

Wethersfield, Conn. 20th Jan. 1879

Dear Dr. Gray

Last summer two quite new-weeds came to torment me. We had already in our door-yard or lawn specimens of quack-grass, quitch-grass, criss-galli, *Sitona glauca* and the crawling *Muhlenbergia*, *Dandelion* too and *Plantago Rugelii*. None of these nor all together fairly took us. It only needed *Panicum glabrum* to complete the capture. It overrun large patches, before well turfed with white clover and the common lawn grasses, and made our lawn look like a mangy dog. I beheaded it often with lawn-mower. But it seemed a hydra. — By the way a distinction between this sp. & *sanguinalis* worth naming is that it seems never or seldom to take root at the joints of the culms which is too much the way of *sanguinalis* and by which it spreads so widely. How shall I root out *Panicum glabrum*?

The other new weed is a *Veronica* appearing in round patches creeping and branching so thickly that it choked and smothered the grass so far as it spread. I found no way to check it but to scratch in pieces with a garden rake and pull up the fragments. I could not satisfy myself which species it is. You will find in my last summer's collection specimen with some remarks upon it.

I have found some few misprints in your *Synoptical Flora* &c besides a few other things it may be worth the while to call your attention to.

Just before *Asclepias striatifolia* you say — Umbel solitary. If you care for a specimen with two umbels you can find

- one in my last summer's gatherings (I shall send them in soon).
354. 4. *Souglasia* "throat of cor. formicate"
- " 76. *Tr. sambucifolia* "glabrous, except the" some word omitted?
- " 66. *Sapetaceae* "anthers - the cell" cells?
- " 37. *Sonch. Oleracea* "caliculate - spinulose teeth 4-7 in. long). Why not always put the measurements as close as possible to the organ measured? Many (not so bad) cases.
- " 70. *S. Agave* "Stem & Style (5-10) better 10-15) & style declivous?"
- " " "the thin-scaled bud-scales" Maybe right I don't know.
- " 367 *Monardella* willow var "leptostachya" why not *leptostachya*?
- " 213 *Betula* sp. *leptostachya* + + "leaves or their divisions linear or narrower?"
- " 382 *Brasora truncata* "calyx - (3-4 inches in fruit)"
- " 361 *Blum. Anthesis Puerta de Paycan* "should be *puerta* - no such word as *puerta*."
- " 316 *Andros. biflora* "*G. biflora*, Chapm."
- " 383 *Androsida* "bracts of a capitulate and -- capitulate inflorescence"
- " 276 *Humulus alatus* & *ringens* "perennial"??
- " " " (Ach) *Humulus*, Chapm. (*Humulus*) *Synsphaera* *flora*
- " 101 *Helioselinia Bohemica* "peduncle, equally or slightly surpassing"
- " 265 *L. bartram.* "flowers mostly pedicelled" linear-lanceolate??
- " 342 *Scutellaria* "ovary - 5-lobed"??
- " 95 *A. chlorata* "horn -- canaliculate-concave" anything little-dog-like about it?
- " " " *myrsinifolia* umbels - short-petioled.
- " 118 *Gentiana* var. *parietalis*
- " 111 *Gentiana* last " " also after *Haleia* ** 38 line *parietalis*
- " 250 *Leucosphyllum minus* 5th line that (should be *thick*?)
- " 27 *Albion Henry* B.R. Reg. t. 1757 & B.R. Reg. XXX t. 6. Two ways of numbering plates?
- " 244 *Leptoglossis* "winged appendages -- narrower than wide"
- " " " "ceas. -- coarsely transverse, rugose" transversely rugose?
- " 214 *Cordulium aluminis* "silicon of hirsute"

- p. 345 *Lobelia* Inflorescence. The gen. evolution ----- centrifugal.
- " 344 "that of the clusters"
- The evolution would one and perhaps might be clearer. ~~How~~ would this do?
- The general evolution of the clusters (centrifugal) in the axils of leaves or primary bracts. The special evolution of the clusters (centrifugal) ^{the clusters} ~~that~~ grammatically, would refer to general evolution which I suppose you did not mean.
- " 207 *Euphorbia* a slight mistake in the greek letters χ for ψ
- " 296 *L. linearifolia* "the long upper lip (of calyx) 4-toothed &c" not measured
- " 326 *R. ciliosa* var. *ambigua* *Euphorbia* *ciliosa* var. *ambigua*
- " 278 *Thymus* *Cyprina*
- " 160 *P. angusta* "petioles cl. & horizontal or divisions". Why or?
- " 162 *P. fistulata* "eauline" - what?
- " 164 *P. longipes* wrong syllable accented
- " 280 *Myrsinifolia* *Microcarpha*
- " 135 *Boltonia pilulides* "G. gil. & G. glab." = *G. gil.* & *G. glab.*?
- " 179 *Motencia* 2nd line "fold for erect"

In *Botanical Gazette*, Dr. G. P. Davis, of Racine, Wis. has a note both about *Plantain* and *plantain* greens and how the cows know without any mother line that they are two kinds of the common *Plantain*, and which is which. It must be pretty well on to sixty years since our mother taught us the same lesson of it. It is but a year or two hardly that I could certify myself whether *Plantain* admitted two species and if so which was which. We were taught to know the one as toad plantain the other as red-spalk p. and a very good popular name is the latter Toad.

plantain was rejected at our house whether on the
advice of the "old cow" or not I can't say - probably
it had some unpleasant taste. My mother lived to
a good old age and ate redstalk plantain all her
life - in its season. Perhaps I am safe in saying that
few persons have used so much of the weed as she.
Our practical old botanists - the cows - may accept
redstalk - I don't believe they hanker after it.
Any way it flourishes where they eat grass and I
never observed that it suffered much from their
browsing. My observations give me two characters
which if every where the same as here will
help to know them on sight - the red base of
the one and the pubescence on the scape and
petioles of the other. There may be partial crosses
for I have observed some pubescence on the former and
a slight mixture of red in the latter.

(Shall I send my plants - now ready - to you)
or no good one?

Kind regards to all friends

Yours truly

to me,

Charles Wright



Wright, Charles. 1879. "Wright, Charles Jan. 20, 1879." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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