

67 Hillsway West, Medford, Mass, 1-10/99

My dear Mr Baker

I am anxious to find out how many of Dr Arthur Schott's ferns there are in the Kew Herbarium. I have in hand an elaboration of his herbarium specimens for Dr Willdough. for the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, and expect to have it ready for publication early in the Spring, and would like to be able to include the names, and numbers, of such specimens as may exist in other herbaria. If you have any assistant who could make out a list for me, without its subjecting you to too much trouble I would feel under great obligations to you.

I am especially anxious to know what there may be at Kew to represent no. 65, and 31, as I find two very distinct ^{Adiantums} (ferns) under 65, and a Polypodium under 31 that I have decided to figure as at least provisionally new. One of the Adiantums is clearly A. villosissimum Mett. but is labelled 65-a, while ~~under~~ 65 is so very distinct that I have decided to figure it as new under the name A. Schottii. At Columbia they have 65 ticketed under another name but it is clearly villosissimum and I have so

marked iv. This seems to show a confusion of two species under one number.

You have, of course, seen Underwood's recent article on the *Botrychium ternatum* group in the Torrey Bulletin, and I allude to it only to say that the ~~made~~ statement which he makes about the Davenport Collection is an inexcusable misrepresentation as he has seen enough of that collection to know better. At no time has it contained less than 100 and now contains over 200 specimens. What he calls "scrappy" specimens are for the most part sterile fronds that I purposely mounted to show variation in the form of the segments, and to show still further the absurdity of separating the different forms into species based on such unreliable characters. After his attempted reply to my paper on this group in the Botanical Gazette where he misrepresented my views, even to misquoting a private letter in the effort to make me say what I never could have said, in the most outrageous manner I dropped all further argument with him and made no reply (one cannot reply to an "argumentum ad invidiam" without some loss of self-respect) but I shall have ~~me~~ a note soon on this latest misrepresentation in justice to the Mass. Hort. Society where the Dar. Herb.

of ferns exists

Pardon so much that is personal, and believe
me

Very Truly Yours

George E. Davenport

To
Mr. J. G. Baker, Kew, England



Davenport, Geo. E. 1899. "Davenport, George Edward Jan. 10, 1899." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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