

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

February 17th, 1920.

My dear Dr. Schlechter:

I have just received another large package of reprints from you. Please accept my sincere thanks for your kindness. I intend to examine your conclusions in detail before long, but just now I am very busy with university work and my time is for the present pretty well taken up by routine duties.

I have looked over your paper on the *Spiranthinae* with interest. Your treatment of *Spiranthes parviflora* does not meet with my approval. I believe that this species is referable to *S. ovalis* Lindl. and is more common in the State of Missouri than we have had reason to believe heretofore. I made a very careful study of *S. ovalis* at Kew and I concluded without a shadow of doubt that it was the same thing as *Sp. parviflora*. It would seem that my paper on this species has not been sent to you.

We have had very severe storms here that have shut me off from communication with my laboratory at North Easton, consequently I have been unable to assemble for you the reprints that have accumulated since I last sent you a collection of my publications. Vol. 5 of *Orchidaceae* I intend to order direct from the publisher so that there should be no delay in getting this to you within a few weeks. Vol. 6 is struggling through a disorganized press. I will forward it to you at the first opportunity to do so. I think you will be very much pleased with it as a specimen of bookmaking even if it should not come up to your expectations as a scientific work.

I am not sure that we can keep *Spiranthes odorata* distinct from *S. cernua*. I have made a note of your remarks regarding the rostellum and the conformation of the lip, but I am afraid an examination of numerous specimens would fail to uphold your conclusions. I am afraid that we have simply been attempting to sustain an error of judgement made in the past. This is not an infrequent thing in systematic work among plants.

With the best of good wishes,

P.S. Many thanks for your esteem indammaged by new species named in my honor.

O.A.





Ames, Oakes. 1920. "Ames, Oakes Feb. 17, 1920 [to R. Schlechter]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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