

Hafayette College -

Nov. 29 / 92.

My dear Mr. Deane,

Yesterday I rec^d. yr. welcome letter of the 25th & the Solidagoes from Mt. Algonquin, which have come just in the nick of time.

For the last two months I have been brooding over the perplexing golden rods of yr. N. E. Notes & am beginning to see light. Messrs. Rand & Reel have sent me their big piles - & these with what are in our herb., & that of Columbia College & that of the Phila. Acad. have passed under critical review. The results I mean to publish in the Bulletin of the Torrey Club at an early day. Now I can give only a brief outline.

S. Virgaurea, L., var. alpina, Bigel. is S. alpestris, W. K. of the high alps of Europe & the Altai Mts., & a good species, altho' Koeke reduced it ^{to a variety} ~~to a variety~~ ^{by} ~~by~~ ^{by} S. Virgaurea, L., var. Cambrica as its nearest relative, but that var. has rough hairy stems & leaves, pilose on both sides & lacks other characters, which alpestris has in common with ~~is common~~ with our plant. glabrous stems, bent, angular & 1 or 2 of the uppermost leaves larger & longer than the rest. & distant, with short cluster of heads in the axils. Dwarf plants from the highest peaks have these characters so obscured as not to be obvious, but Dr. Britton obtained fine specimens last summer on the Mts. of the Adirondacks, N. Y. - Mt. Marcy (5300 ft) & Mt. Willoughby (5000 ft), which show the species in the fullest development. Some of the specimens are 10 inches high. S. alpestris then is entitled to a place among that notable group of Old World alpiners, found on the highest summits of the Mts. of N. E. & N. Y.

Your plants from Mt. Almaden are from much lower elevations & by comparing them with the description of S. alpestris which I have given you will see at once, that, dwarfed as some of them are, they belong elsewhere. Indeed, they are just what I published last April, as S. puberula, n. var. monticola, & as like these smaller specimens of Rand & Redfield's collections on Mt. Desert as two peas. The question with me now is whether they belong more to S. humilis or S. puberula, for they partake of the characters of both species in varying degrees. Sometimes I am inclined to the one side & sometimes to the other, but must come to a decision soon, & as the scale turns, your plants will either be S. puberula, n. var. monticola, or S. humilis, n. var. monticola - one of the two.

The typical S. humilis of Pursh is quite unlike these mountain fellows, & I shall send you a specimen of it, when I find leisure to do so, along with some ^{at the} other of the rarer golden-rods, including S. juncosa, Ait., n. ramosa, & perhaps, S. Boothii, n. Hackmanensis, i. e., if I can spare it. Owing to my poor health during the summer, I failed to visit Budd's Lake, N. J., where I expected to get a good supply of Eupatorium sessilifolium, var. Boottianum, but hope to be able to obtain my wish next summer & if successful in finding it again, you shall be

remembered.

Yrs. cordially,

Thos. C. Porter.



Porter, Thomas C. 1892. "Porter, Thomas Conrad Nov. 29, 1892." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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