

Philadelphia July 29th 1862

Prof. A. Gray, Cambridge.

Dear Doctor,

I received, day before yesterday, your favor dated 25th and yesterday the box of plants in good order. As to the last package I sent you, lay it aside until you have time to look at it. In rearranging the Academy's herbarium, which the interesting Buckley had left in the greatest confusion (and this job took me two months) I have taken out and put aside all Nuttall's specimens and others unknown ^{or} doubtful to me, to submit to you in proper times. I have them at my house and intend feeding to them the similar specimens of my own herbarium. All will be kept ready for you, when you want them. I have no doubt that it will clear up many points and add some new species to our present catalogue.

Last night was the business meeting of the Academy. The assembly was very thin in consequence of the extremely hot weather and because the medical part of our members are almost all in

Camp, or in the hospital. There was not neither the kind of people I wanted to pass your paper through, without ^{to} have ~~been~~ ^{it} referred to a committee. The presentation of it was therefore postponed to the next meeting. I regret it, but my broken English eloquence was not persuasive enough with an assembly where my friends, the accustomed leaders, were not present. As your first memoir on Buckley's mistakes has kept people on their guard, a delay of a few weeks will be of no great consequence. You give it to him fairly and nothing more than he deserves.

I received yesterday a letter from our old friend Gay, who tells me that he has written or intends to write to you on the subject of the Isoetes. It appears that thus far, among ~~all~~ the specimens I have sent, all except one, according to Durieux, belongs to the Eiparia, even your Kennebeck forms. The exception is a specimen collected by Dr. Pickering on the Catskill mountains - Will you be so good as to direct the enclosed letter to Dr. Pickering? I do not know his residence.

I have already expressed to you my firm belief that our Wilmington, Darby & Rhode Island

Isoetes are not, as is generally believed, even by Dr. Engelmann, Isoetes Engelmannii, but only large forms of Eiparia - Compare with your unique specimen of the Illinois plant and you will be convinced. I would not be surprised if the Catskill Isoetes should prove to be an Engelmannii, from a note of Durieux is very remarkable Isoetes from the extraordinary size of its spores, resembling much those of the Eiparia and Lacustris, but 3 or 4 times larger than in the first of those species, and surpassing in size all the variations observable in the forms of the I. Lacustris. He adds: Plant to examine anew and perhaps as another new species to introduce into the genus?

If to thin characters, he had added "The dilated base longer than broad" - I would say: It is I. Engelmannii?

I have nothing more to say except Goodbye! & believe as ever your devoted & affectionate
E. Durand

Try to come to Philadelphia, before my children return - This room is the only one I have to offer and I would like to have you and lady for my guests.



Durand, Elias. 1862. "Durand, Elias M. July 29, 1862." *Elias Durand letters to Asa Gray*

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