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740 Exchange Building
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Dear Prof Collins,

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, especially of Sphagnum. Some years ago when working with Mr. Edwin Faxon I learned a little about Sphagnum, and now in consequence am asked by the Rhodora Board to look over Mr. Andrews' New England check list.

I really have not kept up with the publications relating to Sphagnum for the last ten years, and should really like to know whether any authoritative work has been published according to which Mr. Andrews' list is arranged. If so, I think the fact should be stated. I find, for instance, on the Mt. Desert list a number of varieties (not "color" varieties) of which no mention is made in the list. The Mt. Desert list was arranged in accordance with the best treatment of the genus, available at the time, but perhaps since then many of these varieties have been dropped by the best authorities. In that case I think Mr. Andrews should supplement his list by a series of notes disposing of these varieties.

In any event for the benefit of students I think Mr. Andrews should state as far as possible the basis of his classification.

I send these suggestions to you, as you state that Mr. Andrews has gone abroad. Please let me know your candid opinion whether it is better to publish the list as it stands, leaving Mr. Andrews to add later such notes as may be necessary, - or whether we should hold the list until we can communicate with him.
Sincerely yours Edward L. Rand



Rand, Edward L. 1905. "Rand, Edward L. Oct. 28, 1905." *James Franklin Collins correspondence*

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