

La Palma is a frequent place name in literature. The next usual is rain forest. San Juan about 800' San Ramon 4000' Sea level. *Reicheya*.

C. H. LANKESTER
"LAS CONCavas"
CARTAGO, C. R.

NOV 24 1941

TELEGRAMAS A:
DULCE NOMBRE

9. XI. 41.

Dear Dr Williams,

I had it in the back of my mind that plant was *Lepanotopais*, it is a cute little thing & it seems happy in the garden to which I transferred it. *Doracena* in the garden to which I transferred it. One of the San Juan gardeners sent over a man this a.m. to see if there are any flowers for some pictures during the week. I found out he was the son of an old orchid peddler known well to me years ago & so he knows also the district of Pleu (Paceata) he ~~also~~, on seeing it, claims to know the plant, so I have hopes to get others if my present rather sad specimen fails to come through. These rain forest species that one may occasionally find of heroic size due to long continued optimum of growth, seldom can be induced to attain such development in cultivation, & how they never grow *P. grandis* & even remotely suggest it was worthy of this specific term.

Sotralia I can well imagine to be the toughest genus, the old ^{contorted} wrecks of flowers that usually result from drying seem to me well nigh impossible to specify, many have ^{up to} leaf or stem characters & in one instance an extraordinary rhizome, it was surprising to me to have my common local plant, abundant, even yet, on this farm, classed as *S. Wausonensis*, & I must say from Rehb's figure in the Brits I cannot think this is correct.

I had a scrap with O & about *S. pleiantha* & still when there's some pressing business here, of course too much reliance cannot be placed on Alfredo Borda's memory

but he ^{affixed} this name to a very different species, represented in
Emilio Span's series of CR orchid pictures, this fact in itself
is of slight significance, but the locality given, La Palma,
de San Jori, is disturbing, as it is scarcely credible that a
common species of the Pacific coast could ^{occur} here.

However.

I wonder whatever I said about a 'Peculiar Trichopilia'? I thought
Paul Allen's species a very nice looking addition to the genus, we
have a similar one in the Pacific that still lives in here much to
my surprise; still puzzling at 'Peculiar' with a capital P or all,
don't tell me this comes from my attempt to write punctata.

To revert to Sobralia, one collected in the River valley where I
stayed with Skutch has grown reasonably well & occasionally
flowered, today it has a bud, the job is to catch these things
at the right moment for preservation, it's a cute little bell shaped
flower, the stems are terete, the leaves long & very slender, I
guess 8" x 5/8" & the stems prostrate or pendent.

Have you ever seen the Sobralia growing in the little park
at Funchal, Madeira? They are beautiful, evidently a Brazilian
species & very much at home, some Stanhopeas also ^{live} there
there, I have been there 4 times in the last few years & made
friends with the old ^{boy} in charge, he gave me a lovely Begonia,
another place we ^{very} enjoyed seeing was Lisbon, especially for the
(^{cold greenhouse} Estufa fria in the Edward VII park, a grand growing of ^{temperate} plants
farms, & say if the U.S.A. wants some ferns, just grab La
Martinique, that's one dandissimo island, I suppose the
medium we saw there was O. altissimum, this was merely a
day visit visit, the last time I went home, looks as though this
war is going to stop any more frequent trips home.

Saludos

W. Anderson.

Very many thanks for separate copies of the Bull with my letter.



Lankester, Charles H. 1941. "Lankester, Charles H. Nov. 9, 1941 [to L.O. Williams]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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