

Arroyo Arado Dec 26th /66

Dear Dr

My last mailed a few days ago in Pinar del Rio closed on the eve of my departure in chase of *Maritimum* and *asciadium*. I have been successful in finding both. The latter in abundance and in flower. I confess that I suspect at Grisebach had mixed up things but I see that he was right. *Maritimum* I found today but it has no sign of flower.

Besides these I have two sp. of *Hypericum* distinct I think from those named in the Cat. Pl. Cub. I have an abundance of the little *Oralis* considered by Grisebach as var. *pygmaea* of *C. corniculata*. I shall be hard to convince that it is rightly named. I have a brown new *Blechnum* with very few ^{lateral} fronds and a long terminal one. A day or two before I left with I collected an abundance of *Hypericum aeneovirens* Rich. as I suppose I have discovered here also a new *Convolvulus* i.e. very distinct from any thing I have yet seen - but legumes only - no fl. & leaves quite diced up. I shall rely on Don Jose to raise us some plants from which to get leaves ^{and} flowers. I got an abundance of seed with this design. *Mosses*, *Hepaticas* as usual. Some grasses which I can't make out, and which ought to be in the Cat. Two ^{or three} sp. of *Hemianthus* a brown new *Erigeron*, very small & de. de. One *Paricordia* is rather queer. At least half the plants have legitimate *paricordia* fl. the other half have them transformed into those of *Bragortia* but no stam. nor pistils. *Arundinella phragmitoides* Gr. abundant here. A few specimens of a new *Blechnum* do. of a *Spilanthes* with leaves of Holly. Tomorrow I go to Luis Lazo Guanac. Jan 1st 1867 "A happy new year" to you & Mrs Gray. I came here yesterday when all is jollification in the "Fiestas de la Pascua" - Christmas. Today I went to the

neighboring cliffs when I got little but shells and a chicken
or two for the kermans. ~~From Annapolis~~ ~~And~~ I went
to Luis Laro and staid a few days. And now I can sing
another song about Marathrum. I got a plenty of flowers
A heavy rain fell there & it is showery-catching weather-
since. I propose to go a little farther west among the
pines. I want particularly to find again *Pinilloria bell-*
oides Lfr. which I don't believe is a congener of the others
Hemionia myrtilloides is not rare in these parts & I have
seen it in various others but very rarely in fl. or fr.
Loi Kemate Jan 4th. Today I got a great abundance of *Pin-*
illoria belloides Lfr. fr. & a few fl. I can't but doubt about
its generic identity with the other sp. which I got also
Today. P. repens Sch. as I guess

I wrote you some time ago of finding a *bleasme* near
Pinar del Rio like *l. procumbens* Jacq. but which seemed to me
to differ in some points & I suggested that it might be the
same as a *capitatus* which I once collected here in a few
miserable specimens. Today I find the same thing in the
same miserable state generally but one specimen will
serve to describe it. It is probably a *bleomella*. pedic. 4
dentulate. Stam. 7 the 3 upper with bottle-shaped (or spatulate)
imperfect anthers turned upwards the 4 lower approximate
straight the anthers approximate arched or near the stigma

The plant which above I guess is *Pinilloria repens* has
one peculiarity worth recording. After flowering the long
peduncle takes a twist downward to the ground where I
imagine the seeds germinate and very likely the capitulum
throws out radicles and thus it goes on forming new plants.
I don't hardly like to believe that the peduncle so slender
as it is becomes a part of the caudex tho' it looks a little
like it. But that is a law of the growth in this plant

that the fruiting capitulum should reach the ground
I can not doubt.

Yesterday fell a heaviest deluge of rain and filled all
the lagunas covering up such plants as had sprung
up around them. Since the tembladeras which are
floating will afford the only botanizing ground in
the ponds. Tomorrow I propose to go to La Guifa and
collect in fl. a little more of my *Balmia* & then
wend my way back to Retiro
Crisablt Today I found a very new *Orchid* - a *Schomburgkii*
in its essential character ^{but} but it wants the large bracts
I can see no other difference. It is quite a showy plant but
requires climbing to get to it. I hired a negro to cut two
trees after I had climbed one and then got a pretty
good supply. It is strange that I didn't find it
when here before at the same season. for it seems
abundant just at this spot at least.

8th. Yesterday I found again *Balmia orizoides* & a
new *Schubph.* which I haven't fully studied - the flowers
are so scanty, also *Hemianthen verticillatus* sp. n. fl.
leaves ^{4-5 angled} verticillate; also *Polypleuron procumbens* erect
as a grenadier; also more of *bleomella lagumandra* sp. n.
miserable specimens as at Loi Kemate. A plenty could be got
in Aug. or Sept I wrote you some time ago of an *Engl-*
wa with a single capitulum on a slender scape
from a bunch of obovate thickened bottle leaves at the
base. I have now a plenty of it. I find a *Chloris* which
I can't make out (in fact I can't make out any of 'em)
Long bracts have got it when here before - also *Polypleuron*
and can only wonder that I didn't. I find also *Hemodia*
radicans Lfr. I find also a *Chateagaria* which I can't
determine (Am I may say the same of them as of *Chloris*)

San Portales de Guame 10th Yesterday I left La Grifa and my kind
brother Jose Valdez. On my way here I crossed the most barren
spot I have seen in Cuba - pure white sand among the pines
yet it gives a variety of good things. There grows in wet places
perfect thickets of *Hypocnemis styloloides* Rich - a showy
plant. I crossed too a thicker (very low one though 6 inches high)
of my *Balanis ericoides*. I found also one of not too new sp.
of *Cruciantha* or *Papulanthus* (I haven't examined them) and
what appears to me to be a *Lechea*. I am impressed with
the idea that I got it before. I found something like *Mal-*
theria but with long slender quite prostrate branches in
the sands. Today I spent in the house of Don Pedro Valdez
brother of my friend at La Grifa who would not allow me to pay
for the fodder which had to be bought for my horses nor
for the washing of my clothes. Here I find again *Hegn-*
sherna fr. and what appears to me *Metastelma leptoclada*
Lr. and a little more *Micranthemum rotundatum* Wm.

Retiro Jan 21st Returned today I find you of sat with me
many thanks - and now I must tell you of an occurrence
which gives me some uneasiness. ~~At~~ Thursday morning
last (this is Monday) I was feeling as well as usual - i.e. quite
well and continued my journeyings soon after sunrise
I had not been long on the way when I felt a prickling sen-
sation in various parts of my body with feverish heat but
very feeble pulse. I took off my coat then my undershirt
as the sun was getting well up & hot. A glaring light came
over my eyes but deprived me of vision and a kind of vertigo
obliged me to dismount. After which I tried again to mount
but would have fallen if I had not got down immediately
I was near a house & lay down by the side of the fence. The
man passed me to whom I told ~~me~~ my situation. He brought
me coffee & afterwards some herb-tea. While sitting then I would
have fallen on my face if he had not supported me (fainting)
After a while I was better and was able to walk to the house
where I staid the remainder of the day. The next day I was
quite as well as before I continued my journey. What
if such an attack should come on me when scrambling on one
of the cliffs. I must quit this work. Yours ever Chas Wright

* I saw here *Cnidocolum* (Cat. Pl. Cub.) 10. of a foot diam. & 30-40 ft high



Wright, Charles. 1866. "Wright, Charles Dec. 26, 1866." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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