

My dear Doctor

St Louis Dec 14th 1842

Yesterday I received your last letter, the other one I got a few weeks ago. This paper would be interesting to me, is it so that it could be sent by mail? I would return it carefully and soon. He has only 4 American species! His *Gonovii* is the common vulgaris — (*campanulata* Nutt) — but does he say nothing of Hookers three species? The *Polygonum* has been sent by me to Berlin 3 years ago; Mr N. Richl is a farmer & gardener from Leasing 10 miles from here. He collects also plants and has sent a large number probably in Geneva. — You have ever this probably said something of it in Bill. in Journ. — But are you sure that my *Sepidaceae* address is described there? How is it that it has not been collected by any of our Correspondents here. How is it we must retain the Genus. The name of *G. gonovii* would be appropriate if it was ascertained that this is *Gonovii*'s Plant. — I will, as you advise defer any continuation of my monography for another season, but I think it proper to give a short notice in 2 or 3 pages of the principal errors of my paper, and make the additions which have become necessary, without plate — By next December I may take it up again, after I have Hookers answer, and probably seen more specimens from different parts of this country. — The distinction between *C. vulgaris* & *lanuginosa* is difficult, but I believe I have it now certain; but then some which I had taken to be *C. lanuginosa* of those which you sent me as short must be referred to *C. vulgaris*. — I am sorry that a large number of specimens of *lanuginosa*, which I collected this fall are a little too late past flowering mostly, so that they will not give my correspondents a good opportunity to judge about it. — How is it that Christy did not see Drummond's plants. I. has at least one Texan species, has he described Jacq. & Roemer's Plant? — However I am troubling you too much about this one small genus, which may not be of much interest to you.

I send you included in this another sheet with a full set of drawings of *Aster heterogonus*, which will be, I hope, satisfactory. Fig 1. is the common form rather smaller, — fig 2 with larger inflorescence. 2. b. is a lower leaf & radial leaves of another specimen. 4 is the single inflorescence of specimen grown in the shade, fig 5 is one specimen, which I find — on ground remarkable for its size, its more erect racemes, with petioled heads; the scales of involucre are somewhat less reflexed in this and in fig 2 more than in others. (The same variation is common in *A. elongifolius*) some of the leaves of this are also a little serrate; — but the whole may be considered as an unusual form — cultivated garden, 3 feet high — the others never over 12-20 feet inches. — flower Sept. & Octob. on the brink of precipices, perpendicular limestone cliffs of the American bottom, Illinois with Sol. day Drummond's (the only locality, where I have found this, but every where in this neighborhood, where such places occur!) and at the foot of these precipices in shady woods with *Aster cordifolius*, above with *Aster tuberosus*, *angustifolius*, multi-flora, *Gentiana subacaulis* etc. After I found it again with west in barren woods in the hilly country on the Morris road when I went to collect *Vernonia Arkansana* & the was in company of *Aster agerifolius*, *phlogifolius* & others.

[illegible]

After heterogenus, or the name of it, anomalous would be preferable? I leave
you the choice; petioles not margined, only on the large specimens on the upper
leaves somewhat but dilated at base.

After much business - preparations would be a better name or is just a
paraphrase of a singular plant of saline prairies near the Government
Farm - a drawing and a few bottles. I have only a single flowering
varies yellow! -

The Cassatts shall you send me a new age being all the only wage except
the one or two rooms and the playground, those for the day alone, only one is reserved.
I shall look through my composition and take note for you, that
I may trouble you with any other day letter soon.

I include my additions to Casemate, and wish you may have it published. I think it better to send not longer. My observations and remarks will have nothing to do with the identification of the species have left out the drawings of the bottom are for you, please to throw off and put them away in your copy of the paper.

I think *Asclepias* is a easier genus than *Veronica*. I am nearly satisfied
I call our *Veronica* *virginiana*, *pusilla* *laevis*, unknown to me
I believe are one & the same. I shall not go far, between *virginica*
pusilla, related with the first one. I am disposed to unite in one the
members as we advance for will principles with wrong plans to do
me, *laevis* is the form I study with words, *virginica* or sandy
verbanks. But I have by *laevis* *pusilla* *virginica* and *pusilla* *virginica*.
I see nothing to add at present & close

Truly yours

I would you advise to change *Leptodermis* I press to *Euglenanema*
Chloris's name; *Leptodermis* compacta? perhaps it would be better
 but the same would be much more appropriate for the other species.
 None of you say so please to alter it in the paper!
 I have written others I should like to get these which I have noted
Chloris, *spatulalis*, *gastalis*, *undulatus*, *gracilis*, *laxus*, *gracillima*, *glabres*
stans, *acuminatus*, *removalis*, *luteipennis*, perhaps *MacCoy* would have it
 there

Notes on Aster

[illegible]

Aster tenuifolius well characterized by the bell-shaped involucre, common in many forms, but never smooth, always roughening; in the prairie 1-2 feet high leaves wide in corners of leaves 4-5 feet high, leaves very narrow.
A. cernuus common, a beautiful species. *Aster glaberrimus*
A. oblongifolius, kinds of prairies on the Mississippi; *Aster*, have always given length!
A. novae angliae
A. heterogamus
Aster nemoralis, my *Garden specimens* are certainly a *Galatella* and congeners and very near *Galatella hystroglifolia*, but they may be some other species; I have never found it spontaneous.
A. plumosus not here, but in prairie in North Illinois very common, already 50 or 100 miles from here.
Aster angustatus, Does not a specimen in Kew's collection make 45 belong here?
A. divaricatus Sandy banks of Arkansas river
A. linifolius ? figured in the other sheet, Texas.



Double
 Red Sta Gray
 Cambridge
 Massachusetts

Aster micromita Des - certainly the true form with abruptly acuminate scales, a very long spike, I have from Texas & Louisiana, but my lanceolate, which I have sent you is perhaps the same which you mention as you specimen from Dr Hale & Drummond.
Aster lanceolatus, glabra, radice tuberosa, multiplicate, caule folioso, foliis linearibus basi dilatatis, semiamplexicaulis, apice callosis obtusiusculis, punctulatis, spicis densis, brevibus, capitulis subsessilibus adpressis, 4-5 floris, squamis paucis adpressis (sub-rotatis) purpureis ciliatis lanceolatis, acuminatis, subulatis, pappi brevioribus, exterioribus brevissimis, acheniis glaberrimis pappi plumosissimi aquantibus — Sandy wet Prairie, Houston April & May
 Differs from *A. micromita* by the short spike longer heads (5-7 lines long) lanceolate scales much larger smooth or a little trabrous achenia which is not shorter than the pappus but equal to it, also by the dilatation of the base of leaves which is only on the lowest leaves of *A. micromita*; by the callous rather obtuse tips, leaves of *A. micromita* are very acute — taken of flowering. Probably of the earliest flowering *Aster*!
 I will work out the *Asteraceae* now! I wish you would send me two or three more back, which I commended to you, I have several splendid Texan ones.



Engelmann, George. 1842. "Engelmann, George Dec. 14, 1842." *George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/227886>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/255379>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library 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>.