

Woody Point, Borneo Bay, Iles
August 31, 1929

Dear Katherine:

I am sending today (if the boat, due on Monday, two days ago, gets here) three more packages of specimens by parcel post. Kindly untie the wrappers & inner tapes & loosen a little as we are just now fighting against fog, with all driers & ventilators full. Please keep the stamps for me. The good work continues, with the record for the year to date of "new to Iles" plants at 96. Saturday, ~~the~~ spent all day on "The Tableland", the tremendous serpentine barren, between 2300 & 2400 ft. high, & tramped 15 miles, much of it pretty precipitous. Dry snow still lies 30 feet thick in the north-facing chimneys or "gulches". Thursday we did The Larkout, a diorite mass nearer the sea, the summit crests 2500 ft. Most of the Tableland, about 1800 ft. is pretty barren occupied by Schizaea,

Bartonia, Eleocharis nitida, Habenaria psycodes,
with pools of Pot. Oakesianus & confertifolius —
a decidedly southern aggregation; but we got
Drosera obovata of Europe, new to America;
and on the very topmost crest a new Antennaria,
the 7th this year; then a new Rhinanthus which
we have got again since, and finally the second
n. sp. of Habenaria this summer!

Monday we had planned to spend on
Killedevil, 2300 ft., which lies in the
limestone belt & is stratified, bare for
2000 feet, with front wall 3 miles long!
But it was showery & foggy so we had to
postpone & instead followed up the tidal
shore & the alluvial islands at the mouth
of Main River, — "Ten" new to Kfl", including
the arctic var. of Eleocharis acic., two queer
Cerises, problems in Juncus, a fruiting
Caryophyllus which looks more like the European
C. Aquilone than anything American, a queer
Festuca with large knee-like black nodes;
and so it goes. Every day we go out novelties
stare us in the face and this in the first

time in six weeks that the weather
has upset any plans; until now every
rain has come in the night & we have
had absolutely perfect collecting &
drying conditions. All the forenoon
we have shuffled wet driers, trying
to save things from blackening & we
now have eight driers and twelve
ventilators not in actual press. Consequently
Tony & I shall leave Tony to toast
driers in the kitchen this afternoon &
proceed to the "bottom" (head) of the Arm
where a large river comes in through
several miles of estuary. Imagine how
far eight driers will go when we get
back!

With kind regards to Mrs. Weatherby
and all at the ~~table~~ Herbarium -

Very Sincerely Yours,

N. L. Fernald

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