

Cartago. C. R.

April 30. 1923.

My dear Ames,

Your letter of April 6 & the cable reached me on the same date, & with the 27th, & today, but ten minutes ago, I have yours of April 9th.

By inference therefore, you have received the plants collected in Estrella, but I have not your advice of receipt & await this eagerly, amongst them were two tiny pieces of *Epid. Andresii*.

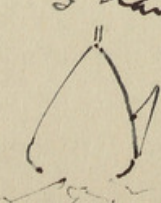
This will not be in bloom for some months; then if opportunity occurs I will try to get you some. I sent home eight plants to Protheroe & Morris & they netted me £16. I had never found it till this year; but it is not rare on the hills south west of Cartago & occurs also in the region of La Palma (San Mercedes) I have not seen it there myself. Richard Pfau in his catalogue of CR orchids refers to two varieties & probably the La Palma form differs from that of Cartago in the intensity of the blue-violet stain - the other species, almost indistinguishable in the plant, is I believe *Ep. pumilum*, the flower is less & a dull brownish. of this I probably collected plants at La Encarnación last month & await its bloom with interest.

Polycyrtus & *Paphiopsis* are both rare in my experience, of course the trouble is to find these things in bloom at the time of ones raid on the woods. the only way would be to cultivate every plant one finds

except the easily recognizable kinds, & this of course I have
begun to do twice. but insecurity of tenure has always
destroyed ~~the~~ expected results.

I am building a rough pergola at the end of our
yard, which is a wretched place will only accommodate
2 or 400 plants; at the coffee farm I have in partnership
there is magnificent accommodation & splendid natural
facilities for an orchid garden, however my partner lives
there, so that I can do nothing with it, as he is not at
all interested in them, though he enjoys the flowers of the
Cattleyas & so forth.

I cannot prepare for any further trips till Olin
Journey returns my press & the papers, it is most regrettable
to me that practically all our work was lost on the San
Carlos trip, (I don't think I shall go out again in
double harness,) this would have achieved a fine lot
of material for you if seriously undertaken, but it
developed into a "paseo" & was incidentally very largely
a commercial tour for the Botani Oriental.

Beyond Orchids, I regret the loss of a magnificent
Bomarea, this genus is practically confined to the
3000 - 8000 ft zone & it was surprising to find a beauty
as low as some 200 ft. by far the finest in the country.
at Zarco (6000?) many interesting things occur, & from there
I surmise I have the Calanthe cited as being in Col.
the bulbs are  about 100 - the dried peduncle from the
apex of the bulb - these I am growing
here - epiphytic on mossy trees.

II

With reference to the Epidendrum of my Kew etc which intrigues you, will you send me a description, so that I may help you if possible with further material, send # also.

I am delighted to know you & Powell are together, this adds to my regret at missing you here, I should much like to see his live collection, the Chiriqui region seems to have our flora very largely & probably the old man would find little new if he came up into our Territory.

I dare hope you will publish an act of your Honduras trip with route map & some ecological notes, I suppose Brit Honduras has richer possibilities from the projection of some of the Guatemalan ranges into its territory. I am glad to learn your trip was satisfactory.

Three odd specimens from our San Carlos trip are enclosed, #450 is an interesting species that seems new to my experience, Olin has the complete plant among the remaining things, I saved these additional flower specimens & they will make with the other, a valid specimen. it is not uncommon in the warm parts of the region.

The Anacardium? is new to me & must be a very rare plant, one half of the plant has immaculate dull purplish green leaves & is evidently polymorphous, under two species should have dissected the 6 inches of earth in which they are united. Fortunately this reached me alive & I may hope to send you eventually flowers.

With reference to your kind offer of further supplies another quantity of drying paper would be most welcome, as I fear most of those you sent me will not return

from San Jose, Don tells me he gave ~~the~~ my supply, (which
as I told you we left in Alajuela, as he imagined he had
a sufficient quantity ahead of us & which we never connected
with) to one Valerio, with the consoling thought, that he was
far more likely to be able to help you than I am; well
may it be so, in the meantime I am without material.

I will convey to him your offer of your publications &
may say at the same time that #1 has not yet reached me.

The Zeledons are old friends of mine. Don Jose has
been for nearly 60 years a keen ornithologist, & I was
delighted to find that you had called on her & if she
leaves the Schlecter camp may get you a lot of material,
tho' it is rather late in the day.

Jurrialba is very extensive Territory. I may make
some collections in that vicinity as I have rented a
piece of land in Peralta to plant bananas & that lays
on the Southern flanks of the volcano of that name,
I had hoped to go to the Sierra de Dota, but it
will be too late when the dry material comes to hand,
I will have to wait till next April.

Did you see the few orchids I collected in Lyander,
when you were at Rew. it was a delight to me to see
an entirely new group of plants tho' they do not
approach ours in variety or abundance.

- 448 *Loxochilus Lankasteri* sp. n.
449 *Erythronium* sp. probably *E. loxoglossum* (R.S.)
450 *Campylocentrum micranthum*

Saludos

Yours very faithfully

C. Lankaster.



Lankester, Charles H. 1923. "Lankester, Charles H. April 30, 1923 [to O. Ames]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/262811>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/282505>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Harvard University. Anonymous Donor.

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.