

Fort Bowie, A. C. Arizona  
May 30, 1881.

Friend Davenport, Finding that I have mislead much in the past I now propose to communicate directly to you my ferns in future, as you seem to be all alive to their study. Prof. Eaton is so distracted with a multiplicity of duties & pleasures (as he states) that he has "enough to do besides studying botany." Alas, too late I learn this, and so have lost other ferns!

Last season I collected Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> on Mt Graham a beautiful & distinct little Woodia, spec<sup>s</sup> of which I sent with other ferns, to Prof. E. He replied after two weeks delay, very vaguely as to the Woodia, finally saying "European botanists would call it abundant & done with it!"

This year during the last days of March and the first days of April I recollected this fern on the north side of the Santa Catalina Mts. (near Tucson) and forwarded spec<sup>s</sup> to the Professor.



Now after a long delay, he replies  
under date of May 20.

"No 31, Woodsia, — I cannot yet say  
what this is, — — — I may still  
have to say 'I do not know'."

Now if he does not examine  
& publish soon I may lose the  
beautiful prize.

Upon examination of spec. last sea-  
son I could not make them fit  
into any known descriptions and  
now that all the indicators  
point to its being distinct I pro-  
pose to name it myself, as per-  
haps, my services & standing entitle me.  
I have dedicated it to my little enthu-  
siastic botanical wife, giving it her  
maiden name of Plummer, thus  
Woodsia Plummera, Leemmon.

Will you be kind enough to  
examine spec. enclosed & if distinct,  
please describe & publish under the  
above name.

My dear little better-half became  
deeply interested in its study last win-  
ter and was with me this season  
& helped to collect it, from its hidden  
home in clefts of high rocks.

We start tomorrow to-morrow & will mail  
this at Tucson. Address me at Oakland.  
Yours ever  
J. L. Leemmon





Lemmon, J. G. 1881. "Lemmon, John G. May 30, 1881 [to G. E. Davenport]."  
*John Gill Lemmon letters to Asa Gray*

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