps they are right -  
perhaps not - I don't know.

I have had no clear idea  
as to what *P. Californicum* is -  
+ don't want to be quoted  
as pretending to know.

The brief character  
given by Kaulfuss agrees



Eaton, Daniel Cady. 1875. "Eaton, Daniel C. Jul. 9, 1875." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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