

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 11, 1921.

Mr. Oakes Ames,
355 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Ames:

We are forwarding by mail, as a loan, a package containing our specimen of Lockhartia chiriquensis. I trust that the package will reach you promptly.

Thank you very much for the sixth volume of the Orchidaceae. Your thoughtfulness in sending this publication is greatly appreciated.

The occurrence of the Cuban species of Habenaria in Panama is interesting, but perhaps not remarkable. The flora of Mexico as a whole does not seem to have any remarkably close relationship with that of Cuba except in the case of Yucatán. In Central America, however, the relationship with the West Indies in general is much more marked, but I do not recall anything which indicates a special affinity between the floras of Cuba and Panama. There are a great many species occurring in Jamaica, Porto Rico, and the Lesser Antilles which extend into Central America, but do not reach as far northward as Mexico. I have never tried to work out any statistics with regard to the relationships of the insular and continental floras, but it would be an interesting piece of work and perhaps I may try it some day when the volume upon the flora of Central America is further advanced. There are numerous local problems of distribution in Central America and Mexico which are of particular interest. The most remarkable one with which I am acquainted is the fact that along the western coast of Mexico, especially in Tepic, Sinaloa, and Lower California, there are found a number of West Indian species which are not known elsewhere in Mexico. It is interesting, also, to find that in the arid region along the Pacific Coast of Mexico there are found a number of plants which occur in the similarly arid region of Venezuela, but are not known from Central America. I presume there is some good geological reason for such peculiar distribution, but I do not know what it is.

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Standley

Paul C. Standley
Assistant Curator
Division of Plants.



Standley, Paul Carpenter. 1921. "Standley, Paul Carpenter Oct. 11, 1921 [to O. Ames]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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