

GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

Sept. 2, 1904.

Dear Dr. Robinson -

I am not quite sure whether the information in Prof. Bailey's communications <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ intended for publication in Rhodora, I opened the letter thinking it was probably some simple inquiry.

I spent Sunday & Monday at Eggbottom on Martha's Vineyard, & I was much interested to find that the Oxalis of the sand is not O. cymosa but a plant of the stricta type only with large orange flowers 1 cm. across, the petals each with a conspicuous red spot. It is



apparently different from the Ulex plant which I had taken for O. stricta. That has very small yellow flowers, the petals barely exceeding the sepals. Such comparisons as I have made in the Herb. seem to put them both in that species.

I was much interested, too, to see for the first time miles of Chrysopsis falcata, which covers the dunes everywhere. As soon as Miss Day is back, if I can arrange it, I am thinking of going down for a couple of days to make in all the sets I can. I spotted more than 20 species which are now in good condition, all growing in loose sand in great quantity. I think that by collecting vigorously for a couple of days &



bringing the plants fresh to Cambridge  
we can make a great stride toward  
the completion of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Among the plants which are easily  
secured in such quantity about  
Edgartown are Discopleura capillacea,  
Chrysopsis falcata, Aster dumosus,  
var. caribifolius, Pluchea camphorata,

Lycopus sessilifolius, Ipiranthus  
simplex, Cyperus Grayi, & many  
other local grasses & sedges, besides  
various composites which do  
not reach Boston. Another  
beauty of such plants is the  
ease with which they dry & the  
possibility of keeping some bright  
colors in Chrysopsis, Aster,  
Pluchea &c.



Mrs. Britton is agitated by the  
Gaup & Acrostok et. in Rhodora, but  
after calling it hard names, she  
spoils her point by saying that  
the plants <sup>listed</sup> are so rare that only the  
trained specialist can distinguish them.

I hope you and Mrs. Robinson  
are both very well,

Sincerely yours,  
Herbert L. Fernald



Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1901. "Fernald, Merritt Lyndon Sept. 2, 1901 [Fernald to B.L. Robinson]." *Merritt Lyndon Fernald correspondence*

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