

Answer April 20.
New

Under *Solidago spiciformis*, the words "Lef.: in Linnaea l.c." seem to refer to a similar citation under the following species. In other words, the formae citationis (to use a theological phrase) seem to have changed places.

In your observations under *S. californica*, you compare the leaves with those of *S. ovalifolia*, where I suppose you mean *S. petiolaris*, the succeeding species.

If your specimens of *S. neglecta*, which you attribute to N. Carolina, were derived from me, the locality is wrong; for all my specimens of that species were collected near Boston. I should like to know about this. Why *S. (t.)* was collected near Boston!

p. 218. line 10 & 11. for "appropriates" read appropriateness.

Solidago verna. It seems to me that the general habit of this plant is very different from that of the group in which you have arranged it. Ought it not to stand with *S. patula*? If you have any specimens with erect racemes, they are imperfect or immature. I have seen hundreds growing, & they generally ^{have} a loose panicle of a few recurved branches. Then the form & venation of the leaves seem to range more with the *patula* group than with the *virgata*, do they not? — As to the second racemes, why, do the best you can.

Stillborough N.H. March 14th 1842

Dear Sir,

The above points arrested attention as I perused the proofs you sent, & which may be of service to you. I have rec^d but one package, comprising two & a half sheets. If others were sent they have not yet reached me. This is of little consequence however, as I shall look for the whole number soon. I wish you would send me the Number by mail, as soon as possible.

If you will deposit the parcel you have got ready for me (Endlicher & plants) at Wiley & Putnam's, I will get some friend from here to call & get it. — Perhaps that firm will be willing to keep open account with me till I can make remittance. Perhaps I can arrange with one of the Merchants from this place to take up the account for me, if you or Torrey will previously hand over to said firm the balance coming to me. I originally intended that this balance should be applied to the payment for the *N. A. Flora*; but as that has now passed out of your hands, I will settle with W. & P. for it in another way.

I am glad that you have a "Handbook" in embryo. I hope though, that you do not intend to give it that name, when we already have an English word meaning the same thing, & which is much more euphonic. Our language has been barbarized too much already by foreign admixtures, to have a regular built German word ingrafted where there is no need of it.

I have been lately consulted by a Teacher in Petersburg, Virg. (Mr. Tuomey) who is something of a Botanist, want a suitable Text Book for Schools. I could do nothing but say, get Eaton's Manual or Gray's Elements, according to what he proposed teaching. At the same time I cautioned all the Troy books quackery, & urged the claim of the Elements. I will now write him again, informing him of your intention, upon which he will undoubtedly act in his arrangements.

Botany is but little studied in any of the schools of this State. As far as I can, I will help the spread of your books. It is high time that Eaton, Lincoln, Comstock, &c. should meet their deaths. I think it shameful, that the latter has been permitted to realize a fortune

from the sale of scientific text books in the whole cycle of the sciences, about none of which did he know even the elements. I have never read one of his books, but I acquire the above opinion from a curious tale told me by Bachman. He told me that while examining the flowers in Hogg's establishment he was accosted by a stranger with — "you appear to be acquainted with Botany, Sir? — how long will it take me to write a book upon the subject?" — "Why, that will depend upon how much you know of it."

"Oh, I know nothing at all. But I have published books on Chemistry, Philosophy, &c. &c. & knew nothing more about them." — St. Bachman found the stranger to be Comstock. — Well sure enough, the very year Bachman told me this tale I saw Comstock's Botany advertised! I never heard of a more impudent piece of quackery, & the man that can be guilty of it ought to be published from Maine to Florida.

The person I intend to trouble with my commission to N. York will leave here in eight or ten days. I shall try to get him to take a little parcel of plants for you in his trunk, to be left with Wiley & Putnam.

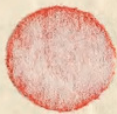
You have appealed to me in your *N. A. Journal* to complete the account of *Fleuchera Bartisii*, but Torrey has the only specimen I collected. If it has not the mark (+) it ought to have. I shall by & by make a list of such things that I want returned. I have had a struggle with myself whether I ought not to let Torrey have all these single specimens, but I cannot make up my mind to lose them. Then again, if I have them in hand, I stand a better chance of procuring more from friends to whom I can show the specimens. If I can get this *Fleuchera* & *Asper gracilentus* by May, I may be able to procure specimens this next season.

I got a letter lately from one Mead in Illinois, who says he was advised by yourself to make acquaintance with me. I never heard of him before. Who is he? & what sort of a Botanist is he? — By the way, the prettiest specimens I have ever received, not excepting Short's, are from Lapham.

Your *Boltonia glastifolia*, var. B? is, I reckon, nothing more than a casual variation from the usual form. I have *B. glastifolia* from Short, collected in "wet prairies of Illinois" with none of those marks by which your var B? is characterized.

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MUSEUM DIV.

Dr. Asa Gray
New York
N. Y.



I believe I must venture a remark upon your arrangement of *Solidago petiolaris*. I am for putting it next to *S. squarrosa*. For 1st. their habit as to inflorescence is similar. 2nd. There is a tendency in the involucre of *S. petiol.* to become squarrose, which is sometimes quite manifest, as in var. *squarrolosa*, & even in the more common form. I have a specimen from Chapman which he labelled *S. squarrosa*. 3rd. A few of the longer bristles of the pappus are as manifestly clavellate thickened at the apex as in *S. squarrosa*!! I deem this a pretty strong case, & should like to have you review the matter & give me your opinion. — I have *S. squarrosa* from the mts of N. H.!

Kind regards to Dr. Torrey & Mr. Carey.
very truly yours &c.
M. C. Curtis



Curtis, M. A. 1842. "Curtis, Moses A. Mar. 14, 1842." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

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