



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY,
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Kanaimo B.C.

July 12th 1887

Dear Doctor Watson.

Your very interesting letter of June 23rd reached here yesterday and was read with much pleasure. I am glad you have finally settled with *Arabis lyrata* & *petraea*. The latter was always a puzzle as I could not make my specimens tally with the description.

My son is this summer assisting in the exploration of ~~for~~ the island in James' Bay - the southern extension of Hudson Bay - and we expect him to make many new discoveries. I have been on this island (Vancouver) since the 16th April and will be here until Sep. 1st. I am making a thorough botanical exploration of the southern half of the island and up to the present have made immense collections and numerous valuable discoveries. In the winter I will send my usual package of this summer's findings and hope to have some species that may interest you.

I will look out for the Oak and indeed will get specimens from Brown's tree as well as from others and hope to settle the question of a second species which I think there is not. As for *Juniperus Virginiana* is the only one here so Prof. Sargent is right. I have discovered *Panga Pattoniana*

on a mountain about two miles from here and at an altitude of 3000 feet. I have collected fine specimens of the roses and can settle the question of their occurrence here. *R. Nutkana* seems to have many forms and seems to approach *R. prinosarpa* only as regards size of flower. *R. gymnocarpa* is a lovely little thing. It came into flower with *R. Nutkana* about five weeks since. I collected their fruit today, and the flowers of *R. prinosarpa* yesterday. The latter is fully a month later in flowering. One form (?) of *Nutkana* has small flowers and pear-shaped fruit, while the other has large round fruit.

Two days from now I commence the ascent of Mount Ananassmith 50 miles from here and 6000 feet high. I purpose making a careful examination of it, as fully 1000 feet of it is above the present snow line, and it must have the greater part of the alpine flora of the island on its upper slopes. I am taking an Indian and six days provisions. Deer are abundant so we will be in no fear of starvation. So far I have found the alpine flora almost identical with that of the coast range but hope to get Alaskan forms when I reach higher altitudes.

Up to the present I have noted and collected over 1100 species on the island. Of these 744 are flowering plants & ferns, the others are Cryptogams of all orders. I have fine specimens of a terrestrial *Scolec* and have found *Phyllospadix Torreyi* or something very like it.

Very truly yours
John Macoun



Macoun, John. 1887. "Macoun, John July 12, 1887 [to S. Watson]." *John Macoun letters to Asa Gray*

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