

Medford, Mass. Feb. 3-85

Dear Mr Watson

Will you kindly get
for me the date of the
earliest publication of the
name Cheilanthes scariosa?

It appears to have originated
with Kaulfuss in some observations
in Moench's "Andes of Peru" but
we do not have that work in
our Library (Mass. Hort. Soc.) and
I cannot ascertain the date of
publication. If you do not
have that work at Cambridge
you will find the name cited
in Widenow's, Species Fil. or Pl.
I think.

I want to find out which is
the earliest name C. scariosa^{Pl.} or
C. elegans Desv. I now

Davenport

more than suspect that Baker
judges from some of Lemmon's
specimens was not far from
right in calling them scariosa
and that Eaton was also
correct in calling his specimens
myriophylla, since some of
Pringle's recent collections run
nearer to scariosa than any of
Lemmon's do — the only difference
that I can see between them and
your Cambridge specimens of
scariosa is that in the latter
the scales are more copiously
ciliated and almost spring on
the sides, but that is ~~a~~
only a difference of degree in
variation to which I attach
little or no importance —

and as other of his specimens
are clearly b. elegans it looks
to me as if this was another
one of those cases in which

two or three species will have to
be merged into one. Should
this prove to be the case here
it will be only a question of
priority of names between b.
scariosa and elegans.

Unfortunately the former name
would lose its application as
it passed into the latter's domain
while the latter would be equally
appropriate for all the forms.

I have decided, after another
examination, to give the California
plant I mentioned to you under
the name of Camp. fibrillosa
as a variety of b. Campinoensis
It comes near enough to that
species to be so disposed of for
the present, and I am decidedly
averse to multiplying dubious
and puzzling species in this
coquettish genus.

Very Truly Yours
Geo. E. Davenport



Davenport, Geo. E. 1885. "Davenport, George E. Feb. 3, 1885 [to S. Watson]."
Asa Gray correspondence

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