

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

July 10, 1930.

Dear Professor Ames:

We are getting anxious to see that Macbride's Flora of Peru gets into print as soon as possible. The German botanists are getting out a flora of the Andes--how soon it is to appear, I do not know, but the first parts are likely to make their appearance in the not remote future. We have large quantities of material that they will not see, and I judge they do not intend to cover the Amazonian valley of Peru, from which we have huge recent collections. Perhaps there will not be so much competition between the two works.

Macbride has been in Berlin almost a year now, and probably will not return to Chicago until December. As soon as he does return, I hope that we can submit for printing the first part of the flora. We have our own printing presses in the Museum, and the print shop is able to take up papers promptly, except when the Annual Report is under way.

Macbride is rather dilatory in some respects, and needs pressure, as he well knows. Dr. Dahlgren wants me to help him out on the flora, so that it may get into print as quickly as possible. I am not eager to work on it, but I shall try to work out some of the missing families of the Monocotyledons, so that the first part may be as extensive as possible.

Now to come to the main point of this letter. What are the possibilities with regard to the Orchidaceae? I know how many cares you already have (I don't know, but I know that you must have plenty of them), but I hope that it will be possible for you to prepare an account of the Peruvian orchids for this flora. I have understood that the orchid man at Berlin--I don't recall his name--has signified his willingness to prepare an account of them. I don't mention this to influence you in any respect, but I should certainly much prefer to see you prepare the treatment of the Peruvian species.

The recent collections that we have received do not contain much material in this family. I suppose Killip must have got a good number of orchids on his trip, but we have none of them. We have a collection of 300 orchids to arrive from Schunke; that is, we ordered them when he offered them to us, but he may have sold them previously. If we do get them, they should be interesting.

You have, I believe, most of our Peruvian specimens, but there are still others here. There is, of course, Schlechter's list, which probably contains most of the species reported from the country.

In the parts of Macbride's flora thus far prepared there is a key to the genera of each family, a short description of each genus, no key to the species, but under each species there is a brief description based on the salient characters, with synonymy, and an enumeration of the specimens examined, by provinces.

I hope that at the first of the coming year active work may be started on the flora, and the first families may be submitted promptly for printing. The Gramineae and Cyperaceae will form a good-sized pamphlet, and most of the succeeding families can be prepared rapidly--in fact, Macbride has worked them over already at Berlin.

It would be very desirable, I think, to have the Orchidaceae about one year from now., They could be published without delay upon receipt of the manuscript. So far as I know, no illustrations have been prepared for the flora, but if you wish to use line drawings of any of the orchids, they can be used easily, and would make a desirable addition.

I believe I have mentioned most of the essential points in the matter. Please let me know your inclinations with regard to the subject, and what the possibilities may be. If we can get the first part of the book in print--and the first part need not include the orchids--there will be less need for haste, but it would be desirable to know that we could count on the orchid manuscript at some given time.

I am still hoping that I may get to Ecuador within the next few months, but I do not care to go until Macbride returns, and if I take up some of the Peruvian plants, perhaps I may be delayed still further.

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Standley
Paul C. Standley.



Standley, Paul Carpenter. 1930. "Standley, Paul Carpenter July 10, 1930 [to O. Ames]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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