

North Easton, Mass.

September 29th, 1922.

My dear Mr. Powell:

To make the little photograph of *Masdevallia Livingstoneana* more interesting to you I enclose the results of my attack on the manuscript.

(Clausae porrectae) Caespitosa, foliis spathulato-retusiusculis obtusato-emarginatis, pedunculis nonnullis, perigonii cyatho elongatis sepalo libero superiore lineari ligulato, sepalis inf. liberis triangulo deflexis— flores ochracei, sep. dorsali lib. brunneo, sep. lat. obscure oculatis, apice brunneis ceterum albidis.

It was not a lucky idea to devote such an insignificant Orchid to such a hero as was the lamented Livingstone. Yet it would be a sacrilege to take away what was given him. I therefore accept M. Roezl's desire

Here comes the drawing

I should describe under this very name his plant. After all the dark purplish brown eye like spots at the base of the lateral sepals look nice enough PANAMA\* and contrast for the yellow green? yellow and brown color of the flowers. It was discovered in Panama by Mr. Poezl and sold the other day at a sale in Mr. Steven's rooms.

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*Masdevallia Livingstonei*

\*Apparently this word was on the sheet and Reichenbach simply wrote his rambling remarks about it.

Yours faithfully,

Oakes Ames



adheres to technical methods that we abandoned several years ago. In short, he labors under self-imposed difficulties at the expense of posterity. He depends on the single-lens dissecting microscope which with highest possible powers is unfit for the study of the definitive characters of *Stelis*. Consequently some of his drawings are crude and inaccurate. As he relies on his drawings to a larger extent than I should do, his descriptions are often misleading. Neither Lindley nor Reichenbach f. gave very convincing evidence of an intimate knowledge of what Ridley has termed "the mean genus *Stelis*." But there is no excuse for Schlechter, at a time when optical apparatus has come into use that makes searching studies possible, to follow in the footsteps of men who were laboring under the difficulties of their period. When in Berlin, I remarked to Schlechter that the incoming of the binocular dissecting microscopes had at last opened up the genus *Stelis* for critical study. He replied that for him the simple microscope was ample. His analyses, I am afraid, do not substantiate his claim.

As Reichenbach failed to describe the lip and petals of *Masdevallia Livingstoneana* I am beginning to suspect that he never saw living material of the species. He depended on the water color drawing that may have been made in Panama, hoping for material to be obtainable from the specimens that were sold in Stevens suction-room. Perhaps the plants that were sold never reached the flowering stage? Perhaps the water-color drawing is the type. Let us await Kraenzlin's monograph. That may put us in possession of some interesting information.

Yours faithfully,

Oakes Ames.





Ames, Oakes. 1922. "Ames, Oakes Sept. 29, 1922 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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