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Copies of letters from Prof. Eaton to
Capt. J. Donnell Smith in regard to the fern
Aspidium Conterminum found by the latter
in Florida, March, 1880, with a copy of
Capt. Smith's description of it under the name
Asp. anceps.

New Haven, May 27, 1880

Capt. J. Donnell Smith,
My Dear Sir;

I have now a reply from Mr
Baker to whom I sent some of the specimens
of your Florida Aspidium, and I enclose a
copy of his letter, together with one of the
pinnae which he sent me. I think it is
exactly like your plant. I can not
separate the A. conterminum of Sp. Fil. into
several species. The presence of resinous
dots is not considered of specific importance
in other ferns - as for instance, in A. unitum,
of which I enclose resinous-dotted pinnae.
The short stipe is variable and the mamillate
gland difficult to see in dried plant.
Fournier gives no character or description
of his A. exandans. I have space

in the Appendix of my book for only a brief account of your fern, and I referred to it as Aspid. conterminum, Willd., but with a ?

No one this side of the ~~water~~ ocean can disentangle the confused synonymy of A. conterminum and the forms referred to it. If you ever come here I can show you much that bears upon it, but not everything. I return your description of A. anceps, having carefully taken a copy of it, that you may publish it yourself if you decide to do so.

I see you find A. exsudans at Washington. Howmies gives four varieties, A. genuinum

B. majus

Y. Feei

D. myriocarpum

& find that he does give a specific character - a very brief one; - "Truncus erectus, frondes firmae, sub cartilagineae, nervis marginatibus, induratio citius evanida" - all which applies well to your fern.

Fendler's 176 is

cited for his var. A. Fendler's 179 is cited for

his var. D. On neither of these do I see resinous dots or aerophore-gland.

Fee's Aspid. strigosum, from Canadalupe, coll. by L. Herminier, of which I have an original pond, seems to have both!

I think it is surely your fern!

The reference is

Fee, onzieme Memoire, p. 78, t. XXII, fig. 2. I will copy all he says.

The plant next before it is A. conterminum, of which he says; "Elle est voisine de l'espece suivante".

Fee - Onzieme memoire, p. 78,

Aspidium

Y. strigosum, Fee. Frondibus pinnato-pinnatifidis lanceolatis, glabris, petiolo laevi; pinnulis oppositis, superioribus alternis, ultimis adnatis, linearibus, caudatis; laminae usque ad apicem fructiferis, basi decrescentibus, segmentibus infimis oblongis; sporotheciis parvis, induratio membranaceo tenui, glabro, persistente, fusco; sporangiiis rotundis, annulo 11-articulato; sporis brevis, reniformibus.

Habitat in Canadalupe L. Herminier, 1863.

Filix strigosa, elatâ vicinitate luteola; pinnulis
 patulis, apice curvato elongato, fertili; rhizom-
 -ate erecto, crassissimo, radiculis rectis,
 longis.

Icon. Tab. ~~LXXII~~. fig 2- Reductum cum fragmentis
 magnit- natur et auctis.

(Dimensions: longueur totale 1 mètre ~~environ~~,
 environ; pinnules 8 centim sur 7 à 8 millim de
 largeur; 40 à 45 paires de pinnules)

Le rachis est profondément sillonné.
 Les pinnules de la base des frondes ne sont
 plus représentées que par des appendices in-
 formes, Le port de cette belle épid est élé-
 gant; elle se rapproche de l' A. Rivorci avec une
 consistance plus ferme des pinnules moins
 écartées et plus nombreuses, des nervilles
 chargées d'un plus grand nombre de sporothé-
 ces qui deviennent confluents.

For this particular form Fée's Name is older
 than Fournier's.

For the other ferns you send me I am
 very thankful. The series of Pol. pectin

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- natum is very fine and instructive.

III is hardly "viviparous" but rather has one pinna enlarged & pinnatifid

IV *Pteris serrulata* - much finer specimens than I had before.

V Exactly *Nephrol. exaltata*.

VI Thanks for this also

VII Very large for *A. unitum*. But I suppose most collectors take pains to collect as small ponds as they can find, so that botanists who do not travel seldom know how large & fine a plant may be in its native land.

Fee's description differs from your plant in some few items, but the specimen does not - so far as I can see. It lacks the base of the stipe, and the indusium may be a trifle more persistent. Fee's figure shows a very short stipe, and erect rhizome - also some pubescence - which his description denies.

Yours Very Truly

Daniel C. Eaton.

Copy of letter from J. G. Baker

Royal Gardens, Kew,

Herbarium, May 12. 1880.

My Dear Prof. Eaton,

The conterminoid *Aspidium* has come quite safely. Looking through our Mexican and West Indian [ferns] classed under the very broad-stretching conterminum of Species Filicium the nearest thing I find to it is Calceotti 6306, cited by Fournier as the type of one of his vars. of *exsudans*.

It has the gland at the base of the pinnae, the resinous glands and the hairiness. I will enclose however a couple of pinnae that you may judge for yourself.

Our specimen does not give the base of the stipe.

Another that comes near it is Sieber, Martini-que 241. The type of *Asp. polyphyllum*, Raulf. This is less hairs than yours, with broader segments, & I do not detect a gland at the base of the pinnae.

Under Wright's Cuba 820 we have three different forms. This is the number, as of course you know, on which Ruhn founds his *Asp. rigidulum* (Linnaea XXXVI 109) citing as a synonym *Aspidium conterminum*, Eaton

Hil. Wright, 209. Now no doubt have means to include all the three forms under that name.

Yours very Truly
J. G. Baker.

New Haven, June 3-1880

My Dear Sir,

Mexican Ferns.

Thanks for sending me the typical specimen of *A. exsudans* comes very near your fern, is perhaps less rigid, & has the pinnales slightly different. But it is slightly pilose, resin-~~ous~~-dotted, & has the mamillate gland, & I should not venture to separate it. Var. *myriocarpon* seems to lack the resin.

But our own *A. Novboracense* is sometimes resinous - commonly not so.

I should be inclined to refer all these forms to *A. conterminum*, as is done in Synopsis Filicium - making of yours a var. to be called either *strigaceum*, *exsudans* or *resinaceum*. The species as a whole would not be more variable than *Aspid. Filix-mas*, or *A. aculeatum*, or *Asplenium Filix-femina*.

Will you write it all up for Torrey Club Bulletin? or shall I? I have

only a very brief notice in Ferns of N. America,

My story about *A. noveboracense* had to do with the rootstock, not the stipe. I have not examined many specimens for the ancipital base of stipe - & indeed this character is not very evident in the dried plant.

Probably the whole caudex has produced stalks, the lower part - perhaps only frondless stalks - like the runners of *Onoclea struthiopteris*.

Many tree-ferns have aerial roots - sometimes as mass an inch thick

Yours very truly
D. C. Eaton.

J. Donnell Smith's Description.

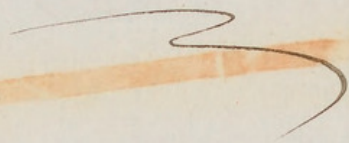
Aspidium anceps, n. sp.? Rootstock very stout with the persistent dead stalks, erect, $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ long, one fourth to one third above ground; stalks in a terminal crown, 1'-2' long, scabrous, at the base chaffy and for the distance of 6"-12" mediately ancipital with a lobed 1"-2" wide protrusion of cellular tissue; fronds spreading in a circle, thick-membranaceous, glabrescent and dark green above with scattered hairs, paler be-

-neath and sprinkled with yellow resinous atoms, rachises pubescent, ribs and veins appressed ciliate, lanceolate in outline, acuminate above, attenuately elongated below, 2° - $4\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ long, $5'$ - $9'$ broad, pinnate below the pinnatifid prolonged summit; ~~pinnæ~~ 35-45 pairs, sessile, bearing a mammæform gland beneath at their insertion, linear-lanceolate, apex caudate, deeply pinnatifid, lower pairs distant and merely incised and hastate, decrescent to near the caudex; lobes obliquely oblong or obtusely falcate, margin revolute entire or sub-entire and appressed-ciliate, basal lobes enlarged and hastately divergent with the upper one acutish and the lower one trapezoidal incised and upward produced; veins 7-10 pairs, simple, or the anterior pair forking or flabellate in the lower basal lobe and rarely elsewhere, free and distant at the sinus; fori nearer to the margin than to the midrib, with age confluent in one mass to the lobe; indusium minute, semi-obovate with a broad sinus, glanduliferous, evanescent — Fronds all fertile, and pinnated throughout excepting the much reduced lower pinnæ.

Hab. Abundant throughout a miry hammock draining into Peace Creek near Fort Meade, Polk Co., Florida, March 1880.

The trunk-like caudex, and the palm-like head of

almost stalkless fronds give to this species
some resemblance to the tree ferns.





Eaton, Daniel Cady. 1880. "Eaton, Daniel C. May 27, 1880 [to J.D. Smith]."
George Edward Davenport correspondence

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