

75 Park ave. Balt^o. 19 June, 1886.

Dear Mr. Watson,

The information, you have kindly taken the pains to give, does not solve the Catopheria problem in the way I had expected. But it helps by excluding C. chiapensis as well as C. spicata.

It is strange, that Hook's figure of the latter does not indicate bracts subtending each flower. They are referred to in Benth. & Hook's description of the Genus, also in DC's of both the Genus and that species. He also describes lower and upper bracts of C. capitata in such a way, as makes me now suspect Türetkeim's plant must be very

near it, if not the thing itself.

My expression "3-parted" was perhaps an exaggerated term for what may indeed be regarded as lobing; but probably a more apt description of the bract would be, "broadly dilated at base, abruptly and retusely contracted above into a subulate prolongation."

That is not so different from what DC. says of it. When the specimen comes back to me from being mounted, I will re-examine, and I expect to find it agrees with C. capitata.

When you speak of the difficulties of working up Guatemala plants, you have in mind a very different sort of work from mine. I only

work over them, trying chiefly to make
out the genera, and then to identify
as many as I can with such
descriptions, figures or specimens
as I have at hand.

But I shall be better equipped with
books, when I take up these plants
again next fall.

Yours faithfully,

John Donnell Smith



Smith, John Donnell. 1886. "Smith, John D. June 19, 1886 [to S. Watson]." *John Donnell Smith letters to Asa Gray*

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