

Fischer, J. C. L.

Petersburgh June 10th 1846

My dear Sir,

I received rather late last autumn, in the last half of September Your kind letter dated July 5th, and I had the mortification not to receive it directly by Your brother in law, but by a third and rather deprived of the pleasure to show him our botanic garden. Your would have received my answer much earlier if I had not met with numerous difficulties to reply a good part of Your queries and I am much disappointed not to be able to give you satisfactory accounts and information in respect of many of them.

There is no other flora of Russia, except Ledebur's, the 5th part of which must be nearly ready to be published. It is a pity the work is published in Germany and not here, when the professor had been able to consult the collections of the Academy of Sci., of the Botanic Garden & others which could have rendered the work still more perfect. I hope you have received at its time the Enumeratio of Dr Schrenk's plants, collected in the northern parts of Central Asia, which in all concerns Sogdiana (the region of the Kirghizes of the middle-hord); I send you hereby the Enumeratio altera and shall not fail to send you the 3rd and last one as soon as printed. M. Karstin, collector for the Moscow Society of Naturalists in the same country; he found many plants not discovered by Schrenk, and has published them in the Bulletin of the Moscow Society; I will do my best to promise to you his descriptions, but am not sure if I can succeed.

Of the plants you mentioned in Your list, Geum Beckii has never been found in any of the Russian provinces; Cornus canadensis neither except in Lithuania, and although I suppose the existence of Veronica alpina in Russian Lapland, there but

a most remarkable specimen of it, gathered at Karsuando (I write
the name just as it is written on the thicket of this specimen) and was
indicated by Professor Sahlberg; I suppose this place to belong to the western
part of Russian Lapland, but I have no certainty of it, and I am not
able to make out the just position of this spot; nevertheless, one can
hardly doubt of the Habitat of this plant though all the western part of
Laponia, as it grows on many spots of Swedish Lapland and as no natural
boundary separates the kingdoms. — *Ledum latifolium* is found in Litta,
never in the continent of Asia or on the peninsula of Kamchatka or the Aleutian islands (foreign).

Andromeda hypnoides seems to occur exclusively in the West, in Lapland,
west from the White Sea. I have a specimen from Zeller's Kamchatka with the label:
"Hör. or.", but on this is no authority at all in the label is not written by Zeller,
I suppose there must be an error. The former Russian botanists may have
confused it with a long growing variety of *Cassiope Pallasiana*, which I have got
from the East under the name of *C. hypnoides*. It goes not at all to the North.

Agalea procumbens (Lewinland) grows in the arctic zone from Norway
to Kamchatka, and goes south to the northern range of hills
which extend to the Pacific Ocean in the latitude of the northern
end of Lake Baikal. It grows plentiful at Oonahashka (Forsberg's)
and has been equally gathered on the mountains of Litta.

Rhododendron lepponicum is growing every where a rara avis; I have
a bit from Greenland, some fragments from West Laponia, and one
single specimen in fruit, which I cannot acknowledge but for this plant,
from the Urukau (Joonikan) between Yakutsk and Okhotsk, nearer
the latter place.

Phyllodoce taxifolia (Lewinland) (var. *coerulea*) from Norway to Kamchatka;
rocky hills of the banks of L. Baikal. Near found by people of my
acquaintance on the peninsula, not in Litta, where *Phyllodoce Pallasiana*
takes its place; this *Phyll. Pallasiana* grows likewise on the southern
parts of Kamchatka.

Arbutus (Arctostaphylos) alpinus from Norway to Kamchatka; this is the only
one of these species, mentioned by Spreng, which extends so far as
to the higher alpine regions of the Altai mountains; it has
been lately discovered — with the publication of Ledebour's *Flora*
altica — on the mountains on Tschuina river (Chooja).

Phleum alpinum has been found on the whole arctic range, like -
in alpine Caucasus & Altai.

Calamagrostis sylvestris Komia and Siberia media et australis.

Aira atropurpurea. I have it seen only from Lapland and

Vaccinium vitis-idaea, perhaps found on the Fennoscandia (Obolenski)

Eriophorum vaginatum; very arctic Europe & Asia; Komia media et

Siberia Komia, alpine Caucasus & Altai.

Andromeda foliolosa. Arctic zone from Lapland to Kamchatka;

Viburnum opulus, Komia septentrionalis in upper ultra Morquian

(36° N. + E.)

Cornus canadensis is found at both sides of the Arctic and never

approach to be found in the continent of Asia; not even

on Fennoscandia.

Quercus macrocarpa - Kamchatka and strong to say it belongs

to the Fennoscandia - in Fennoscandia I probably in former

times escaped from a garden.

Agrostis canina Komia media et australis; Siberia et Asia australis.

Vestrumia alba extends as far as to Kamchatka, from the

West of Russia. I am not able to distinguish with safety, but

near botanicaly distinguished, although one plant of large size and

broader in all its floral & vegetative parts grows as far as to the

most northern limits of European Russia, and another more

slender belongs more to the arctic zone, far beyond to Kamchatka.

no good comparative description has been established, and

one the species I have from Siberia seems to me not to differ from

our Russian *Vestrumia*. I have a specimen from the Island of

Kadiak (N.W. coast) into *pseudosaccharum*; this may be a distinct

species, but not knowing the American *V. viridis*, I have no judgment

on the identity or difference of the species, and the specimen from

Kadiak is too immature and rotten to examine it solidly.

The European *Camelopardalis* has been gathered only on the

western declivity of Caucasus (Meyer says: in mountains Caucasus ori-

entalis alt 300 & 1000 feet up), it does not go far to the east

Never *Viburnum opulus* is found without flowers radiant.

Cornus racemosa does not vary at all in our country, there is a sort of
variety in the few islands (Conalashka), mistaken by some for C. canadensis;
this you will get in my next parcel, when you will receive that I can send
you of Carices, Petiole frictions, and Alans, and some of our Salices.
Of Agrimonia racemosa and rugulosa I can give you hardly any
thing with the fruit, I don't know that A. rugulosa has been found in
Russia.

Phlox subulana is common on the banks of small rivers in the Ukraine
(where they call it river-berry) (hardly it goes far to the north); although I
have no specimens from the north of Europe, I see now nevertheless, that it
has been gathered by people of good authority for to the north - Europe viz:
Lapland; in Siberia it grows though all the northern and middle regions
till Kamushatka, and in Kamushatka too.

Now, my dear Sir, is all my wisdom in the objects, mentioned
in your letter, I expect a good set of Carices in your month from
Humboldt and if there is yet time for this navigation, I shall send
you a small parcel this year.

According to your permission I shall make a list of desiderata of M. Aem.
plants, which I shall send you in my next letter; a good desiderata
of which is Pogonia verticillata, but it seems to be scarce a plant, that
there may be some difficulties in acquiring a specimen of it.

I am anxious to hear soon of you. Believe me most
affectionately

Yours very truly
J. E. Smith

I forgot to tell you that Dr. C. A. Meyer has been consulted on
your queries, and that unfortunately there are no more little
plants amongst the Duplicates of the Academy of Sciences; I shall
send you of them what I have in my own Herbarium and in the Herbarium
of the Botanic Garden, but I am to go on for off of being
in any way complete! I have written to Litzke to get as many plants

On *Arnica mollis* I cannot discover any notion of its existence
in the Russian Dominions.

Rubus Chamaemorus is distributed over all morassy grounds of western,
central and arctic Russia, over all Siberia to Kamchatka, the Koorile &
the islands, not belonging to the ~~Far~~ ^{Far} ~~East~~ ^{East} ~~Asian~~ ^{Asian} ~~continent~~ ^{continent} and the low-
water steppes; the same is to be applied to *Vaccinium uliginosum*
and *V. oxycoccum*; *Vaccinium Vitis idaea* has nearly the same
extent, but is varying in the East of Siberia with smaller leaves
and resembles somewhat *V. bursifolium*; besides *Vaccinium Vitis idaea*
grows always in woods, and only accidentally in open mossy-grounds.

Gaylussacia uliginosa, as far as I know, has been found only in western

Lapland and on the Caucasus alps (Meyer).
Netela nana is growing in the whole arctic zone of European Russia (the
western limits seem to be the neighborhood of Petersburg, where
it occurs but sparingly, and all Siberia.

Carex capillaris, *Rovinia septentrionalis* & *borealis*; alps Caucasus
et altaicae.

Carex virgata seems not to be a Russian-plant.

C. saxatilis, Lapponia. In Siberia arctic Russia only; in mountain
altaicae.

C. capitata. Lapland, Finland, Petersburg, and probably
throughout arctic Siberia as it belongs to the flora borealenis;

C. brevis is quoted by Ledebur as a Lunda & Lapland-plant; it
seems not to be here gathered by any one in Russia.

I don't know, say you just a? at *Carex atrata*, which is a plant
growing in Lapland, though all the arctic regions of European Asia
and the Altai-mountains. *Nondrum repens* in Caucasus
of Camp Gebhardi I know only the quotation of Ledebur's Lapp; it
seems not to have been found in Russia; *Carex cincta* (Caucasus L.)
is throughout the Russian European and asiatic Kingdoms.

Stemalon alpinus from Lapland through the arctic regions of Siberia and
the M. Altai (not on Caucasus).

Poa alpina. Caucasus, Montes altaicae - flora borealenis.

I know nothing of its farther extent to the north.



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