

Wethersfield. Conn. 19th July. 1882

Dear Dr Gray I haven't bothered you for some time. But first let me thank you for the Contributions an Aster and Solidago.

Now I have some queries, criticisms, perhaps to propose. Just now my Rubus is in full flower (I was there yesterday) And I have found another larger patch of it. It was not overflowed this year. Your notion that it is a hybrid I have little faith in. Its tendency is ^{erectness in a bit of new growth} upright. Black-caps are now ripening (I have eaten them very sweet) and blackberries are out of flower or nearly so. Red raspberries (*R. strigosus*) are going - nearly gone. *R. Canadensis* may have some late flowers but the fruit will be ripe soon.

I thought I had come to know *Cerastium vulgatum* & *viscosum* - but? I send you the two plants as I find them No 2 1/2 very common everywhere No 2 found only here & there - then the plants in considerable numbers. No 2 is annual undoubtedly and would be your *C. vulgatum*, but the plant answers to the character of *C. viscosum*. ~~Now~~ No 2 1/2 is @ odd for I got bits of the same plant I now send almost before the frost was out of the ground. Your F. F. & G. botany follows the manual. Chapman seems to agree with you ~~but~~ in the main but makes them both annual - which may be true in that latitude & is probably true here sometimes. Wood says about the same thing as you. Here you all are against me.

Please disentangle this snarl and make things clear to me if you can. If the types have made a slip make them open up. All these years I have been in a muddle about it. Because they are only weeds did nobody think it worth the while to do them simple justice? In your Edition of 1856 they seem to me to be badly mixed.

If no 3 is *Troronia arvensis* L. I have a remark to make, as to its habitat here. I have never found it in cultivated ground nor is it common. The only locality or localities where I have seen it are the crest of hills bounding the Conn. Riv. valley, on bare (cracked) rocks or in a very thin stratum of earth covering them.

Dotonia: In your generic character you say of the lower glume "narrowly linear": Now wouldn't linear alone have been enough? Put yourself in a geometrical frame of mind and consider that a line has no breadth. How then can a short narrowish glume be narrowly linear? Look at your figure if too much trouble to ^{get} ~~look~~ the plant to look at. Narrowly oblong would have answered well enough for narrowness, if not then extreme. It is of a piece with sharply triangular achenia of the *Polygona*. I don't like these particularly qualifying adverbs—especially if they tell lies.

I put in your *Herbarium* a stem of *Asclepias Stuebeliana* Nott with two umbels. I have found several more this summer and one with three umbels. True the normal form is with one umbel and the supernumerary ones are generally smaller. Still it would

have been well, (methinks, to have indicated this occasional abnormality. And it may be commoner than we think. The plant does not grow here & I meet it only when I go a distance of some miles eastward or westward. It seems to prefer poor sandy soils.

No 5 I found below Middletown, all dried up as you see it. Probably you can tell me what it is.

No 6 tells its own story so far as the scraps can go. It seems to me rather unlikely to be either of your two species.

In the streets of some of our manufacturing towns I find a dock (no?) with large lanceolate lower leaves a foot long or more slightly cordate at base. I can't make it out to my satisfaction.

And here is a *Satherpus* (no 8) which puzzles me, if it is either of the five in the Flora. Note the dark spot in the centre of the stipules.

I have taken to mosses with such zeal as would have satisfied you in the old Cuban days—gathering every thing wherever I go. I have been and am examining them from time to time. But of course I want help, particularly as my instruments are not of the first order. If now I had ^{changed} specimens of the many I have from time to time given ~~to~~ ^{into} ^{thought} for James's hands they would help me much. I have ~~that~~ it probable they would go first or last into your collection. Can you do any thing for me? If not whom can I consult sending him numbered specimens with the hope or expectation of getting answers?

Populus (no 2) is coming in thickly along the embankment of the

Coun. Valley R.R. I have seen no trees of the *B. it P. rugosa* L?

Will you be so kind as to give me the address of Mr Booth. I may want to ask him some questions about caries. 121, Charles St

And soon it will be time to look out for that *Elocharis*. It seems from your P. Card of Ap. 21 that you consider of little importance the presence or absence of the bristles.

I am much of the same mind though at first it seemed to me of some importance. Of the single plant you mention with "longer heads" I have no recollection. But I will search for more of it when I have opportunity.

There—enough perhaps for this time. If you clear up the muddle about the chickweeds I shall be well repaid.

Yours cordially:

Charles Wright.

P.S. Watson has not sent me any word about the the *Polygonum* with little axillary clusters of flowers at the lower joint in addition to the terminal spike. C.W.

P.S. again. In order to make my understanding of the chickweeds unmistakable let me add. In my copy of your Flora Jan. 30, 1868 change, in *C. vulgatum*, "annual" to ^{only} ~~common~~ and for "not common" ^{read} abundant everywhere—and in *C. viscosum* change "perennial" to *C. v.* "common" to rare—this done and all will be, to me, clear. If you consent—well: if not we will have to fight it out some way. Of course I have nothing to say about what foreign botanists to have done or failed to do. C.W.



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