

Uncle Sam, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct  
My dear Dr. Gray: The small  
black ~~spe~~ bulb herewith  
enclosed is the Cann-  
as of the Indians. —  
Cannosia esculenta.  
It has been prepared  
ready <sup>by the Indians</sup> for eating. The  
perish<sup>ing</sup> bulbs are scarcely  
edible, but have  
no very unpleasant  
taste as I have tried  
them often, very slimy  
after being chewed a  
little.

The big bl- colored  
root is the Indians'  
"Couse". It is the root  
evidently of some umbelliferous



plant but not Peucedanum  
corne of Watson. May be  
Cam Oreganum. Am not  
sure about it, etc.

These are genuine for I  
got them of the Indians.  
The ~~roots~~ <sup>bulbs</sup> of "Camass" are  
prepared by drying & ~~smoking~~  
smoking over the fire -  
"Uice piab" (abundance of  
fire) was the way the old  
squaw described the process  
of this; and of the other;  
"Uice sun" (literally, abun-  
dance of sun, i.e. they were  
dried by the heat of the  
sun.

I wonder if Camassia  
is the Indians name latin-  
ized. If so it would indi-  
cate that the plant in-  
cluding your <sup>eastern species</sup>  
was so called by the Indians  
clear across the continent.  
Yours truly W. C. Cress.



Cusick, William C. 1886. "Cusick, William C. Oct. 27, [1886]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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