

Please let me know if this is received, it will save the labor of writing again in the same matter.

in an investigation on  
the chemical composition  
of the Sarcocolla purpurea,  
in the Sheppard Scientific  
School, with <sup>last year</sup> Prof. Johnson, I  
found an enormous (relative)  
amount of Phosphorus & Magnesia  
in the ash of that plant. He  
suggests <sup>that</sup> the ashes of the Darlingtonia  
is probably of similar  
constitution, hence its preference  
for Magnesian soils, the  
entrapped insects supplying  
the phosphoric acid.

In regard to the  
Sp. nov. that Kellogg has described,  
and the chance of your obtaining  
a set, I will confer with him  
& write you upon my first  
return to the U.S. and also that  
return the payment of Dr. Kings  
letter you were so kind as to  
send me.

Yours sincerely, Wm. Brewer

Crescent City, Cal.  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Gray

Your favor of  
- well, I don't know what  
for it is not understood  
but, no matter, it was  
received nearly a month  
ago while in Camp at  
Greka - I will not  
write to answer that,  
but merely to send  
more seeds of the  
Darlingtonia.

In the extreme  
northern part of the coast  
and along the Oregon  
line, at six to twenty  
miles from the ocean, and  
among serpentine  
hills & mountains, I



have found the plant  
abundant. In this  
limited area, have  
seen hundreds of  
patches of it. Always  
around springs or small  
rills running water.  
The soil of decomposed  
serpentine or other  
Magnesian rocks. I have  
collected what seed I could  
before the rains set in and  
I will send you more  
when I reach the city, so  
~~that~~ in case ~~that~~ one  
parcel should miscarry  
another may go safe.

I have to correct  
one error of last year's  
notice - I have examined  
hundreds of leaves, and  
all <sup>the perfect ones</sup> contain some water.

and all the adult  
ones dead insects. Some  
of the plants were dried  
where there had been no  
showers for some months,  
and even on plants that  
did not stand in the  
water, and the leaves had  
some water in them -

Some of the leaves are  
nearly three feet high. I  
measured one 2 ft 9 inches.

The leaves generally  
twist one half of a revolution,  
generally to the left, (or like  
the thread of an ordinary  
screw) but occasionally to  
the right.

Mr. C. R. King was  
with me, and made many  
observations agreeing with  
mine - He was employed



Brewer, William Henry. 1863. "Brewer, William H. Nov. 11, 1863." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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