

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN,
WILLIAM TRELEASE, DIRECTOR.

ASSISTANTS:
BOTANY, - A. S. HITCHCOCK.
HORTICULTURE, - J. C. DUFFEY.
JAMES GURNEY, HEAD GARDENER.

ST. LOUIS, MO.,

July 6th, 1890

Dear Dr. Watson.

Your letter of June 27th is
hand. I was very glad to have you speak
of the subject of nomenclature. It is a
subject in which I am much interested,
but one in which I have little experience
and upon which I have taken no definite
stand. My first intention was to follow the
Manual as far as my list of Ames flora
was concerned. But I was anxious to become
familiar with books, with the ins & outs of
nomenclature so I adapted the method of
which I spoke. I was not quite ready to
adopt the earliest specific name but have
hinted it up & indicated it so far as I could.

Our library is comparatively small. We have
been putting about \$500 a month on it and
are gradually getting things together but there
are many important works that are not in the
market. I have arranged & catalogued the
volumes & pamphlets (including the George Engelmann
Library) & have obtained some experience that
way. I have laid out for mounting & distribution
for the Engelmann herbarium & so obtained some

experiences that way. We keep five mountains
at work. But I have always had a great
desire to go to Harvard. It has seemed like a
lost chance. I am interested in
systematic botany & I have always felt
as if I ought to have the experience which
comes from being in the large library
& herbarium there & to acquaintances with
the curator. I hope my wishes may be
gratified sometime.

Please pardon the digression. Yes I have
been able to appreciate the fact that it is often
very difficult to settle on the synonymy of a
species. In this respect I feel under very
great obligation to you. I hope you will not
think me ungrateful or headstrong because
I have ^{taken} a course contrary to your expressed
opinion in many cases. I think what you
say in regard to the fixity of a name is a
strong point. I notice that Dr. Gray in his
review of *Violaceae*, speaks of *Viola obliqua*, ~~phil~~
being prior to *V. encelleania* Ait. in consequence
of which it forms name should stand if
kept as a distinct species. From this (& some
other examples) I suspect that he was in favor
of enforcing the principles of priority if there
were no doubts as to identity.

I have used Sisibuchi Cat. Pl. Cat. for Wright's plants but some of the numbers I have not yet found - but probably will. It would be a convenience if there were a list of consecutive numbers with the names.

Gussip & Berlandier's plants I name as best I can or not at all. Some are in recent Monographs - some I dig out - some I can compare - the others go into *Singienensis*. Lindheim's & Fendler's are mostly named.

As Luck would have it, I found the reference to *Ardis lineophæa* but. soon after I wrote. The portion containing it was not bound in with the vol. of names, but was separate in an unindexed vol. of bound pamphlets (Engelm. Lib.). In regard to the generic names of which I spoke I referred to *Castalia* for *Gynophora*, *Gynophora* for *hubbardii*, *Diervilla* for *Carya*. I did not intend to go into generic names but so much has been said about these lately & there seems to be such good reasons for adopting them that I have done so.

I was much interested in the two species

of *Disyrrhynchium*. My bulb grows wild here &
I have some growing in the garden. They are
quite distinct in habit, seeds &c.

Yours Very Truly
A. S. Hitchcock



Hitchcock, A. S. 1890. "Hitchcock, Albert S. July 6, 1890 [to S. Watson]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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