

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

January 14th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

The specimens listed in your letter of the 22d, December, and the bottled material mentioned in your letter of the 25th, December have arrived in excellent condition. Many thanks for this additional strength to my representation of the orchids of Panama.

I have just noted two questions based on the copy of Schlechter's letter to you dated November 23d, 1922. I will answer them here.

Powell 223 determined as Masdevallia Livingstonii Reichb. f.

This is an incorrect determination. Your 78 puts at rest the vexed question as to what Reichenbach had in hand. I believe I have already helped you to clear this up.

Powell 220 determined as Oncidium stipitatum Lindl. There is no question about this. Your material is a spot match for the Sinclair plant from Panama on which Lindley based his description of the species. The callus in the disc at the foot of the column is very characteristic. This species is very clear, I think.

Another change in my plans has taken place that may be of interest. I find that there is no direct service from Havana to Tela in Honduras. Unless we can pick up some irregular supply boat, it will be necessary to reach Tela via Colon. That means that the pleasure of meeting you this year will be assured.

Mr. Lankester has sent me his first fruits of orchid collecting. Nine specimens only, but most of them of critical importance. The new species, three in number, are already in manuscript and will be sent to the printer on Tuesday when *Schedulae Orchidiana* III goes to press. This will be rapid work, as Mr. Lankester's package only arrived on Tuesday the ninth day of January. You will see what to expect when you begin to give me your new things. One of the Lankester orchids is the largest flowered *Stelis* so far known to be a native of Central America. He also sent me one of those peculiar offshoots of *Telipogon* which has minute flowers and a very peculiar habit. He also turned up *Epidendrum physodes* Reichb.f. a species which is rarer than hen's teeth in herbaria. For the number of specimens sent he surely made me greedy for what he can do as time goes by. The chief thing now is to beat Berlin. One interesting species proved to be *Kefersteinia costaricensis* Schltr. I am now convinced that this^{is}/nothing else than *K. lactea* Reichb.f.

When I get back from Honduras I hope to have materials for a good paper. If you send material while I am away, I will work it up on my return and keep the *Schedulae Orchidiana* coming along at close intervals of time.

The United Fruit Company has promised co-operation in Costa Rica. I wonder if I can make up for the time when my eyes were turned toward the Philippines and others got a foot-hold in Central America? It will be hard work to offset Tonduz, Brade, Wreckle, Amparo, and Jimenez and the big paper that Schlechter is about to bring out on Costa Rica. But, a beginning has been made and I intend to keep on the job.

Yours faithfully,

Orlando Aguirre



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Jan. 14, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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