

Oakland, Cal. Dec. 23, 1881.

My dear Dr. Gray,

Now, that the excitement consequent upon your late determinations is somewhat subsided, I will try to give you other notes desired before you publish.

But first let me explain, I have no right to be so totally ignorant of some plants as my correspondence has led you to think. Now that you kindly allow me to rise to the rank of an authority, surely I ought to impress you, if possible, with the sense of a small degree of merit.

During my first excursion into Arizona last season I found that a new flora greeted me - quite undescribed in Bot. Cal.

So for our this year's assistance we took along, beside our dissecting apparatus and hand glases, over 25 lbs of books. These included Bot. Mex. Bound., Rothrock's Report, & your Synopsis. We did not take the R.R. Reports as the vols. are too heavy & we have not yet segregated the botany from the other matters discussed in them, to be bound separately.

We do not possess Planta Wrightiana, Pl. Thurb. Pl. Zenzl, &c, &c, but borrowed them from the Acad. a month or so after our return - as soon as we had recovered sufficiently from our extreme prostration, to begin

to study again. From the first books mentioned, especially Astroch, we determined many of the plants as fast as collected. I have no excuse for not knowing the plain descriptions of certain families & species described in that vol; especially the Compositae, where the generic distinctions are given in foot notes. Of course in the heat, toil and exposure of the trip I blundered much. On our return, as stated, we obtained other authorities, and also we invited very cordially, Dr. Parry & Mr. Greene to come in and assist us. In the determinations sent you along with notes of locality &c, I ought to have given the corrections of my determinations by them as "(fide Parry)" and "(fide Greene.)" but did not think of it.

Had I done so you could have better gathered the extent of my ignorance or knowledge than was possible from my letters.

I am led to this long explanation by such notes as this in your last.

"No 189." Senecio Lemmonii n. sp. Ease your anxious mind! This has nothing to do with Greene's S. Rydgi," &c, &c.

Now I am well aware of that. It is a totally different Senecio collected a year before my other new one from the deer park of the Santa Catalina ^{all in May of this year.} which has become "S. Rydgi"

It was ~~not~~ ^{because} of this being collected by Pringle this spring that I feared would

militate against my priority of discovery.

You will recollect, dear Sir, that a year ago last June I sent you No 187, and you hurriedly reported it as now, an n. sp., but you was on the eve of departure for Europe, and there the plant has lain in the herbarium, with others of that season's coll, until now.

In regard to No 190 (S. Rydgi.) if it proves distinct from S. Bigelovii I am sorry to have lost it for me collected it in the deer park, in May, long before Rydgi coll. it farther eastward.

Of course such accidents will happen, & of course we prefer that our plants shall be compared with those in your immense herb. arum and so, if necessary, lie there for years to await those revisions of genera and orders that amount to so much in the true aid of scientific research.

When I wrote you regretting that 190 had been given over to the illiterate fellow Rydgi, I had just been stirred up by Greene who haunted me with being "a long way behind the times" &c. I'm exceedingly sorry my dear Sir, that I did not pocket the insult he tendered me without reporting to you.

Now the consequence has been a suspension of your most important studies & accommodations me and gratify my unreasonable desires.

But see what a great gain to me, your great loss has been! Why Greene told off that Plumiera as a most common thing, and

loudly
the Stevia Plummaria he declared was S. serrata
against my positive objections. The Cacalia
decomposita he declared loudly was a Nov. Gen!
and in a Coll. from Mr. Buckminster which
I saw a few days after at the Acad. I found
he had named it with a flourish:-

Buckminsteria! He made many wild re-
marks about my coll. of Asclepiadaceae and
as he had won laurels lately away from Dr.
Engelmann on that family, I was disposed
to listen to him until he took up & speci-
mened in several forms of A. subulata and
denounced "Dr Gray" in severe terms for
"making such a terrible blunder". Now we,
my little wife and I, have such a profound
respect for you, such a reverence I might say,
that these words grated harshly on our ears &
when he was gone we felt obliged to comment
upon him as wanting proper modesty and being
too conceited altogether, even for a Californian!

I don't make these remarks now, from any
unfriendliness to Mr. Greene, for we know him to
be very keen & capable, but I wished you
to know my provocations to trouble you.

I promise you solemnly, I will never do it
again. Hereafter our plants will be forwarded
to you to await your own method of procedure.

Mr. Greene we learn, is off in a few days for
his old haunts to begin this early, his very successful
explorations; with excellent health, strength, and full
knowledge of the best localities! American botanists
may expect most important results!!

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Ere this, dear Sir, we trust you have our two other packages of plants, including the "Gonolobus after Camp".

I hasten to give you a few notes you desired or that are called out by your returns.

You ask which Brickellia does Greene call "B. Lemmonii". Ans. I do not know, the one you name B. grandiflora var. petiolaris.

Question I do not know Eupatorium occidentale var. arizonense herbaceous?

Ans. My recollection is that the ^{stems} plants were always solitary, like an (1) or (2), but they may have had perennial roots.

I am astonished that you determine No 382 to be "Perlandiera lyrata". I've met with B. lyr. in several localities but never one like this. Only it is a bottom-lands plant, loving water, and forms a large mass of root leaves 2 feet across and often three! the leaves but slightly indented, never lyrate; but chief of all distinction the stalk was large, branched and flexuous 2 feet high wide branching & bearing a dozen or more heads. It abounds on the creek bank of Rucker val. near the old Camp R. and was out of bloom with seed too all gone before I met with it. Only one poor, simple-stalked, belated specimen could I obtain. It must be distinct, but will have to wait for Greene's ~~omnipotent~~ ^{omnipotent} hand, now.

No. 346, "*Gynolomia* n. sp." I thought was distinct when I gathered it: in a high rovin in Apache Paf. just south of Fort Bowie. The tri-lobed lvs. were very marked. I wish now I had dotted down my own suspicions when I sent its plants.

"*Bidens*"

No 334 You call *Bigelovii* var." Is that all?

Why my dear Dr., is not the always sessile heads of the present species very different - even specifically so - from the long peduncled heads of 333?

Also ^{compare} to the size, 334 is always low and with lvs. more nearly approximate. It appeared strikingly ~~diff.~~ diff. when discovered on the same trip but a long way above the 346 (the new *Gynolomia*) and near the summit of the peak about 10,000 ft.

The other *Bidens* (333.) is on the floor of the Apache Paf. about 5,000 ft. alt. Is this diff. in the plants due solely to this diff. of alt.?

No 357 (*Pectis longipes*) is called "annual" in Rothrock so I wished to correct it. It is always (4.)

No 352. *Plummera floribunda* N. & G. (How shall we accent its generic word?) The plant is a puzzle. Basal leaves remain from the season before, that is certain, but the stems are solitary and the root small and rapidly tapering. I did not see any flowerless crowns of leaves, but should think it ③.

We have but a half dozen spec. only three with full members, but you shall have a good one "for Flew." Will not Mr. Joseph be delighted?

I thought No 322 (*Cotaria serrata*) would prove to be Rothrock's 322 from Mt Lyadrum with broader, shorter leaves, leaf attenuated at base, with an expanded tube to the corolla; larger scales in the pappus and red tips to the awns." which he thought a distinct species.

I am not greatly surprised to find No 323 & 321 are the same species the so different in appearance

Am glad to have helped you to another spec. of Rothrock's thistle (289 of his Coll.) my 223 of 1880, which you now will name *C. Rothrockii*: A beautiful plant rare in the Chiricahuas. Some plants very full flowered. We counted the heads on one near Dos. Cabezas peaks with 65 mature heads! Plant about 4 feet high.

The *Thieracium* (No 369.) is my only specimen. I thought it near to *Scaevola*, but its genus is so little known on this coast and so fully represented abroad that of course I ~~can~~ learn but little of it.

In a midland package we find several more spec. that may throw light in dark places.

We have mature fruit of the *Legumes* No 144 & 145 of last spring's Coll. for Mr. Watson.

We hope you can make out the two *Lysenopappi* of last spring's Coll. in the *Catalpa* as they are undoubtedly connected with our "Buddy Trip." We saw

the plants first in bud and waited three weeks
for them, then had to snatch & be off.

So also with the new Saxifrage which, W.A. Anderson
names S. eriophora. (Is it not too beautiful to
bear so unimpressive a name?)

He will find several other good things among the
Poly petala sent.

We are glad to find that we have even a tiny spec
of the new Carlowrightiana.

Also that we have a flowering spec. of
No 443. (S. pomea) with tuberous roots. If new
may I not name it tuberosa? if in time!

It is a tuber.

We are very anxious to hear from that spec. ^(No 443)
which Dr. Parry thinks belongs to Bromeliaceae.

Orchid? Monarda

Will now send off these notes with such
things as we think you may want.

With the compliments of the season
from us three to you three

I remain

Yours ever

J. C. Common

Found only one spec. of that fall-flowered Comp. (No 383). Is it a sport?



Lemmon, J. G. 1881. "Lemmon, John G. Dec. 23, 1881." *John Gill Lemmon letters to Asa Gray*

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