

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

December 12, 1922.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Yours of the third arrived at noon. Taking your letter in the order of its contents I have the following to say:

*Schedulae Orchidianae* ought to fill a need in our botanical papers. I hope to include in it, from time to time, the good things that your energy and interest bring to my attention. The second number is being made ready for press now. It will include a good plate of Selenipedium chica with Mr. Powell standing beside a diagrammatic plant.

Epidendrum ramonense Reichb.f. In spite of the popular belief that those who specialize in a group are omniscient, different minds interpret similar data in dissimilar ways. Different eyes see differently. Now Rolfe could not have known Epidendrum ramonense, because, if my memory is good, there is no material at Kew. I am not sure that Schlechter had material, but, having seen the Berlin representation of the genus I am not surprised that he should have had difficulty in determining your material.



A

Your specimen matches my tracings and photographs of Reichenbach's type and agrees with Costa Rican material given to me <sup>by Schult</sup> ~~unnamed~~ which I am sure represents Epidendrum ramonense. I know Rolfe's E. profusum. This seems to be a good species. You have not yet turned it up.

In making specimens it is well to get as much of the plant as possible. By shaving off one side of some of the larger plants it is possible to make good specimens that include the vegetative parts.

I am delighted to know that work is already in progress. The scouting game is the best possible for resident collectors. Keep this up! !

The map of Panama will be mounted and hung with my other maps of Central American countries. Many thanks for your kindness.

The bottled specimens of *Cynoches* and *Catasetum* arrived safely.

I determined your 131 in the Kew Set as Epidendrum Ottonis Reichb.f.

Epidendrum pseudopidendrum is almost as scarce as Selenipedium chica. in herbaria. Reichenbach's material was very poor. You will have my blessing if you turn up this wonderful thing.



I am in sad need of Epidendrum turrialvae. You have not sent this although it is on your list. Please send material at your earliest convenience.

I note that you have numbered the Selenipedium 258. I suggest that you begin with the number 3000. It will be well to keep your garden plants separate as to numbers from your wood's specimens. My last letter will make this clear.

Schlechter writes, November 25th, "The Panama Orchids from Mr. Powell are all described and a large manuscript is going to the printer's.". This news will please you.

I wish we could keep Schlechter out of the American field. Otherwise there is bound to be a great deal of confusion owing to the simultaneous publication of species. I hope you will come to agree with me that it is for the best interests of American science to dissuade correspondents from sending material to Berlin.

I still have a great deal of information for you, but it will be well to delay it until I am more at ease than I am now.

We are still talking Panama in late January.

Yours faithfully,

Walter C. Coker





Ames, Oakes. 1922. "Ames, Oakes Dec. 12, 1922 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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