

Hillsborough N.C. March 21st/46

Ans. 15. Apr

My Dear Sir,

Yours of the 12th came this morning, & as I generally like to answer my letters on the spur of their fresh perusal, here comes Monsieur again.

I gave Sewey my last *Carex nigro-marginata* near two years ago. Luckily a rather indifferent specimen came back to me lately in Herb: Wilson, which I will enclose. I will also look into my Herb: for a better one, if I can spare one. You can then take which you please for yourself. I must try to get more of this thing. I have not met with it here, though it ought to be here. It is common about Raleigh.

Done, I will thank you to order Fries Mycologia & Elenchus for me. I wish also you would try for another copy of Schwein: Fung. Carol: & at my expense. I desire very much to own a copy. Schweinitz's Species come along gradually to hand, & in a few years I hope I shall be able to get hold of most of them.

I will try to remember your request for *Lionaea* from McKee. So you want merely the flowers? So I understand you.

I shall look for your slash at the Vestiges with much interest. I read that work with much pleasure on account of its interesting subject & ingenious handling, but I abominate its philosophy. The Explanations I have not seen; but I notice that some think his former reviewers have need to review themselves. I am glad you give notice to the thing; & "lay on Macduff" - say I. I feel that his system is wrong, though it would not be easy for me to give it a thorough logical refutation, because I have not science enough.

I have been suspecting, though I cannot tell how it came into my head, that you would get my *baccin. usinum* into *Gaylussacia*. Why not make it & its allies a section (you *Scorchaena*) of *baccinum*, & leave *Gaylussacia* to the perennial leaved species? ^{What with you & with the perennial kind I like}

I am quite tickled at a lucky guess of mine, though I never dared to make it known to you, about that *Schumacheri*. From the time that Buckley came into my possession I took up the view of its affinities which you have arrived at, & I stated it to Buckley five or six years ago. However it was of course guess work. I am glad that you are likely to get to the end of it at last. I cannot hope to get Hunter after it. He seldom leaves his farm, & I have not been able to get from him for more than two years what grows within his reach. I have begged him for your *bay* Hunter, but I cannot even get a letter from him. But I will try him again. Did I not tell you, that I visited the locality of *Carlyea* last spring, & could not find a vestige of it, though it was abundant ten years ago? It is only about 12-15 inches high.

It is useless to address Prout about *Opulularia*. He never could find it. I have copies of *Michaux* & *Pursh*. The former I picked up (second hand) at Little & Brown's, ¹⁸³³ (Boston) & gave \$5. for it. *Pursh* cost me nothing, but it cost the donor \$4!

I have *baccin. glauca* (glauca) from Raleigh, N.C. - have had, say, or seven years, but could not make it out, till I got N. Jersey & European specimens. Dewey says it is *b. glauca*. I have now but a single specimen.

I meant to send you a specimen of *Phacelia* from Auburn in my next letter, but these boxes exclude it. It appears to be *P. paniculata*. (Cov. = *manthus*, D.C.), but I want your decision upon it. There are also a *Panicum* & a *Clathra* from Wilson's Coll. which I wish to send you.

Did you ever see a specimen of *Sponoxa* from the Southern coast similar to *S. sagittifolia*, but with very narrow linear, short petioled leaves; calyx shorter, & the contracted part of the tube of corol shorter or. or? I have a specimen from Sullivan's Island, S.C. which I once sent to Dewey, who pronounced it a var. of *S. sagitt.*. I am rather dubious about it, & should like your

matured opinion upon it. But I speak of it mainly to say, that if you have never seen this form, or have none in possession & desire it, I will loan mine to you, till you have got through the *Convolvulaceae*.

What has become of my *Carlyea*? If you have it, well & good. I thought you had enclosed it with the parcel from Dewey. That has arrived, but nothing from you.

When shall you publish your illustrations of *Thermopsis*? I feel warmly attached to that genus, & proud of my part in it. By the way, if you have any other species in cultivation, I wish you would get a specimen of each for me the next season, if you can spare them.

I wish you would always let me know what plants you wish from the South. I will willingly collect for you whatever is in my reach. Especially give me a list of such species as you do not possess. It may happen that I have plants which you have not, & never send them because I suppose them common. Such was the case with *Urtica puberula* till you found it in the Mts. I first got it in Raleigh in '30. I had made no account of it, supposing it common enough, & it had

faded out of memory until you mentioned your wonderful discovery to me in 1844, & showed me your specimens. I believe I am now out of specimens, having put up my last for Oakes.

In a former letter, I asked your opinion of a nameless *baccin* sent in my last parcel to you, collected on the Roan. I suspected it was *b. miser*, Buckley, but not having my original specimen, I did not decide. That has returned, & on comparison I believe I was right. I have but three or four, & sometimes, as they were collected late in spring - Booth has begged specimens of this, & if you say it is the plant, I will spare him half. Dewey must have a share. — I must try hard this spring to find *b. Mitchellianum* again. It will probably be a week's work.

Truly yours,

W. B. Curtis.

P.S. - I have been out to day in search of *baccin. nigromay*. - non est inventa. What on earth has become of Duckman? Odd fellow he, I suspect. - I am disappointed in not hearing again from Sullivan.



Curtis, M. A. 1846. "Curtis, Moses A. Mar. 21, 1846." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/226823>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/257597>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.