

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

May 5th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Two packages of specimens arrived this noon. I have examined the mounted set and now take this opportunity to report as I imagine you are always anxious to know what you have turned up.

273. *Masdevallia* regarding which I have already written an opinion. This additional material bothers me considerably. As you see this plant in vivo do you think it is the same as your 223, or do you regard it the same as your 78? Structurally it goes into *M. panamensis*, but it has an aura that seems to differentiate it. I am really puzzled to know just what to do with this plant. May I rely on you to study the two numbers critically for any differences that lead you to believe that two species are under consideration?

279 This is excellent material of *Pleurothallis Wiegneri* Schltr.

280 *Epidendrum bisulcatum* Ames sp. nov. This is near *E. vieji* Reichb. f., but quite distinct. I have yet to run it through the South American range before publishing the description. It is new to Central America. The specific name alludes to the the two tiny grooves in front of the basal calli.

281 Probably the same as 280. I think it is just a more robust state. But I intend to study it some more.

282 *Pleurothallis Chiriquensis* Ames sp. nov. *homonym = P. alpina* sp. n.

I have eliminated everything from Central America. It is near P. vittata Lindl. but quite distinct. To-morrow I will eliminate the South American species. In the meantime we may take up the proposed name. It is surely a joy to work with your material. The additional flowers give one an opportunity to study a species with some degree of pleasure.

283. Ornithidium fulgens Reichb. f. ex char. I only know this from the original description. I have the same thing from Lankester. I intend to get sketches and a photograph of this species from Vienna, in the meantime you must do what I am doing, regard the determination as reasonably correct.

284. Stelis crescenticola Schltr. Again I must congratulate you on the material you place before me. The flowers in the pocket were just as good as those in spirit! Just the right pressure to make a perfect specimen. I have written to Washington for the duplicate type of this species. I want to make sure that I am right in reducing S. Isthmi and S. praemorsa. Although you record color variations the floral structure is identical and one would strain a point to make more than one species.

285. Stelis crescenticola Schltr. Call it var. alba if you need a garden name. For scientific purposes it is simply a color variant of the species named.

286. Trizeuxis falcata Lindl. I believe this is an addition to your list of genera and an addition to the flora of Panama. Rather a lovely little thing. But one needs a lens to see its beauty.

287 A scientific abomination! In my horticultural experience I do not remember to have seen this form. Call it Epidendrum atropurpureum var. laciniatum. I will have to study this. If you want to know why

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i call it a scientific abomination, simply imagine the difficulties it presents to us when we attempt to make a key to the species of Epidendrum. This thing comes in as an exception to natural relationships, because it should vary in anything except the margin of the labellum. This would be a pretty thing to introduce to horticulture.

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In numbering your field material do not use a new number for every folder. I noticed that you did this with Trigonidium, a Sobralia etc.

Use the Ridgway color standards if you have not been doing so. Lankester uses Ridgway consistently citing plate numbers.

Ornithocephalus diceras is Lindley's Ornithocephalus bicornis. I am taking this under consideration in Sched. Orch. 5.

Getting determinations off to you within twelve hours of receipt of material is not a rule of this establishment.

Mailing tubes etc. went off this noon as promised.

When we come to the point of making illustration for the Orchid Flora of Panama the specimens in alcohol will be a grand thing.

Odontoglossum Powellii looks too good to be true!

Yours faithfully,

Charles Ames



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes May 5, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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