

Orono, Maine, August 23/1916

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I am naturally puzzled, as you are, by Schneider's request for all our American willows. As you surmise, there are many things which I have collected with intelligence because they belong to groups which need straightening out. St. John also has a number of others, some of which he has written up as part of his thesis, others still awaiting such treatment. All these belong in certain Arctic and Subarctic sections of the genus and I have borrowed from Ottawa all their material of these sections, including several types, ^{on} with the assurance that St. John and I would monograph the groups. We have already made preliminary studies and I have a manuscript lay-out of the characters to be used in the revision. I should, therefore, be sorry to have all the material sent to the Arboretum, especially as I have small faith in Schneider's understanding of our willows, plants which require long field-familiarity since they are rarely collected twice in the same condition.

In one group which St. John & I wrote up last winter we had occasion to check some of Schneider's work on Asiatic things & I think I showed you a

case where we had a Regel & Tiling co-type of one species, which Schneider has not recognized but had ^{to which the} given an impossible name.

would it not be well to defer the question until we are back in Cambridge together? Then I can separate out the groups I have started work on and if it seems best the others can go; though I dread the wreckage which is apt to result in such a brittle group!

Long & I seriously doubt Schneider's ability to borrow all the large American collections. Macoun, under present conditions, would not be inclined to send all theirs, which would be the largest willow collection & would contain the most novelties; Britton is reputed not to lend & to have little inclination to send large loans to the Arboretum; and the Phil. Acad. collections which contain large amounts of material from the Canadian Rockies are not easily borrowed, for Stewardson Brown, the Curator, is ill and all requests are indefinitely postponed. Furthermore, I wonder whether Ball, who is doing the willows for the North American Flora will let all the Washington material go for an indefinite period! I am, therefore, fairly sure that Schneider will not have all the material from the larger herbaria worked over before we are back and that he can await our convenience.

As to Montia sibirica, I have a vague recollection of some Western Montia sent by Miss Furbish as a garden-weed somewhere in Maine, but that it is in a pile of

problems awaiting attention. I should say from my present recollection that it was something of the M. parviflora (folia?) style of thing. I will hunt it up when I get back to Cambridge.

Long & I have kept busy and find plenty of productive country in Maine so that we may not get outside the state again. We had planned to go with Bissell & Woodward to Gaspé Basin, leaving Bangor tomorrow, but Mrs. Fernald and two of the children have been slightly upset by the continued hot weather and I have canceled the trip. The family are all on the mend and not very ill, but enough so that I don't want to get out of reach.

Our collections have included, on almost every trip, 1 to 6 additions daily to the state flora, and our last field day, in the Kennebec valley, brought in among other good things Viburnum scabellum, an Alleghenian species related to V. molle (Dumetonia), the first north of the Piedmont region of Pennsylvania.

With kind regards to Mrs. Robinson in which Mrs. Fernald joins me. Sincerely yours,

M. L. Fernald,



Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1916. "Fernald, Merritt Lyndon Aug. 23, 1916 [Fernald to B.L. Robinson]." *Merritt Lyndon Fernald correspondence*

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