

La Machine Oct 10th 1866

Dear Dr.

The sawmill & its vicinity proved such good botanizing ground that I am back again a week and more. And I haven't exhausted the field yet. I have at least four new species of *Wolularia* and two three or more *Restia*-*paepalanthus* & *Briscaula*. I have been examining a new *Richardsonia muricata* Gr. I see yet no signs of the circumscissile falling of the calyx-limb & except the form of the flower-head it has all the characters of *Siodia*. But I had a true *Richardsonia* very much like it but smaller in all respects which has the bracteate flower head & the trilobed stigma - fr not yet ripe enough to show the circumscissile nature of the calyx-tube. I must have a sort of a *Siodia* which I well remember collecting before in considerable quantity which Grisbach has certainly passed over without notice as he has several others. The peculiarity of this plant is in the fruit which is blackish at least before maturity and has a sort of thin sarcocarp at length becoming dry. He has not noted in the description of *Portera radicans* the generally trifid corolla. There is a little *Composita* with flower-head like *Elephantopus* but the achenes ^{no! with a pappus somewhat like that of *Polygala*} are naked. Now you ought to have had that & given us the name but I can't find out what it is. I have found a few specimens of an *Erigeron* with a single white capitulum on a long slender scape. It will be more plenty by & by I think. I have a *Siodia* which on drying emits a strong pleasant odor of liquorice. I have a brand new *Azemia* with little bits of leaves deeply dentate reminding me of the cauline leaves of some *Saxifragas*. Of grasses & Cyperaceae I go on finding at least if not new species such as I can't determine. I found the other day what ought to be & perhaps is *Blechnum serrulatum* but it does not agree with the description and on the banks of a pine-woods ditch-like rivulet. Two sp of *Trichomanes* & a *Lindsaya* neither of which appears to be in *Epistich*. Oh! how I want the rest of the Catalogus. Day before yesterday I found what I suppose to be a *Micranthemum* and a new species *fid. mem.* It is much larger than any thing of the kind I remember to have seen. I have at last found a species of that curious aquatic cryptogam growing on the bottom of ponds & streams with grass-like leaves with sporangia of two kinds (large

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and small spores and antheridia in the axils of the leaves. I can't recall the name if it is not *Asclepias* & I am very doubtful if it is. This is larger than I expected to find such a plant judging from figures. Some of the leaves are a foot long or nearly so. I find them in exceedingly sterile pebbly soil, where, from this fact alone, ought to be a new sp. of *Aspidium* - the other or others growing on rich soil in the mountains. As I have no descriptions to consult or comparison - can say no more about it - fl. white with a yellow spot on the upper segments (I found a cat's nest here with three catkins which I killed - it being an "animal domain") Yesterday I gathered what I supposed to be a *Holcus*; but the ovary cells are uniovulate - does know what it makes of it. If I go on so, the *Alouatta* will be a big job - I got a good ducking too or its equivalent, I went to botoma, a little port on the coast, some three leagues from here. It directed on me a little when going, but it pounced on me coming back. And yet, it didn't seem to ram very hard, but it put the whole face of the earth under water. One little stream, which was belly deep to my horse, I had to swim acrossing. Luckily I kept my portfoglio dry. Today it rained again great guns so that I couldn't go out of sight of the house. I spent a little time in collecting with some *Aspidium* with the same object - an object which I haven't always kept in mind as I should have done.

16th Today I slipped about a little way, between the showers and found the extent of Pashaluma - one not an inch high & not more than 3/4 inch long the other six feet & more. I found a *Scirpus* allied to *S. plantaginifolius* and a *Rhynchospora* new to me but many of these have such a uniform family look that it is risky to say of any one that it is new. I have a new *Dircaea* with scape exserted three feet long & leaves a foot long or nearly so. I find again in considerable abundance though not *Aspidium* between *Aspidium* & *Aspidium*. I have what I suppose to be *Aspidium* *Hesperis* & with leaves as long as the culms a foot and more.

17th The rains have ceased and the weather has set in & every thing indicates the beginning of the dry season. I shall soon be able to camp out if it should suit me to do so. I have been paddling about these last days in various *Lagunas* & day before yesterday I was among *Rhynchospora* *surinamensis* (I suppose) and cut up my feet & hand rather uncomfortably. It is a horrid pest. But I got good things made. I am

getting quite beardless in the multitude of new *Rhynchospora* *Surin* *graminea* *Dircaea* &c. I found a huge *Aspidium* not yet in flower. I saved a couple of plants entire by doubling it. It must be six or eight feet high - grows on *temblados* - those fruitless fields of so many queer things. But I have the smallest *Phyllanthus* that you ever saw & I dare say the smallest you ever will see. Large specimens sometimes overgo an inch a little way but many, very many fall short of it. I have a new *Hymenocallis* also - white almost for any thing I remember. I collected again *Centropus* *discolor* *Phyllanthus* &c. Two or three years ago I got some specimens of a *Capparis* very badly & bad - a flower or two & some fruits with few leaves - a gloome. near *C. pumila* *jacq.* This I have seen often near *San Jose*. Lately I met with one which I supposed to be this last, but the stem. are about half as long as the petals which dry yellow & not purple as *Sp. sag.* Hence suspecting it may be something interesting if not new I have dried an abundance of it. The margin of the above mentioned *Laguna* gave me an *Ipomoea* which I do not ^{ever} remember to have met with. It resembles in the leaves & color. I *manis* *clavis* *Key*, but the stem is purple and the whole flower and calyx is purple & smaller. I go to *Perico* del Rio & thence probably to the *Yucatan* *Esperanza* - a sugar estate distant about half a league from the city. Near it is the *Laguna* where I found a *Begonia* on a *temblado* - a queer place so different from the general botany of those plants; and a *Polygonum* seen nowhere else. Got 'em again. I return 23rd Returned today & found no letters. Dear me! when will this book the *botanogon* come? I am despairing about it. *Bro. Gundlach* has not yet come & I am out of money still & I don't know what *Sourville* has done with all my papers. I am nearly out. I am getting about as much beardless now with *Aspidium* as I was about there with *Rhynchospora*. I have a huge one found on *temblados* 6-8 ft high or more & two or three young ones. I have a species lately found. *Gynerium* gives me but little and in deterring these things. Collected again *Muzaca* *highii* *Gr.* with *Flora*.

The enclosed note is *Gundlach* I trust to your kindness to forward "This side up with care" when you have occasion to write. It contains several of my late little *anacardium*. I send them principally to convince him that I am not so seriously dissatisfied with his *Catalogue* as judging from the tone of his letter he may think I am & I want him to give me his opinion on two or three of them.

My health has been improving till I feel almost well. The fits still annoy me but not near so badly as when I wrote you of my serious

thoughts of coming home for the winter. I have now quite given up
the idea. I was very reluctant to abandon the field now just in the
real harvest season. In the spring, I can better afford to leave as the
vegetation will be very much dried up.

Kind regards to Mrs. L. & to my friends down the street Dr. V. Mrs. Diver & Mrs. C.
when you see them.

Yours ever
Charles Wright

Prof. Stea Gray
Cambridge
Mass.





Wright, Charles. 1866. "Wright, Charles Oct. 10, 1866." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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